

## TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

### A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

CHICAGO may be in debt, but liquidation is going on. Some of the sky-scraping buildings are settling.

Just when it appears that the mountains are the only things in Central and South America that are tied down, Popocatepetl breaks loose.

The story that John L. Sullivan was recently knocked senseless by his wife is erroneous. He was knocked senseless by whisky, and his wife merely put him to sleep.

Mrs. Green's plan of supplying the poor with potted plants is worthy of the highest praise. Just think of the thousands of hungry and ill-dressed families that are compelled to struggle through the winter months without a sign of a potted plant.

It is surprising to learn that the total number of lynchings for 1893—266—is thirty-six less than the aggregate for 1892. If this rate of decrease were to be continued for a while the aggregate of these crimes might be made to fall within the line of respectability.

Since including 1854, California flocks have yielded 552,815,475 pounds of wool or 45,640 carloads. The heaviest clip was 59,559,973 pounds in 1876, while from 1884 to the present the clip has varied from 31,564,231 pounds the lowest, to 35,507,190 pounds, the highest.

The sourette whose song, displeasing Theodore McVeagh of Gotham, induced that valiant to hit her behind the ear with an orange ought to thank her stars that it was not the missile more familiar to players and singers of an earlier date. Projectile criticism is growing effeminate.

Denver Times: Atlanta, Ga., has asked the Grand Army of the Republic to hold its annual encampment for next year in that city, guaranteeing that the boys will receive an even warmer reception than they did on the occasion of their visit South some thirty years ago. It would be the height of discourtesy for any Northern city to compete with Atlanta. It is safe to say that the invitation will be accepted with cheers, by a rising vote.

Judge A. B. Morton, the unshorn Texan who died lately, was popularly supposed to wear his long locks because of a vow he had made that he would not cut his hair until Henry Clay was elected President. A writer in the Milwaukee Journal says he once asked Morton about this, and he replied: "I was a warm admirer of Henry Clay, but I hope that I never was such a fool as that story would make me out. The reason why my hair has not been cut is that I am a dunkard, and that is one of the outward signs of our faith."

Chemistry is offering a means to oblige would-be dynamiters to betray themselves should they try to carry about hand-grenades and cartridges. It is to mix dynamite with certain salts that give out a stench and to plunge cartridges into a solution of these chemicals. The fetid smell thus caused is not to be got rid of, and is communicable. A person carrying an infernal machine or who had carried or handled one, unless with leather gloves which had been taken off with great care, would be at once detected by the odor.

According to statistics lately compiled by a committee of business men of Colorado it appears that the State produced \$3,636,217 in gold in 1889, and \$5,539,021 in 1892, and the output for the year just closed is estimated at \$5,300,000. It is further estimated that the gold yield for 1894 will reach \$20,000,000, and that the Cripple Creek region alone has in sight enough low grade gold ore to yield a hundred million dollars. Great as these figures it must be remembered that gold and silver are not the most valuable products of Colorado. Its agriculture and horticulture far surpass its mines in the value of annual products.

Fashions rules the women of Vienna, and it is confidently asserted that every Vienna woman or girl is dressed a long way above her lot in life. This year not a maid-servant wears last year's jacket. It is impossible to say where the hundreds of thousands of jackets that were worn last year have gone, for on Sundays and week days are seen even the humblest women in jackets whose sleeves stand off like the ears of some huge elephant. Above the broad garments, which are, moreover, decorated with fluffy fur, the heads in small bonnets or fur caps look dimin-

utive and rather silly. The shops are a great temptation, and toward dusk thousands sail forth with the sole purpose of going through the crowded streets and taking note of what is newest and best in wearing apparel, though it is bitterly cold, often being seven and nine degrees below zero.

An article in the American Geologist by Prof. N. H. Winchell of Minneapolis, forms a timely memorial in honor of the late Increase A. Lapham of Milwaukee. He was a scientist without a superior in rank in this or any other country. Mr. Lapham discovered and exemplified the fact of lunar tides on Lake Michigan, which United States officers have confirmed by frequent experiments. He was the first to suggest weather reports in connection with the telegraph service. The War Department accepted his suggestions on the subject, and he made the first weather signals from Chicago Nov. 5, 1870. He had received dispatches of high winds and falling barometer at the far westward, and predicted a storm on the lakes, which came the following day. All lake ports were notified and shipping was saved from great damage. He remained at Chicago for a long time, and the early work of the signal service was organized under his supervision. His researches in geological and other sciences produced fruits of the greatest value. His life was blameless and was among the most useful of those which scholars and discoverers have given to the world.

There is an ancient and honorable anecdote in which a gray clad woman in evening-dress, complaining of cold, is advised by an elderly Quaker to "put on another breast-pin." There seems to be enduring fun in the idea of the warmth of jewelry. As a matter of fact, jewelry properly disposed raises the temperature perceptibly. The slight friction of a necklace keeps the throat warm. A diamond rockface or a strand of pearls may ward off bronchitis or laryngitis. Children who used to wear coral beads have been known to catch cold when these were taken off. Bracelets keep the wrists warm. Every woman accustomed to wearing bracelets knows how cold her wrists feel when these are removed. The handsomer the bracelet, the warmer she feels. A Philadelphia woman, who has studied the wearing of jewelry as a hygiene measure, says that the entire circulation may be raised or lowered by wearing the proper jewelry at the wrist. She has pulse coolers for summer and pulse-warmers for winter. Her pulse coolers are spheroids of rose crystals, linked together with filigree silver. The theory is that these spheroids absorb cold instead of heat. The pulse-warmers are strips of asbestos, which is a non-conductor, enveloped in embossed velvet and fastened with diamond buckles.

Some of the doctors are agitating the question again as to whether vaccination is a preventive of smallpox; whether the preventive does not involve dangers greater and more numerous than the disease involves; how frequently vaccination should occur, if it is useful; and the ethics of vaccination—whether providence should be tempted by creating a mild form of disease, even if it will protect the subject from a worse form of disease. Some theorists allege that it is just as beneficial to swallow a prepared pellet of vaccine matter as to vaccinate externally. The history of vaccination as a preventive of smallpox is as well known as the history of quinine as a preventive or cure of malarial diseases. Smallpox had been for centuries one of the scourges of mankind. It was not like the black death and other plagues of the middle ages, which ravaged the populated portions of the earth for a brief period and then disappeared. It invaded all the haunts of men and was a continuous pest. In all the homes of squalor and filth, especially among uncivilized tribes, its victims were more than half the population. Those who had the disease but survived, were disfigured for life. With inoculation at first—that is, planting the smallpox virus under the skin—the disease assumed very mild forms, or appeared simply as a single eruption in many cases. But with the discovery that vaccine matter produced by an eruptive disease on cows was a preventive, with few or none of the dangers of inoculation, a new era began in the history of smallpox as a disease. Its victims do not number one in a hundred thousand, as compared with those who had no protection from science against its attacks. Under the best system of vaccination, practiced by skillful hands, some serious results occur. But the number is so small that the danger may be disregarded entirely in comparison with all the successful cases by which smallpox has been almost banished from amongst mankind.

## OUR RURAL READERS.

### SOMETHING HERE THAT WILL INTEREST THEM.

How Horses Should Be Shod in Winter—Getting Rid of Corn Smut—Clover Land Grows Richer—Short-Horns as Milkers—Cool Climates for Turnips.

Winter Shoeing of Horses. Shoes in winter are required to discharge a double duty—to afford foothold as well as to guard against undue wear. Mr. William Dickson in the United States Government report on the horse, says on this subject: Various patterns of shoes have from time to time been invented to meet this dual requirement, but the commonest of all, fashioned with ice and heel calks or calks, is, faulty though it be, probably all things considered, the one which best suits the requirements of the case. It should, however, never be lost sight of that the calks are, so long as they answer the purpose which called them into existence, so much the better for the foot that wears them. High calks, while they convey to firmer foothold, are potent means of inflicting injury on the foot itself and the superincumbent limb at large. It is only from that part of the catch which enters the ground surface that the horse derives any benefit. In the shape of foothold, and it must be apparent to the nearest capacity that long calks, which do not penetrate the hard, uneven ground, are so many levers put into the animal's possession to enable it not to compel him to wring his feet, rack his limbs, and inflict untold tortures on himself.

I have had particular stress on this subject, as I am of the opinion that the presence of the navicular disease, a dire malady from which horses used for agricultural labor should enjoy a practical immunity, is traceable largely to the habitual use during our long winter months of needlessly long calks, only fractional parts of which find lodgment in the earth or ice during progression. I will explain what I mean. When a horse is shod with the exaggerated calks to which I have alluded, the toe and heel calks are, or ought to be, the same height to start with, at all events. Very often, however, they are not, and even when they are the toe calk wears down on animals used for draught purposes far more rapidly than its fellow on the heel. The result is that the toe is depressed while the heel is unnaturally raised. The relative position of the bony structures within the foot is altered, and the navicular bone, which is not one of the weight-bearing bones, is brought within the angle of incidence of both weight and concussion, influences which it was never contemplated should withstand and which its structure precludes its sustaining without injury. The bone becomes bruised and then diseased, the tendon to which it was intended it should be as a pulley, which passes over and is in constant contact with it, before long, also becomes implicated, and what is technically known as navicular arthritis is thus engendered and developed.—Exchange.

### Short-Horns as Milkers.

The Chicago Exposition has had one good result in bringing prominently before the American dairyman the good qualities yet remaining in the one-time pre-eminent excellent short-horn cows as dairy animals. A century ago they stood easily first in this respect, but by neglect of this quality and by constant cultivation for beef alone, they have degenerated from their high position as milk and butter cows. But some of the old tendency of the blood still remains, as may be discovered by the example of a cow of this breed which recently appeared at the London (England) Dairy Show, and which gave fifty-five pounds of milk in the twenty-four hours, with a test of 5.30 per cent. of the fat in the morning milk and 6.99 per cent. in the evening. The per cent. of solids varied from 14.98 to 16.82. This is a most remarkable instance of the reappearance of ancient characteristics after many years. This breed of cows was once noted for its high percentage of fat in the milk and its large yield. The first bucciness, the progenitor of the great family of this name, was a twenty-four-pound-a-week cow. The milk, twenty-eight quarts a day, when skimmed, was sold for 2 cents a quart. The income from this cow was the pleasant sum of \$19.60 a week. And this was on pasture alone. This seems to show that it might be well worth while to reinstate this unexemplified breed in its old productiveness, and by attention to this still incubate and recoverable quality make it the most useful of all cows.

### Getting Rid of Corn Smut.

Many thousand dollars are lost every year by the prevalence of smut in corn. It is a growing evil and worst in localities where corn is grown successively on the same ground for a number of years. It does not propagate on the seed or in the soil unless possibly where it is made very rich with manure. It is very rapidly propagated in contact with heating manure. Hence it is a great mistake to throw corn affected by smut on manure heaps or to feed it to stock. The safest way is to burn any piece of smut as soon as it appears. In this way the disease may be stamped out. It is possible that spraying with Bordeaux mixture might destroy it, but the smut appears in a mass, while the mixture would only affect the outside. It is also so scattered that it is easier to cut off the affected part and burn it than to apply anything to it. The propagation of smut is often increased by injuries

to stalks or ears while cultivating late in the season. An break in the surface allowing sap to exude becomes at once a breeding place for spores of smut that on infected ground are always flying through the air. We doubt whether the smut can attack a corn stalk where there is no injury that will allow sap to exude on which the spores can fasten.

### Two Ways of Looking at Sheep.

"Whenever a farmer comes to look at my Cotswold sheep," said a flockmaster the other day, "I can always tell whether he is an American or an Englishman." "How so?" was asked. "Because an Englishman will pick out the best-formed sheep, one that is deep, broad, with well developed thigh and shoulder, fine ears and small short legs; in short, he selects the sheep that will fatten easily, mature early, and give a large carcass of good mutton. The American farmer on the other hand, when he has caught a sheep, opens the fleeces on the side and examines the wool carefully to see if it is long, fine, wavy, dense, and of uniform strength and quality."

The English farmer asks, "How much do they weigh?" The American farmer asks, "How much do they shear?" These traits are the results of accustomed methods. In this country the chief aim of the flockmaster is to produce heavy fleeces in England, heavy carcasses. Both have succeeded in a remarkable degree. We have American Merinos that in proportion to their live weight will shear far heavier fleeces than any other sheep in the world, and which stand unrivaled for early maturity, but what we want more than all this is a sheep that is good for wool and good for mutton.—Farm, Stock and Home.

### Clover Land Grows Richer.

In every newly-settled country, when the forests are cleared off and the land has been cultivated a few years, the soil where the worm rail fences stood is always found richer than that where plowing and cropping has been going on. Some farmers, therefore, conclude that this increase of fertility where the fence stood is an invariable rule. But it is not. After clover and occasional manuring comes into the rotation, the cultivated part of the soil is often the richest. We know farmers who have taken up old fences with the idea that under them they will find land that can be cultivated for a few years without the necessity of constant manuring. But they usually find if they had been growers of clover that the long-cultivated parts of the field are the richest. The soil under the fence has not been expanded and contracted by alternate freezing and thawing, and it takes one or two years of cultivation to show what capacity it has for producing large crops.

### Cool Climates for Turnips.

This country will never equal the British Isles for turnip production. Our summers are too hot and dry to grow the crop with profit. Even in England and the best turnip crops and those having the best quality are grown in the northern parts of the Island. Wherever the temperature goes above 60 degrees the turnip becomes hot, and if the hot weather continues long it becomes pithy and wormeaten. The flavor of turnips is improved by light freezing. They are much sweeter as well as larger than those grown during hot weather. Canada grows better turnips than does the States. More, too, is made of turnips in Canada, because in some places Indian corn is not a certain crop.

### To the Point.

MORTAR and paint may be removed from glass with hot, sharp vinegar.

MEND the torn pages of books with white tissue paper.

DON'T shut the lids of pots, boilers, and saucepans when putting them away. It retains the odor of cookery.

TO REMOVE tar, rub in grease (lard is as good as anything), until the spot seems pretty well loosened, and then wash in plenty of hot water and soap.

TO TAKE iron mould out of linen, hold the spots over a tankard of boiling water and rub with juice of sorrel and salt, and when the cloth is thoroughly wet dip quickly in lye and wash at once.

SOME housewives say that the colors of cotton fabrics will become "set" if salt and water is employed, three quarts of salt to four quarts of water. The calico is dropped in the water while hot, and there remains until it is cold.

TURNSIPs boiled with their jackets on are of better flavor and less watery. A small lump of sugar added, while the vegetable is cooking, corrects the bitterness often found in them. If to be served mashed, run through a colander.

If you have black or tinted cambrics or muslins, which you hesitate to trust to the laundress, give them a first dip yourself in water, into which you have stirred a teaspoonful of black pepper. This is also said to save gray and buff linens from spots when used in first water.

If you have never tried apple shortcake, try it now. Prepare it exactly as you would strawberry shortcake, using apple sauce in place of the berries; and by the time apples grow again you may consider an apple shortcake as great a treat as strawberry shortcake.

### Still a Little Room Left.

The census of 1890 shows that if the population of the United States was put into Texas there would be more space for each person than there now is in Massachusetts. In Texas there would be 239 persons to the square mile, while in Massachusetts there are 269 persons to the square mile.—Fort Worth (Tex.) Gazette.

## LITTLE POWERS.

Something of Countries About Which We Care not Little.

The Ameer of Afghanistan, Abdur Rahman Khan, is a grandson of the Mahomet. He was recognized as sovereign in 1880. The four provinces, Kabul, Turkistan, Herat and Kandahar, are practically under British "protection" except against the Ameer's agents of robbery. There are two harvests a year, but ten would not satisfy the corrupt tax gatherers. There are no navigable rivers and no wheeled carriages in the country, which is bound ultimately to be fighting ground for Russia in her approach to the British dominion in that part of the east. The population consists of 400,000 tribesmen. It is not generally known that there are slaves in Afghanistan. They are appurtenances of the land system. This is headed by hereditary land lords, who rent to tenants, who rent again to subtenants, who work the ground with the help of hired laborers whom they pay in produce or money, and under these are slaves who get nothing but food and shelter for their toil. They are generally better off than the subtenants.

Greece has been experiencing of late almost as frequent change of cabinets as Italy or France. The king, George I., born in 1853 and of age in 1880, enjoys an income of 2,000,000 a year, of which 1,000,000 is paid by the governments of Great Britain, France, and Russia. The legislative power is invested in the single chamber called the boule, chosen by manhood suffrage for four years. The number of members is 150. The population is a little over 2,000,000. The heir is Prince Konstantinos, born 1868 and married in 1889 to Princess Sophia of Prussia. The foreigners who live in Greece are gradually modernizing many of its antiquated antique customs and institutions. Ancient poetry still finds one occupation in faithful shepherds are 8 per cent. of the population.

Of the little powers that are intimately connected with the whole world by reason of a peculiar institution Monaco is the smallest and most influential. Its area is not one-twentieth that of Chicago and its population is 12,000. The army consists of seventy-five men. It has its own coinage, its own postage stamps and its own Prince, Albert, born in 1848, who succeeded his father in 1889 and has been married twice, first to Lady Mary Douglas Hamilton, and secondly to Alice, Dowager Duchess de Richelieu. The gambling at Monte Carlo, whence the Prince derives his income of not less than \$2,000,000, in addition to what he can rake off in one way and another, is a "concession." The game was founded in 1856 and pays the syndicate \$4,000,000 a year. A number of suicides ensue each year and the Prince is a scientific gentleman in his tastes. The spiritual and temporal government of the principality is carried on out of revenues from the gaming tables.

The reigning monarch of Corea is simple Li-Hi in Celestial language, but there is translation adequate in plain English. King Shoal Shing was his father and is duly worshiped. The heir is 19 years old. Aristocracy is hereditary and the will of the monarch is absolute. He is not troubled with rebellious legislators. The military attaches of the departments of government carry matchlocks. There are departments of ceremonies, war, civil affairs, justice, public works, finance, and foreign affairs, of which foreign affairs is the least important and ceremonies the most important. The upper classes adhere to Confucianism and Chinese classics mark the high tide of Corean culture. Buddhist monasteries are numerous. Two American professors teach English in a government school and English in our army are teachers in the military school. The hermit kingdom is yielding slowly to modern ideas. A railway is projected between the capital and one of the three treaty ports at which alone foreign trade is allowed.

### LONGEST OF SWING SPANS.

That Now Being Constructed at Omaha Will Measure 520 Feet.

A bridge across the Missouri River between East Omaha and Council Bluffs is remarkable as possessing the longest swing span in the world—520 feet—being fifteen feet longer than the swing span of the bridge over the Thames River, in Connecticut. The structure was designed by Prof. J. A. L. Waddell, of Kansas City. The construction of the pier of this swing span presented many features of interest to engineers. From a long article in Engineering News it appears that the work was begun by sinking a steel caisson for a foundation, such as A. P. Roller started to work on the swing span of the large bridge in New York City a year ago. The outer shell of the caisson is forty feet in diameter and the inner twenty feet, the latter spreading out at the base to join the former and thus give a cutting edge. Both shells are made of half-inch steel, re-enforced at the lower edge, where they meet, by two bands of 1 1/2 inch steel, one inside and the other outside. The two shells were kept in their proper relative positions by braces running between them, of which there were twenty in all, made of half-inch plates. The caisson proper is sixteen feet high. Above this the two cylinders extend to a height of 100 feet, making a total of 116 feet from the cutting edge to the top of the cylinder. Above the caisson the plates are reduced in thickness to three-eighths of an inch and are braced by bars and rods rather than the heavier and more costly plates required in the lower part. The friction of the earth against such a long cylinder is very great, and to

reduce it a number of pipes run down the whole length of the caisson and shell. These open at intervals of ten feet above, so that by forcing water through them it was possible to diminish the hold of the surrounding earth on the steel. The spaces between the two shells was filled with rubble concrete. The sinking progressed with no more than the usual delays; as the shells went down under the weight of the concrete placed between them, aided by the removal of the earth within by means of bucket dredges, plates were added to the top until the whole was at the required depth. The masonry pier built on top of this cylinder is of limestone backed by concrete. It is thirty-eight feet in diameter and eighteen and one-half feet high.

### A Big Business in Broken Glass.

The business of buying broken plate glass, said J. L. Lightfoot, "is assuming vast proportions. It has arisen as an outgrowth of the plate glass insurance plan, and is being rapidly developed. Plate glass insurance is of comparative recent origin, and was a little slow in building up, but it is now a very important feature of the insurance business, and several large companies with ample capital are competing for this class of risks. At first a broken plate was a total loss, as it had a so-called value in the glass factories, but it soon began to be utilized and now the insurance companies and the glass-works have no trouble in disposing of the fragments. These are cut into a large number of ways, the principal one, of course, being into smaller panes and ornamental shapes. In addition to these paperweights and other articles are made. Small diamond-shaped panes of plate glass for front doors and for tunnel windows are very popular, and afford a profit to the concerns that make them, and these are almost invariably pieces of some large plate that was broken. An accident to a plate-glass window no longer results in a total loss.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

### Incivility of American Servants.

Said an English woman to the writer: "Your society women are charming, your men are refreshingly different from those I meet in my set on the other side of the water, but your servants, most of them at least, are simply unspokeable. Don't think me guilty of British egotism if I say that the only decent servants I have seen since my stay here are those who apparently were not trained in American households. Personally, I think that the bad conduct of a servant is as much a reflection on the mistress of a house as is the bad behavior of her children. The servant who closes the door in a visitor's face, or leaves him or her standing in the hallway during the presentation of a card, or who fails to use a respectful title when addressing the caller, or who is impatient or careless, who has tousled hair, or calls her mistress 'she,' I say such a servant may be forgiven on the strength of his or her ignorance of the amenities of society. But as for the matron who permits these things, why, she is either unaccustomed to have servants about her or she cannot teach them the ordinary politeness that she herself lacks."—New York Times.

### He Got Even at Last.

"That 'all things come to him who waits' has been proved to me more than once," said Judge Henry McKinney. "One day when I was a boy of 9 or 10 years I was sent on an errand a long way into the country. On my way home, being hot and thirsty, I climbed over a fence into a meadow and began picking some wild strawberries. All of a sudden the owner of the farm came rushing up behind me and struck me a brutal blow with a heavy oxgoad, almost cutting my body in two. As I started to run away he hit me again, a most vicious blow. 'Old man,' said I, 'I'll get even some day.' I did, but it was thirty years later. I was called upon to defend the property and rights of some orphan children. As it happened, the oppressor was the man with the oxgoad. In summing up I told the story of the brutal blows that I had received in that meadow thirty years ago. 'There is the man that did it,' said I to the jury. 'Do you wonder that such a man would rob orphan children?' The jury didn't seem to wonder a bit, for I got a verdict in my favor in less than five minutes."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

### Savage Proverbs.

The proverbs of savages are shrewd and pithy. The Iasutos says, "The thief catches himself," the Yorubas, "He who injures another injures himself," the Wolofs, "Before healing others, heal yourself." In Acera they say, "Nobody is twice a fool," among the Ojib, "The moon does not grow full in a day." "The poor man has no friends." A Pashto proverb says, "A feather does not stick without gum."

Others are: "A crab does not bring forth a bird;" "A razor cannot shave its own hair;" "Cross the river before you abuse the crocodile." "Truth is only spoken by a strong man or a fool;" "Perseverance always triumphs;" "The thread follows the needle;" "Preparation is better than afterthought."—Westminster Review.

### Colored Education in the South.

There are 25,530 negro schools now in the South where 2,250,000 negroes have learned to read and most of them to write. In the colored schools are 238,000 pupils and 20,000 negro teachers. There are 150 schools for advanced education and seven colleges administered by negro presidents and faculties.—Charleston News and Courier.