# TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

## A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

Turkey has been forced to yield to the powers. We don't blame her for being all cut up about it; she would have been all cut up if she hadn't.

Mr. Stead thinks the English people should take the Monroe doctrine seriously, especially in view of the fact that the United States now possesses a formidable navy.

Mrs. Pabst is ill with "worry and excitement." The sight of so much good advertising going to waste is hard on an enterprising woman who has spent years upon the stage.

Four persons were fatally shot the other night at a New Jersey cakewalk. The cakewalk in New Jersey seems to do the same work for the foolkiller that the country dance does for him in Kentucky.

"A sealskin sacque," says the Wichita Eagle dogmatically, "is a sealskin sacque." Which shows how much the Eagle doesn't know about it. In nine cases out of ten a sealskin sacque is a plush coat.

The case of Rear Admiral Kirkland again calls attention to the fact that naval officers are not paid to talk and that the men to whom that business is intrusted are very jealous of their rights in the premises.

New York, having come to the inevitable and painful conclusion that it cannot have the next political convention, is firmly determined that Chicago shall not have it either. The fact that the dog in the manger could not eat hay in no way lessened his desire to prevent anyone else from eating it.

Once learning was hard memorizing; it had to be tackled as an enemy; Greek books had no English helps, but all notes and glossaries were in Latin, and a pony was a thing forbidden; mathematics had to be puzzled out by one's self; now the work amuses, entertains, and improves all along the way. "You've given papa a right angle of pie, and you've only given me an acute angle," said a baby, who was unconsciously imbibing his geometry without trouble.

Lord Dunraven's resentment of Mr. Rose's challenge for an international yacht race next year is entirely characteristic. He pronounces Mr. Rose's action "disagreeable, not to say offensive," and intimates that it does not reflect the sentiment of English sportsmen. It is evident that Dunraven has not yet got over the defeat of his yacht by the Defender. He was fairly beaten, and although he refused an invitation to recall the races, he now takes the position that no other British yachtsman ought to challenge for a race for the America's cup. Dunraven may consider his attitude manly and sportsmanlike, but at this distance it looks vastly more like a petty display of dog-in-the-manger selfishness and spite.

A large proportion of the Russian immigration to this country is of very undesirable character. There is possibly more reason in the Russian policy of sending criminals to Siberia than is commonly supposed. Along with these are some whose offenses are purely political, who may have better characters. But even of the political exiles a large part are ready and willing to commit any crime, even murder, if it will aid them in their political purposes. Not long ago ten Siberian exiles made their escape and found their way to San Francisco. For a while there was much pity for them and rejoicing over their escape. But they quickly resumed their criminal career. Four of the ten are in jail under indictment for murder, and all the others have at one time or another been under arrest for crimes of greater or less degree.

Another great tract of Indian lands will probably soon be thrown open to white settlement. Commissioners have concluded an agreement with the Blackfeet Indians for the purchase of the mountainous region on the west of their reservation, which is located in Northwestern Montana. The strip to be acquired by the government is over sixty miles in length by about twenty miles in width, and the price to be paid for it is about $1,500,000, or only half what the Indians originally asked for it. As the area to be opened is largely mineral land which never would be developed by the Indians, and as the entire population of the reservation is but about 1,800, it may be said they are getting a fair value for their lands. In addition to this the farm and grazing lands have been kept for them and they are allowed to take timber until the lands pass into private hands, and also to hunt and fish while the lands remain public.

The authors of the new South Carolina constitution have taken at least one commendable step in the adoption of a specific statute against lynching, declaring it to be a felony and demanding punishment for it. There is also a penalty, although not a sufficient one, for those officials and custodians who give prisoners in their keeping over to the mob. This is a step in the right direction and should be followed by every other State where lynching is practiced. Lynch law is anarchy. It is crime, just as much and sometimes just as barbaric as the offense it is visiting it. Conceding the heinousness of the provocation in certain cases, there is no provocation which justify another crime in addition to the original one. The lynchers are lawbreakers in fact and agents for social disruption in effect. Because one man has committed a brutal crime is no excuse why other men should make brutes of themselves and in doing so brutalize the community as lynchings are bound to do. In every State there should be a specific law under which the lynchers may be justly punished. In this one particular South Carolina's example is well worth imitating.

Almost every day one finds articles on the 'woman's page' of the dailies showing how women may be made beautiful "by artificial means." Sometimes these means are pharmaceutical and sometimes surgical. Was it not in Mrs. Gertrude Atherton's book, "Hermia Suydam," that the heroine succeeded in making herself over from a plain maiden into a beautiful woman? The book was read with avidity by women, and it is probable that they believe the articles in the daily papers of which we speak. The latest that we note is in a recent number of a New York daily, where there is a five-column article headed: "Science Gave Her Beauty—A Homely Woman Transformed Suddenly to a Pretty One." It is, perhaps, a rude shock to disturb the belief of women that they can gain beauty by taking something out of a bottle or out of a box, and smearing or daubing it upon the face. But it is none the less true. Beauty can only come from good, red blood pumped through sound arteries by a vigorous heart, nourished by a sound stomach. This kind of blood goes with elastic muscles, and can be seen through a clear, transparent skin. That is one way for women to be beautiful. The other is the old way, and it consists in being born so. Always choose your parents carefully.

The recent performances of the new battleship Indiana, with the other improvements in the American navy, have generated considerable enthusiasm as to the future of the United States forces on sea, but this need blind no one to the urgent need of some reform in the system under which the service of our great war vessels is at present conducted. There will doubtless be introduced at the next session of Congress a bill to readjust the system of organization in the naval service, and if the ships are to have capable officers to man them the change cannot be made too soon. At present, in the naval service, there is a congestion above the grade of lieutenant, and unless Congress relieves it by legislation the young man who today holds the rank of line officer has the hopeful prospect of reaching a captaincy some time near the age of 60, and no sooner. In the matter of promotion, in fact, the service is at a standstill. It ought to be evident that a captain should have ahead of him a chance to win the grade of rear admiral by the time he is 52 years of age, not only as a stimulus for his own ambition, but that the Government may have some service from experience in that rank. In the present system it often happens that a man never reaches this grade until he has reached the age of retirement, while on the other hand the younger officers in the navy confront a fair prospect of retaining their present rank for an indefinite term of years. There is need for young men in the navy, and there is need for the opportunities to quicken the effort and ambition of these. Whatever reform is made should be made in the way of making promotion a matter of merit and giving each aspirant for an officer's place the certainty that there is no congestion of the ranks above him to impede his promotion until he shall have become an old man and lost interest in his work.

### Had One Bath that Year.

The late Sir Charles Napier had the credit of not being very partial to ablution. Wicked men say that when he went out to take the command-in-chief of the army, after the reverse of Cillianwallah, he proceeded, immediately after landing at Calcutta, to see Lord Dalhousie at the Government House. He was, of course, cordially received. "I am very glad to see you, Sir Charles," said the Governor General; "you have not come before you were wanted. We must have a long talk together. But in the first place we must have dinner, which will soon be ready, and there is just time to get a bath first." "Thank you, my lord," responded Sir Charles; "I shall be quite ready for dinner, but I don't want a bath—I had a good wash at Alexandria!"

### Evarts Couldn't Resist.

An amusing instance of an orator unable to resist making a neat paradox was presented in a speech made at a banquet given when President Hayes and his Cabinet were in Omaha. Evarts was making a most eloquent eulogy of the West, and concluded one of his famous interminable sentences in these words: "I like the West—I like her self-made men—and the more I travel West—the more I meet with her public men, the more I am satisfied of the truthfulness of the Bible statement that the—wise—men—came—from—the—East!"

### Right in Keeping.

Dick Tait—Do you think a typewriter is capable of keeping books?

Ben Wurkt—I think a typewriter is capable of keeping anything she gets hold of.—New York World.

### A Positive Dislike for It.

"Have you no respect for age?" he demanded.

"No," she answered, and knocked ten years off the color of her hair.—Detroit Tribune.

### Did He Go?

He—I'd like a flower in my coat when I go.

She—I'll put it in now.—Life.


THE housekeeper is by no means the home-maker, though she may manage successfully to combine the two vocations. A woman with some old-fashioned ideas says that in woman's sphere in life there is nothing that can transcend the majesty of home-making.

There is no need to recall the thousand details that are blended in the sum total of home-making. Housekeeping is relative to home-making, and there are a thousand details under this head. It is in housekeeping where we grasp at majesty in the least things, and never rise above the footstool of the throne of the home-maker. What obstacles intervene between us and the throne to continually prevent our wearing the crown and wielding the sceptre? We escape our royal heritage when we place too light a value upon self-sacrifice—when we offer up ourselves upon the altar of false economy, when we exchange nerve force for material results that are in no wise its equivalent. Perhaps you know a woman who last week grasped at the majesty of currant jelly. She has a shelf full of the carmine-tinted fruit syrup put up in glasses glued down with paper and white of egg and all labeled. She worked quite hard over it and it made her pretty cross, and her husband mentally measured up physical results along with saccharine results, and the former weighed the most by a good deal. Perhaps you know a woman who grasps at the majesty of dusting and scouring and dressmaking, and—well, you can tell by looking at her whether she lifted her occupations to her level or descended to the level of them. You can tell by the thought waves that surround her, whether she governs the home or whether the house governs her; whether she keeps the house for the sake of making a home for her subjects, or whether she keeps house for the neighbors and as a matter of playing at precedence. We made a great stride in reaching for real majesty when we abolished a best room that was kept closed for company, and when the company cake that was too good for the family was abolished. We have yet to learn how to preserve nerve force and the importance of impersonal thought as an ozone generator for home atmosphere. I heard a woman the other day bewail the fact that her housemaid of all work wiped up the floor with the dish cloth and made muffins when she ordered biscuit, and the problem of home-making looked to me as though it was hopeless as far as solution was concerned. If a cyclone had swept away the roof she could have put very little more regret in her wail. Grasping at majesty in such things as floor-cloths and biscuit demonstrates insufficient regal qualifications for a home queen.—Philadelphia Times.

### New Ribbons.

Dresden ribbons are seen on everything; large hats, toques, muslin and gauze dresses, wherever it is possible to place a bow they are to be found. They have the clear, bright flower designs familiar on Dresden porcelain, the violet or rose ribbons on white or pale grounds being most popular. These ribbons are most effective as trimming of plain fabrics, ecru, white or light solid colors, rather than when an attempt is made to match the flowered design of the dress. Short taffeta ribbons are also stylish trimmings for summer gowns of light fabrics.

### Women's Teeth.

"Take one tooth away from fair Helen's mouth," says an old author, "and there had never been a siege of Troy and the divine Iliad had never been written." It is impossible to conceive of beauty in a woman without a set of regular, white, well-shaped teeth, and it is true that with every other feature of the classic mold—with beautiful eyes, well-formed lips, a skin of roses and lilies, a magnificent head of brown or golden tresses, the shoulders and bust of a Hebe and the limbs of a Diana—a woman stands or falls by the beauty or defects of her teeth. You may admire all her other features, you may dwell on her grace of contour and revel in the delicate lines of a goddess-like form, let the pretty mouth open to disclose discolored, misshapen and, above all, decayed teeth, and all your admiration is forgotten. The mental exclamation is always the same—what hideous teeth! The other side of this picture is a much more agreeable one, and we must agree that a beautiful set of even, white teeth is of infinite charm. Many and many an otherwise commonplace face has been redeemed by a mouth full of brilliant white teeth.

### For the Business Woman.

A model dress for business women presented at a private dress session of a recent woman's council has a skirt of fashionable cut, with the approved number of gores in the back, a simple vest with a breast pocket, and a cutaway coat with a French back. The coat contains seven pockets. The dress skirt, which is of the usual walking length, has two; the skirt is so arranged that it can quickly be adjusted for a rainy-day dress without changing its "hang" or making the figure look either awkward or unusual. By such adjustment the hands are left free, and one does not have to struggle with several handfuls of dress, umbrella and packages.

### Bowling for the Ladies.

The heat and the languor of the summer are gone, and with the crispness of winter the young and healthy blood is enlivened. With this feeling always come the promptings for enjoyment, physical as well as social. After the enervating summer the muscles seem to cry out for freedom and play. A woman has muscles, and she can be young and healthy, and of late years she has discovered this and she has acted accordingly. Bowling bids fair to become woman's favorite game, says the Chicago Chronicle. During the last season the alleys were used exclusively in the afternoon by the once frail sex. As a rule the ladies repair to the alleys about 2:30, and by 3 o'clock the play is fairly started. After 4 is luncheon, with light talk and laughter. Again the playing is resumed, and the ladies leave in time to appear home at the dinner table. In some cases the women go to the alleys with their husbands and brothers and have formed no clubs exclusively for themselves. This is the case with the woman folk of the members of the Germania Club. To this club belongs the credit of introducing bowling among the Chicago women. Years ago, long before the game ever promised to be a "fad," the ladies of Germania had acquired skill in upturning the pins. At one time they had a club composed of some of the best-known ladies in the city.

NEW SPORT FOR THE NEW WOMAN.

### The Fireplace.

Unless your fireplace is already furnished with firedogs, fenders and all the belongings of well-regulated fireplaces, seek to find what you want in stores where they sell such fireplace paraphernalia as was made when the fireplace was an important feature of the household. Brass firedogs, shovel, tongs, bellows and coal scuttle make a picture of truly magnificent beauty when they are kept bright by day and are flashed upon by the flames at night. The old-fashioned trivet, too—that little three-legged repository of dishes that were to be kept warm—may be found and adds to the quaintness of the hearth.

### Why Women Dress.

It is often said that women dress for other women and not for men, but don't you believe it. Not one woman in a hundred would care a belt ribbon whether she had a silk or calico gown, or whether it was made with leg o' mutton or skin tight sleeves, if there was no man, assuredly or prospectively, in the landscape to look with admiring eyes upon her as she were it.

# EDUCATIONAL COLUMN

## NOTES ABOUT SCHOOLS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

**The United States Pays Too Little Attention to the Foundation of Learning—Foot Ball Fever Again On—General Educational News.**

### A Defect in Education.

The worst fault with education in the United States is that it pays too little attention to the foundation and too much to superstructure. This is observed all along the lines from the common school to colleges and universities. The first requisite is education, whether in the country district schools, the graded schools of the cities or the higher institutions of learning, is, or ought to be, a knowledge of one's native tongue. The first purpose of schools in the United States should be to teach their pupils how to speak, read and write the English language. But it is believed that they conspicuously fail in this regard. It is known that boys and girls graduate from the best high schools, and that men and women go through the higher educational institutions without having learned how to pronounce many common words in conversation or how to spell them in writing. They know more about Greece and Rome than they do about the United States. They can read Homer and Cicero, can converse in German, French, Spanish and Italian, but they cannot write a letter to a friend without betraying ignorance of their native tongue.

There is no excuse for the existence of this disgraceful deficiency in the education of graduates from even the high schools of our cities and towns, but it shows more glaringly and regretfully in the graduates of institutions for what is called liberal education. This fact appears to have impressed itself on the management of Harvard which is investigating the matter through its committee on composition and rhetoric. The first report of this committee was made two or three years ago and attracted attention by its frank statement of fact. Another report is now made public, and it is the reverse of complimentary to the preparatory schools. It says, among other things:

"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 sitting. The college must do something to redeem herself from disgrace, and to put the disgrace where it belongs; but she must no longer spend time, strength and money on the hopeless task which she has recently undertaken."

It is intimated that some of the large and well-known preparatory schools in New England are the worst offenders. The committee accuses these institutions of "neglect and contempt" of the English language. Extracts from examination papers are given which justify the committee's strictures. Translations from Latin into English are the usual means employed by the authors of these papers to display their learning. "Behold, however," writes a pupil, "the bull smoking under the hard plowshare fell and threw out from his mouth blood mixed with froth and stifled his last groans. The sodden yeoman departs unyoking the bullock sorrowing at his brother's death, and leaves his implements fixed in the midst of his work."

If Harvard University can successfully inaugurate and vigorously push on such a reform in education as this committee desires, it will do a greatly needed and long neglected work. And if the entire system of public schools throughout the country will pay greater attention to fundamental work, their usefulness will be enhanced. In most respects our schools are a great improvement on the schools of the fathers and mothers of this generation. But, in the matter of imparting a knowledge of the English language, of teaching how to pronounce and spell, the old-time schools excelled their successors.—Washington Post.

### A Talk with Primary Teachers.

As we enter our schools this month many of us will determine to do more than we have ever done before. We are feeling fresh and enthusiastic after our vacation. Have any made resolutions concerning this work during the coming season? I have made one which I certainly do not intend to resign to oblivion and it is one which I want all to make. I have resolved to do more work in the line of "Nature Study." Will not all of you resolve to do more?

Do not say "I cannot take the time from reading and numbers to have nature study." If you cannot do more, devote ten minutes a day to a "General Exercise" period and in that time give bright little lessons on animals, plants, physics, health lessons, etc. If the children are tired one of these lessons will rest them. Let us do all we can and I am sure we shall feel amply repaid for the time spent.—Exchange.

### Foot-Ball Fever.

The foot-ball fever is beginning to attract the attention of the public again. There is no doubt that many students are attracted to colleges where most attention is given to athletics. This seems to be the prevailing fad at present. The question with the boy is, not where I get the best practical training? Where shall I look for the profondest scholarship and the most valuable teaching, but which college stands highest in foot-ball or general athletics. Some day this will be all different. Our habit is to swing educationally, as well as otherwise, like the pendulum from one extreme of the arc to the other.

We admire the talk of the great moral courage developed on the football field. We have often looked for it in our classes, but we fail to find it. Some of those most courageous physically are not by any means those most courageous morally as most teachers have not failed to observe.—Educational News.

### Swedish Schools.

Sweden educates the child for the state. The state pays all educational bills. Only the lower grades are supported in part by local funds. The government has the supervision of all grades. In the lower schools no tuition is charged; in the higher grades a small fee is paid by each pupil. The lower grades are assumed to be for the poorer classes. There is no foreign language taught in these grades.

The teachers are largely women. Teachers are rarely university trained, but they are normal trained. There are no girls in the secondary schools. A boy must be at least 9 years of age to enter a secondary school. German is taught in the secondary schools. At the beginning of the fourth year of the secondary school there is a division, some of the boys choosing English, others Latin. The study of Latin languages must be much better than in the classical department.

### A Girl's Essay on Boys.

Boys are men that have not got so big as their papas, and girls are women that will be young ladies by and by. Men was made before women. When God looked at Adam he said to himself: "Well, I think I can do better if I try again," and then he made Eve. God liked Eve so much better than Adam that there have been more women than men. Boys are a trouble. They wear out everything but soap. If I had my way half the boys in the world would be girls and the rest dolls. My papa is so nice that I think he must have been a little girl when he was a little boy.

### Educational Intelligence.

There are 400 in the freshman class of the University of California.

Two hundred and sixty-four women receive the bachelor's degree from Cornell University up to June, 1894.

Cornell University has broken ground for the veterinary college for which the State Legislature appropriated $150,000.

The average salary of teachers and supervisors in the public schools of New York is $677; Brooklyn, $762; Chicago, $780; Cincinnati, $808; San Francisco, $883; Boston, $1,000.

The will of Mrs. Martha A. Williamson, late of Cambridge, Mass., leaves of $50,000 in public bequests. Bates College, Lewiston, Me., and Carleton College, Minn., each receives $20,000; $1,000 goes to the National Council for Ministerial Relief. The American Board is residuary legatee.

The University of Michigan has received a magnificent gift in the shape of a fine art collection valued at $300,000; Mr. Henry C. Lewis, of Coldwater, Mich., was the donor. The collection comprises 725 pieces, made up of paintings, bronzes, marble statues, and medallions.

Of the four great women colleges in America, two, Wellesley and Bryn Mawr, have Cornell women as presidents, and college professors may be counted by the dozens among Cornell's alumnae. This influence must spread rather than decrease, if the growth in numbers of the women entering Cornell is any criterion.

At the annual meeting of the Board of Overseers of Harvard College, held at Boston a short time ago, formal announcement was made of the election on commencement day of Theodore Roosevelt, of New York, as a member of the board. Mr. Roosevelt heads the list of seven members of the board elected at that time.

### The Doctor Got Even.

"That horrid little Bimley boy!" exclaimed Dora, pouring tea; "he was just as insulting to Dr. Craver as he could be."

"What did he do?"

"Why, the doctor was walking quietly along, and, meeting Willie, put his hand on his head and said: 'How do you do, Willie?' just as nice, and that boy up and made the horridest face, stuck his tongue out at the doctor and said, 'Yah! Yah!' in the hatefulest way possible. I declare if he was my boy I'd whip him. I wonder what Dr. Craver thought?"

"You needn't worry about Craver," David said complacently. "I met Bimley just now and he had his bill."

"The doctor's bill?"

"Yes."

"What for?"

"Five dollars, for looking at Willie's tongue."—Rockland (Me.) Tribune.

### Husbandry in Sweden.

The number of farms in Sweden amounts to 258,650—under five acres, 65,000; between five and fifty acres, 165,000; between fifty and 250 acres, 26,000; over 250 acres, 2,650. The numbers of domestic animals are: Horses, 455,900; cattle, 2,181,400; sheep, 1,695,400; goats, 121,800; swine, 421,800. There is a farm for every seventeen inhabitants, a head of cattle for every two, and one horse for every ten persons. Large and small tracts of cultivated land or fruitful glens and valleys bounded by woods or rocks, with farm houses and cottages, round which fair-haired children play, present a striking picture of contentment.

### Money in Hunting Frogs.

Laws have been enacted in Belgium prohibiting the hunting of frogs. The Belgium hunters, however, have found it easy to continue their occupation in the neighboring country of Holland. Recently, in one day, these hunters sent as many as 20,000 frogs' legs to Paris. As these delicacies bring from four to five cents apiece the calling is a paying one to some of the hunters.