

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Shoppings of the Day—Historical and News Items.

KING LOBENGULA has eighty queens. No wonder he isn't much of a warrior.

The servant girl problem may properly be referred to as the hire education of women.

It takes all the poetry and romance out of the chrysanthemum to learn that it can be cooked and eaten like greens.

Why is it that they always lay "coverters" at banquets which you read about? At the banquets one attends, plates seem to serve the purpose.

The Ohio man who invented "the switchboard" has switched off the line of patience with those corporations that have been using the product of his genius gratis, and will sue offenders for \$5,000,000. He proposes to cut a big figure for justice while he is about it.

AFTER years of having considered herself divorced from ex-King Milan, ex-queen Natalie is informed that the tie binding them is as strong as ever. There is still ample accommodation in South Dakota, an ex-queen could get into the best set there right from the jump.

CONCERNING the Fall Mail Gazette the New York Sun remarks: "The paper had grown dull and cranky when Mr. Astor gave his mind to it." If his mind had been all that Mr. Astor gave to it the paper might still remain dull and cranky. But his money which he gave it hired other minds.

SOMEBODY has left Dr. Parkhurst a cool \$1,000,000 to carry on his war against vice and the Gotham police. It is now in order for somebody having Parkhurst's welfare and reputation at heart to get a conservator appointed for him lest his wily enemies take both the doctor and the \$1,000,000 into camp.

LULLIAN RUSSELL made an important concession to public opinion and the law by marrying Perugini in New Jersey instead of in New York. In New York the marriage would have been bigamous. In New Jersey it is just a plain stage wedding. It differs from a good many stage weddings in being legal anywhere.

It appears that the man whom Chicago officials hanged twice was dead at the time of the second operation. It was considered necessary to have the fact of dissolution announced while the body still swung. It is a fair presumption that a corpse not declared a corpse would have walked away and thus vindicated the grandeur of the technicality.

AN Eastern paper published the story of a man who says he was hanged by a mob in Denver fifteen years ago, but escaped after having been drawn up twice. Possibly the man was in Denver at that time, probably he deserved all he got, except the experience of escaping, but in the interest of truth the fact must be recorded that he is just a plain liar.

A PAPER published in the interest of a big insurance company says that the current talk of an "unprecedented season for accidents in consequence of the World's Fair" is all rubbish, and adds that the experience of its company shows that there has been no large increase in the gross volume of accidents this year. This is interesting, because there is just enough business in it to make it probable that it is true.

AN Anarchist of Tacoma, while returning from a meeting held to consider the best method of blowing society into a soft factory state of disintegration, was whacked on the head by another reformer, and is likely to go hence with his own devices for bettering the universe incomplete. However melancholy the circumstances may appear, it must be conceded that a measure of reform has been effected.

THE day undoubtedly is not far away when all superfluous fruits and berries will be preserved by the use of evaporators, rather than left to spoil or to be fed as waste. There is a steadily increasing demand for dried fruits, and if dried berries have no market it is because they are practically unknown. Once put upon the market, and the demand for them will grow, for though demand regulates supply, it is equally true that supply creates demand in many instances.

THE naval officer who had charge of the *Knave* admits now that he did not take observations himself for a day or two before the wreck, but

made his calculations on observations taken by a naval cadet. He had not seen any sea service for seven years before being assigned to duty as commanding officer of this ship. Thus the system of favoritism, which gives long shore duty to favored officers, is doubtless responsible for the loss of a vessel valuable itself and still richer in historical associations.

Boston is suffering with an epidemic of profanity. Emerson's soulful proverbs are displaced by strange oaths and Thoreau's moral morsels by awful imprecations. So serious and widespread has the epidemic become that an appeal for a moral quarantine has been made. Pastors of churches of all denominations have been requested to take the third commandment as a text for lectures and homilies; the school board has been importuned to instruct teachers to give talks to pupils on the purity of speech, and editors of daily papers have been asked to admonish their readers not to supplant English with profane language.

ALTHOUGH the great Hungarian patriot had outlived two generations of men who adored him as the incarnate conscience of a nation, he was still a vital figure in contemporary thought when the reaper death took pity on his ninety years, and called him away. His lofty and noble character had won for him in this country, when he was here on the mission of liberty, profound respect, and his brilliant qualities as man and orator, gained him admiration. Almost all who stood beside him here have passed away. One of the last of the giants of '48, he carried his head unbowed to the end, and goes down to history with a spotless record.

YOUNG ladies who become famous through their connection with breach of promise suits must naturally expect the attentions of the purveyors for human curiosity. It is not strange, therefore, that Miss Pollard should already have received an offer of \$500 a week for twenty weeks, to travel with a theatrical company, presumably as one of its bright particular stars. It certainly would have been thought passing strange a generation ago. But in an age when prize fighters play first walking gentlemen, reformed burglars are cast for virtuous blacksmiths, and bridge jumpers for beneficent heroes, we may expect all things—even the sudden blossoming of breach of promise heroines into tragediennes upon the mimic scene.

The use of small sizes of coal has greatly increased of late years. Formerly the sizes below stove coal were regarded as almost worthless and were left at the mines to accumulate there. It was soon found that chestnut coal was extremely desirable for house use, and it came a dollar a ton cheaper than stove coal for a time. Now, pea coal is coming into use, and this can be got at the mines for 75 cents per ton. Still smaller particles, called larley coal, are now used for generating steam at the collieries. Even the fine coal dust is now mixed with something to cause it to stick together, and is thus made into a valuable and practically costless fuel, as there are immense piles of it left from times when it was regarded as good for nothing.

CHICAGO HERALD: At the dedication of a Presbyterian Church among the subscribers to pay off its debt was a liquor firm which gave \$50. Dr. Willis G. Craig of McCormick University, Chicago, commended the firm for its liberality, but noticing a smile in the congregation he learned the cause and merely said: "That's all right." And why not? Why should not the money of sin, as the prohibitionists regard it, be made to serve the cause of Christianity? In all works of charity who asks a certificate of character from a dollar? It may in its career have been stolen, it may have been won or lost in gambling, it may have been a factor in a horse race or a prize fight. It may have aided and abetted many wicked things, but it will help as well to pay a church debt or the minister's salary, will buy food and clothing for hungry and naked children as well as addollar fresh from the mint. There is no taint on a dollar to prevent its doing good.

Rare Books.
Among the rare and valuable books in the late Duke of Devonshire's library, says a contemporary, there are few of which there are no duplicates anywhere, and, what is still more extraordinary, no one has ever read them. The following are some of them—"Percy Vere," in forty volumes; "Tadpoles, or Tales Out of My Own Head;" "The Life of Zimmerman," by himself; "Boyle on Steam;" "Voltaire, Volney, Volta," three volumes; "Barrow on the Common Weal," and "Recollections of Bonaparte," by Lord Stair. These curious titles were supplied to the Duke by Thomas Hood for bettering certain steam volumes.

AGRICULTURAL NEWS.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

Staple Crops Should Be Increased in This Country Fourfold—Breed Good Road Horses—Give the Farm a Name—How to Have the Best Butter.

The Best Butter in Market.
The process of making butter is an important one, for the best butter may be spoiled, and poor butter may be much improved by the working. When the butter is the size of shot, draw off the buttermilk, and then add cold water. Turn the churn a few times and draw this water off. Add more water, turn the churn again several times until the butter is gathered into lumps. Take out the butter and place it upon a marble slab or a maple butter worker. Take your paddle and press and squeeze the butter, but don't pat and mix it. This spoils the grain. After the buttermilk is entirely out, weigh the butter, spread it out upon the table, and add one ounce of fine Ash-ten salt to each pound of butter. Double the butter over, and wash and squeeze it until the salt is well worked through the mass. Put the butter into a cool place until the next day. It should then be reworked as before, taking a small piece at a time, spreading it out flat and squeezing it, and then doubling over until it is all one color, and no streaks are to be seen.

The first working will take ten minutes, and the second about fifteen minutes. Such butter will break with a coarse, uneven fracture, and will appear of a granular texture. If the cows have been well fed, the cream properly cared for and churned, at a temperature of sixty degrees, the butter will keep splendidly, and have a sweet and fragrant scent, quite free from acidity of any kind. If it is packed for future use, pack in stone jars; scald the jars first, then rinse in cold water. Wipe dry, and pack the butter in with the paddle. Spread a clean cloth over the top, and on this cloth put a half-inch layer of coarse salt. Then tie a clean cloth over this, and set away in a cold dairy. An ice-house is better. Butter so made and packed will keep for months, and when eaten, will be found of exquisite flavor. Not a particle will be wasted.—Baltimore American.

Good Road Horses Scarce.
The lack of good road horses indicates that stallions capable of siring such animals are few. It is too true that the qualities which go to make up a good driver are seldom found combined in the product of breeding farms, and only a wide search would enable one to find such a stallion. Present stagnation in the horse market has made the ordinary breeder apathetic, and he has adopted the unprofitable policy of allowing his mares to go idle or else breeds them to inferior stallions because the service fee is nominal. This condition would prevent those who understand it from buying a stallion capable of siring good road horses, and the result is that there is not a decent sire in many localities to which mares can be bred. Progressive breeders who would like to improve their stock are prevented from doing so by the action of their brethren who believe a horse is a horse, and if one is better than another it is due to a special dispensation of Providence.

The Scotch have a plan which could be profitably adopted in this country and would be the salvation of small breeders. In brief, it is the leasing of a stallion for the season on the guarantee of a certain number of mares at a price agreed upon. Farmers there form associations and secure the services of the best stallion in the class of mares in their vicinity will warrant and there is not another country where small breeders are so uniformly successful.

Let farmers in any district in this country form a co-operative organization of this character and send a competent committee to some prominent breeding locality and select such a stallion as will serve their purpose. Lease him for one year or term of years, and the production of road horses, as far as their vicinity is concerned, will be a question solved.—Farm and Home.

Skinning the Land.
The report of the statistician, Robinson, of the Department of Agriculture, is a rather sad thing to read, says the *Independent*.

A country that boasts of being the richest in the world in agricultural products averages only 22.6 bushels per acre of corn, 12 bushels of wheat, 72 bushels of potatoes, and other crops in proportion.

It is no exaggeration to say that a different system of farming, which should include irrigation in time of drouth, judicious rotation of crops, a mixed husbandry including dairying and fruit growing, would easily increase these staple crops three or four-fold.

The present system of farming probably pays, or it would be abandoned speedily, but it is hard to see where the profit comes from a crop of wheat worth about \$9 per acre, or of corn worth \$10 to \$12, or even of potatoes worth \$35, especially when we consider that these crops are constantly decreasing under the present system, or lack of system, which depends for profit on working very large areas by machinery without any manure, and without regard to the consequent impoverishment of the land.

It would be large, indeed, to talk of the inexhaustible fertility of the prairies. One need not be a very old man to remember when the same was said of the wheat fields in the Tennessee Valley in New York. But in

less than forty years these productive farms have been robbed of their surplus fertility, and now demand judicious treatment to yield a profitable return. It will not be long before the Western plains and prairies must be worked more thoroughly and judiciously, and then they will support a population three or four times as large as at present, and still leave a large surplus as now for export. Our land has never yet been worked so as to even approach its capacity for productiveness.

Give the Farm a Name.
We like the idea of giving the farm a name. A great many people with exceptionally fine or large farms do this, but we wish it were more general. No doubt, as a rule, those who do name their farms are proud of them because of their beauty or size or fertility or some other valuable quality. Men who build up good, reputable herds of hogs, cattle, sheep, horses, etc., give the herd a specific name—a frequently the name of the herd is a guarantee of quality. We don't see why every farm no matter how small, should not be honored with a name. It would cause the owner to take more pride in his surroundings. He would keep his house painted, his fences in better condition, his trees dressed. He would take more pride in the roads of his vicinity. His stock would be graded up, his land inclosed in fertility, and all his environments, including even the minds of his children, would be improved to correspond.

In addition to naming the farm, the boys partners with him, and have nice letter heads struck, with the names of the firm at "Rosedale," or whatever the name of the farm is. This would lend increased enchantment to the home, and all would be interested in so improving the house and barn and the surroundings generally till they would want a picture of their "place" on the letter heads. The boys would get a share of the profits of the farm, and would feel as much interest in its management as the "senior partner." We hope our readers will think of about this matter. It would tend to make people farm in a way they would not be ashamed of their farm or its yield of products.—Journal of Agriculture.

Clover and Timothy.
There is good reason for the common practice of sowing both clover and timothy in seeding land. A mixture of the two makes a better hay for feeding on the farm than either alone, and as the timothy checks the clover growth the hay is more easily cured. Besides, it often happens that when a field is seeded it may not be convenient to plow it again under several years. Clover alone cannot be depended to keep a good sod and produce a fair crop after the second year. As it dies out June grass or weeds come in and occupy the vacant spaces. Clover is absolutely beneficial to the timothy seeding. It loosens the soil, and as the clover roots decay after the plant dies the timothy will maintain a good sod two or three years longer than would be possible if it had been sown alone.

Odds and Ends.
A LITTLE flour dredged over a cake before icing it will keep the icing from spreading and running off.

A SMALL bottle of camphor or a little alum and water will aid in drying up pimples that have been tampered with.

WHEN massaging the face, rub lines under the eyes from the nose to the temples. This is the rule. In washing the eyes, wipe them from the temples to the nose. This is said to prolong a sight.

For a bad cut or scratch from a dog or cat one of the speediest remedies to draw out poison and at the same time heal the wound is tobacco. Moisten a little chewing tobacco, either leaf or finecut, and bind it on the wound. Unless very serious, you will hardly know at the end of twenty-four hours that you have been hurt.

POWDERED French chalk is recommended for cleaning light summer woollens. It is very inexpensive, and may, therefore, be used liberally. Cover the soiled parts thickly with the chalk, let it remain a day or two, and then remove with a camel's-hair velvet brush. It is claimed that in most cases this treatment will cause the spots to disappear entirely.

In order to have light pancakes it is absolutely essential to have a quick fire and the griddle or pan smoking hot. For those who have many cakes to cook at a time a high, narrow tin pan with a long spout and a handle at the back near the bottom is convenient, but one can manage with a pitcher that has a good lip. It is not wise to try to mix the batter in the pitcher, for it cannot be done thoroughly.

A VERY convenient mullage can be made of onion juice. A good-sized onion, after being boiled a short time, will yield, on being pressed, quite a large quantity of very adhesive fluid. This is used quite extensively in various trades for pasting paper on to tin or zinc, or even glass, and the tenacity with which it holds would surprise anyone on making the first attempt. It is the cheapest and best mullage for such purposes, and answers just as well as many of the more costly and patent cements.

Horse Strength and Pavements.
A horse can draw on metal rails one and two-third times as much as on asphalt pavement, three and one-third times as much as on good Belgian blocks, five times as much as on good cobblestones, twenty times as much as on good earth roads and forty times as much as on sand.

SOLSVILLE MIRACLE.

RESTORATION OF PHILANDER HYDE FROM PARALYSIS.

Helpless and Bed-Ridden—His Recovery From this Pitiable Condition—A Remarkable Narrative.

[From the Syracuse Standard.]
During the past few months there have appeared in the columns of the *Syracuse Standard* a number of cures so remarkable as to justify the term miraculous. These cases were investigated and vouched for by the *Albany Express* and other papers whose reputation is a guarantee that the facts were as stated. Different schools of medicine and some of the brightest lights in the profession had treated these cases, unsuccessfully; and their recovery later on, therefore, and its means, have created a profound sensation throughout the country.

The *Standard* has published the above accounts for what they were worth, and are happily able to supplement same today by an equally striking case near home. The case is over in Madison county, at Solville, and the subject is Mr. Philander Hyde, who told the reporter the following:—
"I will be 70 in September. I was born in Brookfield, Madison county, where all my life was spent until recently, when, becoming helpless, I came here to live with my daughter. My life occupation has been that of a farmer. I was always well and rugged until two years ago last winter, when I had the grip. When it left me I had a sensation of numbness in my legs, which gradually grew to be stiff at the joints and very painful. I felt the stiffness in my feet first, and the pain and the stiffness extended to my knees and to my hip joints; then to the bowels and stomach, and prevented digestion. To move the bowels I was compelled to take great quantities of castor oil.

"While I was in this condition, cold feelings would begin in my feet and streak up my legs to my back bone. I could not sleep, I had no appetite I became helpless. While in this condition I was treated by a number of prominent physicians. They did me no good. I soon became perfectly helpless and lost all power of motion even in my bed."

"The physicians consulted pronounced father's case creeping paralysis," said Mr. and Mrs. Johnson "and when we brought him home he had to be carried all the way in a bed. The doctors said they could only relieve the pain, and for the purpose he took a pint of whisky a day for three months, and morphine in great quantities. When he began taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, for Pale People we stopped giving him morphine or any other medicine, and cut off all stimulants. In ten days after father began taking the pills, he could get out of bed and walk without assistance, and has continued to improve until now he walks about the house and streets by the aid of a cane only."

"Yes," said Mr. Hyde, "and the pain has gone out of my back and the numbness out of my legs. I have no more chills, my digestion is good, and I have an excellent appetite." And then, after a pause, "But, ah, me, I am an old man; I have seen my best days, and cannot hope to recover my old vigor as a younger man might, but I am so thankful to have the use of my limbs and to be relieved of those dreadful pains."

Others in Solville are taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, notably the mother of Abel Curtis, who is using them with satisfactory effect for rheumatism, and Mrs. Lippitt, wife of ex-Senator Lippitt, is using them with much benefit for nervous debility.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills contain in a condensed form all the elements necessary to give new life and richness to the blood, and restore shattered nerves. They are an unfailing specific for such diseases as locomotor ataxia, partial paralysis, St. Vitus' dance, neuralgia, rheumatism, nervous headache, the after effects of influenza, palpitation of the heart, and that tired feeling resulting from nervous prostration; all diseases resulting from vitiated humors in the blood, such as scrofula, chronic erysipelas, etc. They are also a specific for troubles peculiar to females, such as suppressions, irregularities and all forms of weakness. In men they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork or excesses of whatever nature.

These Pills are manufactured by the Doctor Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y., and are sold only in boxes bearing the firm's trade mark and wrapper, at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50 and are never sold in bulk or by the dozen or hundred.

Early peas are hardy and can stand a light frost, hence the land should be ready for the seed early in the season, so as to have them ready for market or the table as soon as possible.

The Best Men Wanted.

"Yes, sir; we want some good men, men of first-class character and ability to represent us. Among our representatives are many of the noblest and best men in America, and parties of that stamp can always find a splendid business opportunity at our establishment." That is the way Mr. B. F. Johnson of the firm B. F. Johnson & Co., Richmond, Va., stated the case in reference to their advertisement in this paper.

Economy in feeding the animals while the farm tools are exposed and rusting is more extravagant than any system of reducing expenses with stock.

"Brown's Bronchial Troches" are widely known as an admirable remedy for Bronchitis, Hoarseness, Cough, and Throat trouble. Sold only in boxes.

When soup stock is at a discount because of the large amount of meat used put up a supply for warm weather emergency dinners by sealing in airtight glass fruit jars when it is boiling hot. It need not be a whit inferior to that bought at a grocer's, or cost a penny.

One important part in the care of poultry is sharp grit, and unless fowls have this grit to properly grind their grain food sickness will ensue.

To avoid constipation give the cows a variety of feed.

Electric Light Baths.
There are a few people who believe that electric light possesses great curative powers. It is known that the transmission of the electric current through the atmosphere converts the oxygen into ozone. A thunderstorm clears the air. On such established facts as these the electricians base their claims that the electric light has a curative property. When the rays are directed from a properly devised apparatus to any part of the body, screens and reflectors are adjusted so that the electric light is thrown to that place alone.

If general treatment as well as local application is wanted, the patient sits with his back to the apparatus. The specific rays are thrown upon the diseased spot, and the general electric light is thrown upon the whole body. Different colored lights are employed for different diseases. For some cases the electric light is thrown through blue glass. For special effect on the blood red electric light is used, and for results on the nervous system the color is yellow. Sun baths are old as the hills.

Electric light baths are something entirely new. The astonishing claim is made by the electricians that this treatment is more rapid in its actions than drugs. There is almost nothing to which the electric treatment is not applied. If the trouble is in the head, a blue or violet ray is turned on. For the extremities the red light is applied to help the circulation. Dormant livers and bowels are brought to a sense of duty by the yellow or orange ray. Upon inflammations the blue is turned on.—Waverly Magazine.

Hearing a Fly Walk.

The microphone makes the sounds of a fly's footsteps perfectly audible. The apparatus consists of a box with a strong sheet of paper stretched over its place of the customary lid. Two carbons separated by thin strip of wood and connected by two wires charged with electricity are fastened to it and connected with a carbon pencil which communicates with the paper splanium. When everything is in readiness and the ear is held to the sounding trumpet a fly allowed to cross the paper makes a sound which to the listener is equal to the noise made by a horse crossing a bridge.

Celery seed that is too old to germinate can be bought cheaply, and by washing and drying, then grinding and mixing, by sifting two or three times, with twice its bulk of salt, an excellent quality of celery salt can be made at a decided saving over that of shops.

It was reported the other day that the Muncie [Ind.] factory inspectors ordered four hundred children under twelve years of age, employed in the gas factories, to be sent to school.

Neal Dow, the great temperance advocate, lately celebrated his ninetieth birthday. Mr. Dow's life is one of the best temperance arguments ever presented to the country.

Artificial wood furniture, roofs, insulators, etc., are now made by burning magnesite together with wood, shavings, sawdust, cotton, hair or wool.

There is not an overproduction of everything. Some crops may be abundant, but there will always be something of which the supply is less than the demand.

Have all kinds of seeds ready so there will be no delay when planting time comes. It is a good plan to try the seeds and be sure they will grow.

Keep your laying hens busy. That is, give them exercise by throwing their grain feed upon the floor and covering with chaff, cut straw and the like.



KNOWLEDGE

Brings comfort and improvement and tends to personal enjoyment when rightly used. The many, who live better than others and enjoy life more, with less expenditure, by more promptly adapting the world's best products to the needs of physical being, will attest the value to health of the pure liquid laxative principles embraced in the remedy, Syrup of Figs.

Its excellence is due to its presenting in the form most acceptable and pleasant to the taste, the refreshing and truly beneficial properties of a perfect laxative; effectually cleansing the system, dispelling colds, headaches and fevers and permanently curing constipation. It has given satisfaction to millions and met with the approval of the medical profession, because it acts on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels without weakening them and it is perfectly free from every objectionable substance.

Syrup of Figs is for sale by all druggists in 50c and \$1 bottles, but it is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only, whose name is printed on every package, also the name, Syrup of Figs, and being well informed, you will not accept any substitute if offered.

AGENTS MAKE UP A Dozen Boxes
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