

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 only time a man of experience takes his wife into his confidence is to tell her he is not making any money.

The sun is represented as being 90,000,000 miles distant from the earth; in fact, about as far away as success is from the non-advertising merchant.

Riordan was killed by a blow on the jaw. So was Bowen. This explains why pugilists exercise their jaws so much, perhaps, while training between fights.

Over 13,000,000 tons of freight passed through the ship canal at Sault Ste. Marie this season, which lasted 234 days. It would require twenty miles of freight trains a day to handle this traffic, and at the rate of growth it will be doubled in a few years.

Queen Victoria has always taken the warmest interest in her first cousin, the Princess Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck, and of late has been exercising her decided ability as a match maker in her behalf. One of the Princess Mary's children will be Queen of England when the Duke of York comes to the throne, and one of her sons has just married the daughter of the Duke of Westminster, the richest peer in England.

The nerve of a New York lawyer passeth understanding. One of them recently included in a bill for services an item of \$500 for "flying awake nights thinking of case." This is too much. No client should be asked to pay a lawyer for lying at night. But the New Yorker escaped very luckily; if the case had come to trial that lawyer probably would have included in his bill "for wear and tear of lungs, and wind used in pleading case, \$1,000."

The forethought and cunning of the Japanese statesman are equal to those of the statesmen in the "most favored nation," to use the language of treaties. They have directed their naval commanders not to injure materially the great Chinese war ships. This is the reason why the naval campaign is not active. Japan expects to get all the best Chinese war ships in addition to each indemnity when the war closes. Germany pursued a similar policy in regard to France and the great fortress on the frontier. Metz was captured by starving the garrison into surrender without injury to the walls and the Strasbourg, was practically unharmed when ceded by France to Germany. It is a fine economy to save the cost of repairs on an enemy's property which is sure to fall into one's own hands.

There is reason to believe that things are about to happen in Europe. Emperor William's recent advances to France have been followed by the Dreyfus trouble, which has placed the Government in Paris in a serious difficulty. The French officer's treason has been discovered through a theft of papers from the German Embassy. If he is prosecuted it means a serious row with Germany, because the evidence was obtained through a diplomatic outrage; if he is not prosecuted the country may become so excited as to overturn both Government and President. At Berlin, on the other hand, the new Chancellor has started on his career with a snub direct from the Reichstag. At Rome Signor Crispien has been forced to draw from his pocket a royal order for the prorogation of Parliament to postpone a debate on the Banca scandal. In England the Cabinet is split into two sections, and its supporters in the House are divided into half a dozen groups. England believes that a general election is only a matter of a very short time. All these uncertain internal conditions have a peculiar and dangerous bearing on the external relations of the powers.

A dispatch from New York states that a Chinese agent is in Washington negotiating with the Brazilian Minister for the purchase of the Nietheroy and Andradá, Brazilian war vessels, the former armed with the Zaldiski dynamite gun. The first question which will occur to any one is, what do the Chinese want of these vessels? They already have several armored vessels with high power guns and have shown that they do not know what to do with them. After one battle with the progressive Japs the Chinese fleet was of no more account than a boy's shingle flotilla. It has not figured in the war since that fight simply because the Chinese know nothing about sailing such vessels or maneuvering or using them for fighting purposes. The Chinese do not want any more vessels. They would not have the Nietheroy or Andradá a week before the Japanese would either disable or capture it. What the Chinese want is men, not vessels, men of skill and courage and men of Western ideas. They want naval officers and military officers as well who have the Western methods of handling fleets and armies, and who know the European tactics of today, instead of the Asiatic tactics of centuries ago. When they do this they will whip the Japanese, who have whipped them for exactly the same reason, though the Chinese are ten times bigger than their opponents.

An Iowa court will shortly have to decide how serious a crime it is to take part of the clothing off of a photograph. It is a novel problem, and one that is likely to tax the legal learning of the court. A young lady of Albia, Iowa, passed before the camera to illustrate the Delsartean theory, and a cigarette firm utilized the picture to advertise its goods. This was not very pleasing to the young lady, but it is not for that alone that she threatens suit. If they had left the pictures as they were it would have been annoying enough, but they did not. To make them more attractive they took off some of the clothing, and therein lies the trouble that is to result in a lawsuit. The young lady proposes to find out whether it is permissible to partly disrobe a photograph, and a judge and jury are likely to have to struggle with the problem. What are the rights of the original of the picture? If the original is not interfered with is it a misdemeanor to add or take away any feature of the reproduction? Has a photograph, per se, any rights that people are bound to respect? The legal answer will be awaited with interest.

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Wheelmen know that with pneumatic tires on their bicycles they can "scorch" at a much higher speed than was possible with the old solid rims. Records prove the wonderful superiority of the pneumatic tire over hard tires, both for bicycles and trotting sulkeys. Mathematicians and theorists have gone into the subject to find the reason. Recently an Eastern man built two experimental road wagons, and fitted one with 32-inch and 34-inch pneumatic tire wheels and the other with 44-inch and 48-inch steel-tire wheels. By experiments he ascertained that on a perfectly true wooden floor, pulling in the direction of the strips, the steel-tire wheels required less power to move them than the pneumatic tires did. As soon as obstructions were placed under the wheels, however, the pneumatic tires proved the easier. The tests were made out of doors, and everywhere save on the perfectly true wooden floor the pneumatic tires required the least expenditure of power. The man who made the experiments came to the following conclusion, which seems to give the reason that pneumatic tires are swifter than solid tires: "If the metal-shod wheel meets a gravel stone one-quarter of an inch in diameter, and that stone is resting on a hard foundation, the wheel, with its entire load, must be lifted bodily one-quarter of an inch high to pass over it, and this takes horse power; but when the rubber tire meets the stone the vehicle is not raised perceptibly. If at all, but the stone is imbedded in the rubber, while most of the weight is borne by that part of the rubber which is still resting on the ground, and the power required to go over it is only that needed to dent the rubber in one spot, or if it is a pneumatic tire, to slightly compress the body of air which it contains." It is not improbable that pneumatic tires will find many new uses in the light of such experiments.

How He Stopped the Boat.
"What has to be done can be done," says the proverb; and a pretty good proverb it is, subject, no doubt, like all proverbs in general, to some necessary limitations.

The London Daily News reports a story that Lord Rosebery—of course the incident occurred in his younger days—while crossing from Liverpool to Dublin, lost his favorite dog, "Mutton," overboard.

"Stop, captain! Stop the steamer!" cried his lordship.

The captain answered that it could not be done. If a man had fallen overboard the case would have been different.

"Oh, well," said Lord Rosebery, "that can be easily arranged," and at the word he plunged overboard.

The steamer was stopped, and the peer and his dog were taken up safe and sound.

Made Him Tend the Baby.
Edmund Squires was before Justice Quigley in Brooklyn charged with having failed to support his wife, Della, who is a cook employed by Mrs. Sackett, of 4 Monroe street.

"I wouldn't have bothered about this case," she explained, "if Edmund would have stayed at home and minded the baby. I was willing to support him, but he would not even do that."

"I didn't marry her to support me," said Squires. "I have been out of work, and if I stay in the house I'll never get a job."

"Well, then," suggested the magistrate, "shall I send you to jail?"

"No, if you please," returned the prisoner. "I guess I'd better take care of the baby."

Mr. and Mrs. Squires left court with the understanding that Edmund would behave himself and look out for the baby in future. If he fails to keep his promise in this respect he will be re-arrested.—New York Sun.

Take No Note of Correct Time.

It is strange, said a jeweler on Twenty-third street but women seldom ever consult the official time! In the window. A man involuntarily pulls out his watch to set it by the standard time from the United States observatory, and if he passes ten timekeepers in a day would be apt to compare with half of them, but a woman, unless she is very businesslike, wouldn't pull out her watch to regulate it, not if she passed 100 standard timepieces. She is superior to time.—New York Recorder.

Comfort Affected by Color of Clothing.

The color of one's clothing has considerable to do with one's comfort in summer or winter. When exposed to the sunlight white, it is said, receives 100 degrees Fahrenheit, pale straw color 102, dark yellow 140, light green 156, dark green 168, Turkey red 185, blue 198, and black 208. Assuming that this table is correct, the person who dresses in light colors in the summer has about double the protection from the heat that the man or woman in black has.—Homoeopathic Envoy.

Geraldine



CHAPTER VII. Continued.

"Are they, your cousins, much better to you in everything?"

"In French and German," conceded Jerry, with contempt. "They abhor French to their maid, and German to their governess, and that is about all they know of anything. One girl I met at their house," she continued.

"Could speak four languages. They told me so. What do you think I said?"

"I don't believe she ever says a word worth hearing in any one of them," said Jerry. "She was the very stupidest thing in the world, that girl."

"How had she learned the four languages?"

"By going about. Her parents had been obliged to live in different countries, and so they had to speak different languages; and her mother was a Russian, or something of that kind."

Bellenen laughed. "Something of that kind," he repeated to himself. "I must be owned he found Jerry good company."

"Even my cousins' governess said it was no credit to her," proceeded she. "Of course, if you have to do a thing, you can do it. Now wouldn't you rather be a nice girl in one language than a stupid in half a dozen?"

"Very much rather."

"But I suppose you do care about them a little?" said she next. She was not altogether satisfied herself on the subject.

"I think it is a pity not to know something of French, for instance," he confessed. "Because when you go abroad."

"I never mean to go abroad."

"Never mean to go abroad? Never mean to see any of the great sights of the world? Never to travel?"

"Oh, to travel, of course. But that's not going abroad."

At length, however, Bellenen won his point. It was grumpy, who had set him on, as may have been divined, and his preparatory ignorance of Geraldine's scholastic arrangements had been merely assumed. He had undertaken to bring her round on the governess project, as to which Mrs. Campbell had been vain striving with the refractory miss.

A couple of hours with Bellenen, a few angry looks, and a few expressive looks did what the poor old lady could not by her own unaided efforts have effected in a lifetime. Yes, she would have a governess, a good English governess, against a French one, the little girl still made a stand, and in his heart Bellenen agreed with her, but she would allow granny to look out for one, an English one, at once, and she would show Ethel and Alida how soon she could catch up with them once she were set a going.

The thing was done ere the two set foot within doors again, and even the successful strategist, knowing what he did, was astonished at the ease with which he had accomplished it. He had been some time at the castle, for the week had lengthened out into a fortnight, and having once broken through the plan of his autumn campaign, and finding himself less and less disposed to resist the hospitable pressure put upon him, there is no saying to how much further the extension might have proceeded, had not the post that bearer of evil tidings—brought one day a nasty summons to him to return home as speedily as might be, his father, a hale and vigorous old John, who had scarcely ever known an ache or an ailment in his life, having all at once given way, and been taken seriously ill.

A telegram was handed in as he was in the act of reading the letter, to the effect that there was no improvement, and that the worst was apprehended.

It was 10 o'clock ere either reached Bellenen's hand, he not having returned from the hill before he had been in the house when the post came in he might and would have left for the north that evening, on the instant, but at 10 o'clock although he might have started and driven a dozen miles or so across the moor, he would have found himself stranded for the night at that point, and it would not in any way have assisted to expedite his journey that he had left Lechmere.

Bellenen was a fairly dutiful son, entertaining for his father that sort of respectful goodwill usual among the better sort of young Englishmen, when no closer tie existed between parent and offspring than indulgence on the one hand, and dependence on the other. He was struck, he was sorry, he was ready at once to do anything required of him, when the ill tidings arrived; but since there was positively nothing to be done, for that night at least save to telegraph his return on the morrow, he did not make himself miserable about remaining. He looked out his trains, consulted Cecil about the chances of catching the most important, made arrangements for leaving by the first steamerboat which touched at the Ferry Pier, and when all was done, went down to dinner, rather more grave than was his wont, and by no means inclined to indict his troubles upon any one else.

"He will hardly care to go fishing to-night, however," suggested Mrs. Campbell, aside, for a fishing party on the loch had been arranged, and on this account the young men had not changed their morning suits, while Jerry was also arranged in a frock suitable for the occasion, permission for her to accompany them having been previously obtained.

She was now anxiously searching the faces all round. She had heard the bad news, and had listened with a sharp pang at her little heart, but it had been almost immediately afterwards followed up in a still sharper after-pang. Would then the night's sea-fishing have to be abandoned also?

It was something to find that both her cousins and his guest were in morning costume. That, in itself, meant that the plan had not been utterly thrown aside. It might not have been taken into consideration, perhaps, but at least the fact for the condemnation thereof had not gone forth. If only granny had not taken it for granted that the boat and fishermen would not be needed, and countermanded them! Granny was capable of doing this, for her ideas on the score of propriety, though trifling, were occasionally strong, and Cecil too was a stickler for the proprieties. Supposing—and then she caught the aside, and waited breathlessly for the result.

He will hardly care to go fishing to-night."

"Oh I don't know why he should not, grandmama."

"But if his father should be dying?"

"All the same, he has to be here—among us. And we must talk and we must do something, and upon my word, when a poor fellow is in trouble, I should think he would rather be sitting quietly in a boat, not obliged to keep going, you know, and that sort of thing, than in a room, you would have to talk to him, and be cheerful if he stayed at home; whereas, if we all go out, he can be as cheerful as he pleases. And it is such a glorious fishing night too."

The last argument was unanswerable. Even the former ones had their weight; and Mrs. Campbell owned that her grandson was in the right, when she perceived that their guest made no demur of any kind, and even rose from the table with decided alacrity when an early adieu was proposed.

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had had any say with the one now passing, or passed, from the castle. As Sir John had ruled, so would Sir Frederick rule, supreme and who could have been altogether insensible to such a prospect? It said something for Bellenen, that he had never given a thought to any serious consideration to it.

During his father's lifetime he had neither intruded nor interfered, and it had indeed been a complaint in the neighborhood that he had been so little seen there.

No one would have guessed how delightful all at once appeared the old ancestral halls, the country life, rural pleasures, peace power, and plenty in the eyes that had been wont to contemplate it all only from a distance.

He had not wished to care, and that was the secret.

Of a happy disposition, he had widely been well content with his own lot, no hard one, certainly, and might have gone on being so, but, he remembered, he was no longer in his first youth, and he was patient with him, kind readers, if the new prospect opened to his now mature vision did appear indescribably tempting.

And then again would steal in more solemn and affecting thoughts.

At that sunset hour who could tell what might be passing within the old familiar home of his childhood?

Were they already beginning to count the hours until he should arrive? Was all over in that arched room? Should he find only the cold remains of one who had so lately glowed with life and health, well, strong, buoyant as himself?

He could almost see the scene awaiting him now. The long line of vaulted windows, the somber domestic with their subdued, important faces, the reverent hush of every sound, and every eye turned upon himself in anxious expectancy. To him all would turn. On him all would lean. He must be the head, the front, the center of everything soon.

No wonder that, wrapt in contemplations of such a nature, he hung over the boat's side in profoundest silence, the monotonous thud of the oars in the rowlocks, and the faint lapping of the parted waters against the prow falling drearily upon his ear.

No one broke in upon his reverie. He was alone with Geraldine, as it were, for Cecil, at the other end of the boat, was completely separated from them by the two white figures who plied their oars between, and who at no time to unobtrusive, even in their native dialect, were on such occasions absolutely silent, unless especially addressed.

"How beautiful it all is!" exclaimed Bellenen, rousing himself at length with another sigh. "How beautiful I shall often think of this night."

Could he fall to do that? Whatever he felt him, whatever the future might have in store for him, would not that calm, still August evening on the Highland loch, with its strange attendant circumstances, its novel thoughts and emotions, stand out in his memory to all time?

It seemed as if he had been months—almost years, where he now was. The place and its surroundings had grown so familiar to him, he had so fallen in with everything, cast anchor, as it were, so deeply in the soil, that he could scarcely believe, it seemed well high incredible, that, until within the past few short weeks, he had never been behind it.

And then this dear little girl. How nice and affectionate she had been to him. How completely he had won her good-fellowship!

She must need her something, some remembrance, some really handsome, acceptable present, suitable both for her to receive and for him to give, as soon as he could get up to town and see about it. Of course he should have to go up to town before long. Indeed, immediately, most likely. There would be so much to be seen to, and done—and then his thoughts wandered off again far away from poor little Jerry, sitting wisely sorrowful and sympathetic by his side, far away into all the intricacies and possibilities of his own future untangled by hers.

At last they reached the whiting bank, and a little more animation stirred the party.

The oars were drawn in, and laid lengthwise at the bottom of the boat. The handlines were taken up, and unrolled. Bait was produced.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Bound to Save Him.

Exceptions prove the rule, and the wrong conclusion which a dog may reach from wrong premises may be the best proof that he possesses reasoning power. The following story shows plainly that the dog in the case lacked information, but not the faculty of reasoning.

When the Gloucester lifeboat was launched in 1867, it was deemed necessary for two men to throw themselves into the sea in order to show the great utility of cork jackets in keeping the upper part of their bodies above water.

Among the thousands of spectators who were watching the men floating about was a Newfoundland dog, who became much excited at what he no doubt, considered to be the perilous condition of the men.

The dog ran hither and thither, barking furiously, and in his best and most emphatic canine language trying his very best to prevail upon some one in that large multitude of human beings to go to the men's assistance.

Finding no one to go, splash into the water went the dog, and swam directly to the men, one of whom he caught by the sleeve, with the intention of helping him out of danger.

A struggle ensued: the man tried to shake the dog off, but it was of no avail. The dog would not give up his hold, and finally two men in a small boat were obliged to go to the rescue.

An Interesting Find.

In dredging the harbor of Bizerta in Tunis a silver sacrificial bowl was found, which is the most valuable piece of workmanship in the precious metals yet discovered in Africa. It is oval in shape, shallow, has two handles, and weighs twenty pounds. The inner surface is ornamented with a design in inlaid gold representing the contest between Apollo and Marsyas. The work is by a Greek artist of the first century after Christ. The bowl is now in the Bardo Museum.

Evolution of the Doll.

The history of the dolls' progress is very interesting. The doll had a most dignified origin, as the old-time puppet makers of Germany might explain. Indeed, Goethe, in the early chapters of "Wilhelm Meister," has suggested most prettily the evolution of the doll in his story of the marionettes, his little friends of the mimic stage, so dear to German childhood. The first dolls Edison did is the very latest phase of this evolution. It is an accomplished child of science, and can repeat fluently rhymes from Mother Goose. It costs \$10 without a wardrobe, has a metallic body in which is placed a photograph, and is altogether a thing of beauty and a joy so long as it keeps in order. But alas for the Edison doll! It has had to go into court for some reason or other, and the manufacture of the Edison doll family has been discontinued. The doll of to-day is so arranged anatomically that it can stand up and sit down, and can be wound up to take a stroll across the nursery floor. It is cosmopolitan, and the dolls' dressmaker is versatile. It is attired in the costumes of every nation.

His Interest.

During a trial for the recovery of a watch and some jewelry in pawn, the pawnbroker was so indifferent about the matter that the attorney became provoked.

"You don't take any interest in this thing at all, do you?" he asked angrily.

"Yes, 10 per cent, a month," replied the pawnbroker slowly, and relapsed into his former condition.

Rest for the Horse.

A Frenchman has invented a street car or omnibus driven with gearing from a treadmill attached to the rear of the vehicle and supported on wheels. The horse, therefore, rides while he works.

The general opinion of women seems to be that men love with every part of their bodies except their hearts.

PROPOSALS OF MARRIAGE.

Statistics of How Men and Women Act at an Interesting Moment.

There is a clever statistician who could teach a thing or two to the novelist. This statistician has attempted to classify the action and methods of proposals, and, as a result, has presented tabulated figures extremely interesting to psychologists, says the Philadelphia Times. Out of 100 cases thirty-six gentlemen take lady in arms, sixty-seven gentlemen kiss lady on lips, four gentlemen kiss lady on cheek, three gentlemen show very good taste by kissing lady on eyes and two gentlemen kiss lady on hand. It is to be presumed that two out of a hundred are the timid, diffident kind, though it is possible that they might be of the quietly sentimental nature. One gentleman kisses a lady on nose. It must be a deluge that the statistician is careful to insert the saving clause by mistake. There is even a record of a man kissing a lady on edge of shawl, but thank goodness, there is only one in a hundred, and the chances are that this man is peculiar. Seventy-two hold lady's hand, seven hold it very tightly, fourteen have bumps in their throats and nine exclaim aloud: "Thank God!" Only seven out of a hundred declare themselves to be deliciously happy and five are too full for utterance. Three out of a hundred stand on one foot when they make proposal and two go down on one knee, while nine make a formal prelude—something like the slow music in the play, we suppose, when the villain appeals to heaven to witness the consuming flame of his affections for the heart he plots to ruin, etc.

The behavior of the lady under the circumstances is equally entertaining and instructive. Out of a hundred cases eighty-one sink into the arms of gentlemen, sixty-eight rest their heads on gentleman's breast and only one sinks into the arms of a chair; eleven clasp their arms around the gentleman's neck, six weep tears of joy silently, and forty-four weep tears aloud—whatever that means; seventy-two have eyes full of love, and nine out of a hundred rush from the room and tell everybody. Only four are greatly surprised, and eighty-seven of a hundred knew that something was coming. Five single hysterically and one even sneezes. Only one of a hundred struggles not to be kissed, while six kiss gentleman first. If we believe the statistician, one out of a hundred woman will say: "Yes, but don't be a fool."