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THE TIMES will print all communications on subjects of general interest to the people, when such communications are signed by the writer, but will reflect all communications not signed, no matter what their merits. This precaution is taken to avoid misrepresentation.

THE TIMES is published in the best interest of the people, and its utterances always intended to promote the general welfare of the public at large.

THE UNITED STATES BEHIND IN ITS INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

That the United States is behind Europe in general and Germany in particular in the matter of its industrial schools is the opinion of a learned German scholar, Dr. Homan von Schurman, who has just returned to Berlin from a visit to this country. He has been studying the industrial schools and is of the opinion that too much money is being spent in the day school and not enough in the night school for the benefit of the junior apprentice.

"It is all very well," said Dr. Schurman, "to teach the small boy the elements of manual training, but experience has shown that this primary teaching, given prior to the time when a boy decides upon his vocation, has very little lasting effect.

"In six cases out of ten a boy will learn, we will say for example, something in the woodworking line, and when he has spent two or three years and has a fair amount of practice, along with a great deal of theory, he will go out and look for a position. He finds that it is possible for him to get into the iron working business, where he has a friend who can get him a place, but he does not know much about iron working.

"Now, it would have been much better to turn that boy out of school earlier, after he had finished his mental training, and let him get his position in the iron shop. Then, if he could get the benefit of an apprentice's night school, where he could take up the line of his chosen vocation, he could make himself far more valuable to his employer, and he would have a chance to rise easier and quicker from the bench to a more responsible position. He would apply himself more closely at school because he would be learning the theory of his chosen vocation, and he would appreciate that he was getting along faster than the boys in his shop who were plodding along to slowly master what they could from their daily tasks."

All of which is most excellent food for thought for those who are at the head of our educational systems.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS GIVING.

This is the season of the year when Christmas shopping is the cry, when the idea of present-giving occupies the spare moments of those who are fortunate enough to have loved ones to give presents to. It isn't necessary to call attention to the fact that it is not the value of the present given, but the spirit in which it is given, that is the thing. It is this spirit, which, at its best, must be properly felt before the idea of Christmas can be properly connected with the greatest religious festival in the world. There are altogether to many sordid motives nowadays actuated in the giving of Christmas presents. The spirit in which the little gift is given can make it transcendently beautiful and valuable to the one who gives it and the one who receives it. The person who gives a present, expecting to get back what he paid for it, or more, gets mighty little joy and satisfaction out of Christmas and the sentiments that accompany it. Many people display selfish motives in their Christmas gifts and blacken the beauty of the day and all that it means. The little gift with its accompanying sacrifice is dearer by far than the elaborate one which costs the one who gives it nothing but money, whose loss he or she will never feel. Make some one happy; don't try to make them satisfied and if you cannot make some one you love happy, because of their selfishness, make some poor person happy.

A BIG FIGHT IS IMPENDING.

The wisdom of the members of the Gary bar in isolating themselves from the Lake County Bar Association the other night may be questioned. When the appeal is made to the Indiana state legislature in January for a superior court at Gary, it will look extremely queer when the Lake County Bar Association goes on record there as opposed to the project. The spectacle of a house divided within itself will be presented and how much Gary will get out of it remains to be seen. It would have been much better to have compromised and obtained something than to have left the meeting and obtained nothing. The action of the Gary lawyers in withdrawing from the meeting was both un courteous and uncalled for. It is true that it was spectacular and sensational, but it was highly impractical. That the Lake county lawyers, outside of Gary, are almost unanimous in saying, It is evident that the fight to be conducted from Lake county in the Indiana legislature this winter at Indianapolis, will be a memorable one and one from which Gary will receive an immense amount of valuable advertising, whether win or lose.

SOME GEOGRAPHICAL REFORM.

The extension of the civil service rules including a percentage of the fourth class postmasterships is being widely commented upon, but no convincing reason is given why the new order is applied to postmasters east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio, and not to similar postoffices outside of these bounds. It has never been understood that the merit system depended on geography. It will be difficult to persuade the south, for example, that its exclusion is not due to recognition of the fact that to require applicants to pass examinations and to file satisfactory petitions from bona fide patrons of the office, would in a majority of instances mean postmasters not in political sympathy with the present or the next administration. Is spells hunting, as carried on in the south, of a character that entitles it to special consideration?

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"THE ERECTION OF a hospital by the Inland Steel company at Indiana Harbor is a scheme that will bring credit to the officials of that industry. Too little care and consideration is given nowadays to the poor fellows who are maimed and bruised while at work in mills, and any steps taken to alleviate their pain is an act of the greatest humanity. Other big industries might build temporary hospitals with much credit to their directors.

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NO, GENTLE READER, the new tie invented by the Griffith man is not one that your wife can get you for a Christmas present. It is for railroad companies and yet a railroad man could not wear it.

♦ ♦ ♦

JURY AWARDED a husband \$500 damages on the claim that a man had hypnotized his wife. Looks like a bear movement in either the hypnotic or wife market.

♦ ♦ ♦

IT WILL HAVE to be admitted that as far as being a good press agent for his native town, Batting Nelson is certainly the Durable Dane of Hegewisch.

**Heart to Heart Talks.**

By EDWIN A. NYE.

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IS HETTY GREEN HAPPY?

Item.—A plain old woman, wearing a dowdy black dress, with a sallowly appearing old hat tipped over a shrewd eye and a cunning face.

That is a pen picture of Hetty Green, owner of many millions, as she sits at her private desk in the big bank she owns in New York city.

Since the days of Russell Sage this woman has more ready cash to lend than any other person in Gotham. When taxes come in slowly and the city authorities need money to meet the heavy expenses they go to Hetty Green for it—and pay good interest for the short loan, you may be sure.

For many years Hetty Green lived in a cheap flat in Hoboken, just across the river from Manhattan, and paid therefor a rental of \$19 per month.

New York gasped when she gave up her flat and moved into the high priced Plaza hotel. It did not last long, though Hetty could have bought the hotel and never missed the money.

She went back to Hoboken and tried to rent the old flat, but it had been taken. She is still looking for a flat in that neighborhood.

You see, rents are cheaper and living is cheaper in Hoboken. And the grasping old woman pinches the nickels closer than you or I.

She lives only to pile up extra dollars.

So far as known, Hetty Green never gave away a dollar. It would be difficult to make her believe in the beatitude, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Therefore it is almost superfluous to inquire whether, with all her dollars, she is happy.

Not necessarily. Dollars won by commercial conquest may give to the conqueror a certain species of satisfaction, but dollars cannot bring happiness. Happiness and dollars belong to different worlds.

Wealth itself is like salt water.

That is to say, the more you drink of either the more you want.

And so this money mad little woman, at a time when she ought to be dancing her grandchildren on her knee, sits long hours in the bank. Besides the bank which she controls, she has many millions invested in real estate and securities.

She denies herself the comforts demanded by a twelve dollar a week clerk and goes on squeezing out dollars.

For what?

THIS DATE IN HISTORY.

December 9.

1608—John Milton, English poet, born.

Died Nov. 8, 1674.

1674—Earl of Clarendon, lord chancellor of Charles II, died in France.

Born in England, Feb. 18, 1608.

1793—The "Minerva" appeared in New York City, edited by Noah Webster.

1811—Americans under General Harrison left the battle ground at Tippecanoe on their return to the United States.

1830—The first locomotive built in the United States was finished and tested at the West Point (N. Y.) foundry.

1841—First through train ran from Boston to Albany.

1861—Confederate congress passed a bill admitting Kentucky to the confederacy.

1874—Ezra Cornell, founder of Cornell university, died. Born Jan. 11, 1807.

1902—Germany and England joined in a naval demonstration against Venezuela.

1903—The "Sorcerer" at the Opera Comique, in Paris.

1904—First through train ran from New York to San Francisco.

1905—Confederate congress passed a bill admitting Kentucky to the confederacy.

1906—John D. Rockefeller, oil magnate, died. Born July 8, 1839.

1907—Germany and England joined in a naval demonstration against Venezuela.

1908—The "Sorcerer" at the Opera Comique, in Paris.

1909—First through train ran from New York to San Francisco.

1910—First through train ran from New York to San Francisco.

1911—First through train ran from New York to San Francisco.

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1965—First through train ran from New York to San Francisco.

1966—First through train ran from New York to San Francisco.

1967—First