

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 money question: How to get it.
The lazy man rests in poverty and the energetic man in comfort.

Many men fail in life by taking chances instead of seizing opportunities.

Burying an evil before you kill it is simply planting the seed for another crop.

"Where is all the money of the country?" shrieks a Philadelphia paper. You may search us.

"Milwaukee wanted a poem to boom her cat show. Why didn't she make a requisition on the mews?"

Schnaibelt, who was killed in Honduras a few weeks ago, has begun his first series of confessions.

A Colorado woman claims that a Boston hack driver took her to church and married her against her will. This was hardly fare.

Sam Jones says "Trilby" was bad, without a redeeming feature. We have always believed that she stood upon a pretty fair footing.

The amiable, affable, candid fellow sells more goods than the other fellows do. So of good-natured, straightforward advertisements.

In the "down East" vernacular, an ice dealer who cuts rates is called a "butterfly." Such fellows unfortunately never get beyond the chrysalis stage here.

At a picnic in a New York suburb a youngster fell into a barrel of lemonade and was drowned. It will be hard work to make the average street arab feel sorry for that boy.

If the strikes of the last six years have cost the country \$100,000,000, a good way to make \$100,000,000 would be to swear off from strikes for a period of about six years.

John Wannamaker keeps adding to his life insurance, that has now reached an imposing total of \$2,000,000. When he shall make to his deathbed, among other consolations it will be his to know that he will be mourned by the insurance companies anyway.

A Kansas City paper says that a Missouri man caught a catfish which was so large that it pulled him into the river and drowned him. We have great respect for the Missouri liar, but we have later information to the effect that the fish, not the fisherman, was drowned.

The American Pie Baking Company has been organized in Brooklyn with the purpose of forming a pie trust. There will never be any danger of a corner in pie so long as the pie of the nation is made in the homes of the people. When the Coming Woman abandons the pie traditions of the elders it will be time to fear the ravages of the trust.

Paul Conrad, president of the Louisiana Lottery Company, is dead. Up to the last moment he still retained the presidency of the Gulf Coast Ice and Manufacturing Company of Bay St. Louis, Miss., and all proposals for supplies, machinery, etc., as well as all business communications from persons having dealings with him, must now be sent to some other man. This is a world of sorrow.

Mr. Abbey says that after the Bernhardt tour in the United States next year he shall not bring over any more European actors speaking only in a foreign tongue, as such actors barely pay expenses. This is a cheering concession to popular demand. When this reform is accomplished would it not be well for American managers to go a step further and decide not to employ American actors and actresses who act only with their coats and gowns and appear to be unable to speak their own language audibly or correctly.

The extent to which street railroads in cities and towns have become a necessity is shown in their marvelous development in recent years. There are now in our country 976 street car companies, and they operate 15,000 miles of street railway, 1,914 miles use horse power (July, 1895), 632 miles are cable roads, and 677 miles are operated in a miscellaneous way, as by steam motors; 10,377 miles are operated by electricity, which shows the extent to which the new power has displaced other forms of traction; 44,750 street cars are now in use, and \$750,000,000 have already been invested in these roads and their equipment.

A hysterical literary person in New York City is making violent and noisy protest against a projected bull fight at the Atlanta Exposition. The press, always good-natured and easily humbugged, has given him the publicity which it was doubtless his desire to obtain. The facts are simply that the alleged bull fights will be spectacular purely and in no sense sanguinary. The horns of the bulls will be padded, and on their broad backs will be laid a sort of thin mattress, into which the horns of the handlers will be thrust. There will be no cruelty in the exhibition and possibly no vast amount of excitement. At the Philadelphia Exposition in 1876 operators had bulls of the same sort, but they were not.

the refinement of the American sight-seer that the company which held these humane fights was bankrupted because they were so exceedingly humane. It is not impossible that the concessionaires at Atlanta may suffer the same disaster. Of course William Hoses Ballou is right in declaring that he speaks for the American people as a whole in protesting against the inplanting of the wicked Spanish-American sport on our humane and virtuous soil.

The latest use of the bicycle in cities is to enable the riders to commit highway robbery. Sedate people who go out of evenings in lonely neighborhoods will do well to be armed or leave their valuables at home. If the newest use of the wheel be persisted in, manufacturers will have to devise a secret automatic whistle to go off as soon as the intent to rob is formed or the victims are in sight and hearing. Or the possible victims might wear upon their persons a robbers' electric alarm that would give a sufficient shock to intending highwaymen to balk their fell purpose. Something must be done to avert what threatens to become not altogether a joke.

A wife must prepare her husband's dinner, but he is not justified in boxing her ears if she fails to do it. Such is the syllabus of a recent decision of a learned court in New York. It seems that a man went home from his work to get his dinner. On arriving at his residence he found neither wife nor food. Then he started out of the house and met his wife on the street returning from a temperance meeting. The husband forthwith administered such punishment as, in his opinion, the gravity of the wife's offense warranted, and the wife had him arrested for assault and battery. The case went to court and the judge placed the husband under bonds to keep the peace. He also said to the wife: "You, woman, go home, and, temperance meeting or no temperance meeting, have your husband's dinner ready when he wants it." This decision is all right so far as it goes. If, however, the man was properly put under bonds for his part in the affair, why did not his lawyer insist that the man's wife be put under bonds to perform her part? The case indicates that a new branch of jurisprudence is to be opened for the bar just at a time when all the principles of law have become well settled. The world may now expect a new crop of Jays, Marshalls and Taney's, who, in the new relations of the sexes, will find a vast field for their legal powers.

Some very singular statistics relative to woman's work and wages, drawn from some source not indicated, are made by a New York paper the foundation for what is almost a new theory bearing upon the labor problem. The average observer will hold that the rapid entrance of women into employments which for many years were held by men alone has resulted only in the heavy reduction of the salaries of men. This position is incontrovertible, the facts are notorious. There has been a steady decrease in the salaries paid men as clerks and salesmen, and in many branches of manufacturing industries, such as cotton mills and other textile manufacturing concerns. These branches of labor are now monopolized by womankind. It seems, however, that there has now been discovered a form of labor cheaper than that of women. Men—Poles, Hungarians, Italians—are working at making hats, caps, suspenders, at dressmaking, clonkknik, laundry work and other industries naturally fitted to the capacities of women, for smaller wages than employers have yet been able to persuade women to accept. The form of the industrial complaint has been changed. Instead of denouncing women for unfair competition with men the cry is now that men are forcing women out of employment because they will work for even more puny pittance. There is social danger in this constant and progressive reduction of wages in those industries which do not demand especially skilled labor, the products of which are sold in fiercely competitive markets. Yet short of complete socialism no remedy can be applied through legislation. Working people themselves may protect a higher ethical sense among employers would, of course, effect a partial remedy, but under existing commercial conditions that is not to be expected. All that society as a whole can do is to apply palliatives instead of remedies.

A Hospital on Wheels.
A novel departure in the isolation and treatment of infectious cases has been taken by the local authorities in a town in Scotland. It consists in putting on the streets a movable hospital in the form of a caravan. This caravan has four wheels, and can be drawn by two horses. It has an air space of 1,520 cubic feet, being 19 feet long, 10 feet high from floor to roof and 8 feet wide. It has double walls, with an intervening space of 1 1/2 inches. One end can be dislodged to allow of the vehicle being placed corridor fashion against another. Each van has two beds, and is thoroughly equipped. It is proposed to provide a tent with each van for the nurse or for cooking. Each vehicle costs \$500. The advantage claimed for this van is that it can be taken to the patient, and that the vans in the several districts can be brought together wherever an outbreak of infectious disease occurs.

Claims a World's Record.
The world's record is claimed by the Dirigo Hose Company, of Ellsworth, Me., which the other day ran 210 yards to the engine house, then 233 yards with hose reel, coupled the hose to the hydrant and the nozzle to the hose, all in 1 minute 1 1/2 seconds.

A man this weather should dress in a shirt, waist and shirt, and run wild.

THE FARM AND HOME.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

Have a Blacksmith Shop on the Farm—How Quack Grass Can Be Killed—Plant Cherry Trees by the Roadside—Notes.

Farm Machine Repairing.
On all well-conducted farms where much machinery is used, farmers spend a great deal of time running to and from the blacksmith shop. There are so many different tools used that something gives out almost every day. Now, a great deal of this expense may be saved by having a small shop on the farm, says a writer in the Agriculturalist. A portable forge can be had for \$15. This will answer every purpose, although it is not advisable to get one too small. Secure a hand anvil weighing about 100 pounds, a good hammer, a ten-pound sledge, a steel punch, and a good blacksmith's vise, and you are ready for almost any job but horseshoeing. Of course, a beginner cannot expect to do skilled work at first, but with a little practice time and money can be saved. My outfit contains several tools in addition to those mentioned above, and cost me about \$30. The money is well invested. A farmer should not be without an assortment of good carpenter tools. I say good ones, because I believe the farmer ought to have as good ones as the carpenter. Many a dollar can be saved by their use. If the farmer does not care to do his own repairing, perhaps the boys (if there are any) will take hold, and to them it will soon become more of a pleasure than a task.

How to Kill Quack Grass.
If you must plow quack grass land, plow for corn, fit thoroughly and plant in hills, with a handful of good phosphate in every hill, cultivate as soon as possible, and keep cultivating and hoeing until the corn is too large, says the Country Gentleman. In the fall, after removing the corn, plow shallow and harrow, if possible, with a floating spring tooth harrow. Next spring plow again as early as possible; about the first of June plow again, and plow deeply—as deeply as you can; fit thoroughly and plant beans. You can begin cultivating the beans in a week's time after they are planted. Three times cultivating if you have a good tool, and work close to the crop, will be enough. I can safely promise you a clean field and a good crop of beans, also a good preparation of the land for any following crop. If you do not wish to raise beans, you can put in potatoes, giving the land the same treatment, with the advantage that potatoes will bear rougher treatment than will the beans, but you cannot begin cultivating the potatoes as soon after planting unless you make deep, plain marks, so that you can follow the rows before they come up.

Cherry Trees by Roadside.
No kind of fruit tree thrives better under neglect than does the cherry. It needs no pruning except what the cherry pickers naturally give while harvesting the crop. Unlike other fruit trees its crop is not so easily gathered that it would be apt to be stolen by passers by. The picker earns fully half of all he can gather. It will greatly add to the attractiveness of country drives in neighborhoods where the cherry is planted, and the passer by will not feel as he plucks this fruit and eats that he is wronging its owner, who from what is left can make the roadside give him greater profit than he could make with any other crop.

A Good Device for Farmers.
Not long ago we were at the home of a very neat farmer and saw a device in his tool-house that struck us as being pretty good. On one of the walls there was placed a large blackboard, says Farm News, with chalk convenient, and on this blackboard were various records of the operations under way on the farm. At one side was written the name of every vehicle on the farm, beginning with the farm wagon, and going down to the wheelbarrow. Against these was written the date when they were oiled. In another place was carefully noted the time when various sets of harness were oiled, and other matters that might need referring to were noted on the board. The operations of the farm for the week were noted, and the owner told us that once a week he set down in a book all the notes that were of permanent interest. By this means the work of that farm is kept track of.

Sap Sprouts on Apple Trees.
Many old apple trees are nearly ruined by the growth of suckers from their trunks. These come from buds that are usually dormant, but which any injury to the bark causing a stoppage of sap will set to growing. If the sprouts are cut back before the leaves start new shoots will spring up from the base of the sprouts, even when it is cut into the bark and no buds are visible. But if, after the new sprouts have grown three or four inches, so as to be in full leaf, they are pulled off very few will sprout a second time. Two or three clearings of the trunk through the summer will eradicate the buds so that scarcely any will appear the following season.

Wanted Fertility.
The seepage from the manure pits at the Iowa Station was collected in barrels and sprinkled on growing corn, increasing the yield twenty-three bushels per acre on the area where applied; the liquid also made the plants more vigorous than those not so treated; they showed the growth much better, and altogether the experiment was regarded as very marked. And yet, says the New York Tribune, thousands of dollars' worth of most valuable plant food is running to waste on farms, and then replaced, in part, with costly commercial fertilizer. Every ounce of both solid and liquid manure ought to be scrupulously saved. To do this, we need clay or cement floors in stables, and large sheds under which manure may be stored. Where the manure is hauled out as made, or permitted to accumulate in boxstalls, the loss is reduced to a minimum; where it lies spread over a large yard, exposed to rain and snow, while the water from the barn roof running upon it for six or eight months, little of value is left. "Gather up the fragments that nothing be lost," applies here.

Selling Butter vs. Selling Milk.
In a New York farm institute Mr. F. E. Dawley stated in a striking way the advantage of the butter-maker dairyman over one who sold milk. A ton of butter removes only 48 cents worth of fertilizing elements, while a ton of milk removes 2.80 cents worth. It takes an average 10 pounds of milk to make a pound of butter, so that to sell milk enough to make a ton of butter removes \$28 worth of manurial elements from the farm. Herein is one of the advantages of using the butter separator. It saves the milk for home feeding without wasting it by souring. The separated sweet milk is worth more for growth than is that which has all its butter fats in, as this will make growing animals fatter than they should be for the best growth.

Handling Brush.
When piling brush use a long-handled fork. In no other place are the advantages of a long handle over a short one more apparent. To lift and stretch it vain to make a forkful of brush swing clear of the earth is the severest labor known. Brush often contains grape and other running vines, as well as briars, which make it hard to handle. A short handle has convinced many persons that brush cannot be handled with a fork, but such is not the case. Clear up and burn everything in the form of brush before snow falls. After the snow is gone in spring work will be pressing, and the clearing has to wait until after haying, to the detriment of the mowings.—American Agriculturist.

Green Foliage for Fowls.
One of the first things to be done in spring is to plow a small patch near the hen yard to be sown thickly with some kind of spring grain. A mixture of oats and peas, or barley and peas, or of all three grains together, and covered by being cultivated under the surface, will furnish plenty of work for the fowls. They will roll in the fresh-plowed ground, and eat out of the grain as they may find, and when what escapes them comes up, it will make excellent green feed for them. When it gets too large to be eaten readily, plow the patch again and sow a second or third crop. The peas are the best grain to use for this purpose, but for the fact that the grain is so large that very few of its seeds will escape the fowls to grow.

Why Stained Barley is Light.
It is nearly impossible to make stained barley hold out to standard weight, 48 pounds per bushel. The grain is very rarely much above that weight under the most favorable circumstances. The barley that is much stained is usually that which has been kept until dead ripe, and this never fills so well as barley that is cut while the stalk is somewhat green. There is another reason, in the fact that the wetting which is necessary to staining swells the barley and starts it towards germination. This increases the bulk without increasing the weight of solid matter. When the grain dries out it fills up more space in proportion to its bulk than it did before being wet. There is also a difficulty in malting stained barley evenly, and this is one reason why it is objected to by brewers.

Paint Saved the Poultry.
A New Jersey woman painted the heads of her chickens with a vivid green pigment a few days ago, and the result is that she has back in her coop all the poultry that had been stolen from her, says The Massachusetts Plover. Her forty chickens had been taken in one night by a gang of young men, several of whom were arrested and locked up. One of the chickens thieves confessed that he had assisted in the theft of nearly five hundred chickens, which had been sold alive to persons on the outskirts of Newark. Detectives who were sent out to hunt up the stolen fowls could identify only Mrs. Kraemer's green heads.

Remedy for Garget.
Garget is one of the things that everyone has remedies for, and still it keeps right on ruining the best cows by droves every year. We doubt if there is any better remedy than liberal applications of hot water and a large amount of hand work in the operation, and when through apply a liberal application of lard, and at the same time withdrawing all grain foods and feeding non-stimulating milk rations.

Fall Strawberry Planting.
Strawberry plants can be set out in the fall of the year from the young runners, but they cannot be depended upon for producing a crop the next spring. The advantage of making the bed in August or September is that the work can be done better than when the hurry of spring operations may retard the transplanting which should be done early.

Milk Good for Laying Hens.
Remember that milk in any form is good for laying hens. It contains all the elements of egg food, in almost the proper proportions. If the fowls have a free run, give them a light feed of grain in the morning and a full feed at night, and they will find the extra during the day.

Jars' worth of most valuable plant food is running to waste on farms, and then replaced, in part, with costly commercial fertilizer. Every ounce of both solid and liquid manure ought to be scrupulously saved. To do this, we need clay or cement floors in stables, and large sheds under which manure may be stored. Where the manure is hauled out as made, or permitted to accumulate in boxstalls, the loss is reduced to a minimum; where it lies spread over a large yard, exposed to rain and snow, while the water from the barn roof running upon it for six or eight months, little of value is left. "Gather up the fragments that nothing be lost," applies here.

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Wide Tires Preferable to Narrow.
Starting with a wagon and load weighing 4,500 pounds, it was found in Indiana that a 3-inch tire required 150 pounds less draft to be drawn over sod than a 1 1/2-inch tire; 150 pounds less draft on a hard road and 300 pounds less draft to move a load on a dead pull. The conclusion of this experiment may be summed up as follows:
1. On hard roads, block pavements and other permanent and substantial roads there is no argument, so far as actual draft is concerned, in favor of the wide tire, the effect being rather against the wide tire.
2. In their effect upon hard roads the wide tires have the advantage. This benefit is not sufficiently appreciated by turnpike and macadam road companies.
3. In soft mud, slush and under similar circumstances, under which even the wide tire cuts in, the advantage is against the wide tire and in favor of the narrow.
4. On sod and soft ground, where the wide tire does not cut in and the narrow does, the advantage is on the side of the wider tire.

Experiments in the Utah experiment station demonstrated that a given load on 1 1/2-inch tires drew 41.6 per cent heavier than when on a 3-inch tire, the draft being on a fairly stiff grass sod. On a moist but hard road the 1 1/2-inch tire drew 12.7 per cent heavier than the 3-inch.
Wide tires are not only lighter in their draft than narrow ones under nearly all conditions, but cut up roads very little, in fact, when 6 inches wide tend to make the road better continually. They could be gradually substituted for the present narrow ones and better roads be the result, especially on the farm and on turnpikes largely in use by farmers.

Great Freight Wagons.
The largest freight wagons in the world are now, it is asserted, made in San Leandro, Cal., for steam freighting in connection with traction engines. The capacity of these wagons being sixteen tons each and with sufficient wheel surface to sustain that amount without injury to the roads. The dimensions and details show the size of axles to be four inches in diameter, front wheels four feet ten inches high and sixteen inches width of tire, rear wheels six feet high and tires sixteen inches wide; length of bed nineteen and a half feet, width four and a half feet, and six feet high. These are made wholly of iron and steel, except the bed, which is of wood. The front wheels track somewhat wider than the rear ones, due to the fact that the continual hauling over the road, and the wagons always running in the same tracks, naturally cut down the road into ruts to a certain extent, rendering it uneven. To overcome this, the engine wheels are twenty-six inches wide and the front wheels of the wagons so designed that the tire tracks will lap one-half the width of the engine wheels on the inside.

NOTABLE HORSEBACK RIDE.
One of the Traditions of the Days of the Santa Fe Trail.

Not long ago the writer had occasion to visit Western Missouri. Among one of the traditions of the little city of Independence, which, until the days of the railroad, was the eastern terminus of the Santa Fe trail, the following story was told:
In the old days of the Santa Fe trail the freighters made one round trip a season. The Americans very generally wintered at Independence, while the Mexican traders naturally put in the same season at the town of Santa Fe. In the spring the teams were made up, the wagons loaded and the long caravans of prairie schooners, with their white tilts and from five to fifteen yoke of oxen, began moving out on their long voyages across the plains.
As was stated, these outfits made only one round trip per season, the Mexicans getting rid of their freight at Independence some time along in midsummer and loading up again for Santa Fe, while the Americans threw off their first load at Santa Fe and reloaded again for Independence.
Along in the late forties an energetic character named Frank X. Aubrey came from New York to Independence, bought a lot of teams and started into business as a freighter. Such was his push and vim that he made two trips a season, starting out from Independence early in the spring and winding up his second round trip at that point rather late in the fall. Aubrey piled up a great deal of money at the business, and set such an energetic example that he was soon recognized as a leader.
With all his business thrift and vigor, Aubrey was also what one might call "a sporting character." The distance from Santa Fe to Independence was about 800 miles. One day while discussing freight and the length of time it ought to take to cover the distance between Independence and Santa Fe, Aubrey made the rather bold assertion that he could start alone on a single horse and push through to Independence in eight days himself. A dispute arose, and the result was that Aubrey offered to wager \$5,000 that he could start on a thoroughbred horse he had, of unusual speed and bottom, and with the liberty to buy such horses as he might need on the way, and so remount himself as often as he had a chance, and be in Independence at the stage station in less than eight days of twenty-four hours each from the time he left Santa Fe. The money was covered and the wager made.
Aubrey started and was in Independence, Mo., in just seven days and ten hours from the time he said "good-by" to Santa Fe. He had remounted himself twice.
Then a second wager was made. The parties who had lost the \$5,000 with the bold New-Yorker, after considerable dickerings, managed to make a wager of \$10,000 a side with Aubrey. This time he was to go from Santa Fe to Independence, a run of full 800 miles, in six days.
It was at the best season of the year. There were no rains, while the grass was good and the trail as hard as a pavement. Aubrey had the same liberty to remount himself as often as he came upon a horse that he preferred to his own. But he was not permitted to arrange relays or post horses in advance along the trail. Indeed, he had no time wherein to make these arrangements, even if he had desired to and they had been allowed.
He started out of Santa Fe the evening of a June day. It was Sunday. The Mexicans looking on argued success to the daring rider from the holy character of the day. All he had with him as provender was a little dried beef. He expected to get food at the stage stations along the trail. Saturday afternoon of the same week he rode into the public square at Independence, winning the race by five hours. He was just five days and nineteen hours riding the 800 miles, and had used eleven horses. He had had two brushes with the Indians, and had been chased by them at the Cimmaron crossing of the Arkansas, and again at Pawnee Rock. He escaped, however, with nothing worse than an arrow through his arm.
It is related that when he slipped from the saddle at Independence he hadn't slept a wink for fifty-six hours. Bystanders asserted that he was sound asleep the instant he touched the ground. Aubrey was carried into the hotel and put to bed, and never opened his eyes again until Monday morning about 2 o'clock. He then came around as fresh as a daisy and as hungry as a wolf. He routed out the cook of the hotel, made him come down to the kitchen and cook him something to eat. He won \$15,000 on these two races, and in the last one made a record for long distance riding never surpassed.
Just to show how such a man of steel and zeal may end, it might be added that Frank X. Aubrey was stabbed to death in a brawl in a Santa Fe dance hall. This was some five years after his great ride. Old plainsmen will tell you, however, of the exploits of Aubrey, and he is reverently mentioned with such worthies as Sublette, Kit Carson, Ben Holliday and old Jim Bridger—Washington Star.

The Samoan Mascot.

In time of war it is the tapu's duty to lead on to combat the warriors of her village, and she is often in the thick of the skirmishing; but should she be wounded or killed, it is a pure accident, as the Samoans have the greatest horror of hurting a woman in any way, and would not even injure their enemy's tapu. There is a story told of how, during the war which was carried on in Upolu for a considerable time, five or six years ago, two armies had met and were drawn up, blazing into each other's lines, when a native woman appeared with a cow she wished to place in safety. The entire firing was immediately suspended on both sides till she and her charge had crossed the lines and were completely out of harm's way.
The women could rely so thoroughly on the gallantry of their countrymen that they had no fear during the fighting, and would take food to their husbands and brothers at any time, and pass through the ranks of the warriors of the belligerent army with perfect impunity; as long as the daylight lasted, and they could be easily seen, they were quite safe.—In Stevenson's Samoa—Marie Fraser.

A 25-Cent Bail Bond.

The bottom was knocked completely out of the bail business in Chicago when Judge Goggin released Mrs. Lizzie Hoffman on a 25-cent bond. Lizzie is accused of horse stealing because she sold an animal which her husband left in their barn before he deserted her. Mrs. Hoffman was being held in \$500 bail for the grand jury. Unable to get bondsmen, she was held in the county jail. This week Judge Goggin was informed that the woman had been reduced to want and had sold the horse in order to keep herself and a 4-year-old child from starving. The bond for 25 cents is the smallest ever executed in Cook County. The judge may have strained the law in releasing Mrs. Hoffman on such small bail, but he showed his good sense.—Buffalo Express.

Why the Egyptians Embalmed.

The Egyptians believed that the soul lived only as long as the body endured, hence their reason for embalming the body to make it last as long as possible. It is estimated that altogether there are 400,000,000 mummies in Egypt.
Teacher—Well, Tommy, you were not present yesterday. Were you detained at home in consequence of the inclemency of the weather? Tommy—No, ma'am; I couldn't come 'cause of the rain.—Tit-Bits.

offered to wager \$5,000 that he could start on a thoroughbred horse he had, of unusual speed and bottom, and with the liberty to buy such horses as he might need on the way, and so remount himself as often as he had a chance, and be in Independence at the stage station in less than eight days of twenty-four hours each from the time he left Santa Fe. The money was covered and the wager made.
Aubrey started and was in Independence, Mo., in just seven days and ten hours from the time he said "good-by" to Santa Fe. He had remounted himself twice.
Then a second wager was made. The parties who had lost the \$5,000 with the bold New-Yorker, after considerable dickerings, managed to make a wager of \$10,000 a side with Aubrey. This time he was to go from Santa Fe to Independence, a run of full 800 miles, in six days.
It was at the best season of the year. There were no rains, while the grass was good and the trail as hard as a pavement. Aubrey had the same liberty to remount himself as often as he came upon a horse that he preferred to his own. But he was not permitted to arrange relays or post horses in advance along the trail. Indeed, he had no time wherein to make these arrangements, even if he had desired to and they had been allowed.
He started out of Santa Fe the evening of a June day. It was Sunday. The Mexicans looking on argued success to the daring rider from the holy character of the day. All he had with him as provender was a little dried beef. He expected to get food at the stage stations along the trail. Saturday afternoon of the same week he rode into the public square at Independence, winning the race by five hours. He was just five days and nineteen hours riding the 800 miles, and had used eleven horses. He had had two brushes with the Indians, and had been chased by them at the Cimmaron crossing of the Arkansas, and again at Pawnee Rock. He escaped, however, with nothing worse than an arrow through his arm.
It is related that when he slipped from the saddle at Independence he hadn't slept a wink for fifty-six hours. Bystanders asserted that he was sound asleep the instant he touched the ground. Aubrey was carried into the hotel and put to bed, and never opened his eyes again until Monday morning about 2 o'clock. He then came around as fresh as a daisy and as hungry as a wolf. He routed out the cook of the hotel, made him come down to the kitchen and cook him something to eat. He won \$15,000 on these two races, and in the last one made a record for long distance riding never surpassed.
Just to show how such a man of steel and zeal may end, it might be added that Frank X. Aubrey was stabbed to death in a brawl in a Santa Fe dance hall. This was some five years after his great ride. Old plainsmen will tell you, however, of the exploits of Aubrey, and he is reverently mentioned with such worthies as Sublette, Kit Carson, Ben Holliday and old Jim Bridger—Washington Star.

The Samoan Mascot.
In time of war it is the tapu's duty to lead on to combat the warriors of her village, and she is often in the thick of the skirmishing; but should she be wounded or killed, it is a pure accident, as the Samoans have the greatest horror of hurting a woman in any way, and would not even injure their enemy's tapu. There is a story told of how, during the war which was carried on in Upolu for a considerable time, five or six years ago, two armies had met and were drawn up, blazing into each other's lines, when a native woman appeared with a cow she wished to place in safety. The entire firing was immediately suspended on both sides till she and her charge had crossed the lines and were completely out of harm's way.
The women could rely so thoroughly on the gallantry of their countrymen that they had no fear during the fighting, and would take food to their husbands and brothers at any time, and pass through the ranks of the warriors of the belligerent army with perfect impunity; as long as the daylight lasted, and they could be easily seen, they were quite safe.—In Stevenson's Samoa—Marie Fraser.

A 25-Cent Bail Bond.
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