

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

WHEN you loan a man \$10 you are apt to learn that it is no easy thing to "pursue the even tenner."

NOTHING encourages lynch law and other kinds of anarchy half as much as the weakness and failure of the courts.

EIGHT detectives are constantly employed to protect Miss Helen Gould from adventures who have designs upon her hand, and especially upon her fortune. All the women were as averse to marrying as Miss Gould, and if their aversion expressed itself in the same way, what a bonanza would be afforded to amateur detectives!

It is probably true that a good many of those who hold that the world owes them a living will go after it this winter with a sanbag, if not with weapons more dangerous to human life; and it is just as well that the honest citizen should have his head as well as his hands in a condition for prompt service, to say nothing of occasions on which his arms might be desirable.

A PRIZE of one guinea was recently offered in England for the best sensational headline. The one that received the prize started out with "Resignation of Queen Victoria," and proceeded to kill Mr. Gladstone and the Prince of Wales, burn down the House of Commons and destroy the Bank of England. Mr. Stead's leaven is working mightily when a sober English editor puts a premium on sensationalism.

The physicians who have fled away "heart failure" as the cause of ex-Secretary Rusk's death have something to explain. They might as well say breath failure or brain failure. Heart failure is a consequence of any vital disease and may be caused by operations which doctors do not always care to put on record. To describe heart failure as cause of death is to provoke derision among professional men and suspicion among the lay.

HARPER'S WEEKLY: What extraordinary gives those Chicago men are! It is exhilarating even a this distance to see the superb confidence with which they back up their town. Other cities get bequests now and then, but Chicago's rich men have not had time to die, and neither she nor they can wait for that. They want to see that investment in actual being. If any Eastern listener is holding his ear to the ground to catch the thud of Chicago's collapse he might as well get on his legs and go about his business. There isn't going to be much of a thud. Those amazing hustlers are still at it, and though their tide may ebb a little for a time it is bound to flow again in due season.

HISTORY is going to write a chapter in etymology. The edict to Germanize names in Strassburg in all legal documents will be profoundly irritating to the French. Meunier will not willingly call himself Mueller nor L'hommeidur Manngot; and although legal dress may make the change on paper it will not be equally easy to make the paper run through the community. All that will survive of the folly in a few years—for France will yet buy back the alienated provinces—will be a short transcript in a grammar or other text book showing how the temporary alteration was attempted. Efforts of this nature were more successful several hundred years ago, when languages were more plastic and despotic edicts were easily enforced in domestic as well as in public matters.

MARRIAGE of the only daughter of the Mackays to an Italian prince was made occasion, when it occurred ten years ago, of much roscate comment. In order to meet the charge that Prince Ferdinand Colonna was adventuring for money to retrieve decayed fortune he took the bride without a dowry, but there seemed some consolation in the allowance of \$175,000 a year given by her mother in addition to gifts worth as much more. Three children have been born to the pair. The romance is ended. Separation for the usual reasons is sought in the French courts. The story is only a little more protracted than so many others in suppression of its details and a little more sensational on account of the conspicuousness money gives one of the parties and hereditary but dilapidated rank the other.

CHICAGO Herald: The Recorder of New York is doing good service for the country in publishing a daily summary of trolley accidents and catastrophes due to this dangerous machine for transporting people on

surfaces at risk of life and limb and for transporting out of life a fair proportion of other people who happen to get into its eccentric way. One of the feats of the trolley the other day was to jump a fence and take to a field, carrying cars and passengers along and leaving some with not enough strength to trudge back to the thoroughfare. Another was to fly the track and knock down a telegraph pole. The trolley is the deadliest thing that every was devised for cities. The community that tolerates it is mad. Aldermen who consent to give a charter to a trolley are either wilfully indifferent to life or are corrupt.

CHICAGO Herald: The football player is not pleasant to look upon. He has not the agreeable outward seeming of the trained boxer stripped to the waist, his nether limbs incased in tights, his body gracefully poised for attack or defense. He suffers by comparison with the baseball player, whose tasteful uniform sets off his athletic figure. He is at a disadvantage even in competition with the humpbacked bicycle rider, who is certainly not a thing of beauty. His whole appearance is against him. He looks like a bundle of old clothes topped off with a window mop. His countenance is scarred and abraded, his expression stolid and forbidding. His maneuvers, too, are of the earth earthy. He wallows in mud; he thrashes around with his heels. He leaps into the air only to fall, writhing a twisting, upon other members of his tribe, also writhing and twisting, until the piled up mass looks like a knot of gigantic angleworms. Yet he is the idol of the hour, envied of the young men, beloved of the maidens, nightly approved of the elders. His bushy head is surrounded by a nimbus; his walks abroad are triumphal processions. Wherefore? What charm hath he to steal away the hearts of men and stick them in the pocket of his sweater?

In the death of Prof. Tyndall, the world has lost one of its most illustrious scientists. He belonged to a great period, and was a large part of it. Darwin, Tyndall and Huxley are the three most eminent men of contemporary science. He was not only gifted in power of research, but in the expression of scientific thought in its varied phases. He succeeded Faraday in the chair of natural philosophy in the Royal Institution of Great Britain, a position of very great responsibility, suggestive of the familiar inquiry: "What shall he do that cometh after the King?" He proved worthy not only to unloose the buckles of Faraday's shoes, but to wear them. If there is any natural philosopher now in the prime of life who can take the place of Prof. Tyndall the general public is not acquainted with him. Prof. Huxley is now far advanced in life, and as there is no one to really fill the vacancy caused by the death of Tennyson so there does not appear to be any one to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Tyndall. He was able to blend scientific research with philosophical reflection, a combination most rare. By his felicity in literary expression he did much to popularize science and place the results of scientific work within the range of general comprehension. For that he is known and revered on two continents and will be remembered among the great and greatly useful natural philosophers of all time.

About once a month some writer of so-called "literary" syndicate letters—that is, a person who beats a drum for a lot of second-rate novelists—becomes hysterical and asks the public to sympathize with Mr. This, Miss That or Mrs. Somebody Else in the great toll and suffering endured in producing a novel. We are told that these people work themselves into brain fever and fairly sweat blood in writing one or at the most two very bad novels a year. This may be true, and considering the trash that is turned out every year 't probably is true. No such degree of badness as is exhibited in the contemporary novel could be attained with less than six months' steady exertion. But sympathizing with these authors because of overwork is quite another matter. The average modern novel is short—running from 50,000 to 75,000 words—yet the modern novelist considers that he is doing wonders if he finishes it within six months. The average reporter turns out that quantity of "copy" in as many weeks; so does the average editorial writer. Yet no one goes up and down the world thumping a drum and calling attention to the prodigies of labor performed by the reporter and the editorial writer. It may be said that there is no comparison between the work of the novelist and that of the reporter, and fortunately for newspaper readers this is true. The reporter has all the better of it. Only he is not lucky—or unlucky—enough to have a private drum corps.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

Full Plowing Is for Some Kinds of Land Very Desirable—Be Liberal with the Cows—The "Little Farm Well Tilled"—Low Yields of Corn.

Full Plowing.

A great deal had been written both in favor of and in opposition to plowing in the fall. A large part of this writing has been done by practical farmers who have based their opinions upon the results of many tests of the subject regarding which they have expressed their views. The writers were fully qualified to judge and their reports are certainly worthy of consideration. At first glance it seems as if one of the parties making these conflicting reports must be in the wrong. But when we take into account the great variation there is in the mechanical condition of the soil in different localities, and sometimes in different fields of the same farm, and remember that similar causes affect these diverse soils very differently, we can readily understand that though the opinions are directly opposed to each other both may be correct.

It is undoubtedly true that some soils are not benefited, either mechanically or otherwise, by fall plowing. The writer once helped subdue a field which had not been plowed for a long period and which was well filled with the roots of coarse grass. The plowing was commenced in the fall but was not finished until spring. The part plowed in the fall, though naturally like the remainder of the field, proved much more difficult to cultivate than that which was turned over in the spring and at once fitted for planting. With some soils the result would have been exactly opposite and the part plowed in the fall would have been much easier to work than the other. Then there are soils which are naturally light and dry, the fertility of which is impaired by plowing in the fall; and fields which are liable to wash, may be, and often have been, seriously injured by working at that season.

On the other hand, there are soils, such as stiff clay and heavy loams, which are greatly benefited by being plowed in the fall. A freer circulation of the air is secured, the surplus water is removed much more readily than it can be from an unplowed field, and much of the soil will be finely pulverized by the frost. All these things will be beneficial and there will be the additional advantage of having the land in condition to work much earlier in the spring than it could be if it were not plowed in the fall. Then, too, the work of plowing can be more easily done in the fall than it can be in the spring when the warm weather, which often comes suddenly is very exhausting to the teams. Besides, the spring is always a busy season and if left until then the work is likely to be performed with less care and leisure if done during the comparative leisure of late autumn. Consequently, though fall plowing is not to be indiscriminately adopted, and on some soils should never be practiced, it is for some kinds of land and under certain conditions, very desirable.—John E. Read, in Agricultural Epitome.

Small Farms.

When the farmers of the United States fully understand that real prosperity attends the "little farm well tilled" we shall see a larger number of small farms. One of our most successful truck farmers (now a retired money lender) had only thirteen acres. He raised a large family of children, giving to one a \$5,000 farm and to another a \$2,500 farm, and always had a good large bank deposit and money out at interest, and all from the cultivation of only thirteen acres of land. One year he sold \$1,100 worth of lettuce from one acre of land. As all the labor on said acre was performed by members of the family there was nothing to charge against the crop, except seed and fertilizer, which left nearly all the gross sales as the profits. Suppose such a man had attempted to cultivate 130 acres instead of thirteen, where would he be now?—surely not lending money. His case illustrates clearly the advantage of intensive farming. In his case the number of acres (thirteen) brought no bad luck. If we can get four times the present number of farmers at work on the same number of acres as at present, are under cultivation, the prosperity of the farmer will be assured. Of course, we know there are sections of the country where, from the nature of things, the farms must be larger than at other places. But if the old estates of the South were cut up into four, six, or even ten smaller farms, and each subdivision occupied by a good worker, we should speedily see the "wilderness blossoming like the rose." The trucking sections of the South, as well as those further North, have reached the stage to show most clearly the truth of the statement that the intensive farmer will be found doing a successful business at he old stand long after the extensive neighbor has gone "out" of the work. Not more farmers, but better, are now needed.—Virginia (Cor.) Country Gentleman.

Be Liberal with the Cows.

There is no foolishness worse than that of being stingy with cows. It is an attempt to get something out of nothing, which never has and never can be done. Cows that are fat will, if they are good milkers, gradually lose the surplus fat, which will go into the milk pail. But aside from this, every ounce of either fat or albumen in the milk that a cow furnishes will come through the food

she eats. C. P. Goodrich in Hoard's Dairyman relates the following incident, showing how short-sighted farmers may be: "There was a man on a farm near my place; he had the farm four or five years. He was paid \$400 a year to run the farm by the owner. The owner asked me to talk to him about taking good care of the cows, feeding, etc. I talked to him about feeding, watering, cleaning, and taking care of them, and he did first rate with the cows. Now this man thought that because there was so much money made keeping cows that he would run in debt for the farm, so he bought it. He had some good cows, but do you suppose he kept on feeding the way he had been? No, indeed. I asked him what he got from those cows, and he tells me that \$24 was all he got per cow, and he says, 'I wish I was not so poor, so I could feed.' I tell him he will always be poor if he doesn't feed. I tell him to run in debt and get some feed, or else kill his cows and be done with it."

Low Yields of Corn.

It is surprising how low the average yields of corn are, taking the country as a whole. Twenty-two to 23 bushels per acre is the yield reported for 1892, and yet with good culture and manuring yields of more than 100 bushels of shelled grain have been attained. No crop has its yield increased more certainly than corn by manuring and thorough culture. The soil cannot be made too rich for corn, as it easily may for any of the smaller grains. The average yield of this crop is, therefore, a fair test of the increase or decrease of soil fertility. It is doubtless growing harder to secure large corn crops than it used to be. The longer land is cultivated with poor management the less vegetable matter it contains. So long as soil is full of its original supply of decaying roots good corn crops are grown. Now the old conditions must be supplied by manure and the plowing under of clover.

How to Repair Fenceposts.

An exchange tells of a careful farmer who, when his grape trellis posts rotted off, dug down into the earth where the post was still solid, and then cut the post half in two a foot or fifteen inches below the ground and then fastened to this half an upright post of the height desired. If the post below was mostly rotted off, he used to reverse the post, putting the top side in the ground and then mortise to it above the surface. In this way he made each post do double duty. The rotting off of posts is almost always just at the surface, and by putting bolts through each half and thus fastening them together the end will last as long as did the original posts at the surface.

Making More Lean Meat.

The Irishman's notion that he could make a streak of fat and a streak of lean in his pig by studding one day and starving the next seems to prevail yet among certain farmers. They starve their pigs through the early part of their life after weaning, and then on a poor frame at the age of a year or 18 months they pile on all the fat they can by feeding corn. Pork so made must cost more than it can be sold for. Thrifty growth from the beginning, with milk and wheat middlings as the main feed, will keep pigs always fit to kill, and yet always having a due proportion of lean meat. It is the kind of feed that is responsible for the character of the flesh it produces.

Live Stock Notes.

The careful farmer provides shelter of some kind for all his stock.

If a young sow is bred, she should have a good rest before she is bred again.

MANY a farm can be run to a better advantage without a dog than without a pig.

IMPROPER feeding is the cause in nine cases out of ten of sickness among the horses.

BREEDING too young is rather apt to check development than to stamp it on the offspring.

GROUND oats and rye, with a little cornmeal added, makes a good ration for the young brood mares.

The surface of the body constantly gives off heat and the colder the air the more heat given off.

BRAN, when its manurial value is considered, is one of the cheapest feeds that can be fed to animals.

THERE is considerable difference in the appearance of a lean, thrifty pig and a lean, poverty stricken one.

NATURE'S way with all young animals is to push growth to make bone and frame at the expense of flesh.

EVERY successful stock feeder knows how necessary it is for an animal fattening to be regular at its feed.

The shorter we can make the corn feeding time in the fall, the less of hard labor for the men and teams on the farm.

If you want the good of the calf, above all else you will let it have its mother's milk; from nothing else will it thrive so well.

In order to make good beef and make it early, the steady feeding of the most suitable foods from the very first is very necessary.

DO NOT allow dug wallows to be made around the watering tanks, as troughs; in addition to the filthiness, there is danger of injury from falling later on.

The watering of the horses, and, in fact, of all kinds of stock, is of more importance than is usually attached to it and care should be taken to have the arrangements as clean and comfortable as possible.

APPLES were worth from one shilling to two shillings each in the reign of Henry VII.

WAR AS A RELIEF.

As Europe Seeks Escape from the Burden of Standing Armies.

Europe's annual outlay for war-like purposes has been continually growing for more than twenty years, and is now much greater than former generations supposed the people could endure, says the Youth's Companion. Many persons have expected that the armament must eventually bankrupt some of the governments. Or, at all events, it has been feared that some government, seeing bankruptcy sure to come if armed peace continued, would desperately bring on war.

The reasoning in such a case would be this: National ruin will come if we cannot pay our way because, in that case, we should have to reduce our forces, and so be at the mercy of neighbors not yet bankrupt; nothing worse than national ruin can come of war; we might beat our opponents, and force them to pay us some great amount of money; finally, the war would probably become general, and be so destructive that the nations would afterward consent to a general disarmament, and thus relieve us of the military burden.

But a distinguished English statesman, well versed in such matters, declares that it is a popular error to suppose that the European governments are becoming less able to pay for their forces. He says Italy is the only great power in such danger, and that France, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia are all more capable than formerly of meeting the military expense.

No doubt the English statesman is correct so long as he confines his attention to the condition of national treasuries. But this does not show that the military expenses are not ruinous. It proves nothing except that the finance ministers have succeeded in increasing taxes faster than the war ministers have increased army expenses.

The effect of the armaments is not shown in depleted public treasuries so much as in masses near starvation. A treasury may be very full, and a people very empty. Such a condition was often seen in France under the monarchy, and often in Oriental countries. But that an empty people can long continue to fill a treasury is disproved by the evidence of all history.

It is notorious that the masses in Italy were never poorer than now. Travellers through the country are shocked by the desperate poverty of a people taxed almost beyond endurance. Over great districts of Russia the situation of the multitude is frightful. In France and Germany, Socialism, the political creed of those who find life scarcely worth living, advances apace.

Europe, including comparatively wealthy England, has seldom seen strikes so great and poverty so distressing as of late. The diseases that spread from lack of nutrition and comfort stalk over the continent. These things explain the prosperous treasuries of the present. On almost every article of human consumption taxes have been laid for military purposes and military debts.

While the wealth of every country has been increased by modern inventions, the masses of Europe have not been permitted to enjoy their due share of the gain. It has been taken from them by the skillful devisers of taxation, and spent in ships, guns, uniforms, powder, torpedoes, autumn manoeuvres and brilliant military displays.

Under this strain a re-kindling of national animosities is apparent. It was hoped by the last generation that race hatreds would gradually die out.

But nothing is more striking in these days than that the continental peoples are quick to resent every movement of a neighbor that can possibly be construed as defiance. Nothing but eagerness for war could result from the feeling of each nation that it is taxed to wretchedness in being compelled to go armed to the teeth because its neighbors do so.

This general exasperation is what is likely to bring on war soon, and not the lack of treasury funds.

Tale of the Strip.

"We were all waiting to hear that starting gun go off, and, though there was a lot of cussin' goin' on, it was done under the breath, and things were quiet like and hushed," said a returned Cherokee boomer to a Kansas City Times reporter. "I was standing on the platform and wondering how it would all end, when I saw a man shake his partner's hand and start to run into the open space. Somebody yelled, and a soldier, who was standing near me looked up and saw the 'sooner' running. He called on him to halt, but the sooner was in a hurry and didn't stop. Then I saw the soldier pull up his gun and take aim. Just as the 'sooner's' partner rushed up to the bluecoat and shouted: 'Don't you fire at him; he is my brother, and if you hurt him I'll fill you full of lead.' The soldier never as much as winked, but just pulled the trigger of his gun. I saw the flash, and I knew the 'sooner' was hit, because he tumbled on his face. The smoke had hardly cleared away when there came another crack of a rifle, and the soldier dropped, with blood pouring out of his head. The 'sooner's' brother had kept his word. The train started then, and I don't know whether they caught the murderer or not."

Which Had the Best of It.

There is a man in Boston (says the Budget) who is far beyond the financial condition denominated "well-to-do," but he has a great fondness for an old soft hat, and at his summer resort insists on wearing one. A certain young lady undertook the liberty of taking exception to his head gear, and asked him why he wore it.

Mr. A—looked at her reproachfully: "I dress as well as I can afford to," he answered. The lady did not know his real financial status and was consequently struck. But in a week or so she found it out and determined to be avenged. Her opportunity came after their return to town. Mr. A—was to be her escort to some function, and when she came trailing down the stairway in a most fetching evening gown, he made some remark that gave her the long-desired opening. There was a touch of triumph, mingled with reproach, in her tone, as she answered: "I dress as well as I can afford to." But the triumph was of short duration, for Mr. A—only answered softly: "Yes, you bet you do."

Neglect of Infants.

A matter that is of great importance in the successful rearing of children is, to know how to conserve the vitality in a feeble child. The same management that would be suited to a robust little fellow would be altogether too heroic for one with feeble vital powers. The one child would require more warmth, greater regularity in the matter of feeding, stricter attention to the quality of the food, and, in fact, extra care in every way. These feeble children will not stand a great deal of bathing; but frequent hand-rubbing, gently administered, do them a vast amount of good. They should be carefully protected from all excitement, and from all disturbing influences—allowed to vegetate, in fact, with as slight disturbances to their delicate anatomies as possible. In this respect there is such a thing as wholesome neglect; many babies are over-handled and over-nursed, and enveloped in such an atmosphere of anxiety that their thriving, when, by chance, they do, is a miracle. Just as you shouldn't pull a young plant up by the roots to see if it is growing, you shouldn't snatch a baby from its pillow, and begin to fondle and caress it the moment it opens its eyes. They ought also to be taken much into the open air and sunshine as they grow older and need rather active exercise, not too much exposure to cold or heat, and very little confinement in the school-room or elsewhere. It is by extreme care in all these so-called little things, that the delicate child oftentimes matures into a fairly strong man or woman, and lives to a good old age.—Demorest's Family Magazine.

Coal That Explodes.

An unknown and powerful explosive appears to be concealed within coal from a newly opened mine near Comox, British Columbia. Some weeks ago an explosion occurred aboard the steamship Barracouta loaded with Comox coal. The mishap was attributed either to gas or dynamite.

When the vessel discharged her cargo every bucketful of coal was carefully inspected with the result of ascertaining that none of the coal had been heated, thus disposing of the gas theory, and that none of the coal was shattered. This effectually combated the dynamite theory. However, the presence of sulphur was discovered.

Last week an explosion occurred aboard the steamship San Mateo, which loaded at the same mine, under exactly the same mysterious circumstances, with an equal amount of damage as the Barracouta's mishap. The coal had been in the hold less than forty-eight hours. Experts have been engaged to make examinations of the coal, with a view of connecting the sulphur with the cause of explosion.

This much is known: A secret, potent force exists in this coal not known to other coals of commerce. The problem to be solved is the discovery of the explosive agent, and the chemical process by which its destructive power is exerted.—Mining Press.

Quibbles of the Law.

A man was indicted for burglary, so the story goes, and the evidence clearly proved that he had cut a hole through a tent in which several persons were sleeping, and then inserting his head and arm through the hole, had abstracted several articles of considerable value.

It was argued by the prisoner's counsel that inasmuch as the man had not actually entered the tent with his entire body, he had not committed the offence charged, and therefore must be discharged.

The judge, in his charge to the jury, told them that in case they were not satisfied that the whole man was involved in the crime, they might bring in a verdict of guilty against as much of him as was thus involved. The jury, after a short period of consideration, found the right arm, the right shoulder and the head of the prisoner guilty of burglary.

Thereupon the judge sentenced the right arm, the right shoulder and the head of the prisoner to imprisonment at hard labor in the state prison for two years, remarking, with a half-glance at the discomfited counsel, that as to the rest of his body he might do with it whatever he pleased.

Helping the Barber.

"Some men think that if they draw down the upper lip it helps us in shaving the lip, but it doesn't," said a down-town tonsorial artist the other day. "On the contrary, it really makes matters worse, as it is then almost impossible to get at the corners of the mouth properly. I always hate to say anything about it, for some people are easily offended, you know, and then they are doing their best, as they think, to help us along."—Philadelphia Call.

PAPER has been made of almost everything, not excepting iron.