

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

The road to success is paved with good advertisements.

The homeliest language carries conviction if it is the truth.

It is easy finding reasons why other folks should be patient.

A Louisville paper prints an able editorial on "How to Save Water," but it is unnecessary. Its readers know how.

The latest literary craze seems to have struck its proper level. An Arkansas City man has just named his cow "Tribby."

Li Hung Chang objects to the removal of the bullet from his face. Li evidently wants to keep all he can get from Japan.

If there is any charity that has no entertainment planned for the immediate future now is the time to stand up and be counted.

Japan manifests no unusual modesty in making her claim for indemnity. She is more than half civilized in this particular.

Professor Behring's competent declaration that diphtheria has been conquered is the greatest piece of medical news of the present generation.

Patti gets \$12,000 for six concerts at Covent Garden, and yet they say her voice has gone. Such figures must make a manager's heart go pitty Patti.

New Jersey must be permeated with the very essence of the spirit of reform when a plumber in Newark is to be indicted on account of the size of his bill.

The number of colleges whose students have adopted resolutions against having is now increasing almost as fast as the number of colleges where having is a regular amusement.

Strange what methods some towns adopt to stimulate immigration. Craig, Neb., held a town election, but no one could be found who would accept office and so no one was elected.

A Minnesota legislator has asked a barber to pay him \$500 for ruining his beard. A Minnesota legislator who is shy on beard is placed at a great disadvantage, and the claim is probably just.

A Brooklyn jury has awarded \$8,000 for the loss of a finger. And yet the Brooklyn trolley has killed 107 persons within the last few months without having to pay a cent. It's cheaper to kill than to maim.

We favor the proposition to build a twelve-hour electric flyer between New York and Chicago. Every facility should be extended to the Gothamites to enable them to get out of that town as quickly as possible.

Had Cassius M. Clay died thirty years ago it would have been better for his fame, he would have killed fewer men, and he would not have figured in the humiliating spectacle of a man of 84 years of age marrying a girl of 15.

A Minnesota paper says that certain literary critics are excited because it cannot be discovered what became of King Lear's fool, who suddenly disappeared near the end of the third act. Perhaps he is that fellow up in Nininger who claims that Mr. Bacon wrote Mr. Shakespeare's plays.

A poor girl in the East who sang for an invalid has been bequeathed, so runs the story, one million dollars in memory of her simply lay. It is a pretty story, but how fearful in result if it shall stimulate the vocal powers of the thousands whose repertoire is made up of unpopular songs of the day.

Only a short time ago a well-known English writer penned these lines: "When a man is old enough to do wrong he should be old enough to do right also. Don't come now and rob me of all I have in the whole world. You are so rich in other things. Leave me the little vineyard of my life, the walled-in garden and the well of water." Pathetic, under the circumstances, are they not? They were written by Oscar Wilde.

Nice New York people are writing to their newspapers in protest against some of the features of the recent horse show. It appears that the fashionable women went to the show to exhibit themselves in an "orgy of color," garbed "in styles of dress formerly only affected by unfortunate members of the sex." Sitting in the boxes, they endured the stares of the promiscuous crowd complacently, nay, even invited them. The strollers in the promenade could not see the horses in the ring, did not care to see them, while they could survey the women in the boxes and speculate on the relative amounts of their wealth. "The whole spectacle was unutterably vulgar," writes a woman. Of course it was. And if a New York "society woman" thinks that of it what must have been the opinion of the hounyhuns in the ring concerning the yabcos in box and promenade.

The wife of a man in Manchester, N. Y., eloped with another fellow, a few weeks later eloped from the second fellow

with a third fellow, in a few months eloped from him and went back to her husband, and, after testing the quality of his forgiveness for a short time, eloped again with number two. And now the rash and hasty husband announces that he has "fled divorce papers." A New Hampshire man ought not to be so precipitate. She may not "make a practice" of eloping, after all.

It is announced, with some appearance of authority, that Russia will offer no objection to any terms of peace that may be agreed upon between Japan and China. There has never been any real reason for supposing that she would object, and the endless suggestions made of intervention in the matter by the Western powers have, probably, nearly all been without any real foundation. One nation cannot interfere between two others in such matters without some reason founded in principle or in urgency of interest, and there has been nothing of either in this matter. Japan's exaction from China cannot, for any long period, affect even the volume of Eastern trade with Europe.

Speaking of newspaper advertising, a man who has tried it says: The newspaper is the commercial traveler in city, county and home, who tells at the bedside, to its evening circle, the merits of your wares and merchandise. If you are wise enough to employ it to speak for you, it never is neglected, never goes unheeded, never speaks to inattentive or unwilling ears. It never bores. It never tires. It is always a welcome visitor and meets a cordial reception. It speaks when the day is done, when cares vanish, when the mind at peace and rest is in its most receptive mood. Then it is that its story is told and all who read treasure what it says and are influenced to go where it directs for the thing of which it speaks.

Once again the cry of "Cuba Libre" has been raised, and this time it is having a loud echo in Europe. M. St. Cere points out that the insurrection is regarded with serious apprehension on the other side of the Atlantic. Gen. Martinez Campos will scarcely be able to commence military operations before September, and there is little doubt that military operations on a very extensive scale will be necessary to quell the revolt. The Cuban insurgents are in the position of men "once bitten and twice shy," and they will not again be caught with chaff, as they claim was the case when the Spanish "strong man" "pacified" the island eighteen years ago. Meanwhile, as M. St. Cere remarks, the insurgents may possibly obtain recognition as belligerents, and this would be a most serious blow at Spanish rule in the Pearl of the Antilles.

Among the other novel ideas suggested for the plans of the new battle ships now in course of preparation in Washington is a proposal to place a turret for two 8-inch guns on top of each of the main turrets containing the heaviest guns. But for the statement that this plan originated in the Ordnance Bureau it would be regarded as a plesantry. Aside from the difficulties that would be encountered in providing for the proper supply of ammunition to the upper turret there are two serious objections to this arrangement. In the first place, the concentration of four guns in such close proximity to each other would be dangerous. If one heavy projectile, striking the lower turret or barbette, should disable the turning machinery all four guns would become useless except upon that angle of train where they happened to stop. Secondly, if the two turrets were immovably attached to each other, their guns could not be trained on different enemies. If the turrets were to revolve independently of each other the machinery and the arrangements for ammunition supply would be very complicated. It isn't well to sacrifice weight at the expense of efficiency. The two story turrets might have that effect.

The art of eating in good form is constantly becoming more complicated. Table utensils are daily being added to the list, until now a key to the use of the many forks and spoons of all sorts of shapes and sizes is needed. What a contrast to the simplicity of the days of Mme. de Maintenon, when that lady thought a man vulgar because, when offered a plate of cutlets neatly befrilled, he took one with a fork instead of holding it in his fingers and gnawing the meat, as was then the custom. In these times of bacillus in the very air, it is advisable to touch food with anything but the fingers, however, and only yesterday at Parker's I saw a man who has traveled much and learned more, eating bread cut in squares and prodded with a fork.

Allen's Motion. Senator Allen caused a little quiet amusement in the Senate recently, says the Washington Post. Mr. Chandler was talking at an unusually late hour, and everybody was impatient to close the debate and go home. Suddenly Mr. Allen arose and motioned apologetically to Mr. Chandler, who paused in his remarks to hear what the Nebraska Senator had to say. "Will the Senator allow me to interrupt him to make a motion?" asked Senator Allen. "Certainly," said Mr. Chandler. "Then I move," said Mr. Allen, "that the Senate do now adjourn."

"Please ma'am," said the cook, "I'd like to give a week's notice." "Why, Mary, this is a great surprise. Do you hope to better yourself?" "Well, no, not exactly that," answered Mary, with a blush. "I'm going to get married."—Christian Register.

A fresh, fat woman of 50 who has a sickly husband will claim that she is not over 32.

THE FARM AND HOME.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

Agriculturists Don't Realize Their Favored Conditions—Peach Culture Increasing in Michigan—Potatoes Not a Profitable Feed for Cows.

The Farmer's Condition. The farmers do not realize their favored condition as do the laborers in the city who, in the best circumstances, have hovering over them the agonizing fear that they will be thrown out of work with nothing to fall back on. They envy the condition of the farmer, who, if he cannot always have luxuries, can depend upon having the necessities of life. Trusts and rings may demoralize business, but no combination of man can prevent the sun from pouring his riches upon the responsive earth. The farmer can be sure of good, pure, wholesome food; his stock will not organize a strike against him, but will serve him faithfully in return for proper treatment. There must, too, be a constant demand for the farmer's products. People may do without fine furniture, books, pictures, and fine clothing, but they are not exempt from the demands of appetite. People eat during the hardest times, and to the farmer all humanity looks for food and clothing.

Peach Culture. Peach culture is on the increase in Western Michigan, and in Kent County many orchards of from 500 to 10,000 trees will be set this spring. The climate is dry, the wood and fruit buds harden early and are consequently able to stand a much lower temperature than in some districts. The orchards are profitable when thoroughly and systematically cultivated. For instance, Mr. E. E. Church has an orchard of 500 trees, on a clay loam soil well fertilized, at time of planting, with barnyard manure. The trees have been set for six years and given thorough cultivation, planted to corn the first two years and the third to buckwheat, the returns from these crops more than paying for setting out the trees, care, cultivation, etc. The profits given have been as follows: 1892, fourth year from setting, \$400; 1893, \$500; 1894, \$600. The trees are set out one rod apart each way and occupy about 3½ acres, thus making a total yearly profit of over \$140 per acre. Frank White from 2½ acres of peach orchard five years old received during 1894 \$422. J. E. Lee from an orchard of 700 trees, set out 12 years, in 1881 got 890 bushels, then 985, 1,335 and 925 bushels, or a total for four years of 5,105 bushels. This fruit sold on an average at \$1.15 per bushel.—American Agriculturist.

Potatoes Not Profitable for Cows. Some of our dairy exchanges recommend feeding potatoes in small quantities to cows giving milk. The feeding value of raw potatoes is not very large. It has 80 per cent. of water, and though a good deal of the rest is starch it does not make a rich milk, nor increase the quantity, as will carrots, parsnips, and beets. At present prices of potatoes they are the dearest feed for any stock that can be bought. No matter how cheap they were we should not think of feeding them to milk cows. The butter made from them is white, scaly, and lacks the grain that good butter ought to show. Even so small an amount of potato as is found in the potato peelings where potatoes are cooked for family use affected the quality of the butter. The potato peelings will be eagerly eaten by horses that have only dry feed. It will do them good, relieving the constipation from which horses in winter usually suffer.

Growing Ducks Without Water. Ducks like water and will swim in it whenever they get a chance, however small they are. Yet it is not good for young ducks to have water except for drinking. Until their feathers are nearly grown the ducklings cannot oil their covering of feathers so as to exclude water. When hens are set with duck eggs and have the care of young ducks they will go through wet grass and leave young ducks dragged and ready to die as if they were so many chickens. The Pekin variety of ducks had better be kept from water except in summer. They are very liable to injury from too much water at any age, the oldest and finest-looking ducks often going lame from a very little exposure. This susceptibility to cold and wet is almost the only drawback to this excellent variety. It is a drawback that is, however, easily avoided by giving the Pekin ducks only water to drink and by keeping them in dry quarters.

To Teach a Nervous Horse to Stand. Many horses have the foolish habit of fretting and worrying after they are hitched to a vehicle and are not allowed to start at once. This may be overcome often by using the most gentle treatment—by patting and caressing them and by making them feel at ease as much as possible. Kindness is sometimes of no avail, and a course of treatment or discipline seems necessary. When nothing else will do harness and hitch the animal up just as if you were going to take a drive. Put good strong harness on and hitch to a vehicle that will not be broken easily. Drive to the front gate, or wherever you are in the habit of driving to wait for others to get in. Be patient and keep quiet when the horse becomes restless. Talk to the animal and draw his attention from the surroundings as much as possible. Take time to make these lessons long enough and interesting enough to thoroughly convince the horse that it must and can keep quiet when in the harness and hitched up ready to start. If kind treatment does not do, a little chastening with the whip is beneficial. The main point is in taking time to make the lesson thorough. Make it stand

still if it takes a whole day to do it. When you have no time to spare do not try to give lessons in patience to a dumb animal that is not supposed to know as much as you yourself.—National Stockman.

Drying Tomatoes. With our present facilities for canning and preserving tomatoes in many ways, it might seem strange to think of drying them, but in some countries this is a common thing. In Italy an extensive business is carried on in drying tomatoes to use during portions of the year when fresh fruit cannot be obtained. Tomatoes in that country are grown for the most part between rows of grape vines. Sometimes the plants are trained on the lower bars of the trellis to which the vines are attached. The tomatoes are allowed to remain on the branches until ripe. They are then packed and pressed in bags made of coarse cloth, which allows the pulp to pass through, but which retains the seeds and skins. The pulp is then thinly spread out on cloth, boards, or in shallow dishes, and exposed to the sun to dry.

When it has become quite dry it is broken up fine or ground, and put in boxes or bags and sent to market. A large part of it is used for soups, but a considerable portion is employed as we use tomatoes when preserved in tin or other cans. It is soaked for a few hours in warm water, and then cooked in the ordinary manner.

Protecting Trees with Wool. A new use of wool has been found by the fruit growers of Western New York. They use it to put under the bands around the apple trees in early spring, so as to keep the canker worm from ascending. This plan has been adopted by Mr. Udell, one of the largest apple growers in the town of Sweden. All that is needed is a few tacks driven into the tree, to which a string is attached and wound two or three times around the trunk. The wool is poked under these tacks, drawing the string tighter, and effectually keeping the wool in place. Only two or three ounces of wool are needed per tree, and no worm will ascend above the woolen band. So soon as a worm touches the wool it turns back. This is better than using coal tar, as that hardens after a few days and the worms will crawl over the hardened surface.

An Old Farm House Picture. Now the hickory will his hum
Cheers the wild and rainy weather,
And the shoemaker has come
With his lapstone, last and leather.

With his head as white as wool,
With the wrinkles getting bolder,
And his heart with news as full
As the wallet on his shoulder.

How the children's heart will beat,
How their eyes will shine with pleasure,
As he sets their little feet,
Bare and rosy, in his measure!

And how behind his chair
They will steal, grave looks to summon,
As he ties away his hair
From his forehead, like a woman.

When he tells the merry news,
How their eyes will laugh and glisten!
While the mother binds the shoes
And they gather round and listen.
—Alice Cary.

Butter Made from Whey. A new source of butter has been discovered by the Cornell College of Agriculture. It is found in the whey, a waste product in cheese-making, which has heretofore been only fed to hogs and not thought very good food for them. The discovery is a method by which the butter fats, always present in whey, can be separated in making butter. The separator machine is used. The saving will be sufficient in a large cheese factory to pay for a separator in a short time. It means a saving to New York dairy men of fully \$1,000,000 worth of butter per year. The butter made by this process is said to be of excellent quality.

Bees and Fruit. The Department of Agriculture of the United States has conducted a great many experiments to find out if possible whether the honey bees, which evidently did a great deal of good, were guilty (as charged by some) of destroying ripe fruit. Hives were kept within a building from which the bees could not escape. In this grapes, peaches, pears, and plums, varying from green to dead ripe, were placed. The bees were left with the fruit exposed. Many came to the fruit, but never broke the skin, but when they found it broken they fed upon the juice. The test lasted thirty days; other bees were tried with similar results.

Early European Postal Events. 1500, March 1 (O. S.). Francis de Taxis appointed "capitaine et maitre de nos postes" by Philip, Regent of the Netherlands, at Ghent. It is a matter of record that the Taxis posts carried English mails from Calais to Vienna and Rome before 1500.

1504, Jan. 18 (O. S.). Francis de Taxis instructed to establish regular posts between Brussels and the capitals of Germany, France, and Spain, with pay at 12,000 livres per annum.

1507, England had a "magister postarum," appointed by Henry VII. Possibly it was Sir Brian Tuke, who served until 1545.

1516, Nov. 12. Charles V. concluded a contract with Francis and Baptist de Taxis requiring them, for 11,000 gold ducats, to maintain posts between Brussels, the capitals of Germany, France, and Spain, and Naples. Every postoffice was to have two horses. The Brussels-Paris route was to be covered in thirty-six hours, Brussels-Burgos in seven days, and Brussels-Naples in fourteen days.—The Postal Record.

A woman's shoulders are not as broad as her husband's, but she can carry more chips on them.

SOME NEW POE LETTERS.

The Gifted Author Makes Pitiful Pleas Because of Poverty.

One of the most important literary "finds" of recent years was a large collection of personal letters of Poe and of letters written to him by the leading literary men of his time. The correspondence was found among the papers of Dr. Rufus W. Griswold, and are to be given to the world by his son, William M. Griswold, for the purpose of clearing the memory of his father from the aspersions cast upon him ever since the publication of his memoir of Poe. Dr. Griswold has been relentlessly criticized for this work, but it is claimed that these new letters will be a perfect justification of his statements. A selection from this correspondence has been edited by Prof. George E. Woodberry, and will appear in three parts in The Century. The first selection, dealing with Poe's life in Baltimore, appears in the August number of the magazine. The following letter was written to John P. Kennedy, who had become interested in Poe when the latter won the first prize offered by the Baltimore Saturday Visitor for an original tale:

Baltimore, November, 1834.

Dear Sir—I have a favor to beg of you which I thought it better to ask in writing, because, sincerely, I had not the courage to ask it in person. I am indeed too well aware that I have no claim whatever to your attention, and that even the manner of my introduction to your notice was at the best equivocal. Since the day you first saw me, my situation in life has altered materially. At that time I looked forward to the inheritance of a large fortune, and, in the mean time, was in receipt of an annuity for my support. This was allowed me by a gentleman of Virginia (Mr. Jno. Allan) who adopted me at the age of 2 years (both my parents being dead), and who, until lately, always treated me with the affection of a father. But a second marriage on his part, and I dare say many follies on my own, at length ended in a quarrel between us. He is now dead, and has left me nothing. I am thrown entirely upon my own resources, with no profession and very few friends. Worse than all this, I am at length penniless. Indeed, no circumstances less urgent would have induced me to risk your friendship by troubling you with my distress. But I could not help thinking that if my situation was stated—as you could state it—to Cary & Lea, they might be led to aid me with a small sum to consideration of my MS. now in their hands. This would relieve my immediate wants, and I then could look forward more confidently to better days. At all events receive the assurance of my gratitude for what you have already done. Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDGAR ALLAN POE.

In another letter Poe has to decline an invitation to dinner with Mr. Kennedy, because he has no fit clothing to wear. The following gives a pathetic idea of Poe's poverty; the letter also being addressed to Kennedy:

Sunday, March 15, 1835.

Dear Sir—in the paper which will be handed you with this note is an advertisement to which I most anxiously submit your attention. It relates to the appointment of a teacher in a public school, and I have marked it with a cross so that you may readily perceive it. In my present circumstances such a situation would be most desirable, and if your interest could obtain it for me, I would always remember your kindness with the deepest gratitude. Have I any hope? Your reply to this would greatly oblige me. The 18th is fixed on for the decision of the commissioners, and the advertisement has only this morning caught my eye. This will excuse my intruding the matter on your attention to-day. Very respectfully,

E. A. POE.

Against a Head Wind.

The lover of quiet has rather a hard time of it in these bustling days. He is "at war with the fashion," he is trying to sail against a head wind. People do not understand him, but they have no hesitation whatever in condemning him. Perhaps he is imaginative, impressionable, sensitive to influence from without, receptive. He desires repose, change of air and scene. The city, with its everlasting turmoil, the noise of the trolley car, the yells of the newsboys, the sinister loafers and wild, wilful business men, has exhausted him utterly. He can hardly form the conception of the place where there are no offices, no shops, no lumbering carts, no dashing cabs. But he pays \$5 to a medicine-man, and the medicine-man assures him that there are such places, and that he can easily gain them if he will. He is astonished, but he resolves to test his doctor's extraordinary assertion, and accordingly, in a short time, he is on some mighty vessel sweeping down the river toward the sea. Like a garment he puts off the self-asserting city. Its streets and houses and alleys and organ-grinders, its filth, its wonders and its tears, its strange, mysterious magic of humanity, drop from him like the old coat that he throws upon the floor, and he at last realizes the true meaning of rest.

Revolutionary Errors.

It is certain that many of the movers in the earlier stages of the French revolution, and I think also some of the so-called philosophical radicals of England of fifty years ago, were misled in their enthusiasm for democratic change by a misapprehension of the lessons of history. They conceived of the republics of Greece and Rome as if they had been true democracies, and as if their glories were due to the purity of their structure. But in point of fact they were nothing of the kind. The working classes of Athens in the days of its extreme republicanism were slaves, and, so far from being endowed with supreme political power,

they were not even trusted with personal liberty; and in Rome the existence of the vast slave population, increasing apparently as Rome approached nearer and nearer to democracy for the free classes of its citizens, is a matter in every one's knowledge.

These republics, then, were, as it were, democracies for the upper ten thousand, but for the lower classes they were the rule of cruel masters. "La cile," says the great student of ancient municipal life, "estait constituée comme si ces classes n'eussent pas existé." These States throw, therefore, no light on the great experiment of modern England, and perhaps of modern Europe. To constitute a State in which the supreme power shall be given to the lower orders in which they shall be clothed with the power to tax and to spend the money raised by taxation, while the wealthy class alone shall pay these taxes, this is, so far as I know, an experiment in statecraft which has never been tried with any other result than one—namely, the determination of the majority to live upon their right of voting.

It may be doubted whether there is anything in history—nay, more, whether there is anything in the nature of man—to justify the boundless hope and enthusiasm with which the experiment is regarded by many very influential persons.—The Contemporary Review.

Development of a Child.

From the earliest age of the child regard should be had to the proper development of its body. Regular feeding and suitable food, daily stimulation of the great excretory organ—the skin—by bathing, a due amount of outdoor air, and, as soon as the child is old enough, of outdoor exercise—these constitute the main part of early physical training.

Even in infancy, a moderate amount of rubbing of the limbs, a kind of modified massage, excites a fuller circulation and aids development. Children should not be encouraged to support themselves on their feet too early. When a child begins to walk, its own instincts impel it to almost continuous activity, which must at times be interrupted by sleep of the most profound nature. The sleep of young children should be carefully guarded from interruption, if one wishes to save them from nervousness, peevishness and irritability.

But while the tendency of the child to be constantly "on the go" must sometimes be restrained, the object of such restraint should never be to make the child "a little gentleman" or "a little lady;" in other words, to keep its clothes clean. Those who give their children over entirely to the care of a nurse should see to it that the nurse is not too much taken up with the idea of having the children always "look nice."

A child of 3, 4 or 5 years of age should have plenty of exercise other than that of being led or pulled about by the hand. Only one set of muscles is called into play by this treatment, and the practice is easily carried to excess. The constant use of one set of muscles to the exclusion of others, as well as the assumption of an habitual posture, tends to muscular, and even bony, deformity.

That exercise is most perfect which calls into use the greatest number of muscles. For that reason, variety is advisable, even in play. Though no exercise is quite so good as when performed out-of-doors, indoor games must be permitted when inclement seasons prevent the child from going out. Games of a more quiet nature may be necessary indoors, but those which excite laughter are desirable, since laughter alone excites some of the muscles most important to a healthful functional activity.—Youth's Companion.

A Natural Wheel of Ice.

A curious ice formation made its appearance during a recent freeze on the Minus River, near the village of Bedford, Westchester County, N. Y. The Minus at that place is a small stream averaging about ten feet in width. At a place locally known as the "ten-foot hole" the stream widens out into a pool forty or fifty feet wide. In this pool there formed a cake of ice about twenty-five or thirty feet in diameter, and perfectly circular in shape. This circular cake of ice kept slowly revolving and was surrounded for about two-thirds of its circumference by stationary ice. There was a space of about three inches between the revolving cake and the stationary ice, except at the upstream side of the revolving cake, where the water was open and the current quite swift. Each revolution took about six minutes.—Scientific American.

Helping Indian Widows.

According to a vernacular paper in India, a movement in aid of the remarriage of widows among Mussulmans was started two or three years ago in Kalamnau, in the Gurdaspur district. The Mohammedan religion does not prohibit the remarriage of widows, but long residence in India and contact with the Hindus has made many Mohammedans look down upon the remarriage of widows.

Considerable opposition was at first shown, but it has been overcome. A widow remarriage association has been formed, and publishes a flourishing weekly paper, which disseminates news and information on the objects of the society. Over eighty widows have been remarried within the last three years, and the fund started to aid destitute widows on their remarriage exceeds twenty thousand rupees.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Timpany," said the leader of the brass band to the bass drummer, "but we shall have to disperse with your services." "Why?" "Why? You ask me why? A man who has grown so fat that he can no longer hit the middle of the drum asks me why!"—New York Journal.