

Topics & Lines

It might be the making of Cuba to marry into a quiet, peaceable family.

The Comptroller of the Currency declines to become "controller." He says he won't stand for "con."

There are men who will not allow themselves to be dictated to, not even by their own consciences.

No matter what other countries may do, Russia will continue to spell crisis and chaos in the same old way.

As Astor heiress is to marry an editor "devoid of wealth," according to the papers. Is there any other kind?

In various ways the burglars and footpads are managing to secure their share of the country's abounding prosperity.

San Francisco policy-holders find that even an earthquake will not jar money loose from some fire insurance companies.

King Peter of Serbia is reported to be suspicious of his cook. He must recognize the fact that poison is no respecter of stomachs.

President Roosevelt has unintentionally deprived a great many poor people of a comfortable feeling by explaining that it is not a sin to be rich.

The labels on canned goods must in future indicate just what the goods are. People with weak stomachs should be cautious about looking at some of the labels.

Some folks find it particularly hard to understand how a bunch of spelling reformers could get up a list of 300 simplified spellings without including "phthtic."

According to the doctors angel cake is full of germs, but they don't go so far as to say that they belong to the same social set as the Limburger cheese microbes.

General Llarlarski's name suggests an explanation of a good deal of the news that gets out of Russia. It may be a member of his family who edits the official dispatches.

American uniforms may be adopted for use by the Russian army. It is difficult, however, to imagine a natty-looking Russian army unless razors become more popular than they are over there.

It was expected. Since it has become the custom of sending men to prison who have been accustomed to many of the luxuries of life, complaints are beginning to be made against the jails. This may result in an agitation for more home-like prisons.

No convict has been guillotined in Paris for ten years, and the sentences of those condemned to death have been commuted to imprisonment for life. The reason for this lies in the fact that the law provides that all capital executions shall be held in public, and since the guillotine was removed from the Place de la Roquette ten years ago no other place has been found for it. The residents in the neighborhood of every place suggested object to its erection near them. The authorities were lately put in a quandary when a condemned man refused to ask for a commutation of his sentence, and declared that they must put him to death.

No persons are better aware than those who live under free forms of government, either republican, democratic, or monarchical, that all the virtues do not necessarily pervade communities liberally governed. But that no other system is possible for peoples, who have arrived at a certain grade of intelligence is proved by experiment; only by some method of representation and self-government can be avoided a condition of cruel repression above and of misery and unrest below. Only thus can humanity work out its own salvation. With Japan following successfully the direction of freedom and progress, it is not in the nature of things that Russia can long linger in the region of nightmare and chaos. The Emperor and people of Russia have other lessons than those of war to learn from the Emperor and people of Japan.

President Diaz of Mexico ended a strike on the Mexican Central Railway the other day in a summary manner. When a committee of the strikers called on him he told the men, according to a dispatch from Mexico City, that the government, although it would protect workmen in their just rights, including the quitting of work, would never permit them to interfere with the management of the railway companies; he condemned the demand of the union that the number of apprentices be reduced, and declared that it was an attempt on the part of the machinists' union to create a labor monopoly; he further declared that the government would permit no violence by the strikers and would use severe measures if there were disorder. He must have talked in a similar way to the managers of the railway, for the strikers were taken back.

The Bible is not advertised as one of the "most noteworthy books of the year," nor the "season's chief success,"

nor the "best seller of the year," nor as "beautifully illustrated" or "captivatingly written." As a matter of fact, the Bible is not advertised at all, and yet it is all and more than all that is claimed for secular books known as "best sellers." These latter books have their vogue and then disappear. The Bible has been sold almost from the time of the invention of printing. It will probably be sold to the end of time. It is the "best seller" every year, and its sales increase every year. Leaving aside all spiritual considerations, as a commercial and literary product it has no equal. The nineteenth annual report of the American Bible Society, being for the year past, shows that the issues of the society during ninety years amount to 78,509,529, and that the total issue at home and in other lands for the year amounts to 2,236,755. The Bible has been translated into seventy-two languages and dialects. What other books have had or ever will have the chance to be read in Eskimo, Gaelic, Grebo, Littish, Pampanga, Ponnape, Samogit, Sheetzwa, Tonga, Zulu, and a score more of strange tongues? The Chicago Bible Society is almost as old as the city itself. In the report of its sixty-sixth year a distribution of over 33,000 volumes is announced, and the report also says: "Not a dialect is found among the fifty or more spoken in Chicago but the Bible Society can match it in Scriptures." Those good but pessimistic people who grow dependent about religious affairs and are inclined to believe that Christianity is dying out should take heart as they read statistics like these. The Bible has always been the book of books, and it always will be. Though its first edition dates back to a venerable antiquity, it still leads all other books in circulation. It will always be "the most noteworthy book of the year," "the season's chief success," "the best seller of the year," and the book of books, undisturbed by higher criticism or materialism.

Both in England and in the United States there is restlessness and friction over the question of regulations for automobiles on public highways. In a general way it may be said that the tendency everywhere is toward regulations based upon other things than speed alone. The British Royal Commission, although it made specific suggestions of other kinds, is inclined toward the abolition of all speed limits and making owners and drivers responsible for plenary damages. Both France and Germany are moving toward this point of view. It is undoubtedly a fact that fifty miles an hour may be safer in some places than five miles an hour in others; and the simpler and more general a rule can be made, the better. A new thing always rouses opposition. The locomotive, the steamboat, the bicycle, the trolley, all had to fight against prejudice; but they conquered and are here to stay. So is the automobile. The sooner the opponents of it make up their minds that this is so, the sooner a working plan will be reached. The comfortable and prosperous look of those who use the automobile increases the hostility of some who are not seriously offended by reckless driving. It is beyond human nature to stand by the side of the road on a hot day and take the dust and odor of a whizzing motor car without a twinge of resentment against the lucky occupants. But this, of course, is folly. Class distinctions and the wealth of a man have no business in the making or enforcement of laws. On the side of the public there is much to be said. Until horses get accustomed to automobiles the utmost consideration is due from chauffeurs, and must be exacted; and in cities or village streets careless driving should be punished with the utmost rigor. What is needed more than anything else is a check on the recklessness of the man who is rich enough to pay fines without inconvenience, and who regards them not as punishment, but as the price of immunity from the laws. He, more than all others together, has fed the popular prejudice against motor cars; and already imprisonment or the impounding of his car is under discussion, as a remedy likely to be more efficient than fines.

Charles Lamb and Tobacco.
Charles Lamb, according to his own confession, was "a fierce smoker of tobacco." One day when puffing vigorously the coarsest weed from a long clay pipe in company with Dr. Parr the latter asked him how he managed to acquire this "prodigious power." "By taitling after it, as some men toil after virtue," was the prompt reply. As he advanced in years, however, "Ella" was obliged to relax his intimacy with the weed, so that, to use his own words, he was "like a burnt out volcano emitting now and then only a casual puff." Eventually he took his formal leave in a "Farewell Ode to Tobacco," and in forwarding a copy of the poem to Wordsworth he writes, "I have had it in my head to do it these two years, but tobacco stood in its own light when it gave me headaches that prevented me singing its praises."

The Supporting Line.
"Young De Parvenne was just telling me that their family fortunes all came down the old family line."
"I dare say it's true. Before they struck oil his mother took in washing to support the family."

When Death calls for a woman these days on his white horse, does he think the modest way is to ride on sideways, or does he ask her to ride straddle?

After you have been given a thorough try-out, you have a better standing in the community.

Popular Science

Says the Madison (Mo.) Times: "R. J. Pendleton has a cat that is an expert fisherman. Near Mr. Pendleton's home is a large pond stocked with fish and on a number of occasions this summer the cat has come from the pond to the house carrying a catfish in her mouth. The fish had evidently just been taken from the water, as they were perfectly fresh, and Mr. Pendleton is convinced that the cat had caught them while they were swimming near the edge of the water. The fish in each instance were between three and four inches long."

In 1898 the astronomical world was deeply interested by the discovery of an asteroid, Eros, whose mean distance from the sun is less than that of the planet Mars. Now comes the no less interesting and remarkable news that an asteroid has been found whose mean distance is greater than that of the planet Jupiter. This body was discovered at the observatory of Heidelberg last February, and since then the calculation of its orbit has revealed the fact that when at aphelion the little planet is about 4,000,000 miles outside the orbit of Jupiter. The provisional designation of the new asteroid is "1906 T. G." This discovery increases the probability that the minute satellites recently discovered circling round Jupiter are captured asteroids.

More and more the attention of the military authorities of the great nations is concentrated on the means of adapting the automobile to the transportation of field artillery. A French writer points out that the idea of a self-moving carriage for field-guns was suggested by the engineer Cugnot as early as 1769. At present, efforts are directed to the perfection of a form of automobile suitable to take the place of horses in drawing the artillery wagons. Many different forms of iron-clad automobiles, carrying light guns, have already been invented and tested, with more or less success; but the main problem is to adapt the automobile to the transportation of guns mounted, as at present, on their own carriages. In other words, it concerns the abolition of artillery horses.

Australia's emus are being destroyed wholesale by the wire fences which have been erected to prevent the ravages of that country's rabbit pest. Every year the emu makes a migration from east to west, the return journey being made at the beginning of the dry season. The march of death begins in the westward journey, when the birds, striking the fences, find further progress barred and die in hundreds from thirst. A boundary rider in a journey of six miles found no fewer than fifty dead birds; while in a stretch of about sixty miles it was estimated that no fewer than 300 had perished. But in other districts matters appear to be even worse, boundary riders reporting that when riding along these fences they are hardly ever free from the stench of putrefying bodies. A complete track is found on the east side of these fences, worn by the maddened birds in attempting to find a passage to the coveted water. Only a very few appear to have the courage to charge the barrier and these, once over, make off westward at top speed.

MRS. ARTHUR PAGET.

An American Woman of the British Smart Set.
We hear a great deal in one way or another about the pitiful failures and mistakes of American girls who marry foreigners. But there is another side to the story. These failures are the exceptions rather than the rule, and if one were to enumerate all the successes he would need much space for the list. Some of the foreign marriages are ideal and the glow of a beautiful domesticity is ever present in their lives. Such a one is the case of the daughter of the late Paron Stevens, a distinguished and



MRS. ARTHUR PAGET.

wealthy New Yorker. She married Arthur Paget, son of a well-to-do British family associated with the nobility and considered leaders in the smart set. Her married life has been very happy. She has a number of children, one of whom married a daughter of the late William C. Whitney of New York.

In the Year 1950.

"What is that old book you are studying, Elizabeth?"
"I don't know, papa; I haven't yet made out whether it is a copy of Chaucer in the original old English or Webster's unabridged dictionary of the first part of the century."—Baltimore American.

EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

WASTEFUL AMERICA.

AMERICANS are the opposites of the Japanese, in that they are probably the most wasteful and extravagant people under the sun. James J. Hill once voiced a declaration to the effect that the greater part of America's progress had been gained by using up the stored capital of preceding ages—something for which we are indebted to nature, not to our own energies. Soil, mines, oil and gas reservoirs, forests, fisheries—all have been drained and drained, with little or no thought that exhaustion of either was calculable. We eat three times as much as is demanded by nature and more than is good for us, and we throw away annually enough to feed the whole population of Japan. Into our rivers in the form of polluting sewage go fertilizers to the value of millions, which other peoples save and which we would be doubly benefited by saving. We could economize greatly if we cared to in the quantity of iron and other metals we use, but, possessed with the infatuation that they will never "run out," we are as prodigal with them as with everything else, whereas the limit of the supply is claimed to be easily calculable. But it is in the waste of the forests that American improvidence finds its worst illustration. The nation has been willing to see its forests so devastated that the present annual "cut" and fire waste cannot be continued for twenty-five years longer without destroying every patch of timber in America.—St. Paul Pioneer-Dispatch.

INSANITY BY OCCUPATION.

LEST anyone should be inclined to make the figures of the Census Bureau in regard to insanity an excuse for desisting from mental effort, and find in them an excuse to fly from the worries of a strenuous life to the dull monotony of the life simple, it is well to call attention to the fact that the recent and much discussed report does not in its analysis bear out the inference drawn from it by the bureau officials. It would appear to be not the rush and tumult of modern life which drives people out of their senses, but the dreariness and monotony of a life spent in a round of duties generally preached up as being wholesome for the body and warranting sanity for the mind. It appears from the figures alluded to that of the admittedly insane in this country 41.6 per cent have been employed as servants or laborers, 22.5 per cent as farmers or in transportation and other "healthful" out-of-door work, and 16 per cent in manufacturing and mechanical industries.

Thus 80 per cent of the people who are now crazy in this country come from the classes whose occupations are popularly supposed to conduce to a sound mind in a sound body. According to all our preconceived ideas on the subject, this ought not to be. But it is, and why it is so we can no more guess than we can the secret of why men go crazy at all.—New York Press.

THE "HAPPY ENDING."

IN the current number of the Bookman occurs an interesting discussion of what is known as the "happy ending" in novels. The writer of the article inveighs severely, and to some extent justly, against this popular method of bringing a story to a close. He believes this concession, as he regards it, to the public taste is much to be deplored as wholly inartistic, immature and foolish. He cites Black in evidence, quoting him as saying: "That while scores of people implored him to bring certain stories 'out well,' he had himself observed that the novels which had sad endings

were, after all, the ones that have made the deepest impression." This might also seem like an argument for the sad ending per se, which we can hardly think the writer in the Bookman means to make.

As a matter of fact, neither the happy ending nor the sad ending is in and of itself good from the purely artistic point of view. But may not a word be honestly said in favor of the happy ending? * * * Should one choose gloom as a last memory when one may have brightness? Altogether it seems to us that a great deal may be said in favor of the happy stopping place. The reader is not deceived if he be an intelligent reader into a falsely, optimistic view of life. It is not a case of the "happy ever afterwards" of the children's fairy tales. Rather it is a rational and deliberate choice of mature and seasoned minds to seize what may be of happiness rather than sadness. And so, as sometimes happens, popular taste and artistic discretion are not necessarily opposed. The "happy ending" need not vex the judgment and it often comforts the heart.—Indianapolis News.

A BAN ON KISSING.

THE State Board of Health of Indiana has issued an order prohibiting kissing in the public schools. On printed notices posted in every schoolroom there is this injunction: "Do not kiss anyone in the mouth, or allow anyone to do so to you." The injunction has created an opportunity for the humorist, but there is a serious side to the matter.

Scientific discoveries have established the fact that the mouth of a human being is the home of countless bacteria, some of which, through infection, lead to disease, and possibly to death. Indeed, science has gone so far as to demonstrate the fact that the more beautiful the child the more dangerous the kisses. Accepting such demonstration, a great many physicians kiss the children on the cheek only, and the example they have been setting is being followed more and more throughout the country. A recent report on the subject shows that in a community of 1,000 people in which kissing has been tabooed for ten years, the death rate from infectious diseases has decreased a little more than three and one-half per cent. This means that in a thousand people three and one-half lives have yearly been saved.

Instead of looking at the order of the Indiana State Board of Health in a humorous way, it will be well for the people of that and other States to take it as seriously as it was intended. If people value human life as they should, they will do so.—Williamsport (Pa.) Grit.

ROJESTVENSKY'S MANLY FLEA.

ADMIRAL ROJESTVENSKY has his good points, as well as those which may be stamped as being somewhat weak. Standing before a court martial recently at Cronstadt, he pleaded guilty to the surrender of the gunboat Bledovy, in an endeavor to save the members of his staff and other officials of the navy, who, he believed, surrendered the craft on account of their affection for their wounded commander and a desire to save his life. It was a decidedly manly thing to do, and reflects much credit on the man who made anything but a success of the vast naval command entrusted to him by the Russian Government. His speech to the court was a brave one. He virtually took all the blame for the surrender upon his own shoulders, knowing that if he were to suffer to the full extent of the law in the premises, his appeal meant condemnation and death, the general penalty for hauling down the St. Andrew's Cross to a hostile vessel.—Brooklyn Times.

THE VALUE OF HIS MONEY.

Baptiste Delormier was an unusually thrifty specimen of a naturally frugal race. He did not spend his wealth recklessly, and he liked to get his money's worth whenever he spent any at all. But there was one time, in particular, when it seemed as if he were really getting just about all that he was entitled to.

"I come hon you' store, monsieur," said Baptiste, laying a nickel on the grocer's counter, "for buy som' seed. You geeve me one packette s'll vous."

"Sapree, monsieur! You mak you too great hof de haste—you are een too moch hof a perspire. 'Ave more hof de patient hontee I have explain. De nam' she ees ron away hof de top ma haid, but maybe you 'ave made de acquaint hof dose kind."

"Monsieur, I tole you now hof dose seed. She ees not flower, she ees not vegetable! But dose seed she ees come nine-ten, maybe twel' kind on one packette. You save hontee de fros' ees proceed for tak som' back seat for de sauimare, an' you ees go for plant henn hon top de sout' side hof you' barn, you' house, you' t'ck hof fence."

"Bomby she ees com' up—two beeg leave. Bomby she ees got flower—not moch for look at. Bomby she ees got fruit on herself."

"Monsieur, of hall plant made by le bon Dieu eet ees cete plant of whom de nam' ees by me forgot dat goes de mos' to hoblige."

"Behol! She ees geeve you mos' ever t'ing you want. Orange to mak surprise hon les enfants; lemon for look mos' fine hon you' sideboard; beeg haig for mak you' henn 'ave moch desire for outdo hall w'at he 'ave lay biffore; beeg round ball like happle for you' femme to poot hon top de hinside hof some sock w'at 'ave de misfortune to get hole hon herself; nice clean deeper for drink water from pail, whole lot beeg deeshrag for—"

"Oh," said the grocer, seeing light, "I guess you mean gourds. Here they are."

"But out, monsieur. One t'ousand t'anks! You 'ave proceed to guess wit' correction. You plant you dose gourd, you mak henn to grow an' you ees have, for honly ff cent, de halmost to gone to housekeep' wit'."

KLONDIKE GOLD DREDGING

New Era Dredging on Worked-Over Placer Region.

It is reported by Consul Ravndal of Dawson that an era of gold dredging is dawning on the Klondike, says the Washington Star.

The rich, early-discovered creeks have already, by crude and wasteful methods, been worked over. They are now being subjected to another more scientific treatment. A prominent feature of the new system is gold dredging. It has proved eminently successful in the Klondike, in spite of such drawbacks as difficulties of transportation, high cost of installation and operation, frozen gravels and short seasons. Gold dredging in the north has passed the experimental stage and become an established and promising industry. Extensive areas of low-grade ground which have been lying idle because under the former manner of mining the cost of extraction would equal, if not exceed, the returns, are being made productive through the use of dredges handling 3,000 or more cubic yards of dirt every twenty-four hours.

There are now in the Klondike, either in operation or in course of installation, nearly a dozen gold dredges. Next season will witness the arrival of several additions to the northern mining fleet, some of which will be put to work in the Forty-Mile and Birch creek districts of Alaska. All of these "gold ships" are of American make. Occasionally it is said that dredges from other countries may enter into competition with American patterns. Such reports are probably idle and merely the result of impatience because American manufacturers cannot at present fill all orders promptly.

Calls for gold dredges come from California, Montana, Idaho and Colorado. Gold dredging is to be tried in Siberia and in the valleys of the Yalu, the Amur, the Hoangho and the Yangtze. The present inability of American dredge manufacturers to supply the demand is perhaps chiefly due to Panama canal requirements.

It is expected that the introduction of dredges will greatly increase the output of gold in the Klondike. In 1905 this was reduced to about \$7,500,000, as against \$10,350,000 in 1904, \$18,000,000 in 1901 and \$22,275,000 in 1900. Speculations are already rife as to whether this enlarged supply from the Yukon, coupled with Alaska's growing yield of new gold, will not perceptibly affect the general economic conditions

Philanthropic Sparrows.

An incident which, the writer declares, raised the pugnacious sparrow several degrees in his estimation is described in *Outing*. It shows that the sparrow has other good qualities besides his sturdiness and self reliance. For several days four or five sparrows had visited a certain place on the roof near my window. They always brought food for another little fellow, who never tried a flight from the spot. The visiting sparrows never came empty-billed. They would drop tiny morsels of food near the little sparrow. When it began to eat the crumbs the others set up a great chirping and then flew away. After watching this for a few days I went out on the roof and approached the lone bird. It did not flutter away from me and made no resistance when I picked it up. The sparrow was blind. Its eyes were covered with a milky film.