

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

France exported shoes to the value of \$3,909,945 francs in 1890.

It is reported that \$40,000,000 of British capital are invested in Paraguay.

The once mighty Indian population of the United States has dwindled to 244,075.

There is a cat in Americus, Ga., that has given birth to 353 kittens, by actual count.

A Calloway county, Missouri man is the proud possessor of a gourd which was brought from Wales in 1638.

Siam, one of the most backward countries in the world, is to have an electric railway thirty miles long and costing \$400,000.

There are still fourteen different places on this globe where cannibalism is practiced, but the custom is gradually dying out.

Experiment tends to show that the edges of the flame of a petroleum lamp give from 37 to 38 per cent. less light than the flat surface.

The imports of Victoria, Australia, last year were £22,352,000, against £24,402,000 in the previous year, and the exports were £13,227,000 against £12,734,000 in 1889.

Recent statistics show that French railways annually kill one person out of 2,000,000 carried, while in England 21,000,000 are carried before one meets a violent death.

The legislature of Maryland will be asked to consider soon a bill for an act to impose a tax upon bachelors. It will be a practical revival of a statute in force 100 years ago.

The Chinese spend \$200,000,000 annually on their religious worship. There is a spiritual side to their religion, and spiritualism pure and simple, has existed in China for ages.

The English postal authorities have introduced nickel-in-the-slot machines for the sale of postage stamps. The town council of Inverness has just given permission for the erection of the first machines.

The body of a cat which on Sept. 23, 1880, jumped from the top of the Washington monument at the capital, and lived for some time afterward, is preserved, properly labeled, in the Smithsonian institution.

There are fifty-nine women in New York who keep provision stores, and they appear to meet with success. One of the leading real estate brokers in the city is a woman, and there are fifty or more female physicians.

Around the shores of the British isles the British government has 103 cables of a total length of 1489 miles. If we include India and the colonies, the British empire owns altogether 216 cables of a total length of 3811 miles.

Charles I. raised a considerable revenue by inflicting exorbitant fines upon his subjects. Thus, Sir Anthony Roper was fined four thousand pounds for converting arable land into pasture; and a citizen of London was ruined by a heavy fine for having called a swan on a nobleman's crest a goose.

Persons sitting by a coal or wood fire are aware of a sharp crackling sound as the coal and wood ignite, but few know the reason for it. A gentleman of a scientific turn of mind explains that it is due to the air or liquid contained in the pores expanding by heat and bursting the cover in which it is confined.

Japan had a plethora of epidemics during 1890. Influenza reached her shores in February. Cholera followed with over 31,000 deaths. Dysentery affected 38,878 persons, with 7,262 deaths, a ratio of 18.94 per cent. Typhoid fever occurred 22,784 times, with 5,369 deaths, 23.56 per cent.

The inhabitants of the interior of the Fiji Islands will not partake of food while a cloud is in sight, especially if the cloud lies in the west, fearing that the "Great Air Whale," whose bellying (thunder) is often heard in that country, will pounce upon them and utterly annihilate them for such irreverence.

It is claimed that the finest forest preserve in the United States is the Adirondack region, and that the Black Forest in Germany, the Norway forests and the forests of Canada cannot be compared with it. There are 2,760,000 acres in that region, which it is proposed to include in the Adirondack Park.

In Russia a child of ten years of age cannot go away from home to school without a passport. Common servants and peasants cannot go away from where they live without a passport. A gentleman residing in Moscow or St. Petersburg cannot receive the visit of a friend who remains many hours without notifying the police of his or her arrival, as the case may be. The porters of all houses are compelled to make returns of the arrival and departure of strangers. And for every one of the above passports a charge is made of some kind.

The British Association was founded at York in 1831, at the suggestion of Sir D. Brewster, for the purpose of stimulating scientific inquiry, and for promoting the intercourse of scientific men. The association meets annually for a session of one week each year in a different town, but never in London. The only occasion on which a meeting has been held out of England was in 1884, when the association visited Montreal. It was formerly the practice to elect occasionally as the president a man of high social position, but since 1867 this practice has been dropped, and the chair is now invariably taken by a man of scientific eminence.

Just above Vienna, on the Danube, is the convent and school of Melk, which has just celebrated its one thousandth anniversary.

High heels, it is said, owe their origin to Persia, where they were introduced to raise the feet from the burning sands of that country.

Previous to the time of Elizabeth the only article to assist in eating was the jack-knife, which also served for sundry other purposes.

The average rate of a sailing vessel in making a passage may be estimated at 100 nautical miles per day, and that of a steam vessel at 200 nautical miles per day.

The Sikhs are the natives of the Punjab, Northern India, who were conquered by the British in 1849. During the mutiny of 1857 they remained faithful to the British, and helped materially to subdue the rebellion.

Sir Harris Nicolas says that the title or dignity of *Comes* (Earl) was introduced into England by the Normans at the conquest, from which period until the reign of Edward III. it continued the highest hereditary dignity.

On the outbreak of the Peninsular war, the royal family of Portugal fled to Brazil, which had been a Portuguese dependency since the sixteenth century. They formed it into a tributary kingdom in 1815, and into an independent empire in 1822. It was declared a republic on the 18th November, 1889. The president is Marshal Manuel Deodoro da Fonseca.

It is said that between the island of Madagascar and the coast of India there are 16,000 islands, only 600 of which are inhabited. In any of these islands a man can live and support his family in princely luxury, without working more than 25 days in the year. In fact, on some of these islands he needn't work at all, as nature provides the food and no clothes are required.

The name Cossack was originally given to the warlike inhabitants of the Ukraine, or Little Russia. They are genuine Russians, their capital (Kiev, on the Dnieper) having been for nearly three centuries the residence of the grand-dukes (880-1157 A. D.). Since the seventeenth century they have enjoyed several privileges. They pay no taxes; but, instead, they are required to serve in time of war.

The Yeomen of the Guard is a bodyguard to the sovereign, first instituted by Henry VII., and the oldest corps in her majesty's service. Its headquarters are at the Tower; and the men, who wear the picturesque dress of Tudor days, are better known as "beel-eaters" (Bullfights). The captain is always a peer and privy councillor. The present captain of the Yeomen of the Guard is the Earl of Limerick. Salary, £1,200.

The Gentlemen-at-Arms is a bodyguard to the sovereign, instituted by Henry VIII., and the oldest corps in her majesty's service except the Yeomen of the Guard. This bodyguard is only mustered for duty on such occasions as drawing-rooms, levees, and great state ceremonies. The captain of the corps changes with the ministry. The Right Hon. Earl of Yarborough is the present captain.

It is a common saying in our army that the cost of a British soldier is about £100 a head. It is, however, very difficult to say what our soldiers do cost. But, if we deduct from the total estimates the amount belonging to the auxiliary services, we arrive at a sum of £14,775,869 for a force of 153,483 of all ranks. But this takes no account of the share of the auxiliary services in War-office and staff charges, and it further includes the non-effective charge. The result, however, is not far from the £100 a head.

The regular military forces of the United States are limited by Act of Congress to a peace force not exceeding 30,000 enlisted men. The terms of enlistment are simple. The recruits must be able-bodied effective men, between the ages of 16 and 35, and not less than 5ft. 3in. in height, and the term of service is five years, with power to re-engage. According to the last returns available—1887—the number of officers was 2,173, and the number of enlisted men was 26,200. The expenditure was £8,887,052. An American writer gives the cost per man at £240 sterling.

Last year for all India the production of coal was 2,045,354 tons, of which Bengal furnishes 1,641,354 tons, the Central Provinces 144,465, Assam 116,676, and the Nizam's territory 59,646 tons. In 1880 the total production was 1,019,793 tons, so that in ten years it has practically doubled. At the commencement of that period the only fields worked were those of Bengal and the Central Provinces; at the end there were mines in addition in four other provinces and territories. In Bengal the yield increased from 988,565 tons to 1,641,354, and in the Central Provinces it increased nearly five-fold.

A singular report has been sent to the branch hydrographic office by Captain Pettinridge, master of the ship *Lock Eck*, which has just arrived at Higo, Japan, after a run of 158 days from Philadelphia, says the *Philadelphia Record*. A singular phenomenon was seen on Jan. 21 from the decks of the *Lock Eck*, when the vessel was suddenly surrounded by a boiling whirlpool, resembling the lower part of a waterspout. In a short time the vessel was surrounded by waterspouts travelling in all directions. One of the spouts was 300 feet high and another was seen inside of it, whirling in a contrary direction. As soon as the gale subsided all disappeared but one, which was very large. Suddenly a tongue of forked lightning from the heavens struck the spout and ran down to a point near the base, when it burst with a terrific report.

A German scientist applied a mild electric current to a swarm of bees, causing them to fall stupefied to the ground. No harm was done them and they could be safely handled.

Scientific men say that the earth's age is about half a million years for the nebular and stellar periods, and about 25,000,000—of which 15,000,000 are past—for the period of organic beings.

A Danish archaeologist has found in Macedonia, near the modern town of Nissa, a Greek painting upon the walls of a tomb. It shows a Greek horseman battling with a Persian foot soldier.

One of the largest hogs in America—if not, in fact, the largest in the world—was reared by a Junction City, Kan., man. The length was 8 feet 9 inches; girth of neck, 6½ feet; girth of centre of body, 8 feet; width across the hips, 30 inches; weight, 1,532 pounds.

The story is told of an old-time Bangor merchant who had a propensity for picking up all the stray buttons that came in his way, that during his long life he filled a barrel with his store with them. After his death some one had the curiosity and patience to go through the lot, but failed to find two buttons of the same pattern.

Australians are endeavoring to encourage home talent. The trustees of the Melbourne public library, museums and national gallery offer a prize of £200 for the best and a prize of £100 for the second best design by Australian artists for a companion statue to the "St. George and the Dragon," which has its position in front of the public library building.

The biggest insect of its kind in the world is the hercules beetle of South America, which grows to be six inches in length. It is said, whether truthfully or not, that great numbers of these creatures are sometimes seen on the mammas tree, rasping the bark from the slender branches by working round them with their horns until they cause the juice to flow. This juice they drink to intoxication, and thus fall senseless to the ground.

A commercial traveller coming from the Michigan Central Depot on a Cass and Third avenue car gave away the secrets of the profession in conversation with a friend, says the *Detroit Free Press*. "Most traveling men," he said, "have little schemes of their own that they work to defray incidental expenses. My strong point is dealing in Canadian coins. My territory is in Ohio, and in all Ohio cities and towns Canadian coins are discounted 20 cents on the dollar. Twenty-five cent pieces pass for 20 cents and half dollars for 40 cents. I have \$20 worth of quarters and halves in my satchel now that I bought in Toledo today for \$16. In Detroit I use them to pay hotel and cigar bills and realize their face value."

All Saints' Day was instituted by pope Gregory IV. in 835. In the protestant church it is a day for the commemoration of all those saints and martyrs in whose honour no day is assigned. At the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the question whether they should be saints' days in the calendar was considered by Convocation, and sharply and fully debated, and they struck out a great number of anniversaries, leaving only those which at their time were connected with popular feeling or tradition—and this was carried only by a single vote; for 59 members voted for their being retained, whilst 58 were for omitting them.

In one respect Ireland receives her highest recognition in Chili. The newest iron-clad is the *Capitan Prat*, another being the *O'Higgins* and another the *Amirante Lynch*. The *O'Higgins* is named after Bernardo O'Higgins, whose father, born in a laborer's cottage in the County Westmeath, emigrated to South America in the early part of the last century and rose to distinction in different parts of that continent. The father, Ambrose, was one of the last Spanish viceroys of Peru, and the son, Bernardo, was the first director of the Republic of Chili. Bernardo O'Higgins is the Washington of his country. He it was who was mainly instrumental in winning the independence of Chili at the beginning of this century, and the grateful country has given his name to a province and a war ship and has erected a statue in his honor in its capital.

It is estimated in the *Allahabad Pioneer* that the treasure lying idle in India in the shape of hoards or ornaments amounts to \$1,350,000,000. A competent authority guesses that "in Amritsar city alone there are jewels to the value of £2,000,000." As regards some other districts, the figures that have been furnished are not less astonishing. The miserable waste of Montgomery is estimated to possess about 50 lakhs in ornaments. The hillside and valleys of Kulu are put at three lakhs and a half. In Jhelum two-fifths of the wealth of the district is said to be vested in property of this nature, and in Kohat, "probably one of the poorest districts of the province in this respect, the estimate is taken at 800 rupees for each Hindoo family and 10 rupees for each Mussulman family, and a lakh in the aggregate for the Nawab and other Rases, making a total for the district of 75 lakhs." A lakh is worth about \$35,000.

The Imperial Canal of China is over 1000 miles long. In the year 1681 was completed the greatest undertaking of the kind in Europe—the Canal of Languedoc, or the Canal du Midi, to connect the Atlantic with the Mediterranean. Its length is 148 miles; it has more than 100 locks, and about 50 aqueducts, and in its highest part it is no less than 600 feet above the sea; it is navigable for vessels of upwards of 100 tons. The largest ship canal in Europe is the great North Holland Canal, completed in 1825. It is 124 feet wide at the water surface, 31 feet wide at the bottom, and has a depth of 20 feet; it extends from Amsterdam to the Helder—51 miles. The Caledonian Canal, in Scotland, has a total length of 60 miles, including three lakes. The Suez Canal is 80 miles long, of which 66 are actual canal. The Erie Canal is 350½ miles long; the Ohio Canal, Cleveland to Portsmouth, 332; the Miami and Erie, Cincinnati to Toledo, 291; the Wabash and Erie, Evansville to the Ohio line, 374. The Suez Canal is 26ft. 4in. deep, 72ft. 5in. wide at bottom, 329 feet wide at water surface; length, a little short of 100 miles. The Panama Canal is to be 45½ miles in length.

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt always wears a "common sense" shoe and when she walks she places her foot squarely on the ground.

Samuel P. Jones the Georgia evangelist, declares in a letter to a Texas friend that his health has failed and he is on the verge of physical collapse.

The duchess of Connaught is a colonel in the German army. All of the women of the Hohenzollern family, in fact, have titular rank in the army.

Von Bulow, the musician, is an excellent and accurate Greek scholar. He is, moreover, an unusually well-informed man and an entertaining talker.

Admiral Brown, of the United States cruiser *Charleston*, is alleged to have kissed all the pretty girls in Honolulu during a recent visit there.

Jerry Simpson says he was nominated at a big convention in which there was no law and only two men wore white collars and none wore white shirts.

Sir August Paget receives \$40,000 a year as British minister to Austria. This salary enables him to keep on good terms with the imperial family and the aristocracy, and his duties do not extend beyond this.

Mrs. J. C. Ayer's salon in Paris is a popular rallying point for the large American colony there. She has recently rented the fine hotel of the Duchesse de Mouch, and is preparing to give a number of fetes after Easter.

Ellen Terry is learning to dance. Some of the sadder scenes in which she and Mr. Irving appear would be greatly relieved by a skirt dance or a song and dance, and the public will wish her success in her undertaking.

The death of the late Duke Nicholas of Leuchtenberg was due to a throat disease brought on by excessive cigarette smoking. The duke led an eccentric life, not rising from bed till 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The whole night through he smoked cigarettes.

Mme. Bernhardt is said to be of Dutch-Jewish origin, and to have been born in Amsterdam about forty-six years ago. Less is known to the public of the antecedents of this brilliant French actress than of almost any other artist who has gained like celebrity.

The Countess Lily Newenhaupt, formerly Miss Wilson, of New York, is one of the most felt belles in Stockholm this season. At a ball given by the minister of foreign affairs she had the honor, that is to say, Prince Eugene of Sweden had the honor of dancing with her.

Eben D. Jordan, the famous Boston dry goods merchant, went to Boston from Maine a fatherless boy of fourteen and worked on a suburban farm at \$4 a month, and thought he had struck affluence when he secured a place in a mercantile house three years later at \$275 a year.

Miss Minerva Parker, the Philadelphia woman architect, is but 28 years old. She has a decided talent for her profession, and her business reputation is well established, she having designed, among other notable buildings, the new Century club house in Philadelphia. She is a brunette and a pleasant converser.

Lady Tennyson, who is known to be an excellent amateur musician, is about to make her first appearance as a composer. She has at various times during the past quarter of a century written melodies to no fewer than fifteen of the poet laureate's hitherto unpublished poems. They will soon be heard at a concert in London.

Pope Leo XIII. is now engaged in the preparation of the most important encyclical that has yet been issued by him. He is about to formulate the views of the catholic church on the subject of socialism and its kindred topics. The paper is looked forward to with unusual interest, as many high officials are waiting for it to decide questions that are now before the church tribunal.

The country is indebted to an accident for one of its great orators—Henry Watterston. His musical capabilities as a lad had been quite marked. He played in concerts with Adeline Patti when she was eleven years old and he thirteen. His career was changed by hitting his thumb against a black key while practicing on the piano. A felon came on the thumb, the hand was paralyzed, and the first joint of the thumb lost. Thereafter he turned his attention to journalism.

Joseph Pulitzer, of the New York *World*, has much improved in health, and he expects to resume his personal management of the paper at no distant day.

Queen Marguerite of Italy, owing to the great distress now existing in Rome, has ordered that 200 soup tickets be daily distributed to the poor in her name.

Luca, the singer, will hereafter devote herself exclusively to teaching and she will receive only eight pupils, and such as show that they have a good future before them.

Prof. Charles A. Young thinks the most wonderful fact in astronomy is that "the great Lick telescope reveals about 100,000,000 of stars, and that every one of them is a sun, theoretically and by analogy giving light and heat to its planets."

Lady Henry Somerset, president of the British Women's Temperance Union, is much interested in the subject of prison reform. One of the objects her ladyship has in view in coming to America this year is to visit the prisons and see for herself the system which, being reformatory rather than penal, is working in the United States with such good results.

When Eugenie left the railway carriage in the Paris station, on the occasion of her recent visit to the French capital, she was almost lifted out, and did not need the walking sticks she usually carries. She was attired in a plain black dress. Her hair has become white and enhances the faded beauty of her face. Her smile is pathetic, and every line in her countenance bears the impress of sorrow.

The oldest general in active service, Ibrahim Pasha, died a few weeks ago in Monastir. Although he celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of his birth last year he was still strong and agile enough to retain the command of the Nineteenth Army Corps. General Ibrahim, according to Constantinople papers, was a comrade of Constantine Moltke in the Syrian campaign and fought the battle of Nisib fifty years ago as a captain. Von Moltke was at that time his equal in rank. The body of the old hero will be taken to Constantinople for burial at the expense of the sultan. His majesty has always manifested special interest and respect for aged military officers. Nouri Pasha, who acts now as a quasi adjutant, is supposed to be a centenarian.

King Menelek II. is now the ruler not only of his own kingdom, Shoa, but of the far more important country of Abyssinia to the north. He is, therefore, the most powerful ruler Abyssinia has had for generations, for he has united his own country with the great highlands north of him.

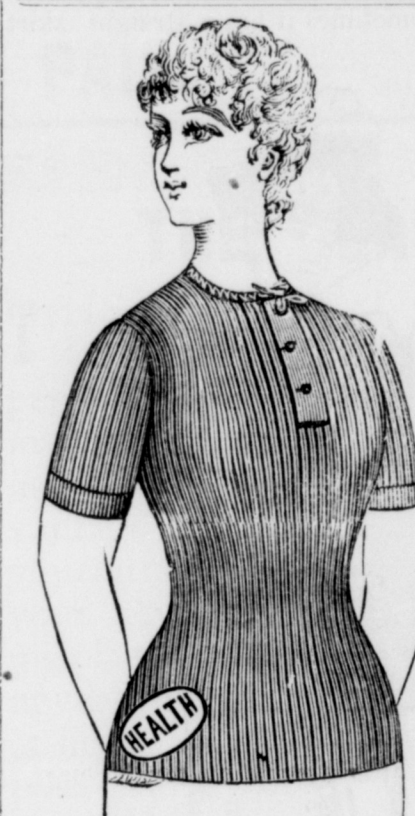
D'Oyly Carte and his company had the honor of a "command" to play before the queen at Windsor, and of course obeyed the command willingly, refusing to take any pay for the performance. This is the usual thing in such cases, though it is generally understood that a valuable souvenir follows the manager on his return to London.

The work on which the reputation of Sir Joseph William Bazalgette as a civil engineer chiefly rests, was his system of drainage for the city of London executed between 1858 and 1865. It is said to be original in design, and it is also the most perfect, the most comprehensive, and at the same time the most difficult achievement of its class that has ever been executed.

A mold has been taken of Meissonier's hand. It was beautifully formed, delicate and small, and it has been said that he often painted before strangers to let them see it. Every morning he paid particular attention to its toilet. A manicure was often engaged to shampoo both hands carefully, exercise the different muscles and keep them from stiffening. The painter was most careful to preserve the tactile sensibility of his fingers, and always wore thick gloves travelling, riding or driving. He said that his fingers were so sensitive that he could with his eyes shut lay on the exact amount of color that he wanted on a given spot if somebody placed the point of the brush upon it.

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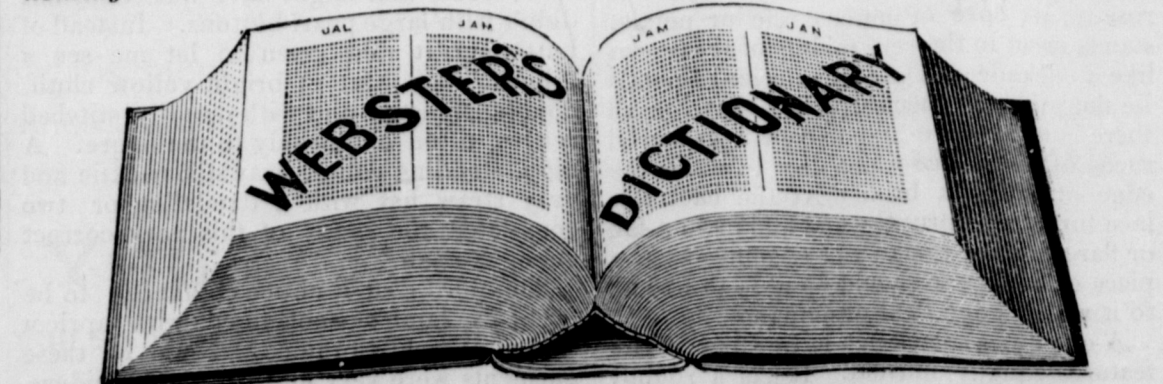
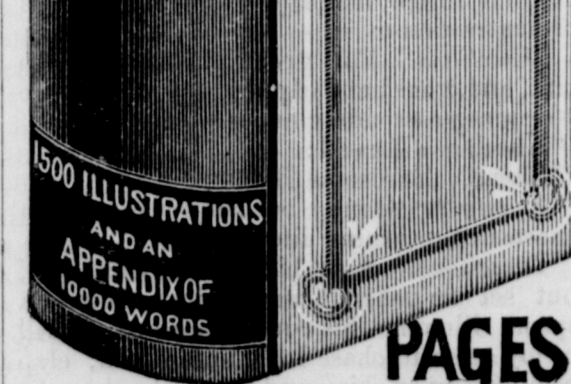
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