

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Contrary to all expectations, according to the *Railway Age*, the amount of railroad building so far this year is ahead of 1881, with the promise that 1882 is going to exceed any other year in the history of the country.

The wheat crop all over the world promises to be very large this year. India exported \$35,000,000 worth of wheat in 1881. This staple must continue to recede in price if the present prospects of an abundant harvest are realized.

Mr. Swank's report on the American iron production for 1881 puts the figures for that year, in pig iron, at 4,641,564 net tons. This is 346,000 tons more than the production of 1880, 1,570,000 tons more than that of 1879, and 2,064,000 more than that of 1878.

Privy Councillor D'Alingo, the director of a large reformatory institution in Germany, estimates that there are 200,000 professional tramps and beggars in that country, and that their maintenance consumes over 200,000,000 marks (\$50,000,000) annually, all cost and no return.

The annual season of bull-fights in the south of France began at Arles with a frightful accident. An aged spectator named Louis Bony fell over the barricade into the arena, and not being able to run fast, was overtaken by one of the bulls before he could be rescued, tossed high in the air, and, when he fell, gored and trampled almost out of recognition. After he had been borne away, the commissary and the sub-prefect refused to allow the performance to go on, but this caused such an outburst of protestation from the spectators, followed by a free fight, that the officials finally yielded and the brutal pastime was continued.

Dr. Henry Gannett, geographer of the tenth census, has submitted a plan for the subdivision of the States and Territories for statistical purposes. He puts the six New England States and New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania in the North Atlantic Division. Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida in the South Atlantic division. The Western States, including Missouri and Dakota, in the Northern Central division; Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Indian Territory and Arkansas in the Southern Central division, and the Pacific States and Territories in the Western division.

Cocoon-shells are ground and mixed with pepper. A Philadelphia spice man admits that more adulterated goods are sold than pure. "We simply sell the retailer what he wants. We sell him spices at almost any figure—pepper, for instance, as low as eight and nine cents—but it is about as much something else as it is pepper. It would ruin the trade to prohibit adulteration, and, besides, there are not enough spices grown to supply the demand of the United States alone if nothing but pure spices were sold. We are constantly making experiments to discover the cheapest harmless foreign matter with which we can mix our goods, in order to supply the demand for low grades." Such wholesale adulterations are shaking public confidence in every department of food supply.

In spite of repeated and most disheartening failures in ballooning, faith is not dead. Mr. King, the aeronaut, has projected a new theory and is convinced that success will follow its application. He believes the upper air currents to be such that if a balloon starting from the United States could be kept at a height of not less than 2,000 feet, it would reach Europe. Accordingly he proposes to manufacture a balloon holding 300,000 cubic feet of gas, and having fastened to it a rope 5,000 feet long. The weight of this rope will be great enough to prevent the balloon rising beyond the 2,000 feet, and as it will be buoyed up by the ocean, there is small danger of falling much below that point, and thus, being held steadily in the eastward air current, Europe can easily be reached.

The researches of Dr. Koch, of the Berlin university, into the origin of tuberculosis, are attracting wide attention. Dr. Koch makes the startling statement that one-seventh of the deaths of the human race are due to tubercular disease, while fully one-third of those who die in active middle age are carried off by the same cause. He has carefully studied the diseased organs of a great number of men and animals, under the microscope, and found, in all cases, the tubercles infested with a minute, rod-shaped parasite, which, by means of a special dye, he differentiated from the surrounding tissue. It was, he says, in the highest degree impressive to observe in the center of the tubercle cell the minute organism which had created it. Transferring directly by inoculation the tuberculous matter from dis-

eased animals to healthy ones, in every instance he reproduced the disease. The conclusions reached by Dr. Koch tend to show that consumption is a transmissible disease and not contagious, and not inheritable except so far as transmitting from parents to children a weakened organism, wherein the conditions are favorable to the propagation of the parasite. Once understanding the disease itself, the discovery of an antidote becomes a problem for science to solve.

Making Fun of People.

Once when traveling on a stage coach, says a writer in a contemporary, I met with a young lady who seemed to be upon the constant lookout for something laughable. Every old barn was made a subject for a passing joke, while the cows and sheep looked demurely at us, little dreaming that folks could be merry at their expense.

All this was perhaps harmless enough. Animals are not sensitive in this respect. They are not likely to have their feelings injured because people make fun of them. But when we come to human beings that is quite another thing.

So it seemed to me. After a while an aged woman came running across the fields, lifting up her hand to the coachman, and in a shrill voice begging him to stop. The good-natured coachman drew up his horses, and the old lady coming to the fence by the roadside, squeezed herself through between the posts, which were very close together.

The young lady in the stage-coach made some ludicrous remark and the passengers laughed. It seemed very excusable, for in getting through the fence the old lady had made sad work with her black bonnet, and now, taking a seat beside a well-dressed lady, really looked as if she had been blown there by a whirlwind.

This was a new piece of fun and the girl made the most of it. She caricatured the old lady on a card, pretended to take a pattern of her bonnet, and in various ways sought to raise a laugh at her.

At length the poor woman turned her pale face toward her and said:

"My dear young girl, you are young, and healthy and happy. I have been so, too, but that time is past. I am now old and forlorn. The coach is taking me to the death-bed of my only child. And then, my dear, I shall be a poor old woman, all alone in the world, where merry girls will think me a very amusing object. They will laugh at my old-fashioned clothes and sad appearance, forgetting that the old woman has loved and suffered and will live forever."

The coach now stopped before a poor-looking house and the old lady feebly descended the steps.

"How is she?" was the first trembling inquiry of the mother.

"Just alive," answered the man who was leading her into the house.

The driver mounted his box and we were on our way again. Our young friend had placed the card in her pocket. She was leaning her head upon her hand and you may be sure I was not sorry to see a tear upon her fair cheek. It was a good lesson, and one which we greatly hoped would do her good.

A Sea Monster.

The sea serpent must look to his laurels. The crew of a Shetland fishing boat unite in declaring that they were attacked a short time ago by a monster, in comparison with which the terror of American waters is as insignificant as a shrimp. They declare that they were hauling their lines twenty-eight miles east-southeast of Fetlar when they saw at a short distance from them something that had the appearance of three small hillocks, each about the size of a six-oared boat upset, which blew when coming to the surface. It disappeared in the direction of the boat, and shortly afterward they saw the monster pass underneath the boat. When it came up again it started right in their direction with its mouth wide open—a mouth, they say, that to all appearance could have taken in their boat. There seemed to be whiskers of a green color, and about seven or eight feet long, hanging from its mouth; very large green eyes, and on its head were great lumps about the size of a herring barrel. They threw stones at it, but it still came on toward them, and only again disappeared below water when a few yards from the boat, on a charge of swanshot being discharged out of a fowling piece into its mouth. The lines were then cut and all sail was made for home, when the monster again appeared in the wake. This time they observed that it had two large fins, almost the size of the boat's mainsail, which were stretched up from its back, and its length they computed to be no less than 150 feet. It followed them for a distance of nine miles and then disappeared.

If a young man expects to rise in the world he should go West. In Wisconsin the other day, after a cyclone had passed over, it took the fire department half a day to get a boy out of the top of a tree where he had lodged.

MORAL AND RELIGIOUS.

Futility.

Oh, happy oblivion of earthly things which puts heaven and eternity in our view. Nothing which this visible world can set before us is worthy our regard, especially when at the end of the landscape the invisible glories of heaven so loom and court our love. Nothing which our carnal eyes can present to us is fit to stay or engage a soul that is capable of enjoying God; none of these fading, perishing objects deserve a room in that heart whose capacity is infinite, and which was made for eternity. Let us, then, shut our eyes to this transient scene—this vain show of the world—and open them only to that which is truly worthy of our view—the solid and lasting glories that attend the faithful walkers with God above, the felicities of heaven! Let these be always in our view; and by these fixed stars let us steer our course in this our passage through the troublesome waves of this world, and not by those wandering meteors which rise from the earth. These are false lights, and such as will end in darkness. Let us not, therefore, sail by them, but take the stars of heaven for our guides—those safe and tried directors, that will not fail to conduct us to our haven; thus walking by faith, and not by sight; taking our measures from the other world and not from this; till we come to enjoy what we now believe, and our faith be turned into vision.—*Norris.*

Religious News and Notes.

It is said that 20,000 people attended the annual conference of the Dunkard church, held at Wabash, Ind., recently.

A fifth Catholic church edifice is to be built at once in Manchester, N. H., where the Catholic population numbers 18,000.

Chicago sends a petition signed by 1,600 persons, asking Moody and Sankey to leave Great Britain and labor there next year.

The \$100,000 "people's church" to be erected in Boston will be the largest house of worship in New England, although not the most costly.

The Greek church has 160 religious holidays when Russians are idle, and an attempt is to be made to reduce the number for the sake of industry.

Bishop Hare has charge of four boarding and industrial schools for Indian boys and girls in Dakota, and all of them are in a flourishing condition.

The graduates of the colored colleges of the American Missionary association and similar institutions publish nearly fifty newspapers in the United States.

The second man in the whole history of Methodism to decline the office of bishop is Dr. Attiens G. Haygood, of Georgia. The first was Wilbur Fisk, the president of Wesleyan university, Middletown, Connecticut.

American missionaries come to honor in the lands to which they go. The Rev. Dr. Martin is president of the Imperial college at Peking, China, and the Rev. Mr. McFarland is superintendent of public instruction in the kingdom of Siam.

The "Congregational Year-Book" is out with statistics for the past year. The summary includes 3,804 churches, having 877 regular pastors, 1,981 acting pastors and 157 licentiates, and 789 churches un supplied. The total number of church members is 381,697—of whom 128,060 are males, and 251,822 females, nearly two women to one man. The membership added the past year is 22,546 against 22,749 the year previous. The number of churches has increased fifty-nine.

The Work of Lightning.

Lightning killed the child of Mrs. Ann Hardin as it was sleeping by its mother's side in Atlanta, Ga.

Sam Johnson, a colored boy, was killed by lightning in Gadsden county, Fla., as he was hoeing in a field.

A bolt of lightning killed Michael Bastian, of Mendon, Mich., and his horses, and, setting the straw in the wagon box on fire, burned the wagon.

Lightning struck the chimney of the widow Curry's house, in Stephensville, Texas, and hurled bricks into her face with such violence that she fell dead.

Lightning struck an oak sixteen feet in circumference in Jonesboro, Ga., and tore it up by the roots. In falling it crushed a buggy in which W. O. Bets and P. W. Simpson were riding; They jumped out in time.

During a thunder-storm and tornado in Terrell county, Ga., Miss Jennie Talbot was whirled through the air as she lay in bed, the house being demolished. She was set down sixty yards away without being hurt.

Lightning struck Clinton Trimble's house in Donelson, Texas. The bolt came down the stove pipe, made a hole in the floor, killing a hen and her brood of chickens, knocked Mrs. Trimble from her chair, scorching her hair, and threw a child which a woman was holding from her arms without injuring it.

It cannot be said that a judge does a cash business for he always "charges the jury" and gives the prisoner "time."

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

An Italian Girl's Romance.

Writes a London (England) correspondent: "A Paris journal has discovered a real 'Cinderella' in the person of the wife of an English millionaire, whose name he withholds, from delicacy or other causes. About fifteen years ago the painter Herbert was executing his fine portrait of the Duchess of Noailles. He was working at the same time upon an exquisite genre picture, in whose progress the duchess took a great interest. It represented a young Italian girl of extraordinary loveliness. One day the duchess said to the artist: 'It is impossible that such a face should be a mere painter's ideal. The original must sometimes come to your studio. I should like to see her.' The lady was so charmed with the girl that she said to the painter: 'If the rich give so much money to hang up a copy on their walls, what an ornament the original would be for any salon.' The thought which she had thus struck seemed to have fascinated her, and when the picture of the beautiful Italian girl had found its way into Baron Rothschild's collection at Ferrieres, the duchess took the girl herself, adopted her, and gave her the very best education. Her parents were respectable, but poor, and gladly yielded up their daughter to the splendid future which the amiable duchess engaged to provide for her. Herbert's picture perished in the flames during the fire at the Chateau of Ferrieres in 1872, but the original had developed into a woman of wonderful beauty. Her guardian kept a jealous eye upon her numerous admirers, determining that if her Cinderella did not become a princess she should marry into a family of high social distinction. Meanwhile an Englishman of very great wealth, who had been visiting in the house of Noailles, not only fell deeply in love with the beautiful ward, but gained her heart. Although he was not a noble, he was a millionaire; the duchess consented at last to favor his suit, and the English suitor carried off the Italian Cinderella as his wife.

Fashion Notes.

Jeweled scarf-pins are used to fasten bonnet strings.

Children's hats are as various in form as those of women, but the large sizes are most popular.

Flowers and feathers are both worn in the greatest profusion on summer hats and bonnets.

India cashmere borders like those on shawls are used for trimming wool dresses of plain color.

Dresses of mauve, lilac and pearl tints rival the white toilets at spring weddings and receptions.

Ficelle lace in wide fan-plaitings with smaller fans above of ivory white plaited lace are worn as throat bows.

It is customary to wear olive-tinted satin ribbon bows on dresses of pale blue nun's veiling or batiste.

Large fichus of mull are embroidered in Irish point designs, having one edge much wider wrought than the other.

Embroidered fruit and flower designs, rings and diamond-shaped figures, appear on the new Lisle thread hosiery.

Linen standing collars for traveling are made of pale, olive-tinted linen with a border of dark red or blue at the top.

Children's stockings match the color of their dresses, or if not in solid color they match or harmonize in the general tone.

A Marguerite guimpe in round puffs of silk muslin and lace fills out the half-low round neck of full dress corsages.

Black straw hats and bonnets retain their popularity and are worn with all kinds of costumes, including white toilets.

The polonaise or basque with panier extension and back draperies to simulate a polonaise appears on many new costumes.

A fashion of half a century ago is revived in the shirred calèche—a bonnet presenting much the appearance of a half-folded gig top.

Furniture dealers are providing dressing tables with three mirrors, set Japanese fashion, and rendering a hand-glass unnecessary.

The new Lisle thread and silk gloves and mitts have long stocking-woven wrists and come in all the colors so dear to the aesthetes.

The most fastidious women wear black silk and black Lisle thread hosiery when in the street, no matter what the color of the costume.

The finest veilings are made up for full dress wear for little girls trimmed with a flounce and sleeve ruffles of applique lace embroidery.

A belted pelisse of light Scotch or English suiting is considered a stylish wrap for traveling or walking on cloudy mornings in the country.

The new lawn tennis hats are of soft felt in peacock blue, crimson or cream color, and there are others that have white watered figures upon them.

Sleeves formed of horizontal tucks are added to the tucked Norfolk jackets

of plain wool dresses. The skirt has lengthwise plaits that are partly tucked.

Irish point embroidery in ecru or whiter tints is much used for turned over collars, with a neck ribbon and bow of colored moire. The cuffs to match have smaller bows.

A flat scarf of Venetian lace is formed into a graceful fichu by being placed straight across the back, gathered at the throat by a moire bow, and having the ends flat and hanging in front.

The most delicate and least showy ruffles are sewed in the neck and sleeves of French dresses. These are of lace and muslin more often than of the fragile crepe lisse formerly used, and are usually composed of three rows very finely plaited.

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

Three removes are as bad as a fire. Ignorance never settles a question.

Every man is the architect of his own fortune.

He who knows most grieves most for wasted time.

While you seek new friendships, cultivate the old.

Every man must think in his own way to arrive at truth.

A pleasing countenance is a silent commendation.

Of the one hundred good things in this life, ninety-nine are health.

He who has neither friend nor enemy is without talents, power or energy.

Strong thoughts are iron nails driven in the mind that nothing can draw out.

In life it is difficult to say who do you the most mischief, enemies with the worst intention, or friends with the best.

I believe that we cannot live better than in seeking to become better, nor more agreeably than having a clear conscience.

If a man's fortune does not fit him, it is like the shoe in the story; if too large it tips him up, if too small it pinches him.

THE FAMILY DOCTOR.

If your hands are hard wash them in water with oatmeal or bran in it.

A little powdered charcoal put upon a burn or wound will rapidly reduce the pain.

Meat of every kind should be cut across the grain when served out for eating. While the imbibing of a certain amount of water is necessary during meals, it is a mistake to drink too much fluid of any kind during digestion, "for this dilutes the natural juices so much that they lose their solvent power," and indigestion is the consequence.

Dr. Anders, writing in the Philadelphia *Medical Times*, argues that house plants are not unhealthy in sleeping rooms. He thinks that the moisture they throw off is beneficial, and after a number of inquiries among gardeners and florists he thinks it probable that living in a room with plenty of plants tends to lessen the predisposition to consumption in those who have a hereditary tendency that way. He says the plants should have soft, thin leaves with extensive leaf-surface, but should not bear flowers with heavy perfume.—*Dr. Foot's Health Monthly.*

A Primitive People in Europe.

There exists high up among the Carpathian mountains of Galicia, in a district known as Tatra, one of the most primitive and unsophisticated communities in Europe. The population of this remote region numbers several hundred thousand individuals. They neither use strong drink nor eat animal food. Riches have no charm for them. Though poor, they are content, and, though their diet is spare and monotonous, they enjoy perfect health and live long lives.

The food of these arcadians is principally oats, either simply boiled or ground and converted into cakes. During four or five months of the year those of them who accompany their flocks and herds to the mountain pastures live exclusively on goat milk whey, of which each man consumes nearly a gallon daily. Practically, therefore, these goatherds live on the sugar and the mineral salts contained in the whey. They do not consider this regimen a privation, and when they return to the valleys at the end of the season they are as strong and vigorous as when they set out. The entire race of Podhalians, as the people of Tatra are called, are remarkable for their vigor and energy, and are incontestably superior, physically and intellectually, to the neighboring populations.

Their physique is of a remarkable purity; they are quick of apprehension and frank in manner. Though far from being highly cultured, the Podhalians are poets and artists by nature. They are fond of dancing, and often when the labors of the day are over meet to indulge in their favorite diversion. They are born improvisators, too, and many of them can sing their own songs to music of their own composition.

Ozone has an odor similar to a spot that has been struck by lightning.

Fire Opal.

I deemed all metaphor too trite To picture forth in faithful light My bonny Kate, and yet to-night I saw an old and treasured ring, Whose central jewel swift did bring To mind sweet thought of her.

It was an opal, milk-white, pure, Within whose breast there did endure A living flame, with power to lure From every errant, restless beam A spark of iridescent gleam. And beauty new confers.

As pure as opal is my love, As rare, as difficult to win, And 'neath her fair exterior There burns the heart of fire within, While on her cheek and in her eye, Responsive to love's ardent ray, The light that trembles well may vie With fitful opal's rainbow play. Jennie S. Judson, in *Our Continent.*

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

To Herr is German. A kiss is called totemamequiltli in Mexico. Good long kiss, that.

The best preparation to keep a lady's hand "free from chaps" is a report that she has no money.

Just now the farmer is breaking ground to prepare fall rations for the potato bug and army worm.

"What is philosophy?" It is something that enables a rich man to say there is no disgrace in being poor.

A child without legs has just been born. "Thank heaven!" said the weeping father, "this will never be a champion pedestrian."

"Who was the meekest man?" asked a Sunday-school teacher. "Moses," "Very well; who was the meekest woman?" "Never was any."

A North Carolina couple were married in a diving bell. They probably wished to have some experience in cold water before getting into hot water.

Apropos of Clara Louise Kellogg's broken engagement, the Peoria *Transcript* supposes that she thinks "it is better to farewell than to fare worse."

Victor Hugo says his intellect "grows stronger with age, and does not rest." The gentleman will pardon the remark, but the same thing might be said of old cheese.

If Buffalo Bill recovers that \$4,000,000 worth of property on Euclid avenue, Cleveland, it is to be hoped that he will put aside thirty-five cents of it and get his hair cut.

"The fact is," said the seedy tramp, "I have read so much about the troubles in the labor market that I am heartily sick of the whole business; and I made up my mind long ago that I would never have anything to do with labor."

A lawyer in one of the Western courts lately threw a cane at another's head. The court required him to apologize to it. He did so, and added: "While I am about it I may as well apologize beforehand for throwing another cane at him the first chance I get."

Now the picnic is at hand, And the little German band Wakes the echoes as the hoodlum shakes his leg, leg, leg; And the life-destroying sandwich Makes the poor dyspeptic's hand twitch As he eats it with the non-digestive egg, egg, egg.

A Reading fisherman has invented an alarm to denote a bite. Fastened to the rod is a ball with a spring attachment, which is connected with the main line by a piece of rubber. When a bass nibbles at the bait the rubber is stretched, loosening the spring, and firing off a cap which wakes up the angler. This will fill a long-felt want.

A young man returning home from a night's conviviality, about getting-up time, was sufficiently thoughtful to pull off his boots before entering the front door. Just as he was about to enter the house, in the quietest manner possible, he was startled by the raising of a window overhead and the familiar voice of his father sung out: "Never mind about the noise, George. We're all up."

"Standing Bear."

A writer who was present at the recent exercises at the Indian school at Carlisle, Penn., thus speaks of "Standing Bear," the famous Sioux chief, who had come from Dakota to ascertain what progress his son was making in school:

While the dinner was at its height a tall, finely-formed man stalked into the room with great dignity and reserve. He wore light gray trousers, a black coat and vest, a white shirt and collar, a black necktie and boots that would have done credit to a first-class shoemaker. His raven hair was parted carefully in the center and hung down the sides of his face—an almost exact counterpart of the style affected by Oscar Wilde—except in that where it touched his shoulders it was tied on each side with pieces of red tape, and the remaining part, about a foot in length, braided and tied in a little knot at the end. The face was strong, almost noble in its reserve, and the eyes, half-hidden by wrinkled lids, were brilliantly black, and showing more than usual intelligence.