

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

A flat-footed refusal is not well bred. Nothing betokens breeding like the arched instep.

One good thing about the flying machine is that the tramp will not have a chance to ride on the trucks.

It may be that might makes right in this wicked world, but sometimes it comes pretty near bungling the job.

If it cost money to be a philosopher, the possessors of philosophy would have to adopt rules and establish a waiting list.

This is a world in which many idle people spend their time burying the hatchet and shaking hands across the bloody chasm.

It is a wonder the people of Denmark have never risen in their wrath and thrown vegetables and things at the stage Dane.

Russell Sage has retired from active business, but will continue to cut a few coupons now and then for the sake of the exercise.

The man who carries his salary right home to his wife is generally a good citizen, but he seldom attracts attention with his fine clothes.

It is reported that the Empress Dowager of China is becoming liberal in her ideas. She must have become convinced that there is a good deal of money on the liberal side.

When a man reckons up how much it costs him to live he figures on how much is left for clothes; when a woman has figured up what her clothes cost she estimates what is left to live on.

In prosperous times like this it is foolish for men to spend all that they make, and to spend more than one makes and go into debt is reckless. This is the harvest time and every man who makes a living salary should put aside a part of his earnings for the inevitable rainy day.

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Vanderbilt assumed the names of "Mr. and Mrs. Bone" when they reached Boston, so that they might be able to go about incognito. Well, they have the bones all right, but they might have observed the fitness of things a little better by registering as "Mr. and Mrs. Rocks."

Although there is a large number of strikes on hand it is an interesting fact that there is a long list of cases where the demands of the men have not been accompanied by strikes, and are not likely to be. The men stick to their work, and negotiations are pending between them and the employers which promise to lead to settlements without idleness.

Plans are already under way for the new office building for members of the House of Representatives which Congress authorized at the last session. Heretofore only the chairman of committees have had a private room at the Capitol, where they could receive constituents or other callers. Other members have to hold their conferences in the doorways, corridors and lobbies. This is an inconvenient and undignified way of doing public business.

Those who are interested in the ingenuity of womanhood must have read with pleasure and admiration the long list of good uses to which a woman is said to put a hairpin. Without specifying them all, we may mention the stirring of batter, the sawing of cake, the cutting of pie, the whipping of cream, the regulation of a range and the cleaning of hubby's pipe. Pausing in our own expression of delight and admiration for this fertility of invention, we have only one faint hope to offer: we trust these various utilities are not accomplished by the same hairpin.

More than five hundred persons competed for the prizes lately offered by a Chicago trust company for the best thoughts on the subject of saving. The man who received the first prize wrote: "Saving produces a peace of mind unknown to him who in time of misfortune must depend on the bounty of his friends. Determine to save, for will-power is the prime essential. Deposit regularly. Lay aside some portion of each week's or month's income. Deposit extra and unexpected receipts." It is a short but sound and comprehensive sermon on thrift, and lists in a good cause two forces that sometimes fight on opposite sides: will-power and habit.

The recent sale of relics at Newgate Prison called attention to the change in the methods and appliances used in dealing with criminals. Among the things offered for sale was a set of old leg-chains and weights found in the dungeons. The weights were like rannon-balls, and the chains little smaller than chain cables, strong enough to hold a vicious elephant. Now we regard prisoners not as wild beasts, but as men who, although paying a penalty for their misdeeds are still the proper subjects of moral and religious effort. The man in the criminal is forgotten neither by the framers

of penal statutes nor by the prison superintendents. Fetters are now used only for the discipline of those who violate the prison rules. The world will never return to the theory that barbarism on the part of the State will cure a criminal instinct in the citizen.

Reginald C. Vanderbilt's description of his "occupation" in a recent official document as "gentleman" is not a happy one. Being a gentleman is not an occupation. It is the unconscious but pleasing result of good breeding, education and deportment and an always scrupulous regard for the rights of others. If Mr. Vanderbilt's designation of his occupation as "gentleman" means that he intends to content himself with living upon the millions to which he was born it would be a regrettable fact, for the wealth he has if added to an active pursuit could do much, and for him to continue inactive would be a departure from the policy upon which the fortunes of his house were built. Merely being a "gentleman" is not sufficient in these days. To play or to labor is not the personal license of the individual. Man's rights come from the performance of man's duty exclusively and to labor in some field of endeavor is a national as well as a moral duty.

Germany has a Roland for our Oliver. In the Berlin Tageblatt Count Von Reventlow answers Dewey's characterization of the German navy, in kind. Germany's first squadron, says the Count, is homogeneous and "could smash Dewey's heterogeneous assemblage, which has not a single modern armored cruiser." So? The Count says the recent American maneuvers were "generally childish" and as they "always resulted in defeat of the hostile fleets, gained great newspaper glory. 'Newspaper glory' is good. Count Reventlow refers to 'the poor marksmanship of the West Indian fleet' and to 'the low morale of the navy which is indicated by the numerous desertions,' and says 'the United States will some day have a fine fleet, but she has not one as yet.' The Count is exceedingly kind. It might be well to say to the Count that his navy really ought to go and get a reputation. On the other hand, the navy at which he sneers has traditions of unvaried success. Its John Paul Jones and Lawrences and Perrys and Farraguts were worthy predecessors of its Schleys and Deweys. Heterogeneous it may be, and low in morale; but it has never been whipped!

"To the Editor—I'm 41 years old have worked like a yellow dog for twenty-two years; have helped several men to get rich, and find myself with a family, living in a rented house with a bank account of \$500 and a job that pays enough to keep the wolf from the door and no more. What would you do if you stood in my shoes? My health is good.—Office Clerk." Don't know. No man can say with certainty what he would do standing in another man's shoes. But 41 isn't old age by a long shot. A man steering a wrong course can change it. Why don't some of these men who hold jobs that have no futures try farming? The farms are not crowded. There is a market for the things that farmers grow. There is still unlimited wealth in the soil and millions of acres of productive land to be had almost for the asking. True, the life means work and long hours and aching backs and blistered hands. It means an end to theater-going and trolley parties, and a lot of expensive gimcracks that cost money and don't amount to much. The willing man can do well on a farm.—Six years ago Robert Brown jumped out of crowded Massachusetts, with his family, his pluck and a little money, and bought eighty acres of land a mile from the village of Roscommon, Mich. He selected that place just as you might select a farm in Kansas or in the far Northwest, because it looked good to him. He worked hard. He put in more hours per day than you ever have in an office, and his nose was close to the grindstone for many months. He kept on working. To-day every foot of his farm is productive. He owns seventy head of cattle, and they are as good as a bank account. He has lived well. He figures that he has cleared \$1,000 a year, and he owes no man a dollar. He is healthy, happy and independent, and his story is given publicity by the Roscommon News as showing what one man has done, and what other men can do. "I couldn't live in a small place," says one man. Then don't complain of your lot. The city lives on the life-blood of humanity. It grinds and oppresses and stifles, and sometimes demoralizes. Some day, if we mistake not, the flood tide of this draining the farms to populate cities will have been reached, and then will come an era of saner living. To-day the independent man is not the millionaire, not the manufacturer, not the individual who is working for a weekly stipend, but the man on the farm, who grows the things that the world must have in order to live. If he owns his land and has wealth, no yoke can rest long on his shoulders. He is free, his own man, drawing the fullest benefits from his own labor.

Must Do Proper Penance.
He—But you admitted to my sister yesterday that you were in the wrong.
She—Suppose I did?
He—Well, then why won't you make up with me?
She—I will as soon as you apologize.—Philadelphia Press.

The man who thinks his wife is blind to his faults is entitled to another think.

JUDICIAL DECISIONS



To add to a canceled check the words "in full of account to date," with intent to alter its effect as a receipt, is held, in *Gordon vs. Com. (Va.)*, 57 L. R. A. 744, to constitute forgery.

An ordinance prohibiting the casting of advertisements, circulars, handbills, etc., into the vestibules of dwellings, is held, in *Philadelphia vs. Brabender (Pa.)*, 58 L. R. A. 220, to be within charter authority to make such regulations as shall be necessary for the welfare of the city.

A statute requiring a municipal corporation to refund license taxes collected for the privilege of selling intoxicating liquors outside of, but adjoining its corporate limits, which it had statutory authority to exact when they were collected, is held in *Bailey vs. Raleigh (N. C.)*, 58 L. R. A. 178, to be beyond the power of the Legislature.

An employer operating a mill with an insufficient force of workmen is held, in *Hill vs. Big Creek Lumber Company (La.)*, 58 L. R. A. 346, to be liable for an injury resulting therefrom to an employee, although the immediate cause of the injury was the negligence of a fellow servant in leaving his place of work without warning.

A railroad company drawing the cars of another company over its road is held, in *Budge vs. Morgan's L. & T. R. & S. Company (La.)*, 58 L. R. A. 333, to owe to its employee the duty to inspect such cars the same as its own and to be responsible for the consequence of such defects as would have been disclosed by ordinary inspection.

A railroad company operating a portion of its railroad bridge as a toll bridge for travelers with horses is held, in *Kentucky & I. Bridge Co.'s Receivers vs. Montgomery (Ky.)*, 57 L. R. A. 781, to be under a duty to keep a lookout for the purpose of discovering whether or not teams on the bridge have become so frightened by trains on it as to become unmanageable and dangerous.

A ship carpenter, designated by the foreman in charge of the construction of a ship to act as intermediary to transmit signals from him to those in charge of a winch operated by steam, by which cants or framing of the ship are raised to place and held until fastened, is held, in *Soufe vs. Moran Bros. Co. (Wash.)*, 58 L. R. A. 313, not to be a fellow servant of the carpenters engaged in fastening the cants in place.

A clause in a policy of fire insurance requiring the assured to keep the books and inventories of his business securely locked in a fireproof safe at night and at all times when the building is not actually open for business is held, in *Phoenix Insurance Company vs. Schwartz (Ga.)*, 57 L. R. A. 752, not to apply to a suspension of business caused by a fire raging in the vicinity and threatening the consumption of the building, the same not being actually shut up and business operations being interrupted because of the threatened danger.

She Was Master of the Situation.
A plucky young woman, a revolver, a telephone and a trio of rude young men were the participants in a stirring little drama in one of Baltimore's suburbs a few nights ago. The young woman, who is unusually small and extraordinarily pretty, is night operator in a suburban telephone exchange located in a spot that becomes extremely lonely about midnight. The young man rapped at the door. The little woman opened it and the men informed her that they wished to use the phone. She told them how much it would cost and invited them in. One of them walked into the little office and informed her that he intended to use the telephone, but did not intend to pay.

The plucky little operator said not a word, but walked to the desk, and while seeming to busy herself in getting the connection desired, gently produced a mischievous looking revolver. Leveling it at the intruders she started to inform them that if they used the phone they would pay, but she found herself talking to empty night air, for the bravadoes had disappeared.

Too Short to Be Noticeable.
"That awfully little Mr. Shorter proposed to me last night."
"Indeed!"
"Yes. He offered to go down on his knees, but I said I couldn't see that it would make any difference."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Setting Him Right.
Mr. Wabash—I hear your family went south for the winter.
Miss Backbay (precise Bostonese)—Not at all. They went south for the absence of winter peculiar to that locality.—Philadelphia Press.

If a girl wants to get rid of an undesirable suitor all she has to do is to appear on the stage of action with her hair done up in curl papers.

WATSON PERCULATES

WASHINGTON CLERK ROBS GOV. EMBEZZLEMENT HEAVILY.

SEVENTY THOUSAND

Under No Bond and Loss May Fall Entirely on His Chief, Auditor Petty of District of Columbia

Washington, June 10.—James M. Watson jr., a clerk in the office of the auditor of the district of Columbia and the son-in-law of a wealthy retired railroad contractor was arrested yesterday on a charge of embezzlement of government funds. The amount is estimated from sixty-five thousand to seventy-five thousand dollars. The warrant makes the specific charge of embezzlement of \$8,000, which represents only a portion of the alleged perculations. Watson was not bonded and in case he or his relatives, several of whom are said to be wealthy, fail to make good the alleged losses, Auditor J. T. Petty will be held responsible for the amount. The auditor's bond is for \$20,000.

The money all got to have been embezzled was part of the funds deposited in the office of the auditor by property owners who are willing to pay half or all costs of improvements abutting on their property, such as paving, sidewalks, alleys and streets. This embraces deposits by railway companies, electric light companies telephone companies, for crossing side walks, for sewers and water mains and is entirely separate from the other accounts. This account is not subject to review by the treasury department, but it is checked by the clerk in charge of the corresponding account in the district department, and he reported it correct as late as February 1902.

The depositors, it is said, have the right to recover from the district through suit. The auditor's office is under the supervision of the board of commissioners of the District of Columbia.

Flocking to St. Francis

Topeka, Kansas, June 10.—As far as known the Osborne militia company on the way to St. Francis with the men accused of the killing of Daniel Berry and his sons, have not been molested by the parties of armed settlers. The company is expected to reach St. Francis late tonight.

Armed men have been flocking into St. Francis all day, according to a dispatch received from Atwood this afternoon. The situation is critical. The settlers are greatly angered against Dewey and his son and claim to have indisputable evidence of their guilt. Even should evidence be introduced exonerating their crime whether guilty or not, the settlers in their present inflamed state of mind are seemingly determined to wreak vengeance on them anyway as the majority of the settlers recognize in the present case an opportunity to even up old scores with the cattle men.

Berlin's Plague Precautions

Berlin, June 10.—The name of the plague stricken attendant of Dr. Milan Sachs, who died from the plague Friday at the Berlin hospital, is Otto Margraf. The isolation hospital in which Margraf has been placed has been fenced in and is guarded by the police. Margraf's attending physician, Dr. Pflügmaeller is only permitted to hold telephonic communication with the outside world.

Mississippi Nearly Made New Record

St. Louis, June 10.—At the rate of from eight to ten miles an hour the Mississippi river, over half a mile wide and ninety feet deep in the channel, is pouring past St. Louis toward the gulf.

For a week the river, slowly at first, and then gaining in speed, crept out of its ordinary confines until on June 8, 1903, it had established a high water mark of 37.5 feet, the highest flood tide since the same mark was officially established in 1858. The river is now receding. Thirty feet above low water mark is the danger line for St. Louis and the river rose seven and one-half feet above the danger line.

Butte Gets County Seat

Butte Neb. June 10.—Butte was the scene of rejoicing last night over the result of the election held yesterday for the purpose of re-creating the county seat of Boyd county. Five towns contested for the honor and 2,069 votes were cast of which number, Butte received 1,078, more than twice the vote of any other place and a majority of eighty-seven over all. The result of the election was: Butte 1,078; Spencer 490; Bristow 330; Lynch 124 and Anoka, 74.

Nebraska Notes

Miss Marie Mickey gave a party Tuesday evening at the governor's mansion to fifty members of the Willard and Everett societies of Wesleyan university. A pleasant time was passed with games and other amusements.

Joseph Cline, one of the oldest and most highly respected merchants of Albion died at his home yesterday, aged seventy-one years. The deceased leaves wife and six children. He was a member of the Royal Arcanum.

Cook, a farmer living in the vicinity of Beatrice, came near being suffocated by gas while occupying a room at the Paddock hotel. The porter smelled the escaping gas and traced it to Cook's room. Cook says that he did not blow out the gas but the night clerk is of the opinion that he did.

While an extra freight was switching in the yard yesterday at Bridgeport John Hoskins, of Alliance made two attempts to mount the train while in motion and the second time fell under and was run over, the train cutting his right leg off between the knee and thigh. No surgeon being there at that time he was taken to Sidney and turned over to the county authorities.

Division Superintendent C. L. Nichols and Roadmaster C. Jepson of the Rock Island passed through Beatrice on their way from Horton to Fairbury, on a tour of inspection. While the recent flood damaged the road considerably, they find the situation better than they expected. Regular trains are running between Fairbury and Horton, Kas.

Tom Jesse Ellis and Miss Appleby, of Wymore, were united in marriage by Rev. L. G. Parke at the bride's home last evening at 5 o'clock. Red roses were the decorations and the bride wore a mode crepe voile over pink silk. An elaborate wedding supper was served after the ceremony. It was informal and only a few guests were invited. The groom has a home all furnished for the reception of his bride in this city.

The machinists' strike on the Union Pacific system, that has continued for more than eleven months, was settled yesterday at a conference between President Burt of the railroad company and representatives of the strikers, and the one thousand men who have been on strike will return to work next Monday morning. The settlement followed concessions made by both sides. Every striking machinist is to be reinstated upon his own application within sixty days. An increase of 7 per cent in wages will be given. Nine hours shall constitute a day's work. The company retains such of its present force of non-union men as it desires on equal terms with the old employees.

At the meeting of the school board held Monday evening at Crete D. B. Zook, who is soon to leave for the state of Washington, handed in his resignation as a member of the board and it was accepted. Prof. J. N. Bennet was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy. Mr. Bennet will make an excellent member on the board and is a Democrat as was the retiring member, Mr. Zook. The board has retained all the teachers who were employed in the schools last year who desired to remain. Only one vacancy occurred and that was caused by the resignation of Prof. Jones of the High school, who resigned to accept the position in his home town, Farheld, Iowa. The vacancy was filled by the election to the position of Mr. John Welch, who comes from Illinois.

The funeral of Mrs. Leopold Snider was held from the family residence, at Osceola yesterday afternoon in charge of the First Methodist Episcopal church. The remains were laid to rest in the Osceola cemetery. Mrs. Snider formerly Miss Emma Salbach, was born in Baden, Germany, in 1835 and died May 30, 1903. She was married to Leopold Snider in 1857 in Pennsylvania. Her husband died several years ago. They had lived in Osceola for eight years. Five children are left to mourn their loss, two of them living in Connecticut, one in Wyoming and the other two in this state.

Ma—Try it Too Often

The low land along the Elkhorn river northeast of Hooper is in such bad condition and the bridge so unsafe that farmers have to go round five or six miles out of their way and come in from the south. Peter Parkert and Henry Windhusen own hay land in the bottoms. They could not get to it last week and on Saturday night run out of feed for their cattle, compelling them to ship the animals to market.

FLOOD AT ST LOUIS

EVERYTHING COVERED AND WATER STILL CONTINUES TO RISE

IMPRISONED ON AN ISLAND

People in Imminent Danger and no Means of Rescuing Them—Communication Cut Off.

St. Louis June 8.—Like a mill race the swollen Mississippi is surging past St. Louis with a stage of 36.9 feet at 7 o'clock last night making a rise of one and half feet since the same hour last night. The government forecast is that the rise will continue rapid until after midnight, and then the next two days the stage will creep up slowly probably reaching thirty-eight feet and then begin to recede.

No word has been received from the 200 people imprisoned on a low island, Black Walnut, northwest from St. Louis about twenty-five miles and in peril of their lives from the rising waters of the Missouri river. Word was received Saturday night that at that time rescue must be effected immediately or they would probably be swept away by morning. The river has spread about the island until it is a veritable sea, with a swift current, and although every effort has been made to reach them nothing was accomplished yesterday and there has been no means of communicating with them.

Ships in Collision

Marseilles, June 8.—A terrible shipping disaster occurred a little distance from this port at noon Sunday, when two passenger steamers, the *Insulaire* and the *Liban*, both belonging to the Fraissenet Steamship company of Marseilles, came into collision. The *Liban* sank and over one hundred of her passengers and crew perished.

The steamer *Liban* left Marseilles yesterday morning on her regular passenger trip to Bastia, Corsica, and was run down and sunk by the *Insulaire* off the Maitre islands. The collision was witnessed from the pilot boat *Blechamp*, which was about two miles distant. The *Blechamp* immediately repaired to the spot to render assistance. The force of the collision had cut a great hole in the *Liban's* side, and she was already making water rapidly. Her captain saw the only chance was to run the steamer around and the *Liban* was headed full speed for the shore, but within seventeen minutes of the collision and while still in deep water, the forepart of the steamer plunged beneath the sea and a few minutes later she had entirely disappeared.

At the Dedicating

Washington, June 8. The handsome new home of the Grace Memorial Reformed church, which President Roosevelt attends, was dedicated yesterday with appropriate exercises. President Roosevelt with his family, attended and made a brief address. He was introduced by the Rev. Mr. Schick and spoke as follows:

"I shall ask your attention to three lines of the dedication canticle: 'Serve the Lord with gladness; enter into His gates with thanks; give, and into His courts with praise. Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity nor sworn deceitfully.'"

"The Better lines could surely not be brought into any dedication services of the church; and it is a happy thing that we should have repeated them this morning. This church is consecrated to the service of the Lord; and we can serve Him by the way in which we serve our fellowmen. This church is consecrated to service and duty. It was written of old by their fruits ye shall know them, and we can show the sincerity of our devotion, by the fruits we bring forth. This man who is not a tender and considerate husband, a loving and wise father, is not serving the Lord when he goes to church; so with the women; so with all who come here. Our being in his church, our communion here with one another, our sitting under the pastor and hearing from him the word of God, must if we are sincere, show the effects in our lives outside.

Ma—Try it Too Often

Gloucester, Mass., June 8.—Howard Blackburn who has already made two voyages across the Atlantic alone in small craft, started yesterday afternoon in his fifty-foot dory, America in a third attempt to cross the ocean, with Havre as his objective point. His intention is to return via Gibraltar, Western Islands, Porto Rico and Cuba and exhibit his boat at the St. Louis exposition. A large crowd on the wharves and craft in the harbor gave him a hearty send-off.