

# THINGS WORTH KNOWING

Spiders are seven times stronger in proportion than lions.

The chances of life in England are 40 per cent. greater than in India.

School children in Victoria, Australia, are carried on the street cars free.

The national debt of Great Britain at 5th April, 1890, was £689,944,027.

Spirits are said to be "proof" when they contain 57 per cent. of alcohol.

The admiralty knot equals 6,080 feet, while a statute mile contains 5,280 feet.

The first meeting house of the Wesleyan Methodists was founded in Bristol in 1739.

An extraordinary fact is, says a prison doctor, that a large proportion of criminals draw well.

In France the doctor's claim on the estate of a deceased patient has precedence of all others.

Western avenue, Chicago, is 24 miles long. Halsted street in the same city is 21½ miles long.

There are nineteen millionaires in the United States senate, whose combined wealth foots up to about \$140,000,000.

Guido Areline, an Italian monk, in the reign of Henry I., invented musical notes. This invention he thought would atone for all his sins.

The Romans subdued all England, and parts of Scotland and Wales, but did not reach Ireland, though its existence was known to them.

The name Osmanlis, Othman, or Ottoman, is applied to the Turks in honor of the founder of the Turkish Empire.

The exports of steel from Belgium last year were 73,867 tons. The corresponding exports in 1889 were 69,692 tons.

The first service held in the present St. Paul's cathedral was the public thanksgiving for the peace of Ryswick, December 2, 1697.

Prof. Marshall of Cambridge University, states that of £500,000,000 spent uselessly annually, £100,000,000 is spent by the working class.

The manufacture of silk was introduced into England in 1585 by refugees from the Low Countries during the government of the Duke of Parma.

The constitution of the United States cannot be changed except by a two-thirds vote of both houses of congress, sanctioned by three-fourths of the states.

Violet, violin, violoncello, are all derived from viol, signifying sweet, applicable to either sound or smell; the latter syllables being merely to distinguish or harmonize.

Ersted, a Danish physicist, discovered in 1819 the action of the electric current on a magnetic needle, which laid the foundation of electro-magnetism and telegraphy.

The largest state in the civilized world is Texas, which has an area of 274,356 square miles; the smallest is the little state of Monaco in Europe, which has only an area of six square miles.

During the year 1889-90 the post office delivered through the various post offices in the United Kingdom, 1,660,100,000 letters, 217,100,000 post cards, 441,700,000 books, etc., 159,300,000 newspapers, and 42,853,000 parcels.

The first general (Arminian) baptist church is said to have been formed in London in 1607; the first particular (Calvinistic) church in 1616. There are about 2,764 churches in England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland; and about 305,000 members.

The British Navy at the beginning of 1890 consisted of 49,693 men and boys, 4,200 coastguards, and 13,882 marines; or, including reserves, volunteers, and others, a total of 94,563, with 258 ships in commission, which were increased to 274 in November, 1890.

The value of the Egyptian antiquities that were discovered the other day hard by the Temples of Luxor, near Thebes, has not been exaggerated. From one of the galleries unearthed 152 intact mummies have been taken, 149 being of the 20th and two of the 19th dynasty—approaching, therefore, the date of 1400 B. C. Statuettes of the gods, votive offerings, 77 papyri, and many treasures besides have been found.

The population of all the Russias in 1889 was reckoned at 109,000,000, just about double what it was 60 years ago. During the Crimean war the Russians put into the field 1,275,000 men. The war-footing of the army at present amounts to 4,600,000 men, together with 400,000 cavalry and 3,853 guns. It is estimated that in cavalry alone Russia outnumbers the horsemen of the Triple Alliance by two to one. There are 20,000,000 horses in the country, of which it is reckoned that nearly half are capable of being easily trained for cavalry service.

The most famous Madeira ever known was the "1814 pipe." It was fished up from the bottom of the Scheldt, a short distance above Flushing, in 1814, having remained there since 1778 in a ship which had been wrecked in the mouth of the river in that year. It was sold by auction at Antwerp, the greater portion of it having been secured for Louis XVIII., who despatched an agent to secure it regardless of expense. Several dozens were presented to the French Consul at Antwerp, which he sold to the Duc de Raguse. In 1858, after the death of the Duchesse de Raguse, four dozens remained in her cellars, and they were sold for something over their weight in gold to Baron Rothschild.

Leeds has an area of 21,572 acres; Birmingham, 8420; Manchester, 3927; and Liverpool, 5210.

Blind-worms are no more blind than moles; they have rather small but very quick and brilliant eyes.

The Nice carnival was started in 1872 by a Greek English banker in Nice, who took the idea from Rome.

The first public school for the blind established in England was at Liverpool in 1791; in London in 1799.

The first locomotive was constructed by George Stephenson in 1814. It travelled at the rate of six miles an hour.

It is calculated that in 90 years, at the present rate of increase, Australia will contain about 40,000,000 of citizens.

The richest American college is Columbia, with an endowment of \$9,000,000. Harvard comes second with about \$7,000,000.

Of nineteen generals on the active list of the British army two hold the Victoria cross, viz.:—Sir H. Prendergast and Sir F. S. Roberts.

Most of the numerous temples throughout China are painted red; everything lucky and pleasant among the Chinese is of vermilion color.

The Isle of Man is governed by an independent legislature called the Tynwald, consisting of two branches—the Governor and Council, and the House of Keys.

It has been estimated that 23,000,000 bushels of oysters are opened annually in the United States, and that this represents an accumulation of shells amounting to not less than 243,300,000 cubic feet, which if spread out would cover a space of more than 450,000 yards square to a depth of three feet.

The heart's ease has an infinity of provincial names, as:—Love in Idleness. Live in Idleness. Call me to you. Cull me to you. Three Faces under a Hood. Herb Trinity. Jump up and Kiss me. Look up and Kiss me. Kiss me ere I rise. Kiss me behind the Garden-gate. Pink of my John. Flower of Jove. Flamy, because its colours are seen in the flame of wood.

The Austrian empire contains 240,943 square miles; the German empire, 212,091; France, 204,091; Spain, 177,781; Sweden, 168,042; Norway, 122,280; Great Britain and Ireland, 120,879; Italy, 114,296; Turkey, 62,025; Roumania, 45,642; Bosnia and Herzegovina, 28,125; Bulgaria, 24,360; Serbia, 20,850; Netherlands, 20,527; Greece, 19,941; Switzerland, 15,235; Denmark, 14,553; Eastern Roumelia, 13,500; Belgium, 11,373; and Montenegro, 1770.

To prevent a crack in metal from extending further, the well-known means are employed of drilling a hole where the rent ends, but, unless the hole is bored on the precise spot, the crack is apt to continue beyond the hole. To facilitate the search for the exact point, it has been found a good plan to moisten the cracked surface with petroleum, then wipe it, and immediately rub it over with soft chalk. The oil that has penetrated into the crack exudes and thus indicates with precision upon the whitened surface where the crack stops. Now for the drill!

Report says that Mr. Gladstone owns a lead pencil 39 inches in length, which on occasions, he uses as a walking-stick. Quite as interesting a curiosity in the pencil line is one owned by a New York lawyer—a cheap, looking affair, but almost priceless in its owner's estimation. The wood of which it is made, came from a cedar tree that was probably centuries old before any cedar tree now standing began to grow. It was taken from the bottom of a marl bed in Orange county, at a depth of nearly 100 feet below the surface. Near it were found the remains of a mastodon. The knob of the end of the pencil was made from a piece of mastodon's tooth. The pencil has never been sharpened and probably never will be.

A combined land and water tricycle, suitable for rescuing drowning persons, was lately tried at Marseilles with satisfactory results. The speed attained was sixteen miles on land and about two miles in the sea, under difficulties, but without extraordinary exertion. The wheels, 4ft. 9in. in diameter, and 4ft. apart centre to centre, are made of sheet steel, and of hollow lenticular form, having a dozen curved floats on the outside in addition to the usual india rubber tyres. The seat is raised 2ft. above the axle, and the immersion, when loaded, is 20in. The machine maintained its vertical position in spite of attempts—imitating the struggles and cluttings of a drowning man—to overturn it. When on its side, like a raft, it buoyed up two full-grown men.

Do tools grow tired? This seemingly absurd question is seriously answered in the affirmative by a correspondent in a technical contemporary. He says: "I called the attention of a shopmate—a grizzled old veteran—to the peculiar behaviour of a chisel. He looked it over and handed it back to me, saying—'The tool is all right, only a little tired. Lay it aside and let it rest. It will come out all right again, just as a man that is tired will.' I did not believe the old fellow, and I really thought he was crazy speaking of a tool getting tired; but, as there was no help for it, the tool was laid away. I do not remember how long it was left to 'rest,' but when it was again sharpened and used, it appeared to hold its keenest edge as well as it did before it got tired. Barbers tell me their razors, in constant use, get tired in the same way; and wood-choppers say their axes seem to get soft all at once. Possibly constant and hard usage may cause changes in crystallisation that would account satisfactorily for the peculiarity alluded to."

Official returns show that the population of Japan on December 31, 1889, was 40,072,020—20,246,336 males and 19,825,684 females—who occupied 7,840,872 houses.

Of foxhounds packs there are no less than 154 in England and Wales, containing 6,501 couples of hounds; in Scotland, 9 packs, with 326 couples; and in Ireland, 16 packs, with 559 couples.

The first steamer from Liverpool to cross the Atlantic direct was the *Royal William* of 617 tons, and 276 horse-power, which sailed from Liverpool to New York on the 6th July, 1838, and returned on August 19th. The outward passage was performed in 19 days, and the homeward in 14½ days.

Field-marshal rank with admirals of the fleet; generals with admirals; lieutenant-generals with vice-admirals; major-generals with rear-admirals; brigadier-generals with commodores 1st and 2nd class; colonels with captains of 3 years; lieutenant-colonels with captains under 3 years and staff-captains, but senior to commanders and staff-commanders. All of these ranks rank according to date of commission. Majors, according to date of commission or order, rank with navigating-lieutenants of 8 years' standing; captains, according to date of commission or order, rank with lieutenants and navigating-lieutenants under 8 years' standing; lieutenants, according to date of commission or order, with sub-lieutenants.

The census which has just been completed in Germany shows that the growth of cities is almost as rapid in Europe as in this country, and in some respects, even more wonderful. Berlin has gone up past New York, with a population of 1,574,485; Hamburg, with its big suburb of Altona, has 715,170 inhabitants; Leipzig is credited with 553,272; Munich has a population of 344,899, and that of Breslau is 334,710. Cologne has 282,537 inhabitants; Dresden, 276,085; Magdeburg, 200,071; and Frankfurt-on-the-Main, 179,850. In 1885, when the last previous census of Germany was taken, Berlin had 1,315,297 inhabitants; Hamburg and Altona, 410,404; Leipzig, 170,076; Munich, 261,981; Breslau, 299,405; Cologne, 161,266; Dresden, 245,515; Magdeburg, 114,298; and Frankfurt-on-the-Main, 154,513. Such gains as are here shown can scarcely be matched by an equal number of American cities. The period between the two enumerations, it must be remembered, is only half as long as that from 1880 to 1890, which is used in all tables showing the growth of American cities, and yet while there are but four places in this country in which the increase in population has been as much as 120,000 in the last ten years. Germany has four cities which have increased from 121,000 to 259,000 each in five years. It is the same with some of the smaller cities. Magdeburg has gained about as much in five years as Detroit or Milwaukee in ten, and Munich is growing much faster than Cincinnati or San Francisco.

The crowding into towns is found everywhere in the civilized world. Next year the census to be taken in Great Britain will show that not a few cities have been gaining at an astonishing rate for old towns in a country where the population has long been dense. Even in ancient India the growth of the cities is out of all proportion to that of the country as a whole.

## A STORY OF THE GOLDFIELDS.

How a Famous Nugget was Found and the Fact Concealed.

No one who was on the field at the time will forget the excitement that was aroused when the "Joker" nugget was found at Teetulpa. No other has yet been obtained on Teetulpa that can equal it in weight. It turned the scale at thirty ounces, and was bought by the government for the sum of £120. In size and shape it resembled a man's hand; it was thick at the wrist part, and tapered off towards the fingers.

The claim had been a good one from the first, and the owner was one of the wealthy men of Teetulpa. So on this day, reclining full length, leaning on one arm, the man searched for nuggets. He made a sweep with his knife to push back some of the gravel, and his eye caught sight of the "Joker." He at once covered it with his hand, and sat up, rather wondering how he would secure his treasure without being seen. If the find became known, every man in the field would tramp to the spot and invade his claim, and so prevent him working. A man in an adjoining claim looked up.

"Found anything?" he asked. "No! Seen the colour, that's all. Pitch my coat over to me, will you? it's lying near you there. I want a smoke."

"Here you are, mate. But what's the matter? You look pale. Don't you feel right?" "I'm all right; only the sun is a bit hot." He was struggling with an insane desire to laugh; but he got his coat over the nugget and seated himself on the top of it. Then laughter overpowered him, and he became hysterical. Those about him wondered, but thought the sun had affected him. In a little while he regained his composure, and decided to go to his tent. In lifting his coat he managed to take up the lump of gold, and no one knew that he had found anything.

It was not until ten days had passed that the fact was noised abroad, and even then few knew the claim whence the "Joker" came.

Numerous other nuggets were found of weights ranging to twenty, sixteen, twelve, and ten ounces, and those of six ounces were almost common—almost, not quite.—From Cassell's Picturesque Australasia.

Something Worth Trying for! \$100.00 in Gold.

This is what "THE LADIES' BAZAR" will give to the person sending them the largest number of sentences constructed from words contained in the quotation: "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you do even so to them." Every week during the contest they will give a "Handsome Family Sewing Machine" valued at \$50.00, to the person sending them the largest number of sentences that week. If preferred they will give the winner a Solid Gold Watch instead of the Sewing Machine. Special prizes for Boys & Girls. They do not offer impossibilities. The above will be carried out to the letter. Everyone competing will have an equal chance. No dictionary required in this competition. Send 10c. for sample copy of "THE LADIES' BAZAR" and full instructions. THE LADIES' BAZAR, 4 Adelaide Street East, Toronto.—A.

## MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

President Diaz, of Mexico, is reported to have arranged a trip to France.

The tee given Rev. Dr. McVickar at the Astor-Willing wedding is said to have been \$10,000.

Mr. Gladstone does not smoke, and dislikes tobacco in every form. He has also a profound contempt for smart attire, and a deep-rooted dislike for new clothes.

Truxton Beale, the new minister to Persia, gets his baptismal name from his great grandfather, Commodore Thomas Truxton, who helped win the early fame of the American navy.

Although only 17 years old, Merritt L. Fernald, son of President Fernald, of the Maine State college, has been made assistant botanist and herbarist at Harvard. He is quite well known in scientific circles.

Prince Victor, it is said, has been disinherited by his father, Prince Napoleon, and Prince Louis has been named as the next emperor of France. This is a case of "nothing from nothing, and nothing remains."

The queen of Denmark is a fine pianist, and her daughter, the czarina, is nearly as good. At the Danish court chamber music is a daily occupation, generally a quartet, with the queen at the piano. Beethoven and Brahms are the favorite composers.

Philadelphians want to place the bodies of Benjamin Franklin and his wife under the dome of the magnificent new City hall. Franklin now lies in a neglected grave at Fifth and Arch streets, and even that small location will soon be wanted for building purposes.

Some one came near getting U. S. Minister Phelps into trouble by circulating a report that he had appeared at some public function in Berlin arrayed in a gorgeous court dress. He wants his friends to know that on that occasion he wore the ordinary evening dress of an American gentleman, and was proud to.

Mrs. James G. Blaine, Jr., dined at a New York hotel with some friends a few days ago. She wore a dark suit with a turban and a sort of half-Newmarket, as she passed in, and looked bright and healthy. Her complexion was fresh and clear, but she limped quite noticeably.

W. H. H. Murray is again to become a resident of Guilford, Ct., where he was born and carried on for many years his famous stock farm as a diversion from his professional and literary labors. He has lately redeemed the old homestead and the ancestral acres, which were lost to him in the misfortunes which overtook him a dozen years ago.

One evening John Scott (Lord Eldon) had been dipping rather too deeply into the convivial bowl with a friend in Queen street, Edinburgh, and on emerging into the open air his intellect became in a considerable degree confused, and not being able to distinguish objects with any degree of certainty, he thought himself in a fair way of losing the road to his house in Picardy place. In this perplexity he espied some one coming towards him, whom he stopped with this query—"D'ye ken whaur John Scott bides?" "Where's the use o' ye speiring that question?" said the man; "Ye're John Scott himself." "I ken that," answered John; "but it's no himself that's wanted—it's his hoose!"

The walls of Lady Randolph Churchill's London drawing room are hung in pale gold, the window draperies reproduce the same tints, the floor is of light colored wood, highly polished, and the furniture is of the Louis XVI. period, displaying much gilding.

Olive Thorne Miller has posted from her home in Brooklyn no less than 20,000 printed slips asking the women of New York not to wear birds or their plumage. The request is simply and earnestly made, no reply being called for, and as a mark of good faith, signed with the autograph of that gentle woman, who is a friend of all the little creatures in feathers and fur.

Senator Manderson has received a present of the costliest hat ever seen in Washington. It is a tall white hat, much like the chapeaux worn by dressy men in summer, and it weighs twenty ounces. The cost was \$17,000. It was made of cancelled greenbacks worth that sum in the aggregate, and, except for its great weight, is a very genteel and desirable hat.

The Duchess of St. Albans, who, originally an actress, married first Mr. Thomas Coutts, the banker, and who died in 1837, left her immense fortune, amounting, it is said, to £1,800,000, to Miss Angela Burdett, who thereupon assumed the additional name of Coutts. It was stated in the newspapers at the time that the weight of this enormous sum in gold, reckoning sixty sovereigns to the pound, is 13 tons, 7 cwt., 3 qrs, 12 lbs., and would require 107 men to carry it, supposing that each of them carried 298 lbs., equivalent to the weight of a sack of flour. This large sum may be partially guessed by knowing also that, counting at the rate of sixty sovereigns a minute for eight hours a day, and six days, of course in the week, it would take ten weeks, two days, and four hours to take the task. In sovereigns, by the most exact computation (each measuring in diameter 17-20 of an inch, and placed to touch each other), it would extend to the length of 24 miles and 260 yards, or about the distance between Merthyr and Cardiff; and in crown pieces, to 113½ miles and 280 yards. It may be noted that £1,800,000 was the exact sum also left by old Jemmy Wood, the banker

and millionaire of Gloucester, who died in 1836. After inheriting the property in question, Miss Burdett-Coutts distinguished herself by furthering works of charity and benevolence, and in recognition of her large-heartedness she was, in the year 1871, raised to the peerage as Baroness Burdett-Coutts.

## The Genesis of a Scandal.

Mrs. A. to Mrs. B.—"That Mrs. New-comer is so fond of her children. The other day when I called she was blowing soap bubbles with them through a common clay pipe."

Mrs. B. to Mrs. C.—"That Mrs. New-comer is so funny. Mrs. A. saw her amusing the children with a common clay pipe."

Mrs. C. to Mrs. D.—"That Mrs. New-comer smokes a common clay pipe."

Mrs. D. to Mrs. E.—"That Mrs. New-comer smokes a horrid pipe. I don't see how any woman in her sober senses could do that."

Mrs. E. to Mrs. F.—"That Mrs. New-comer smokes a pipe and drinks awfully."

## Rebuking Royalty.

A reverend doctor, who was one of King Charles the Second's chaplains, whenever he preached before his majesty, was sure to tell him of his faults from the pulpit. One day his majesty met the doctor in the hall, and said to him: "Doctor, what have I done to you that you are always quarrelling with me?" "I hope your majesty is not angry with me," quoth the doctor, "for telling the truth." "No, no, said the king, 'but I would have us for the future be friends.'" "Well, well," quoth the doctor, "I will make it up with your majesty on these terms, as you mend I'll mend."

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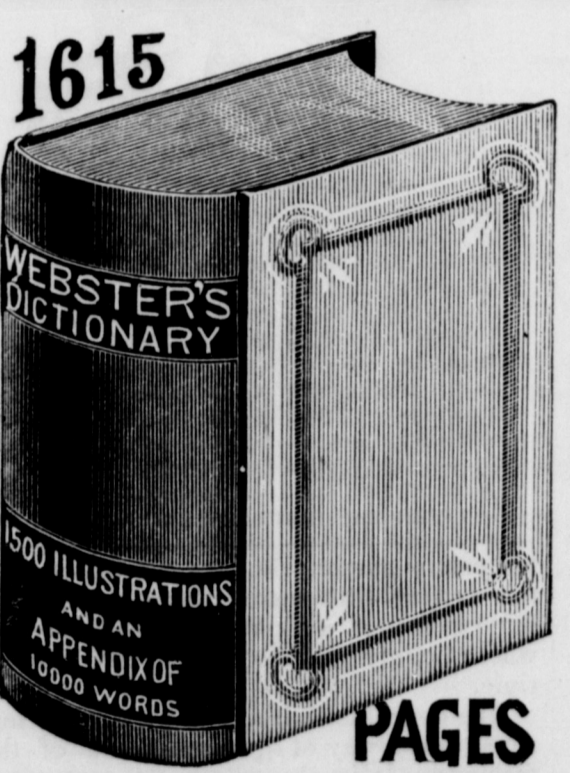
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