

There are worse ways of rendering the future bright than by making light of present troubles.

A Western paper remarks: "Old Mother Time has again turned upon her axis." That's rather a serious twist.

All these schemes for taxing bachslors with a view to driving them into matrimony are wrong. More men get married now than wives can comfortably support.

According to an enterprising New York paper, Mrs. Astor gave a dinner party the other night. It is pleasant to be assured that the Astors still have enough to eat.

A Boston scientist announces that what is commonly known as the telephone ear is merely laceration of the eardrum, a labyrinthine affection resembling otitis media. Why "merely"?

Thomas A. Edison has discovered a new metal of alloy, which, admixed with iron, renders cast iron as tough and strong as wrought iron. He will yet make a moon out of green cheese.

Carrier pigeons are to be used in connection with the United States naval service. They probably will be used to inform the department that the warships are still afloat, but headed for a mud bank.

Conviction, be it ever so excellent, is worthless till it governs conduct. Properly, conviction is not possible till then, inasmuch as all speculation is by nature endless, formless, a vortex amid vortices.

Will the New York minister who married 688 couples during 1897 at an average of \$5 per happy couple feel sorry when he gets to heaven, where there is neither marrying nor giving in marriage?

In Maryland politics there is a Wellington and a Bonaparte, the one at ready in Washington and the other doubtless very willing to go there. What a chance for another Waterloo for somebody.

The case is reported of a man out West who just before committing suicide announced that the spirit of his dead wife was at his side asking him to "hurry up." It only shows how tenacious the force of habit is.

A Pennsylvania legislator has introduced a bill "to abolish book agents." It can't be done; even a bounty of \$2 on their scamps would fail. But it is doubtful whether the author of that measure would know a book if he saw one.

The "warmest" novelty at the cycle show in Paris was a pedal for cold weather. The feature of the pedal was a little stove within. You put a cake of charcoal inside, apply the match, and there you are, as warm as a morning in hay time.

Congress is asked to pass a law to hang train robbers. When the robbery is attempted in a manner to endanger human life hanging ought certainly to be the penalty. It often results in the death of many victims and is wholesale murder with malice aforethought.

Queen Victoria will have to pay the debts of the Duchess of Teck or the effects of the Duchess will go at auction. The Queen wanted the British Government to pay them, but Salisbury was too busy buying cannon-balls to present to Russia out of the hot end of a gun.

Several surgeons in a Pacific coast town operated on a patient for appendicitis and discovered that he had no appendix. A special dispatch says "the doctors were greatly surprised." Perhaps this is all that could be expected under the circumstances, since the patient himself died before he could express any feeling of surprise.

If the tramp is to be eradicated he must be compelled to work winter and summer until he is willing to seek and continue to work on his own account, and, failing this, he should be kept at work for the public indefinitely. In order to compel him to work he must be given something to do, and the industry that is capable of readiest adaptation to the solving of the tramp problem is that of road-making. The tramp should work the roads, not tramp them at his own will.

That autograph most in demand in the United States is that of a negro, ex-Senator Bruce, recently appointed Registrar of the Treasury, whose signature makes money of every treasury note and silver certificate issued by the Government. "It has been the custom of white teachers," says Booker Washington, "to hold up to their pupils the possibility of every one of them becoming President. Such incentive has been denied the colored youth; but Mr. Bruce's name on every dollar-bill issued is a rift in the political cloud that hangs over the negro, and proves that he, too, may rise."

The preliminary estimates of the discoverer of the mist indicate that the world's gold product for 1897 amounted to about \$240,000,000. This is an increase of nearly 30 per cent. over 1896. All of the great sources of supply show a gain. The United States leads the list, with a product of \$91,000,000; but is closely followed by Africa with a

product of \$18,000,000, and Australia with \$51,000,000. Russia, Mexico, Canada and India follow in the order named; Russia with \$25,000,000, Mexico with \$10,000,000, and Canada and India each with \$7,500,000.

The reforming work done by settlements of educated and religious people in city slums is attested by practical results. The fence around a settlement playground was burned on an election night. In the following year, certain young men volunteered to protect the fence when election night came round. They patrolled the place throughout the night, and successfully guarded the property. It was learned later that these volunteers were the identical men who had burned the fence in the previous year. This was practical repentance.

Sweden and Norway seem to be drifting apart in a way that threatens the existence of the kingdom of which they each form part. United in 1814, there have been frequent periods when it seemed as if the end was near at hand, but a compromise has been effected upon each occasion and the union has been continued. Upon the occasion of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of King Oscar's accession, a few months ago, there was an unusual exhibition of amicable feeling between the two sections of the kingdom, and it was believed that a permanent settlement of the causes of dispute could be made and a committee, composed of the leading statesmen of both countries, was formed to effect a definite settlement of the long-standing quarrel between the two kingdoms. After several months of negotiations this committee has reported the complete failure of its efforts and the angry sentiments are likely to receive new impulse from being some months suppressed. The tone of contention between the two sections of the government is the common minister of foreign affairs and a common diplomatic and consular service representing the two kingdoms. Besides this, one kingdom is devoted to the idea of free trade, while the other favors a protective policy, and one kingdom is in hearty accord with the Franco-Russian compact, while the other adheres to the triple alliance. Sweden is the more populous and has a trade and commerce about double that of Norway, and, in case of an outbreak between the two countries, Sweden would be by far the stronger of the two. That a war is not improbable is shown by the fact that the Crown Prince of Sweden publicly expressed his desire recently to be permitted to lead an army across the frontier with the avowed purpose of reducing the people of Norway to subjection. It might not, however, be an easy thing to do, for when the occasion for it arises it is possible that some of the other countries of Europe might see fit to interpose objections. The present disturbed condition of the two kingdoms is a serious menace to the very prosperous government each kingdom has enjoyed in the reign of the "good king, Oscar."

The recent award of damages to Canadian sealers by the British-American commission settles an irritating question which has been pending for several years. Until the Paris court of arbitration in 1893 decided otherwise, the United States Government believed that it had the right to stop deep-sea sealing in Behring Sea. Acting under this view of its rights, in 1886 it seized three Canadian schooners which were engaged in sealing, and in 1887 and 1889 it made other similar seizures. The owners of these vessels brought claims for damages; but when the Paris tribunal decided adversely to the United States on the question of its right to stop deep-sea sealing it did not fix the amount of damages to be paid by our Government; that was left to be determined by later negotiations. The claim altogether amounted to about one and a half million dollars. Three years ago Canada offered to accept four hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars in settlement, and President Cleveland recommended Congress to appropriate that sum for the purpose. Congress refused to make the appropriation, not because it desired to evade responsibility under the Paris award, but because the claims had not then been sifted, and there were included among them demands for compensation for sealskins which might have been taken if the sealers had been willing to concede these prospective damages. An arrangement was therefore made between our own and the British governments for a joint commission to settle the claims. This commission, comprising Judge Putnam for the United States and Judge King for Canada, took evidence at Victoria last winter, and listened to arguments of counsel at Halifax last August. It has decided that the United States shall pay the British Government, in behalf of the aggrieved vessel-owners, \$294,000, with interest from the time the claims occurred. The sum to be paid is slightly less than that agreed upon in 1894, with interest added. But that is merely a coincidence. From a pecuniary point of view, neither party has gained by the adoption of the commission method of settlement; but it is a more suitable way of settling such questions, inasmuch as it allows sifting of evidence. If the commissioners had not agreed, an umpire would have been called on to settle their differences. The recent award is final, and the money will be paid within six months.

Where the Danger Lies. She—Don't you think it is dangerous to eat mushrooms? He—Not a bit of danger in it. The danger is in eating toadstools.

It's a pity that the drawings of hunger are worse than the pages of dyspepsia.



Michigan Road Law

The county road system in Michigan can be adopted by a majority vote in any county. Five road commissioners are elected, none of whom can in any way be interested in any contract that may be entered into by the board. They have full power to lay out county roads, to change the width, direction or location of existing ones; purchase property, unite with adjacent counties in laying out and maintaining roads; adopt any road as a county road, except that in incorporated villages the consent of the village must be obtained. They can grade, drain, gravel, macadamize or improve in any way according to their judgment; construct and maintain culverts and bridges, but can contract no indebtedness in excess of the amount at their disposal in the hands of the county treasurer.

A county may by vote bond itself for road purposes and is liable for damages growing out of their bad condition. The system was adopted by Chippewa County in 1894, bonds for \$100,000 issued, and in the two years following nearly 100 miles of road were improved and built to the satisfaction of the people.

To Get Good Roads.

The proper way to obtain good roads is for the people to hold conventions and educate the public to a knowledge of the great advantages that will result from good roads. Then proper laws can be passed by the State Legislature and the roads of a State can be built systematically and in accordance with the best engineering skill. The farmer reaps the great benefit from good roads. His land is not only enhanced in value, but the good roads allow him to haul his produce and farm products to rail-way stations for the market all the year round. He can thus take advantage of the market to sell his products when prices are high, no matter in what time of the year.—Exchange.

General Stone's Ideal Road.

The ideal road recommended by General Stone of the agricultural department good roads bureau for most conditions is one that will drain itself in wet weather and will be so firmly constructed that dust will be impossible. It is made by first digging out all superfluous earth to a level of about two feet below grade. Then a layer of rough, heavy cracked stone nearly a foot thick is spread. Over this roadbed is laid a second one of stones crushed to smaller pieces about six inches deep. The road is then leveled and the final layer of gravel is applied. It is good and cheaply constructed.

Connecticut Road Improvement.

The suggested plan of road improvement in Connecticut proposes the building of one great state highway east and west and another north and south across the State, with low grades, and touching, so far as possible, the places of larger population.

TOO MUCH FOR HIM.

Bird's Vanity Would Not Risk a Note Beyond His Reach.

The gentleman for it is only the male member of the family who is musically gifted, and his ambition in this line sometimes brings discomfort, says Lippincott's. Early one morning, as I was wandering through the woods, I happened upon a small clearing, where my attention was attracted by a catbird. Perched upon a low pine in the middle of the clearing, he was listening to the distant notes of a cardinal grosbeak, his head turned to one side the better to catch the strain. When the cardinal would drop his theme the catbird would take it up, giving a very fair and recognizable rendition of it. Suddenly from the woods near by came one of the liquid phrases of a wood-thrush. The catbird at once turned his attention to the new singer, and, after a moment's pause, during which he seemed to be fixing the notes in his memory, reproduced with tolerable effect the simple phrase, and then waited, with a self-satisfied and contented air, for another. But the wood-thrush, oblivious of his humble imitator, followed his first phrase with one containing one of the low chest notes which constitute the principal charm of his singing and which are literally inimitable. The catbird listened most attentively, cocking his head first on one side and then on the other, considered the matter carefully for awhile, his confidence meantime perceptibly oozing out like Bob Acres' courage, then finally ducked his head ashamedly and flew off into the neighboring pines without uttering a sound. It was beyond his reach and he knew it and was too vain to risk an absolute failure.

The Painter's Device.

Raphael, the great Italian painter, whose celebrated Biblical pictures are worth fabulous sums of money, was not a rich man when young, and encountered some of the vicissitudes of life like many another genius. Once, when traveling, he put up at an inn and remained there, unable to get away through lack of funds to settle his bill. The landlord grew suspicious that such was the case, and his requests for a settlement grew more and more pressing. Finally, young Raphael, in desperation, resorted to the following device:

He carefully painted upon a table in his room a number of gold coins, and, placing the table in a certain light that gave a startling effect, he packed his

few belongings and summoned his host. "There," he exclaimed, with a lordly wave of his hand toward the table, "is enough to settle my bill and more. Now kindly show the way to the door." The innkeeper, with many bows and smiles, ushered his guest out, and then hastened back to gather up his gold. His rage and consternation when he discovered the fraud, know no bounds, until a wealthy English traveler, recognizing the value of the art put in the work, gladly paid him £50 for the table.—Spate Moments

AN AMERICAN HERESS IN PARIS.

Impetuous Titled Parisians Draw Lots to See Who Should Win Her.

Lillian Bell, in a letter from Paris to the Ladies' Home Journal, writes that the most shrewdest thing in all Europe is the marriage question, and proceeds to narrate the experiences of a rich American girl who came to Paris with letters to friends. On account of her wealth she was invited everywhere by mothers of marrying-able sons, but being unable to speak French was of but little success. She went to a concert to learn French, and was shown much attention by the Duchesse de Z—, who was determined that her son should marry her. "Said she, to the amusement of everybody, the heiress called for America without a word of warning. The Duchesse was furious. 'You must follow me,' she said to her son. 'We cannot let so much money escape.' The son said he would be hanged if he went to America, or if he would marry such a monkey, and as for her money, she could go to a here and there with it, or words to that effect. So that ended the affair of the Marquis de G—. When the other impetuous young nobles heard that the Duchesse no longer had any claims upon the American's money they got together and said, 'Somebody must marry her and divide with the rest.' We can't all marry her, but we can all have a share from whoever does. Now we will draw lots to see who must go to America and marry her.' The lot fell to Baron de X—, but he had no money for the journey. So all the others raised what money they could and loaned it to him, and took his notes for it, with enormous interest, payable after his marriage. He sailed away, and within eight months he had married her, but he has not paid those notes; his wife won't give him the money."

The Teeth.

Most people have a general idea that it is wise to take care of the teeth, and accordingly do so, as they suppose. They rub a brush, normally two or three times over the front of the teeth before going to bed, or on getting up in the morning, and think they have cleaned their teeth.

The importance of sound and serviceable teeth as an aid to health cannot be overestimated, for upon their good condition depends the thorough mastication of the food, which is the first, and not the least, requisite of good digestion. Many a person does himself with all sorts of remedies to aid digestion, when the real cause of his dyspepsia may be found in the poor state of his teeth.

The proper time to brush the teeth is after each meal and at bedtime. Before this is done all particles of food should be removed from between the teeth by means of a toothpick, or, better, dental floss. Then they should be brushed thoroughly with a brush of medium stiffness dipped in tepid water. Very hot and very cold water are equally harmful.

The brush should be used with an up and down movement, and not sideways only, and the backs of the teeth should be brushed even more carefully than the fronts, for it is there that tartar tends to accumulate. Many think that tartar is harmless, but this is an erroneous belief; its accumulation is one of the principal causes of the loosening of the teeth, and its presence exposes one constantly to the recurrence of gum-boils.

The use of some good dentifrice once a day, or two or three times a week, keeps the teeth whiter and better-looking, but is not absolutely necessary when the tooth-brush is used regularly after each meal. Rinsing the mouth after each brushing with some pleasant flavored antiseptic solution helps to avert decay of the teeth.

Finally, not the least important point in the care of the teeth is a regular semiannual visit to the dentist, that he may examine the teeth and fill at once any beginning cavity. In this way the teeth may be preserved, accidents averted, for a long life-time, and the natural teeth, even when filled and repaired, are many times better from every point of view than any artificial ones.

Nearly as important as the preservation of the permanent teeth is that of the milk-teeth in children.—Youth's Companion.

Canal Across Florida.

A ship canal is to be constructed across the southern end of Florida. No part of the peninsula is far above the surface of the ocean. The canal is to be 200 feet wide, and deep enough to accommodate the largest ocean vessels. It is expected that the canal will be completed in five years' time.

A Californian has invented a trunk which can be used as a table, one of the trays having hinged sides which can be opened outward and the tray inverted and set on top of the trunk.

Unless a woman's hand writing makes all her letters look like tooth picks, she plainly belongs to the dust-covered memories of yesterday.

It takes two to make a bargain, but only one of them gets it.

At the age of 18 woman's rights are three years ahead of man's.



Value of Reading in School.

A school superintendent was asked, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, how he managed to advance his pupils in all their studies so much more rapidly than his predecessor had done. His reply is worthy of special note: "I make it a point to bring them along as rapidly as possible in reading. In the primary grades I give more time to this exercise than is customary in other schools, and I persuade or entice the pupils of higher grades to read books, newspapers, and magazines, anything wholesome that will give them practice, and at the same time interest them. Every day we spend from fifteen to twenty minutes asking and answering questions about what we had read. To excite curiosity, we post the most important portion lines from the columns of the newspapers. The next morning nearly every one of the older students is prepared to give particulars on the subject of the previous day's bulletin. If I can get our scholars to read, it is easier to induce them to study, by as much as they become more expert in reading so much is the labor of pursuing their other studies reduced, and their enjoyment heightened."

Cost of School Books.

The cost of school books is often made to appear as an enormous and unreasonable burden. While persons who have large families in school really have some burden to bear in this matter, the average person has an exaggerated idea of the cost of school books.

It is interesting to note from the last census report the cost of certain things as compared with the cost of school books. It has been found by a series of investigations in different States, based upon reliable information, that the cost of school books amounts to a sum which would be equal to ten cents for each inhabitant, or \$7,000,000 a year in the whole United States. Compare this with the following: Cost of beef, hogs and feathers, \$9,000,000; tobacco and cigars, \$105,000,000; confectionery, \$75,000,000; cigar boxes, \$7,000,000; liquors—distilled, malt and wines—\$248,000,000.

Textile School in the South.

Just before its final adjournment, the Georgia Senate passed a House bill providing for the establishment of a textile school as a branch of the State School of Technology in Atlanta. The bill appropriates only \$100,000 and provides that a like sum must be raised for the school before the appropriation is available. The friends of the movement say that more than the requisite amount on the outside is already in sight, and believe that the next Legislature will increase the appropriation for the school, which will be the first institution of the kind in the South.

Unique Spelling Lesson.

Write upon the blackboard in columns fifty words such as a grocer's boy would be called upon to use in taking orders, a housewife or servant in giving the same. Have them copied by the pupils. After the spelling has been learned, have each pupil make store orders or mail-charges on memorandum until he has used in this way every one of the fifty words. This tests their knowledge of the meaning, the spelling, the method of measuring and a reasonable price.—Bayette County (Iowa) Teacher.

College of Electricity.

A unique institution has been started in Genoa, Italy, for the instruction of master mariners, electricians and others who have charge of electrical work aboard ship. The new institute bears the name of Christopher Columbus and has its quarters on board a vessel in the Genoa harbor.

Notes.

In 1895 there were 400,000 teachers in the United States, of which number 28,000 were women.

It is again rumored that Dr. Caird, the venerable principal of Glasgow University, is about to retire.

J. J. Hill, President of the Great Northern Railroad has given \$20,000 to Hamline University on condition that \$15,000 more is raised.

Princess Therese, daughter of Prince Luitpold, Regent of Bavaria, has had conferred upon her the degree of Ph. D., by the University of Munich.

The residence of the late Henry W. Sage, at Ithaca, has been offered to Cornell University for hospital purposes, the sons of Mr. Sage pledging an endowment of \$100,000.

The Massachusetts State Board of Education has asked the Legislature for authority to confer degrees upon graduates of the State normal schools who have completed four years of study in these institutions.

Daily newspapers are now published in ten colleges and universities in the United States: Yale, Harvard, Cornell, Princeton, Brown, Stanford, Tulane, University of Pennsylvania, University of Wisconsin and University of Michigan.

During the past year the colleges and universities in the United States have received bequests and endowments amounting to \$18,814,000. Nearly one-fourth of this amount was given to the University of California and the rest in larger and smaller amounts to other colleges.

The Winthrop Normal and Industrial College for Young Women at Rock Hill, S. C., is supposed to be the best equipped institution of the kind in the South. It was started earlier than any other, and assumed its present location and conditions when the normal schools were started in other States.

Varieties of Fruit.

Beginners with fruit should not be too enthusiastic over the merits of new varieties. Every year "the best" comes out, the highest praised variety of last year being forgotten in the catalogues of this year. The proper plan is to visit the fruit farm of some experienced neighbor and take his advice. The old standards are usually the best, but new varieties should be tested on a limited scale. Climate and soil must be considered in selecting varieties.

WOMAN'S FATE.

From the Revue des Deux Mondes.

No woman is better able to speak to others regarding "woman's fate" than Mrs. Jacob Weaver, of Bushnell, Ill. She had entirely recovered from the illness which kept her bed for much of the time for five or six years past, and says her recovery is due to the well-known remedy, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

Mrs. Weaver is fifty-six years old, and has lived in Bushnell nearly thirty years. She is of unquestioned veracity and unblemished reputation. The story of her recovery is interesting. She says: "I suffered for five or six years with the trouble that comes to women at this stage of my life. I was most weakened, was unable much of the time to do my own work, and suffered beyond my power to describe. I was disappointed and melancholy."

"I took many different medicines; in fact, I took medicine all the time, but nothing seemed to do me any good."

"I read about Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, and some of my friends recommended them to me. I made up my mind to try them. I bought the large box in March, 1897, and was healed from the disease."

"I began taking the pills. I have not recommended them lately, but I made up my mind to try them. I bought the large box in March, 1897, and was healed from the disease."

"I have recommended the pills to many women who are suffering as I suffered. They are the only thing that helped me in the trial that comes to so many women at my age."

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd day of October, A. D. 1897. O. C. HIGGS, Notary Public.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills exert a powerful influence in restoring the system to its proper condition. They contain in a concentrated form all the elements necessary to give new life and richness to the blood.

He who casts stones at others makes of himself a target for their return.

Mother Gray's Sweet Powders for Children.

Successfully used by Mother Gray, nurse in the Children's Home in New York, cure Feverishness, Bad Stomach, Teething Disorders, move and regulate the bowels and destroy Worms. Over 10,000 testimonials. They never fail. At all druggists. See Sample V.K.F. Address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

"Christianity is all very well, but a man must live." Yes, to all eternity.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY. Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All Druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c

For a certain class of minds, infidelity is the hall-mark of genius.



ONE ENJOYS

Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectually, dispels colds, headaches and fevers and cures habitual constipation. Syrup of Figs is the only remedy of its kind ever produced, pleasing to the taste and acceptable to the stomach, prompt in its action and truly beneficial in its effects, prepared only from the most healthy and agreeable substances, its many excellent qualities commend it to all and have made it the most popular remedy known.

Syrup of Figs is for sale in 50 cent bottles by all leading druggists. Any reliable druggist who may not have it on hand will procure it promptly for any one who wishes to try it. Do not accept any substitute.

CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. LOUISVILLE, KY. NEW YORK, N.Y.

POTATOES \$1.50 a Bbl. Largest Seed POTATO grown in America. The "Herald New-Tester" gives the following: "HARLEY a field of 664 bushels per acre. 'Herald' first choice. The great 1898 seed. If you had 100 bushels, worth \$20.00 a ton, or 10,000 bushels, worth \$200,000.00. (Lafayette, Pa., U.S.A.)

CURE YOURSELF! Use Biggs for medicinal purposes. It is a safe, reliable, and effective remedy for all ailments. It is made from natural ingredients and is suitable for all ages.

ROOFING. The Best Red Rope Roofing in the world. It is made from the finest materials and is guaranteed to last for many years.

CANCER. TOWNSEND'S PILLS are the best remedy for cancer. They are made from natural ingredients and are suitable for all ages.