TIMELY TOPICS

It isn't the right to criticise but the right to blackguard that some people are afraid of losing.

Again the people are asking why the anarchists don't leave this country, if they don't like it, and go back where they came from.

Whenever they go out to arrest Herr Most they find him under a bed or in a beer saloon. The Herr is the leader of those who are proud to call themselves "scientific anarchists."

It is well to be reminded of the fact that an attempt once was made upon the life of President Andrew Jackson. Political assassination is not a crime confined to this particular age.

Corbett says he has "lived at a fast clip" and has no money left. Well, the railroads and the lumber men, the farmers and a lot of other people are looking for good strong men. Mr. Corbett need not suffer the pangs of extreme want.

This country will be whatever the boys now growing up shall make it, and they should be so educated as to create in their minds a horror of disorder and violence and a love of peace, justice between man and man, good citizenship and the fear of God.

Civilized people will be shocked at the advice of an English physician to a wealthy patient to live like a savage to be cured. Savages, it may be recalled, do not belong to clubs, have no stock exchanges, know nothing of trust and trade combinations, run no political campaigns and so reserve some vitality and nerve force for purely living purposes.

The day of small nationalities has about come to an end. While Great Britain has been conquering and colonizing in every quarter of the globe, united Germany and united Italy are realities of recent development, and a process of national aggrandisement and consolidation is at work everywhere, and, sooner or later, the great powers of the world will be fighting for the mastery, while the small nationalities will be wiped out.

We need but look at our own American history, past and present, for proof that human nature is not awed by unusual and fiendish penalties. The witch-burnings in Salem created more witches. The penalty of death upon those who aided in the escape of slaves, and in some States upon those who taught blacks to read, prevented neither the one action nor the other. The ordinary lynchings, having failed to terrorize the negroes in the South, burnings have now been resorted to, but the assaults upon white women go on none the less.

The truth is that "stamping out anarchy" is one of those things which are easier said than done. The only effective way of doing it is to raise a generation of people none of whom believe in anarchy. There is no warrant or excuse for anarchy of this type in the United States. We must do everything that is possible to discourage its existence and to prevent its spread. But it is hard to see how we can go much further than to enforce the spirit of existing laws. We are dealing with evil traits of human nature, which are not to be eliminated from the race instantaneously.

When an era of competition has resulted in an excessive investment in fixed capital, much of which is of low competitive power, little can be gained by a mere combination of plants and an effort to pay dividends on the whole volume of stock. If prices are kept high enough to pay such dividends, the inevitable result is fresh competition from the outside. If dividends are paid without proper provision for betterments, the result is disaster. If no dividends are paid, there is dissatisfaction. The remedy in either case is found in reorganization, which means the elimination of fictitious values.

The first annual report of Governor Charles H. Allen, of Porto Rico, gives a clear idea of the nature of the task the Americans have before them in bringing the island of Porto Rico up to modern ideas of civilization. Sanitation, as we understand it, is unknown in Porto Rico. Filth is everywhere. There are no sewers. Cesspools open into kitchens and bakeries. The water supply is commonly contaminated and the masses sleep in close rooms, despite the hot weather and bad odors. Cisterns are polluted by filth accumulated on the flat roofs and wells are almost universally close to the cesspools. The waterworks of San Juan and Ponce are in bad condition and the water supply is positively dangerous. Garbage disposal has never received attention. Cemeteries are crowded and skulls lie in piles on the surface. Foodstuffs, wines and milk are extensively adulterated. However, the same energy that has cleansed Cuba has begun on Porto Rico, and the Porto Ricans will have to learn to be clean in spite of centuries of indolence and filth.

The achievements of Peary, the explorer, didn't make much noise in the world, because the news came at a time when the country was in suspense as to the fate of the President. The eyes of the nation were turned to Buffalo, and other things didn't matter much. Peary hasn't found the pole. This crippled-up, frost-bitten, daring and dogged explorer sends back word from the frozen north that he will try again. In a year's work Peary rounded the northern end of the Greenland archipelago, the most northerly known land in the world, and made it possible to prepare a fairly accurate map of the Greenland coast. He struck out across the sea ice for the pole, but was stopped by broken ice and open water at about 83 degrees north—the highest altitude yet reached in the western hemisphere. There are a good many people who believe that all the pole hunters are stark, staring mad, and that the whole arctic exploration business is rank folly. It is a pretty good thing to learn all that is possible about this big world that belongs to mankind, and the debt that humanity owes to explorers is so great that it can never be settled. The men who reach the pole may not discover gold mines or precious stones, or anything that can be turned into money. Most of them are fighting ice and disease and starvation in the awful north because of the restless energy that is in them, and not because there is hope of financial reward. They are working for the glory of the whole civilized world and to satisfy human ambition that is wresting secrets from Nature one by one. Let us hope that Peary finds the pole, because he is impelled by a noble ambition to increase the sum of human knowledge and because he is an American.

The question of discipline has come up at Waukegan, Ill. It is about the infliction of corporal punishment in the public schools. Under an old rule of the board, the use of the rod was allowed in the case of "bad boys," but the rule had become a dead letter. Recently there was an aggravated case, which attracted unusual public attention, and this aroused discussion of the form of punishment that should be applied to pupils on whom moral suasion and kindness had no effect, and who continued to defy their teachers. To dismiss them manifestly was not to the point, and so the school board again adopted an order that teachers should use the rod in their discretion. But the public had already taken so much interest in the case that sentiment became divided, some citizens declaring that if the rule is followed with their children they will in turn whip the teachers—a thing that suggests possibly that if they had had a little more whipping in their own school days they might probably have been better citizens. There is very good authority for the saying that to spare the rod means to spoil the child, says the Indianapolis News. Whether discipline take this form or not, or whether it must inevitably in some cases be reduced to this form, there is no question that discipline must be maintained. Some teachers are not fit to be intrusted with the power of chastising children, for they will abuse that power; they have not to begin with the right kind of government over themselves. Others can be trusted, still others will be able to maintain order without whipping. There is much also to be taken into account as to the pupils. Some might be punished with profit, others might be made worse by it. It is, indeed, a most difficult question, but certainly there should be an agreement on one thing, and that is that discipline must be maintained not merely for the sake of the schools, but for the pupils. Without discipline, however enforced, children will surely grow up in lawless condition. They will have in them essentially that element of defiance that is the basis of lawbreaking in after life. The judges of our criminal courts and of higher courts both East and West in recent years have been singularly unanimous in the belief that whipping should be a form of punishment for juvenile offenses. Their long experience on the bench has taught them that incorrigible boys, those who have passed the happy moment when the sense of discipline may be inculcated in them, have reached the stage when nothing will arouse that sense like corporal punishment; that fines and imprisonment and reform schools alike are weak and frequently not to be compared with the prompt administration of corporal punishment. The question is a deep one. It is something more than the mere humiliation or large appearance of authority which many seem to think are the chief features of the act. The essential thing is that where there is a case of "bad boy" on whom all moral suasion is powerless, there is a sure sign that the turning point has been reached and that the spirit must be conquered and taught that discipline must be accepted.

Science AND Invention

Shrubs growing in a poor soil seldom produce bright, high-colored flowers. Iron filings and scales collected about a blacksmith's anvil have a tendency to intensify the color of many plants, if dug into the soil about their roots.

The flowering of potatoes has been found by Mr. M. Michalet to withdraw much starch from the tubers, and experiments in France have convinced him that the product of the plants may be improved by removing all blossoms.

There has been a marked decrease in the population of French India of late. In five settlements, with a total of 273,185 inhabitants, there has been a decrease of more than eleven thousand in the last ten years, though they have been free from famine and plague.

Beginning with the present year, Spain has adopted Greenwich time in the place of Madrid time, which was previously used as the Spanish standard. Madrid being west of Greenwich, the change involved the setting of clocks 14 minutes and 46 seconds ahead.

The labor cost of scientific research is not easy to realize. A British entomologist has just shown a series of about thirty pictures illustrating every stage in the metamorphosis of a dragon-fly from the nymph to the perfect insect, and relates that he took over one thousand photographs before getting his complete set. Constant watching was necessary, as after the first indication of change the dragon-fly might emerge at any time within the next three days, the emergence being so rapid that three pictures were taken in six seconds.

H. F. Witherby, a recent traveler on the White Nile, describes the sacred bird of ancient Egypt, the ibis, which, he says, very few travelers in that country ever see, because it only visits Egypt during the period of inundation; but the dragomans, knowing the desire of all foreigners to see the famous bird, point out to them, as a substitute, the buff-backed heron, which is really totally unlike the ibis. The head, neck and legs of the latter, all bare of feathers, are jet black, in sharp contrast with the pure white plumage of the body. "The wings are edged with black like a mourning envelope, and from each shoulder droop green-black feathery plumes. When flying toward one the bird seems to be streaked with blood, for the wing bones are bare of feathers on the under side, and the skin which covers them is of a rich vermilion color."

The unusual optical phenomenon of a rainbow produced by the sun shining not on raindrops, but on particles of sand suspended in the air by wind, was witnessed over a part of the Great Salt Lake recently by Prof. James E. Talmage of the University of Utah. The colors were very brilliant, and there was a secondary bow visible. The main bow was fully double the width of an ordinary rainbow. Only a segment of it was seen. The sand was oolitic, consisting of calcareous spherules of fairly uniform size, ranging between the limits of No. 8 and No. 10 shot, which are polished and exhibit a pearly luster. Prof. Talmage points out that the production of the bow must be due to reflection from the outer surfaces of the spherules, and cannot be explained on the principle of refraction and total reflection, generally applied to the explanation of the rainbow.

BABY LEGALLY CHRISTENED.

Justice of the Peace Formally Sworeto Parents and Child.

"There used to be some funny ones down by the Rio Grande," remarked the tall, broad-shouldered Texan, when it was his turn. "Yes, there were some mighty funny ones. I remember particularly an old justice of the peace down there, who performed all sorts of offices, particularly those of a religious or semi-religious nature, in the absence of a minister. He made some awful breaks in his time; but he didn't reach the height of his originality until the day he christened the newly born child of a cowboy named Wilson. I'll tell you about it.

"In these days we never worried much about christenings and such in Texas. We simply slapped a name on a kid and if a minister happened along we had him go through the regular form; if not, we let it go at that and the kid never knew the difference. This Wilson, however, was strong on religion, though I reckon he didn't know so very much about it, and when his pretty little wife presented him with a son he set about to have the child regularly branded by some one in authority. There was not a minister within negotiable distance, and so he brought the child, accompanied by its mother and the intended sponsors, to our justice of the peace and asked him to perform the ceremony. Now, old "Bill" Scruggins—that was the justice's name—had never witnessed a christening. He remembered having seen a book about the house years before with a form of christening in it; but where it was he could not remember. A man with less nerve would have faltered; but not the justice.

"Hats off in the presence of the court!' he commanded.

"All being uncovered, he said: 'I'll swear you in fust. Hold up yer right hands.'

"'Us too?' asked the sponsors.

"'Of course,' said the justice. 'All witnesses must be swore in.'

"Then, looking at them all with comical dignity, he began the strangest christening ever performed: 'You an 'each one of you do solemnly swear that the evidence you shalt give in this case, shall be the truth, the whole truth, an' nothin' but the truth, s'elp you Gawd!'

"'You, John Wilson, do solemnly swear that to the best o' yer knowledge an' belief, this yer child is yourn an' yer wife's to have an' ter hold for yerself, yer heirs, 'exekyters, administrators, an' assigns, for yer an' their use an' behoof forever?'

"'I does,' answered the father.

"'You, Mary Wilson, believe this man an' boy; to wit, John Wilson an' son, to be yer husband an' child; an' you do further swear that you are lawfully seized in fee simple, are free from all incumbrance, an' hev good right to sell, bargain an' convey yer own an' husband's name to the principal in this case; to wit, yer son an' heir, his heirs, administrators an' assigns.'

"'I does,' answered the mother solemnly.

"'Well, John,' said the justice, wiping the perspiration from his brow, 'that'll be about three dollars.'

"'Ain't the child christened yet?'

"'Not yet he ain't,' replied old Scruggins; 'but this is is where the fee comes in.'

"The money being paid over, the justice put it in his pocket and went on as follows: 'Know all men by these presents that I, Willyum J. Scruggins, justice of the peace of Waco, in the State of Texas, being in good health an' of sound an' disposin' mind, in consideration of three dollars to me in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do, an' by these hev declared the child's name to be Willyum J. Scruggins Wilson, during good behavior an' till otherwise ordered by this court, which now stands adjourned.'"

DESICCATED VEGETABLES.

Dried Garden Truck Will Be Used by Uncle Sam's Soldiers.

Desiccated vegetables are coming on the market, for use especially by prospectors and hunters, who are obliged to economize every ounce in the weight of the provisions they carry. Necessity compels them to select such foods as combine the maximum of nutriment with the minimum of bulk and avoirdupois. This implies water-free substances, and dried fruits and vegetables are especially adapted for the purpose. Of late the War Department has been experimenting with products of this kind; it has found them wholesome and in all respects desirable, and is likely to use them largely in future years.

White potatoes, carrots and sweet potatoes have been found particularly available for desiccation. The sweet potatoes are cut up into little cubes, while the white potatoes and carrots are sliced. When wanted for use, they have to be soaked in water before cooking them; as sold, they are supposed to be absolutely water free. What a saving in weight and bulk they represent will be realized when it is understood that fresh white potatoes contain 80 per cent. of water and fresh carrots 90 per cent.

Experiments have proved that the drying process causes no loss of nutriment and that the product furnishes a most valuable addition to the food of people who are unable to get fresh vegetables. The desiccated white potatoes are as rich in muscle-forming element as the best wheat flour, though consisting mainly of the starchy material which is so useful as fuel for the body machine. The same thing may be said of the carrots and sweet potatoes; but a notable fact is that dried eastern vegetables are richer in starch and poorer in muscle-forming material than those grown in California.

No Ground for Hesitancy.

Frette—Do you know, it's got so with me now that when I start out in the morning to go down to business I have to stop at the corner to study which route will be the least apt to confront me with a creditor.

Callous—Thank goodness, I am no longer a victim of any such sensation as that.

Frette—What! You surely don't mean to say that you don't owe anyone.

Callous—Far from it. I simply mean that there is no direction I can take that will insure any such exemption and as a consequence it doesn't pay to hesitate.—Boston Courier.

Chinaman's New God.

I asked a Chinaman the other day what they would do now, as the idols were getting so scarce. What would they worship? "Mexican dollars," he replied, without a moment's hesitation; "and," he added, "it's genuine worship, too, mister."—North China Herald.

When a widower puts a black band around his hat, the women say: "The old hypocrite."

BECOMING A REPORTER.

A Bit of Experience in the Life of an Immigrant to America.

Things enough happened to take down my self-esteem a good many pegs. It was about this time I made up my mind to go into the newspaper business. It seemed to me that a reporter's was the highest and noblest of all callings. No one could sift wrong from right as he, and punish the wrong. In that I was right. I have not changed my opinion on that point one whit, and I would rather die a good reporter than a millionaire. The power of fact is the mightiest lever of this or of any day. The reporter has his hand upon it, and it is his grievous fault if he does not use it well. I thought I would make a good reporter. My father had edited our local newspaper, and such little help as I had been to him had given me a taste for the business. Being of that mind, I went to the Courier office one morning and asked for the editor. He was not in. Apparently nobody was. I wandered through room after room, all empty, until at last I came to one in which sat a man with a pastepot and a pair of long shears. This must be the editor. He had the implements of his trade. I told him my errand while he clipped away.

"What is it you want?" he asked, when I had ceased speaking and waited for an answer.

"Work," I said.

"Work!" said he, waving he haughtily away with the shears. "We don't work here. This is a newspaper office".

I went, abashed. I tried the Express next. This time I had the editor pointed out to me. He was just coming through the business office. At the door I stopped him and preferred my request. He looked me over, a lad fresh from the shipyard, with horny hands and a rough coat, and asked:

"What are you?"

"A carpenter," I said.

The man turned upon his heel, with a loud, rasping laugh, and shut the door in my face. For a moment I stood there stunned. His ascending steps on the stairs brought back my senses. I ran to the door and flung it open. "You laugh!" I shouted, shaking my fist at him, standing half way up the stairs. "You laugh now, but wait"—— And then I got the grip of my temper and slammed the door in my turn. All the same, in that hour it was settled that I was to be a reporter. I knew it as I went out in the street.—Jacob Riis in The Outlook.

GONE TO BE A CELESTIAL BRIDE.

Death of Mrs. Brigham Young, "Eternity" Wife of Joseph Smith.

Mrs. Zina D. Young, the most noted of the wives of Brigham Young, the famous Mormon apostle, died recently at Salt Lake City, Utah. She was born in Watertown, N. Y., in 1821, and at 15 became a convert to the doctrines of Mormonism, going directly to the settlement of Kirkland, Ohio. Here her devotion to her religion was so great that she was entrusted with a part of the mysteries of the temple. While there she told of a vision in which she had seen an angel and been invested with the "gift of tongues and interpretation," the power to speak in language used only by the chosen ones of God, and to understand this strange speech.

MRS. ZINA D. YOUNG

She married one of Smith's converts, and two children were born to them. She deserted them at Nauvoo, Ill., when Joseph Smith had a "revelation" that she had been set aside for him as wife for "time and eternity.". She was sealed to the prophet as a plural wife, and was his favorite until he was killed by a mob in Illinois.

Brigham Young, who then had several wives, had a "revelation" that she should be sealed to him for "time." She followed Brigham Young in the eventful journey from Illinois to the Salt Lake valley in the late 40's. She trudged behind wagons, slept in tents, cooked for the travelers and bore many hardships, entering the "New Zion" with the first settlers. After the death of Brigham Young she lived in Salt Lake City. She was always an earnest advocate of polygamy.

Only four of the widows of Brigham Young now survive. They live in Salt Lake City.

Old Peruvian Roads.

The Incas of Peru built very fine roads, one system of which traversed the plateau, the other followed the seacoast north and south. The seacoast road is said to have been from 1,500 to 2,000 miles in length and twenty feet in breadth. Many portions of this magnificent system of roads are still fit for use.

Don't give hints; Remember that before a man will lend money he has to be asked for it boldly and prefers good security to good hints.

"Man wants but little here below," remarked the landlady. "And here is the place to get it," continued the facetious boarder.—Exchange.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL LUDLOW.

In His Death a Brilliant Officer and Brave Soldier Passes Away.

In the death at Morristown, N. J., of Brig. Gen. William Ludlow, the United States Army has lost one of its most brilliant officers, and the country a man who was brave in battle, of unquestioned integrity, famous the world over as an engineer and who in many important and difficult positions acquitted himself with honor. Distinguished in his bearing, Gen. Ludlow illustrated the highest type of the American soldier. He was a graduate of West Point, served in the civil war and in the Santiago campaign he was classed with the best commanders in the field.

BRIG.-GEN. LUDLOW

Gen. Ludlow was a graduate of West Point and on leaving that institution in 1864 was appointed engineer on the staff of Gen. Hooker. He was assistant engineer of Gen. Sherman's army on the famous march to the sea.

In the Cuban war he commanded the extreme right wing of the American forces at Santiago. He had a brigade of regulars and displayed great bravery under heavy fire. He was rewarded with the rank of major general of volunteers, and went to Havana as military commander of the city under Gen. Brooke. He reorganized the police force and gave the Cubans many surprises by the thoroughness with which he enforced sanitary regulations and checked vice and immorality.

Gen. Ludlow returned from Cuba in March, 1900, a brigadier general in the regular army. He was appointed president of the United States Army War College and went to Europe to study the armies of foreign nations. Upon the completion of his report he was ordered to the Philippines, where he was to be military governor of the Visayas. On the outward trip he was taken sick with tuberculosis and on reaching Manila was ordered home. He returned in May, but the climate of his native land failed to benefit him and an heroic figure passes away in his death.

QUEER STORIES

The first sugar manufactured in this country was made in New Orleans in 1796.

The first table cutlery made in the United States was in Greenfield, Mass., in 1824.

In the south of China silkworms have been reared and silk manufactured for over 3,000 years.

QUEER STORIES !*! ovstwu,itMr!!

A caterpillar can eat six hundred times its weight of food in a month.

Whereas in England only one farmer in twenty-five owns his own farm, in Norway 109,000 out of 120,000 own their farms.

There has been invented in Paris a slot machine, which not only furnishes the postage stamp, but licks it and affixes it to the envelope.

The average cost of the body of a modern long electric car is $2,000; the average price of a set of double trucks for such a car is $600, and the average cost of the motor is $1,500, making the total cost of the car $4,100.

Children with measles are wrapped in red cloth by French peasant women. Noticing this, Chatinier pasted red paper on the window where patients having measles lived, and the results, in all cases, without medicine, have been favorable. He finds that other colors, especially strong shades of violet, excite the skin, while subdued red light rests it.

In a case reported by a French physician, a woman had been growing thin and weak for three years, with all the signs of dyspepsia, and had had sixteen successive attacks of erysipelas. It was at last decided that hair dye must be the cause. Examination showed that this dye contained resorcin, and on stopping its use health has gradually returned.

There is no simple way to distinguish between olive and cottonseed oil when buying. Personal acquaintance with the dealer, his guarantee and the label of the packer are sometimes serviceable guides. A properly cultivated taste will also assist. Regarding the wholesomeness of these and other vegetable oils, there is a difference of opinion. Some people regard cottonseed oil positively injurious to health, while others believe it to be practically harmless.

Portugal's King Is Poor.

Regal power and wealth do not always go together. The King of Portugal is probably the poorest sovereign in Europe. He is supposed to receive $410,000 a year, but it is alleged it is some time since he received anything at all, because money is uncommonly "tight" in the national exchequer. many of the royal dependents pay their tradesmen with credit notes, but no doubt in the future when Portugal, by practicing the strictest economy, rights herself they will be above par.