

EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

CONQUERING WASTE LAND.
EUROPE is conquering the waste land problem by planting trees. Every year thousands of acres of land are being reclaimed in this way by the leading countries and put in a condition preparatory to a profitable timber harvest in the years to come. Not only many previously forested areas which have been cut over have been planted up, but a number of the countries are also devoting their energies to establishing a forest cover on dunes and other waste lands, and, in fact, on all land which is more valuable for producing timber than for other purposes.

France has been one of the foremost European countries in reforestation, especially in the mountains, where planting has been a powerful factor in controlling torrents and regulating stream flow. The State each year buys uncultivated lands, in the mountains regions, and up to January, 1907, it had acquired 503,000 acres in this way. Communes, associations and private individuals are also assisted in reforestation work by grants of money and by supplies of plants and seeds. Altogether 248,000 acres have been planted through this public assistance. Complete exemption from taxation for a long period of years is granted in the case of plantations made on the tops and slopes of mountains. A reduction of three-fourths for all land planted or sown, whatever its situation, is also made.—New York Evening Post.

STRESSES AND BONDS.
T IS the commonly accepted belief that the sons of great men rarely equal their sires in point of ability, and especially in the line of ability which distinguished the sires. There are some notable exceptions, as for instance the younger Pitt, and John Quincy Adams. But as a rule we shall find, both as a matter of history and personal observation that the common opinion is correct.

A writer in a current magazine attempts to account for this fact by assuming that the son usually inherits his intellectual traits from his mother, although in physique he is apt to take after his father. The writer cites a lot of instances to show that in the line of royalty it is quite common to see the qualities of a great king handed down to his successors for many generations.

This is because that in royal marriages the bride of the heir apparent is carefully selected from among the great families, royal or other. Hence the high strain of blood is maintained in the descent. But among the mass of the people, from which the world usually gets its great geniuses, literary, financial, scientific or professional, marriages are made hap-hazard.

A great man is often attracted by a woman far inferior to him intellectually. In the vast majority of

cases no attention is paid to mating with a view of transmitting great qualities. A compensation of these hap-hazard marriages is that a very ordinary man sometimes becomes the father of a very great one. This view is fanciful to some extent. It cannot be based upon any accurate statistics. But it gives abundant food for thought. It may be used as an argument for the higher education and culture of women. It gives a hint of the advisability of arranging marriages with prudence and forethought. It may be admitted that love in marriage is an essential but it will do no harm to season it with judgment and good advice.—Minneapolis Tribune.

ONE GIRL AND ANOTHER.
A BEAUTIFUL New York society girl, burned by flaming gasoline when her automobile was run down by a street car, has been awarded \$20,000 damages by a New York court because her neck is so scarred so that she cannot wear low-necked gowns at social functions. A few days ago a Jersey judge, receiving a verdict of \$8,500, awarded by a jury to a little girl whose leg had been cut off by a car, said the amount was too large taking into consideration the great improvements in cork legs. One girl is rich; the other poor. One is a belle of society; the other a workman's baby. One girl is surrounded by luxury, and lives an idle existence; the other is in a humble home, and must help with housework, and earn her support. Yet the rich girl, whose soft hands will never make a bed or wash the dishes, is given \$20,000 for a few scars on her shapely neck, while the poor girl crippled for life, hampered in the struggle for existence, is told by a judge that \$8,500 is more than she should receive for losing a leg. Queer laws, and queer courts, aren't they for a land where freedom and equality are established by the constitution?—Chicago Journal.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TELEGRAPH.
WE have just passed the sixty-fifth anniversary of the inauguration of the commercial telegraph in the United States. The system had a very modest beginning; now it stretches over almost the entire world. A gridle of wire has been placed around the earth; there is speedy and reliable communication between all civilized countries on the globe. The wireless system of telegraphy has proved a wonderful agency in enlarging the field for electric communication. It has proved of practical value to a certain extent for commercial uses. It has also demonstrated its efficiency as a life-saver. Altogether, the development of the telegraph, from the days of Professor Morse and his primitive instruments to the present day, has been marvelous and even magical.—Baltimore Sun.

TURTLE'S EGGS FOR AGASSIZ

When Prof. Louis Agassiz was writing a book on the turtles of the United States, it became necessary for him to have some fresh turtle eggs. He engaged Mr. Jenks, of Middleboro, about forty miles from Cambridge, to get them for him. Mr. Jenks promised that the eggs should be in Agassiz's hands before they were three hours old. Mr. Jenks, who lately told the tale to a writer in the Atlantic Monthly, had to wait by a certain pond for the turtles to come out and lay their eggs in the sand. Finally, after weeks of waiting, one morning about 4 o'clock a turtle crawled up the beach, partly buried herself in the soft sand, and laid her eggs.

As she did so the distant clock struck 5. There was no train till after 9, and the eggs must be in Cambridge in three hours. I laid the eggs on a bed of sand in the bottom of my pail; filled in between them with more sand; so with another layer to the rim; and covering all over smoothly with more sand, I ran back for my horse. He knew, as well as I, that the turtle had laid, and that he was to get those eggs to Agassiz.

I let him out. I shouted to him, holding to the dasher with one hand, the pail of eggs with the other, not daring to get off my knees, although the horse on them, as we proceeded down the wood road, was terrific. We had nearly covered the distance to the pike when ahead of me I heard the sharp whistle of a locomotive. With a pull that lifted the horse from his feet, I swung him into a field and sent him straight as an arrow for the track.

By some stroke of luck I got on the track and backed off it before the train hit my carriage. But the maneuver was successful, for the engineer stopped and I swung aboard the cab—hatless, down-sunk, smothered with yellow mud, and holding, as if it were a baby or a bomb, a little tin pail of sand. "Throw her wide open," I commanded, "wide open! These are fresh turtle eggs for Professor Agassiz of Cambridge. He must have them before breakfast."

The engineer and the fireman no doubt thought that I was crazy; but they let me alone, and the fast freight rolled swiftly into Boston. But misfortune was ahead. We slowed down in the yards and came to a stop. We were put on a siding, to wait one knew how long. In the empty square stood a cab. The cabman saw me coming. I waved a dollar at him and then another, dodged into the cab, slammed the door, and called out, "Cambridge! Harvard College! Professor Agassiz's house! I've got eggs for Agassiz!" and I pushed another dollar up at him through the hole.

"Let him go!" I ordered. "Here's another dollar for you if you make Agassiz's house in twenty minutes!" We drove to Cambridge. There was a sudden lurch, and I dived forward, rammied my head into the front of the cab, and came up with a rebound that landed me across the small of my back on the seat, and sent half of my pail of eggs helter-skelter over the floor. But we were at Agassiz's house. I tumbled out and pounded on the door. "Agassiz!" I gasped when the maid came. "I want Professor Agassiz, quick!"

She protested that he was in bed, and I beatened the police. But just then a door overhead was flung open, a great white-robed figure appeared on

GETTING AN ANSWER.

"Let him in! Let him in! I know him. He has my turtle eggs." And the apparition, slipperless and clad in anything but an academic gown, came sailing downstairs. The great man, his arms extended, laid hold of me with both hands, and dragged me and my precious pail into his study, with a swift, clean stroke laid open one of the eggs, as the watch in my trembling hands ticked its way to seven—as if nothing unusual were happening in the history of the world.—Youth's Companion.

GOLE LINKS OF THE FAR EAST.

Hazards Are Often Chinese Graves or Strep Cabbage Patches.
 The chief hazards on the links of Tientsin are of a somewhat gruesome character since they consist of the graves of deceased Chinamen. The modern golfing architect is in favor of mounds as hazards and he might glean some ideas from the graves at Tientsin. "So ancient with my round and receives his fee, and he patiently inquires of his employer at intervals how long he proposes to follow the little white ball.

The golf course at Pekin is also on a flat plane and, as Tientsin, the plain is muddy. It lies close to the Antung gate and to get there from the European quarter necessitates a long and dusty journey by pony or rickshaw. As at Tientsin, hazards have a disconcerting way of springing up like mushrooms in the night. They are, however, of a less horrible character, although possibly more difficult to play out since they consist, not of graves, but of cabbage gardens, which the Chinaman plants at his own sweet will in the same rapid and light-hearted way.

Thus the character of the course changes from day to day in a way calculated to dispel monotony and a golfer who has carefully placed his tee shot in such a way as to get a clear run up to the hole finds himself confronted instead with a most difficult pitch over cabbages.

The difficulties of the situation are enhanced at Pekin by the fact that the golfer is only allowed to play on condition that he does not disturb the cabbage patches. "Golf is not agriculture," so it has been written of those who tear vast and hideous divots from shrinking turf. It is held to be true at Pekin and the native agriculturalist will have the law on you if you interfere with the fruits of his industry. Cabbage patches are strictly out of bounds.

Other hazards of a less transitory character are camel roads, which traverse the links from the mountains. Along these roads there come, in addition to camels, great droves of ponies, which the Mongolians bring down to sell in Pekin. Yet another possible incident of Pekinese golf is the dust storm, which is a terrible infliction.

When the dust storm arises, which it does with abominable suddenness, the game stops and the players make for ditches and trenches or cover behind mud walls. The stern rule which disqualifies those who shelter during

LEGAL INFORMATION

An act was passed in Alabama which prohibited sale of certain nonintoxicating liquors at any place where the sale of spirituous, vinous, or malt liquors was forbidden by law. In *Miller vs. State*, 50 Southern Reporter, 370, it was urged that the legislature had no power to prohibit the sale of articles not injurious to either the health or the morals of the people, and that such a statute was an unwarranted invasion of the rights of the citizen. On the other hand, it was asserted that in order more thoroughly to prohibit the sale of malt liquor, known to be an intoxicant, and to safeguard against evasions of such law, the state had power to prohibit the sale of any beverages containing the ingredient of malt liquors. The Alabama Supreme court held the act unconstitutional, concluding that these drastic prohibitory laws are doubtless intended for the moral benefit and elevation of mankind; but their moral purpose or beneficent result must not be considered to save them, when they invade the sanctity of the constitutional rights of our citizens.

An insurer contracted to indemnify a manufacturing corporation for any amount under \$5,000, which it should be compelled to pay as damages for personal injuries to its employees. An employee of the insured was injured while carrying a pitcher alleged to be defective, containing acid. To the insurer the necessary facts were promptly communicated, and the pitcher was intrusted to its custody. By the insurer the action of the employee was contested, but so negligently that it failed to offer the strongest evidence for the manufacturer, the pitcher. Recovery was had for \$17,000. In *Attleboro Mfg. Co. vs. Frankfort M. Acc. and P. G. Ins. Co.*, 171 Federal Reporter, 495, plaintiff sought to recover the difference between the stipulated indemnity and the amount it was forced to pay through defendant's negligence in conducting the suit. The Federal Circuit court concluded that an undertaking by one not an attorney to carry on the lawsuit of another being ordinarily an undertaking to carry it out with due care, it is the basis of an action for tort where negligence has been substituted for due care implicitly undertaken and agreed upon. The defendant to the declaration was overruled.

The Supreme court of South Carolina was called upon to determine the validity of a statute of that state providing taxation of insurance companies. In *New York Life Insurance Co. vs. Bradley*, 65 Southeastern Reporter, 433. By section 1808 of the South Carolina Code of 1903, insurance companies are required (1) to pay a license fee of \$100; (2) to make a quarterly return of their gross premiums; (3) to pay quarterly an additional graded license fee to the state treasurer of one-half of 1 per cent on gross premiums. By section 1809 the comptroller general is required to transmit to the auditor in each of the various counties a statement of the amount of premiums or receipts collected therein during the preceding year from the different insurance companies, and such statement is directed to be placed on the tax duplicate, together with other items of taxable property owned by the companies. Proceeding under this last provision, a tax amounting to \$171.35 was paid under protest by the New York Life Insurance Company to the treasurer of Abbeville county, and proceedings thereafter instituted for its recovery. It was contended that the tax was simply imposed as a condition to the right of plaintiff, a foreign insurance company, to do business in the state. The court held, however, that it was a property tax, and as it was not restricted to property or money of the insurance company within the state at the time of assessment, but covered its gross receipts for the entire year, it was invalid as constituting a taking of property without due process of law.

Recently a hen was exhibited at Wilkesbarre, Pa., and took all the prizes as the best of her kind. So important did she grow in the estimation of the holders that her owner was offered \$10,000 for her, but he refused it. At about this time the hen laid an egg, and that it might be evident that she was a producer as well as a show bird, her owner allowed the product of her labor to remain in the pen with her. This was a tactical blunder, for the egg was purloined shortly and has not been seen since.

Now there is a well known story to the effect that a goose of the dim and distant past once laid a golden egg. Taking it that the historian was sure of his facts, this goose of fame has no such claim upon renown as has the Wilkesbarre hen. Here is a bag of gold containing \$10,000 in the treasury at Washington which visitors are allowed to lift to get an idea of just how heavy that much money is. It weighs something like thirty pounds. Now, if the egg of this hen, with the prospect of being hatched into a creature as valuable as the parent, is estimated as being worth one-tenth as much as she is, the stolen egg would be worth \$1,000—which three pounds of money would weigh three pounds or as much as two dozen eggs. So the egg of the Pennsylvania hen is worth 24 times as much as the greatly-touted goose egg and deserves fame in accordance.

ADVICE FOR NERVOUS MAN.

Seek Relief in Work, Says One Who Has Found It a Cure.
 The famous Harvard geologist, Nathaniel Southgate Shaler, who died about four years ago, was a man of singularly wide range and vivacity of conversation. In a single hour, says a correspondent in the New York Nation, he would discuss topics as diverse as national politics, the seeds of the fossil Condoria, and the question whether there might not be some ethnological considerations bearing on mathematical demonstrations.

Perhaps the most striking thing about him, after his unexcelled warmth of heart and capacity for mak-

ing people free of his time and thought, and great, was his surprising industry. On one of the earliest occasions when I was thrown into contact with him, and obliged to ask for considerable portions of his time, I remember having asked if he were not overbusy.

"No," he replied. "I have a good many things to do, and a score of years ago I had nervous prostration. I went to Germany and tried all kinds of cures for it, but they did no good; so I came home, and ever since I've been trying to work it off."

Asking advice from Shaler was a very different thing from seeking it from ordinary sources. On one occasion—apparently of something now quite forgotten—he told the story of his being asked by a graduate of the Harvard Divinity School how he might best fit himself for the work of his chosen calling. The freshly graduated theological student did not feel sure that he knew as much about men as he did about divinity.

After a moment's thought, the professor said, in substance: "Go to Colorado, get down into a drift, and dig for two years with the miners. Possibly you'll know more about men than you do now." The young man did so, with the result that he came back at the end of the period, to thank his adviser for the good he had derived from his most unconventional Wanderjahre.

SIAMESE REJOICINGS.

The annual celebration in Siam of the King's accession to the throne was observed on the last occasion with even more than usual splendor. The monarch's reign has lasted forty years a longer time than that of any of his predecessors. The year in Siam is a succession of shows and festivities and the King's day is the greatest of all. J. G. D. Campbell speaks of the year in "Siam in the Twentieth Century."

All Bangkok takes a holiday, and turns out to see the illuminations which I have seldom seen surpassed. Flags, Chinese lanterns, inscriptions line every thoroughfare, and there is a constant succession of fireworks. The King of Siam is a man of remarkable personality, characterized by a spirit of liberality and enlightenment which places him in the small band of progressive rulers the East has produced. He dresses simply, in the European style, without the jewels and ornaments so affected by Eastern monarchs. No one would suspect that under that quiet, modest, yet dignified exterior lies the force that wields an authority greater than that of the Czar of all the Russias.

In the past Siam's throne was filled by two monarchs—the first and second king. The second king was a sort of royal commander-in-chief, and his position was a painful one, as it was a source of constant jealousy to the first king. From 1855-85 the place of second king was filled by a brother of the first king, who was named George Washington, having been called after his father's favorite hero. It is pleasant to know that he was not unworthy of the name, and that his memory is still cherished by the Europeans who knew him.

With his death the second kingship ceased to exist, and the present monarch, who had ascended the throne in 1868, became the supreme ruler.

Quite Different.
 "Maria," said Mr. Rawlins, laying aside his hat and overcoat and rubbing his hands gleefully together, "you know that for years we have been wanting to buy a building-lot in Kennedy's subdivision, but couldn't afford to do it on account of the high prices they ask for land out there. Well, I've just learned that Quinlan, who owns one of the best lots in that entire neighborhood, will sell it for half what it cost him, if he can get the cash. He needs the money, and can't get it any other way. I have a great mind to buy it to-morrow morning. It comes easily within our means."

"I don't think you ought to do it, Joshua," said Mrs. Rawlins. "If you don't think I ought to buy it? Why not?"

"It would be taking advantage of his necessities."
 "But, Maria—"
 "Besides, I have just learned of a splendid opportunity to buy some furniture that we need. Grigson & Mullins are advertising parlor sets at one-third less than cost because they are overstocked and can't afford to carry them through the season. I'd like to buy about two hundred dollars' worth of parlor furniture. We'll never have as good a chance again."

"Being a man of excellent self-control, Mr. Rawlins merely smiled.

Polar Humor.
 Ever since the reported discoveries of the north pole, professional jesters have been engaged in turning out witticisms on the subject. Some time ago, before the discovery, a writer of humorous verse made the interesting point that since the north pole is, after all, an imaginary spot, why should it not be discovered by the imagination? Le Figaro of Paris recalls a somewhat similar solution of the difficulty.

"The great difficulty of the enterprise," said Alphonse Allais, the author of "Paraphrases de Lescaudage," "is that they say that there is a glacial temperature at the north pole. Now in another part of the globe there is a place famous for its torrid heat, the equator. Nobody denies—the geographers agree on the matter—that the equator is an imaginary line.

"Why, this being the case, not have the equator pass through the north pole? Thus the task of the explorer would become easy, and one of the great problems which concern the scientists so much would be solved."

Her Preference.
 Miss Plumpleigh—According to reports dress goods will be much higher this season than they were last.

Miss De Thyrane—Well, I'm glad of it. I never did appreciate those dressy costumes.—Lippincott's.

FASHION HINTS



Navy blue marquisette trimmed in white toulard, thickly dotted with navy blue—it was a little dress that made one marvel at its simplicity and style. In one word it was "satisfying."

IN OLD VIRGINIA.

Blue Laws of Cavaliers Much More Strict Than Those of Puritans. The blue laws of the Puritan weren't in it with the blue laws of old Virginia, though it has always been supposed that the cavaliers of the southland cared more for high living and frivolity than for good behavior and order. In 1662 the following laws were enacted in that State:

Every person who refuses to have his child baptized by a lawful minister (Church of England) shall be amerced 2,000 pounds of tobacco, half to the parish, half to the informer.

To steal or unlawfully fill any hog that is not his own the offender shall pay to the owner 1,000 pounds of tobacco and as much to the informer, and in case of inability to pay shall serve as a slave two years, one to the owner, one to the informer.

No marriage shall be reputed valid in law but such as is made by a minister according to the laws of England. The minister who doth marry contrary to this act shall be fined 10,000 pounds of tobacco.

If a married woman shall slander a person the woman shall be punished by ducking, and if the damages shall be adjudged more than 500 pounds of tobacco her husband shall pay, or the woman receive a ducking for every 500 pounds so adjudged against her husband if he refuse to pay the tobacco.

Enacted that the Lord's Day be kept holy and no journeys or work done thereon, and all persons inhabiting in this country shall resort every Sunday to church and abide there quietly and orderly during the common prayers and preaching, upon the penalty of being fined 50 pounds of tobacco.

Any person inhabiting this country and entertaining a Quaker in or near his house shall, for every time of such entertainment, be fined 5,000 pounds of tobacco, half to the county, half to the informer.

Every master of a vessel that shall bring any Quakers to reside here after July 1 of this year shall be fined 5,000 pounds of tobacco, to be levied by distress and sale of his goods, and he then shall be made to carry him, her or them out of the country again.

The court in every county shall set up near the Court House, in a public and convenient place, a pillory, a pair of stocks, a whipping post and a ducking stool. Otherwise the court shall be fined 5,000 pounds of tobacco.

Fast Versus Theory.
 "The teacher of one of the rooms in a school in the suburbs of Cleveland had been training her pupils in anticipation of a visit from the school commissioner," said George S. Wells of Pittsburg at the Shoreham. "At last he came and the classes were called out to show their attainments.

"The arithmetic class was the first called, and in order to make a good impression the teacher put the first question to Johnny Smith, the star pupil.

"Johnny, if coal is selling at \$4 a ton and you pay the coal dealer 14¢ how many tons of coal will be bring you?"

"Three," was the prompt reply from Johnny.

"The teacher, much embarrassed, said, 'Why, Johnny, that isn't right.' "Oh, I knew it ain't, but they do it sayher.'"

Man Always Thinks He Can Do Better Than He Does Do.
 Many a thing that is done well isn't worth doing.

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