

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Statistical and News Notes.

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

IT now appears that somebody has been tampering with the dispatches from Melilla. The Spaniards really lost in killed only seven officers and fifteen privates, while the wounded numbered less than 100.

THE Turks are having more trouble in Albania. The people of that country are warlike as in the days of Alexander the Great, and the Turks have always had a hard time of it in trying to keep them quiet.

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 wished to be rid of.

THE Matabele war amounts to just this: Somebody cut the telegraph wires which the whites at the cape were running through Lo Bengula's country far to the northeast.

THE compensating advantages of fog are often overlooked. It would appear that the special function of fog is to purify the atmosphere.

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.

PURE diabolism such as would prompt the wrecking of a passenger train without any hope of gain to the wrecker is hardly to be attributed to a sane man.

A CHERFUL temper in a house is like perpetual sunshine, gladdening and enlivening every one in the presence of which you forget four troubles.

Just as deny the depressing effect of ill-humor wherever it is found and the corresponding good influence sweet temper. Also the imitator of either the one or the other, as it may chance which rules, is sure to break out in the younger and weaker of the family.

THAT story told by John Phoenix, in a past generation, of the man who started to see the ship launched, but who never reached the spectacle because he made too many festal stops on the way, seems paralleled by the case of the Consular appointee to Amoy, China, who has just been "recalled" before he had left for his post.

CHICAGO HERALD: In view of the terrible havoc and loss of life wrought by the explosion of dynamite and petroleum at Santander, Spain, it would be interesting to know what quantity of these explosives—for petroleum is almost as deadly as dynamite—is stored within the limits of this city.

THE battleship Oregon is now proudly afloat, the heaviest monument of constructive skill that has yet been designed for our modern navy. It is not to be disparaged that she is not as heavy by several thousand tons as some of the leviathans in Europe, for she would come as well and probably better out of a tussle on the sea than any of them.

CHICAGO HERALD: If man or a woman can be railroaded off to the detention hospital upon the dictum of a physician who signs a certificate as he makes out a prescription—at the request of a casual patron—mighty few people in this town would feel comfortable.

Age of the World. Mr. Clarence King, the well-known geologist, has computed the age of the earth, taking for his data the effect, as shown by careful experiments, of heat and pressure on certain rocks.

THE LITTLE ARMCHAIR.

Somebody sits in the little armchair— It stands in a corner dim; And a white-haired mother gazing there And yearningly thinking of him, Bows through the dust of the long ago

AN EXPERIMENT.

"I don't think," said Mr. White, "that the hay crop ever promised so finely." "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 \$100."

"Well, here goes, then," said George. And a period of silence ensued. Presently he shouted: "I haven'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."

"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 chickens in the barnyard must be attended to. And then there are the kitchen and sitting-room 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 ironed and potatoes to be peeled, and the preserves to be scalded over, and the cheese to be turned, and dinner to get and the table to clear, and the dishes to be washed."

It is to be regretted, but so many exclamation point young girls grow up to be interrogation point old ladies.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

How to Remove the Outer Coating of Black Walnuts—Gathering Corn—Movement of Water in Soils—Value of Dried Fruits—General Farm Matters.

Capillary attraction, surface adhesion and surface tension are the various names by which we designate the agency that causes motion of the water through soil.

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 them in a tin dish and stir into a mash with an iron spoon.

How to Enrich Land.

In Iowa, about the year 1868, says a correspondent, I manured four acres of old meadow that had commonly brought a medium crop of grass. Manure was from sheep yards, hauled and spread in fall.

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 skim-milk produces as good results pound for pound as sweet skim-milk.

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 protection of sheep husbandry, but enables the farmer to get better prices for his lambs and wool, and a far more absolute protection from the depredations of worthless curs.

Pastures.

There is too little attention paid to late fall and early spring pastures. A 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.

To Fatten Turkeys.

Turkey will not fatten if closely 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.

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