THINGS WORTH KNOWING

COLLECTED AND CONDENSED FROM MANY RELIABLE SOURCES.

Short Bits of Condensed Information for the Busy Merchant-The Tired Employee -The Eager Student-The Habits of Men and People, and Some Curious Customs.

The German navy will have 37 more vessels in active service this year than last. The total number to be assigned to duties lasting from three to ten months is 96.

During the reign of William III. (1695) widowers were taxed in England as follows: A duke, £12 10s; lower peers, a smaller sum; and a common person, one shilling.

St. George has three entire countries under his charge, viz., England, Bavaria, and Piedmont. He is also the patron of seven cities and twelve orders of knight-

The director of the Messenger Pigeon Association of Canada says, the evidence that these birds can be relied upon to cross 400 miles of sea is, apparently, thoroughly

Russia boasts an army of 5,200,000 men; France 3,409.000; Germany 2,710,-000; Italy 2,550,000; Austria 1,912,000; Britain, fighting strength, 614,000; and

California comes from the Spanish Caliente Fornalla, meaning hot furnace, in allusion to the climate. It was discovered by Cortez in 1537, and admitted into the United States in 1850.

Machinery has introduced great changes in the mode of cultivation since the Waterloo epoch. The census of 1821 showed 33 per cent. of the classified population of England was engaged in agriculture, that of 1881 only 12 per cent.

President Angell, of Ann Arbor University, says that the Chinese have no lieve the devil travels in a straight line. tents, thousands in numbers.

About 1500 tons of iron and brass wire are annually manufactured into pins in the United Kingdom. The greatest pin tactory in the world is said to be the Newhall works, Birmingham, which has an average and a body as large as that of a canary output of 10,000,000 pins per day.

One hundred millions of sheep-such, roughly speaking, is, according to Mr. W. Temperley, the total wealth of Australia cave constantly resounds with a buzzing invested in those bleating flocks which were noise which is emitted by the spiders while the standard and outward token of riches they are weaving their nets. in the pastoral communities of the ancient world.

Austria, and Italy still less.

It appears that Italy is the greatest consumer in Europe of English coals. The following is the proportion of coals provided yearly for the principal powers-Italy, 1,465,690 tons; France, 757,829 613,937 tons; Spain, 724,972 tons.

The manufacture of tweeds began in the London by W. Watson & Son, Hawick. It was directed to a Mr. Harvey, and labelled "tweels." This was mistaken for "tweeds," hence the name which has

An orange stuck with cloves was, and is now, not an uncommon gift among the boys and girls of Scotland. It is supposed to mean hidden wealth, and often does, for the orange may be a make-believe one, serving as a jewel case or bon-bon box, the orange may be a make-believe one, serving as a jewel case or bon-bon box, and containing some sweet and sacred it is very small. About 80 per cent of all the skins taken in the United States go to Europe. C. M. Lampson has a great sale

origin during the age of chivalry, when it was customary for a knight never to appear in public except in full armour. It became a custom, however, upon entering an assembly of friends, to remove his helmet, ignifying, "I am safe in the presence of

The memorable reign of Lady Jane Grey is said to have given rise to the phrase, "A nine days" wonder." Lady Jane was proclaimed queen of England July 10, 1553, four days after the death of Edward VI. After the lapse of a period of nine days, July 19, she relinquished her title to the crown.

The first lottery in England was drawn at the west door of St. Paul's Cathedral in 1569. It comprised 400,000 tickets at ten shillings each, and the first prize of 4,000 crowns was drawn by a tailor. The profits were devoted to the improvement of the English harbors. The last was drawn in

The real inventor of electric telegraphy was a Mr. Francis Ronalds, and his invention was in actual operation at Hammersmith as far back as the year 1816. Wheatstone admitted that he and Cooke merely improved upon the Ronalds telegraph and indeed many of their instruments and methods were almost identical

Sir Henry James says that from 1255 before the Christian era until that time there reigned 169 kings in Ireland, of whom 15 died comfortably upon their beds,3 died of the plague, and the remaining 150 were either assassinated or killed in battle. From the Christian era until the reign of Henry II., 76 kings reigned, and only five or six of them died a natural death.

ers in New York who make ends meet by sewing on overalls that pay 75 cents, shirts day, or Wednesday.

remainder of 4, which is the number of the ground, and polished to brilliancy, and CESS of the Company's 60 cents, vests 95 cents, trousers \$5, nannel shirts \$1 a dozen. They are obliged to find their own thread for the overalls and shirts and carry the work to and from the shop. If they take a street car one-tenth of their earnings is gone.

Between 600 and 700 tons of ivory are imported into Britain every year. Buyers have been built for the speeds now attained from all parts of the world attend the sales | at far less cost in every sense of the word. in London, at which in many cases as much It is only those who have to work out some as 100 or 120 tons are disposed of. Prices range from £20 per cwt. for the commonth that appear to know and appreciate the layer of glass, which discovery suggested to Abraham Therart the idea of glassest sort of this precious substance to as tremendous cost that is paid for the ability casting. An American glass manufacturer

An important "find" has recently been made at the British Museum. Among rolls was found a work of Aristotle's which had been supposed to be lost to the world— Athens. The opening chapter is missing salary, and get board and lodgings at the and the concluding chapter is mutilated,

A Russian physician, Dr. Flatoff, is endeavoring to induce the medical world to make a larger use of the sunflower as a drug. It can he asserts, be advantageously used in place of quinine without having the drawbacks of this excellent medicine. The sunflower is already much used in Turkey and southern Russia in cases orange blossoms, and occasionally the same the graceful outlines of the ships and of fever by the common people, who find quinine too expensive.

Henna painting is that which renders every Persian particularly loathsome in spite of his outward splendor and rich dress. Henna is a yellow powder obtained from a plant called Lawsonia inermis, which being dissolved in water, furnishes a red dye of brick color. They dye their fine black beards and their very eyes red. Persons of standing also dye with henna their finger-nails and hands.

The phrase "pledging" is referred by antiquaries to the practice of the Danes, when in Britain, who frequently used to cut the throats of the natives while drinking, although many infer the custom to have originated from the death of Edward the Martyr. The true meaning of the word denotes to warrant or to be surety to one that he shall receive no harm while he is taking his draught.

At a dinner some years ago, Lord Nugent affirmed that there was not, in th whole series of Shakespeare's plays, a single passage commending, directly or indirectly, the moral qualities of the dog. Thinking this to be impossible, Sir Henry Holland accepted the wager which Lord straight streets or walls, because they be- Nugent had offered on the subject. Even with the aid of several friends he failed to They are great believers in signs and portents, thousands in numbers. find any such passage; and in the end he paid the guinea he had lost.

> A short distance out from Buena Vista, Cal., there is a cave literally swarming with spiders of a curious species of immense size, some having legs four inches in length bird. The cave was discovered in December, 1879, and was often resorted to by the pioneers, who obtained the webs for use in place of thread. Early and late the

The greatest meat-eaters in the world rattlesnake is a proper symbol for our States, 57,750,000 bushels. are Americans, whose average consumption | country; it minds its own business, but is 175lb. per annum. The English come knows how to defend itself when attacked." next with an average of a little over 110lb. The rattlesnake, too, with the motto, The French eat only half as much meat as "Don't tread on me," appeared on one of the English; and the people of Germany, the earliest of the American flags. But it is perhaps too late to oust the eagle and substitute the snake, even if the change should meet with public approval, which is exceedingly doubtful. Most people hate a

The largest single building on the globe tons; Germany, 902,957 tons; Russia, is said to be the Freihaus, a monster apartment house of Vienna. In it are 1,500 rooms, arranged so as to make 400 dwelling apartments. Two thousand one hunyear 1832, when the first bale was sent to dred and twelve persons live under one great roof, a population sufficient to make a city large enough to incorporate and furnish with a full set of aldermen. The immense building has 130 staircases and 50 since become so popular over the civilized elevators. The postmen say they often ver, carriage-door and livery, if they knew deliver 1000 pieces of mail matter at this house in a single day.

The skunk has the heaviest fur of any animal in the country, and is consequently valuable and salable, although when dressed in London three times a year, one of which The custom of lifting the hat had its has just closed. At this sale there were disposed of, among other skins, 175,000 coon, 700,000 muskrat, 105,000 skunk, 85,000 opossnm, 55,000 mink and 7,000 gray fox, all of which were shipped from the United States.

> ring is in all cases an essential part of the | the poorer classes it is the bride who must marriage ceremony. Since marriage could be entered into as a purely civil contract, linen, besides her own trousseau, which is the ring in the civil ceremony might be dis- expected to be sufficient to last all her life. pensed with. It seldom is, however. "The No man in Italy-whatever be his station right of a woman," says one writer, "is or rank in life-marries a woman without a hallowed too long by custom and an obvi- dowry, and a sufficient wardrobe to last at ous utility to fall into disuse through the least 25 years. silence of an Act of Parliament." In the ceremony of the Church of England it is of

The meaning of "The Angelus" is the ringing of a belt in Catholic countries and ate and call to mind, for the purpose of was then subjected to a succession of light, praise and thanksgiving, the one great sharp blows, by which a crack was devel-His Incarnation, His taking upon Him our the pen's length, and the two sections flesh, and becoming man for our sake, that parted. These kind of pens were known He might save us from our sins. The bell is called "Angelus" because the devotion begins with the words, "Angelus Do-mini nunciavit Mariæ"—the Angel of the next improvement was the sawing of the Lord declared unto Mary.

In order to tell the day of the week of any date, take the last two figures of the year, add a quarter to this, disregarding the fraction; add the date of the month, and to this add the figure in the following list, one figure standing for each month: 3-6-6-2-4-0-2-5-1-3 6-1. Divide the sum by 7, and the remainder will give the number of the day in the week, and when there Inry II., 76 kings reigned, and only five is no remainder the day will be Saturday.

As an example, take March 19, 1890.

Take 90, add 22, add 19, add 6. This gives 137, which, divided by 7, leaves a

According to Mr. Seaton of Hull, the eminent marine-engineering authority, if the owners or managers of the steamships in the form of a cylinder, then cut, separin the Atlantic service had been well adated, and polished. Cast plate-glass is vised, they would long ago have separated the passenger from the goods trade. A steamer for passenger service only could much as £112 10s per cwt. for the quality to carry the few hundred tons of cargo ducing plate-glass of great width, and of

Norway, which employs about 180 hands, some recently acquired Egyptian papyrus | a very unusual arrangement exists as to the treatment of the men and women employed. All the unmarried hands, both male and namely, his treatise on the constitution of female, are engaged for a fixed yearly distinguished from art plate-glass. By this works. There is a large kitchen and a large but otherwise the manuscript is in good | dining-room, where the employer and employed dine together. The owner's wife herself superintends the cooking. The bedrooms and the other apartments are roomy and well ventilated; the women sleep in one end of the buildings and the men in the other. They all look healthy

emblem has been worn by European brides ever since the time of the Crusades; but the sight of which he was born, but he carries blossoms for brides is comparatively a them in his memory. So completely is he modern practice, due especially to the re- the master even of the smallest details of cent taste for flower language. The subject of bridal decorations being made a study, and the orange flower being found suitable, from the use made of it by the ancient Saracens, it was introduced by modistes as a fit ornament for brides. The notion once planted soon became a custom, now very general, adopted by all brides who study the conventions of society and follow the accepted fashions.

James Chalmers, a native of Arbroath,

Scotland, was the inventor of the adhesive

postage stamp, which saved the penny postage scheme of 1840 from collapse. He died in Dundee on the 26th August, 1853, aged 71. Mr. J. M. M'Bain, F. S. A. Scot., in his life of James Chalmers, says: -"Although not yet officially recognised by the Government, a large proportion of the philatelic societies of the world have investigated and admitted the claim of James Chalmers as the sole inventor of the adhesive stamp. The "Encyclopædia Britannica" and the "Dictionary of National Biography" both acknowledge the claim which has been made on his behalf. "Blackie's Modern Encyclopædia," just

published, also admits this.

The total production of barley in the world is estimated at 825,000,000 bushels. Of this amount Europe produces from 630,000,000 to 650,000,000 bushels, valued at £160,000,000 sterling. The following will show the average production for each country: Algeria, 60,500,000 bushels; Austria-Hungary, 88,500,000; Belgium, 3,665 700; Bulgaria, 15,125,000; Canada, 19,250,000; Denmark, 20,650,000; Egypt. 27,500,000; England, 90,750,000; France, 49,500,000; Germany, 93,500,000; Holland, 4,400,000; Norway and Sweden, 22,000,000; Roumania, 19,250,000; Rus-Professor T. A. Schurr, of Pittsfield, sia, 129,250,000; Spain, 77,000,000; Mass., said in a recent lecture: "The Turkey, 13,750,000; and the United

> Surnames in France began about 987. when barons used to designate themselves by the names of their estates; and that has been the general practice of deriving surnames, though by no means the origin of the names of all the nobility of Europe. Names were taken from badges, cognisances, and nicknames applied to individuals. Among the community, surnames are said to have been general before the reign of Edward II. It will be found upon ex-amination that many of them originated in the still older custom of adding to the son's Christian name that of the father, many more from the names of trades, and many from accidental distinction in size and color, probably originally applied to the founder of the family. Many who display crests and arms nowadays would be reluc-tant to emblazon them upon linen and sil-

In Italy, when a young woman is married, she has to be torn from her home by force. She must struggle, scream, and clutch at the furniture and doors, amid the entreaties of her bridegroom and friends, until the men have to use main force and carry her away in their arms, whilst she continues to struggle and kick until she is fairly within her new home, when she becomes as quiet as a lamb. The more she kicks, screams and struggles the more she is valued by her husband and his family. Women make it a boast of having made It is a common error to suppose that the this comedy last to the utmost. Amongst furnish the house and give all the house

One of the greatest initial difficulties in the making of the steel pen, as we of the present day familiarly know it, was the forming of the centre slit. At first a slight cut was made at the extreme point by a churches, three times a day, to commemor- slight chisel with a light hammer. The nib thing our Blessed Lord did for us-viz., oped-not necessarily in the direct line of in the market as "cracked slips," and were, as may well be supposed, far from slit with a steel hair-saw, made of the finest watch spring; and the concluding improvement was the clipping of the slit by very fine, powerful shears. From the time the sheet-steel enters the manufactory till it leaves in the form of finished pens, as many as 18 different processes are passed through. In the early days as much as 5s was given for making each pen. At the present day steel pens have been made and sold in Birmingham for so low a figure as three-halfpence a gross.

> The "plate-glass" used for mirrors, wall panels, shop windows, etc., is better deshould not be confounded with the blown plate or patent plate, which are blown first traced to the accidental breaking of a vessel containing melted glass at St. Gobin, Picardy, in 1688. A portion of the spilt liquid found its way underneath a large flagstone which, when subsequently removed, was found to cover a thin uniform

Glass thus produced is said to possess a far greater homogeneity, fineness, and transparency, and its upper surface is of such brilliant smoothness as hardly to be process there is every perfect of window-glass being considerably cheapened.

One of the most notable of the world's blind workers is John B. Herrchoff, who lives at Bristol, R. I., and is at the head of one of the largest shipbuilding firms in the United States. He has been blind since his 15th year, but he has designed and superintended the construction of some of into a policy. His eternal question, "Canthe finest steam yachts now afloat. Not Saracen brides were the first to wear since he was a boy has he been able to see schooners which plough the blue waters in general adoption of wreaths of orange a perfect picture of each and every one of his vast business that when a representative of the South American government called upon him, a few years ago, and asked for what sum he could build and deliver three torpedo boats of a peculiar size and pattern. he requested only half an hour's duel agreed, in order that they might have answer. Before the half hour was up he that they would fight in a room perfectly had mentally gone over the whole matter, cost of building, and the time that would be required working from the new and strange plans submitted, and he had decided at what price he would be justified in taking the contract His offer was accepted, the boats were built and delivered at the time stipulated, and Herrchoff Bros. made a handsome profit from the contract.

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Chicago considered Stanley one of the worst speakers that ever made a good speech. He appeared ill at ease in evening dress, and rather shy and self-conscious. His gestures were few and ungraceful, he slurred and mispronounced his words, and it was only when he occas- Gentleman's Magazine. ionally forgot himself that he showed a little of the fire of eloquence.

W. Clarke Russell, whose sea stories have such remarkable dash, breeziness and out of door freedom, has long been a hopeless and well-nigh helpless invalid, chained to an indoor existence in an inland town.

gives her a headache, and even a temper- Bishopric of Manchester.-Pall Mall ature of 65 degrees she considers too warm | Gazette.

never seen in company without a sprig of laurel in her fingers, which she twisted and ing "Ah! ah!" as she entered the room. missed a treat." Yabsley—"O, he had to treat before you would let him sing, eh?" plucked as she conversed. Even at table, Madame la Duchesse," he replied, with -Indianapolis Journal.

relief to the pressure of nerve strain.

a young man constantly contain oaths and phrases which, however excusable in youth, are unnatural in a son's correspondence with his mother. His wife complained that "he never treated her seriously." What he was as a son and a husband he proved as minister. The Oriental precept, "When you are in doubt whether an action is good or bad, abstain from it," was raised by him not you leave it alone?" disposed of every project for improvement; while his reflection that "Nobody ever did anything very foolish, except from strong principle seemed to make those reforms which justice the most required, the most inexpedient.—Speaker.

Rogers, the poet, is credited with some very bitter things, but he had a kindly heart, as his poorer friends knew, and his manner of varying one of his tales shows much tact. An Englishman and a Frenchman (he used to say) who were to fight a time for deliberation before giving his a better chance of missing one another, dark. The Englishman groped his way to the hearth, fired up the chimney, and brought down the Frenchman. In France the fact came out. "Whenever I tell this story in Paris," adds Rogers, "I make the Frenchman fire up the chimney."-Gentleman's Magazine.

Listening is half the art of conversation. "The honorablest part of talk," says Bacon, "is to give the occasion." Macaulay forgot it. We have all heard Sydney Smith's definition of Macaulay's talk, which afforded "splendid flashes of silence." John Stuart Mill had a less-known tale of two French monologists pitted against each other. "One was in full possession, but so intent was the other upon striking in that a third person, watching the contest, exclaimed, 'If he spits, he's done.'"—

Dr. Moorhouse, the Bishop of Manchester, reaches 70 degrees in a drawing-room it was when the latter wrote to offer him the

It is told of Mme. de Stael that she was fuse Talleyrand, asked him loudly before a Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep.' You

At the wool-spinning mill at Aalsgaard, any desired length, by means of rolling. with her guests around, her butler knew to extreme gravity, "has not heard me place a bit beside her plate. This was rightly. What I said was not Ah! ah! it hardly an affectation; it was probably a was Oh! oh!" It was a modest beginning in repartee, but it turned the laugh against Lord Melbourne's letters to his mother as an enemy, and that was enough. - Daily

Charles Lamb once had a sonnet rejected on the ground of indelicacy. Writing on the matter to Procter, he said: " have no conjecture what the present world calls delicacy. . . I have lived to grow into an indecent character. When my sonnet was rejected I exclaimed, 'D—n the age! I will write for Antiquity."-Speaker.

Johnson was an enormous, even a greedy

reader. Yet there was nothing of the prig about him. His recorded conversation displays a vast store of knowledge which books could never have given him. "They call me a scholar," said he, "yet how very little literature there is in my conversation!" The knowledge he shows of trades is as remarkable as the similar knowledge which has puzzled commentators on Shakespeare's plays. Brewing and threshing, thatching and ditching, tanning, mills and the various operations upon it, gunpowder and "military topics," all were discussed by Johnson. Boswell once tried to sound the depth of Johnson's knowledge, by enticing him to talk about the trade of a butcher. Boswell began in an artful way by referring to the practice in Otaheite, where, he said, they strangled dogs for food, but did not bleed them to death. The trap failed. Johnson immediately took up the subject; soon he was explaining how and why different animals are killed in different ways; finally, he went on to discourse on London slaughter houses, and generally on the trade of a butcher. Sut this is no isolated case. Open Boswell's book anywhere, and he will always prove the variety of Johnson's topics. Take, for example, Friday, the 7th of May, 1773, Johnson being then 64. The record is plainly only of part of what was said, but even that falls on many things; on Lady Di Beauclerk, on the exuberant talk of old Mr. Langton, on the possibility of conversation by signs with Esquimaux, on is an old acquaintance of the Prime Min-ister. Many years ago, when the former on etymology, on the migration of birds, was a London parson and the latter was on the advantages of civilised life, on the Lord Robert Cecil, the two happened to differences between instinct and reason, meet. Lord Robert was living in Mr. on toleration, on suicide, on the invocation Moorhouse's parish, and offered to do some of the saints, and, of course, on the eternal Mrs. Rider Haggard, like Mrs. Stanley, parish work. The offer was, of course, question of Ireland. Boswell has justly complains that American women keep their gladly accepted. The next time Dr. Moor- concluded that Johnson's variety of inforhouses too warm. When the thermometer house heard from his quondam lay-helper mation is "surprising." - [Gentleman's Magazine.

> Wickwire-"You're just too late, Yab-A quarrelsome Duchess, wishing to con- sley. Mudge has just finished singing

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T is a Specific for SORE AND ULCERATED THROAT, CROUP, DIPHTHERIA, ETC. The microbes of these diseases are destroyed immediately upon application. They need be no longer feared; they are conquered by MICROBE KILLER.

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KIDNEYS, LIVER, BLADDER AND HEART are acted upon by MICROBE KILLER in a manner to thoroughly renovate and restore them t eir normal condition. People who have doctored for years with no apparent results are perfectly and permanently cured by using Microbe

ASTHMA AND BRONCHIAL AFFECTIONS are relieved and cured by the medicine, as many can testify. CONSUMPTION AND LUNG DISEASE find the MICROBE KILLER the only medicine that can successfully cope with them. The disease is rested at once, so that it makes no progress. The remaining work is to destroy and throw off the microbes already in the system. This takes time, at meantime the patient is made more comfortable and gains in strength and appetite. One patient, after trying all other remedies, remarked 'MICROBE KILLER" is the only medicine a consumptive can tie to."

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cured almost always." Sometimes it is aggravated at first, for the medicine attacks the disease vigorously. Continued use will cure. MALARIA, CHILLS AND FEVER, AND ALL FEVERS, are positively and absolutely cured by Microbe Killer. Acute cases speedily, ronic more slowly, but all with certainty.

FEMALE COMPLAINTS of all kinds, PRIVATE DISEASES, SKIN DISEASES, and all BLOOD DISEASES are more speedily and effectually cured by MICROBE KILLER than by any other known medicine. It is, in short, A Perfect Blood Remedy.

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EXTRACTS FROM THE Annual Statement,

A gain in the Surplus over that of the preceeding year of Eighty per cent. The Cash Interest Income

shows an increase of fortythree per cent, and was more than sufficient to pay the Death Losses of the year.

Profits to Policy-Holders CESS of the Company's Semi-Tontine Estimates.



Large INCREASE in Assets. Large INCREASE in Premium Income. Large INCREASE in Insurance in Force. DECREASE in Losses. DECREASE in Expenses. DECREASE in the Average of **T**erminations

W. T. Standen, of the Actuary Society of America, a distinguished Consulting Actuary of eminence and experience, in his report, says of the Nort-American Life: "The large gain shown in every department, ranging from ten to eighty per cent, makes a record unexcelled by that of any other Company."

Mr. Standen, further states: "As a matter of great interest for the North American Policy-Holders, an examination will show that the percentage of increase in surplus as compared with the Assets is 6.12 for the past year, as against less than four per cent for the average of other leading companies doing The above is only a small part of the conclusive proof that can be furnished to intending insurers, to show that it is to their own individual interest to take out policies in the North American, in preference to any, other con pany. To this statement, it may also be worth while to append the following, to be found

among the many reasons that can be given:

During the present year, the first series of the Company's Ten-year Investment Policies matures. The consulting Actuary has allocated to these policies, profits, in excess of the Company's Semi-Tontine estimates, which will be paid on the due date tof each policy, and which have been very satisfactory to those whose policies have already matured.

This Company was the first Canadian institution to adopt this form of Insurance, and it has become so popular, that nearly all the other Canadian Companies—several of them after denouncing in for years—now issue policies upon it, in one form or another.

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