TOPICS OF THE TIMES. A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTER-ESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day-Historical and News Notes.

How wud yu lik tu be the tiperiter

No, gentle reader, the present Duke of Marlborough is not the original Blenheim pup.

The men who have organized a rhinoceros trust will at least never be accused of being thin-skinned.

"Are there men as brave to-day as were the Spartans?" asks an esayist. Certainly; there are baseball umpires.

When a married man has occasion to talk in his sleep he always says things that his wife is unable to understand.

Thomas W. Lawson is going to write a novel. It is the only way in which he can bring about the adequate punishment of the villain.

The men who claim to be able to fly when they want to should not overlook a solution of the problem of how to light when they want to. The English language has endured

for a good many years, and, despite the efforts of reformers, may be expected to be good for a spell longer. No doubt, when he has time to think

of it, President Roosevelt will order the names of the naval vessels, navy yards and forts to be simplifiedly spelled.

A Wilkesbarre (Pa.) cat that died the other day had a half interest in a fortune of \$40,000. The heirs will have to wait, however, until it dies eight times more.

An antiquary has just discovered that William Cullen Bryant once wrote a poem extolling the mosquito as "that fair insect." Evidently, William never wore peekaboo vests.

Mr. Rockefeller has been assured by a theosophist that he will wear a crown. But Mr. Rockefeller is not credulous enough to stand before a mirror trying to imagine how he would look in a crown.

When a man goes to the penitentiary to serve out an "indeterminate" sentence on sixteen charges of burglary and is released at the end of a year, is it any wonder he resumes the practice of his profession?

Two divers descended to a depth of two hundred and ten feet in a Scotch lake the other day. This is said to be the greatest depth to which divers ever descended in the British Isles. It is farther than most people would care to go beneath the surface of the water.

It is Spanish gessip that when Princess, afterward Queen, Victoria complained to her uncle, King Edward. that some ladies of the court in Madrid objected because she proposed to entertain English friends who were not of the royal family, her uncle advised her to "be a sensible girl," and said, "Do not make enemies. Respect people's stupidities when necessary. In time, if you are wise, you will have everything your own way." Whether the King ever said this or not, it is pretty good advice for every one.

The man with the figures tells us that in fifty years this country will have 200,000,000 population, and he wants to know what will happen. As we will not be here we are determined not to worry about it. Our ancestors not only killed but ate each other. Possibly in the remote future the old custom will become fashionable. We recall that in early life we met up with one or two people we thought plenty sweet enough to eat. The fact that this hereditary appetite now lies dormant is no sign that it will not break out again at some future time and become quite popular.

If any man wishes to immortalize himself let him invent some way to punish wife desertion. This crime has increased in Chicago 100 per cent ia three years and Cook County. Illinois, is now supporting 1,000 deserted families. To bring the faithless husbands back, prosecute and punish them would cost just as much as it does to support their families, and it is impossible to prove desertion after they are brought back. They all pretend to have gone off to get employment and to have been unfortunate, and to rebut their stories would cost another pile of money. What is needed is some genius who will invent some cheap way to punish cheap husbands.

In reply to the oft-repeated assertion that no girl should begin teaching unless she is to make it a lifelong profession it is sufficient to say that no zine. young woman, however fancy free she may be, is able to say with certainty that she will continue so. However great may be her devotion to the general cause of learning at a given time, before the moon waxes again that broad affection may be particularized and focused upon one weak and unworthy member of the human tribe, and this is a phenomenon against which no human power has yet been found to avail. The best school teacher is the girl who has most of the domestic instinct and is most likely to leave the pedagogic calling and find her natural and proper place as the arbiter of her own home. It is pleasant to find the to move.

ory agreeing with good sense, and the test of good sense is its agreement with the fixed and universal laws of mother nature. The idea that the woman school teacher is an emotionless species of humanity is just about as senseless as it is ungallant,

kered individual who says "by heck," of Herr Windhorn. has hayseed in his hair, is interested in gold bricks, and is ready to consider of title in the Masonic Temple in Chiper and to spend the evening looking approached. over the news as brought to him by books received from the traveling libraries sent cut in several States. The ters. better information makes the farmer less a stranger to the activities of the day. The trolley car possibly passes close by his house. The telephone connects him with his neighbor and with the stores of the village to which he used to resort for news and for supplies. The improved machinery has steadily reduced the tollsomeness of his task. All these forces combined have worked toward his transformation. The farmer of yesterday is not the farmer of to-day. There has always been recognition of the importance of the far:ning class in the prosperity of the country. The abundant crops and contentment of the rural class have been associated with the health and happiness of the nation. But there has always been, too, a tendency to depreciate the farmer as an individual, and to make him the butt of ridicule. This condition has greatly changed because of the reasons already indicated. When farmers meet in national congress and discuss such live questions as those of postal savings banks, the election of postmasters, the adoption of the parcels post system, the relief of farm labor scarcity by immigration, centrailzation of schools, centralization of farms, business methods in farming, it is evident that they are alert. Their days later and Herr Windhorn says he minds have been prepared for such discussions by wide reading and intelligent thought, and they are ready to reach conclusions of value. The city man reads his daily paper hastily. He learns to form judgments quickly. He trains himself to reach decisions sometimes without that careful reading and thoughtful study which the man of leisure gives to a subject. It is by no means certain, however, that his judgments and decisions necessarily are better than those of the farmer, who reads with more deliberation and thinks more slowly because his life is less affected by the noise and rush. The modern farmer is worth appreciation. He is anything but the being of caricature.

CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR.

Norway Is the Least Intemperate of All the Nations.

Americans are only moderate drinkers compared with those of other countries. The average citizen of the United States, counting in the women and children (which is not fair, but serves for the moment as a basis to figure upon), consumes in the course of a year liquors which contain one and a third gallons of pure alcohol. But the Frenchman, who, though formerly one of the soberest, has become the worst drunkard in the world, absorbs annually three and a half gallons of alcohol. The Belgian and the Swiss come next, with a consumption of two and fourfifths gallons. Then follow the Spaniard with two and a third gallons, the if it didn't hurt when he took a whal-Italian with just a trifle less, the Englishman and German with two and a tenth, and the Austro-Hungarian with home." Well, it helps to know that at about one and three-quarters gallons.

On the other hand, the American citizen by no means stands at the top of the list in respect to sobriety. The beating children in order to teach them Swede drinks only one and a sixth gal- things.-Cincinnati Post. lons of pure alcohol in a year; the Hollander drops considerably below him, with one gallon even; the relatively virtuous Russian, notwithstanding his much advertised addiction to vodka, absorbs only a trifle more than sixtenths of a gallon, and, finally, the Norwegian, who occupies a proud eminence as the most abstemious man in the world, barely exceeds a modest half gallon of the stuff in a twelvemonth's potations. It might be added for the sake of definiteness that the average person in the United States annually drinks one and a third gallons of proof spirits (which are 50 per cent alcohol), one-third of a gallon of wine and sixteen and a quarter gallons of malt liquors, chiefly beer.-Pearson's Maga-

Just Too Lovely.

Kidder-The best illustrated paper I've seen in a long while was handed

me to-day. Jenks-What was it? Kidder-A \$50 note.-Philadelphia

When a girl is called to the telephone she answers as if expecting an then that we have only one girl and invitation, but when the mother is that I have to stay in to let her go out. called she wonders in taking down the receiver what company is coming now.

When a man has the hot foot it is mighty easy for him to find an excuse trying to pick out something to eat that

BATTLE WITH BIG BABOON.

An exciting story of a baboon's escape from its cage on the Union-Castle liner Comrie Castle was told when the vessel reached Plymouth one the way There are many indications that the to London, with a large collection of common notion of the farmer must be wild animals on board, including five entirely abandoned. The long whis- wolves and eight zebras, the property

Herr Windhorn, who for thirty years has collected wild animals, which he favorable propositions for the transfer sells to dealers and zoological gardens, said the baboon stood 4 feet 6 inches cago, is a passing type. The last few in height and was very wild. About years have revolutionized life on the a week after leaving Cape Town it farm. No one can estimate how much broke out of its cage, but fortunately has been accomplished by the rural free the escape was discovered before the delivery system in changing the situa- animal reached the deck. For two tion, but it is the common thing now days, however, it was at liberty in the for the farmer to receive his daily pa- hold, showing fight whenever it was

An effort to snare the baboon by the metropolitan sheet from the city the cargo nets was found impracticable perhaps half a thousand miles away. on account of the 15-foot leaps which The almanac which once hung in the the animal made whenever it was apkitchen, supplementing the Bible and proached. At length Herr Windhorn completing the home library, now has ventured into the hold with his keeper to share with the standard magazines, and endeavored to secure the baboon, the daily and weekly papers, and the the keeper offering it food while the owner tried to come to close quar-

> and he slipped, whereupon the baboon at once made a furious onslaught on him, fastening his teeth in the collector's leg. It was impossible to shake off the powerful beast. In his effort to release himself Herr Windhorn tried to force open the jaws of the baboon with his hands. He was in a measure successful, but the baboon quickly fastened his fangs in Herr Windhorn's right hand, which was injured even more extensively than the leg. The keeper, who hurried to his master's aid, quickly became the subject of attack, the baboon inflicting several bites on him, while the boatswain of the liner was also bitten.

> The beast afterward refused to be overcome by half a bottle of whisky and a dose of opium powerful enough to poison ten men was also given him in a bottle of lemonade without effect. Eventually a large grating was fixed outside the companion way and then by means of a display of fruit the brute was coaxed near it and as he stretched an arm through the grating to grasp an orange he was secured. Legs and arms were at length tightly lashed, after which the baboon attach ed to the grating was returned to his cage and then released. He died four thinks death was due to a broken heart. -London Tribune.

SCHOOL STUDIES.



We give a real elevation of Heury Foster, better known as "Hen." Perhaps his name was not Henry Foster in your school, but you had a fellow like him. He was trouble's helr. He took ten lickings where any other lad got one. Unlucky. He was always caught. If a pane of glass was broken, it was Hen who stood with a stone in his hand. If the teacher asked a question it was Hen who always said "Huh." And once, when I asked him ing, he gave the pathetic answer: "Should say not. Got used to it at least one "Hen" Foster within my knowledge became the head of a great educational movement, and the for of

Johnnie-On the right side, teacher Teacher-No, Johnnie; it's on your district have not been exaggerated; in left side. fact, he is of the opinion that the min-Johnnie-Yes, ma'am; that's what I

said.

Johnnie-Yes, teacher; the left side is the right side for the heart .- Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Final Authority.

"Then you'll have to spell 'sure' shure, won't you?"

It Would Never Do.

Mr. Newlywed-Why not make Thursday your "at home day?"

Mrs. Newlywed-Gracious, no! That would never do. People weum think -Philadelphia Press.

The average country weman looks at a restaurant bill of fare as if she was wouldn't poison ber.

Desperate Struggle on Shipboard Between Animal and Keepers.

Herr Windhorn's foot caught in a net



Right Side for the Heart.

Teacher-Johnnie, on which side is your heart?

Teacher-What you said?

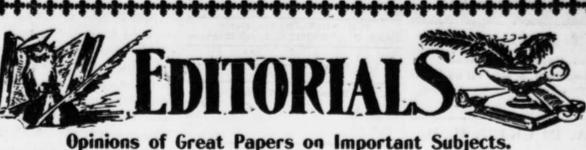
"Paw, you believe in spelling reform,

don't you?" "Yes."

"My boy, you'll have to pass that up to the President."-Philadelphia Led-

Poodle Pup Treated with Scorn by His Little Brothers. A dog with five feet is a new El Paso curiosity which is entitled to a high seat beside the two-headed calf, the two-faced cock and other freaks of the

animal kingdom. This new freak is the property of Po-



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THE IRISH IN THE UNITED STATES.

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N astonishing page in history is revealed by statistics just collected of the immigration of the Irish people to the United States. No such migration has ever been known as that of the inhabitants of that island who since 1840 have crossed the ocean to the number of more than 5,000,000 and are still coming

at the rate of half a million each decade. Between 1840 and 1860 not fewer than 2,000,000 Irish men and women came thither. From 1860 to 1880 an additional 1,000,000 made a new start in life in this free country, and from 1880 to the present time another

1,000,000 have been added to our population. One-fourth of the 5,000,000 are settled in the twelve agricultural States-Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota. Only one-fifth of the portion settled in the North Atlantic States are on farms, but this tendency into the centers of population disappears when the surroundings are agricultural, as is proved by the large percentage, more than 50, of those who have taken to farming in the twelve States named. The Irish are an agricultural people and it is only because the bulk of them in the United States are not in farming districts that they seem less so than some of the other elements of immigration population.

In three New England States and in many New England cities the Irish constitute a majority of the inhabitants, and before many years have passed they will do so in other Eastern States. In New York and Chicago they are barely behind the Germans. It is no impossibility that before many years virtually the entire population of Ireland will have transferred itself to the United States, leaving Erin to British domination.—Des Moines News.

PEDESTRIANS HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY.



ECENTLY in Montreal the driver of a motor car killed a man who was walking in the street. The driver was found guilty of manslaughter and was sentenced to six months in jail by Judge Choquette, the court at the same time informing the prisoner that he had rendered himself liable to

imprisonment for life. The point of most general interest came by way of dictum from the court during the hearing of the case. Judge Choquette informed the public that in all cases on the king's highway the pedestrian has the right of way over vehicles of any sort.

Clearly this implies that if one runs down a pedestrian he will have to prove that the accident was not avoidable, or that the victim was guilty of contributory negligence, in order to escape responsibility or even to secure a reduction of damages.

Common sense, as well as common law, shows no reason to doubt the soundness of this view. What is good law and good sense in England and in Canada should be good law and good sense in the United States. Here the pedestrian unquestionably has the right of way over

vehicles of any sort. It is quite proper for the motorist to blow a horn or ring a bell or give some other signal to a pedestrian to get out of the way. But the pedestrian may be deaf and not hear the signal, he may be blind and not know which way to hasten, he may be crippled and not able to move quickly, he may be imbecile and not know the

OIL IN ALBERTA.

Prospectors Working Far from the

Nearest Railway.

wealth lying along the eastern slope of

the Rocky Mountains have been re-

ceived, but, apart from several mysteri-

ous looking bore holes, securely capped.

nothing has been either seen or heard

of the large quantities of oil said to

have been discovered, says a corre-

spondent of the New York Tribune at

A few days ago F. B. Ferguson, of

the Western Oil and Coal Company, re-

turned from a trip to the company's

wells. He stated that the company

would be shipping large quantities of

oil before long. The fact that shipping

had not already been begun, he explain-

ed, was due to lack of transportation

and the difficulties attending a journey

into the oil country. Roads had to be

graded, bridges built and dense forests

cut out before even the machinery

could be taken in. A pipe line to this

city was the next operation to be at-

tended to, and within a few days this

forty-five mile pipe line from the com-

pany's property to this town would be

completed. Then, he said, oil would be

pumped through to the reservoir here,

preparatory to shipping it by the Cana-

Mr. Ferguson states that the stories

of the many rich strikes of oil in this

eral wealth of Southern Alberta is far

richer than any one supposes. All

along the slope of the Rocky Moun-

tains, from the international boun-

dary northward as far as the strides of

civilization have yet reached, oil in pay-

ing quantities has been struck, he says.

A lonely trapper in the northern wilds

comes across a party of prospectors

drilling for oll, gas or coal hundreds

of miles from the nearest railway, and

he wonders what will become of any-

thing they may find, it seeming impos-

sible that it can be of any value so

many miles from railroad accommoda-

FREAK DOG HAS FIVE FEET.

dian Pacific Railroad.

Pincher creek, Alberta.

From time to time stories of the oil

meaning of a signal. Therefore, the failure of a pedestrian to get out of the way of a vehicle does not justify the driver who runs him down and inures or kills him. There seems to be no room to doubt that in the public streets the man who walks has a prior right to the man who drives. It has even been held in substance by an English court that a municipality is responsible for a condition that injures a pedestrian who does not "look where he is going."-Chicago Post.

THE COUNTRY'S AMAZING PROSPERITY.



OW great is the prosperity of the United States is shown again by the figures of our foreign commerce during the year ending with the last day of August. In that time our imports were \$1,254,399,735 and our exports were \$1,759,417,633, making a total for the twelve months of \$3,013,817,633. Thus

it is seen that our foreign trade has passed the \$3,000,000,-000 line at last.

These figures are almost incomprehensible by the human mind, but they are as nothing compared to what they will be in the next fifty years, when the population of the United States will have reached the 150,000,000 mark. By that time the United States ought to be and doubtless will be the virtual ruler of the civilized world and its merchants and manufacturers lords of the lands thereof.

Perhaps some idea of the meaning of the \$3,000,000,000 statement may be had by accepting it in detail. For example, the imports have exceeded \$100,000,000 in every month of the past year. That is, we import \$25,000,000 worth every week, or more than \$4,000,000 worth every day in the business year. Our exports, of course, are even greater than our imports. In August they were \$129,454,760, against \$118,000,000 in the same month of last year, notwithstanding the fact that canned beef, formerly a large item in exports, fell off far below its usual amount.

It is impossible accurately to forecast the future, but it is safe to say that, unless some great event entirely unsuspected should occur to cut down our population, the United States should enjoy uninterrupted prosperity until the time arrives when there will be enough to support all of its people in comfort and happiness .- Kansas City World.

WORTHLESS NOVELS.



HERE has been an interesting and perhaps really useful discussion in various papers on the publishing of worthless novels. Trash of this sort gluts the book market, brings down the circulation of good and useful books, does not bring in money to the author, and encourages the public to waste utterly

its time. It is admitted that many hundreds of wholly worthless novels are published every season. Their contents might be classed under Carlyle's definition of "ditch water," save that this would be rather hard on the ditches, which do serve a very useful purpose. But a fact which is not brought out by this correspondence, in which publishers and novelists and critics have taken part, is that the worthless and absurd fiction published is a trifle compared with the worthless and absurd fiction unpublished. Thousands of laborious manuscripts are every year delivered at the London publishing houses, large and small, which never find their way into print.-London Saturday Review.

a pedigree several yards long. It is a milk-white color, pearly teeth, reason its two little brothers, who were

one with the extra leg from the nest. The three poodle pups are now about 3 weeks old. Officer Cherry says he pups fighting and whining at the other and trying to push him away from them. He at first thought they were same performance and he then noticed that it had five feet.

The fifth foot is joined to the left front foot and is complete except for the fact that there is no thumb. It moves with the left foot and the pup seems to possess the use of it as with

his other feet. While the mother of the dog took no notice apparently of the freak and treated the pup the same as the other two, the brother pups recognized the fault as soon as they were able to see and ever since have been gnawing and to bring about the return of engineers fighting as if they would have the other out of the way. Officer Cherry says that the conduct of the pups is remarkable in the extreme, for they seem to recognize with the instinct of human dish mines, waterfalls, etc. He says persons the frailty of the little brother poodle and seem to think that they are disgraced by association with him .-Mexican Herald.

WANTS THEM BACK AGAIN.

Sweden Would Have Her Sons and Daughters Return Home.

According to United States Consul extra Bergh at Gothenburg, in a report to Dealer. the State Department, the Swedish government is seriously considering plans for promoting the return to Sweden of such Swedish immigrants to the United States as are able to invest money in real estate, says the Washington Star. As a step in that direction it is proposed to send agents to the States in the American Union having the largest liceman Harry Cherry, now of the park | Scandinavian population for the purbeat, El Paso. The dog is a poodle, pose of investigating the conditions new hays do from the women.

coming from the best stock and having there and using the information obtained for the purpose mentioned.

One of the proponents says that even dark eyes and a cunning grin; in fact, now some emigrants return to Sweden, all the marks which characterize a but that the movement is counteracted high-bred poodle. But, notwithstanding by unfavorable conditions there-such all these, it has five feet and for this as defective judiciary conditions and the bureaucratic state of society, which brought into the world at the same repels the Swedish-Americans, who are time, have begun to take notice that accustomed to more liberal social relathere is something wrong with their tions, and finally the intolerance of the playmates and brother, and instead of whole public in Sweden, which does not welcoming him in that brotherly spirit understand the self-esteem natural to characteristic of poodles they turn the the Swedish-American who by his own cold shoulder and kick the unfortunate exertions has passed from poverty to good economic circumstances,

He says that these unfavorable conditions ought to be changed and that did not notice anything wrong with everything practical ought to be done any of them until he saw two of the to promote the return of omigrants; that the Swedish-Americans are a practical people with wide views, hardy and strong men and women, noted for playing and paid no attention, but his their sobriety and moral, religious attention was again attracted by the lives; that a greater return of the better classes of emigrants would also that the pup who was being whipped bring more money to Sweden, that the by his two brothers was a freak in opinion of the Swedish-Americaus is favorable to such arrangements and that the American authorities are too noblespirited to put any obstacles in the way of such a movement, although they recognize the good qualities of the Scandinavian immigrants. The proponent says that arrangements should be made so that it would be easier to obtain land in Seweden-particularly government land-and loans of money on easy terms for the erection of good homes; that attempts should be made and skilled workmen, who in the United States have gained good positions. and to invite American capital, which would premote the utilization of Swethat such connections with the United States would be of advantage economically and in other ways.

Wants a Naught or Two Less.

"I wish my dressmaker would take up simplified spelling."

"Why so?" "She spells her bills with too many ciphers." - Cleveland Plain

We're Progressing.

We've shorted up our words a few. The scheme is far from twaddle: Progressive young folks say "skiddoo," Our grand sires said "skedaddle." -Detroit News.

In a country town the new trimmer at the millinery store usually attracts more attention from the men than the