

# TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

## A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

Insolvent is a long word used to describe a short condition.

Holding up passengers on the Chicago trolley cars is a new thing. Heretofore they have had to hang on to straps.

A Richmond man has invented a machine which will turn out 300 cigarettes a minute. Fortunately the product of his invention will not turn out idiots quite that rapidly.

That Michigan minister who ran over a member of his congregation in the dark with his bicycle and killed her now sees the bad results of not keeping his lamp trimmed and burning.

The New York Herald says: "The talk about taxing farm lands in the upper part of the city at the rate of metropolitan improved property is as senseless as it is wild." How much of the site of New York city is covered by farming lands?

The unspeakable Turk and the heathen Chinese,

If they don't at once quit their pranking,

Should both be bent over somebody's knee

And given a good hard spanking.

The military force Brazil has sent to its island of Trinidad is another note served on England that the Monroe doctrine is in a perfectly vigorous condition and bristling with bayonets for European meddlers. Trinidad is a lonely, barren rock, but Brazil has the manhood to fight for it just the same as if it were a gem of the seas.

Occasionally an American marries a great English fortune, the most remarkable instance of which was the union of W. L. A. Bartlett, of Brooklyn, to the Baroness Burdett-Coutts. Mr. Bartlett is to be made a peer, with the title of Lord Latimer. His wife is many years his senior, but she is a grand old woman.

An advocate of woman suffrage addressed the South Carolina Constitutional convention the other day, and began with the remark that "The history of South Carolina is a long record of brilliant statesmanship." South Carolina undertook to perpetuate slavery with firearms and succeeded in abolishing it. The result was unexpected, but undoubtedly brilliant.

One of the signs that China is waking up is the decision of the government to build a railway 700 miles long on the west coast, from a southern city to Tien-Tsin in the north. The road will not go within ninety miles of Peking, as the authorities think it would be too handy in case of invasion. The old empire feels the necessity of modern improvements yet is afraid to adopt them.

The French have triumphed in Madagascar; the dusky Queen is a fugitive from the palace of Antananarivo, and the tricolor floats over the picturesque rock fortress where the rulers of the island were wont to review their white-robed warriors. The news arrived in Paris just in time to prevent the fall of the ministry, which was clamored for on account of the supposed non-success of the expedition.

Tennessee's centennial, to be held next year, will give the South another opportunity to reveal to the world the wealth of its present advantages and the vast extent of its resources waiting for development. The Southern States are more disposed than formerly to give the hand of welcome to honest and enterprising settlers, even if their politics is of a different shade. The newcomers will make excellent citizens beyond a doubt.

The official report of the Yale College Financial Union shows that the receipts of football last year were \$31,581, expenses \$16,563; of baseball \$10,900, expenses \$8,005; of boating \$6,610, expenses \$10,506; of track athletics \$3,068, expenses \$4,056. The Yale News, commenting on the figures, calls attention to the fact that boating and track athletics are not self-supporting, declares that athletics at Yale cost too much, and says that the managers will make every effort to cut down expenses during the coming year.

In New York City there are about 500 vendors of sawdust, having a capital of \$200,000 invested, and doing a business of \$2,000,000 annually. Forty years ago the mills were glad to have sawdust carted away; twenty-five years ago it could be bought for 50 cents a load; now it brings \$3.50 a load at the mills. It is used at hotels, eating houses, groceries and other business places. It is wet and spread over floors in order to make the sweeping cleaner work. Plumbers use it a great deal about pipes and buildings to deaden the walls and floors. Soda water men and packers of glass and small articles of every kind use it, and dolls are stuffed with it. Yellow pine makes the best sawdust, as it is the least dusty and has a pungent, healthy smell. But any light wood will do. Black walnut sawdust will not sell and is burned.

Chicago commuters pay too much for gas. Cheaper gas is wanted. The Chicago Gas Company is planning to form a new gas company. The new company will have a franchise and proceeds will go to the streets. This leads to

existing monopoly to buy out the new company. Gas remains at the same figure or goes a little higher. There is a general feeling that a new company is needed. A new company is accordingly formed, buys a franchise, rips up the streets, sells out to the gas trust, and gas remains the same or goes a little higher, the result being a conviction on the part of the public that a new company is needed, whereupon a new company is organized, hoodies a franchise, rips up the streets, sells out to the trust, etc., etc.

Harvard has discovered that the English language is seriously neglected in that institution. The Board of Visitors at West Point for 1894 calls attention to the lack of facility of expression on the part of the cadets and recommends that more than the established 210 hours in four years at the Academy be given to the English language and literature. Prof. Goodwin, of Harvard, writes on the subject of students extremely defective in their knowledge of English: "There is no conceivable justification for using the revenues of Harvard College or the time and strength of her instructors in the vain attempt to enlighten the Egyptian darkness in which no small portion of our undergraduates are living." The remedy proposed is not to admit students whose knowledge of their own language is unsatisfactory.

The senior bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the order of consecration, is known as the Presiding Bishop. He is virtually the primate of the church in this country—"primus inter pares"—but he is usually superannuated. The Bishop of Connecticut, who now holds this office, is 88; the Bishop of Rhode Island, who is next in order, is 83, and already broken down. In the meetings of the House of Bishops the Presiding Bishop seldom presides, a chairman being chosen for that purpose, and matters requiring his action very commonly have to be attended to by somebody else. Of course this difficulty would not arise if the primacy were attached to a metropolitan see, which is the usual rule. But the Episcopalians apparently still shy at the idea of an archbishop, and it is proposed that the House of Bishops shall designate the Presiding Bishop, who thus might sometimes come to the office while still able to perform its duties. It is also suggested to call him Primus, after the Scottish use, but this is a detail. Though the compromise does not strike one as very brilliant, it is possible that it may find favor.

Will Carleton has written many things which have struck a responsive chord in the popular heart and one of the most eloquent and touching was "Over the Hills from the Poor House." It has been recited by thousands of elocutionists and many tears have been shed over the pathetic story of the "black sheep" with the white heart and the "white sheep" with the hard hearts. But Will Carleton never wrote anything quite so eloquent or quite so touching as the story of an actual event that has just taken place in Kansas City. A prosperous farmer away back in the Buckeye State, years ago, befriended a wandering young man, perhaps one of Will Carleton's "black sheep." Then benefactor and beneficiary were separated and the years passed on. The wheels of fortune made many turns and the prosperous farmer became a country charge. The young man became a prosperous farmer himself. But in his prosperity he did not forget the man who had befriended him, and the other day the benefactor of his youth was on his way to a good home down in Cowley County, Kan., there to spend the rest of his life with the wandering young man of other days. Such incidents deserve to be chronicled and held up to be contemplated of all men. They warm the heart and make amends for some of the hard-heartedness of the world.

**A Fruitful Pear Tree.**  
The advantage to a fruit tree of living in a university town, where there is at all times an atmosphere of high culture, is illustrated in a story told of a pear tree growing in a garden on University avenue in Berkeley, Cal. According to the story the tree was planted five years ago. The first year it bore two crops, the second one being about half grown at about the time the first one was ripe. This year it is astonishing the natives by starting in on the third crop, as there are now on the tree ripe pears from the first crop, half ripe pears from the second crop and blossoms for the third crop. This is a good record and justifies the belief that, no matter how long the star of empire may take on its westward way, the pear of empire has already arrived.

**Pestiferous Leeches.**  
In India and Ceylon certain land leeches are apt to become perfect pests to man. They are no bigger than a knitting needle, are an inch in length, and when feeding stretch with great power. Horses are driven wild by them, and stamp the ground in fury to shake them from their flecks, to which they cling like bloody tassel. The structure is so flexible they can make their way through the meshes of the finest goods. The bare legs of the palanquin-bearers and coolies are a favorite resort, and it is asserted that a battalion of soldiers in India were put to flight by these small bloodsuckers.

**A Large Membership.**  
One of the largest scientific bodies in the world is the British Medical Association, which recently met in London. On its former meeting in the same city in 1875 its membership was 1,800, whereas it has now grown to 15,000 members and holds property of great value.

Looking in a sympathetic manner at some people in the opening a mill dam.



**Farmer and Cyclist Should Unite.**  
It may be a new idea to a great many lovers of the wheel to be told that they and the farmers have a strong bond of sympathy, but when the question is examined into this will be found to be the case.

Some years ago the Federal government examined into the road question from an agricultural standpoint, and it collected some facts which form the basis of a strong argument in a demand for good roads, no matter whether the demand comes from farmer or cyclist. According to the discoveries of the government, the farmers of the country had upon their farms draft animals as follows. These statistics are from official records:

	Number.	Value.	Average Price.
Horses	14,213,837	\$978,516,562	\$69
Mules	2,331,027	182,394,060	78
Oxen, etc.	30,849,924	590,625,137	15
Totals	53,393,888	1,721,535,760	...

**What Bad Roads Cost.**  
To simplify matters a little, there are nearly \$2,000,000,000 invested in motive power of a perishable, uncertain and expensive kind. Busy or idle, these animals must be fed and cared for every day. They are boarders that can't be got rid of when the busy season is over and to keep them at work is part of a farmer's economy. Two thousand millions of dollars make a large sum. Invested at 5 per cent. interest it would produce nearly \$2,000,000 a week. Then there are more than 16,000,000 of horses and mules alone, and to feed and care for these it costs the modest sum of \$4,000,000 a day. A little while ago a very clever and intelligent citizen of Indiana estimated that bad roads cost the farmer \$15 a year for each horse and mule in his service. This means a loss in the aggregate of nearly \$250,000,000 per year. Add wear and tear of wagons and harness, \$100,000,000; depreciated value of farm lands, \$2,000,000,000; total, \$2,350,000,000.

Making the utmost allowance in favor of the farmer and granting the necessity for the liberal use of horse power in the maintenance of agricultural traffic, it is easily certain that the farmers of this country are keeping at least 2,000,000 of horses more than would be necessary to do all the hauling between farm and market if only the principal roads were brought to a good condition. Assume that each of these horses is fed the ordinary army ration of hay and oats, it requires 14,000 tons of hay or fodder and 750,000 bushels of oats per day to feed these unnecessary animals, which themselves have a money value of \$140,000,000. The value of hay and oats fed to these horses per day is about \$300,000, or something like \$114,000,000 a year.

But coming back to the original advice, let the cyclists and the farmers put their joint shoulders to the wheel and keep turning it until good roads are extracted from the lottery of legislation.

**A Jealous Horse.**  
Jealousy is an exceptional trait in a horse, although a very common one among dogs and even cats. A Chicago physician has a horse which may fairly be said to be in love with his master; and it is an infatuation remarkably human. When the doctor enters the stable, he receives a most affectionate greeting from the stall. Mack pricks up his ears, raises his head, and whinnies joyously. When his master is in the saddle the horse is entirely manageable and always ready for a long gallop. The slightest pressure of the reins suffices to control him. A single word is enough to quicken his pace or to bring him under absolute command, but the physician alone can give the order.

One stable boy after another has attempted to ride the horse, and has been thrown within a hundred yards of the stable. Expert horsemen have made the venture, and have soon found themselves on the ground. Mack has invariably given warning of his intentions by a sullen, reproachful and even indignant glance, and then has started down the road with a mad rush, only to turn about suddenly and fling off the rider whom he disliked.

He is not a vicious horse, but only one that loves his master and is determined to be loyal to him. He also insists upon engrossing the attention and affection of his master.

The doctor bought a second horse and rode her several times. Poor Mack was in despair. He lay down in his stall and hid his head in the darkest corner. He refused to take his oats until the doctor had gone out with him for a canster. He was apparently overwhelmed with melancholy, and would not be comforted until his rival had been banished from the stable.

The physician had a little son who often went out to the stable to see the horse. The father sometimes carried the child in his arms and petted him constantly. Mack did not approve of this.

He had a successful way of looking at the child that never failed to make the

doctor laugh. He seemed to recognize in the boy a rival and took no pains to conceal his dislike and contempt. One day the horse was treacherous and resentful enough to kick in the direction of the child.

A few mornings afterward the horse was led from the stable where the doctor was standing by the child in his arms. The father put the boy in the saddle and held him there. Mack looked around with eyes that were fairly green with jealousy, and in an instant flung the burden from his back, but fortunately into the father's arms. It was a convincing proof of the horse's jealousy of the child.

**The Old "Blue-Jackets."**  
The average blue-jacket as I knew him long ago was always a good fellow, and he used to manage to get dead drunk faster than any other class of men with whom I have been acquainted. He was not steady. Apart from his officer he seemed almost a reed shaken with the wind, though his personal courage was always lion-like when roused. He was proud of his officer, especially if his officer was hard on him. He was somewhat of a fatalist, quick to imagine that fate was against him and to give up the struggle against it. He was quarrelsome in his cups, but almost always distinctly witty out of them. He preserves his humor to the present day. A story is told of a certain "Bill" standing at the corner of a street in Natal during the Zulu war, when a certain general just landed, covered with medals and orders, and equally hung with soldierly knickknacks, the whistle, the field glass, the compass, the note book, etc., passed near "Bill" and his companion "Jack."

"Who's 'im, Jack?" asked Bill.  
"Dunno," said Jack; "seems to be one of them new generals just come ashore."  
"H'm," returned Bill, preparing to put his pipe in his mouth again, "looks like a bloomin' Christmas tree!"—North American Review.

**The Combat Deepens.**  
As told recently, the young men of Edmonston formed an "anti-bloomer brigade," pledging themselves not to associate with any girls who wore the prevailing cycling costume. This movement aroused the indignation of the young women, who now propose to demonstrate their independence by refusing to associate with young men who will not pledge themselves to ever abandon certain practices. They call their society the "True Reform Club," and fifteen have already subscribed to the following pledge:

"I hereby pledge myself not to associate with any young man who uses intoxicating drinks of any kind, tobacco in any form, attends horse races or engages in games of chance, and I furthermore promise by all honorable means in my power to discountenance such indulgences and practices in the community where I reside."

Several members of the novel club are devotees of the wheel and to the bloomer costume, while others care nothing for the sport, but are anxious to show the young men that, in their opinions, true reform should aim at something more important than the style of one's attire.—Utica Herald.

**Labor.**  
It is a mistake to suppose that labor is an unpleasant condition of life. It is matter of experience that there is more contentment in attending to any kind of occupation than there is in looking for some occupation. Attend, therefore, to your business, and regard your business as being worthy of all your attention. Working men are apt to consider that their occupations alone are laborious, but in that matter they are mistaken. Labor of mind is generally even more fatiguing than labor of the body, and it is quite erroneous to suppose that others do not work as well as we do, simply because their work is different from ours. Labor is the earthly condition of man, and until the nature of man is changed, the want of something to do will produce all the horrors of ennui. Gambling and other reprehensible dispositions are all owing to the fact that human nature cannot support a state of idleness. To live without a purpose is to lead a restless life.

**The Dog Wearing Her Teeth.**  
Mrs. James Herring, living a few miles from Lancaster, is the possessor of a fine full set of artificial teeth, and in some way lost the lower plate. After a diligent search she came to the conclusion that she could not be found. Imagine her consternation when she found the missing teeth in the mouth of her house dog. The dog had evidently found them, and, thinking them a good thing, proceeded to appropriate them to his own use. He had got them fastened in his own mouth, and it was with much difficulty they were removed. He had lost several natural teeth, and it looked very much as though he wanted to replace them with artificial ones.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

**Irresistible Arguments.**  
Frederick the Great's father was in the habit of kicking the shins of those who differed from him in argument. One day he asked a courtier if he agreed with him on some discussed point. "Sire," he returned, "it is impossible to hold a different opinion from a king who has such strong convictions and wears such thick boots."

**Against His Will.**  
His own heroines were the despair of the late Robert Louis Stevenson. Once a young lady is said to have asked him why he did not create really nice women, to which he replied, "I have tried my best, but somehow they all turn to barmaids on my hands."

How women love to tempt men, and then abuse them for being tempted!

# 'TWOULD BE A PICNIC FOR THE SILVER BARONS, BUT—



—'Twould be a hard grind on Uncle Sam, and it would be at the expense of farmers and wage earners.

## CHEAP MONEY DELUSION. CHEAP MONEY CHEATS LABOR.

**False Doctrines Spread Abroad by Demagogues in Times of Depression.**

The cheap money delusion only flourishes in time of depression. There are not times of depression, nor is there that prospect ahead. In time of depression demagogues can always find a constituency for the wretched delusion that to make good times it is only necessary for the government to set a lot of printing presses at work turning out paper money or to set all the mints at work coining silver dollars. Somehow or other the idea prevails among the dupes of the demagogue that when the government has printed or coined money it is going to make a present of it to the people. Nobody gets money in that way.

Money has to circulate before it can get into people's pockets and to make it circulate there must be business, trading, commercial activity, the investment of capital, the opening of new enterprises, and before there can be such commercial and financial activity there must be confidence in the future that legislation will not destroy the value of investments made. There must be an assurance that when a dollar is let out for use it will come back whole and not clipped of half its value. In no other way can people get money in their pockets. No government has attempted such a foolish thing as to give the people money, and the mere manufacture of money at the mints would do nobody any good.—St. Joseph Herald.

**Steadily Losing Ground.**  
The Hon. Tom L. Johnson of Ohio, who has taken the trouble to inform himself on the currency feeling in the west, recently expressed the following opinion:

"I look for a short, sharp fight between the forces of cheap money and sound money and the utter defeat of the silverites. Free silver people never had the strength they boast of. There is a good deal of noise, it is true, but when it comes to counting noses, they are generally in the minority. The fact is, each successive congress since the Fifty-first shows a great falling off of free silver followers. In the Fifty-second congress there was a tie vote in the popular house on the Bland bill, and this was the zenith of the silver craze. Its nadir is in the future. The improvement in business conditions is not calculated to support the claims of the silverites. They have based their agitation mainly on discontent springing largely from the unemployed class, and now that these are becoming fewer every day the silver followers grow beautifully less."

**Silver Would Replace Gold.**  
Question.—Would there be more money in the country with the free coinage of silver?

Answer.—There would at first be very much less, owing to the withdrawal of gold. After values became adjusted to the silver basis silver would be coined here as it is in Mexico. There would be no demand for silver on account of its coinage, nor would it then go up in price, because silver bullion would be worth the same after coinage as before, just as gold is now. Men would sow and reap and buy and sell as they do now. Whoever got a silver dollar would have to work for it as he must now work. Our stock of money would be less efficient because we would not have the standard of the leading civilized nations, and our money would have its price in gold, fluctuating from day to day, as is now the case with the money of Mexico, Japan, China and other countries. To understand the result we have but to study the conditions found among the silver using nations.—R. Weissinger in "What Is Money?"

**Matching Effort For Cause.**  
The fall in the price of silver is to be explained in the same way as the fall in the price of wheat and cotton by an enormous increase of production. While demonetization may have to some extent influenced the price of silver, yet the fall in price was the cause of demonetization, and not its result.—R. Weissinger in "What Is Money?"

**Where Silver Is Well Thought Of.**  
First Church Member.—What are the changes agit. Deacon Jones?  
Second Church Member.—Glandier in the parson. Said he was as good as gold.  
—Harper's Bazar.

Experience of This and Other Countries With Depreciated Currency.

Undoubtedly thousands of wage earners believe that somehow they would be benefited by cheap money. The most modern form of cheap money, as it exists in their childish minds, is the 50 cent silver dollar, made of this value by coining it at a ratio of 16 to 1 with gold. Such persons are either incapable of reasoning or they have never really applied their reasoning powers to this question. Neither have they learned the lessons of history in regard to cheap money and wages. A pamphlet entitled "Quality of Money and Wages" has just been published by the Reform club, which is intended to teach the lessons of history and to facilitate clear thinking on this important question. Its author, Mr. Frank L. McVey, first demonstrates in the simplest way that a depreciating currency must injure the wage earner. Here is the way he begins his discussion:

"The operators in our mills and factories, together with those engaged in day labor of other kinds, constitute a great creditor class. They are creditors in the sense that they advance labor. At the end of a day or a week the amount due them for services performed is greater than that owing to any other class. But in the majority of cases the wage earner is dependent upon his daily or weekly earnings, so that the vital question with him is as to their immediate purchasing power.