

TIMELY TOPICS.

President Grey receives \$180,000 early in salary and allowances, as head of the French republic...

Mr. Parnell, the Irish home-ruler, has abandoned his intention of visiting America this winter...

The glory of Leadville is passing away, says an exchange. Emigration to that once marvelous city is dwindling down...

The ex-Empress Eugenie has not been well since her return from Zululand, and has recently been compelled to remain in bed...

A woman has carried her point in the United States courts. Judge Lowell has rendered a decision in Boston in favor of Helen M. Macdonald...

The lines of railways in the five divisions of the earth cost, in round numbers, \$16,000,000,000, and would, according to Baron Kolb, reach eight times round the globe...

Laper Divers and Sharks. The pearl divers of the CORMANDEL coast are not infrequently attacked by ground-sharks...

A clerk was discharged, and asked the reason. "You are so awful slow about everything," said his employer...

FOR THE FAIR SEX.

Fashion Notes.

Plaids are in high favor. Polish caps with tassels are worn. Buttons are more artistic than ever...

Flannel balmorals take the place of felt skirts. Imported evening dresses have very long trains...

Some very small bonnets appear among late novelties in millinery. A trimming much in vogue is black net embroidered with jet beads...

Irish point and church lace trim the most fashionable mull neck scarfs. Velvet, farmer's satin and flannel skirts bid fair to supersede felt ones...

Rough and shaggy cloaking cloths are in demand for jackets and sacks. Sets of buttons are sold with each button bearing a different artistic design...

Tortoise shell combs, both in the amber and dark shades, always remain in vogue. Short dresses are made up in the richest materials for reception and visiting toilets...

Tourist and Hermit are the names betwixt principal varieties of hoods worn on jackets. One of the French gowns, imported for some millionaire's wife, is embroidered with little fans...

The pinkish drab color, on which the designs of Egyptian ribbon are printed, is called Egypt. Muslin half-handkerchiefs, fastened by butterfly bows or rosettes, are used for breakfast caps...

After the rage for big bonnets has subsided, the medium size will probably be most worn. Fancy combs, headed with balls of gold, coral, steel or crystal, to imitate diamonds, are worn...

Bonnets, muffs and costumes match when worn by the most fastidiously fashionable women. Jet or colored crystal beads enrich all the richest trimmings and embroideries on dressy costumes...

Watteau buttons are composed of colored stones, interspersed with small circular pieces of steel. Bead embroidery is used to cover the seams of brocades, and to hide the small defects in joining it...

The bearskin plush is as good an imitation of fur as the sealskin, but it is only used for trimmings. A four-leaved clover in shaded pearl embossed on a gold surface is the design of some new buttons...

Among novelties are sashes to match the costume, tipped at the ends with spikes, tassels or balls. Crystal beads in iridescent hues, white and clear as glass, are used to excess in trimming evening dresses...

Jet, gold, amber, purple, iridescent and jewel-tinted and crystal beads trim both bonnets and dresses. To muffle the throat in several yards of white or black tulle, a la Sarah Bernhard, will be all the fashion...

White plush bonnets, with the crowns or brims dotted with medium-sized pearl beads, bid fair to be favorites. Plush muffs are flat, and the plush is arranged in loose, irregular folds, not tight or smooth around the muff...

The petals of many of the new artificial flowers are made of soft plush in most gorgeous and delicate tints. The "beaded braid" trimming made of cord, wound with tinsel or fine metal, is substituted for bead trimming...

The ribbon decoration which appears on paper hangings and furniture is revived from the seventeenth century. Gilded flexible stems appear on some of the very few artificial flowers that are used by the milliners this season...

Bonnet ornaments, in the form of little gilded pigs, spiders, bees and beetles, ornament the new plush muffs. Plush muffs to match hats are trimmed with coffee-stained lace and furnished with gold cords, which suspend them around the neck...

Black and brown beaver plush bonnets and hats are frequently lined with amber-colored yellow, red, blue and other pale-tinted plush. The plain skirt, plain corsages of American costumes have not as yet made any impression abroad, but they are much worn in New York...

Fashionable hair-dressing makes the head look as small as possible, but the curls and frizzettes worn make the coiffure as costly as ever. Plush is made into branches of berries and used to trim bonnets. Plush leaves set in the long pile are the trimming of some plush bonnets...

Many of the handsomest wraps are trimmed with jet embroideries in artistic designs, set figures, bands, gimps, cords, tassels, spikes and galloons. Circulars will be much worn as the weather becomes colder. They are in more graceful shapes than last year, being cut with a slight spring in the back...

Brocades with no embroidery mingled with their design are considered rather tame by the dressmakers, who aim at having expensive things rather than pretty things. The mantle collar is the great dis-

culty about an outside garment now. It that be becoming the rest of the cloak may be even more than moderately ugly and yet pass muster.

The Duchess de Berri is the new mantle. It is large and flowing, but is gathered nearly to the waist both in front and at the back. The skirt is turned up about one-third of its depth in the back.

The Havelock is a long garment in the shape of a close fitting sack, with narrow flat kiltings on the side of the skirts, and a deep, round cape with a velvet collar. The only trimming is braid of cord.

Heavy fringes of silk and chenille sparkle with jet and are very deep. Spikes and cords and tassels will be employed in every conceivable manner—for facing dresses, as girdles, to tie around the neck and to fasten in a large knot on the left side of the skirt.

Horseshoe ornaments of jet, beaded rings and crescents will also be features in this season's dress ornaments.

American Girls in Europe. The London correspondent of the New York Herald writes: Nothing is more striking to an observer of Americans in Europe, than the steadily-growing prestige which they have acquired in the fashionable world.

To be an American seems to be a passport everywhere to civility, kindness and respect. Particularly is this so among our English cousins. The women most admired and feted in London are Americans, like Lady Mandeville, Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Pagot, Mrs. Simonds, and others.

The Marquis of Tweeddale, one of the most cultured and polished noblemen of the day, gave me the other day a very interesting opinion as to the reason why so many of his fellow noblemen married American girls. He said they were mainly attracted by the greater ease and liveliness of the American girls, which were as charming to Englishmen accustomed to the staid and timid reserve, and occasionally even stiffness, of English girls as the latter were repellant to them.

It is amusing, by the way, to observe how indignant the ladies of the fashionable world are at their lucky American sisters snatching from them the best parties and choicest prizes in the matrimonial market. Only the other day I heard the young and handsome wife of a well-known Irish peer disclaim in the most offended strain at the scandalous innovation—which she declared was a work of the last five years, though, forsooth! American girls have been marrying into the nobility ever since the three Misses Caton, of Baltimore, set them the present example by becoming the wives of three great noblemen, one of them no less a person than the Duke of Leeds—of young noblemen espousing American girls.

Irish Lace. It is in beautiful, delicate needlework, and in the making of lace of different kinds, says a writer in the Argosy, that the Irish sisters excel. There are several houses in the south of Ireland, each of which is famous for some special kind of manufacture.

Persons who are learned in such matters can tell instantly, on looking at a piece of work, at what convent it was done. The crochets made under the superintendence of Youghal nuns is exquisite and so fine that it has, in many cases, been mistaken for other kinds of lace. I have heard of a lady who purchased a quantity of what she believed to be old Roman point, in Italy at a great expense. On a bringing it home she took it to her dressmaker in Dublin, and gave it to her for a trimming for a dress, with many cautions against waste, and with repeated orders not to cut it unnecessarily.

The woman smiled when she heard the discolored work called antique point. She got a magnifying glass and showed her customer that she had in reality bought Irish crochets lace, which had been dipped in some yellow fluid, in order to give it an appearance of great age. The clever expert was, moreover, able to tell from what part of the country it had originally been procured.

Some ladies are very fond of purchasing sleeves and collars of this beautiful work, to wear at the table d'hôte when traveling on the continent, as it does not require what is technically termed going up; when soiled, simple washing and drying will restore it to its pristine daintiness. Besides this, it is quite uninjured by any amount of pressing or crumpling.

Children's Suits. The fashion in children's suits varies but little. White dresses richly embroidered are almost always used for babies, with the addition of colored cloaks. Many garments with sleeves are of blue or pink Sicilienne or of tulle. They are short enough to show the rich embroideries on the skirts. "Pelerines" are of white armure, with long capes and hoods. Little girls are to wear the "comfortable" of English cloth, in small checks. This is belted around the waist like an ulster. Over the back of the deep collar is a pointed hood, lined with silk. Heliotrope shade, which has been but little used for children, is replaced by dahlia, which is a fine violet, something like pansy. This color will be employed for little girls' and boys' dresses, especially when these are of velvet. Children's hats are of fine plush with a long, shaggy nap. They have very broad brims, much taken back.

"I have three children who are the very image of myself," "I pity the youngest," replied his interlocutor. "Why?" "Because he is the one who will have to resemble you the longest."

Spots on the son are sometimes freckles and sometimes photographs of a mother's loving but weighty hand.

Chinese Gamblers.

That the heathen Chinese are not to be done out of their gambling pleasures by the raids made upon them in their dens, was clearly seen by a Chronicle reporter yesterday. Sauntering along one of the alleys of Chinatown his notice was attracted by the unusual amount of business being done by one of the fortune tellers who locates his stall at the corner to attract passers-by.

The rapidity with which each votary took his departure struck the reporter as something out of the common, as the practice with these professors of futurity is to keep their victims in suspense before letting them know their fate. Approaching the stall he discovered that to a casual observer, appears nothing but a small box containing Chinese writing material, but in this case the innocent-looking box had a small slide on the top. The slide being pushed aside showed a small card, inscribed with characters denoting an animal, a fish, or a reptile, also a rude representation of the subject.

Each Celestial at the time of paying his stake, namely, a dime, guesses the name of the object he thinks will appear on the face. If another of the objects appears he loses his stake. Should he be fortunate enough to hit the right animal he receives a dollar, but, as the chances of winning are so much against him, the bank rarely loses. The reporter, having questioned the venerable moon-eyed astrologer, found that this species of gambling was conducted on a larger scale at an establishment ostensibly devoted to the sale of drugs in the heart of Chinatown, and, having ascertained the name of the shop, leisurely proceeded to make some further inquiries into the modus operandi of the game.

At first, admittance to the back room where the performance was carried on was refused, but a few words gave assurance and an entry was gained. Assembled in a small apartment were about thirty Chinamen. A narrow counter divided the manager of the game from the crowd, and, as the pool was about to open, the reporter stepped in and took a hand. Selecting a character and handing two bits to the banker, he received a piece of red paper upon which was written the character he had chosen. Thirty-six cards, each bearing a particular designation and corresponding to similar characters shown upon a red paper about eleven inches square, which was suspended from the wall, were then deposited in an earthen pot.

Diving into the pot the assistant banker, who was blindfolded, drew a card, and the fortunate individuals whose papers bore similar characters were paid ten times the amount of the stakes against the winning numbers. The cards were named as follows: Four literary graduates, represented by a white fish, a frog, a goose and peacock. Seven merchants, represented by a flying dragon, a white horse, an elephant, a wildcat, a rat and a hornet. Four Buddhist priests, represented by tortoise, a fowl, a yellow eel, and a fish.

Five beggars, represented by a shrimp, a snake, a caterpillar, a singing-bird, and a sheep. Five generals represented by a fan, earth dragon, white rabbit, a pig, a tiger, a water buffalo. Four lucky personages of the upper world, represented by a monkey, a toad, a kite, and sea dragon. Two Taoist priests, represented by a white stork and a gold-colored cat. One nun represented by a ravenous wolf.

Should any purchaser of a chance not happen to be present when the drawing takes place, he comes to the shop and inquires not about any gambling question, but says: "To-day how is the great 'Sz Machin'?" meaning one of the five generals—na he holds a ticket with the character "Wong Che Ko" the earth dragon, alias "Sz Machin," the generals, and this to a novice, who might be in the shop, appears to be making an inquiry after some person. The Chinese courtesans are great customers, and send their children to purchase the tickets to avoid notice being taken of the game by the initiated. The game is called "Tsefa," and is likely to prove a large source of revenue to the banker, now that fantan and other species of gambling have been uprooted in Chinatown.—San Francisco Chronicle.

The Story of the Apple.

The origin of this very widely-growing fruit is unknown, though it has been cultivated time out of mind. As the apple is mentioned in the Bible, it is presumed to be a native of Palestine, although at present in Canaan and the surrounding region it is of no value. It is now imported into Egypt and Palestine from the neighborhood of Damascus. It was extensively raised by the Romans, albeit the Roman apple is thought by some to have been very different from the apple described in the Scriptures. Pliny says that his countrymen were acquainted with twenty-two varieties—America produces more than 200 varieties. The apple is very hardy. It grows on all soils free from excessive moisture, except those of a peaty or very sandy character. The tree is noted for longevity, often bearing fruit for 200 and 250 years—the finest kinds of apples coming from trees from fifty to eighty years old. The orchards of the republic occupy about 1,500,000 acres, and their product a worth some \$16,000,000, most of the product being apples. American apples are the best in the world, and have a great reputation abroad, commanding large prices in Europe.

Maiden aunt to tall young nephew: "As I stood by you in church, Percy, I could not help being struck by your size." Percy: "Very sorry, aunt, but there was such an awfully pretty girl the other side the aisle, I couldn't help sighing!"—Fun.

Words of Wisdom.

Beauty is as summer fruits, which are easy to corrupt and cannot last.

No pleasure is comparable to the standing upon the vantage ground of truth.

Time well employed is Satan's deadliest foe; it leaves no opening for lurking fiend.

They that write books on the worthlessness of glory take care to put their names on the titlepage.

The slander of some people is as great a recommendation as the praise of others.

No man ever offended his conscience, but first or last it was revenged on him or it.

That laughter costs too much which is purchased by the sacrifice of decency and propriety.

The divinity of charity consists in relieving a man's needs before they are forced upon us.

Contempt is like the hot iron that brands criminals; its imprint is almost always indelible.

In matters of conscience first thoughts are best; in matters of prudence last thoughts are best.

There is no strength in exaggeration; even the truth is weakened by being expressed too strongly.

A strong man is one whose passion stimulates his reason and whose reason controls his passions.

A man is great just in proportion to his superiority to the condition of life in which he is placed.

Minutes lengthen themselves out immeasurably when passed through the rolling mill of anguish.

Look well to thyself; there is a source which will always spring up if thou wilt always search there.

Opportunities are very sensitive things; if you slight them on their first visit, you seldom see them again.

Mrs. Partington said that a gentleman laughed so heartily that she feared he would have burst his jocular vein.

The greatest events of an age are its best thoughts. It is the nature of thought to find its way into action.

Thought means life, since those who do not think do not live in any high or real sense. Thinking makes the man.

They who disbelieve in virtue because man has never been found perfect, might as reasonably deny the sun because it is not always noon.

There are no fragments so precious as those of time, and none are so heedlessly lost by people who cannot make a moment, and yet can waste years.

If the flouring mills of Minneapolis are all in operation, and run their average capacity during the present crop year, they will grind 18,000,000 bushels of wheat.

How Chickens Get Out of a Shell.

Take an egg out of a nest on which a hen has had her full time, carefully holding it to the ear; turning it around, you will find the exact spot which the little fellow is picking on the inside of the shell; this he will do until the inside shell is perforated, and then the shell is forced outward as a small scale, leaving a hole. Now, if you will take one of the eggs in this condition from under the hen, remove it to the house or other suitable place, put it in a box or nest, keeping it warm and moist, as near the temperature of the hen as possible (which may be done by laying it between two bottles of warm water upon some cotton or wool), and lay a glass over the box or nest, then you can sit or stand, as is most convenient, and witness the true modus operandi. Now watch the little fellow work his way into the world, and you will be amused and instructed, as I have often been. After he has got his opening, he commences a nibbling motion with the point of the upper bill on the outside of the shell, always working to the right (if you have the large end of the egg from you, and the hole upward), until he has worked his way almost around, say with one-half of an inch in a perfect circle; he then forces the cap or butt end of the shell off, and then has a chance to straighten his neck, thereby loosening his legs somewhat, and so, by their help, forcing the body from the shell.—American Farm Journal.

A Strong Expression.

In a copy of the United States Gazette, published in 1770, we have an account of a flag presentation, which may edify that large proportion of our population who have latterly participated in little affairs of that sort. On the day after the battle of Fort Moultrie, in 1779, Mrs. Elliott presented to Colonel Moultrie's Second South Carolina regiment a banner. Surrounded by the beauty and fashion of the day, the colonel stepped forth, and, receiving the flag from Mrs. E., acknowledged it in a very appropriate and eloquent speech. In closing, he turned suddenly to his men, and said: "My gallant companions, you see the reward of courage and fortitude! You have fought, and you have conquered; and the brave fellows who fell in the carnage of yesterday are now in heaven, riding in their chariots like the very best of us!"

We notice in the Cleveland Herald some verses by Miss Annie Beaufort, entitled, "Why Do I Sing?" We are not dead certain on this point, Annie, but it is probably because your pa has paid about \$500 to a music teacher for spoiling a good stocking darning.—Freckles

Presence of Mind.

John Wilkes, says an English paper, was not a great general, but he might have been one had he tasted life into military life. His presence of mind never deserted him. He held many places of trust and responsibility. He was alderman, chamberlain of London, and member of parliament, and no man was more outspoken and daring in his criticisms upon the government. Once upon a time, when Wilkes had been more severe than usual, and had reflected keenly upon the king and his chief ministers in the North Briton, a warrant was issued from the court of king's bench for his apprehension, and for the apprehension also of the poet Churchill, Wilkes' bosom friend and supporter. The chief culprit knew that the warrant was out, but he had not thought to speak of it. The king's messenger, with the warrant in hand, found Wilkes in his chamber, Churchill being at the time with him.

"Ah, Mr. Wilkes, I must arrest you—in the king's name!" "You have a warrant?" "Yes; here it is."

"And you've got Charles Churchill's name down also?" "Yes."

"Thompson, my dear fellow," said Wilkes, turning to his companion, "do run round to Churchill's rooms and tell him what's coming. Tell him to be off for a few days and I'll have it all right for him."

Churchill nodded to his friend and at once hurried out, the officer of the law little dreaming how the fish was slipping from his net before his very eyes.

The Teeth of the Ancient Greeks.

One of the most remarkable features of the discovery of the band of Thebans who fell at Chereonea is that, according to the report, all the teeth of each member of the sacred band are sound and complete. Either these gallant patriots were exceptionally lucky, or the condition of teeth in old Greece was enviably different from that of later and more degenerate days. The Romans were well acquainted with the evils that attend on the possession of teeth, and had some considerable knowledge of the use of gold in counteracting these evils. If we remember rightly, an exception to the rule of not burying precious objects with departed Romans was made in favor of the gold that had been used for stopping teeth. We moderns may compare favorably with the Romans in the skill of our dentists, but we cannot pretend to rival the defenders of Thebes in their superiority to the necessity for these gentlemen. Rare indeed are the happy mortals of to-day who can truly boast that their teeth are in the perfect condition that nature intended, and that the craft of the dentist has never been employed upon them. It would be a difficult task to select from our army, or any modern army, 300 men with teeth as sound as those of the Theban warriors.—London News.

Trees as a Check to Fire.

A Sacramento (Cal.) paper bears testimony that in that city disastrous and widespread conflagrations have frequently been averted almost solely through the agency of shade trees. The trees serve to prevent the passage of burning debris through the air—the embers of which would otherwise be blown from house to house and from block to block, being caught in the upper branches, and falling there harmlessly to the ground. In the summer trees act as screens between houses and blocks, moderating the heat of fires and interposing a barrier which is seldom passed by the flames. When we add to these very practical considerations the value of trees in breaking the force of the wind, enhancing the beauty of a city and affording a grateful shade to pedestrians, it will be seen that trees, planted along city streets, pay for themselves many times over and in many different ways. A community which acts on the suggestions thus enforced not only ministers to its esthetic tastes and promotes culture and the love of the beautiful, but erects a barrier against fires and checks the spread of conflagrations in one of the simplest and most common-sense ways conceivable.

The White Dog Won.

Nebraska theater audiences are unconventional in their conduct. At Lincoln, while John T. Raymond was presenting the trial scene in "Col. Sellers," two dogs began to fight in the center aisle. All attention was instantly diverted from the stage to the fight. "I move we suspend proceedings in this court," said Raymond, "and I'll bet a dollar on the white dog." "I'll take you," cried a man in the audience. The white dog won, the dollar was passed across the footlights to the star, and the acting of the play was resumed.

"Slept on their arms all night!" exclaimed good Mrs. Hickenlooper, looking up from the paper in which she had been reading of the English troops in Afghanistan, and beaming on her husband over its top; "why, only last night I slept on one of my arms only a few minutes, and it made it so numb I couldn't use it to get breakfast with. Slept on their arms all night, indeed!"

And the good soul was so aroused that she quite forgot her coffee, until the cat called her attention to the matter by whisking across the table and upsetting the cup in her lap.—R. B. & Co. Courier.