TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTER-ESTING ITEMS.

ments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day-Ristorical and

A HOTEL register sufficiently indicates that brains and bad handwriting are not inseparable

she is not superstitious, she is worrying about some signs of bad luck she has seen.

it is worth.

A PICTURESOUP entertainment managed by a Boston woman shows, byfa series of tableaux, the manner of conthe barbaric age to the present Marriage dramas, she calls them.

A WEALTHY widower of Indianapolis has been compelled three times to secure the arrest of a w dow who annoys him with protestations of affection, and wants to marry him in spite of himself. See what misery wealth brings.

A GLIMPSE into the gi zard of a Santa Rosa, Cal., rooster evealed the presence of wold. Unfortunately the deceased had left no memoranda as to whe e he had been in the habit of dining. As a consequence the Santa Rosa rooster who does not wish to be assayed will do well to hunt a high limb

favor of a t ansit system not wholly popular just now.

the idiot who insists on the practical joke. The practical loker gives his victim a loaded cigar, which explodes, and knocks his eye out. Or he hangs a red flag on you, without your of that kind. The first man who quill-driver. whips a practical joker should be given a medal.

of sweet clover.

A MICHIGAN man had a quarrel with a neighbor and got into the his wife, who disliked the contact of cold steel in her slumbers, and because he would not ref ain from converting their couch into an armory she sue I for a divorce, and, it is said. she is it a fair way to win the case. He should have taken up his quarters in the woodshed.

A New York girl who was to have bomb is not without drawbacks. The Vice President of Salvador may hold his job a week and at the end of that and shot beyond the reach of worldly honors. Altogether the head of the New York girl appears to be level.

THE Ameer of Afghanistan has issued a proclamation to his people ing London "for the good of our holy country." Which shows that the son who will fail to appreciate the joke is her Majesty the Queen, who dislikes very much to have her royal oriental friends visit London because it imposes upon her a few more farthings in the pound of expenses for entertainment.

THE owner of a valuable iron deposit in the East learned by accident that his ore contained a quantity of an element that produce; the blackest dye known to chemistry or commerce, and worth some tabulous ce per ounce. Delighted at the rospect of wealth, he made ready to roduce his dye, but preliminary ina showed that the total d for the stuff was not more as a few pounds per annum. He gave up the scheme as a comm

clares, enough of the stuff to blacken the face of the universe.

A RESIDENT of Olympia. Wash. named Scott, wandered away and was supposed to be dead. After his estate had been administered upon he reappered, with a denial of the allegation of mortal dissolution. The Court would not listen, but told Mr. Scott that having been judiciously WHEN a woman is not declaring declared dead he was dead, and, as a corpse, could expect no standing. Then Mr. Scott missed the chance of his life. He could have called the Court a bald-headed idiot, for no Gov. TILLMAN of South Carolina cadaver could be in contempt, and has twenty barrels of whiskey left on have smitten the Court with a club, his hands by the explosion of the dis- for action for assault will not lie pensary. His consolation must be against the deceased. But instead that the older the stuff gets the more of this he appealed, and the higher court being compos mentis, has decided that he is still on earth.

It is a fact known to the builders of sky-scrapers that there is a conducting the marriage ceremony from stant and uneven motion going on throughout the whole structure. called by some molecular vibration. to an extent which can be measured with the naked eye. Girders will move an inch or more, and then come back into place. The causes of this movement are as yet entirely unknown, as are their extent and duration. Another peril which menaces this class of building is oxidation. The steel frames are inclosed in fire. proofing, and beyond the reach of examination or the application of preservatives. The disintegrat on may be slow, but the day must come, so building must succumb to rist and the ship to enter the goldroom.

THE following story is told by a writer in the Pall Mall of an exam-Six stray curs rubbed against a ling clerk in the audit office, or treaslamp post in Chicago and died forth- ury, who finding in the traveling acwith. The post had become charged count rendered by a queen's meswith electricity from an ad acent senger an item of two shillings put and particularly intelligent troly down for "porter," thought well to wire. The item is probably being consider this as an item for refreshcirculated to create sentiment in ment and as such to be disallowed. When it was explained to him that the charge in question was for the service of railway porters, the great THE man who insists on getting off man was mollified, contenting himhis little joke, whether it is funny or self with requesting that the applinot, is a pleasant idiot compared to cant should express himself more clearly in future. 'This, sir, should have been entered as 'porterage,' not as 'porter.' " Accordingly, in the next account sent in. there figured an item of four shillings for "cabknowledge or consent, or something bage," to the intense disgust of the

THE suggestion of a Washington correspondent for a star-spangled Among the many trades carried on postage stamp is a good one and In the big city of New York is clover me its hearty approval. Such a peddling. Men come from the su- stamp as he poposes would mean burbs every day, driving wagons con- something nationally and inter- it is to keep an eye on the boats. taining loads of fresh-cut clover, nationally. It would be a constant which is peddled to teamsters for reminder of the flag to eve ybedy in arrangement, Mr. Dutton, I think," their horses. The peddle s make a the land who sends o receives letgood thing out of the business, and ters: that is, to all who have any inso do the tired city horses, who oth- telligence; and it would be a wondererwise would have no opportunity to fully cheering sight to the American plunge their noses down into a bunch in foreign lands who often goes for weeks or months w thout a glimpse of the emb em of freedom except when he visits minister or consul-We have had a good deal of va lety habit of taking an ax to bed with in stamps, from the wretched pi ture h m. This proved objectionable to of a locumotive to the huge placa d which adve tised the Columbian Exposition. But we have had none thus tar in the history of the country so d st nctive, so cha acte istic, and so patriotic as the star-spangled stamp would be.

DESPITE the acknowledged fact that justice lags more and more every year and that nine out of ten crimbeen married to the Vice President inals escape punishment altogether, of Salvador has changed her mind, there are still in this country just Love in a mansion that is likely at and up ight--not to say Draconianany moment to be over an exploding jidges who treat malefactors with proper severity. One of these Daniels is located in Martin County, Ky., and although he is only a sustice time be ba ked against a stone wall of the Peace, his dignity and stern sense of right might well be envied by many of his brothren of the courts of record. The other day a man was brought before him charged with horse stealing, and after hearing all the evidence the Martin County ask ng for their consent to his visit- jurist solemnly ajudged that the prisoner be immediately taken out religion and the giory of our great and hanged by the neck until dead. As the constable was perfectly will-Ameer is eligible to an engagement ing to execute the mandate and the as a professional wit. The only per- spectators were entirely in sympathy with it, the outlook for the criminal was black indeed; but his counsel after gasping for breath two or three times, finally found his voice long enough to protest with great vigos and the execution was deferred until higher author ty could be appealed to for a stay of judgment. Of course this postponed the hanging indea nitely, but the warning has been a valuable one to evil disposed persons. No horses will be stolen in Martin County for a long time to come.

The Kiwi of New Zealand lays an egg which weighs fourteen and a baif ounces, and the contents thirteen The living bird weighs only sixty ounces, so that the weight of as easy appears to be nearly equal to one-fourth of the whole weight of the A SONG FOR ALL SEASONS.

Ah! little one, it is a merry world;
Bay so, and he not thus forlorn!
The all in say so.

Dere the sharp thistle and the prickly thorn,
And make thy lay so:
If 't is a marry world' then I
Will pluck the thorn, and whistle though
cry.

Thou, youth, since life is all in low, thou too say so, and be not thus east down;

T is all in may-so.

And if on these a maid do h nought but frown.

Yet make thy lay so.

Rince life is still in loving, I.

When my love frowns, will whistle though I sigh.

Nay, man, a kindly and a merry world!

Say so, when thou art near thine end;

T is all in -ay-so.

Murmur g od-by to life, as thy best friend,

And make thy lay so;

Feet life, if i must leave thee, I

Will speek thee fair and whistle though I die.

THE GOLDROOM.

The night mail from Paris panted into Calais Fier station only five minutes late. The usual scrambling exodus of passengers eager to wet a snack at the buffet before the steamer was due to start began almost before the train bad stopped.

My employment is that of traveling clerk to an express company, whose business it is to convey between Paris and London valuables intrusted to it by clients.

I was more than usually anxious that night, because it was marked by the inauguration of a new system. Hither the valuables had been placed by one of us in the go'droom rented by our company on the steamers. The room had been carefully locked, and the property had been left to take care of itself until it got to Dover, where it was met by another official of the company, who was provided with a duplicate key.

The captains of the boats were also in possession of keys in case it say good authorities, when the great should be necessary for the safety of

These precautions, however, had proved insufficient. Although the locks of the goldroom door were safety ones of the most approved kind, impressions in wax had been obtained, false keys had been manufactured, and robberies had been frequent-perpetrated, without doubt, during the passage across the channel by a gang of expert thieves.

In consequence, an official was to accompany in future every consignment and keep watch and ward at

the goldroom door. That night the consignment was of small bulk, but of extraordinary value. It consisted of two tin boxes, one of which contained notes on the Bank of France, sent to the Bank of England in payment for the purchase of 500,000 sovereigns: the box contained negotiable bonds, with coupons attached, of the new Turkish loan-the property of the largest financial house in the world.

The bonds were worth £250,000, so my total charge amounted to #3, 750,-

Two of the company's porters had accompanied me from Paris to assist in shipping the boxes As I stood on the platform watching my men haul the boxes from the treasury van I was tapped on the shoulder by one of the French detectives whose duty

"You cross to-night under the new

"That is so," I replied. "Have

you taken stock of my tellow passengers?" "Yes." he said: "and I have not spotted any suspicious characters so far. Ah! stand aside there mon ami; make way for madame," and the detective pulled me gently back a step to allow a solemn procession to jass along the platform to the

gangway of the steamer, A couple of railway porters were carrying a sick woman, by whose side walked a tall maid. Two other porters followed, wheeling unmistaxably feminine luggage.

The detective stepped quickly to the side of the truck and read the address painted in large white letters on one of the packages.

"Mme la Comtesse Brune," he said as he rejoined me. "It is not a title with which I am famil ar. Mon cher, it might be as well if you kept yourself acquainted with that lady's whereabouts on the boat."

"What! Have you cause for suspicion?" I asked.

"Not in the least. I did not recognize either the grand dame or her maid. Only, when one comes across a title inknown to us of the French police it makes one cautious-that is all, my friend. Bon vogage "

The detective moved away, and I followed my men on board the boat. each carrying one of the boxes. On the gangway I met the captain, to whom I was well known-jolty old on the bridge! Capt. Temple.

'Hullo, my boy!" he said. 'So you're going with us. That's good; you'll relieve me of a lot of responsibility. I got my new key for your precious new lock from the agent today, but I've hit on a better dodge than all the locks in the world. Just come along with me."

Captain Temple led the way below I followed with my men. The goldroom was situated on the main teck in a little recess aft of the sa-

It was about ten feet square and was approached by a passage five yards long running out of the saloon, in which, as we passed through, I noti ed the invalid lady and her attendant being ushered into a stateroom by the stewardess

The stateroom was the nearest the goldroom passage—a fact which further impressed upon me the hint given by the detective.

The captain opened the door of the goldroom with his key, and my men deposited the boxes on the floor. Captain Temple waited until I had dis niesed them and then stooped down in another corner of the room and pulled at a small tag of wire

a fair sized loop, he carried over one of the boxes, put the loop of wire around it and turned to me with a Smile

"There, Dutton," he said. "Now if any one touches that box i shall know it up on the bridge as soon as you will in the saloon there sooner if you don't happen to spot them going to."

I complimented the skipper on his ingenuity, though I ma e the mental reservation that on occasions when I happened to be on duty his electric bell would never be used. I did not mean to take my eye off that passage during the voyage.

The captain put the other box on the top of the one to which the wire was attached, and after a last look round we locked the door, this time with my key, to make sure that the new lock answered satisfactorily to both of them.

It was a tine night, and the saloon was nearly empty, most of the passengers preferring the fresh air on deck. One respectable old gentleman, was immersed in a book at the table that ran down the center of the saloon, but with this exception all the occupants of the place were ladies, and not many of them.

In my immediate vicinity only one lady was sitting, and I paid very little attention to her, all my thoughts being concentrated on the goldroom door, with just a wink now and then toward the invalid lady's

But it soon came to me that the lady near me was in trouble of some kind. From my position I could see her without turning round, and I noticed that she kept her head in her hands and appeared to be shaking with suppressed sobbing.

At length she raised her face and looked at me. Her eyes were red with weeping and the e were tears on her cheeks. She was quite young and very pretty-far too pretty to be traveling alone, I thought.

There was a plead ng expression in ter eyes as she looked at me which half suggested that she required some service at my hands, though I quite made up my mind not to grant whatever it might be, if it should take me from my post for one sirgle instant. Beauty in distress was a decoy not altogether unknown in the annals of crime, and at the risk of impoliteness, I would avoid all chance of becoming a victim.

Hesitating and struggling with emotion, the girl opened her lips and essayed to speak. The words seemed to come with difficulty and were almost inaudible.

"May I ask you to give me your attention for a moment." she stammered. "Believe me. It is on a matter of great importance." "I am on duty here," I answered,

and I can not come over to you. You had better come a little nearer." "It is about your duty I wish to speak," was her astounding reply as

she moved over and took a seat by my side. "You are in charge of the goldroom, are you not?"

"Yes," I said shortly, not knowing what to expect. She paused for a moment and then went on, speaking hurriedly in a

whisper. "I wish to save my brother crime," she said. "He is a dupe of a wicked man-of Red Jem, the notorious boat thief and his gang. There is a plot on foot to steal the valuables from the goldroom to-night. A thousand times better for my brother of the law for a first unsuccessful attempt than to become a hardened criminal. Oh, sir, stop him in time, and be as me ciful as your duty will permit."

The young lady need have no apprehension lest I should fail to stop the robbery, I said to myself. Then I asked aloud, "Where is your brother, then?"

"In the goldroom at this moment," was the reply, which took my breath awav.

"Impossible" I exclaimed. have not moved from this spot since the goldroom door was locked.

"My brother slipped into the passage way after we started, while you were looking at the cabin door. was concealed under the saloon table. And you do not know ked dem, sir. He has master keys that will fit any lock."

I was puzzled sorely. I felt as sure as man could feel that no one could have passed into the passage without my seeing him. And, again, if there were some one in the gold room tampering with the boxes, how was it that the captain's boasted electric bell had not warned him up

However, my duty was obvious. I must unlock the door and see for myself if anything was wrong. I drew the key from my pocket and approached the door, followed by the weeping girl, who now began to show signs of repenting her confidence in

"He is only a lad, sir, only a lad. Spare him if you can, and remember that I, his sister, prevented the rob-

I put the key in the lock and the heavy door swung back, opening inward. There was no light in the place beyond what reached it from the saloon, and in the dim corner I could see the boxes just as we left them. But there was no robber. I took a step forward to look be-

hind the door, in case perchance he was lurking there, and then in a moment I knew that I was done. Lithe arms stole around my neck and pressed a fifthy plaster of some tance over my mouth; several

pairs of strong bands gripped

from behind and cust me to the As I fell the door of the goldroom swung to, and all was darkness.
But only for a second. A silent

When he got enough wire to make lighted which shone on strange company

kneeling on my chest and b nGing me with a vigor which iil accorded with her assumed cahracter was the "sicks countess," whom I had seen

carried on board. Helping to hold me down was the tall maid who who had walked by her side, while cover ng me with the shining barrel of a revolver was the girl who had induced me to open the doors, a horrid grin on her face in place of tears.

There you are, friend Dutton," other than Red Jem n mself. "I think you will do now, for the few minutes we shall require you. What a pity it is that your people have been so smart. You see that nice new lock compelled us to get you to be so obliging as to open the door for Look alive with the pigments, Hill, and get on with your makeup

I was half da ed with the suddenness of the attack, but my senses were rapidly clearing, and I was beginning to appreciate the value of Ca t Temple's electric bell. Whatever happened to me, I thought, the boxes would be all right-the alarm would ring directly they were

I was soon to be undeceived. I was held against the wall by powerful hands of Red Jem, looking strangely fantastic in

his feminine dress.

The "tall maid" who had been addressed as Bill rapidly divested herself of her top clothing. Then my clothes were taken from me, and Bill put them on, standing revealed at last in his proper character of a neatly built young man of about my own height.

As soon as he was dressed in my clothes he took up an actor's paintbox and proceeded to make sundry alterations in his face. Bit by bit the likeness grew, till in front of me stood a counterpart of myself-a counterpa t that my mother might have mistaken for the original

"Now, Mr. Dutton," said Red Jem, "you see our little game per-haps. My friend Bill will relieve you of your duties and will see the bonds sa ely ashore. Katie will take Bill's place as a much more appropriate maid and will escort me-the sick Comptesse de Brune-back to her cabin while the coast is clear. Neat, isn't it?"

"Yes," I said. "but what are you going to do with me?"

'Ah, my dear friend," he replied, with a horrible grin on his painted face, "that is the sad part of it. You have got to die, Dutton. I'm sorry, but \$3,000,000 is worth a man's

"Bill, where's that knife? No body would be likely to hear the pistol down here, but it's best to be sure.' My counterfeit drew a glistening dagger from the clothes he had removed and gave it to Red Jem.

There was but one chance for me. and that was to ring the electric bell. To shout would be to incur certain death, and the odds were that in that out of the way place, amid the rush of water and the noise of the raddles, no one would hear my cry. But how to get free in time:

"I suppose you will give me two minutes to make my peace?" I said. "Oh, ye-, if you think it wor h while to prolong the agony," said the chiet. "Only be quick about it."

"It may seem odd to you, but I have scruples about these matters.' I said. "Would you object to loosing this strap round my legs so that I to suffer a punishment at the hands can kneel? You see that it is impossible to escape with the door locked and three of you here."

'I'm the best natured fellow in the world" replied the bloodthirsty scoundrel, and he stooped and unbuckled the strap. 'There, get to your prayers and don't be long about You can use your precious bondboxes as a desk, if you like."

In those last words he sealed his own fate and that of his companions. Outwa div scalm, but in reality trembling with excitement, I as sumed a devotional attitude in the corner of the goldroom, resting my elbows on the top of the uppermost box. With my knees I gently pushed the lower one so as to bring a strain

on the wi e. Once, twice, thrice, I p essed it and then knelt down in prayer which it is very certain was not at all make

believe Red Jem and his companions were whispering by the door, and from the scraps of conversation that reached me I lea ned that my body

was to be thrown overboard. "Now, young man, time's up," said the principal villian at length. advancing to where I knelt, but as he did so I knew that I was saved.

There was a hurr ed rush of many feet outside, the door was thrown open and Captain Temple, pistol in hand, and followed by a half a dozen men, burst in.

For a moment he was puzzled at the likeness between me and the robber known as Bill, but he soon grasped the situation. Red Jem and his gang will not trouble the Dover mailboats for many a day, and I have since hea d that his wife-the Katle who so cleverly imposed upon me in the saloon, and afterward held a pistol to my head-died in prison.

After all, it was the captain's invention, and not my care of the goldroom key, which saved the company's property, and, what is not of so much importance, the life of one of its servants - Waverly Magazine.

Wholly Charitable.

"This amateur performance you speak of -- was it a charitable affair?" 'Oh, yes, the people knew the young folks were doing as well as they could."-Boston Transcript.

Some people are always going to But only for a second. A silent complaining because they didn's match bla ed up, and a candle was have a good time. Telegraphers' Mistakes.

The funny mistakes of telegraphers are as numerous as those charged up to poof readers, two on the former have just come in. A gentleman who has been an extens ve traveler, and consequently not supposed to overlook any details, saw his wife off on a train for the slope the other day. It was supposed that everything had been arranged. The good-by and its accompaniment had been passed and the gentleman returned to his home. that night his wife suddenly remembered that she had left a valuable said the "countess," who was no adjunct to her happiness, and wrote a message to her husband which he received the following morning at his once. It read

"Forgot Think conductor has telegraphed for it."

He read it again, and again it read as at first? Forgot what: he murmured. And he read it again, and kept reading it until the words run together and his temples throbbed. He sent a message to his bouse asking the servants f Mrs. --had left anything. They made no discoveries, of course. Then he sent a message to the operator at the office from which his wite's message was sent asking him to repeat it. He waited for an answer. He lost his iuncheon and his dinner waiting. He remained at his office until late at night, and as he was about to leave in despair he received an answer to his. It read: "Forgot trunk. Con-

ductor has telegraphed for it" Sure enough. The word 'trunk" had been made to read think. But wasn't it strange that a man who had traveled all over the world should come to his own home to forget to check his wife's trunk? He laughed to himself, after it was all over. But it had cost him lots of worry.

Equally funny is this one: A lady had received a letter from her old home in Connecticut which caused her a good deal of trouble, Her answer to it was by wire. When it was delivered in the Connecticut home it read:

"How's the weather?" What a exasperating query at such a time. The letter referred to the lady's mother's health. The dispatch should have read, "How's

mother?" Alittle different is this one: A gentleman sent his wife a message from Washington, March 4, 1893, prepaid, and it has not been delivered up to the present writing. The correspondence between the Chicago oice and the Washington and New york offices about the transaction has accumulated until the batch looks like the papers in a long continued law suit - Chicago

Got the Commission, Too,

He is a sharp business man who can get the better of Mrs. Hetty Green, the wealthy financier. When the business depression was weighing most heavily upon the country a rich New Yorker who wished a large sum of ready money wished to place a mortgage on one of the most valuable pieces of real estate in New York City. His brokers set forth to negotiate the loan, but cash was extremely scarce, even when the finest security was offered for it. Among others whom the brokers saw in regard to the loan was a certain banker who knows Mrs. Green. He was up able to make the loan, and could think of no one who could. Meeting Mrs. Green the next day, however, he said to her:

"Oh, why didn't I think of you yesterday? Mr. Z-'s brokers were in to see me to borrow a million."

"On what?" asked Mrs. Green; and the banker explained the security, the terms, etc.

'You can go and see the brokers now," he said. "You will be welcome. A million isn't easy to raise in these days, and there is a pretty commission in it for them if they can get the money from you. They'll be

glad to see you." But they did not see Mrs. Green. She had no intention of letting that commission go astray. She saw Mr. Z- herself, gave him the loan at her rate of interest, and took the commission also for getting the loan.

A Clever Illusion.

An ingenious Frenchman has arranged a cleve: optical illusion, which, while it is intended to be used for pecuniary profit, and not for scientific advancement, is a most convincing proof of the visible effect of imaginat on on the physical functions of the body.

In a tall, one storied building isarranged a wooden swing, similar to those sed on picule gro nds. The interior walls of the building are apparently painted to represent a woodand sene. Persons are invited to take a ride, and when one or two get into the wooden box seat they are strapped in securely by an attend-

ant, and warned to 'hold on tight." Then they go, slow at first, b t in a minute or two so last and so high that they are in imminent danger of turning completely over. A man in the swing usually turns pale and grips harder. A woman screams, and when the machine slows down she gets out feeling very faint. This disappears when the attendant shows her that the swing is stationary and hasn't moved and inch. The painted walls are not walls at all, but canvas, so adjusted, as to move and give the people in the swing the impr ssion that they are human pendulums going at a reckless rate. The impress on in the mind is precisely the same as though the swinging actually took place. - New York Mail and Ex-

PUMAN nature never changes. If a man promises to do better than men have done in the past, do not

WHY are boots and shoes like doornats?-Recause they are worn by