

## TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

### A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

Magazine writers are full of advice telling people what to eat, without telling them how to get it.

A baby carriage trust in England is preparing to strike a blow at the infant industries of that island.

The adage that "Two's company but three's a crowd" seems to hold true, also, in the case of joint protectorates.

Notwithstanding the wonders claimed for liquid air, it is not likely it will supplant "hot air" for some time to come.

At the rate messenger boys are beginning to develop international speed, there may be in time no real need for wireless telegraphy.

One agreeable possibility suggests itself in connection with the anticipated rubber famine—it may cause the mysterious disappearance of certain rubbernecked individuals.

There is a law in most States to prevent men from carrying concealed weapons. It ought, in justice, to be amended in such a manner as will prevent women from carrying a whole armory of hats.

It appears that every European nation whose citizens can get permission to build a railroad in China expects to acquire thereby a "sphere of influence" in that part of the empire through which the railroad runs.

If this expansion of the messenger boy service continues, there won't be an American girl that will open a letter from anywhere that doesn't come by the writer's "own" messenger, so quickly do "our girls" accommodate themselves to any conditions.

"Should Married Women Follow Professions?" This is a query put forth by Sarah Grand, the novelist. In reply, it may be said that it all depends upon the married woman's husband's ability in the way of providing the necessary funds for the running of the house. This opinion has been obtained from a "washlady" who is now supporting a husband and six children, and ought, therefore, to be worth something.

America has one undisputed leadership which ought to be abdicated in some way. That is in the destruction of property by fire. No country in Europe pays any such bills, year after year, as this republic has to foot on account of fires, most of which ought to be avoided. The annual drain from this cause amounts to about 20 per cent. of the expenses of the United States government, including pensions, interest on the public debt and the operation of the postoffice system.

Who can fathom the changes that time brings? A hundred years ago would the most visionary have believed that the close of the century would find American and British soldiers fighting shoulder to shoulder and mingling their life blood in a common cause? Or back in the gloomy days of the early sixties who could have foreseen the soldiers of the North and South clad in the same uniform sleeping the long sleep side by side in a national cemetery, their graves garlanded with tributes of gratitude from a united country?

"Let well enough alone." The truth embodied in this saying finds pitiful confirmation in the recent incidents of a man's life in New York. He was found nearly starved and dangerously weak, and was taken to Bellevue Hospital. This was his story: He had been a school teacher in an inland town. He had an assured position, an adequate salary, and had saved \$4,000. Some of his acquaintances had become suddenly wealthy by speculating in stocks. Hoping to be equally successful, he went to New York and made his venture in Wall street. His money was spent for stocks, and as is usual the cent gambler got it. With hardly a cent left, he sought work, failed to get it, and had about succumbed to starvation when the police found him. The lesson is obvious; but so few of us profit by the experiences of other people that we fear of may go unheeded.

The Army and Navy Journal calls attention to an incident of the Manila expedition that has excited considerable comment in Europe, but has passed almost unnoticed in this country: "When one of our troop ships stopped at Gibraltar some of the British officers asked the privilege of inspection. When they had finished they told the American officers that Great Britain, with all her experience in water transportation of troops, had no transports to compare with those of the American government." This discovery, which is only given as a typical case of the admiration elicited all along the route, has been the subject of a good deal of flattering comment in military and naval circles in Europe. They can't understand how a government which ten months ago had not a single troop ship and no experience to go by should have outstripped all the rest of the world in one stride. There are probably one or two other things besides good gunnery and transportation that the old world will see if it keeps its eyes open.

The textile industry of Japan shows a remarkable development during the past few years. The Japanese Government in 1898 published a work giving

the volume of the home industries of Japan dealing with the manufacture of cotton, silk, wool, jute, hemp and linen, both separate and in mixture. The manufacturing of textile goods in Japan is not confined to certain localities as it is in this country, but extends by means of hand looms all over the country. The spinning wheel was formerly in general use, but during the last twenty years it has been almost displaced by spinning mills using machinery. More than 1,000,000 spindles are now thus operated, forty-seven mills in Japan producing last year an estimated yield of 650,000 bales of yarn of 400 pounds each. Japan is beginning to play an important part in the textile trade of China. The present returns show that more than 200,000 bales will be shipped to China during the current year. Only one of the spinning mills of Japan has imported machinery necessary in spinning the higher counts. The increasing demand for the higher counts of cotton yarn explains the rapidly growing demand for American cotton. It would be well for American cotton producers to note this fact, with a view to teaching a succinct number of Japanese workmen to become expert to teach others in order to extend the sale of American cotton. Many of the large class of persons formerly employed in spinning by hand are now engaged in weaving textiles on hand looms. It has recently been computed that more than 600,000 hand looms are in use in Japan and it is stated that they employ 800,000 women and 50,000 men. These hand looms are generally operated in private houses and consequently give a home character to the work.

Justice Stephen J. Field is dead after seeing the ambition of his life realized. Not many men live to see the number of years that did this unusual man, and fewer still are they who carry on such a long life of activity as did he. Born away back in 1816 when a neighbor's house in the country districts was located oftener by the smoke curling above the treetops than by any known road or way, Stephen Johnson Field spent his early life as the children of the settlements did of whom we read in Cooper. In later years he entered Williams College and in 1837 graduated. It was not long afterward before he found himself in the then territory of California, where his name is found prominent in many of the organization movements of that territory. He was among those who founded Marysville, being its first alcalde, and continued as such until the organization of the judiciary under the constitution of the State. He was elected a member of the first Legislature held after the admission of California into the Union, served on its judiciary committee, and secured the passage of laws concerning the judiciary and regulating civil and criminal procedure in all the courts of the State. He was also the author of the law that gives authority to the customs and regulations of miners in the settlement of controversies among them, thus solving a perplexing problem. In 1857 he was elected judge of the Supreme Court of California for six years. On the resignation of Chief Justice David S. Terry in September, 1859, Judge Field succeeded him, and continued in office until his appointment to the supreme bench of the United States by President Lincoln in 1863. He was a member of the electoral commission in 1877, and voted with the Democratic minority of the commission. In 1880 his name was placed in nomination for the presidency at the Cincinnati convention, and he received sixty-five votes on the first ballot. Judge Field's life was one of remarkable activity and works. It was his great ambition after seated in the Supreme Court to make the period of his term the longest yet. John Marshall had sat on the bench of the Supreme Court for thirty-four years and Field surpassed it by a few months. He retired December 1, 1897. The character of the man was of the ambitious kind. He pushed and struggled until he reached the goal he sought, which was always one he prized because of its resources of good to all. In his decisions he was careful, combining the highest sense of justice with the unerring light of the law. He was accustomed to say of the court: "It carries neither the purse nor the sword, but it possesses the power of declaring law, and in that is found the safeguard which keeps the mighty fabric of government from rushing to destruction." Tradition and custom, too, have no small influence upon him. He, in many cases, considered tradition the basis of written law, and accordingly founded decisions upon it. In the demise of Judge Field the country lost a most eminent jurist.

**Electricity and a Balking Horse.**  
A Pennsylvania gentleman owned a horse that would have been very valuable but for what seemed an ineradicable vice of balking. A friend suggested that electricity might cure him. The gentleman purchased a small storage battery, connected it by wires to the bit and crupper, and placed it in the cart to which the horse was attached. As was anticipated, the horse refused to move, and stood with all four feet braced. Then the owner touched the button connected with the battery. When the horse felt the shock he snorted, jumped, and began to move off at a lively pace. Every day for a week he was treated to the same lesson. As a result, his owner declares that the horse is completely cured of his evil ways.

The West Pennsylvania Humane Society, which investigated the gentleman's method, came to the conclusion that a small amount of electricity used in this way was more humane than a whip.

Trouble is the only thing that keeps some people from getting too gay.



## IMPERIAL TYRANNY.

One short year ago President McKinley proclaimed to the civilized world that this country would stand on the proposition that "extension of territory through conquest is criminal aggression." Since the fall of Manila this announcement of our policy has not been retracted. In practice the policy of the administration has been such as to give rise to the general opinion that there is contemplated the carrying out of measures that constitute what President McKinley clearly and truly defined "criminal aggression."

Monster mass meetings have been held for the purpose of protesting against such a policy and demanding that the President respect the promises made by himself on behalf of this nation. These meetings have had the cordial support of men of national reputation and teachers and counselors in the intellectual and moral world. They came from diverse sects and political parties, guided solely by their sense of rightness, liberty and patriotism. Largely attended counter demonstrations have been held, and the demand there made that President McKinley shall continue to ignore the solemn pledges by him made, and urging him to relentlessly wage a war of "criminal aggression."

The supporters of these meetings find their enthusiasm fed by the sordid cry of "Commerce follows the flag." Impartial onlookers assert that the attendants at these meetings are largely of the kind who follow the flag at a safe distance.

Our form of government, our traditions, our widespread innate love of liberty, our oft-expressed belief in the inherent rights of man are all opposed to "imperialism." When President McKinley publicly disavowed for this nation any intention of pursuing an "imperial" policy it was supposed by all patriotic Americans that such disavowal was solely for the enlightenment of foreign nations. It is humiliating to every right-minded American to find that a faint suggestion of possible commercial benefits has secured a following for imperialism, and that these followers are willing to see the standard of imperialism planted on the ruins of American honor.

The hypocritical cant which frames excuses for "criminal aggression" deceives no one. The general issue cannot be evaded. It is clear-cut and well defined. If President McKinley means anything less than imperialism it is quite easy for him to make his meaning known. He may rest assured that a distinct avowal of a just policy, followed by such active measures as would evince his sincerity of purpose, would at once silence adverse criticism and attract enthusiastic support. He may rest equally well assured that day by day and step by step the noblest men and purest patriots of this country will resolutely oppose the tendency toward imperial tyranny.—Chicago Democrat.

**British Gold.**  
In every Presidential election up to that of 1896 Republican platforms, newspaper organs and stump shouters charged that the opposition was backed up by British gold. To-day the term "British gold" is never seen in the columns of any Republican organ, and a sub-editor who should be so foolish or unfortunate as to insert in a Republican paper an editorial similar to those that were in fashion in 1892 would lose his job instantly. Everybody now knows that British gold (which is the property of British usurers, the common people of that country never seeing any yellow money) is to-day a firm supporter of the Republican party.

Can any Republican deny it? Can anybody name any British banker, financier or moneyed man who would rejoice to see William J. Bryan elected? On the contrary, are not the hoarders of British gold interested, peculiarly, in the continuance of "the existing gold standard," and would they not, therefore, be willing to contribute to a fund designed to pay the cost of defeating the free silver party in America? British gold will unquestionably be spent for the Republican ticket next year. And if we allow our elections to be thus bought we shall be selling ourselves into slavery to Lombard street.

How many American citizens are ready to stand up and avow that they vote the ticket dictated and supported by British gold?

**Long and Expensive Job.**  
It required thirty-five years of constant summer and winter campaigning to "pacify" tribes numbering 300,000 and capable of putting, at the most, 10,000 armed braves into the field. If it was a job of a third of a century to overcome our mere squad of nomadic Indians, how long will we be subduing to our will the Tagalos, Visayans and other tribes, numbering 8,000,000? We submit the problem to the expansionists and ask for an answer.

**Nobody to Blame.**  
Like the venerable Cincinnati journalist who was in the habit of placing the responsibility of any of his shortcomings upon the shoulders of his "wicked partners," General Alger, it seems, is to claim immunity from criticism on the ground that he was, after all, the subordinate of Major McKinley. And in like manner the Major, according to his friends, must be exonerated because Alger's derelictions could

not have been foreseen or guarded against. So that in point of fact nobody at all is to blame for the maladministration of the War Department. The Hon. Hazen S. Pingree, for instance, who is a bosom friend of Gen. Alger, demands to know why the Secretary of War should be blamed for McKinley's bad administration, and Mr. Grosvenor asks whether the President could have attended to the details of the War Department personally. It is only fair to say, however, that these recriminations come not from Messrs. Alger and McKinley, but from the partisans of those statesmen. Between the Major and his Secretary of War there subsists a deep affection, founded along in 1894, which will continue so long as Alger is in a position to aid in extricating great men from temporary financial embarrassment.—Chicago Chronicle.

**The Humorous Griggs.**  
It is the opinion of lawyers of standing that Edward Atkinson of Boston has most excellent grounds for action for slander against McKinley's Attorney General. Griggs has gone out of his way to hold a reputable citizen up to public contempt as a "traitor." The offender cannot plead official privilege, because the offensive terms were applied in newspaper interviews under conditions which would warrant legal action and were applied to a man who was eminent long years before Griggs was dragged from New Jersey to ornament the President's Cabinet.

Should Atkinson see fit to prosecute Griggs, the Jersey imperialist would find himself on the horns of a dilemma. If he should plead justification and endeavor to prove Atkinson a "traitor," the country will want to know by what right he allowed "the traitor" to go unprosecuted. It is the duty of Griggs to punish treason and sedition. That is one of the things he is in office for. Why, then, does he not prosecute Atkinson, whom he has publicly branded as a traitor? The answer is very simple. He dare not because the country has received the suggestion of his so doing with a loud guffaw.—New York News.

**Commerce and Imperialism.**  
All this talk to the effect that the possession of the Philippines will "introduce us to the Orient" is pure rubbish. No imperialist has yet undertaken to tell us how the possession of those islands will enable us to sell a dollar's worth more to "the Orient" than we could sell without them. Even Mr. Frye is constrained to admit that we need nothing more than coaling and naval stations for the purpose of protecting our commerce. We can sell to the people of "the Orient" if we offer them the things they want on terms as satisfactory to them as they can make with other vendors; otherwise we cannot. It is not a matter of owning territory or making a great display of military or naval force. It is simply a matter of supplying things wanted on satisfactory terms. We have abundant proof of this in the fact that Europe takes more than three-fourths of all we sell, although we do not own an acre of ground in Europe or "fronting" Europe.—Chicago Chronicle.

**Impudence of the Lumber Lords.**  
Late advices from Washington indicate that the lumber lords are entreating the administration to retaliatory action by exercising the option conferred in the Dingley act and doubling the tariff on lumber. This is positively the most impudent protectionist proposal which has ever been seriously urged. Not content with doing all in their power to frustrate the effort of the joint high commission to settle all matters in controversy between the United States and Canada, these voracious monopolists now seek to add to the difficulties of the situation and to foment new causes of disagreement when every consideration of the public welfare demands an amicable adjustment.—Philadelphia Record.

**Poorest Way to Get a Market.**  
The customs receipts at Havana during April amounted to \$860,000; and for the fiscal year they will close to \$10,000,000. This reflects a very promising activity in trade thereabouts. It would be interesting to contrast these figures with the Manila customs collections. Facts as to the latter are wanting, but the internal revenue collections at Manila since the American occupation began amount to hardly \$175,000. The utter demoralization of trade and industry there is strikingly shown by such figures. Our war of subjugation to get a market is destroying whatever market there was for us.—Springfield Republican.

**Imperial Brawls to Be Avoided.**  
It will be an evil day for the republic when we come to regard ourselves as so much of a "world power" that we are ready to join the brawls and wars of the old world nations. England is quite ready to see us become just that sort of a "power," available for use in the extraction of her embroiled chestnuts. We must beware lest Uncle Sam lose that sagacity which has been regarded as his distinguishing characteristic.—Springfield, Mass., Republican.

**Letting Alger Down Easy.**  
Secretary Alger has at last admitted the truth of the report that he is an active candidate for United States Senatorial honors to succeed Senator McMillan, who declines renomination. We are not in the Major's confidence, but it

seems as if a sufficient explanation for the chief executive's noticeable elation of spirits has been furnished. In looking about for a soft cushion on which to fall the War Secretary has selected one of billowy luxuriance and the only remaining problem to be solved is the pliability of the Michigan Legislature to be elected a year hence.—Chicago Chronicle.

**"Censoring" the Mails.**  
The Atkinson incident is only one of the many incongruities arising out of the anomalous position of the United States in the Philippines. The Government, in this case, finds that it cannot admit copies of its own documents into the country which it has subdued. It is a matter of regret that the Government should be forced to such measures to sustain the President's policy, and it is apparent that some of President McKinley's earlier utterances regarding "criminal aggression" would be excluded from the Manila mail under this order of the Postmaster General.—Boston Post.

**If We Are Lying.**  
The lawyers are forcing a very nice question to the front in Cuba. American lawyers insist that they have the right to practice there because the island is a part of the United States. The Cuban lawyers insist that they have not unless they are admitted to the bar under Cuban rules. If we are merely standing guard over Cuba until she is "pacified" it is evident that Cuba is not a part of the United States. But if we are lying, and mean to hang on to Cuba and use our troops to secure a vote for annexation, which is quite probable, the lawyers might as well go to practicing.—Indianapolis Sentinel.

**All on Account of Jones.**  
This is the problem by the side of which all others confronting the Buckeye Republicans pale into insignificance. To Jones, or not to Jones; As compared with Jones, Sherman's return to Ohio politics is of no importance; the Hanna-Bushnell-Foraker feuds are mere side-shows; even Caxie Old Boy, the Cincinnati boss, and the turned-down McKisson, of Cleveland, are mere ciphers. There are all sorts of trouble at hand for the Ohio Republicans, and all on account of Jones.—Atlanta Constitution.

**Why Hanna Favors Quay.**  
"Of course I am for Quay. Why shouldn't I be?" remarked Senator Hanna to an interviewer. Hanna's point is well taken. In the nature of things birds of a feather will flock together. Quay, as chairman of the National Republican Committee, raised a tremendous corruption fund and elected a President. Hanna, occupying a similar position, squeezed millions from the trusts, debauched the voters in a dozen States and put McKinley in the White House.—New York Journal.

**Democrats Do Their Own Thinking.**  
Republican organs have great sport pointing to the diversity of opinion in Democratic circles, forgetful of the fact that diversity of opinion among Democrats is an indication that Democrats do their own thinking. There would be no diversity of opinion among Democrats if Democrats followed the example of Republicans by allowing one or two leaders to do all their thinking for them.—Omaha World-Herald.

**Administration Talk of Treason.**  
The weakness of the administration is made very clear by the silly Cabinet talk of "treason." With the best minds in the Republican party enlisted against "criminal aggression" disguised as "benevolent assimilation," this Cabinet jabber is highly absurd. The most active "traitors" are distinguished members of the President's own party.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

**Danger in Upsetting a Precedent.**  
We much doubt whether Mr. Quay will succeed in overthrowing the precedent long established by the Senate. It is a dangerous matter for the Republican party to drift from well-established principles, no matter who the person is in whose behalf the matter is urged. In years to come these things return to plague the inventors.—Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.

**Merely a Move for Effect.**  
If there were really any expectation that Mr. Quay would get a seat in the Senate, contrary to the provisions of the Constitution of the United States and of all precedent, there would have been no such haste to make the appointment. The appointment was not made with any such expectation, however. It is only intended for political effect.—Philadelphia Press.

**The Two Republican Factions.**  
There are two elements in the Republican party, just as there are in the country at large. One represents Hanna, Alger, Eagan, Carter and carrion meat and the other represents the partisans who are for expansion, the honor of the flag and the punishment of the poisoners of soldiers. The latter class is rather out of place in the Republican party, but it exists.—Washington Times.

**And There Are More Coming.**  
When the prediction was made that nothing short of an earthquake would prevent McKinley's re-election next year, it was not thought there would be such a prompt response. Indiana and Kentucky had earthquakes the very next day.—Butte Miner.

**He Is Getting Used to It.**  
Funny that President McKinley should consider it necessary to go to Hot Springs, Virginia, after being in hot water so long at Washington.—Manchester Union.

**Understand One Another.**  
The trusts will not care so long as the G. O. P. confines itself to platform denunciations of trusts.—Omaha World-Herald.



**India and the Money Question.**  
The balance of trade in favor of the United States, as against India, and the apparent determination of the British Government to impose the gold standard of India, has brought to the front once more the question of bi-metalism—that is to say, the silver question. What is now feared in London by the banking and financial classes is a drain of gold from the banks of Great Britain to the United States and to India. A correspondent of the London Financial News points out that, in spite of the enormous increase in the production of gold during recent years, the available gold in sight in England is no larger to-day than it was twenty years ago. Another correspondent—Mr. Frevon—notes that three-quarters of a million of sovereigns from Australia were received at Bombay a few weeks ago, this consignment of gold being one of the results of the determination of the Government to establish the gold standard in India.

Just at present this subject seems to have small interest for the people of this country, but events may combine to make the results of the Indian experiment exceedingly interesting. If not positively thrilling. At present the natives of India prefer silver to gold, and have preferred it since time began; but they are not averse to gold. They are keen to hoard it, as they do silver—or as they did before silver lost half its value as the result of demonetization—and it will be no very difficult task to wean them from silver and give them a fresh thirst for gold. But in order to establish the gold standard in India the Government there must have a gold reserve, and it must pay out that reserve on demand.

Some British writers contend that the gold standard will draw into circulation the hoards of gold that are known to exist in India. Such a contention is easily established on paper. It was contended that the artificial value given to the rupee would draw out the gold hoards; but it has not had, and is not likely to have, that effect. That is why the London bankers are opposed to the gold standard in India. From 1848 to 1877 India's balance of trade absorbed more than \$2,500,000,000 of gold—a sum in excess of all the gold which was taken during those years from the mines of California and Australia combined. So far as known, not an ounce of this gold ever got back into the channels of trade. It went to India and disappeared.

When the appetite of the Indian is made to hone for gold alone the hoards that will come out of hiding will be the depreciated rupees, and their place will be taken by gold coins or bars. When the drain of gold to India once fairly sets in our own reserves will begin to feel the effect of it, and so will those of England. The drain of gold from London to this country can be controlled by the discount rate of the Bank of England. It can be stopped, or the gold itself can be recalled by the manipulation of that rate, but nothing can recall gold that goes to India. Once in that mysterious land it disappears from the channels of trade.

**Gold Export.**  
We must sell our products low enough to induce other countries to either send gold here or allow us to keep what we have. Hence the gold standard and low prices are absolutely inseparable. If we put prices low enough, we can keep the gold; otherwise it is impossible. Of course, it will not and cannot be going out all of the time. When we let our prices fall sufficiently to undersell other countries, gold exports will be checked for awhile, until they, in turn, have adjusted themselves to the lower price level, and then they will begin again.

It is the fact that the movements are thus irregular and spasmodic, that enables the gold speculators to deceive so many honest men as to the true cause. The simple truth is that the great commercial nations are trying to do their business on a gold basis, when there is not enough gold for the purpose, without a continual lowering of prices.

**Rise in Prices.**  
We have seen that free silver would raise prices, but this would not go so far as to work any injustice to creditors generally. The tremendous demand for silver created by a country that equals in productive energy England, Germany and France combined would enhance its exchange power over product greatly and thereby lower the price level of silver lands. Prices would rise, however, till the owners of silver bullion could buy no more here with it than in other silver lands. Then when their general price level and ours met, the tendency of silver prices, whether up or down, would depend on the amount of it that would come to the world's mints. Doubtless we would even then have to use vast quantities of paper to keep prices stable.

Wood has had an important influence on the papermaking industry. Young saplings, which before were not worth cutting down for fuel, can now be converted into pasteboard. A tree was cut down in Galveston, Tex., at 10 o'clock in the morning and converted first into pulp and then into paper, by 6 o'clock in the evening. At 6 o'clock the next morning it was being distributed as a daily paper. Car and tram wheels have been made of wood-pulp and it is taking the place for roofing of corrugated iron, tiles and slates. Even the "patent" leather boot is sometimes not patent leather at all, but woodpulp in a high state of compression.