## TOPICS OF THE TIMES. A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTER-ESTING ITEMS.

ate and Criticisms Boood Upon the Espenings of the Day-Risterical and News Notes.

Kentucky is opposed to all war measares under a pint.

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What kind of an old tub is that new gunboat Diogenes, anyway?

"Brain fag" is an expressive phrase The man who invented it was not suffering from it.

A number of Boston girls have or-

If Philadelphia Aldermen sell their votes in open market for \$5,000 aplece their very names shortly will become buy words.

But why should those Colorado wonen prefer to organize a cavalry troop? Their arms are much better fitted for infantry service.

It must not be understood that Philadelphia aldermen are really worth \$5,000 in open market. They bring \$5,000, but they are not worth it.

ing news that his wife had given birth to four of a kind. There are some things even worse than war. The gentlemen who have for years

Ize it.

A Tennessee man fainted on receiv

been nursing schemes to drop explosives on an enemy from balloons have to hurry to the front.

Francisco firm for damages because it tising matter." How?

A St. Louis clergyman says that the earth will pass away before the year 2000. But, unfortunately, he neglects to state which one of the several claimand who are after it will get it.

Those Danish islands in the West Indies might come in bandy in certain contingencies. But in another contingency the United States, having Cuba and Porto Rico, would not need them.

A woman who claims to be 101 years old says she never has been kissed. If she had had her share of the general osculation who knews but she might have been 150 years old by this time?

A special dispatch from California announces that a woman out there has secured a divorce from her stomach and feels no inconvenience whatever. That settles it then; there is a cure for dyspepsia, after all.

The Boston Herald kindly explains that "a ptomnine is an alkaloid substance resulting from the activities of micro-organisms which disintegrate

The British advance on the Nile finds that the dervishes have modified their style of fighting. They "still depend upon Allah, but seek the additional protection of breastworks built of sand," which deserves to go with Cromwell's plous rule on the subject of dry pow-

The act providing for the union of the Australian colonies, on a plan closely resembling that of the United States, has been adopted by the Constitutional Convention, and will now be submitted to the people. Its ratification seems assured, and thus a sort of United States of Australia, or of Australasia, will come into being, and we shall be a step nearer the "federation of the world."

A claimant for Clipperton Island, long a bone of contention between France, Mexico, and the United States, has appeared in the person of J. Roswell Clipperton, a resident near London. He declares that the little coral island was discovered by and named after his ancestor, who accompanied Captain Cook. "The little speck on the map. says Mr. Clipperton, "used to be pointed out to me as mine when I was a boy at school sixty years ago."

The immediate result of the conviction of Zola was a decline in the interest shown abroad for the coming Paris exhibition. The Nieuws van den Dag. Amsterdam, says France must "hurry up and show that she can be just, else she will be her only guest at the exhibition;" and the German papers relate that many German industrials and artists will withdraw their promise to participate, as a country which is unjust to its own citizens will not be likely to protect foreign property and foreign lives.

In this age of engineering triumphs catastrophes by flood or fire should be absolute impossibilities. It is criminal carelessness to permit the occupancy of a building liable to swift destruction by fire or the breaking of a levee which blots an entire community out of existence. Cheap construction of buildings and protective works or their inadequate inspection should be condemned by authority, indorsed by public opinion. If individuals are not alive to their responsibilities in guarding against such calamities the strong arm of the law should be invoked to protect human life. Inspection of all structures should be rigid and unflagging. rts of inspectors should be fol-Reports of Inspectors annual to do lowed by authoritative measures to do sway with all possibility of danger. It charged any sarrant sonsense to protest against the York Journal.

expense of such steps as shall be of tive. The losses of one catastrophe far outrup the outlay necessary to prevent many disasters.

The ability of the United States to furnish the sinews of war is almost incalculable. Our per capita indebtedness is now about \$14, and the balance of our foreign trade is approximately \$300,000,000 in our favor, Our strength is in the credit of the nation and not in the revenues of the country, unless they are largely increased as a war measure. The showing made by the statement of national income and expenditure is not encouraging. In the last five fiscal years—from July 1, 1893, to March 1, 1898-the revenues of the ganized an association for protection Government have amounted to \$1.501. against marriage. Is this really neces- 919,736, while the expenditures for that period aggregate \$1,708,612,640, showing a deficit of \$206,602,904. To meet this shortage the Government has isued bonds to the amount of \$362.315. 400, upon which it realized \$293,481,-894, and on which we are now paying interest at the rate of \$11,492,616 annually. All the proceeds of these bonds, excepting \$86,788,900, have been absorbed by the existing deficiency. To furnish money to carry on a war we should be obliged to have recourse to a bond issue, but if the contest were a short one the entire amount required might possibly be sold to citizens of the United States, A long war would inevitably result in a foreign loan or a resort to paper money, as was the case in the last war. Then we had only about 30,000,000 people to absorb the issues

England's troubles are not all beyond not neglected the p esent opportunity the high seas. Discontent is rife beyond the Chevlot Hills. The punctilit ous Scotchmen-we beg their pardon, A Chinaman named Nguongg Fongg. the "Scotsmen"-have given her Britanresiding in California, has sued a San | nie majesty to distinctly understand that they are not English, and do not "made a play upon his name in adver- propose to be shouldered out of their rights. A monster petition, signed by over a hundred thousand Scots-or rather "Scotsmen"-has been presented to the queen, calling her attention to the fact that, by the treaty of union entered into in 1707, the United Kingdom was to be called "Great Britain," and that an increasing tendency is observed in treaties of state, in diplomatic correspondence as well as in common speech, to use the terms England and Englishmen instead of Great Britain and Britons. The petitioners have the temerity to point out that her majesty herself has similarly offended the honor of the Scottish people in speeches from the throne and orders in council. The modest Scot asserts that no question of material advantage prompts his complaint, but mere affection for the cross of St. Andrew, regard for his honor, and love of fair dealing, stir his resentment when any one-especially an Englishman-"treads on the tail of his cont." Let the haughty Briton who seeks to anglicize the Scot "hand his | mates of his brother farmers, that will nine-tall cat a wee."

One of the characteristic features of

and decompose the animal tissues after by voters. This process begins before progress." is the cross-examination of a candidate not been 'troubled' by the spirit of death," Now you know what not to be is accepted by the party organization, and it is continued whenever he addresses a public meeting. Every voter is free to ask him to state his views on any public question, and an answer is expected. If the candidate's manner be evasive, it creates an unfavorable impression. He must have an opinion on one side or the other, and must have the courage required for expressing it, even if it costs him votes in a close election. The ordeal is a severe one if a candidate is a trimmer, or if he lacks fluency and readiness as a speaker. Every candidate for Parliament is xposed to a hot cross-fire of questions. and his opinions on every matter of public interest are subject to searching inquiry. Some of the greatest minds in England have objected strenuously to this method of canvassing. John Stuart Mill sternly refused to acknowledge the right of the local constituency represented by him in Parliament to exact pledges from him. He contended that the free action of the representative ought not to be hampered by any obligation to those voting for him. Lord Macaulay asserted that a legislator passing his life in the transaction of public affairs ought to be credited with superior knowledge, just as a physician was regarded as having a better understanding of medicine than the ordinary man. His argument was that a physician ought not to be required to prescribe particular pills or draughts, nor a shoemaker to be told how to make shoes; and that a member of Parliament familiar in the affairs of state ought not to be instructed respecting his duties by those who had empowered him to represent them. The democratic spirit in England, as in America, has continued to assert itself in spite of the remonstrances of theorists like Mill and Macaulay. The representative is considered to be an agent responsible to those who have choses him and who are governing through him. As such he may be closely questioned in a canvass, pledged to certain policies and instructed when he is elected. The time will never come, however, when any self-respecting man, whether in Parliament or in Congress, can be justified in speaking or voting against his conscience. Convictions are a sacred trust which ought neve to be sacrificed at the demand of any body of citizens. In the old-time Amer-

> Very Close, Indeed. "This gentleman," said the phrenolo

lean phrase, "It is better to be right

than to be President."

gist at the open-air performance, "Is a close observer-a very close observer. "So much so," continued the phrenologist, "that I doubt exceedingly if he would have been here to-night had we charged any admission for."-New



There is all over the country a deep and growing interest in the subject of good roads. The people generally have learned that good roads pay and that bad roads are terribly expensive.

There is not a State in the Union

which has not done more good road work in the past five years than it ever did before in an equal period of time. Some of them have done ten times as

Professor Latta, of the Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., estimates that the annual loss from bad roads in Jefferson County, Kentucky, in which Louisville is situated, is fully \$1 an acre. This means an annual loss of \$250,000. The loss for one year due to bad roads would pike every mile of road in the county.

In attempting to convince the farmers who are opposed to large expenditures for roads, President Latta gives the following as some of the good effects of good roads:

1. Economize time and force in transportation between farm and market. 2. Enable the farmer to take advantage of market fluctuations in buying and selling.

of paper money, while now we have a 3. Permit transportation of farm population of over 70,000,000 to utilproducts and purchased commodities during times of comparative leisure. 4. Reduce the wear and tear on

> borses, harness and vehicles, 5. Enhance the market value of real

estate.

President Latta says of the increased value of land from road improvements: "As already stated, this increase is estimated by the farmers consulted at \$9 per acre. This would enhance the value of each section of land \$5,760. which is more than double the estimated cost \$2,292) of the two miles of improved highway, which constitute the quota for the section. Just here the objection may be raised that the improved roads would not increase the productive capacity of the land, while the enhanced commercial value would increase the taxes. Let us, for the sake of argument, grant this plausible but fallacious objection, and then find what it amounts to. Let us suppose the increase in appraisement for taxation to be \$4 per acre and the tax rate 11-4 per cent. This would mean an annual increase in taxes of five cents per acre. or \$5 per hundred acres. Would not our objector, after enjoying the benefits of good roads, be very willing to give therefor the extra \$5, if necessary? Would he keep the money and go back to the thraldom of mud roads? If so, he has the option of selling his farm at an advance, according to the average estimore than doubly reimburse him for his expenditure on highway improvement; and he can then remove to some an election in England and Scotland native wild whose quiet waters have

> The gospel of good roads is being preached by newspapers in every State good work go on .- Atlanta (Ga.) Jour-

German Education.

The Germans are the most thoroughly educated people in the world. What

they know they know well, A fellow traveler had taken his de gree of B. A. in the University of Pennsylvania, and went to that of Berlin, where he spent three years. Subsequently traveling in Switzerland be met a young German whose range and accuracy of knowledge was simply beyoud that of any man of the same age e had ever met. In new walks and talks the German had also jutely pumped the American dry, while his own store of knowledge had only been touched. "Ach," said the German student one day, "I shall never get my degree. It is so difficult, it is so much. so hard, so long. I must have patience. I used to see you at the University of Berlin, and forgive me the question, how did you get into the university?" "Why, I was admitted on my B. A. from the University of Pennsylvania." replied the American.

"Mein Gott!" gasped the German scholar, "I knew it must be some way like that."

No better comment on the relative standards of knowledge and the thoroughness of the method by which it is pursued could be asked.-Philadelphia Times.

The Lady and the Tortoise, Fearful and wonderful has been the decorative wear of woman everywhere through the ages. She has worn skewers in the nose of her, rings on the toes of her. She has tied a snake around her neck and tangled fireflies in her hair. But she has never, so far as our record goes, served her lovely self up to us en tortue till now. But now, it seems, tortolse is going to be in a sense -her only wear. Of course, the tortoise she wears is the live variety—the dead, in this case also, would soon cease to interest her. The live tortoise comes to her from the Landes. It first passes through the hands of her jeweler-the unadorned tortolse is not beautiful. The jeweler fits the tortoise with a filigree coat of mail studded with precious stones. The animal is then secured by a fine gold chain. The wearer attaches the chain to an ornamental book in her dress, first taking a turn with it round her own neck. The resplendent tor toise then fulfills its mission by exhibiting itself upon the wearer's shoulders to the extent of its tether; and thus enables lovely woman to exhibit herself at what, we should hope, will be the extent of hers. It has struck the French Society for

its shell set thickly with precies stones, and to be fastened by a gold chain to the cornage of the wearer must be distasteful, if not positively painful, to the tortoise. Legal steps have therefore been taken to put a stop to the practice; but the jewelers and their fair clients will not yield without a fight. They assert that so far from being inconvenienced by carrying a few diamonds and rubies on its carapace, the tortoise enjoys the distinction, and not being given to overmuch locomotion the chain has no terrors for it, while any little discomfort it suffers is more than counterbalanced by dainty fare and good treatment .-London Pall Mall Gazette.

MOST CURIOUS OF ORGANS.

Perfect in Tone, but No Ordinary Mu sician Can Use It.

An organ which the leading organist of New York could not play is now be ing used by professors of Cornell College. This organ is not, as might be supposed, out of tune. It is because it is in perfect tune that it differs so radically from an ordinary organ. The ordinary organ, such as is used in churches and drawing-rooms, is not in tune, even after the maker has just declar ed it to be in perfect order.

The Cornell organ was invented by Von Helmholtz, and it contains a purely mathematical scale. It is made for the composition of chords such as are not to be obtained on an ordinary instrument, and is used to study the vibrations of notes, and of what tones an organ note is made. Every tone in music is to be found on this organ. For instance, what are known as sharps and flats on a plane are not really sharps and flats. C sharp and D flat are struck on the same black key, but, strictly spenking, that black key is neither; it is a note or tone situated midway between C sharp and D flat. If both of the latter were on the plane, however, the difference between them is so slight that it would confuse the player. So a compromise is made, and the two are blended, or, rather, the tone midway between them is used.

But in Cornell the organ contains keys for every note in the scale, no matter how fine the gradation. With it students can see just how a note on the organ is built up. Certain notes on the organ are made up of certain other tones. On the ordinary plane you would not be able to Illustrate what these notes are. You would need the true sharps and flats in order to compose the notes. The overtones on the domestic instrument would be quite different. The pure fifth, which can here be accurately denoted, is very much curtailed on the piano. Used in connection with this organ are a complete set of resonators, or tuning forks. In order to find out how many resonations are contained in a given tone, it is only necessary to strike that note. Those forks which resound in sympathy with it are sure to be included in the makeup of the note. The silent ones are not included in it.

An Amazing Announcement. Probably the most serious deprivation for Americans in England is the lack of ice. It is not wholly unknown there, Now and then a barroom has it for luxand in almost every county. Let the urious customers who demand it, and in that case the fact is approunced to an amazed populace by a placard with the word "Ice" in the front window, Some hotels have it, too, and guard it as a treasure, handing it around in dishes of the size of sugar basins. But they do not put it in a cold drink as a mat ter of course. Candy is another American luxury that is scarce in London. Up to a short time ago-and probably it is so sulli-there was only one shop in all London that could supply candies of lot. the quality to be found at forty shops in New York. This shop was making a fortune in caudy, and was also doing a good business in ice cream soda; vet such is the conservatism of the Briton it ran for years without an imitator Full credit was given to its origin, and it was known as the American candy shop. There are confectioners' shops, of course, but there are chiefly devoted to cakes and pastry-windows full of tartlets, with strawberries in them

The Drink a Man Needs.

ly introduced

cooked and sugared to look like gleam-

ing rubles of the size of English wal-

nuts- and they sell some kinds of can-

dies, too. And there are little shops

But wholesome and ingenious Ameri-

can candles have never been thorough-

for the sale of taffy-British "toffy.

An average man requires fifty-nine ounces of food per diem. He needs thirty-seven ounces of water for drinking, and in breathing he absorbs thirty ounces of oxygen. He eats as much water as he drinks, so much of that fluid being contained in various foods. In order to supply fuel for running the body machine and make up for waste tissue he ought to swallow daily the equivalent of twenty ounces of bread. three ounces of potatoes, one ounce of butter and one quart of water. The body is mostly water. The body of a man weighing 154 pounds contains ninety-six pounds, or forty-six quarts, of water.

Gifts to the Queen, Queen Victoria has accepted as jubilee gift from a private person the engraved signet ring of Queen Mary II., wife of William III. The same col lector gave her majesty the diamond signet ring of Henrietta Maria, King Charles I.'s queen, ten years ago.

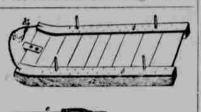
No Hope in 2072. Statisticians claim that the earth will not support more than 5,994,009,000 people. The present population is esti-mated at 1,467,000,000, the increase being 8 per cent each decade. At that rate the utmost limit will be reached in the year 2072.



A Handy Stone Boat.

A stone boat is a necessity on most farms and the one shown in the accompanying illustration will be found very handy. The runners a are about 6 inches thick with a natural crook at the forward end. The narrow strip b running parallel with the runner and holding down the cross boards is of three-fourths inch elm. The front plank in the platform is two inches thick. The whole structure is held together by wire spikes. In driving these use a small bit for starting the hole, as this will prevent splitting the material.

The pole, e. shown detached is an important feature and should never be omitted. The chain d passes freely through the mortise in the pole and by passing a small bolt through a link in the chain, better control can be had of the stone boat descending a hill or



VIEW OF STONE BOAT FROM ABOVE.

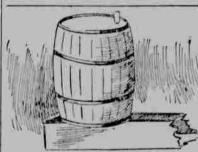
backing the team. The draft, however, should be wholly from the steel coupling and not from the chain. The small standards can be used for supporting side boards if these are wanted .-

Orange Judd Farmer. For Watering Hogs. A device for watering hogs which is semi-automatic in its operation is constructed as follows: A barrel is set on a small trough made out of fence boards, and a plug an inch and one-half wood. Select only the thinnest and in size that is long enough to reach down about half the depth of the them. They can be lightly sprinkled trough (a vinegar faucet will answer), barrel is being filled the lower hole is much longer than any other material.closed by a stopper, the barrel filled at the top and the top hole plugged up

any water in the barrel. As a funnel an old washpan with the bottom out may be tacked on the head of the barrel directly over the hole.

when the trough will fill to a certain

point and remain so as long as there is



DEVICE FOR WATERING HOGS.

The barrel will have to be anchored on

Water for Hogs,

There is no domestic animal that so suffers from the lack of sufficient water as the hog. This is partly because, though hogs are cooped up in pens and can get nothing except what is given made mostly from dishwashings, which having too little fresh water to drink. Giving the hog too little water injures thirst is greater than ever. Some enin it to soil the water.-Exchange.

Calves for Venl. While we believe under present conditions in keeping for cows all the helfer calves that promise to be good milkers, there are many even among the helfers that show by thick necks and other signs that they are better for meat than for milk. Nine-tenths of the male calves should also be fattened and killed. It takes so much milk to prop- later part of May be considerable clover erly raise or fatten a calf that many will not do it. Yet if fed with part skim milk and partly with a porridge made of ontmeal sifted, the calf can be fattened until it is two, three or four months old with a profit for all the feed given. Most calves are killed too young. Their veni is not good by law until it is four weeks old. It is better still when it is eight or ten weeks old, If it has been fed so as to keep growing. -American Cultivator.

Wonderful Boil Renovator. The cow pea is a wonderful renovator of soil, the value of which is not for it is not only more productive if yet generally recognized, even in the thas pastured, but that is the way to South, where it has been most largely grown ami experimented with. At the Louisiana station (bulletin 40) sixty-in quality, as the seed stalks are mainly three varieties have been tested. For woody fiber, and have comparatively vines and for green manuring the 'rest | little feeding value.

arieties are the unknown, black, clay and red, while the strictly bunch varie ties, whippoorwill, blue, blackeye, etc., give larger returns in peas. Cow peas can be converted into hay or preserved as silage, both being palatable and nutritious as food for stock. A threeyears' rotation with five crops (on cow peas, cotton and corn, and corn and cow peas), with suitable fertilise for each crop, has been found most a fective in building up worn soils. If the vines are not plowed under they should be fed to stock and the manure put on the land. Plots on which this crop had been grown for three years showed an estimated gain of pounds per acre of plant food in the soil where the crop had ben removed and nearly 400 pounds per acre where it had been plowed under. For economy's sake it is recommended for the growth to plow under the green manure in the fall and sow the ground later in some winter crop, like rye, to be turned under if a spring crop is desired.-Orange Judd Farmer.

Concerning Hen's Neste. It is a wonder to us often how it is that hens will consent to deposit their eggs in such filthy nests as are often seen among the class who do not keep fancy fowls. They may have been "brought up to it," and this may account for their apparent want of refinement, but the only excuse the owner of the birds can have is laziness. Fifthy nests engender disease or sickness, and the owner, from these two causes alone, loses far more than he saves in time, by not attending to them properly.

The nest for laying hens should be overhauled) and renewed two or three times during the season, the boxes being whitewashed thoroughly as often as is necessary, and fresh material being abundantly supplied. The nests for sitting hens should be renewed every time a fresh batch of eggs is set. By this means you need have but little fear of lice, the great pest of the

poultry-breeder. While fine hay, or fine, well-broken straw makes good nests, a very good nest can be made with shavings from softest, and make the nest well with with diluted carbolic acid, to keep with a half inch hole bored through it, away lice, and, being very porous, will is inserted in its bottom. While the retain the smell and effect of the acid

Poultry World. tight and the lower plug removed, Oats and Peas for Feed. We do not believe there is much if any profit in sowing oats alone to be cut for green feed or for soiling. The oat crop is a very exhaustive one, and even if cut green it leaves the soil in poor condition for any other crop. But with peas the case is different. They really enrich the soil through the nodules which grow on pea roots, as they do the roots of all leguminous plants. But to sow peas alone is very unsatisfactory. The pea vines cannot hold themselves up, and as they fall on the ground the vines are mildewed. Onethird weight of oats sown with peas will probably make the growth of each about equal. There will be some pods with peas in them on peas thus grown. and when cut green for soiling these peas in their pods can be eaten without danger of hurting the stock fed by the trough if the hogs are in the same them. If some gypsum or land plaster is sown with this mixture it will greatly help the peas, and will also be good

Why Potatoes Stain.

Exchange.

for the oats by keeping the soil moist .-

Every farmer who cuts potatoes for seed, and also every housewife who them, it is supposed that the swill, removes the skin by peeling them, knows that the potato juice is sure to are generally very salt, and the milk stain hands, and to rust knives or other mixed with it, serve the hogs in place metal which comes in contact with it. of drink. More than half the fevers of This is on account of the potash in the sows in parturition come from their potato, which is more than in any other root. Wetting the hands and holding Salt water only aggravates thirst, them in the fumes of burning sulphur Much of the bulk of milk is solid, as is a quick and effective way to bleach any one can test by letting it curdle. them white. The bleaching power of sulphur fumes is well known. But the quality of its pork. If swill or care should be taken not to breathe skim milk are given the animals drink them, as they are very injurious. This eagerly, only to find later that their may be due to the fact that it is the oxygen of the air which turns blood a tirely fresh water should be kept in the bright red by rusting the iron which pens where the hogs can get at it to blood ought to contain. If fumes of drink, and cannot easily put their feet sulphur are mixed with air as it goes to the lungs, they may dissolve some of the red or iron corpuscles of the blood on which its healthfulness depends.

> Plowing Under Clover for Corn. Where clover is a new seeding, by which is meant such as was sown a year ago this spring, it may pay to let it grow until nearly the first of Jpne. and then plow it under as a preparation for corn or potatoes. There will in the growth, which being succulent and rich will not rot rapidly in the soil. But for the second year's clover ley there is no use in waiting. More or less June grass will have come among the clover by the second year, and this needs to be plowed early, so as to set it to rotting as quickly as possible.

> Pasturing Orchard Grass Orchard grass can be pastured earlier than most other grasses, as its roots run mostly near the surface. This grass needs to be eaten down pretty closely,