TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

CHOICE SELECTION OF MI PERESTING ITEMS.

and Critical

MANY of our cares are but a morbid way of looking at our privileges. Remember also that contentment is more satisfying than exhibaration.

their men, as their old knightly an-Moors.

in Albania. The people of that them for weeks together. At last country are warlike as in the days of the President heard of this Consular Alexander the Great, and the Turks procession westward, with a "jag" of have always had a hard time of it in colossal dimensions in its wake, and trying to keep them quiet. Some the poor Consul was "turned down." day or another the rule of the Sultan He will not revel in the delights of will come to an end and Albania will the rice-wine of Amoy; and the canebe joined to Greece, to which, by spirit of Shanghai will know him right, it belongs.

THAT dynamite bomb that was found under London bridge wasn't a dynamite bomb after all. It was nothing but a relic of the Franco-Prussian war, which its possessor throw it into the arms of Father Thames, and it landed on a ledge of the central buttress. It would seem that London had a genuine scare for

thousand assegais on the other. The a result thus far decision of this court is what might have been expected.

fog are often overlooked. It would yet be n designed for our modern for is to purify the atmosphere. Just that she is not as heavy by several as a good shower of rain not only thousand ons as some of the leviasweeps the streets, but "washes" the thans in Europe, for she would come ganic bases and all kinds of irritat-

THE defeat of Lobengula. and the slaughter of a great number of his warriors by the soldiers of the "Chartered Company," in Matabele Land, is interesting, because it will lend additional piquancy to the revelations expected, in a few days, when Parliament meets. More than one reputable London Journal has lately hinted that England is on the verge of a tions. Some of the highest person- the request of a casual patronbefore it discusses the Franco-Russian uneasy apprehension that some enemy affair.

prompt the wrecking of a passenger least expected. And once in the dea same man. The wreck of an Iili. on the suspected lunatic. The cernois Central train near Ullin was not tificate of a jack-legged, beardless the work of train robbers. No attempt at robbery was made. The theory that revenge upon some of the railroad officials whose private car was attached to the train prompted the crime is scarcely tenable. The train was six hours late. and the wrecker could hardly have been aware of the fact even if he knew that the railfoad officers were on the train, which is not likely. The wreck was probably the work of me homicidal crank, whose tribe, unfortunately, seems to increase these

A CHEEREUL temper in a house is like perpetual sunshine gladdening and enlivening every one in the presof which you forget four troubles be eshamed to remember annoyances but a had temper

everything. Offence taken at mathings trapationes under unsmall things made tous by the magnifying

dust as deny the depressing effect of Ill-humor wherever it is found and the corresponding good influence sweet temper. Also the imitat of either the one or the other, as it may chance which rules, is sure to

started to see the ship launched, but Ir now appears that somebody has who never reached the spectacle bebeen tampering with the dispatches cause he made too many festal stops from Melilla. The Spaniards really on the way, seems paralleled by the lost in killed only seven officers and case of the Consular appointee to fifteen privates, while the wounded Amoy, China, who has just been 'renumbered less than 100. The Span- called" before he had left for his ish officers seem to fight in front of post. He et de 'all right' some months ago, ut the seductive julen cestors did when battling with the and aromatic rum punch, the thrilling cocktail and the contemplative beer seem to have arrested his steps THE Turks are having more trouble very frequently; and he dailied w h not. He paused too often by the way.

CHICAGO HERALD: In view of the terrible havoc and loss of life wrought | chair. by the explosion of dynamite and petroleum at Santander, Spain, it wished to be rid of. He tried to would be inter-sting to know what quantity of these expl. ves-for petroleum is almost as de ly as dynamite-is stored within the limits of this city. The burning of the propeller Tioga and the loss of life consequent upon the explosion of the pe-THE Matabele war amounts to just troleum with which that vessel was this: Somebody cut the telegraph laden are still fresh in the public wires which the whites at the cape memory. Undoubtedly other veswere running through Lo Bengula's sels with cargoes even more dancercountry far to the northeast. The ous come into this port. As to the whites immediately seized Lo Ber- explosives hidden away in warehouses gula's cattle. He remonstrated that and stores, it is perhaps as well that at the year's end the malefactors were not of his peo- the public is ignorant. It is scarcely ple, and as he has always been a to be doubted that a fire in certain friend of the whites, many at the localities of the city would reach Cape believed him. A court of arbi- enough exp'osive material to blow tration was appointed consisting of two or three blocks sky high. The two Maxim guns and miscellaneous e ficiency and activity of the fire deartillery on the one side and several partment alone have prevented such

THE battleship Oregon is now proudly affoat, the heaviest monu-THE compensating advantages of ment of astructive skill that has appear that the special function of pavy. It is not toher disparagement air, so to speak, by dissolving such as well and probably better out of a impurities as are capable of solution: tussie on the seas than any of them. so the mysterious fog penetrating far She is a mighty ship in armament and wide searches for and gathers in and armor, and probably within ten Its embrace particles of carbon, or years the naval architects will have so changed their ideas of the serviceing insoluble "specks," machanically ability in attack and detense that suspended in the air. It is enough smaller vessels will be more dreaded to see the pavement after the fog has and much cheaper. When one thinks in a measure subsided to realize from of it there are a good many eggs in what impurities we have been de- the basket represented by the Oregon. An unlucky blow from a ram or a tilt from a torpedo might send the most formidable warship to the than you do." bottom. Inventice skill is now in an astounding state of activity, and invulnerability on the sea is an impossibilit.. But the Oregon has no superior as a battleship, and will doubtless be a credit to her builders and the navy.

CHICAGO HERALD: If man or a scandal connected with the extension woman can be railroaded off to the of her colonial empire in Africa be- detention hospital upon the dictum girl." side which the Panama episode will of a physician who signs a certificate sink to starcely noticeable proportas he makes out a prescription-at in her eyes, and a big round ball was bor's 20-year-old daughter. ages in the kingdom are said to be in- mighty few people in this town will volved. Parliament will take this up feel comfortable. There will be an beams may get the neces-ary certificate and Pure diabolism such as would send the patrol wagon around when train without any hope of gain to the tention hospital it is not easy to get wrecker is hardly to be attributed to out. The burden of proof is always. White grew tired of waiting. boy, the ink on whose diploma is hardly dry, may outweigh the record of a sober, sane and irreproachable life. That this should be so is dangerous and disgraceful and when such cases are brought to light, they should be thoroughly ventilated. The case of Mrs. Johanna Coleman, whose husband endeavored to have her locked up Sunday night is a good one to begin on. The Humane Society is doing well in taking the warpath in pursuit of the woman's husband and the physcian who signed the certificate. Let them be run down and brought to justice.

Age of the World.

Mr. Clarence King, the well-known reclogist, has computed the age of the earth, taking for his one is the effect, as shown by careful exper-ments, of heat and pressure on cerain rocks. He concludes from these data that the world has ex sted as a claset 24,000,000 years. This will stand for a good enough guess until some one guesses better.—Examiner.

Ir is to to regretted, but so many

THE LITTLE ARMOHAIR.

dy alte in the little arm It stands in a corner dim;
But a wirte haired mother gazing there
And yearningly thinking of him,
Bees through the dust of the long ago
The bloom of her boy's a west face
As he rocks so merrily to and fro
With a laugh that cheers the place.

break out in the younger and weaker of the family.

That story told by John Phunix, in a past generation, of the man who started to see the ship jaunched, but

Sometimes be holds a book in his hand, Sometimes a penell and slate, and the lesson is hard to understand, and the figures hard to mate.

But she sees the nod of his father's head so often said;

No fear for our little one.

They were wonderful days, the dear, sweet days when a child with sunny har Was hers to scoid, to kiss, and to praise At her knee n the little chair. She lost him back in the lay years. When the great world caught the man, and he strode away past hopes and fears. To his place in the battle's van.

But now and then, in a wistful dream, Like a picture out of date,

Fibe sees a head with a golden gleam

Bent over a pencil and slate,
And she lives again the happy day,
The day of her young life's spring.

When the small armchair stood just in the way,
The senter of everything.

Harper's Barar.

AN EXPERIMENT.

"I don't think," said Mr. White, "that the hay crop ever promised so

'Indeed'" said the wife, absently. "And if there isn't a fall in the price of fruit," he added, "our peach orchard is going to net us a cool

As he spoke he flung the homespan towel with which he had been wiping his hands over the back of the kitchen

"Oh, George, do hang up the towel," said Mrs. White. "The nail is just as near as the chair back, and I have enough steps to take in the course of the day, without walting

"You are always grumbling about something," said the young farmer, as he jerked the towel on its nail. There! Does that suit you?"

Here is a letter from Cousin Dora, George," said Mrs. White, wisely avoiding the mooted question. "She wants to come here and board for a few weeks."

Well, let her come!" said White "It won't cost us a great deal, and a little extra money always counts up

But, George, I was thinking-" About what?"

Why, I am so hurried with the work, and there is so much to do-" "That is the perpetual burden of your song," said Mr. White, irritably, Women do beat all for complaining.

'Won't you hear me out?" said Mrs. White 'So I thought it would be a good plan to give Do a her board, if she would help me with the housework a little. It will accommodate her, and it will accommodate me.

"But it won't accommodate me?" hirm George White, cavallerly. Really, Letty, you are getting absolutely lazy.'

Mrs. White crimsoned. "No one ever said that of me be-

fore," said she. "But just look at it," said the rmer. "Tell me of any other wofarmer. man in the neighborhood who keeps doing their own work."

"They all have sisters or mothers or grown up daughters. I have

"Pshaw!" said White. "Rid!culous! Of course you have to work. We all do, don't we? But your work don't amount to a row of pins. I don't know of anyone who has it easier

"That's all you know about it,"

said Letty, in a chocke I voice. "Write to Dora that we'll board her for \$5 a week," said White, augot the churning. That will take an thoritatively. "We must earn all hour at least. But dear me. George, the money we can while there is a I am getting so hangry'—and I don't chance. Make hay while the sun see the least signs of breakfast men do, Letty. Now run up stairs into the garret, my dear, and get me my blue jean overalls: there's a good

Letty obeyed, but the tears were rising up in her throat, and she could hardly see the jean overalls, as they hung up high on one of the

low, and with a groan she sank to the much a woman has to do

"Look alive there, Letty! Do you mean to be all day?"

stairs, to find Lette lying senseless on the floor, with one leg broken, just

"Now you'll have to get some one to do the work," said Letty, not without a spice of malice, as she lay on the calico covered settee, with her poor ankle duly set and bandaged.

"Not if I know it." said George White. 'Hire a lazy woman who'll want a dollar and a half a week, and her board in the bargain, to do the work of the house? I guess not." "But what are you going to do?" asked Letty.

To do it myseif, to be sure. Half an hour every morning and half an hour every evening ought to be enough to square up accounts." Well," said Mrs. White, "I shall

just like to see you do it!" 'Then you'll have your wish!" said her husband.

He rose early the next morning and light d the gitchen fire. "Pshaw" sa d he as he piled on the sticks of wood, "whatdoes a woman's work amo nt to anyhow! What's the

next le son, Letty?" "I always skim the cream and tra'n the milk." said Letty, who, ulstered upon the lounge, was comb in her hair with more deliberation

here goes, then," said ··Well,

And a period of silence ensued. Presently he shouted

"I havn't got milk pans enough!" "Of course you haven't," said Letty. 'You must scald out yesterday's. You know you said you couldn't set up a tin shop when I asked for a dozen more last month

'They smell like a fat boiling factory," said George, disdainfully, What ails 'em?'

"You should have scalded them out last night," wishing that she had wings like a dove that she might soar into the milk room and restore order out of chaos.

'Here's a go " said George. 'There isn't any hot water." Oh, George, you've forgotten to

put the kettle on." So I did," said her husband; "and the sticks, hang 'em, are all burned

out! You know I wanted you to get a ton of coal," said Letty, "but you said that as long as wood cost noth-

ing but the chopping and hauling, wood it should be "Have I got to wait for that water

to heat?" groaned George.
"I don't know anything else you to do," remarked Letty, dryly. "Humpe!" observed her lord and

master.

"What's for breakfast?"

"Ham and eggs, I su; pose." Well, I'm up to that part of the program, at lea t," said he, cheer-'Oh, the dickens' What is the use of keeping your knives so sharp? I've nearly cut my thumb Where do you keep the oatmeal? I can be attend ng to your milk pans while the breakfast is cooking. I suppose. There is nothing like economy

n work ! But it was a mortal hour before the milk was strained and the pigs fed, and by that time the house was blue with a sort of smudgy smoke.

"Hullo," shouted George, coming "What's all this'-is the house

on fire?" "No," said Letty, calmly; "only the breakfast has burned up.

George uttered a long sigh. Who'd have thought the fire was so hot?" said he. "What am I to do

now." "Cook another, I suppose," an-

swered Letty. "And what next?" demanded George, tugging at his moustache.

"Why set the table, and then clear it away and wash the dishes."

"With this cut finger?" complained the busband.

"I was obliged to do it the weeks I had the sore felon on my middle finger." remarked Letty. "The young turkeys and geese ought to have been let out and fed long before this; and the th ee calves in the barnyard must be attended to. And then there are the kitchen and sittingroom to be swept and dusted, and the beds to make, and the string beans to be picked, and bread to bake and huckleberry pie to make, and your white vests to be round and potatoes to be peeled, and the preserves to the scalded over, and the cheese to be turned and dinner to get and the table to clear, and the dishes to be washed-

"Hold on?" said George; "you've

"Very likely, but it has to be done three times a day-and the chickens to be looked atter, and the linen pillow cases to be put bleaching, and the south windows to be washed, and your trousers to be patched, and the stockings to be darned, and-you know you alw ys like something hot for supper. And t en the night's milk is to be brought in and strained and the pan- scalded and the geese and turkeys fed and shut into their coops, and-'th. dear! Tentirely forshines, eh? And I guess you'll man- George! Where are you going, age to get along as well as other wo- George? 1 want-my-breakfast." For George had disappeared in the

midst of her exordium. In twenty minutes or turned, and by his side trodged Mary Ann Pult, the nearest neigh-

"I take it all back," said Mr. White, "I lower my colors, Letty. Your work is harder than mine. I'll be blest if it ain't. Why, I couldn't As she reached up, a loose board in take care of the milk, and cream and thegarret floor tipped; her foot slipped cheeses for the wages a girl would through on the laths and plaster be- ask. I never realized before how

"Are you quite sure you realize it The time passed on, and George now?" said Letty mischlevously,

"Well, I've got a pretty fair idea He shouted up the garret stairway: on the subject," nodded George. "But you should be here on wash ing day," said Letty, "or on ironing But no answer came. He ran up day, or on the day when we chop sausage meat or make soft soep, or-"Stop, stop " shouted George. "If

you say another word I'll go for Mahala Bilnks, too Haven't I said that I take it all back? What more would you have?" "Wal, square," said Mary Ann.

who had by this time removed her hat and shawl. "what'll I do first?" "Do!" echoed Mr. White. "Do everything, and let me get off to the hav field as fast as I can.

'Jes' as your orders is " said Mary 'And I say, Letty!" he added.

"Yes, George." "Write to your cousin Dora. her we'll be glad to board her. If she will assist you about the house.

'But you've hired Mary Ann. ' "There's work for 'em both," said And he sat down and took refuge in last week's paper, while Mary Ann wrestled with the charred re-

mains o' the breakfast, and cut fresh

slices of houe-cured ham.

In this world there are bloodless battles and victories won without the clash of steel; and in this category may be classed Mrs. White's victory over her husband in respect to the question of 'hired help."—The Maine

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE

nove the Outer Coating o Minck Walnuts-Gathering Corn-Move ment of Water in Soils-Value of Dried Fruits-General Farm Matters.

Movement of water in Solls

Capillary attraction, surface adhesi n and surface tension are the various names by which we designate the agency that caases mot on of the water through soil. Every tiny particle of soil when brought in contact with a moist surface becomes surrounded with a thin film of moisture. It is a tiny soap bubble, with a particle of sand instead of air inside. In ordinary sands or clays 50 per cent. of the bulk is air space, and when this space is fully occupied by water the oil is fully saturated. When slightly saturated and brought in contact with new supplies of water, the films around each particle tend to thicken, but the particles least moistened are, by agency of surface ated and all the air spaces filled, the soil that is nearest the water supply must pass it along until the whole mass is e jually supplied. As moisture is lost by evaporation or drainage, there is a movement of water, up or down, or laterally, from the soils containing the most moisture, toward the soil containing the least. This Water moves up from below or lateralty only by reason of surface tension. It is drawn down from the surface by the same law, but is aided in this direction by gravitation. - Farming World.

Gathering Corn.

We have had it in mind to answer a question by a correspondent for weeks past, but overlooked it, say an agricultural exchange. Before gathering corn it would pay the farmer to go over his fields and select and gather his seed corn in advance. This will give him an opportunity to examine the stalk as well as the ear, a matter of very decided importance. The tendency in our climate is for corn to make too much stalk, to grow very tall and bear its ear high from the ground. Other things being equal, then, seed corn should be selected from stalks rather under the size and with ears as low down as can be found. By doing this every year, a strain of corn might be bred which would exert its energy more in earmaking and less in stalk-growing. Other points might be looked after also, such as whether the ear has a long or short stalk of its own, whether it stands upright or hangs down after it is cipe. A rather short stalk and a pendant ear is to be desired. When hanging down the ear sheds rainwater letter. If one cultivates both uplands and bottoms, seed corn should be gathered from each and kept separate. Seed from corn grown on rich. moist bottom lands will not be adapted to dry uplands. Plants be come accustomed to the conditions under which they grow, and suffer when these are changed.

One difficulty in securing these nuts is the difficulty in removing the outer coating. This may be largely overcome by boring a few holes with an auger through a piece of plank, and driving the outs through the holes with a small-headed hammer. A blacksmith's shoeing hammer is good. The holes should range from one to two inches, so that the different sizes may be put through the hose that will remove the shuck. ered except the hole the shucks are thus separated from the nuts. There will be a small portion of the shuck left on where it came over the hole. but when the nuts are dried a little this is easily removed if it does not drop off of itself. The shucks may be brushed to one side into a box, so that everything is cleaned up. One great advantage of this is that the hands are but slightly staine i, and most of it may be removed by washing in gasoline. One person with this costless arrangement can take the shucks from two bushels in an hour. It pays to wash the shucked nuts while yet wet in a tub with a broom. as they are then freed from the remnants of the outer coating and look much nicer when served. Many of the boys may have already used such an arrangement, but many have not Try it and report how it works -Ohio Farmer.

Pastures.

There is too little attention paid to late fall and early spring pastures. well-grown pasture that is ready to turn into when the ordinary pasture is no longer sufficient to keep the animal thriving is economy in many ways. It saves the hay and grain, sortens the time of feeding dry and prepared foods and is more nourishing and healthy. If you cannot have such a pasture you can sow a patch of rye in the corn-field, and turn in after the corn has been gathered, and, if eaten out by corn-planting time, turn it under and plant to corn again. This may seem extravagance to some, but it is not, it is eco The butter made from cows that are pastured on rye is as yellow and sweet to November or March as in May when pastured on clover. calves, and mares with colts, also the brood sows with pigs, will desert their dry food for the rye pasture. It feed them early in the morning and should be sown early, but may be when they come up at night. In the sown as late as October if there is morning give them all the wheat sufficient moisture, and makes extended they will est and at night give norn. Cellest spring pasture. It should be Give them full liberty on the fields.

so arranged that animals can barned of in wet wester and all other time, when the ground is soft and muddy.

How to " stor Cows.

According to a foreign experiment, some Dutch cows -pt with water always in their states gave much better results than when changed back where they could get water only twice a day. It was found that the milk yield increased where the cows had access to water at will, and no decrease of fats o curred. The daily increase was small, but as estimated it would improve the yield about forty gallons per cow per year. A noticeable feature of the experiment is that the cows rank a little less when permitted to drink at will than when furnished water twice a day. Ac ording to this, the cow can water herself better than the best care can supply ber with what she needs. By drinking often there was less chilling of the stomach than where water had to be taken twice a day, and each time in large quantities. The digestion was improved, as with each small draught of water some gastric juice was secreted and went with it, which was not the case tension, drawing from those that have a great supply. In other words, until the entire mass is fully satur-

Value of Dried Fruits.

Housekeepers do not value dried fruits highly enough, partly because they are in the habit of canning all fruits and berries and partly because they do not cook dried fruits properly. They will soak dried apples or prunes and throw the water away, then cook motion in the matter of time and them in a tin dish and stir into a quantity is determined by the text-mush with an iron spoon. The right ure. It will move most rapidly in way is to soak the dried fruit, then the direction of least resistance, slip it carefully into a granite, earthen or porcelain lined sauce pan, and cook without stirring until done, thus keeping the fruit in shape. Sometimes it is a good way to drain the water off, add sugar to make a syrup and when it boils up turn in the soaked fruit and cook until tender; in this way it will be as good as canned truit. Experiment more in drying this season, and see if the resuits are not more satisfactory than to put everything in glass. One of my experiments was half drying small pears, halved and cored, then packing them in layers of brown sugar. They were equal to any foreign sweetmeat, and I knew they were prepared cleanly, which cannot always be said of the imported fruit.-Grange Homes.

Does it Pay to Enrich Land.

In lowa, about the year 1868, says a correspondent, 1 manured four acres of old meadow that had commonly brought a medium crop of grass. Manure was from sheep vards, hauled and spread in fall. At harvest the grass stood tall and thick. I sold two acres standing at \$9 per acre, then rented the land at \$7 per acre each year fer two years, then put two acres in potatoes and fodder corn. Fotatoes blighted that year crop worth \$26 per acre. In the fall I sowed all to rye. The crop brought 822 per acre; the straw paid for threshing. No manuring after the first year. I kept no account that could be relied on to tell the clear profits of the five crops, but calling the land worth \$50 per acre when manured. I feel safe in saving that after deducting taxes and other expenses the clear gain per annum on price of land per acre would be over 1: per cent. But if it be not 12 per cent. the same land or any other good farming land within three miles of lowa City can be so cultivated that it will clear more.

Limit of Profit in Pig-Feeding.

To ascertain the best and cheapest way of using skim-milk for the production of pork has been a part of the work of the Vermont Experiment Station the last year. Sour skimhaving the receptacle entirely cov. milk produces as good results pound for pound as sweet skim-milk. Hence farmers are not losing money every time the milk sours on the way home from the creamery, and creamery men need not go to any expense or trouble so to handle the skim-milk as to sterilize it and keep it sweet. Two ounces of corn-meal to each quart of skim-milk made a pound of pork at the least cost of food. A larger amount of corn-meal made a more rapid growth, but at an increased cost of food for each pound of pork above the market value. During heavy feeding in preparation for market, twelve quarts of skim-milk daily to each pig, with all the cornmeal they would eat, produced a more rapid growth and at less cost per pound than six quarts of milk under similar conditions.

Sheep and Dogs.

The existence of lamb and wool clubs in several neighborhoods of the State have done a great deal, not only for the prote tion of sheep husbandry, but enables the farmer to get better prices for his lambs and wool, and a ford almost absolute protection from the depredations of worthless curs from the fact that every member is required under the constitut on and by-laws of the club to make tenants sign a contract not to keep more than one dog, and he must be kept in bounds -Tennes see 'armer.

To latter Turkeys.

turkey will not fatten if sely confined in a coop. For a few days it may gain in flesh, but after that length of time it will lose in weight, no matter how well fed, as it will worry and fret for liberty. The proper way to fatten the turkeys is begin about a month before the time fixed for marketing them and