

## TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

### A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

A quart of liquid air costs \$2.40. That's the stuff for a millionaire "blow out."

For the benefit of Spain, it may be well to say that the anti-scalping bill is not a war measure.

When a man drinks a few of those Dewey cocktails he immediately begins to crow over the Spanish.

Dewey has a fine tenor voice. This is no disadvantage when songs of victory are connected with the high seas.

This French boycott with the ladies has gone so far many boarding school girls won't speak that tongue with a Paris accent.

A patriotic New Jersey father has christened a new son and heir "Walter Sampson Schley Dewey Cullen." What's the matter with Fitzhugh Lee?

The Buffalo Express says that "Mr. Sabbath of this city Sundayed in New York." To even matters up we hope that Evangelist Billy Sunday Sabbathed in Buffalo.

Mr. Gladstone was another man who owed much to his wife. His development from narrow Toryism to broad liberalism is said to have been chiefly due to her quiet, steady influence.

The Librarian of Congress reports that the title "Remember the Maine" has been filed for copyright by the authors of thirteen different war plays. That ought to settle the question about thirteen being an unlucky number.

A special dispatch announces that "John Smith has escaped from the penitentiary." His case is hopeless, and he may as well surrender; it will be an easy task to arrest John Smith almost anywhere at a moment's notice.

The Chinese are nothing if they are not polite. The Emperor has issued a proclamation "requesting certain government officials to stop stealing public moneys." That seems to be a legitimate request, everything considered.

It now transpires that the United States expended more money during the past few years in target practice in the navy than Great Britain, France and Germany combined. The result at Manila proved the investment to have been a good one.

Just at this time, when the public is agitated with a Kansas scientist very pleasantly relieves the strain by a paper on "The Behavior of Kinoplasm and Nucleolus in the Division of the Pollen Mother Cells of *Asclepias Cornuta*." The horrors of war do not seem quite so terrible now.

Had the Nicaragua Canal been completed, and controlled by the United States, our battleship Oregon might have been at Key West when war was declared, instead of playing hide-and-seek around the South American coast. Not the least forcible argument in favor of the great waterway between the oceans is the fact that it would practically multiply our navy by two.

"Westward the course of empire takes its way," until now the West becomes the East. There are few greater romances in history than that suggested by the raising of the American flag over the Philippines. For they are a part of the land which Columbus sailed to seek and which he thought he had discovered, and they are now wrested from the land he served by the land which he did discover. If we were back a few centuries, that would be a theme for an epic.

The Spaniards consider that Admiral Dewey lacks the politeness of first-class society in Castile and Aragon. The commander of the wiped-out Spanish fleet at Manila, Admiral Montojo, complains bitterly that the American commander surprised him. It was, indeed, a heartless proceeding for Dewey to jump on the Spaniards before they had breakfast, without any warning whatever. What he should have done, according to the notions of Spanish etiquette, was to send a messenger to Admiral Montojo, with a brass band, informing him that he was about to be thrashed.

Every month there is a statement of the number of business failures; but we look in vain for a statement of the causes of failure. It might not be pleasant reading, but it would certainly be instructive. We are told that some men fail because they are too honest to practice the tricks of trade, and others because they are too mean to gain and lose conscience; some because they do not give full attention to their business, and others because they drive business recklessly. Some lines of trade are overcrowded. In others the strong and shrewd push the weak to the wall, and small operators are "frozen out" by large ones. Competition, which is said to be "the life of trade," is often its death.

The prevalence of the Stars and Stripes in our streets at the present time prompts an inquiry as to how and why so marked a change has of recent years come over the blue in "Old Glory." Originally, we presume, the "stars" were the tint of the hair on which the stars are embroidered, and the blue of the more or less faded blue of the stars on this or that, but in the new stars the same is

replaced by the deepest possible indigo or navy, in many cases only a shade removed from black, so that a funeral air is given to our flag. Can't our flag-makers be induced to change off and give us something lively. The printed silk and cotton flags are generally all right as to color, but the more expensive bunting flags are all sad sinners against our American colors.

If, as Stevenson says, an idea cannot exist until the word to convey it is discovered, the converse supposes that ideas evaporate before words too frequently employed. "I should like him greatly," a young freshman recently said of her college president, "if he would eliminate the word 'joy' from his conversation, and 'grant' from his prayers." The Boston Herald tells of a certain pastor who made such frequent use of the word "tender" that he was finally requested to tender his resignation. In a well-known college, two roommates, conscious of their limited vocabulary and addiction to stale adjectives, resolved to use one fresh word every day. Now, on the eve of graduation, they both have places on the program as the best writers and speakers in the class.

An English writer, Frederick Harrison, mentions it as a fact that the Queen Regent of Spain is a descendant of William, Prince of Orange, by Charlotte de Bourbon, with whom Philip II. of Spain carried on his long war in the Netherlands, which resulted in the formation of the Dutch republic and the disastrous defeat of Spain. If this is true, history presents no stranger incident. In that war the Protestants of Great Britain gave their support to William of Nassau against the tyranny of a Spanish monarch who had devastated the Netherlands with fire and sword. Now another branch of the Anglo-Saxon race has espoused the cause of a people who have been crushed by Spanish rule, to-day the Spaniards are being marshaled by a queen who has the blood of William "the Silent" in her veins. Any one would think, from the vehement speech Queen Christina made recently to the Spanish Cortes that she was descended from Isabella or Charles V. The fact is she sprung from the most inveterate enemy Spain ever had, and one who inflicted the greatest injury upon her that she has ever suffered.

Bishop Thoburn, the Methodist Episcopal bishop of India, contributes an article strongly urging his church to prepare at once to establish mission schools in the Philippines. The Bishop's field of work includes India and all the adjacent islands inhabited by the Malay race. Strictly interpreted this includes the Philippines. He had long been impressed with the fact that Spanish misrule was at its worst on these islands, and had been hoping the Japanese would take them, thus opening them to a regime of religious toleration. Now things have taken a turn surpassing his utmost hopes, and he is eager to follow up the advantage immediately at Manila. "Now is the time to secure a strong and permanent foothold there," he says. "The Chinese, who have a large and prosperous settlement at that point, will immediately become eager to have their boys taught English. An Anglo-Chinese school with 500 pupils might be in operation in less than twelve months after the declaration of peace. Real estate will be cheap now, but will rise rapidly as soon as the American power is firmly established on the islands." Bishop Thoburn's idea is deserving of support both inside and outside of his church. The establishment of a right kind of mission schools on the islands will be one of the most useful means for solving the knotty administrative problems that will have to be dealt with there in the coming years.

The London Engineering, an authority in the British navy, while commenting on the destruction of the Maine, says: "Whatever may have been the cause, one fact stands out with prominence. The conduct of the whole ship's company was worthy of the best traditions of the American navy. The suddenness of the catastrophe, the rapidity with which the vessel sank, the darkness, the succession of explosions after the great outburst and the fact that many of the crew were asleep all tended to put the morale of the ship's company to as severe a test as could well be imagined; but not a man failed in his duty." The same paper recalls a circumstance which may be forgotten by our readers. In the great hurricane at Samoa in 1889, in which six warships were lost, the English steamer Calliope was able to escape, and reached the open sea. She passed close by an American warship which was being driven helplessly on the rocks to destruction. The crew of the doomed ship manned her sides and rigging, and as the English vessel passed them to safety, they gave her a hearty cheer of congratulation. The band struck up "The Star Spangled Banner," and as they played the ship struck a reef. The English paper says, "The Americans had death staring them in the face, yet with a heroic characteristic of the nation, they were able to send a message of encouragement and good-will to those who were able to find the safety denied to themselves. The incident never should be forgotten by either nation, least of all by England." Every worthy action is a fruitful seed. That single cheer given on the other side of the world in the face of night and death no doubt has brought forth in many an English mind the feeling of kinship with which Great Britain has now come forward to stand side by side with America.

When a widow begins to leave off mourning, the person whose opinion she fears worst is her mother-in-law.

## FADS OF THE SEASON.

### SOME LATE NOVELTIES IN SUMMER APPAREL.

Trained Street Dresses, of Wash Goods, Are Now Worn—Diaphanous Little Capes that Are Designed Solely for Ornament.

Numerous Dressy Accessories. New York correspondents:

RIGHT as we may against the idea of the trained street dress, the woman who wears one gracefully looks so well that we are bound to feel ourselves weakening. At any rate, it is not so bad to let a wash dress trail as it is to drag silk or cloth in the dirt. Many of the later linen dresses are made with distinctly demi-train skirts, which are cut, of course, according to Spanish frounce fashion, the most becoming style of skirt, by the way, that we have seen for a long while. A pretty and cool idea for a summer bodice that shall be suitable for the street is an Eton jacket affair with loose tabs in front, hanging below the waist. This was worn over a soft lavender shirt waist in the first costume pictured here. When such jackets are made of a material to match the wash skirt it is hardly any addition to the weight of the costume, while it gives the woman who wants some covering for the street the sense of having on a jacket.

The shoulder covering that women



ELABORATE DEVICE FOR SUMMER TRIMMING.

desire in summer is this year more often in cape than in jacket shape. Shape is about all there is to it, too. Two of these elegant trifles are shown at the upper corners of the next illustration. The first one was linen colored lawn, and was designed to cover the shoulders and not add a bit to the warmth of the costume. Such wraps are set on a little yoke of open work and are draped prettily at the sides, hanging in long scarf ends, the bodice beneath showing down the front. The back of the neck in this one was prettily built up, and the effect was distinctly outdoor-like, though the garment was so light that the under bodice showed through. And that bodice was



BLACK LACE ON A WASH GOWN.

a pretty idea. It was a princess waist made a good deal on the lines of the once popular jersey from light-blue organdy. This was shirred in close lines to a little below the hips. Such a bodice lends curves to a thin or undeveloped figure, and is suitable for any thin or transparent material. It won't go into the tub, though, remember that. The second of these popular thin shoulder capes was really only a cape in the back. It was cut very short on the shoulders and was no more than a

pair of scarf ends in front. These capes are made of lace, and are very pretty, or are of net and grenadine trimmed with lace. A great many are in black, but perhaps the most dressy are in cream or in linen color. This one was sketched in linen colored grenadine trimmed with cream lace and with cream chiffon ruchings shaped into scarf ends. Sometimes such capes are on the slightest foundation of silk, but as a rule the idea seems merely to



ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THIS TREATMENT.

break the outline of the figure for the street and to give a little drapery that is almost transparent. Such a covering is becoming to any figure, and is especially suitable to the young matron. The older woman adds dignity to the garment by increasing the length of the scarf ends.

Wraps of this sort are but one of many sorts of ornamental accessories



ELABORATE DEVICE FOR SUMMER TRIMMING.

that can be purchased in the stores, not only for beautiful and expensive gowns, but for simple muslins and lawns. Net yokes embroidered, beaded and spangled are very pretty and not a bit expensive now, while the same thing in wash net, lace, Hamburg and open work embroidery is as fresh and dainty as can be and may be adapted to wear with several gowns. The very pretty affair shown here was a sort of shield front and back, extending to the arm seams on the shoulders and narrowing a little to the belt below which the shield came a little way, thus giving finish and length to the waist. The material was embroidered linen lawn which will wash, though the colors of the embroidery are many and bright.

A new characteristic of summer wash dresses is the use of black lace upon them, patterns for which already planned are sold in sets. Two examples of this follow in to-day's illustrations. The first pictured set gave a back of black lace, extending over the shoulders to the front like a little collar. The back was continued below the belt, covering the hips and extending to either side of the front, where it lengthened into two long panels that reached, widening a little, to the foot of the skirt. Bands of the lace were drawn from the collar portion in front to the belt at the sides. All this was over canary colored lawn and was very elaborate, but you can duplicate it in net, cut to the required shape and either embroidered or applied with lace designs. The result is sure to be dressy.

A simpler use of lace making a pretty finish to a white lawn dress showed bands of lace design net run around the skirt, the widest even at its lower edge, with the hem of the skirt. The net was attached to the gown by looped braiding. The bodice was trimmed to match with narrow straps of the lace curving from shoulders to belt. This dress—the last shown to-day—had also that pretty notion for the fastening of a wash dress, little double bows of fresh white lawn set down the front, hiding the hooks and eyes, or buttons when such are used. Sometimes a little frill bow to match is set in the hair. Copyright, 1902.



GOOD ROADS.

Hints on Macadam Construction.

The building of macadam roads has grown into quite a business and those who are engaged in it occasionally strike something that may be useful to others. A correspondent of the Engineering News gives views on various points as follows: The quantity of rolling considered desirable is a serious question, and it is hard to specify a certain number of hours with a certain weight roller for a certain number of square feet of surface for all kinds of rock. I have lately drawn up my specifications to read that the foundation—that is, the earth surface after having been cut to the proper depth and the soft places filled with sand or fine broken stone—and each layer "shall be rolled with a roller of not less than five tons weight and sprinkled, and ad-sprinkling and rolling shall continue until a wagon with two inch tires and carrying not less than two cubic yards of stone can be hauled over it without making an appreciable rut." There is no mistaking the meaning of the clause.

I always advocate a roller of not less than five tons weight, and prefer a horse roller. If the rock is an extremely hard material and does not bind well, then a heavier roller can be used. I may be peculiar in my preferences, but my experience with extremely heavy steam rollers has not been all that could be desired. In most cases there is too much crushing of the material. If the contractor possesses a heavier roller than five tons, and, in my opinion, the material can stand it, he is at liberty to go ahead.

My specifications insist upon an entire absence of clay and loam in the metalling, but there is such a thing as going to the extreme in screening. Doubtless Macadam and some of the European engineers could succeed in doing without binder. I suppose tires are much wider abroad than in this country and loads are heavier, and under the influence of the traffic and with constant repairs a road of fair sized stones without binder ultimately becomes first-class. Here we must face the fact that tires are narrow, and the authorities will seldom spend 10 cents for maintenance inside of three years. Binder is therefore a necessity. But it is best if of the same material as the macadam.

My specifications generally call for three layers—the first of rock, not more than four inches and not less than two inches in any dimension. This layer is to be one-half the total thickness of the finished coating. The second layer is one-third the thickness of the coating, and of rock not more than two inches nor less than one inch in any dimension. The third layer to complete the coating must contain rock of the same dimensions as the second layer. With respect to the proportion of the sizes, the specifications call for "no more fine stuff and dust than is unavoidable and for not less than 75 per cent. of the rock in the second and third layers to exceed an inch in every dimension and the pieces to be as nearly as practically cubical in shape."

Expenditures of Maritime Powers.

A return has been issued by the British Board of Trade bearing on the naval expenditure and mercantile marine of Great Britain and all other maritime powers. It shows that in merchant tonnage the British empire stands supreme. If the United Kingdom is taken alone, the figures are over 3,000,000 tons; if the British Colonies are added, the figures are close on 11,000,000 tons. Germany, which ranks highest among other powers, can boast only of a merchant navy of 1,500,000 tons. France comes next with less than 1,000,000 tons. Russia, Spain, Italy, Austria, Japan and the United States are still lower on the scale. So with the value of commerce. Adding together the imports and exports of the United Kingdom, they come to the enormous total of \$222,000,000. At least \$200,000,000 more represents the shipping trade of India and Great Britain's self-governing colonies. What statistics can be set against these by other nations? Germany is again first, but with a total of only \$400,000,000; the United States can lay claim to \$224,000,000, and France to \$294,000,000, but none of the rest run into nine figures.

A Curious River.

"There is a river out in our territory called the Hassayampa, which is typical of Arizona," said J. C. Adams, the mayor of Phoenix, Ariz., and one of the most progressive citizens of that lively town, to a Washington Post reporter. "This river will run along for a few miles as a broad, beautiful stream, and narrowing suddenly, disappear through the sands, only to come up again a few miles further on and run along as placidly and beautifully as a well-regulated stream should. There is a legend connected with this river that any one who ever tastes of its waters can never afterwards tell the truth. The miners in the country through which it flows are called 'Hassayampas,' and from them come most of the weird, wild stories of adventure that the people in the East expect from Arizona, the erstwhile home of Alkali Ike and Cactus Bill. This water can be bottled and brought East, so that an Arizonian who comes here on a mission can take a nip and then tell his friends about Arizona."

Prince of Wales' Dinner Table. Good taste reigns over all the arrangements. Thus the tablecloths are

severely plain, though of the best quality, and simply worked with the royal arms—the rose, the thistle, and the shamrock—the table napkins are invariably folded into a small square to hold the bread, and no more are provided, and these are placed prongs downward. In addition, there are one large tablespoon and one large knife, for in no circumstances are two knives together given to any guest. A great many reasons have been assigned for this rule, but apparently no one has summoned up the courage to ask their royal host and hostess. It has been asserted that his Royal Highness has the old-fashioned dislike to seeing knives inadvertently crossed. Small water bottles are used, but the Princess holds to the Hanoverian habit of never having finger bowls. At Marlborough House dinner begins at 8:45 and is never allowed to last much more than an hour. Occasionally during dinner soft music is played. The menu is always served a la Russe—that is to say nothing is carved in the dining-room— "Our Prince at Home."

## NO LIFE ON JUPITER.

Bones of a Man Would Snap Beneath His Weight.

Judged by our terrestrial experience, which is all we have to go by, the magnitude of the planet, if it is to bear life resembling that of the earth, is limited by other considerations. Even Jupiter, which, as far as our knowledge extends, represents the extreme limit of great planetary size, may be too large ever to become the abode of living beings of a high organization. The force of gravitation on the surface of Jupiter exceeds that on the earth's surface as 264 to 1. Considering the effects of this on the weight and motion of bodies, the density of the atmosphere, the laws of pneumatics, etc., it is evident that Jupiter would, to say the very least, be an exceedingly uncomfortable place of abode for beings resembling ourselves. But Jupiter, if it is ever to become a solid rocky globe like ours, must shrink enormously in volume, since its density is only 0.24 as compared with the earth. Now, the surface gravity of a planet depends on its mass and its radius, being directly as the former and inversely as the square of the latter. But in shrinkage Jupiter will lose none of its mass, although its radius will become much smaller. The force of gravity will consequently increase on its surface as the planet gets smaller and more dense.

The present mean diameter of Jupiter is 86,500 miles, while its mass exceeds that of the earth in the ratio of 318 to 1. Suppose Jupiter shrunk to three-quarters of its present diameter, or 64,875 miles, then its surface gravity would exceed the earth's nearly five times. With one-half of its present diameter the surface gravity would become more than ten times that of the earth. On such a planet a man's bones would snap beneath his weight, even granting that he could remain upright at all! It would seem, then, that unless we are apt to abandon terrestrial analogies altogether and "go it blind" we must set an upper limit to the magnitude of a habitable planet, and that Jupiter represents such upper limit, if, indeed, he does not transcend it.—Popular Science Monthly.

About National Songs.

It is well that "The Star Spangled Banner" has been officially recognized as the national air. It is distinctly American and original. Of the other hymns and songs formerly put forward for this distinction, "America," as is generally known, was written to the British air, "God Save the Queen." "The Red, White, and Blue," it appears, is also an adaptation. The London Chronicle, noting the statement that Archbishop Corrigan's jubilee banquet Archbishop Ryan suddenly rose and sang, supported by 400 ecclesiastics, "The Red, White, and Blue" song, says: "The only song of that denomination known on this side of the Atlantic belongs to Britannia, the gem of the ocean."

The home of the brave and the free, The shrine of each patriot's devotion, What land can compare unto thee? It was written and composed by D. T. Shaw about the time of the Crimean war, when the union flag of England was floating beside the red, white, and blue of France.—Exchange.

Indian Names.

About one-half of the States of the Union, Eastern, Western and Southern, bear Indian names. Scores of large cities and hundreds of towns and villages all over the country are also known by aboriginal designations. So are many of the giant peaks that rise over the continent, and the lakes and streams that enrich it. These names aside as memoranda of the unnumbered tribes that roamed this continent ages before it got the name of America. The Indian record here is not faint or shabby; it is substantial and prominent, though little may be known of the history of the race which left it.

An Old Almanack.

Of old almanacks (spelled with a "T") still existing and issued in the original shape, the oldest and quaintest is the handbook of fact, prognostication and information—that 170,000 farmers' families swear by—an old, old volume, published annually at Hagerstown, Md., with the same quaint features and odd wood cuts now as first appeared in its pages on the date of its first issue, January 1, 1797. The founder of the Hagerstown Almanack was one John Gruber, a scholar and physician.

When a man inherits dishonesty that is about the only thing he honestly acquires.

But few women would carry pocket-books if they couldn't get anything in them but money.