

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.
A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

Uneasy lies the royal throat that wears a polypus.

Most women suspect there is some mischief on tap every time their husbands smile.

If we were to take Canada as a gift we should want to have a few acres of ice sawed off the northern end.

The woman whose husband eloped with the hired girl is justly angry. Servant girls are so hard to get these times.

Having progressed thus far without assassination, King Peter of Serbia is warranted in regarding his reign as a great success.

The Canadians are still roaring over the boundary decision. They should observe Sir Thomas Lipton and learn to be game losers.

A St. Paul man has found out that cats have a language and he is learning it. In the cat language "Pat" probably means "You're another."

According to the London Mail brain fag is attacking the higher circles of English society. Now will some one tell us how brains that are not worked can become fagged?

Several of the current magazines contain articles on "How to Economize." We are saving our enthusiasm for the author who tells how to avoid the necessity of economizing.

The people who think that the United States ought to conduct its international affairs solely by moral suasion might try teaching a district school that way. It would be good practice.

Kaiser Wilhelm should rest assured that, if he wishes to challenge, Uncle Sam will find as much pleasure in taking the cup away from him as from any one whom he happens just now to call to mind.

One of the judges has decided that a girl has no breach-of-promise case against a man who proposes on Sunday and fails to carry out the agreement. After this it may be expected that the fights will be put out promptly at 12 o'clock Saturday night.

The railroads of this country killed 3,553 persons and injured 45,997. This is a vast improvement over the previous year, when they managed to kill only 2,819 and injure 39,800. Will some one please tell us just how much better this record is than that made by the railroads of foreign countries that have hard work killing anyone in a whole twelvemonth?

Statistics show that in a single year the eggs produced in this country have been worth more than one hundred and fifty million dollars. Hens do not go on strikes. They consume little, and demand little of the community except the right to scratch in the least valuable plots of ground. No class of laborers can excel them in conscientious and skillful production.

Men who go in for out of door sports entirely ignore the physiological benefit of walking. Many of them will ride for miles to enjoy an hour's exercise at golf or tennis. They would require more robust calves, stronger lungs and fresher complexions if they would merely walk to the scene of their accustomed activity and then walk back again without touching a golf stick or a racquet.

Truth is more of a stranger than fiction, says the proverb. A popular novelist says so, too, since he had a story rejected on account of the "improbability" of a certain episode which, he affirms, had actually passed before his own eyes. But who can trust his eyes? An occurrence is improbable if it happens to only one man, once in a lifetime, and probably no work of the imagination can succeed or survive unless it is grounded on the most truthful form of truth, the general experience of mankind.

A mob of 10,000 persons, "mostly women," mobbed the Goebel wedding in New York, we are told, and on the same day in Baltimore 100 school-girls mobbed one of their school-mates on the street. Almost every day we have a fresh instance of the mob violence called "hazing" and the kind of mobbing called lynching is distressingly prevalent. People have a tendency, it appears, to assert their present desires and antipathies by force, without the regard for the rights of others which civilization implies. The tendency seems to grow and must excite apprehensions. What are we coming to? In proportion as we advance in science, art and other forms of culture are we becoming indifferent to law and order and ethically barbarous? Education, in which Americans excel, ought to produce better results than we are getting.

Scandal, gossip, envy, killed a man. Remember the suicide of Gen. Sir Hector Macdonald? People talked about the affair in whispers. They were told by gossips that he had done some great wrong, and died because he could not face it. And his death was viewed as a confession of guilt. Hector Macdonald was a victim of scandal, and the miserable stories about his

life were put in circulation by heartless men who were jealous of his courage, his military glory, his manhood, and his position. It is true. A commission was appointed to investigate the affair, and after the most rigid investigation not the slightest taint could be found to attach to this brilliant soldier. There was ample evidence of the work of the assassins of character, but every tale was run to earth and found to be a lie, built by scoundrels and circulated by gossips who would rather believe ill than good. Perhaps the man was weak when he took his own life, who shall judge him? His way of fighting was face to face. He had no skill in the devious ways of the scandal monger. He couldn't see his foes. He didn't even know them. He only realized that the people of his world believed him a man with a blot on his name—a being not fit to associate with clean men. He was made to feel it. It cut him, it killed him, just as it has slain other men. Gen. Sir Hector Macdonald was a brave, clean, upright man, at honor to his country. The official news comes late, but it is welcome.

One can hardly pick up a newspaper or magazine without finding advice of the subject of love-making, and the minutest idiosyncrasies of woman and of man are so described that it would seem that the wayfaring man and the fool could not err therein. This abundance of advice leads to the query whether it would not be quite as well to leave a little something to the individual. What fun is there going to be in courting a girl, when every step in the way is marked out with the precision of the proper move in a game of chess? It may be true that if a man wants to please a woman he will pretend that he does not care too much for her, and that if a woman is particularly desirous of winning some particular man for her husband she will pretend that she does not care much for him; but if they both do this, either they will get the impression that there is no use in going or with the affair, or they will begin to understand that it is all in the game and we have Scripture authority for it that in vain is the net spread in the sight of any bird. For all this multifarious advice, however, there is very little danger that the good old game of courting will lose interest for the majority of people. Human nature is so varied that it will take any person more than one lifetime to learn all about it, and the more a man may think he knows about women in general, the more likely is he to find that the one particular woman in whom he is interested has some individual traits different from the rest and they will be enough to keep him wondering for some time. The most dangerous thing which one can do in a love affair is to generalize. The safest way is to study the specimen in hand, without much reference to those of other creatures. The ways of an oriole cannot be learned by watching a blue jay or a domestic duck.

Falling from Aloft.
"One of the wonders of seafaring life," writes Charles Protheroe in *Life in the Mercantile Marine*, "is the singularly small proportion of sailors who meet with death or accident by falling from aloft. Whether or no the cherub who is supposed to sit aloft and watch over poor Jack is responsible for it I am not prepared to say, but the fact remains. Having to tumble up aloft at all hours and in all weathers to perform acrobatic feats that would amaze most puzzle a monkey, the saying among sailors about 'hanging on by the eyebrows' becomes almost a truism. One would think the situation was highly spiced enough by danger without needlessly increasing it. Yet it is not altogether an uncommon thing to see a man, if he happens to be barefooted, run out along the yard in preference to using the footrop placed under it for the purpose, to reach what is a post of honor, the weather earring. In spite of all this although not knowing the actual percentage, I make bold to say that no more than one sailor man in hundred is killed or injured by falling from aloft. If I use my own experience as a base, the proportion would be less, for in over twenty years of sea life I was never caused the pain of witnessing such a catastrophe."

The Origin of the Diamond.
The diamond is still one of the mysteries of geology. When the South African fields were discovered there was much astonishment to find the gem in a series of minerals quite different from those in which it had been hitherto found in India and Brazil. Instead of lying beside tourmaline, and tase and brookite, it was mingled with a breccia of magnesian rocks which had evidently been pushed up from below, and a great variety of minerals such as diopside, mica, zircon and cerundum, were imbedded along with it.

Some have supposed that the diamond was originally formed where it is now picked up, and the presence of carbonated gas and carboniferous rock is in favor of the idea, but, on the other hand, the broken condition of some of the stones and other fact make it far more probable that the diamond has been ejected from a deeper source.

On the Tuboggan.
Lawyer—What was the thing that led to your financial downfall? You seemed to be doing a good business.
Bankrupt—I was. But one day started out to see if I could borrow some money. I found it so easy that I kept on borrowing.—Somerville Journal.

When some people do good deeds there are extenuating circumstances.

HUMOR OF THE WEEK

STORIES TOLD BY FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

Odd, Curious and Laughable Phases of Human Nature Graphically Portrayed by Eminent Word Artists of Our Own Day—A Budget of Fun.

La Mont—We have some fast automobiles out our way. They go so fast you can't see anything but a streak of maroon.

La Moyné—That's nothing. Some of them go so fast out our way that you can't see them at all—just smell gasoline.

Dead Giveaway.
"You used to put up some pretty good turkey sandwiches," said the fastidious guest. "I want the same kind of turkey you had last year."
"Dis is de same kind, sah," replied the waiter; "it's been in storage ebeh since last yeah."

His Objection.
Ernie—I hear old Strongwood was sternly opposed to his daughter eloping in an automobile.
Ida—Yes, automobiles are so uncertain he was afraid it would break down and he wouldn't get her off his hands after all.

Envy.
Ida—I was reading about the polar explorers. The book says they never had anything but frozen cream.
May—Gracious! It must have been delicious to have ice cream three times a day.

Sure of It.



"You say Jack has become quite a poet. How do you know?"
"Well, you can't understand anything he writes now."

A Frequent Catastrophe.
"When Algernon left college we thought he had the world at his feet."
"Yes," answered Miss Cayenne; "I have seen it frequently. A man appears to have the world at his feet. And then his foot slips."—Washington Star.

A Boss' Estimate.
"Do you think you are giving your city a good government?" asked the earnest man.
"Well," answered Mr. De Graft after some deliberation; "it's as good as money can buy."—Washington Star.

Not Patented.
Citiman—Are you still troubled with your neighbor's chickens?
Suburb—Not at all. They are kept shut up now.
Citiman—How did you manage?
Suburb—Every night I hid a lot of eggs in the grass, and every morning, when my neighbor was looking, I went out and brought them in.

A Bright Thought.
"Yes, ma'am," said the obsequious grocery clerk to Mrs. Bridey, who was ordering her first bill of supplies, "I've put down parlor matches; what next?"
"Well—er—I suppose I ought to have some kitchen matches, too, oughtn't I?"—Detroit Free Press.

Revenge.
Poet—At last! The editor has accepted ten of my poems.
His Wife—He has probably had a fight with the management and is going to leave.—Judge.

His View of It.
"But if I prefer another," she suggested when he urged his suit; "what will you say then?"
"I won't say anything," replied the foreign nobleman, "because I am too much of a gentleman to say anything that would reflect on your taste."—Chicago Post.

Got Even with a Rival.
Frank—I've got even with Jim at last.
Ned—How did you do it?
Frank—I gave his girl a pair of pretty vases and he will go broke keeping them filled with flowers.

Friendly Tip.
"What can I do to create a sensation?" asked the theatrical star.
"Well," replied the advertising manager, "you might take lessons in acting."

She Was Hopeful.
Mrs. Nextdoor—They say that the widow Filpperton is after another husband.
Mrs. Homer—Goodness me, I hope he isn't after mine.

No Regular Pay.
"He tells me he's a professional actor now."
"Oh, no, he's a semiprofessional."
"How do you mean?"
"Well, a professional is one who is paid for his services. He's only half paid."—Philadelphia Press.

The Kuting Power.
The Peddler—I want to see the mistress of the house.
The Master—Do you? Then step round to the kitchen door and ask for the cook.

Near Neighbors.
Sympathetic Parson (to prisoner)—Ah, my unfortunate man, what would your poor, old father think of your conduct?
Prisoner—Ask him; he lodges in the next cell to the right of mine.

After the Prevailing Fashion.
"You will marry again after you get your divorce, of course?"
"I suppose so."
"Any particular preference in view?"
"Not just at present. But of course I can marry my lawyer if nothing better suggests itself."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Great Responsibility.
Nodd—Year lady and your cook are both away, are they?
Todd—Yes. Nodd-y but my wife and myself are left to run the house.

A Teletale Sign.
"Old Blinker is a confirmed bachelor, isn't he?"
"Yes, but I am sure that he was once engaged."
"Why?"
"Because he tells me there was a certain period of his life when he went to church regularly."

Curiosity.
"Let's go out and see what's burning," said Pat to Mike at the theater.
"What d'ye mean?"
"Those two men behind us said they were going to the foyer."

Easy Outlet.
Tall Pickpocket—De crowd at de football game was so dense dat people fainted.
Short Pickpocket—How in de world did you get out?
Tall Pickpocket—I went through people's pockets.

Should Be Cautious.
Daughter—Edwin says he wants a wife with good lungs. It shows how considerate he is of her health.
Mother—I wouldn't be too sure. He might want her to blow the kitchen fire in the morning.

Typical American.
"Yes, his painting attracts a great many people."
"Great artist, eh?"
"No, just a house painter. He puts out a sign, 'Fresh Paint,' and every one touches it to see if it's dry."

Time to Protest.
"Look here," telephoned the irate man, "I didn't tell you to send me any school supplies."
"School supplies?" echoed the amazed coal dealer.
"Yes, you sent me up a load of slate."

Usual Thing.
Brown—So you bought that suburban property, eh? Did you investigate the title to see if it was all right?
Green—Yes; and after living there two weeks I have come to the conclusion that the title is the only thing about the place that isn't defective.

Not a Joke.
Giles—Take two letters from "money" and one is left.
Miles—Is that a joke?
"Yes, verily."
"Well, I know of a fellow who took money from two letters."
"That's a good joke."
"Not it; he got twelve months."

Difference in Method But—
Traveler (in Europe)—What are those two beautiful girls?
Steamer Captain—One is a Circassian whose parents are going to sell her to a Turk; the other is an American whose parents are going to give her to a nobleman.

Liked Church But—
Sweet Girl—Do you enjoy taking me to church?
Lover—Not so much as riding with you in a street car.
Sweet Girl—Goodness! Why?
Lover—The sexton never yells "Sit closer, please."

There Were Others.
"I seen you kissin' Mame," said her little brother.
"Well, here," said the dear girl's accepted lover, "if I give you a dime can I trust you to say nothing about it?"
"Sure! I never peached on any of the other fellows when they gave me money."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Still in Doubt.
"I know his fiancée is plain because he says she's sensible."
"But you can't be sure of it."
"Oh, yes. No girl is pretty who is spoken of as 'sensible.'"
"But how can she be sensible? Isn't she engaged to him?"—Philadelphia Ledger.

Better Than None.
Ernie—They say Agnes is perfectly crazy over elopements.
Ida—Yes, she was actually pleased when the horse ran away with her the other day.

Gossip-proof.
Mrs. Crawford—Have they much money?
Mrs. Crabshaw—Why, they're so rich that, if they preferred, they could afford to stay in town all summer.—Smart Set.

Question of Cash.
"I hear you have been suffering with a very romantic love affair."
"Yes, but I've recovered."
"How much?"—Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.

Anticipation vs. Experience.
Old Gentleman—Do you think, sir that you are able to support my daughter without continually hovering on the verge of bankruptcy?
Suitor—Oh, yes, sir; I am sure I can.
Old Gentleman—Well, that's more than I can do. Take her and be happy

OLD FASHIONS COME.

MODES OF SEVENTY YEARS BACK ARE NOW STYLISH.

Made Up Without Much Change, They Give Debutantes an Air of Quaint Prettiness—Dressmakers Adapt the Style of Those of Later Years.



ANY sleeves of gowns apparently worth making over simply cannot be gotten into the manner of current fashions. And unless they can be made to do so, making over hardly will pay. When the sleeves will not make over successfully, it is more sensible to wear the dress as an old one, than to purchase new materials to be employed in unsatisfactory refurbishing.

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front. At the right in the next picture is a brown camel's hair, the skirt untrimmed but for shirring, the bodice simply shirred at the top into the neck band. One of the new fur neck pieces that are made for slope is shown with this simple dress. Beside it is a skirt whose lace foot ruffle was headed by rich passementerie, a type of which many are seen. With this gown is shown a short wrap of light tan cloth, with ermine and passementerie for trimmings.

Tailors are doing almost as much stitching upon their gowns as they ever did, though the fact doesn't impress itself upon the casual observer. This is because stitching in contrast with the goods is not usual. The usual rule is for stitching in close harmony, not more than a shade or two off in either way. With adherence to this regulation, the stitching may be as lavish as you like. For what is permitted, see the suit at the left in the last of these pictures. It was brown zibeline, its passementerie and stitching a little darker than the material. The plaided goods that were so impressive for abundance and striking designs on the shop counters early in the fall haven't taken very strong hold of women's liking. Much of the showier plaids is employed as trimming, standing as a means of giving a dash of color to otherwise plain dresses, but the horn blanket patterns have been refused as materials for entire gowns. True, the plaids selected for this purpose are in large squares, but the colors are not made ed very boldly. A sample of the plaided goods is sketched here, and was in blue and black novelty goods, with black banding and button trimming. Such gowns are handsome and possess to a fine

New York correspondence:

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TWO OF MANY SKIRT TYPES.

the result is well suited to the debutante. For older women the dressmakers modify and adapt, and once such processes are begun the original model or models, for often several old designs are blended in one new gown, hardly can be recognized in the complete costume. But shoulder slope is attained in so many pretty ways that is apparent in most new dresses, and that without any suggestion of uniformity. Skirts are tremendously full about the feet, and every attention is given to arranging fullness about the hips.

These soft, full skirts are often trimmed very freely, but the place for trim-

degree that quality of individuality that is so much sought. If liking for them lasts long enough, the tendency will be to adopt the more striking goods. In the outcome the gowns of squares like those worn a few years ago in separate skirt will be more numerous. Now they are seen only here and there, and in goods whose surface is of the hairiest or most nubby weave.

Trimmed tailormades are not discarded by any means, but are restricted for dressy uses. Often the tailor finish is barely recognizable, though it is wise to have it stand forth and thus to seem to have the courage of your convictions

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