

## Current Topics.

**THE AUTOMOBILE HAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED** a reputation in the man-killing line. In families where serious accidents have occurred a prejudice against the machine has grown up and relatives of the injured or the dead automobilists have deemed it their duty to dispose of their man-killers. Baron George von Bleichroder, the banker at Berlin, was killed in June last and it is said that the members of his family have given away or sold their automobiles. One relative of the dead baron sold a French automobile that had cost him eleven thousand dollars for the sum of fifteen hundred dollars; and in order to further show their disapproval the baron's family have caused to be buried beside his grave the automobile that caused the baron's death; a very novel penalty, indeed, to be inflicted upon the "man-killer."

**THE GERMAN EMPEROR HAS PROVED TO** be so lucky in lottery drawings that it has been deemed necessary to explain that the emperor purchases so many tickets in these drawings that it would be difficult for him to lose. It is said that he buys one-tenth of all the tickets issued in the lottery conducted by the Friends of Art society and that the proceeds are devoted to the purchase of art works for the public galleries.

**THE ESTATE OF CHARLES L. TIFFANY, THE** great New York jeweler, amounted to thirty million dollars, of which ten million dollars was personal property. Bernard Y. Tiffany, the jeweler's son, married a poor girl in spite of the father's protest. After an eleven-day honeymoon the young couple separated and now the newspapers say that young Tiffany has been cut off in his father's will, "receiving two million dollars less than his brother received." Inasmuch, however, as the offending son receives a special allowance of three thousand dollars per annum and personal property valued at \$1,250,000, the young man will, by the exercise of economy, be able to keep the wolf from the door for a few days longer.

**OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, RECENTLY** appointed justice of the supreme court, entertains some strong opinions on public questions and it is said that these opinions by no means harmonize with republican policies. His opinions as justice of the Massachusetts supreme court are said to show "an independence of thought and a disposition to give considerable consideration to humanity in the determination of causes." As a matter of fact, Justice Holmes has frequently been accused of being too radical. In one of his decisions involving the rights of striking workmen to prevent by peaceful argument the employment of men to take their places, Justice Holmes declared that laboring men seeking to protect their interests were entitled to the same benefits of law as their employer. In this decision he declared: "I can remember when many people thought that apart from violence or breach of contract, strikes were wicked, as organized refusals to work. I suppose that intelligent economists and legislators have given up that notion today."

**A CORRESPONDENT FOR THE NEW YORK** World has examined some of the decisions and speeches delivered by Justice Holmes and presents the opinions expressed by the new supreme court justice on several interesting questions. On the Philippine question Justice Holmes is quoted thus: "The constitution means literally what it says. Until it is amended its provisions should be respected; but it should be amended if the spirit of the country has changed, expanding the original theory of the republic. The only question is, has the spirit of the country changed?" On the tariff question Justice Holmes is quoted as saying: "As the resources of the nation are developed and adequate revenue for governmental needs are provided in this manner, all conditions and laws favoring any special class or found oppressive to any special class should be changed, modified or eradicated. Government statistics will provide convincing information as to whether the resources have been so developed as to provide necessary revenue."

**ON THE TRUST QUESTION JUSTICE** Holmes is quoted in this way: "No class should be benefited at the expense of another, no unusual privileges either through the laxity or the too rigid enforcement of the law. If the laws are at fault the laws should be changed. The spirit

of the commercial features of the constitution is intended to promote equal rights, neither preference nor discrimination." On the question of labor and capital Justice Holmes has said: "Capital should not oppress labor, nor labor attempt to cripple capital. Labor has the same rights of organization as capital, and to accomplish its purpose of organization in any manner not disturbing to the public peace or disrupting the equilibrium of government. There should be no force exerted to give either labor or capital an advantage over the other, legal or otherwise, or any unjust discrimination against the rights of either."

**THREE BOER GENERALS, BOTHA, DE WET** and Delarey, were given a cordial reception at London on August 16. Even Joseph Chamberlain participated in the effort to do these brave men honor. Cries of "Good old De Wet," "Our friends the enemies," "Brave soldiers all" were given by the enormous crowd that gathered to greet the South African generals. It cannot be doubted that among the masses of the English people the rejoicing over the establishment of peace in South Africa was not due entirely to the weariness of supporting an enormous war tax. It is probably true that the South African war was never popular among the English people. They regarded it as an unjust and unnecessary war, one, in fact, which had been deliberately forced upon the brave Dutchmen of South Africa and the cordial reception given to Botha, De Wet and Delarey had something more in it even than the recognition of bravery—a recognition always ready among a people who are themselves brave.

**A NEW YORK SCHOOLMASTER RECENTLY** celebrated his golden wedding jubilee. Josiah H. Zabriskie is 73 years of age and for sixty years has been employed in the public schools. His first work was in the capacity of monitor and when he was 13 years old. In those days a monitor received \$50 a year and was an assistant to the teacher in his work and acted also as janitor. At the age of 18 Mr. Zabriskie became a teacher. Among the prominent men who were pupils under the schoolmaster Zabriskie were Ira Remsen, president of Johns-Hopkins university, and John Stephenson, professor of geology in the New York university.

**THE COAL CONSUMERS OF THE COUNTRY** are beginning to manifest a lively interest in the coal strike. It will be remembered that during the presidential campaign of 1900 the coal strike then under way was settled through the intervention of Mark Hanna, chairman of the republican national committee. A contract was then entered into extending until April 1, 1902. Some have hoped that Mr. Hanna might step in again and settle the strike, but the mine owners declare that they will not again yield to political influence. They admit that Mr. Morgan has the power to settle the strike, but they declare that Mr. Hanna cannot again accomplish the task. Senators Quay and Penrose of Pennsylvania have taken a hand in the hope that a settlement of the strike will advance republican interests in their state.

**IT IS CLAIMED THAT MR. ROOSEVELT WILL** see to it that Mr. Hanna does not obtain the credit for again establishing peace between the mine owners and the working men. Mr. Roosevelt's friends fear, it is said, that if Hanna were to accomplish a second settlement it would aid materially in his presidential boom; consequently it is believed that Senator Quay's intervention has been at the suggestion of the president. It is also believed that Mr. Morgan might be willing to help the Roosevelt boom to the extent of permitting Senator Quay, acting as the recognized representative of the Roosevelt administration, to obtain the credit for bringing about peace.

**SEÑOR DON EMILO DE OJEDA, THE NEW** Spanish minister, feels very kindly towards the United States. He holds no grudge against the American people because of the Spanish-American war; on the contrary, he thinks that the United States conferred a distinct favor upon Spain. He extends an invitation to Americans to visit his country and assures them of a cordial welcome. The Spanish minister is indeed enthusiastic in his reference to the immense advantages Spain secured through the war and those people who are so anxious to have the United States adhere to a colonial policy will do well to read the minister's explanation on this point.

**THE SPANISH MINISTER DECLARES THAT** an era of prosperity has opened for the people of Spain. In an interview with a correspon-

dent for the New York World the Spanish minister said: "The possibility of this era of prosperity came with the abandonment of a colonial system. The colonies may have been a source of pride. They were, at all events, a constant perplexity and care, a source of corruption, and a great financial burden. The Philippine islands, it is true, yielded a little revenue—not much, but something on the right side—but none of this profited us as a nation. And that, of course, was in time quite past. During recent unsettled years they were a heavy expense. Cuba lately had been costing us \$25,000,000 a year. We were long ago ready to release Cuba—though," added his excellency, smiling, "we should perhaps have preferred doing it spontaneously and in a more leisurely and becoming manner."

**AND THEN THE MINISTER ADDED, AS** the correspondent said, "with gathering earnestness": "I have often put it to myself that, counting all the losses of the war and the costs entailed by it, all the loss of life, loss of prestige, the burden of debt and the dreadful humiliation, counting it all up, the war was still a benefit, because it loosed us from the burden of our colonies."

**THE RICHEST MAN IN CARNEGIE, PA.,** John Henry, attempted to cross the railroad track at Pittsburg and fell beneath the wheels of a locomotive. The newspaper dispatches say: "Crushed and bleeding he lay on the platform of the Pan Handle railroad station, pleading for life and offering one hundred thousand dollars for someone to save him." His offer was of no avail. Gold can do many things, but gold cannot purchase life nor serve as a bribe to the grim reaper.

**THE DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH, WHO** was Consuela Vanderbilt, will soon visit the United States. This fact, to be sure, is not of immense importance to the public and yet it is interesting, and perhaps instructive, for various reasons. The duchess has not visited her native country since her marriage in 1895 and on this occasion she will come unaccompanied by her husband. It has been reported that serious differences exist between the duchess and the duke, but it is explained that the fact that her husband will not accompany her is due to a vow he made years ago to never set foot in the United States again. This is really too bad. The American people will manage to get along in some way or other without a visit from this disagreeable young man, but it cannot be out of place to suggest that the duke's prejudice against United States soil does not exist towards United States dollars. As long as the United States provided him the money with which to pay his debts and maintain his immense establishments he might at least look upon this country in a charitable if not in a friendly way. However, the duchess appears to be able to get along without the duke, who is described as having "an overbearing sense of his own importance," and it is probable that the American flag will "stay put" even though the duke keeps his vow.

**AN INTERESTING INTERVIEW BETWEEN** the pope and a tottering woman who had reached the age of 102 years is described in a cablegram to the New York World. Anna Morena is the name of the pope's guest. When she was fifteen years old she had borne in her arms and taken for walks in the country the little Joachim Pecci, then five years old, and who was to be later Leo XIII. The pope received his former nurse in the most amiable fashion, and for half an hour chatted with her, recalling various episodes of his childhood.

**TWO BROTHERS IN BERLIN FELL IN LOVE** with the same girl. They agreed to submit their dispute to a duel. Revolvers were the weapons. The younger brother was wounded and perhaps fatally. The elder received a flesh wound. Unlike some other girls in history this one declared that she would not have married either of the brothers and the successful duelist is now engaged in nursing a severe wound and reflecting upon his great folly.

**D. R. SOLNERS OF PARIS TAKES A DECID-** edly hopeless view of the human family. Recently the doctor read a paper before the Academy of Medicine, in which he sought to establish a co-relation between the increase of insanity and crime and the general effusion of knowledge. The Paris correspondent to the New York World says that according to Dr. Solner's daring theory, a theory which is plausibly built on numerous observed facts, education acts upon