TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

Who will want to keep on trying to be a millionaire after what Marie Corelli has said?

In order to be familiar with Chinese one must know "40,000 characters;" just like a successful politician.

The Romanoffs have dodged too many bombs to permit a member to introduce a Pistolkoff into the family.

The royal gamekeeper has published the Kaiser's hunting record during thirty years. It's your turn, Mr. Cortelyou.

Professor Triggs' institutions for the suppression of "budding authors' first attempts" will have the support of a suffering public.

London is said to have wearied of American methods in the underground tube fight. One does not feel disposed to blame London.

"Great poetry," says Laureate Austin, "is the surest antidote to the prevailing virus of materialism. The materialistic propaganda evidently has a clear track.

"Great fortunes are misfortunes," declares Uncle Russell Sage. They are misfortunes which nobody is in any hurry to be rid of, however, Uncle Russell least of all.

It is again asserted that King Leopold of Belgium will attend the St. Louis fair. If he brings his record with him there is likely to be a sharp advance in the price of chloride of lime.

An automobilist who ran over some pedestrians "expressed surprise" when he was sentenced to six months in jail instead of being fined $25 or $50. A few more similar surprise parties are urgently needed.

The world's greatest thinkers have solved many problems, but they still have to figure out whether college hazing is a training for football or whether football is a preparative for hazing. It is the old question respecting the priority of the egg or the chicken over again.

It is a very serious indictment of the sex to charge that women are mainly responsible for the slaughter of birds of plumage in this country, but there is, we regret to say, ample proof to sustain it. When a fashion requires such sacrifices for its gratification as this folly of bird ornamentation does it is time for the law to step in and enforce a reform which kindness and good taste should be able to accomplish.

The estimable woman who complains that her husband has pulled her out of bed by the hair three times a week "in addition to Sundays and holidays" is entitled to a court hearing. Certainly three times a week would be enough for an ordinary man, and when the husband took to encroaching on holidays and the Lord's day he showed a lamentable lack of consideration. We think the holiday attention was the straw that broke the poor camel's back, and the woman has a good case in law. Three times a week should have satisfied the most devoted hair-puller, but some men never seem to know when to let good enough alone.

When you are with the scientists do as the scientists do, namely, repress ordinary emotions, if you are making a discovery or confirming a known fact. The experience may not always be agreeable. Witness the plight of a guest at a dinner given by a child-study specialist, whose note-book is always ready for use. Dissatisfied with a hot, buttered biscuit, a young child threw the despised article across the table, and hit the visitor. The father and mother took no notice of the incident, and, naturally, the guest imitated their example. A second biscuit followed, and the guest was struck on the chin. He was about to make a remark, but the mother warned him to be quiet. "Sh-h-!" she exclaimed. "The professor is observing him."

Just as the rejoicing over the going out of the long skirt is at its height comes the melancholy intelligence that the high heel is coming in. Of course this means that women will go about with their bodies tilted forward and their minds, in the opinion of many, tilted backward. There are fashions that excite smiles and some that provoke derision, but it is more in sorrow than in smiles that one criticises the high heel. For if report be true this instrument of fashion's torture brings many physical woes in its wake and makes weak eyes and sprained ankles commonplaces in woman's existence. It has always been associated with the wasp waist, and everybody knows that it is in the category of the incompetent that the wasp waisted, high heeled woman must be placed. Of course there are many women who will always cling to common sense heels and ideals in spite of fashion's unwholesome advice, and it is much to be hoped that the high heels will be adopted only by women who tread the primrose paths which do not require pedestrians to be sensibly shod.

The advance sheets of "Poor's Manual" for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1902, present a statement of the growth of railroads in this country which is almost incredible. The mileage of roads increased by 4,453 miles, the total now being 198,000, of which about 195,000 miles are in operation. The gross earnings were $1,612,448,826 and operating expenses $1,092,154,099. The net earnings, including miscellaneous receipts, were over $588,000,000. The roads have 39,629 engines, 27,144 passenger cars, 8,677 mail and express cars, and 1,409,472 freight cars, as compared with 31,889 engines, 14,934 pasenger cars, and 730435 freight cars in 1892, and yet the locomotive works are behind on orders and car works cannot turn out freight cars fast enough to take care of business. The total amount of stock, bonds and unfunded debt is $12,326,491,526. The average interest for the year was 4.21 and the average dividend 2.62. There is no surer proof of the national prosperity than that contained in these remarkable figures. There has been a great increase in rolling stock during the year, but the railroads have not enough to transport promptly the freight offered to them.

Not since the days when, in the language of Pitt, Bonaparte was making every map of Europe obsolete before the ink was dry upon it, having the cartographers been so busy as they have been in the past few years. As a result of the Spanish-American war of 1898 Spain lost all her territory on the American continent, and the biggest part of that in the neighborhood of Asia, while, as a consequence of this loss, she sold most of the rest of it to Germany soon afterward. The Samoan group was divided up between the United States, England and Germany around the same time, and then a new deal was made between the two latter countries. As a result of the Boer war of 1899-1902 the republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State have become British territory. And now it is understood that Portugal has sold her provinces in East Africa, and that they have been divided between England and Germany, each getting the section nearest its own previous territory. In this way England secures possession of the Delagoa Bay district, with the fine harbor at that point, which she needs now that she has become the proprietor of the two little Boer states. Germany, which began its colonial ventures only a little over a score of years ago, has a new addition to its already large colonial area, while England has added to her holdings in the southern part of Africa, and has narrowed the gap on the east coast of that continent between British East Africa and the northern line of England's territory, which will now be at the Zambesi. Over all the territory between the Transvaal and Matebeleland and the coast the British flag now goes up. Not only has the whole of the Dark Continent been parceled out between European countries, but it is practically all subject, in patches, to the great nations of England, France, Germany and Italy, except the neutral Congo Free State, which is under the sovereignty of Belgium's King. Spain has very little of it, Portugal has virtually retired from Africa, and Turkey, which has lost Egypt—for England will never give it up—has only a small patch of it which she can call her own. Most of the parcelling of Africa has been done in the past twenty years, and practically all of it has been accomplished peaceably. In an earlier age, even in the first half of the nineteenth century, this dividing up of a continent would have brought wars which would have involved many nations and have cost tens of thousands of lives. Great advances have been made in the manners and morals of the larger countries since the days when the rivalries of France, Spain and England on the American continent precipitated conflicts which shook the world.

Simple Methods.

The young ladies of a fashionable school were one day told that they must review a course in arithmetic. "I don't see any sense in it," said one haughty maiden. "I don't know how to subtract, and I don't know how to multiply, but I probably never shall need to."

"Then you can't even buy a yard of ribbon and be sure you have the correct change," said the teacher.

"Yes, indeed!" was the reply. "I always know how to manage that. I give the clerk a large bill, and he gives me something back."

A similar simplicity of method is noted by the New York Evening Post in an answer from an examination paper.

The candidate had applied for an appointment as patrolman, and was asked, "If you were in the vicinity of the general postoffice, and wished to go to the Zoological Garden in the Bronx, how would you set about making the trip?"

"I should ask a policeman," was the answer, written apparently in good faith.

Sound Reasoning.

It has been said of the Southern darky that he has not always a clear idea as to property rights, but on some points it appears that he is not in the least hazy.

An old colored man in the days "befo' de wah" was given one of his master's cast-off hats, which he wore with great pride. One Sunday his master met him coming home from a camp-meeting in a pouring rain, bareheaded and holding his hat under his coat. Later on the master questioned him jocosely:

"Why didn't you wear your hat, Jerry? Did you feel the need of cooling your head?"

"You see it's like dis, sah," responded Jerry. "My head is yours, but my hat is mine, and nachelly I feels like taking care ob it, sah."

MOB HANGS A NEGRO.

Pittsburg, Kas., Miners Have a Christmas Lynching—Victim Killed an Officer.

Pittsburg, Kas., Dec. 26.—Montgomery Godley, a colored man, was taken from the jail here and lynched by a mob. He had shot and killed Milton Hinkle, a policeman, while the latter was trying to protect himself against a crowd of unruly negroes.

At a dance held by a number of negroes from the mining camps in this vicinity "Mont" Godley and his brother started a row. Officer Hinkle interfered, and when other negroes set upon him blew his whistle for help. Before other officers could reach the scene Hinkle was compelled to use his club for protection. Mont Godle grasped the officer's revolver from its sheath beneath his coat and shot Hinklee through the head from behind.

Just at this time other officers arrived and the negroes fled in all directions. Godley, however, was captured and identified by eye witnesses.

A large crowd of whites gathered after daybreak and battered in the doors of the jail. Godley was taken out and as soon as a rope was procured, was strung up to a telephone pole.

The rope broke and as the negro fell to the ground some one in the crowd cut his throat, severing the jugular vein.

The body was again hoisted and left hanging for several hours.

Kansas City Tragedy.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 26.—William P. Hollenbeck, while in a fit of rage caused by domestic troubles, shot his wife three time as she lay in bed ill, and after an ineffectual attempt upon the life of his seventeen-year-old step-daughter, shot and killed himself. The wife is seriously wounded.

Hollenbeck and his wife had quarreled repeatedly of late, and recently separated by mutual agreement. He was to have been tried in police court tomorrow on the charge of mistreating her and he tried today to effect a reconciliation.

Failing in this he locked the doors of the apartment and with the remark, "Here's a Christmas present for you," shot his wife. The desperate man then turned the weapon upon his step-daughter, who managed to unlock a door and escape. Hollenbeck then sent a bullet into his own heart.

Sioux City, Ia., Dec. 26.—At Alvona, Ia., this afternoon, Harry Adams killed his wife with a shotgun, and then blew his own brains out. The couple had been quarreling for six months, and at one time she ran away with another man, but afterwards returned to Adams She leaves two young children.

Eugene, Ore., Dec. 26.—George Carter shot and killed his wife and then killed himself today Jealousy was probably the cause, as the couple have been quarreling recently and separated yesterday.

Four Burned to Death.

Malone, N. Y., Dec. 2 .—Four persons were burned to death today in the house of Julius King of Piercefield, a prominent pulp and paper manufacturing town in the Adrondacks. The fire had gained such headway before it was discovered that Mrs. M. J. McGovern, King's eldest daughter, and her three children, who were sleeping on the lower floor, were not able to get out, and all were burned to death.

One of the children, whose body was found close to a window, evidently had made efforts to escape.

King and his wife, with a few boarders on an upper floor, escaped by jumping out of the windows. One man was seriously burned.

Boy Stops Desperado.

Hot Springs, Ark., Dec. 26.—Chief of Detective Jack Nonohue was shot and killed on the street by Frank Dougherty, a race track follower, here today. Dougherty, it is claimed, had struck a woman with an axe and as Donohue came up and attemtped to arrest him, Dougherty shot the detective over the eye, killing him instantly. He then started to run up the street, when a boy sixteen years of age, who was in a baggy got out a shotgun and shot Dougherty in the face and breast. Dougherty then fired a shot into his own head. The doctors say he cannot live.

Young Man Ends His Life.

San Francisco, Dec 26.—Nathaniel Whipple, the son of Colonel Whipple, U. S. A., who is at present chief paymaster in the Philippines, and as stationed at Manila, ended his life by shooting through the heart in his rooms this morning.

Say Cattle are Starving.

Denver, Colo., Dec 26.—Thousands of cattle are reported to be starving on the range in northwestern Colorado. The humane society appealed to the owners to rescue their stock and they have replied that they are powerless to do so. The cattle are snowed in on the high range in Routt and Rio Blanco counties without pasture and without water. It is impossible to feed them and equally impossible to drive them into suitable winter quarters.

REUNITED AGAIN

ROMANCE CULMINATES AT PLATTSMOUTH ON DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

FATHER FINDS DAUGHTER

MOTHER DIES WHEN GIRL IS SIX MONTHS OLD AND FATHER SEES HER NO MORE.

EARTHQUAKES START TRAIN

Rolling Stock Travels When Ground Heaves Under Them—Killed by Heavy Timber

Plattsmouth, Neb., Dec. 27.—There is connected with the life of Mrs. Agnes Liebershal, formerly Miss Agnes Backus of this city, a story which reads like fiction.

Mrs. Liebershal's mother died six months after the former was born, and her father, R. G. Backus, after placing his child in the keeping of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis McCarthy of this city, drifted out into the world to seek his fortune, and not from that day until recently did he hear anything directly from his daughter.

Then he received a letter from her addressed to Cincinnati, O. He immediately answered it, expressing his great pleasure at hearing from her and stating that he had written many letters to relatives and others in Plattsmouth inquiring about her, but for some unkwown cause these letters were unanswered and he had been kept in ignorance as to whether or not the child was still alive.

Mr. Backus arrived the day before Christmas and is spending the holidays with his daughter. He is a representative of the Cincinnati Times-Star and from general appearances is a very happy man. His daughter was married about six months ago to Antone Liebershal, a cigarmaker in Pepperberg's factory.

Lynched the Wrong Man.

Kansas City, Dec 27.—It is reported that Joe Godley, a brother of Montgomery Godley, who was lynched by a mob here yesterday morning, is wounded and in hiding at Weir City, Kas., and later investigation of the trouble between Officer Hinkle and the Godley brother tends to show that Joe and not the man who was lynched fired the shot which killed the policeman.

Two other brothers, Gus and Jess, are in jail at Girard, charged with being implicated in the murder. Joe escaped. The mother of the Godley boys is said to have asked a physician here to treat Joe for a gunshot wound in the neck. She would not tell the whereabouts of her son, and the doctor refused to go with her. The officer's revolver with which he was killed has not been found and it is believed that the man who did the killing has the pistol in his possession.

Prospector is Found Dead.

Silver Cliff, Colo., Dec. 27.—Joseph Harlton, and old prospector, missing for the last three weeks, has been found dead within 300 yards of his cabin.

The body was frozen stiff and gnawed and eaten by the coyotes and magpies beyond recognition, and was identified only by his clothing.

Earthquakes Start Trains.

St. Petersburg, Dec.—According to the latest advices from Andijan, Russian Central Asia, earthquake shocks are continuing there. There are four or five siesmic disturbances daily, a particularly violent series of shocks occurring during the night of December 22 and the following morning, which set all the rolling stock of the railway in motion. Traffic is still suspended on the railroad and military authorities are taking over control of the line for some distance from Andijan. The damage so far has reached many million dollars.

Desperate Effort to Escape.

Panama, Dec. 27.—Victoriano Lorenzo, the Indian leader, who fought with the revolutionists made a sensational attempt to escape from confinement on board the Colombian cruiser Bogota yesterday. He was captured, however, and returned to the ship. Lorenzo was a most persistent guerilla during the revolution. When General Herrera surrendered Lorenzo and his followers refused to give up their arms, but were compelled by force to do so just as they were about to escape to the mountains. He was taken on board the Bogota last November.

Makes Dash For Liberty.

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 27.—A man named Paul Ford was arrested at the Grand opera house Tuesday night during a performance at the instance of Captain Smith of the United States army, who is stationed at Fort Sam Houston. Ford was charged with having secured $50 from Smith several months ago on a worthless check. He was placed in the city jail and yesterday morning turned over to the sheriff.

SHIPS SINK IN COLLISION

Coal-laden Schooners go Down in Massachusetts Bay—Ten Sailors Drowned.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 23.—The Manahasset arrived at 2:30 o'clock this morning with ten of the survivors of the crew of the schooners Frank A. Palmer and Louise B. Crary, which were in collision in Massachusetts bay on Wednesday. Ten men of both vessels were drowned in the collision, the balance, fifteen, taking to one boat. Three subsequently went insane and jumped overboard, two died from exposure and two went insane after getting ashore. Both captains were saved.

The Louise B. Crary was a five masted schooner. They were both coal laden, bound for Boston. At 8 o clock a. m. yesterday when the Manahassett was forty-five miles off Highland light, the lookout sighted a small boat with men who were making signals of distress. The Manahassett changed her course and bore down on the craft, which proved to be the boat which had been launched from the Crary. Only ten of the men aboard were alive and they were almost helpless as a result of their exposure to the rigorous weather. Saturday night one man became crazed by his sufferings and shouting at the top of his voice that the police were after him, he jumped overboard and disappeared. Four other members of the little boat's company died from exhaustion and the exposure to which they had been subjected.

All the survivors were frost bitten and some of them will probably have to have their feet and hands amputated.

The Manahassett came into the harbor early this morning showing signals for assistance and by the time she arrived at the wharf ambulances were ready to convey the sailors to a hospital. Only six of the men could be removed however. The other four were in such condition that it was deemed impossible they could survive being taken from the vessel.

Two of the men on the Manahassett are Captain W. H. Potter of the Crary and Captain Rawling of the Palmer. The other two men are sailors, both of whom are raving maniacs.

The men taken to the hospital were not only in a critical condition physically, but they were in such a mental plight that nothing could be learned from them as to their experience. Little by little, however, the crew of the Manahassett had learned something of the hardships of the shipwrecked men.

It appears that the collision occurred at 7:30 last Wednesday night off Cape Ann. The night was clear, but a stiff gale was blowing and the sea was running high. The members of the Palmer's crew claimed that the Crary was on the wrong track and in attempting to cross the Palmer's bow, hit her on the bow, cutting her nose square off and entangling both vessels in the wreck. The anchor and bowsprit of the Palmer sank away from the wreck, while the anchor of the Crary was entangled in the rigging of the Palmer and broke off the foremast. The vessel began to fill and sank in a few minutes.

The Palmer's men managed to lower a boat. There was no time to procure provisions or additional clothing. As the men cleared the wreck they saw the Crary's men in the same plight as they had been and made room for as many as could reach the boat. Fifteen souls were in the small craft when it finally pulled away, both captains being among those who thus escaped. A short time after the boat left both schooners went down. Six men perished when the vessels sank. For the survivors a battle which lasted three days and four nights had begun. One-third of the number succumbed in the fight and of those who finally reached shore none was able to relate what they had escaped.

The Crary was a comparatively new vessel She was built at Bath, Me., in 1900, and was one of the finest five-masters on the coast. Her cargo consisted of 3,702 tons of bituminous coal, consigned to this port The vessel was only partially insured, but her cargo was fully covered.

The Frank A. Palmer was the largest four masted schooner ever constructed. She was built at Bath in 1897 and was sold to J. S. Winslow & Co. of Portland, Me She sailed from Newport News on December 4, with 4,700 tons of coal for Boston.

Of the twenty-five men carried by both vessels, ten comprised the crew of the Palmer and eleven that of the Crary.

Captain Potter revived later in the day and was removed to a hospital. He said that the Crary was to blame for the collision, Mate Smith having disobeyed orders in not reporting the nearness of the Palmer.

Demands For an Increase.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec 23.—Contrary to first reports, the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific roads are among the railroads that have been asked to grant increased wages to their trainmen, the demands of the men having been served upon the officials of the companies late Saturday. It is understood here that all of the roads that have been asked to make increases will act jointly upon the request.

Nebraska Notes

Frank T. Hill a brakeman on the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley railway, was severely injured by having a large coal bucket dropping upon his foot. The amputation of his foot will be necessary.

For the second time within six months Beatrice has been visited by a disastrous fire, entailing an actual loss of nearly $100,000 besides the destruction of thousands of papers and documents, the loss of which is irreparable.

The report of State Librarian Erdman shows that the Omaha public library contains a total of 7,249 volumes, of which 4,701 are bound. This is an increase of 3,271 bound volumes during the past two years. The Omaha public library is now the largest west of the Mississippi river.

A search is being made here for John Gotte, of Kimball, a prominent ranchman, who is believed to have perished in the recent storm. Gotte left his ranch and his riderless horse returned two days later. A searching party was organized immediately, but no trace of the ranchman has yet been found.

The house of Ferdinand Albright, of David City, burned to the ground. The fire originated from a defective flue. Mr. Albright in the attempt to extinguish the flames, fell off the roof severely injuring his back and sustaining a sprained ankle. The household goods were saved· loss $400, with no insurance.

Ainsworth has furnished a remarkable weddings the past few days. Last week occurred the marriage of Levi Linquist and Miss Grace Hagerman, two of Brown county's young people. The groom weighs a little over one hundred pounds while the bride weighs three hundred and twenty pounds.

The Congregatioanl club of Crete observed Forefathers' day December 23. with a banquet at the Streeter house. Dr. Tuttle of Lincoln, gave the address of the evening, a brilliant and forceful plea for a return to the ideals of the Pilgrim forefathers on the part of their children of today.

E. D. Tibbets of Nebraska City has recieved notice that by the death of an aunt he and his two brothers and a sister have fallen heir to $100,000. The brothers are painters and have been residents of Nebraska City all of their lives. The property is located in California and one of them will leave in a few days to look after the same.

The little 2-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nicholson, residing a few miles east of Calloway, fell head first into a boiler of boiling water while her mother was washing, scalding her arms, hands and face in a horrible manner. Medical aid was summoned, but the little one was past all help, and died in terrible agony a few hours later.

In his report to the governor Adjutant General Colby will make a number of recommendations concerning the national guard. One of them will be to have the hospital corps organized separately from the regiments, in order to encourage medical students and young doctors to enter. Another is for the creation of the position of quartermaster, the incumbent to have the rank of captain and to be responsible for all guard stores. In addition he wants an assistant Adjutant general on account of the increasing importance of military affairs in the state.

A Russian tenor at Warsaw has insured his voice for 25,000 rubles.

William Bunnell, who was accidentaly shot by his gun slipping through the slats in the bottom of a road cart, is not expected to recover. Bunnell lives twelve miles southwest of Stockville. He and Charles Sullivan were out hunting. His shot gun slipped through the bottom of the road cart and the hammer caught, exploding the charge.

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