

W. B. CANON, Editor and Prop. HARRISON, N. B.

The theater hat has fewer friends than any other old hat.

The toughest woman in the world is a resident of Japan. During a recent illness she was attended by 423 physicians and lived.

The Duke of Richmond gets a pension of \$95,000, which has been a perpetuity since the time of Charles II. Some one of the duke's relatives must have carried a rabbit's foot.

A Minneapolis woman pinned a note on her door telling the groceryman where to find the key. A burglar happened along first and took everything except the cook stove and the family cat.

Professor Starr believes that the American nation is degenerating into Indians. The professor evidently has attended a professional football game and has been deeply impressed by the college yells.

The oldest woman in Vienna died recently at the age of 113. She ate and drank what she pleased, and used tobacco, but disclosed her secret when she stated that she had removed only twice during her life.

The cable says that Mrs. Langtry is making her third attempt to obtain a divorce. This appears to be about the only available way to keep before the public the knowledge that such a person as Mr. Langtry is still in existence.

It has not been proved that the filibuster Commodore, which went down recently, was scuttled by a traitor among the crew, but it must not be forgotten that Stephen Crane was on board and the fact was known that he writes decadent poetry.

The largest manufacturers of snuff in New York City have been sued by Gerson Levy for \$10,000 damages. Levy claims that he has been made dangerously ill by using snuff purchased from the defendants, which, he alleges, contained some poisonous chemical. Levy bought three cents' worth.

John Elliott's coal mine, at New Straitsville, Ohio, was set afire by strikers twelve years ago, and was afterward abandoned. It is still burning. It has been discovered that unless the fire is extinguished, it will reach other mines, and will also let many houses drop into the fiery hole, the roof of which has been nearly burned away.

Omaha Bee: The ingenuity of the police is likely to be taxed in recovering the rubber baptismal suit which was recently stolen from a local church. It is difficult to conceive what legitimate use a plain, everyday tunic could make of such a commodity, and of course it is out of the question that the garment has been borrowed by a rival congregation.

A late president of one of our colleges once said, "The habit of standing idle, waiting for dead men's shoes, kills the life in many a rich man's son. It is a paralysis of body and mind. I can pick out nearly every boy in this college whose idea of life is to spend the money which somebody else has earned. His looks, his acts, his talk, are infected with a dry-rot."

Mr. Howells states that only thirty years ago popular ignorance classed Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes "with those who were once rudely called infidels," and that the Atlantic Monthly lost many subscribers because of the publication of Dr. Holmes' story, "The Guardian Angel." "Now," says Mr. Howells, "the tone of that story would not be thought even mildly agnostic."

In the case of the drowning of husband and wife it has generally been held that the woman, being weaker, died first; but an insurance case is pending in New York where the distribution of \$20,000 depends upon whether the husband or the wife was the first to succumb to the flames in which both perished. The question is said to be a new one, and much interest, therefore, attaches to its settlement.

A Wisconsin court has recently given another black eye to the miserable "innocent purchaser" legal tradition. The Court held that the note was obtained by fraud and represented the proceeds of a swindle. The holder of the note may have been innocent enough, but it was his business to know something as to the origin and value of the property he was buying. The real evil aimed at in the decision was the assumption of innocence which is usual.

Nearly half a million head of game have been killed by the Earl de Grey during the last twenty years, his average being 25,000 head a year. He was only 15 years old when this record commenced. In December, 1884, he shot at fifty pheasants in three minutes and killed forty-nine of them. In this immense total, which places the Earl at the head of the sporting shots of the old world, are included eleven tigers, several rhinoceroses and elephants, a number of lions, bison, Russian and Rocky Mountain bears, and wolves.

It is a fact so well known to the intelligent portion of the community as to be almost a truism that American cities are most wastefully and inefficiently governed in comparison with those of the old world. There is not a

city in England, France or Germany whose government does not command the services of the ablest, most intelligent members of the community, and whose administration is not so far superior to that of any American city as to make comparison appalling.

The cause of the singular sunburn effects produced by X-rays impinging upon the hands is not the rays themselves, Nicola Tesla says, but the ozone generated by them in contact with the skin. Nitrous acid, produced electrically from the nitrogen in the air, may also be responsible to a small extent. The best means of protecting the hands is to prevent the access of air to them while the exposure is going on. This may be accomplished by immersion in oil.

The Alabama iron furnaces are selling more of their product in England than in America, and can hardly fill their orders. That is indeed carrying coals to Newcastle; to meet the English iron producers on their own field and beat them in prices is a genuine industrial triumph full of significance to them and to our own producers. It is not our first invasion of the British iron market, but so far it is the most important in magnitude, and points the future course of the trade with much distinctness.

The Baltimore Herald tells a good story of Bishop Paret (Episcopal), of that city. Some time ago he was the guest of an Episcopal family in West Virginia. Learning from the bishop that he liked hard-boiled eggs for breakfast, his hostess went to the kitchen to boil them herself. While so engaged she began to sing the first stanza of the hymn "Rock of Ages." Then she sang the second stanza, the bishop, who was in the dining-room, joining in. When it was finished there was silence, and the bishop remarked: "Why not sing the third verse?" "The third verse?" replied the lady, as she came into the dining-room carrying the steaming eggs; "oh, that's not necessary." "I don't understand," replied Bishop Paret. "Oh, you see," she said, "when I am cooking eggs I always sing one verse for soft-boiled and two for hard-boiled."

Charles D. de Forest, of Pittsburg, Pa., has invented a flying machine, which he says will fly. He has an aluminum model, which bears a resemblance to a large eagle, so far as shape and dimensions are concerned. He was careful to arrange that the body of the bird would hold sufficient gas to make the machine buoyant enough to elevate and sustain itself in the air. After making the model work satisfactorily he is now building a machine that will sustain the weight of a man. He took his model to an open field. After filling it with gas, he attached a rope to it. As soon as released it started skyward until the end of the rope was reached. The bulk and main portions of the machine will be entirely of aluminum. The huge bird is eighteen feet long. In the lower part of the body a compartment has been provided to hold forty-five gallons of gasoline. This operates an engine. The wings are 18 feet long by 14 feet wide, with a 12-foot stroke. On top of the bird's back a worm-shaped propeller 18 feet long by 6 feet in diameter is attached. The tail is almost square, and acts like the rudder on a boat. The legs are made of light steel and coil springs, six feet long.

It will be news for the people of this country to learn, says the Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, that not less than four hundred millions of dollars has been paid out of the public treasury to the Indians for lands held by them. Furthermore, many millions have been paid on account of Indian claims of one character and another, and the Government has annually, for nearly a hundred years, made large appropriations for the maintenance of the Indians. It has frequently equipped them with the very firearms which they have subsequently turned against our own citizens. The appropriations made every year for the Indians directly from the treasury and outside of their own funds foot up about eight million dollars. Probably it would be quite a modest estimate to say that something in the neighborhood of a thousand million dollars has been drawn from the treasury on account of the Indians. It must not be forgotten, however, that a large percentage of this money has gone into the pockets of white sharpers and adventurers. Some of the biggest lobbies ever known in the annals of legislation have thrived in the corridors of the Capitol in advocacy of Indian claims. An illustration of the gigantic fleecing of these sharpers was instanced a few years back, when, it is said, the Indians received as their share of a claim of \$90,000 about \$50,000. The Indians are likely to cost the Government a deal more money for some time to come, for, although their number has been diminishing with fearful rapidity, and in another half century they will most probably be practically obliterated as a distinct race, they still hold in possession extensive domains, which the cupidity of their white brethren will never fail to grasp after while an acre is left.

A Knotty Problem. Fond Wife—What are you worrying about this evening? Husband (a young lawyer)—An important case I have on hand. My client is charged with murder, and I can't make up my mind whether to try to prove that the deceased was killed by some other man or is still alive.—New York Weekly.

The great school of Harrow, England, was founded by John Lyon in 1571.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

It now appears that all the experts in the Marie Barberi murder trial also escaped.

In New York last week the Salvation army held a jubilee and "burned the devil in effigy." Rather a waste of time, everything considered; why not go after him with ice?

A learned professor in one of our universities says 75,000,000,000 tons of gold lie in the ocean. This is merely an aggravation, professor. Tell us how to secure enough of it to start a bank.

A Boston physician contends that insane people should be taught to ride bicycles. The average citizen holds, however, that if possible insane persons should be induced to give up that practice.

Down in Wicasset, Me., they are trying to prove that a woman is crazy because she insists on wearing a man's socks. If the people of that benighted region ever see a full-rigged "new woman" what will happen?

It is announced that the authorities will not permit Yvette Guilbert to sing in Montreal. They understand French up there. A little learning is not only a dangerous thing; sometimes it is also a very convenient thing in New York.

The expectation nuisance is so great in Pittsburg that it is already proposed to call the city "Spittsburg." But Pittsburg expects to do away with the evil, and prove it is a live city, while Chicago is to follow suit and prove it "is alive."

South Dakota has a convict who has had both kinds of luck the past year. He was sent to State prison for running a blind pig and a little later inherited \$140,000 through the death of an English relative. Had his relative quit a little earlier he wouldn't have been caught running a sightless porker.

Queen Victoria has given all of \$2,500 to the fund for relieving the starving East Indies and her new and distinguished subject, Mr. Astor, has had the bad taste to give four times that sum. The charities record of New York City fails to reveal the name of William Waldorf Astor set opposite any sum in the last twenty years.

If there is a despicable man on earth, that man is the chronic crank. If anything happens to please him he never shows it. Why not encourage the poor devils with whom one comes in contact instead of assuming a deprecatory air and making the said p. d. feel small and insignificant? A kindly word in good season is better than all the harsh criticism in the world.

The English press has been very slow to obtain particulars concerning the extent of the terrible plague in India, and after obtaining them has been slow to make them public. The fact that the plague is largely the result of a famine which is said to be directly due to a gigantic combination between the English governors may account for this backwardness.

The enforced idleness of the convicts in Kings County, New York, penitentiary has bred mullin, disorder and discontent. One prisoner has taken his life, and there have been several assaults upon keepers. There is nothing like steady work, not only for convicts, but free people as well. The commissioners have made a grave mistake.

"The value of a reputable newspaper should not be overlooked," says an Eastern School Superintendent. "In the hands of a judicious teacher, it is an educational factor which does not receive the attention it deserves." This means that current as well as ancient history should be taught in the public schools, and that pupils should be kept in touch with prevailing influences and tendencies.

A. A. Lesueur, Secretary of State of Missouri, says: "Missouri enjoys the proud distinction of having the largest available public school fund of any State in the American Union. This fund is divided as follows: Common school fund, \$3,141,538.77; State Seminary fund, \$1,229,290.03; permanent county, township and district school fund, \$7,912,692.39; total permanent school fund, \$12,283,491.19."

The Gentlewoman says that almost all the morning dresses worn by the German Empress are made at home, and her Majesty in this way is able to economize greatly. When in private she likes to be dressed as simply as possible, and her favorite costume is a serge skirt with a pretty blouse and a simple straw hat. She has, however, one great trial, and that is a tendency to grow stout. For herself she would not mind, but the Emperor has a horror of having a fat wife, and the poor Empress is obliged to diet herself and to wear clothes much too tight for her. This is said to be the greatest trial of her life, as the Emperor is always advising her what to do, and insists upon her taking an immense amount of exercise. Her Majesty, however, has still a shapely figure, and she's less stout than she was a year ago.

The Czar rides the bicycle, and during his sojourn at the court of the Danish King occasionally went to ride unat-

tended on his wheel in one of the royal forests. On one of these rides the Czar lost his way, and meeting a wheelman in the woods, asked, in Danish, to be directed on the course he wished to follow. To his surprise, the man responded in Russian instead of in Danish. The Czar asked "How does it happen that you speak Russian?" "Because, sire," the man answered, "I am one of the Russian detectives charged with the duty of guarding your majesty's person." He, with other detectives, had been wheeling about the roads, keeping the Czar in sight, while the monarch himself was enjoying the pleasing and unaccustomed sense of being unattended.

According to the decree of the Emperor, a court of honor must hereafter decide whether German army officers may fight a duel or not. This is a salutary ordinance and will give official regularity, hitherto lacking, to any contests between them. It would be contrary to the traditions of the country to try to abolish it altogether, and perhaps only Quakers and members of the Peace Society would find such a thing desirable; the Emperor has, therefore, done the best thing possible in the circumstances. It will reduce the number of duels, and rule out lots of quarrels now accepted as good reason for fighting. Instead of biting his private thumb at a foe and calling him out to shed his blood, it will be much better for the officer to turn the whole matter over to a syndicate, to be treated from a judicial instead of a passionate point of view. When that Bellona's bridegroom lapped in proof has to take out a license to fight the same as to get married, it naturally throws a coldness over the procedure and tends to diminish its frequency.

The Journeymen Barbers' Union of New York has applied to the Legislature of that State and is drafting bills to submit to the Legislatures of other States, praying that for the name "barber" the word "tonsor" be substituted. A good many barbers have for years called themselves "tonsorial artists" and their places of business "tonsorial parlors," but few of us thought that there was a general desire on the part of these tradesmen to adopt the more high-sounding name for the commoner and more sensible one which is familiar to all. It must be an exaggerated and ridiculous pride which suggests this change, for certainly there is nothing practical to be gained by the substitution of a good, understandable term made familiar to us for centuries of use in England and France. Barber we get from the old English harbour or the old French harbor. It means one who cuts off the barb or barbe, the beard. Tonsor means a shearer, from tondeur, tonsure, to shear. Where is the advantage in the latter? Will pomatum or brilliantine smell sweeter when applied by a tonsor than when put on by a common barber? Will a shampoo have greater cleansing qualities, will razors slip more easily and safely over the face after the change? No, in the name of Jussim the sweet singer of Provence; in the name of Figaro, no.

The New York Sun told last spring of the curious means which Sarah Bernhardt adopted to send back to France the financial results of her appearances in this country. During her tour, which lasted only from late in January until April, she made nearly \$90,000, and this she sent back by cable to Paris as she received her share of profits every week. During that visit to this country stories of her frugality and suddenly acquired prudence were told, which, in view of her reputation for extravagance, seemed hard to believe. Recent reports from Paris prove that these were not well founded, and Mme. Bernhardt is not only poor to-day, but within a week after she had arrived in Paris from this country she was compelled to pledge her jewels in order to meet certain pecuniary obligations. All that she made on her American tour was swallowed up by her debts and by the extravagance of her family. She has a number of people dependent on her, chief among them being her son Maurice, who keeps up an expensive establishment, for which his mother is said to provide the means. There are certainly places in Paris where Bernhardt is always able to borrow money, and to these she can always successfully appeal in her frequent emergencies. She pays 200 or 300 per cent for the use of the money, but she always pays, and for that reason never fails to get it. But after her long career she has no fortune whatever, and her sole possession is her chateau at Belle Isle, on the coast of Brittany.

Prince Bismarck's Study. "Count Bismarck's study, as he called it in English, was a room of no great size nor furnished with any splendor. It was comfortable, nothing more," writes the veteran correspondent, Mr. George W. Smalley, in the Ladies' Home Journal. "There was a rug on the varnished floor of the usual hard wood. A large writing desk, littered with papers, stood in the right-hand corner on the further side. There were few books. A print or two hung on the walls. A sideboard stood in the center, near the writing-table, and there were armchairs. It was a work-room; none of the coquetry nor luxury which some hard workers like to surround themselves with was visible. There was no lack of comfort, but comfort had not been the thing chiefly considered when the room had been furnished. The palace, as a whole, though on a large scale, with large rooms, and many of them, had no great splendor. The impression, as of other official residences which I afterward saw, was one of dignity; the appointments were sufficient, the rooms overloaded sometimes with ornament, but left rather bare of furniture."



The Number of Asteroids.

In October last a small planet, or asteroid, discovered by photography in Berlin, was set down in the list of these bodies as No. 424. Since the application of photography to the stars the discovery of asteroids has been very rapid, no less than one hundred having been found between February, 1892, and October, 1896. Up to 1845 only four asteroids were known. Since then not a year has passed without the discovery of one or more.

Mysteries of Helium.

As further experiments are carried with the new gas called helium—which was recognized in the sun before it had been found on the earth—the more remarkable it appears. Many chemists believe it consists of two gases, yet they have not been able satisfactorily to divide it. Prof. Ramsay, one of its discoverers, has failed in every attempt to make it enter into a chemical combination; Lord Rayleigh has found that it possesses by far the lowest refractivity ever observed in any gas, and surprise is expressed at the astonishing distances traversed by electric sparks in darting through helium.

A Scientific Vision.

One of the popular attractions at the Munich Congress of Experimental Psychology last summer was a dark room in which remarkable experiments with X-rays were performed. A chemically prepared screen was placed in front of the spectators, and the screen being rendered fluorescent by the rays, which proceeded from behind, a boy was caused to pass slowly between the screen and the source of the rays. As he passed, his bones, as well as his heart, lungs and other internal organs, were visible in shadowy outlines. Prof. J. Mark Baldwin, of Princeton, describing this experiment in the Popular Science Monthly, says that the movements, in regular rhythm, of the organs referred to were plainly seen.

Brains Bigger than Man's.

According to Prof. Max Weber, of Amsterdam, the only animals which surpass man in the absolute weight of their brains are elephants and whales; but there are several that rank ahead of him in the ratio of the brain weight to the total weight of the body. All of these, however, are comparatively small animals. Among them are many monkeys and certain members of the squirrel and mouse families. No animal of greater bodily size than man has a brain which is relatively as large as his. Upon the whole, it seems that man's mental superiority is due rather to the quality and organization than to the size of his brain.

Ships on Wheels.

A French inventor, M. Ernest Bazin, has recently launched a model of a steamship which, in place of an ordinary hull, has six large, wheel-shaped rollers, on whose axes the framework of the ship's body rests. As the vessel is driven forward by a screw, the floating wheels that sustain it rotate, and Monsieur Bazin thinks this rolling of the wheels must result in a decrease of the resistance offered by the water to the advance of the ship. He asserts that the saving in motive power will enable large steamships constructed on the roller plan to travel thirty knots an hour, with a consumption of only 800 tons of coal in crossing the Atlantic, while the best ships now in existence consume more than 3,000 tons of coal during such a voyage, and are able to go only twenty-two knots an hour.

The Birthplace of Petr.

Prof. G. B. Grassi, of Rome, recently received the "Darwin medal" from the Royal Society in London in recognition of his biological discoveries. "The most astonishing case," says Nature, "is that of the common eel, the development of which had been a mystery since the days of Aristotle." It was known that large eels pass from rivers into the sea, and that young eels, called in England "elvers," ascend rivers from the sea; but no one before Grassi had been able to find out how elvers were produced. The Italian naturalist, taking advantage of the currents near the Straits of Messina, which occasionally bring to the surface inhabitants of the deep waters, discovered that the eels which pass out of rivers are not fully grown, as they had been supposed to be, but that they attain complete development after entering the sea. There their eggs are hatched, the young taking at first a larval form which is identified with leptocephalus, formerly supposed to be a distinct genus. Afterward the leptocephalus undergoes transformation into elvers, or young eels, in which state they quit the sea for the rivers.

How an Emperor Rode to the Chase.

The Emperor himself is carried upon four elephants in a fine chamber made of timber, lined inside with plates of beaten gold, and outside with lions' skins, for he always travels in this way on his fowling expeditions, because he is troubled with gout. He always keeps beside him a dozen of his choicest gerfalcons, and is attended by several of his barons, who ride on horseback alongside. And sometimes, as they may be going along, and the Emperor from his chamber is holding discourse with

the barons, one of the latter shall exclaim: "Sire! Look out for the Cranes!" Then the Emperor instantly has the top of his chamber thrown open, and having marked the cranes, he flies one of his gerfalcons, whichever he pleases; and often the quarry is struck within his view, so that he has the most exquisite sport and diversion there, as he sits in his chamber or lies on his bed; and all the barons with him get the enjoyment of it likewise! So it is not without reason I tell you that I do not believe there ever existed in the world, or ever will exist, a man with such sport and enjoyment as he has, or with such rare opportunities.—St. Nicholas.

"The Hounds" and "The Rovers."

"The Hounds" and "The Rovers" were rival bands of boys, not in The Boy's set, who for many years made out-door life miserable to The Boy and his friends. They threw stones and mud at each other, and at everybody else; and The Boy was not infrequently blamed for the windows they broke. They punched all the little boys who were better dressed than they were, and they were deprived enough and mean enough to tell the driver every time The Boy or Johnny Robertson attempted to "cut behind."

There was also a band of unattached guerrillas who aspired to be, and often pretended to be, either "Hounds" or "Rovers"—they did not care which. They always hunted in couples, and if they met The Boy alone they asked him to which of the organizations he himself belonged. If he said he was a "Rover," they claimed to be "Hounds," and pounded him. If he declared himself in sympathy with the "Hounds," they hoisted the "Rovers'" colors, and punched him again. If he disclaimed both associations, they punched him, anyway, on general principles. "The Head of the Rovers" was subsequently killed, in front of Tom Riley's liberty-pole in Franklin street, in a fireman's riot, and "The Chief of the Hounds," who had a club-foot, became a respectable egg merchant, with a stand in Washington Market, near the Root-Boer Woman's place of business, on the south side. The Boy met two of the gang near the Desbrosses Street Ferry only the other day; but they did not recognize The Boy.—St. Nicholas.

American Women and Loyalty.

"During the tour through Canada I had attributed the strange conduct of the ladies to an excess of loyalty. As soon as the Prince had left a hotel they would rush into his rooms, seize all sorts of articles, from a furniture button to a soiled towel, as souvenirs, and even bottle up the water with which he had just washed his face," writes Stephen Fiske in the Ladies' Home Journal. "But in the United States the women were equally curious and sympathetic. The luggage of the royal party was carried in small leather trunks—a trunk for every suit of clothes—and whenever the train stopped the crowds would beg that some of these trunks might be handed out, and women would fondle and kiss them. I need not say that the trainmen were never too particular as to whose luggage was subjected to this adoration, and I have had the pleasure of seeing my own portmanteau kissed by mistake. Before the Prince arrived at Richmond his room at the Ballard House was entered by the ladies, and the pillowslips and white coverlet were so soiled by the pressure of hundreds of fingers that they had to be twice changed by the chambermaids. When he attended church on Sunday the whole congregation rose as he departed, and climbed upon the seats to get a better view of him."

Refining Influences of Poetry.

It is a great mistake for any young woman to judge poetry by the melodious tinkling of current verse, and to say that she "can't read poetry." Real poetry finds a home in every woman's heart. Its tenderness, its music, its vernal fancies, its vivid emotions are more adapted to her nature than to the masculine mind. If she does not read the best poetry she is missing one of the most refining and consoling influences that can enter her life through the medium of books. A woman who has not read Keats' "Eve of St. Agnes," Coleridge's "Christabel," Mrs. Browning's "Aurora Leigh," Shelley's "Adonais," Wordsworth's "Ode to Immortality," Tennyson's "Idylls of the King" and Longfellow's "Evangeline" has unconsciously missed the greater part of her emotional inheritance.—Ladies' Home Journal.

The Peat of Flowers.

A Dutch naturalist in Java has made some remarkable observations on the increase of temperature which occurs in certain plants at the time of flowering. In one case the temperature in the flower was 21 degrees Fahrenheit above the temperature of the surrounding air. All the plants in which this phenomenon has been observed are entomophilous; that is, those in which fertilization is effected by the aid of insects, and it has been suggested that the rise of temperature may serve to attract insects to the flowers.

Man's Economy.

Jack—Come and have a drink. Tom—I thought you were going to economize. Jack—I am doing so, but I don't want to overdo the matter. Four beggars asked me for dimes and I refused them all, so that is 40 cents saved. On the strength of that I can afford to set up the drinks.—Truth.

Salt in Water.

A ton of Atlantic water, when evaporated, yields 81 pounds of salt; a ton of Pacific water, 79 pounds; the waters of the Dead Sea more than twice as much—187 pounds to the ton.

It is officially declared by the Russian Government that cholera prevails in seven governments of South Russia.