## TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTER ESTING ITEMS.

the Mappenings of the Day-Mo-lected and Nove Hote.

"Flags for the school houses" is a good cry, but what Chings, Bost

and some other cities urgently need just now is school houses for the flags.

The people of the United States are in favor of independence for Oubs, not only because it is right in a general way, but also because Spain is notesly undit to govern anything.

well based. Many public men are far from honorable.

The Missouri River to steadily depup. Since MTS its volume has fal-off 20 per cent. The Big Meddy hably is incompatible with an ad-

Jopan is seing to spend \$28,000,000 of her war indemnity for war ships. After which pride is the possession of so fine a new will act as a considerable in-centive to going out to win-or lose— another indemnity

the shall be been that Mr. Gladatone is out of politics, but he would feel the more comfortable of the

Marine construction is gradually crosping up to the Great Eastern standand of sine, which was \$4,000 tone. A German line has just ordered a ship a \$6,000 tone capacity to be used chief-weight though she will have accommodations for \$00 cabin and 1,500

nch may not have any in their language for home, but frome should keep quiet about it my of the fact that more than half French live and die in the place fastr birth. The American who Jing and dies in his native village

Authority conferred upon postmasters to exclude from the mails "publications which they consider obscure and ob-noxious" is certainly a very dangerous extension of the power of petty officials. nexious to a postmaster and be ruined by his so regarding it, though wholly proper and decent in character. Press comsorably through the medium of the postmasters is un-American and intol-

If Turkey persists in her refusal to grant the reforms in Armenia which the civilised world demands she will be dismembered. This is what Premier lisbury tells the Turkish Minister in ing which recalls the days when Palmserston was at the head of British affairs. Dismemberment will have to come sooner or later, and it would have come long ago if there were any chance for a division of the Sultan's assets satisfactory to all the nations wanting a share. Dismemberment is the only thing which will teach Turkey any thing. The only good Turk is the dead Turk.

The rise in the tide of immigration once more calls attention to the evils country is suffering and likely m the unrestricted influx of of recent immigration are above nearly 10,000 a month above th ame period of last year. The figfor the last flecal year, when im-affice reached its lowest point, show \$70,180 arrivals against \$11,605 for the preceding year. But the last three menths of the facel year just ended show 122,000 arrivals against 92,555 for the corresponding period of the preceding year. It is evident that Congress should deal with the subject promptly on its meeting. In the present what of the labor market of the ed States, even the addition of a of a million a year to the worklation is a misfortune, and abilities are that the influx will continue to swell unus it reaches annually sught to this country a few years

It is true that America now bolds yarhting cup which she has not carned, and in that degree the prize is made valueless and barren of glory. The discredit lies in this fact, bowever, and not in any intentional unfairness on the part of the American yachtsmen. The latter may not have acted diplomatically, but they have certainly violated none of the rigid rules of the sport. It could have been wished that they had sacrificed technicalities to the effort to a fair and adequate test of the one out quite as well as their ponesies, who threw up the without a trial, thus compell-

ing to give him another trial in the second contest; and, third, that in the ond contest; and, third, that in the last race he declined, in something like a petulant mood, to contest with the American head, although head had green chances. American cannot be proud of a cup won in any way than though fair contest. But she cortainly did not make or want to retain it in any other way.

What seems to be the crowning tri-smph of bureaucratic idiocy has just seen achieved in Colorade, where some troops were ordered to make a three days' forced march and by way of exportment were forced to sustain them-selves on some indigestible compounds which a war department gentus has invented as a "compressed food." The soldiers tried their best to get away with the experimental rations, but after one day of compressed soup and caffee tablets were selved with violent pains in and could not preced. The medical efficer who is charged with the duty of a self-could receive the duty of a self-could receive the duty of an experiment paint the duty of an experiment of the self-could receive the sel tablets were seized with violent palms and could not preceed. The medical and could not preceed. The medical of country reads. That will certainly be measuring and weighing the violine of this experiment to me how it works to legraphed to headquarters for food and assistance. In many he measured the notification that the emperiment was to be theroughly tried and the measurement of the method of the compressed discussed to measure would have to seem in an the measurement of the measur periment with repeat the work small the job of experimenting on actions di-gestive capacities has been carried out to the bitter end. It is at least to be hoped, however, that the war department at Weshington will hear of this experiment and trounce something like horse sense into its singular Denver Assendancy.

In the killing of the describer Coffey at Fort Sheridan the United Status army has its first practical test of the new Krag-Jorgenson rife. The effectiveness of the terrible arm will scarce ly be questioned. At fifty yards the nickel-plated conical bullet passed through the head of the victim, through a live tree eight inches in diameter, and, thirty yards beyond, buried itself three feet into the hillside. The dead man's skull was shattered until only the scalp preserved its shape. The Krag-Jorgensen rifle was designed in the paradexical spirit of humanity to-ward man. This unavoidable but suc-conful test at Fort Sheridan suggests that if the weapon is to be accepted because of its clean-out destructiveness there may be, in the future, a new distance-line established at which armies shall engage in action. The horrible wed it. It is only be yond 400 or 500 yards that the steelcapped bullet adjusts itself to the efwound. Manifestly, then, two armies engaged with the Krag-Jorgensen gun at less range than this are, by force of inference, guilty of barbarism. At greater range the chances of war are. perhaps, greatly in favor of human argets escaping scot free. Aside from plative results, this new weapon in the hands of men in garrisons con-tiguous to civilization is not reassuring. Target-range practice, chance firing by guards, as in the case of Coffey, and the chances of accidental discharge of solute immunity for many uffer around a Government post. Even in the moun-

London perfumer has found a new way of fixing up eyelashes and eye-brows. Instead of painting them in the brown. Instead or painting them in the assial vulgar old style, he puts the genuine article there, and professional and amateur beauties of the great city are flocking to him to be made just too lovely for anything. The operation is said to be extremely delicate, though by no means paintist. He takes a beir from the head of the beauty, or, If the does not like precisely the color of her own hair, he takes one of any other color that she likes, threads an extremely fine needle with the bair, runs it along inside the skin of the eyelid, sewing salimaker's fashion, but leaving the loops sufficiently long to enable him to cut them afterward, so that they will form a range of beautiful fringe and look perfectly natural. For eyebrows he does the same thing, but the eyebrow operation is, of course,

less delicate. Arched eyebrows, bushy eyebrows straight eyebrows, crooked eyebrows, all sorts of eyebrows, in any color or makes for the ladies of London, and it is said that his ruscess is something as-tonishing.—New York Sun.



Good Roods Most Important. Mr. Albert Pops, of Boston, expe be motor carriage to be a per

good roads, and have set excellent examples to their sister States.

Ooi. F. V. Greene said, in a recent address, that actual mete show that the mass horse-power or force that draws one ton on a muddy country road can draw four tons on a well-built Mace-dam road. This economy of strength. If changed into a money value and ap-plied to the way freight of the New York Central Railroad, would at and for a saving of about nine millions of dollars.

Nothing could better show that in-telligent outlay is the best possible

About Roads. The roads of this country, says Farm News, are a diagrace besides being the most costly of all our public works. If we could have good roads it would add more to the value of farm property than all the other public improvements put together ever have. It would reduce the cost of setting our crops to market one-half, and in the saving of feed that is now fed to idle bornes it would amount to a sum that staggers

the imagination. Every day that a team remains idle It is something for which no return will ever be received. If we had good roads the teams could be used on the form when the ground was in condition shattering effect of the bullet in Got- form when the ground was in condition foy's brain was due to the close range and the crops could be hauled to marnot be prosecuted.

With good roads larger loads could be hauled and time saved in this way. It has been computed that the average cost of getting crops from the farm to the railroad station is greater than put ting from the railroad station to the seaboard, and if we count the cost of ordinary wages we will see that this is not far wrong.

The subject of improving the roads of the various States is being agitated now, and the Good Roads League is scattering information on the subject and it is to be hoped that the people of the country will waken to the importance of the matter before long and at tend to it promptly.

What Japan le Sure Of.

Japan has learned a bitter lesson from the intervention of Russia. She realized as she never realized before that Russia is her real enemy, or, at any rate, that he who would China win, must with Russia first begin. She knows now that if she is to carry out her dream of upremacy in the far Best she must free accounts with Russia. Look foryears, be busy creating a great floor. Her army is a sufficiently satisfactory tie er no trouble. When she has a fe of first-rate tron-clade she will no doubt open the ball by virtually assexing Cores or else by making some new denand on China.

The prompt payment of the unpaid ents of the war indemnity will always give her an excuse for quarreling, for it is certain that Chi nake slow progress in meeting fully be nancial engagements under the treaty by and let China be despoiled or els to intervene once again to protect her one than it was last spring. Japan, if our argument is correct, will be in a position to fight and to dispute with sis the command of the ses in the for Rast. Russia in three or four years' ime will then have to meet the £16.800. 000 she has just provided, turned into iron-clad and tempedo beats.—Speciator

Bow Cube le Plunder

Mr. Proposier is a Spaniard, and ores If he is not a Spaniard he may susuagle to his heart's content if he is willing to pay a Spanish jack-in-office for the privilege. The custom house employee are searly all Spaniards, appointed by the Minister of Colonies, under the agreement that they must send officials n charge of the bureaus a certain mount of money every month. That s to may, they guarantee to send in so much cash per month, to be added to the revenue account. Thus manipulation becomes easy for them. They apcan squeeze and buildone a man who will not pay a bribe; they can arrange with another man for an undervalua-tion, with the understanding that they shall receive a share of the actua value of the goods in a personal check, and by jugging the figures, and cheat-ing their clients, and cheating the Goverament (which is quite willing to be cheated while the extertionist pays his monthly reat to it), they can adjust plus and minus se that the Government gets its rent and they have a handsome surplus -New York Press

Over-Weight Baggage.
The felletring incident openred at a milway station near Rechdele, says the Florida Times-Union. A young man was standing bookle some luggage valting for a train when a poster came up to him and mid:
"Who have it is?" asked the min, who stammered body.
"Well, I think is is," assessed the porter, "but we will weigh it."
During the conversation a crowd had.

During the conversation a crowd had collected round them, and another peror came up had asked what was the natter. The man stammered out:

"P—lpst he mays it is overweight; then

he pays he the tills it is overweight, and the on he says he will weigh it."

The portees then their hold of the lug-gage and earried it to the office and veigned it.
"It is overweight, and you have go

50 cents to pay," said porter No. 1.
"Sh—a'n't pay it," the man said. "Well, if you won't pay it, we shall fetch the station master," said the por

"Fetch wh-o you like; sh-a'n't pay it," again stammered the man. The station master was duly fetched, and on arriving saked what the bother was about, when the man again said:

"F-irst be says it is overweight, and then be th-inks it's overweight, and then he weighs it, and says it is overweight, and I have 50 coats to pay. Sh a'n't pay." "Well," said the station master in

rage, "why won't you pay it?"
"Because it is not my luggage," answered the man, and walked off.

Church Courtahip.

A young gentleman at church con seived a most sudden and violent pas sion for a young lady in the next pew and felt desirous of entering into courtship on the spot; but the place not suiting a formal declaration, the exigency suggested the following pian: He politely handed his fair neighbor a Bible open, with a pin stuck in the following text:

Second Epistie of St. John, verse five "And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from

Second chapter of Ruth, tenth vers Then she fell on her face and bowed berself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldst take notice of me, seeing I am a stranger?" He returning the book, pointing to the twelfth verse of the Third Epistle of

"Having many things to write unto ou. I should write with paper and ink; but I trust to come unto you and speak face to face." From the above interview the mar-

riage took place the coming week. Scottish American.

Can Get \$100,000 by Being Hanged If Parker Pearsons Valentine will come forward and be hanged, or take his bances on it, he can have \$100,000 big estate bequeathed to him in the will of his mother, Mrs. Loop A. Valentine. Mrs. Valentine died in Columbis County, Wis., two years ago. She had considerable property of her own, and she inherited about \$85,000 from the estate of her half brother, Hiram A. Pearsons, the capitalist, who was drowned in Lake Michigan.

The attorney says that when young Valentine was 17 years old he had a parrel with his mother and left home. He went to Chicago and worked as a clerk, but soon speculated and made \$60,000. He then went to Minneaporied, much against his mother's will, and a few months later he killed a man whom he found in his house and fied. He was last heard of in Colorado.

A good drink for persons troubled with prickly beat is made by pouring a pint of boiling water on two teaspoon fuls of cream of tartar and addidng su

gar to suit the taste. If this agrees with

the system drink frequently of it. One

excellent cook puts half a dosen green grapes into her huckleberry ple to make It a trife more tart. A Delicate Dich. The Berlin Echo has discovered that among the Chisese the "milhi" is prised as the most delicious dish. It consists of new-born mice, still blisd. They are dipped in oil, and then o wallow them very mowly. At the mar

Thine not less than 8,000 of th bone glistianed on the feetive be All the world is after a carele

tage feast of the pa

TRAMPS WERE USEFUL.

to Instance in Which They Per-"I don't mind seeing tramps riding on my train," said an old freight engineer at Walls yesterday. "You see, I have a warm spot in my heart for the knights of the road and I don't think the average tramp is half as had as he is painted. We ought to do something to reform these fellows, and it ought to be done in a kindly way. Why do we send thousands of dollars to foreign countrice and hundreds of missionaries to be eaten up or slaughtered when right here at home we have so many who need conversion and reformation much worse than the cannibals and the heathen Chinee? The tramp won't eat the missionary who goes to convert him and will not behead him like the Turka. The tramp is looking for something to est all the time, but he doesn't care for missionary steaks, and would rather have ple or ham. But I was going to tell you why I like the tramp. The rea son is because I owe my being alive at this moment to about twenty-five of them. How did they save my life? Well, it was this way. I was running a freight engine on the Chicago divis dent I am going to relate securred. I had the 418 at the head of thirty-one care of stock one dark night, and was boulding along on the smooth level track between Buglish Lake and Boyal Con-

stepping of a long heavy tgain took con-eiderable time.

"Well, when we got started again, I put on a full head of steam and we west down through the little town of Denham at a 65-mile-an-hour pace, but were stopped by a red fight at Royal Center and got orders to wait for a Center and got orders to wait for a west-bound freight at the top of the Loganisport hill. If you have ever been over the Chicago division you noticed the long, steep hill above Loganisport. Well, to be brief, which I got to where I ought to have stopped, I forget my orders. The air-brake pump was the cause, for it was looking, and I was thinking I would report it to the round bouse men at Logansport. Well, when I remarabered the order to stop and take siding, I was going down hill at a 80-mile an-hour gait. I had no soomer thought of my swful error when the fireman shouted: 'Stop her, man; for God's sake stop." He had reason to be excited, for right ahead of us, coming up the hill, assisted by a pusher and both engines making the sparks fly, was the fast freight. I pulled the whistle and old 413 let out a long, startling. despairing shrick for brakes. At the same time I 'plugged' ber and put on sand. I knew we could not get those two brakemen to set enough brakes to give us any chance for our fives, so we got down on the steps prepared to jump, but the high, steep bank was too much for us, and instead of jumping we started to run back over the cars. I wondered what was reducing the speed of our train when I reached the cond car, but the mystery was explained when I saw a man at every brake screwing up the wheels as if the very devil was making him do it. Well, do you know that we got the train stopped just as the west-bound train's engine bumped ours, and there was not Why, the fact of the matter was that when we stopped to cool off that box some twenty-five tramps boarded the train and were sitting on top of the cars. When they me what I was whistling about they took to setting the brakes, and no train was ever stopped by air as quick as them fellows stopped that freight. When they saw that a terrible collision had been averted they began to cheer like flends, and l could not help but join in and chee too. That's how the tramps saved my life, and that's why I have a kind of

tender spot in my heart for the knights of the road."-Pittsburg Pest.

With Incriminating Papers, One of my most interesting acquaint ances at that period of my life was the Count Gonfaloieri, the friend and companion in prison of Silvio Palico, who pefore we were to land at Venice be ame to me when I happened to be alone one was within hearing, he seked me if I would grant him a little favor. I was ready to do anything I could for the gentle, courteous old man, and begged him to tell me how I could serve him Then he said, lowering his voice to a whisper, that he had certain compromising political documents with him which, if discovered by the custom house officials, would consign him back to prison, and might even endanger his He was a marked man, under and

picion, and everything he po would be carefully examined; but the luggage of a young English girl traveling simply for pleasure with her parents would scarcely be looked at, and even if these incriminating papers were found among my letters it would not be supposed they could be there for any revolutionary purposes would I there fore consent to take charge of them and convey them safely on shore for him? could restore them to him at the botel.

Of course I consented, and safely ac complished his commission, with no other result but a rather comical look of dismay on my father's kind face when I told him I was assisting in the plot, I believed, of a secret society against the Italian Government of the day. I never new Count Gonfalonieri again after I restored his seditious pa-pers to him, and he did not live long fterward Blackwood's Magasine.

which threatens perhaps to rain fore one or more of the choicest volumes An English magazine lately publish the following items, which will probe bly be found useful by any librarian:

To remove ink-stains from books-A small quantity of oxalic acid, diluted with water, applied with a camel had pencil and blotted with blotting paper, will, with two applications, remove all traces of the ink

To remove grease spots-Lay pow dered pipeciay each side of the spot and press with an iron as hot as the paper vill bear without scorching. To remove iron-mold-Apply first &

solution of sulphuret of potash and afterwards one of oxalic acid. The sulphuret acts on the iron. Tokilland prevent book-worms-Take one-half ounce of camphor, powdered like salt, one-half ounce bitter apple, mix well, and apread on the book

shelves. Renew every six months. To polish old bindings Thoroughly clean the leather by rubbing with a piece of flannel; if the leather is broken fill up the boles with a little paste; best up the yelk of an egg and rub it well over the covers with a piece of sponge;

polish it by passing a hot iron over. Do not allow books to be very less in toe warm a place; gas affects them very much, Russia leather in particular. Do not let books get damp or they will soon mildew, and it is almost imposs

ble to remove it.

Noohs with clasps or raised sides de age those near them on the shelves.

Few authors have been more severely criticised than Mr. H. Elder Haggard, and perhaps much of his captigation has been deserved. His untrammeled imagination does at lead him into wild extravage Every one remembers, as an instance of this, the underground river in "Alle Quatermain," where fire leaped in through the water, and where the mous size. For weeks after the sp pearance of "Allan Quatermain" these crabs were the joy of the critic's bee and as the climas of Mr. Haggard's absurdities called forth the now fam. wall from one of his readers, longed to find the spot Where the Rudyards cease from Kip

Hag. And the Haggards Ride so more! But to be fair to Mr. Hagard, the is one thing be can and does do. writes, above all things, an interesting story, and this, in the eyes of loves of fiction, goes a long way toward equalizing matters. His last book, "Heart of the World," is no exception to the rule. Once begun, the average reader will not by it down until be bee come to the very end. This fact justly entities Mr. Haggard to a place among the best of our writers; for men with a finished style we have always with us, but authors who can thoroughly interest their readers are deplora few and far between .- Munney's.

Berrants of the Poor in France. There is at any rate one charitable organisation in France which is without a parallel in England, and it bas what seems to us a beautiful name-"Servants of the Poor." The congregation already possesses four houses one at Paris, one at Joinville, and one at Parthenay, while the original establ ganization were due to a Benedictine monk. "My daughters," he was secustomed to say, "when the poor are III. both husband and wife have to gain their livelihood by labor, and there is no one to take care of the house. Go to them, and be kinder and more serviceable than any servant; you must secept nothing of them, neither a mormi of bread nor a glass of water. And, above all, be sweet and amiable, that you may win their hearts, and that they may see that God has sent you." There were five slaters at the beginning; there are now sixty of these "Berrants of the Poor." -Saturday Re-

Conversation Read from the Lips. There is a curious romance inter-woven into the life of the Bell family. best known for their connection with the telephone. Mrs. Bell is totally deaf and was, consequently, for many years a muta. Her father was a very wealthy man, who sent her finally to a school fee such afficted folk. There she became acquainted with her future husband. that time one of the instructors un der whose tuition she came. They full in love and were eventually married and the money which Mrs. Bell brought with her enabled the inventor to at tablish himself in the world. They now have a charming home, and a summer residence on the lakes, which is almost perfect in its situation and its appoint nents. It is presided over by a levely woman, who gives strangers no bint of ber infirmity. She takes a ready part in all conversation, having been tan to speak and having learned to read the speech of others from the motion of their lips.—New York Times.

Electricity as Puel. An astonishing discovery in regard to the production of electricity is announced, which, if genuine, will do away with the necessity of burning coal. Dr. Borchers, of Driesburg, Germany, says that he has found that electricity is generated by the conversion of hydro-carbon and carbonic oxide into carbonic acid, and as this is the same thing that takes place in burning coal he accomplishes the same end by chemical means by what he calls the wet process. While a steam engine utilizes about 12 per cent. of the theoretical en-

"Jack writes that the steamers were so crowded that some of New York's provided held to some own just as their grandfactors and. How door to mean

ergy and a gas engine 20 per cent., Dr. Borchers claims that his new process

gives no less than 8 per cent.