

# Topic Times

London has 1,028 postoffices and 2,435 private telephone stations.

There are now about 3,000 motor cars and over 1,850 motor cycles in London.

Miss Florence Nightingale has celebrated the eighty-sixth anniversary of her birth.

Thomas F. Walsh, David Moffatt and Mr. Guggenheim, all candidates for the United States Senate from Colorado, are millionaires.

Sir Wilfred Lawson is said to be rejoiced over the fact that 150 of the new members of the British House of Commons are total abstainers.

An association has been formed for the purpose of supplying, under certain conditions, spectacles to children in London elementary schools.

A German scientist, after several years spent in experiments, has calculated the value of a flash of lightning in electric current at \$1,400.

While scratching his nose with the end of a loaded revolver, a man in Paris accidentally pulled the trigger and blew off the tip of the nose.

While Siegfried was polishing his sword at Covent Garden Theater, London, the other night, to cut the anvil in half, the anvil slowly split of its own accord.

William Dean Howells is said to be most cordial and brotherly for any young writer to meet. He takes a keen interest in everybody's work, and is full of helpful suggestions.

A number of the local dramatic critics, to gain practical experience, are occupying the stage at the principal theater in Tokio. Large audiences watch their histrionic efforts.

Three United States Senators are worth more than \$18,000,000. They are William A. Clark, of Montana; Stephen B. Elkins, of West Virginia, and Nelson W. Aldrich, of Rhode Island.

Included in this year's budget of the Town Council of Santa Cruz, Tenerife, was a tax on the ringing of church bells, at the rate of 20 cents a chime, but the civil governor vetoed the scheme.

"The real extravagance of the South African war, which cost £250,000,000, was the unpreparedness," said Lord Roberts the other day, in addressing a meeting of London merchants and financiers.

An ancient beggar woman known to her neighbors as "Old Mother Snuff" was found dead in her house in Paris. A search of the place revealed \$16,000 in bank notes and \$2,000 in gold hidden in a mattress.

The London Lancet condemns the bath sponge. It says it collects and holds impurities like a filter, and the use of soap to clean it only makes matters worse, as it "increases the slime, owing to the formation of insoluble curds of lime soap."

An American who recently visited Oxford, says the London Chronicle, asked a railway porter why in blazes they had put the station so far from the colleges. The porter replied gravely: "I dunno, sir; but I 'spect they thought it more handy to have it down here by the railway."

For the benefit of those boating on the river on Sunday, the Rev. B. H. Bosanquet, vicar of Thames Ditton, England, makes the announcement in his parish magazine that the church wardens will be glad to reserve special seats for those in boating costume in the parish church on Sunday mornings in the southwest gallery.

The town of Henrietta, N. Y., takes a proper view of the poll tax and the duty of its collection. Two citizens there who declined to pay their \$1 poll tax were arrested and sentenced to jail for sixty days. Declaring at first that they would rot in jail before they would pay a cent, the two finally settled for the tax and costs by paying \$10.25 and \$11.55, respectively.

A modest and unassuming young woman in Oklahoma for three years has had the distinction of being the youngest woman ranch owner in the United States. Miss Georgia A. Burns is owner and manager of 11,000 acres, comprising the Arrow Heart cattle ranch, and recently leased for a term of ninety-nine years 100,000 acres of oil and mineral land in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. Miss Burns not only manages her ranch with ability, but spends much of her time in the saddle, and can shoot and rope cattle with as great dexterity and skill as any of the thirty cowboys regularly in her employ.

## WASHINGTON TRADITIONS.

### Preserved in Part of Virginia Where He Was Born.

It is a quiet life that the people of Westmoreland County, in the northern neck of Virginia, lead, says E. N. Vandigham in the Magazine of History. On a lonely plantation in this county, within sight of the Potomac, George

Washington was born, and in spite of the rolling years, of the Civil War and of the emancipation, the northern neck of Virginia was in many respects much what it was when George Washington and "Light Horse" Harry Lee were born a month apart in the year 1732. Even to this day sailing craft slowly worm their way into the deep, navigable inlets of the region and carry freight to Baltimore and Washington. Each plantation has its own wharf, and each planter keeps a lookout for the coming schooner, just as his ancestors of Washington's day must have watched for the slow and patient craft that piled up and down the Potomac and away to Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York, or across the Atlantic to England, a voyage that might stretch out for six, eight, ten or even twelve weeks.

The very speech of the people has a slightly archaic flavor, and family names are redolent of old English ancestry, and the whole region teems with traditions of Washington. Down in Northumberland County the little harbor of Lodge is named from the fact that here stood the Masonic lodge that Washington used to attend. The British destroyed the house in the Revolutionary War, but the corner stone was found and opened not many years ago, and some of its measures of old English money were placed in the corner stone of the Masonic lodge at Kinsdale, another charming little Virginia harbor.

If the shore is much what it was in Washington's infancy the river and its tributaries are even more so. Those who know the Potomac at Washington or amid the mountains that hem it in further west and north may well have no suspicion of the vast flood which it becomes in the lower part of its course, where it is from ten to eighteen miles wide. Here cape on cape recedes to unfold new and unexpected depths of loveliness, little harbors sit low on the tidal waters, backed by wooded bluffs, behind which lie the rich plantations of Northumberland and Westmoreland. A soft spoken race of easy-going Virginians haunts the landing places. Fishermen still pursue the traditional methods of the eighteenth century, fetch in sea trout and striped bass and pike to sell them at absurdly low prices, and for nine months in the year oystermen are busy. Every planter who will can maintain his pound net in the shallows of the Potomac or one of its tributaries, and all along the lower course of the stream he can secure his own oysters without leaving the shore. The great width of the separating flood makes one shore invisible from the other. Communication is so slow between the shores that a man living in one of the little harbors on the Virginia shore who was in a hurry to travel northward found his most expeditious mode of travel to be a drive of seventy miles to Richmond.

Shut in thus the people of the northern neck have nursed their traditions and held hard by their family names, so that the visiting stranger, if he has any touch of historic instinct, finds himself singularly moved by a sense of nearness in time to George Washington and his contemporaries.

### And He Gave It Up.

A traveler on an electric car had a seat next an old negro couple, whose earnest voices attracted his attention. "I tell yo', Sam, dat's one ob yo' mod'n notions. I ain't got no patience wif dese yere mod'n notions," said the old "mammy."

"And I say again just like I done say'd befo'," replied Sam, "dat I seen it in de newpaper."

"Yo' mean foh't tell me dat you seen in de paper how folks was a-livin' on de moon?"

"Yas'm, dese yere wise folks say people am a-livin' on de moon. An' what's mo, dey say de moon is crowded wif 'em."

The old lady's eyes gleamed suddenly in triumph.

"Den ef dat's de case, Sam, whah do all dem people go when de moon dwindles down to a little streak?"

### Tush—Tush!

"How that crowd of women did knock Miss Butte when she left them! Each one had some different roast for her. It was a perfect symphony of hammering."

"I should call it a rhapsody."—Cleveland Leader.

### The Best Ever.

"What are Senator Smugg and Senator Klawback laughing so immoderately about?"

"Oh, they have just overheard a by-passing voter from away out West somewhere speak of the government as 'ours.'"—Puck.

### One Advocate.

There's some joy in this fateful world. I have my share of glee And just because my 10-year-old Can spell like Carnezie. —Judge.

Although the law holds a man innocent until he has been proved guilty, one's wife is apt to hold him guilty until he has proved his innocence.

# WOMEN AND FASHION

## The Destiny of Woman.

The first requirement in the ideal of a woman is that she shall be a satisfied woman, and that she does not at all wish to be anything but a woman. The creed of pessimism and despair is, "It were better not to be!" yet I would give no more for, "I would greatly have preferred to be something else!"

Woman should not be satisfied to accept herself at this valuation, though that, doubtless, is better than to revolt against her fate; but she should appraise herself, feel the high dignity of her position, recognize the advantages of life under the special form in which she receives it, and which, in nobility, is equal to that bestowed upon man. In a word, woman should have the courage and pride of her sex.

We often meet young ladies who would like to be boys. In speaking among themselves of certain others of their set they say: "There is a girl who ought to have been a boy; she is a boy lost!" There is no harm in this, inasmuch as it is no more than a joke and a fashion of speaking. It amounts to saying that certain young girls have aptitudes which ordinarily are characteristic of young boys. But these have never prevented a woman from being truly and gracefully womanly.

What we wish to indicate and stigmatize here is silly scorn of that which we already possess; a refusal to put it into operation, to employ it, and the dangerous illusion which lies in thinking that we should have done greater work in this world if God had wished to make us something other than that which he has desired.—Pastor Wagner, in Harper's Bazaar.

## Should Wives Have Secrets?

As husband and wife are one, they should have no secrets one from another. A life can never rightly and safely do anything which she would not like her husband to know. She may forget to tell him a thing, or it may seem to her too trivial to be worth

would mind my telling my husband," and if the friend who would confide in her is a man, she should do so as a matter of duty.

## A Becoming Necessity.



Fine figured lawn, batiste and silk are used for the fashioning of the comfortable matinee so necessary at this season, when little jackets and sacques take the place of the lounging robes which are worn during the winter months. White lawn is used in making the sacque illustrated. The front is tucked to yoke depth and hangs straight to five inches below the waistline, being finished with eyelet insertion and a wide gathered ruffle of the lawn. The back is tucked and finished with a belt which runs only to the under-arm seams. The full, flowing sleeves are finished around the hand with the insertion and ruffle of lawn, and a ruffle edges the rolling collar. If desired, the tucks in front of the jacket can be extended to the waistline and soft ribbon be used for the belt and tied in a bow in the front. The dressing sacque has

will never take the place of hand work—nothing could. But at least it is a fairly good substitute for many things. Girdles (and so many of them require row after row of shirring) and even dress yokes and cuffs are especially good done on the machine.

It is all a trick of the tension. Loosen the lower tension, leaving the upper tight, and stitch your rows exactly as if you were doing plain stitching. When it is all stitched pull the loose threads underneath, drawing the material up until it is as full as you want it.

Then fasten both ends of your threads, and your shirring is done, only about ten minutes having been needed instead of an hour or two.

But don't try it on delicate stuffs—the stitching is sure to show.

## Hair Ribbon Etiquette.

The tendency to overdo a fashion was never better exemplified than in the way girls are overdoing the wearing of ribbon bows on their hair. When the large bows of bright ribbon first appeared the effect was pretty, especially on very young girls. Soon, however, the bow grew to two, and now to three, with no diminution in the width of the ribbon. The consequence is, in the case of a girl with a small head, you can't see any hair at all and the bows might as well be a ribbon cap. Another caution, if a girl wears these big bows let her be sure that the ribbon is fresh and crisp. Nothing looks more hopelessly dowdy than a soiled or crumpled ribbon. Very particular girls press out their hair ribbons each time after wearing.

## Card Index Receipts.

One of the national schools of domestic arts and sciences is engaged in showing housekeepers how a card index system can be used in the home. One of the uses of the system is substituting for the old scrap receipt book and the big cook book itself a box of index cards. One of the advantages of the

## GOWNS WORN BY FASHIONABLE WOMEN.



1. Gray and white voile, with red canvas trimmings, edged with white braid.
2. Russian blouse costume of white and embroidery.
3. Pale pink organdie, with lace-trimmed coat.

speaking of, but she should have nothing in her life which is intentionally hidden from him.

The only secrets which she may rightly keep from him are other people's, but of these she should hear as few as possible. Confidences thrust upon her without her consent she is not bound to respect, and she should be very careful to whom she gives her word not to repeat anything which may be told her. It is a safe plan when asked to keep a secret to say: "Don't tell me if you

become an important factor in a woman's wardrobe to-day, but it is a garment so easily made by the amateur and so satisfactory, even in the least costly materials, that no woman need want for a goodly supply.

## How to Shirr by Machine.

With shirring occupying so important a position as it does at present on dresses and blouses and clothes of every description, a way to do it by machine is worth knowing. Of course it

card receipts is claimed to be the ease with which the housewife may replace a torn receipt. It is bringing to the kitchen and receipts the same system the husband uses in his office to discover his letters and filings.

## Trimming is Attractive.

A charming form of trimming, and one which should appeal to the economically minded woman, is the piping with bands of satin or velvet. This form of decoration costs much more in time and skill than it does in money.