

# TIMELY TOPICS.

As opposed to dead ones, it's when a political boss is very much alive that his will is executed.

Russell Sage may not care much about libraries, but he is very fond of one little volume—his bank book.

It must puzzle the Czar to know how many of the plots against him are concocted by the nihilists and how many by the police.

Don't Worry Clubs are still forming in different parts of the country. It would be interesting to know if millionaires ever join them.

It is reported that George Gould never turned a hair when he heard that Count Boni was going to stand up and let another man shoot at him.

Scientists still say men will be able to fly. It's to be hoped so. It's about the only way most people will ever have a chance to get up in the world.

Ill-informed persons are asserting that the culinary art has declined since women have become addicted to clubs. On the contrary, life insurance statistics conclusively prove that the age limit has extended since women gave up cookery for culture.

A scientific gentleman proposes to stop the eternal war between dog and cat by inoculating the animals with serums from one another's blood. In this way the hostile dog principle will neutralize the hostile cat principle and there will be peace in the two families.

A New York woman is suing for a divorce from her husband on the ground that she cannot induce him to talk to her. The plaintiff is taking long chances in introducing the matter of talking or not talking as furnishing reason for divorce. If a wife can get a divorce from her husband because the latter does not talk enough it is to be presumed that a husband could get a divorce from a wife who talked too much. From a feminine point of view, all things considered, it would seem to be wiser not to try to establish a precedent in the premises.

King Edward has declared that no more deputations in frock coats will be received at court. And in this his majesty shows that sound sense of the fitness of things which is said to be his leading characteristic. The absurdity of maintaining a ten-million-dollar court to be made free of by persons in \$20 suits will at once strike all thoughtful minds. If you can drop in on a king just as you leave the office, with your trousers wrinkled and your necktie under your ear, what in the world is the use of having a king? Any competent stage manager will say at once that "Ed" is right.

Basis for another historical novel of an exciting nature is supplied in the news that the King of England has asked the daughter of the late President Faure of France to omit from the projected memoirs of her father letters written to him by the late Queen of England. The contents of the letters have evidently been made known to the reigning monarch, who must have serious reasons, personal or public, for securing their suppression. To accommodate him the work will be withdrawn from the press. The Queen was known to be peculiar at times and the King has evidently discovered that during one of those times her majesty was indiscreet with her pen. Or can it be that the letters refer to his own frequent incognito visits to the French capital and police protection? Speculation is bound to be rife until the letters are out—or counterfeited.

The other day a fine-looking man appeared in a New York home and began paying court to the daughter. She had met him at a reception, and he pleased her. He was kind to the old folks, courteous, a model lover, and in a few weeks a marriage took place. Not a question was asked. All believed what he told them. After the marriage it was discovered that he was a bigamist half a dozen times repeated and as thorough a scoundrel as ever graced a prison. Result: A family disgraced and a girl's heart broken, all for the lack of a little precaution. It would almost seem that people like to be fooled. Overconfidence has blasted many lives. When a young man begins to pay serious attentions to your daughter it is your duty to learn something about him. It is not enough that he dresses well and talks well, and appears to be industrious. The young man, even if he is a comparative stranger in a city, who is in a position to make love to a young woman, is able to show some certificate of character. Ask him for it. Show at least as much prudence in a matter of matrimony as you would in buying a horse.

If the candidate for any position, from office boy to becoming your son-

in-law, is sincere, he invites inspection. If he objects to inspection you don't want him, and the young lady in the case can better afford to shed a few tears now than buckets of brine after an ill-advised marriage.

An interesting experiment is being made in the country schools of Iowa the result of which will be looked for anxiously by other communities. What the educators hope to accomplish is the abolition of the little white school-houses which dot the hills of that flourishing State. The idea is one of economy, and it would seem that the plan if carried out successfully would result in a great saving to the taxpayers. It has been found that in Iowa as elsewhere there are in the country districts too many school buildings and teachers for the population and that in many places the cost of educating the pupils was much greater than it should be. As a trial a central school has been built in each of about fifty townships, and all the little district schools done away with. Transportation is furnished for pupils living at remote distances and the teachers, in reduced numbers, are gathered in the main school. The cost of transportation is said to be only \$30 a month for each township, which seems a ridiculously small sum, and the plan has proved so far as the experiment goes a great success. These central schools are built at an average cost of \$17,000 and the average number of pupils in attendance at each is said to be 1,000. The townships are enabled to hire a better class of teachers at a slight advance of salary, and there are fewer of them. The pupils have had no trouble in getting to or from the schools, and aside from educational there are other advantages in the plan. It is proposed to extend the system now to several counties in the State, and so far as can be learned there has been no serious opposition to the move from any quarter.

A Roman Catholic clergyman in New Jersey recently advised the young men and young women of his congregation to marry early. They made a mistake—a serious mistake—he declared in waiting until late in life to settle into matrimony. An early marriage, in the dean's opinion, is the best guarantee that a man will be confirmed in his habits of industry, sobriety and moral living. He advised all young men to begin as soon as they become workers to lay aside a part of their earnings, so that they may adequately support wives without waiting until the heyday of life is past to take on family obligations. The girls he admonished to qualify themselves early as homemakers, so as to make the burdens of the young men by whom they may be chosen as light as possible. In Chicago, almost at the very time this advice was being given, an obdurate father was waiting his 17-year-old daughter's 19-year-old husband over the front steps and advising him never to show his face in that precinct again. There may be personal reasons for this father's objection to early marriages that are sufficient for him, and, indeed, it may be said that people in general, if they have children of their own, seem to have an unalterable opposition to early marriages except in other families. Nearly every man is willing that some other man's son or daughter should contract an early marriage, but he wants his own children to hang around the hearthstone until he can be sure that they have reached years of discretion. Dean O'Grady's idea may be the right one. It is undoubtedly true that a good many men by waiting until they are 35 or 40 years of age before getting married rob themselves of a happiness that can never be recovered. More than this, they increase the crop of old maids, and no community can be at its best with a high percentage of old maids. But it seems impossible to adjust these matters according to the calm judgment of disinterested observers. Matrimony is, and probably always will be, largely a matter of individual inclination or convenience, save in cases where girls have opportunities to marry titles. Age then ceases to be a matter for consideration. So it may be as well to preach about something else.

**An Enemy of the Trusts.**  
"The devil!" exclaimed the president of the rubber trust, crumpling up a letter and viciously thrusting it into the waste basket.  
"What's up now?" asked the secretary. "Bad news?"  
"No; cheerful news," answered the president disgustedly. "I've been corresponding with some idiot in Texas in regard to the purchase of his rubber plant, and in my last letter I asked him where it was situated."  
"Yes," assented the secretary, "and where was it situated?"  
"Why, his letter says it is located in the right-hand corner of his parlor."  
And the office boy had a hard time of it the remainder of the day.—Indianapolis Sun.

**Rain in Arizona.**  
The people of Arizona are returning thanks for the heaviest rainfall there for twenty years.

When a man is guilty he has a good deal to say about it being the duty of his wife to trust him.

## UPON A CATARACT'S BRINK.

Thrilling Experience of a Voyager on the Ottawa River.

The horrible experiences of one who has been swept away by some merciless current and finds himself at last at the brink of a cataract may possibly be imagined, but there are few who survive to relate to us the particulars of such an ordeal. Yet there is one instance where a man was saved at the very edge of the falls.

There are few more imposing bits of scenery in Canada than where the Ottawa River pours thundering and foaming over the Chaudiere Falls. When the water in the river is low, as it is in autumn, there is a fall of about forty feet, but when the river is swollen by melting snows in the spring the apparent depth of the fall is lessened. At any time the rush and swirl of the great river over this ledge of rock is a sight worth seeing.

In some places the water pours over in a dense and irresistible volume, while at other points a shallow stream will spray itself over a higher table of rock. On the upper Ottawa are floated booms of logs which feed the large lumber industries of that region. Handling these wet logs is a treacherous business, and it is easy to lose one's foothold and fall into the swift stream. Accidents of this kind occur frequently. The only case that did not have a fatal termination is the one referred to here.

The man was busy forking these logs with those sharp tongs used to swing them about and draw them in, when he missed his footing and fell into the river. Though a strong swimmer, he could not withstand the current and was swept out into the stream and on toward the falls. Nearing the falls, he found himself still conscious, and it happened that he was being floated over one of those tables of rock where the water was so shallow that he felt himself touch. He struggled to regain his feet, and was successful in so doing, so that he found himself standing in, perhaps, a foot of rushing water, at the brink of the cataract, a great current surging by him on every hand.

But it seemed hopeless. He saw no way of getting to shore, and no one from the shore could get to him. Many people on the banks of the river were watching him and trying to study out some plan to save him. Finally a large derrick was brought to bear, such as is used in building operations. A great arm with ropes was swung out over the current, and when the man had fastened himself securely with the ropes he was raised up high and swung in, just as a large stone would be raised in constructing a building.

## WALES SETS A NEW STYLE.

Heir to England's Throne Echoes Creases of Trousers.

This is the new photograph of the Prince of Wales, which has caused consternation among the chappies of New York. It is the proof indisputable of the fact that his royal highness is wearing his trousers without creases and has been wearing them so for some little time. The Prince's trousers are pressed "even all around" so as to give the leg a perfectly cylindrical "set." A Chicago exquisite was asked what effect this change of fashion on the part of the Prince would have on swifdom in America. He said: "There is no



WALES' NEW PICTURE.

doubt that the Prince of Wales sets the fashion for London and that we follow the London fashions in general. It is hard to say, however, whether the crease will go or not. We are largely elastic in our modes. The crease is without question desirable and pretty. I should say that if we wish to we can have creases in our trousers without the consent of any other nation. But if the business once gets a good start it is more than probable that the round leg will come into vogue again. Meanwhile I would advise my friends in the words of Pope:  
"Be not the first by whom the new are tried,  
Nor yet the last to lay the old aside."

**Beer Glasses Regulated by Law.**  
The ordinary beer glass is regulated by law in Bavaria and must hold exactly half a litre, or nearly nine-tenths of a pint.

The needle you hunt for in a haystack never pricks your finger.

The rich man travels when he will; the poor man when he can.

## IN BUT NOT OF THE WORLD.

Monastery of Trappist Monks at Gethsemane, Ky., Is a Peculiar Place.

Fifty miles from Louisville is the village of Gethsemane, where reside a community of Trappist monks, the strictest of all the monastic orders. The monastery is an imposing but gloomy-looking pile. No woman is permitted to enter it save the wives of the President of the United States and the Governor of Kentucky. Over the inner door of the institution is a placard which threatens excommunication to any of the fair sex who shall dare to cross its portals. Thus far this has been sufficient to prevent intrusion.

The Trappists is the only order of the church that adds to the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience that of silence. Something about the very buildings themselves impresses one with this effect of withdrawal from the world. They look older than their forty-odd years, and the elms about them seem to have been growing for centuries. Fronting on the garden is the hospice, three stories high and containing chambers with swinging windows, which show a remarkable thickness of wall. The monastery proper forms two other sides of the quadrangle, and the church the fourth. The monks made the bricks themselves and did much of the construction. They



TYPE OF GETHSEMANE MONK.

have painted and decorated the walls and carved and inlaid the wood of the chapels. The abbot's crozier, formed of thousands of pieces, was made by one of the monks.

Among the monks the various trades and callings are represented, and you see men in brown frocks turning or planing wood, setting type, sewing, mixing drugs, mending kettles and shoeing horses as well as tilling the fields, gathering vegetables, tending swine, milking cows and driving teams. There are two classes of Trappists—the choir religious and the lay brothers. Their mode of life is the same in its essentials, but the first named are bound to perform duty in the choir and have a longer litany but shorter hours of labor. The choir monks are generally men of education, with a knowledge of Latin, in which most of their services are read. Some of them are priests who have resigned their pulpits, some are lawyers, some are teachers, but under the rule of silence it may be that no man knows his neighbor, though he stand elbow to elbow with him in the choir stalls for twenty years. It is said that some of the monks of Gethsemane have not heard of the Spanish war, and that, as an affair of an outside and far-off world, it would not interest them if they did. There are about eighty monks in the Abbey of Gethsemane, and it is said that there is a slow increase.

## A Safeguard Against Curiosity.

When a prominent picture dealer of New York starts the topic of woman's curiosity, his wife always laughs and blushes, for she knows the story that is coming.  
"One day," the picture dealer begins, "I decided to close the small exhibition studio which leads from the gallery, and put 'Private' on the door, just for an experiment. There was an important collection of water colors by one of our best artists in the gallery, and presented to each lady a fresh catalogue of the paintings. When she took it I politely requested her to leave it as she went out.  
"This request was complied with in every instance, and I was enabled to notice a most interesting series of coincidences. On every catalogue save one there was in one place or another a little smear of gilding transferred to the paper from the carefully prepared knob of the door marked 'Private.'"  
When the story has been accepted with laughter by his listeners, somebody is sure to ask: "How about the one catalogue that was undecorated?" To this query the picture dealer has one invariable answer:  
"It was the catalogue carried by the young woman who afterward became my wife. She told me that the other women turned the knob merely to see if the door was locked, but she knew that sort of gilding rubbed off, and she had on light gloves."

Remember, girls, that getting married means that for the rest of your life you will have to eat your own cooking.

## TOLD THE STORY.

Then the Boys Were Certain that He Was the Man.

In the life of Sir George Grey, one of England's explorers and statesmen, is a pleasant story of his meeting with some boys in the Natural History Museum at South Kensington. Lads and lassies were his delight.

"There is something in old age," he said, "that likes to have a young mind clinging to it." He took great pleasure in lingering at the museum and watching the stream of visitors. One day he saw half a dozen boys gathered about an interesting specimen. Presently they noticed Sir George, and a delegate approached with the request:  
"Please, sir, can you tell us the name of this creature?"

Strangely enough, it was a specimen which he had sent home from Australia. He named it, and then the lad asked:  
"Where did it come from?"  
He told them that, and the next question came:  
"Who killed it?"

A pucker gathered upon Sir George's face, and he hesitated, arguing with himself:  
"If I tell them they'll think me an impostor, and perhaps discount the other information I've given them."

But the boy was waiting, and Sir George could only say: "Frankly, you know, I believe I killed it myself."  
"Here, you fellow!" rang out the lad's merry voice. "He says he killed it! Did you ever!"

The other boys left the animal to stare at what they considered even a greater curiosity. They formed a half-circle about him. "Oh, yea," said Sir George, "it's quite true. Now, if you'll listen I'll tell you the whole story, and then you can decide for yourselves."

He began, and their amused incredulity vanished. They listened breathlessly, and when he finished, hats and caps were off, and they chorused:  
"Thank you, sir!"  
It was a memorable afternoon.

## FAMOUS AS A BARRISTER.

Lord Russell of Killowen, Who Died Recently.

The most famous and probably the most popular man in the legal profession in England is Lord Russell, of Killowen, lord chief justice of England, who died recently. As a barrister, Lord Russell was long without rivalry



LORD RUSSELL.

in the law courts. He was a first-class jury orator and at the same time a deep and sagacious lawyer—a combination rarely found united in one person. Numerous stories are told of the chief justice when, as plain Charles, or later as Sir Charles Russell, he made it extremely trying with distinguished witnesses in his terrible cross-examinations, or cast confusion upon his professional opponents by his biting satire or his sudden springing of a new point in law. Sir Charles appeared in some of the most famous cases at the British bar. He defended Mrs. Maybrick, in her celebrated murder trial in 1889, and appeared in the Chetwynd turf scandal case in the same year. In 1894 Sir Charles, who had been knighted in 1892, was appointed lord chief justice of England in succession to Lord Coleridge. In 1895 Lord Russell visited the United States and was royally entertained by members of the American bar.

## A Natural Conclusion.

The Philadelphia Record prints an amusing story of the late President William H. Allen of Girard College and a lady of more inquisitiveness than intelligence. On one occasion a business matter called Mr. Allen to a small town in the central part of Pennsylvania. While sitting in the parlor of the country hotel in the evening, after transacting his business, he was taken in hand by the wife of the proprietor, who wanted to know all about his private affairs.

Mr. Allen took it all in good part, and for a time was rather amused. Finally he asked:  
"Have you much of a family?"

"Oh, yes," said he, and he smiled as his mind reverted to his hundreds of pupils.  
"How many children?" she persisted.  
"Well," said Mr. Allen, with great earnestness, "I have five hundred, and all boys!"

The good lady was speechless for a moment. Then she arose, and hurrying to the door, called softly to her husband:  
"O, John, come in here! We've got Brigham Young stopped with us!"

You can never tell how little a date means by the height of his collar.

## MONKEYS IN INDIA.

Are Unusually Laid-back Counterfeits of Their Human Cousins.

"When I was traveling in Northern India," said a gentleman who had recently completed a journey around the world, "I was constantly impressed with the almost human ways of the monkeys there. You see they are never molested, which is also true of the birds, and they are as tame and impudent as spoiled children.

"I remember that one morning while we were sitting at breakfast on the veranda of our hotel suddenly we heard the noisiest chattering, and down the main street of the town came a crowd of long-tailed monkeys, running a race evidently. They shrieked and chattered at every leap, tripped each other up, pulled each other's tails and seemed to be having a generally hilarious time. While we left the table to watch their antics some Indian crows that had been solemnly lined up on the veranda rail watching us eat, made a dash for the food and had quite a fight with the native servant before they were finally driven away.

"But the monkeys of India are surely the most irresponsible people in the world," continued the traveler. "I call them people because they are such ludicrous counterfeits of human beings. In many of the old temples there are monkey settlements. I remember one in particular which was sacred to the simians. There seemed to be thousands of the creatures, and I was told that 5,000 had recently been taken to the woods to get rid of them. But in this temple I saw little simian mothers nestling and rocking their babies in their arms for all the world like a Christian mother. I ventured to pick up one of the infants that was running about, and instantly the baby gave a typical infantile squeal and the excited mother came to me, chattering angrily. I put the infant down, and the mother, her eyes still blazing with anger, carried the little one to a corner and petted and rocked it, frequently turning to give me a scornful look.

"It is not uncommon for the monkeys in the trees to reach down and seize the traveler's hat as he passes.

"Perhaps the most remarkable sight in connection with the monkeys in India I witnessed early one morning. We were riding in the highway and by a vacant field. Suddenly from the neighboring forest a troop of monkeys entered the field and began a regular May dance, taking hold of hands and forming a large circle, then dancing round and round and chattering gleefully."

## LAW AS INTERPRETED.

Constitutional mandate of equality of taxation as near as may be is held, in *Drew vs. TIER* (Minn.), 47 L. R. A. 525, to be applicable to inheritance taxes and to be violated by exemptions which discriminate between different classes of persons.

An assessment for a street improvement under a resolution declaring the improvement expedient is held, in *Norfolk vs. Young* (Va.), 47 L. R. A. 574, to be unconstitutional for lack of due process of law, where the notice did not designate any tribunal, place or time where the party could be heard.

Contract to expend \$10,000 in "opening and developing" mining property which consisted of a large number of mining claims, both quartz and placer, and in erecting a ten-stamp quartz mill, is held, in *Stanton vs. Singleton* (Cal.), 47 L. R. A. 584, to be one which equity will not enforce by specific performance.

Authority of railroad commissioners to order a company to build and maintain a depot at station house is held, in *State ex rel. Tompkins vs. Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad Company* (S. D.), 47 L. R. A. 598, to be conferred by a statute authorizing them to notify the company of improvements which they adjudge to be proper.

Power to decide between candidates for justice of the peace who have an equal number of votes is held, in *State Crow vs. Kramer* (Mo.), 47 L. R. A. 651, to be in violation of the Constitution, which provides for the election of such officers without any provision for deciding the tie, while it does make such provision in respect to other officers. With this case there is a note on the decision of a tie vote at an election.

**The Work of an Oak.**  
A single oak of good size lifts 120 tons of water during the months it is in leaf, says Frank French, in *Scribner's*. This moisture is evaporated and rises to form rain-clouds. All the trees are busy doing the same thing, and the rank ferns and mosses and deep mould of the forest depths, acting as reservoirs for the rain which falls upon them, in their turn feed the springs and brooks. From this we can gain some idea of the immense forces which the forests exert in equalizing the evaporation and precipitation, and preventing periods of inundation and drought.

The costliest campaign is that which begins when a girl is 16, and terminates when she is 25 in her marriage to a 30-year-old man.

If a man meets six girls in the course of the day, five tell him that he is "good man."