

## TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

### A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

Many a man who has sold the old farm wishes he had possessed the sense to let well enough alone.

After looking over the newspaper portraits of the Duke of Marlborough's finances, we conclude that it serves him right.

It is asserted that Kansas farmers are feeding their hogs on grasshoppers, and, if so, the pork market is liable to take a jump.

In balancing our books we find that England has left a silver cup worth \$500 on this side of the water and has taken a \$10,000,000 hearse.

The coffin trust reports "business bad, but the trade outlook brighter." A Richmond, Va., man has invented a machine which turns out 800 cigarettes a minute.

The Duke of Veragua always will be famous in this country for one celebrated charge he led. It is still on the books of the Hotel Waldorf in New York.

The Lancet says that the human body can be embalmed so as to insure identification three thousand years after death. That may be so. But who is to do the identification?

Perhaps Lord Sackville labors under the impression that by attacking our politicians he can in some way square up for Britain's loss of most of the international contests this year.

Pennsylvania comes to the front with "a monster snake which swallows chickens and eggs." This is probably due to the fact that some special correspondent down there swallows something worse than that.

The American young man should wait for the law of compensation to get in its work. After the American heiresses have all become duchesses and been impoverished by their lords and masters their titled daughters will take to marrying rich young American men.

The Iron Age says the quantity of fuel necessary to produce iron or steel has fallen in recent years from four or five times the weight of the product to only a little more than the weight of the steel produced, while there has been little change in the quantity of ore required to make a ton of metal. Of course, every alteration in the ratio lengthens out the distance from the coal mine at which the manufacture can be carried on to a profit, a fact which goes a long way towards explaining the recently noted tendency to remove the furnaces and the mills from the vicinity of the coal mines to the shores of the great lakes.

The execution in Chicago of a young man of 27 years, who began his career at the age of 9 and has been under sentence no less than 100 times in his short life, is a striking and painful example of the force of environment. He was the child of a drunkard and had nothing but evil influences about him from the start. He is said not to have had abnormally vicious tendencies, but simply to have drifted from one offense to another until murder completed his road of crime and gave the State an opportunity to rid itself of a life which he had not succeeded in saving. Such careers are warnings to every community. "Butch" Lyons was the pupil of the streets and the jails.

At the Denver meeting of the American Public Health Association Dr. Hartwell, of the Ohio Board of Health, stated that four cities deposit annually 265,000 tons of garbage and 4,000 bodies of deceased animals in the Mississippi River, which also is a source of water supply to the cities along its course. Pittsburg and Allegheny City, numbering half a million people, dump their garbage into the Ohio River above Cincinnati, and the latter city, with its 260,000 inhabitants, adds its garbage before the river reaches Louisville, below which it joins the Mississippi. Fifty other cities and towns above Cairo do the same. So Chicago is not the only city that pollutes the water supply of itself and other places with its sewage. But all this pollution passes off rapidly into the atmosphere in an innocuous condition by the operations of nature.

The production of borax now is very large in the State of California. Its value amounts to more than a million dollars a year, and the cost of the article has been immensely cheapened since the first small quantity was gathered there in 1860. Previous to that borax was too costly for general use. Now it is extensively employed as a cleaning material and as the best kind of preservative for perishable foods. It removes dirt effectively, doing so without damage to either clothing or articles, is a valuable medicine, and forms the base of most preservative and antiseptic compounds. The National Provisioner calls attention to the value of borax in the export meat trade. Hides shipped in salt become more impregnated with the saline matter while in transit, with the result of a deterioration in sales. But when dipped in a solution of borax they retain their original pliability without taking in any saline matter, and without any loss of taste or flavor. Meats packed in borax do not become so much impregnated with the saline matter as those packed in salt, and when dipped in a solution of borax they retain their original pliability without taking in any saline matter, and without any loss of taste or flavor. Meats packed in borax do not become so much impregnated with the saline matter as those packed in salt, and when dipped in a solution of borax they retain their original pliability without taking in any saline matter, and without any loss of taste or flavor.

probability of a rise in prices, and this without any extra risk of shrinkage, loss of color, or fear of their being impregnated with too much salt. The manufacture of boric acid is increasing rapidly. Boric acid is a white powder, destitute of smell, and having little taste. It has none of the corrosive qualities that an acid generally is supposed to possess, but is the best kind of an antiseptic, and a sure death to germs. Both the borax and the boric acid are harmless when taken into the stomach in reasonable quantity, and actually seem to accelerate the digestive process.

A dispatch from Washington states that the winter plans for the North Atlantic Squadron are very important and significant in view of the situation in Cuba and British encroachments upon Venezuela. As a matter of fact, the North Atlantic fleet always spends its winters in Southern waters, either in the fine harbor at Hampton Roads or in that at Port Royal, both for the greater comfort of the men as well as for the safety of the vessels. At the same time squadron evolutions can be practiced in these waters. If the situation should require the detail of the vessels to Cuba it would save time, coal and money to have the fleet a thousand miles nearer. That is all there is to the story. There is nothing in the present situation to warrant the apprehension they will be needed. Should they be, however, they will be on hand.

The revenue cutter Commodore Perry brings to San Francisco the news that about twenty out of the forty volcanoes in the chain of Aleutian Islands are now active, after it had been supposed for many years that all but one of them were extinct. The exception was Bogoslov Island, which some years ago was found in a state of eruption, and another island was formed by the material vomited up from beneath the waters. Now the two islands have become one, a neck of volcanic material having been forced up to connect them. While the cutter was in the neighborhood the rising smoke and steam from the twenty volcanoes was visible from a distance of many miles, the view changing to as many pillars of fire after dark, the airy columns then "taking on the reflections of the fires that are deep in the earth beneath the craters." The Aleutian Islands belong to the United States, and on them are probably the only now active volcanoes situated within American territory. It is considered probable that many ages ago men may have crossed from Asia to America by way of the Bering Strait, which at its narrowest point is now only thirty-eight miles wide and intersected by three islands, while it is frozen over in winter. It would be strange, indeed, if the result of these eruptions should be the making of a land connection between the two continents, so that the journey from one to the other could be performed on foot over a pathway formerly marked out by points in the Aleutian chain. But that would not be a big alteration in comparison with some which geological investigation shows to have been accomplished by the forces of nature in the long buried past.

A new development in the manufacture of projectiles for cannon is likely to give the manufacturers of armor a good deal of work to produce armor material that will withstand piercing by cannon shot. Heretofore shells have been made hollow and hardened on their surfaces. It has been thought necessary to have them so. But a firm at Spuyten Duyvil, New York, which made cast-iron cannon balls for the government during the Mexican war, has produced solid shells which are hardened on the inside and provided with exteriors of comparatively soft steel. The solid shells have also soft steel points instead of the hardened points of the shells which have heretofore been considered the best that could be made. At a recent test before Capt. Sampson, chief of the Ordnance Bureau of the Navy Department, two 12-inch shells which were fired at Harveyized steel plates went clear through the plates, but broke after they got through. The shot also passed through two feet of oak backing. This was the first time in the history of the Ordnance Bureau that an 18-inch Harveyized plate was pierced by a 12-inch shell. The theory of the action of these new shells is directly the reverse of that in regard to the action of shells with hardened exteriors. The old shells are supposed to pierce the plates by virtue of their hardness on the outside and the superiority of their steel caps. The theory of the action of the new shell is that the soft material takes the brunt of the impact and permits the uninjured inside point and surface to do the work while in perfect condition. The piercing of the Harveyized plate indicates that there is something in this theory.

Pretty Good for Handwork. The River Clyde, of which the Scotch are justly proud, was at the beginning of the century but a small, shallow stream, but by magnificent engineering at a fabulous cost it to-day floats the great ships of the world. An American sea captain at Glasgow was listening to a resident dilating upon the Clyde, when he interrupted him rather contemptuously: "Rivers? Why, you haven't room enough in this country for rivers! The Mississippi, the Missouri, the Hudson, the Columbia, are what we call rivers." "I know that," said the Scotchman, perfectly undisturbed, "but God Almighty made your rivers; we made the Clyde."

Author—I've got a great scheme to make a fortune. I am going to write a book on the financial question. His Friend—Well? Author—And then I'm going to write a reply refuting it.—Chicago Record.

## A TRIBUTE TO FIDELITY.

### How the Monument to Faithful Slaves is Regarded.

The proposition of a South Carolinian to raise a monument to commemorate the fidelity of the Southern slaves who stood by their masters and their families in the late war, seems to be popular in both sections.

The Chicago Times-Herald says of it: The movement started in the South to erect a monument to commemorate the unique fidelity of the negroes during the war in caring for the homes and property of their masters, and in recognition of the fact that not one instance is known of any acts of violence and scarcely one of a betrayal of a sacred trust reposed in them by their masters on going forth to the war, is a movement which will peculiarly commend itself to all.

The erection of such a monument would not only be indicative of a fine sense of gratefulness, but a beautiful thing to do in expressive appreciation of one of the noblest traits of our nature. But more than that. It were well to consider the influence which it could not fail to have on the people of both races in the South, especially in their present somewhat sorely strained relations. As a preventive of crimes it would be more effective than a thousand barbaric lynchings.

The Richmond Times heartily indorses it as follows: The conduct of the slave population of the South during the war is a glowing tribute to the best elements of the negro character, and it entitles him to the everlasting gratitude of the Southern people. We are heartily in favor of erecting a monument that shall commemorate the faithfulness with which the negro watched over the family of the Confederate soldier whilst he was absent battling with the enemies of his country.

In one of the speeches that made his name Henry W. Grady said:

I want no truer soul than that which moved the trusty slave, who for four years, while my father fought with the armies that barred his freedom, slept every night at my mother's chamber door, holding her and her children as safe as if her husband stood guard, and ready to lay down his humble life on her threshold. History has no parallel to the faith kept by the negro in the South during the war. Often 500 negroes to a single white man, and yet through these dusky throngs the women and children walked in safety, and the unprotected homes rested in peace. Unmarshaled, the black battalions moved patiently to the fields in the morning to feed the armies their idleness would have starved, and at night gathered anxiously at the big house to "hear the news from marster," though conscious that his victory made their chains enduring. Everywhere humble and kindly. The bodyguard of the helpless. The rough companion of the little ones. The observant friend. The silent sentry in his lowly cabin. The shrewd counselor. And when the dead came home, a mourner at the open grave. A thousand torches would have disbanded every Southern army, but not one was lighted. When the master, going to a war in which slavery was involved, said to his slave, "I leave my home and loved ones in your charge," the tenderness between man and master stood disclosed. And when the slave held that charge sacred through storm and temptation he gave new meaning to faith and loyalty. I rejoice that when freedom came to him after years of waiting it was all the sweeter, because the black hands from which the shackles fell were stainless of a single crime against the helpless ones confided to his care.

If the Southern people raise the proposed monument it will simply be Grady's speech translated into marble or bronze.—Atlanta Constitution.

American Machinery in Japan. Advice from Japan in treating of the omnipresence of electrical devices in that country, make special event note of the extent to which American machinery is in favor.

At the electric generating station of the Lake Biwa-Koto canal, twenty 120-horse power Pelton water wheels are installed.

These wheels are belted with Edison, Thompson-Houston and Brush dynamos, with counter-shafts between them. Lately a three phase dynamo of Siemens & Halske has been added. The work of this plant is extremely interesting, and the installation shows how keenly alive the Japanese are to the possibilities of machinery.

The canal, which provides the water power for the generating station, is crossed by several bridges. Near the water power station is an incline along which boats with cargo are moved up and down on wheeled cradles. The cradles are hauled by steel ropes passing around a drum, which is worked by electricity from the power house. This peculiar adaptation is made necessary by the descent of the canal at this point 118 feet in 1,815 feet to the level of the city. The gradient of the canal incline is 1 in 15. Double lines of rail-ways, consisting of flat-bottomed steel rails, are laid on wooden sleepers. The gauge is eight feet three inches.

Two cradles, each with eight wheels, are so arranged that one goes up while another is descending. The width of the boat is seven feet, and the length forty-five feet. The weight of the cargo is from ten to fifteen tons, and the time of the passage of the cradle is about twelve minutes.

Not only are the cradles moved up and down the canal incline by the electric motor, but the electric power is used for spinning, weaving, in the manufacture of cloths, watches, needles, oil, lard, soda water factories, rolling mills, rice mills and for pump-

ing water for the innumerable bath houses which are situated within a radius of two miles from the power station. Besides these the station supplies electricity in the day time to the Kioto Electric Railway Company and at night to the Kioto Light Company. The cost of the power ranges from \$20 to \$60 per horse power per year for daily rates of twelve hours; for eighteen hours the increase is 30 per cent, and for twenty-four hours it is 50 per cent.

### Cannon on a Bicycle.

A bicycle troop has been organized in Brooklyn, and it is but a question of a short time before the suburban police of all our cities will be mounted upon the silent steel steed. It was given, however, to the thousands of people who viewed the monster bicycle parade on the Ocean boulevard recently, says the New York World, to witness the first bicycle cannon, the first of a pack of flying light artillery, and for which an application for a patent has been made.

The vehicle was a twin cycle, in appearance much like a tricycle, and known as a duplex. It is especially light and strong. The cannon, a steel rifled affair thirty-four inches in length, eight inches at the butt and four at the muzzle, and weighing about fifty pounds, is swung between the two rear wheels, resting upon the connecting axle and is further supported from above. An ingenious mechanism permits of the piece of ordnance being raised or depressed to any angle.

The caisson containing the ammunition is carried on another duplex. Four artillery men equip a battery. They are at once gun crew and motive power. Two men on the seats can propel the machines with their heavy loads at a faster gait than horses have ever shown in similar service. The work of wheeling the gun into position is the work of an instant.

### On Swampy Land.

To live near a swamp is suicidal. No dwelling house should be built near one. If such a place exists, either the house should be removed or the swamp drained. There are many places where the deepening of ditches already made is all that is needed to make dry land fit for cultivation of what has been an eyecore to the neighborhood. This making of an outlet is much the most expensive part of the reclamation. It will improve the neighboring upland also, for that equally needs underdraining, but cannot get it until a safe, reliable outlet has been provided. All swampy lands have been for ages the deposits for vegetable matter from uplands. So soon as the latter is underdrained the water falling on the upland sinks down to the tile and enriches the soil instead of washing away its fertility.

### Bismarck and the American Girl.

Dr. Stefansson retells the story of a beautiful American girl from Colorado who went to Kiasingen to see Bismarck, who was taking the waters there. Having feasted for some days on the sight of the great man, she one day summoned up courage, walked straight up to him, and said: "Durchlaucht, I am going to Colorado to-day; may I shake hands with you before I go?" She took his offered hand and attempted to kiss it, but he promptly said: "In Kiasingen we do not kiss hands," and then and there he kissed her on the mouth as tenderly and affectionately as any lover. And yet, remarks Dr. Stefansson, some people will try to make out that Bismarck is blind to a woman's charms.—Westminster Gazette.

### A City of Champagne.

Epernay, France, is a vast subterranean "city of champagne." For miles and miles there are streets hewn out of the solid chalk, flanked with piles of champagne of all blends and qualities. There is no light in this labyrinth of streets, crossings and turnings except what the sputtering candles afford. All is dark, dank and damp, with the temperature away down about zero. The largest champagne manufacturers in Epernay have underground cellars which cover forty-five acres and contain 5,000,000 bottles of wine. There is a whole street in Epernay lined with fine chateaux, the proprietors of which possess similar establishments. The whole town is honeycombed with these underground galleries for the manufacture and storage of champagne.

### Gull and Eel.

"We had a gull, a tame gull, with clipped wings," said an English writer, "who would feed on fish if we would give him any, falling fish, on raw meat, falling raw meat, on worms and insects, and, falling these, on anything, including sparrows. It was the most fascinating entertainment to give him an eel, for he would toss the eel about several ways until it came to a position most suitable for swallowing, when he would swallow it; but the eel, not yet defeated, would often wriggle up in his gullet again, and this process would be repeated many a time. So, if swallowing be a delight, the pleasure which our gull derived from the process must have been manifold. Eventually the eel would weary of the vain ascent of the gull's gullet and consent to remain in contact with the juices of digestion."

Visitor (to attendant friar in the refectory of a convent)—Are we allowed to smoke here? Friar—No, sir. Visitor—Then where do all these stumps of cigars come from that I see lying about? Friar—From those gentlemen who didn't ask.—Tabliche Rundschau.

She robes herself in fashions new That modern modes have given. But will she in these sleeves squeeze through The party gates of heaven?—Boston Courier.

## GOWNS AND GOWNING.

### WOMEN GIVE MUCH ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY WEAR.

Brief Glances at Fashion, Feminine, Frivolous, Nay, and Yet Offered in the Hope that the Reading Proves Profitable to Worned Womanhood.

### Scrap from Gay Gotham.

OSTLY as are newly fashionable fabrics, they are not one whit behind the trimmings that are displayed for use with them. Women are accustomed to finding new sorts of goods expensive, so in the present extravagant showing of them there is little of the unexpected, but it is carrying the thing almost too far to demand, besides, a big outlay for garniture.

Fur appears in strange companionships, too, and is added to all sorts of dainty combinations of lace, ribbon, spangles and jewels that are put together and sold by the yard. Thus, an inch wide velvet has edges of lace a thumb nail wide and crusted with jewels. Set on the edge of this lace there is a little frill of lace, and under the frill lies a band of fur. This combination is used for collars, belts and for the strapping and loose drooping bands so much used on bodices. It is expensive, but by the use of something of the sort a very dressy effect is given to the plainest gown. Spangled passementerie, however, isn't always made up so exclusively, and in many of its less elaborate forms it is quite handsome enough to prove a great addition



NO STIFFENING? WELL!

to a dress. If the woman who must be content with a trimming of moderate cost will only find some novel way of applying it, she can then be quite as sure of herself in her new gown as if its garnitures cost many dollars a yard. The method portrayed in this small picture is a good one, and though it involves a good deal of passementerie, there is no need of the rare sorts.

Wherever dressmakers think they are going to when Father Time cuts them off and stops their presenting bills is a doubtful matter, for they are almost unanimous in declaring that stiffening is not used in skirts. Even if they can adjust their consciences satisfactorily to this statement, how are they going to convince their customers that the folds of the new skirts hold their own without such aid? The makers of the material will declare that the weaving is superior, but it is nearer the truth to say that either a stiffening skirt is worn under the dress, or there is just a bit of haircloth or one of its several substitutes to encourage that perkiness that is a part of all the pretty dresses of today. This may seem like a dreadful arraignment in one fell swoop of a lot of women, but how else are such skirts as that just described to be accounted for? Or an even more difficult one to explain without some such method is that of the next picture. How is a woman to attain such precise folds, and to have and to hold, as devisors say, if not by stiffening? However, for the woman who is having new dresses made, the main point is to make sure of 'em, let the means be what they may.



AN ODD STRAP DESIGN.

This second costume, besides proving dressmakers' wiles, is notable for its handsome combination of plain and plaided stuffs, in the former dark wool on sitting, and the latter Scotch plaid velvet—after the general manner that

is now deemed admirable. The bodice of the suiting has a yoke in back and front of the plaid, and is slashed twice in front to show insertings of the same.

These many uses of plaids in adorning plain stuffs are now safely beyond faddish fancy, and may be safely copied. Of course, the notion is carried to an extreme by women of freakish tastes, as all other fashions are. Such women go in for plain silk stockings when the skirt lining is a plaid to correspond. This comes of following the fanciful rule of having the stocking match the lining of the skirt and not the skirt. Underwear even is being shown run through with narrow ribbon, all bright plaid. There is a prettiness probably about anything new, but there



BROUGHT FORWARD FROM A PAST CENTURY.

seems a lack of restfulness about a plaid when it appears in underwear. Nor is any advice intended here to further such nonsensical notions, for there are uses aplenty for plaids that are legitimate and sensible. One has already been shown and described, and another appears in the next sketch, in the plaid panel of the skirt, which is, moreover, a forerunner of the petticoat styles that are to be. A mouse-gray suiting is this gown's chief fabric, and its strap garniture is thoroughly original, while its sleeves are of the newest, having four tucks in the puffs at the shoulder. In some models these tucks are repeated lower down on the puffs, and in some cases there is more extent of tucks than of puffs.

Petticoat styles, fancy coats and ornate jacket bodices originated in the same era, according to fashion's historians, and as these same historians are designers, they should know, for designing nowadays consists in large degree of modifying and adapting old-time styles. Now, these delvers in the modes of centuries past declare that petticoat styles and coats and jackets are to be all the go soon. They said the same several months ago, but never mind, hints of these fashions are now appearing. A suggestion of the petticoat appeared in the last picture, and in the next there's a dainty jacket as ever was donned in the days of the Louis. It is of mordore-velvet, its fronts turning back in white satin revers that are edged with metal galloon, the turned-back cuffs being to match. A ruffle of lace finishes each wrist, the stock collar also has a narrower ruffle.



OUTDOING HER DAUGHTERS.

and two ends of lace hang down in front and are held with a rosette at the neck. The accompanying skirt and the vest are of mordore cloth, the latter fastening at the side.

The dowager has not dressed so magnificently for years. The richest brocades are shown for her, velvets that are overlaid with shot silk design and that glitter with interwoven bullion are reserved for her use, black, purple, plum color, green and all the dark shades of brown and bronze are hers, if she will. Satin that can not only stand alone, but that seems ready to walk, is made for her alone, and she is encouraged to wear all the lace and jewels she can muster. If the granddaughter of the day affects the simplicity of the ingenu, the grandmother of the hour makes up for it by her magnificence. Take a look at the final picture and be convinced of this. Here is a dress of flowered Louis XVI., whose skirt is trimmed on the sides with panels of dark-cream lace, each of which is held in place by three jeweled buttons. Than the silk foundation of the blouse waist is draped with accordion-pleated chiffon, and a high corset belt of plain silk comes about the waist. At the top where the edge of a yoke would come are put a series of lace points, and a full chiffon ruche finishes the neck. Jeweled buttons matching those on the skirt are put on the sleeves, and the whole is elegant enough to offset the simple attire of a half dozen marriageable daughters. Copyright, 1922.