

# THINGS WORTH KNOWING

It takes twelve men six years to paint the Brooklyn bridge.

There are over 1,100,000 railroad cars and 33,000 locomotives in the United States.

The gauge of the Roman chariots 2,000 years ago was four feet eight and one-half inches, same as standard railroad gauge of today.

An expert electrician asserts that an electric train making 125 miles an hour would require 7,000 feet in which to come to a standstill.

The United States have an area of 3,025,000 square miles, exclusive of Alaska; with Alaska, 3,602,900. The area of Canada is 3,470,227 square miles.

In New York State 116 labor organizations, comprising 31,191 members employed in different occupations, reported a reduction in the hours of labor during the year 1890.

"Dead as a door nail" originated from the fact that the door nail is the nail upon which the door knocker beat, and constant beating was supposed to have killed the nail pretty thoroughly. Shakespeare uses the saying, but it is much older than his time.

The donkey or ass has the reputation of being stupid. The Romans had proverbs about asses—stupid persons. Christie finds similar proverbs in the Dutch, Italian, French, Russian, German and Spanish. The Greeks do not seem to have had such proverbs. It is a traditional jibe on the ass.

The rule for finding the day of the week of any given date is as follows: Divide the year number by four, discarding any remainder; to the dividend and quotient add the number of the day in the year, and divide the sum by 7. If there is no remainder, the date came on a Saturday. If there is a remainder, it represents the day of the week numerically. In leap years, from Jan. 1 to Feb. 29, supply an extra day; after Feb. 29 take no account of the extra day. Now for an example: Dividing 1876 by 4 gives 469; 1876 plus 469 plus 244 (Sept. 1 is the 244th day of the year) gives 2589; dividing by 7 gives 369, with 6 remainder; therefore the day is Friday.

During the fiscal year 1889-1890 there were in the public schools of the United States of elementary and secondary grade 12,686,973 pupils, as against 9,867,505 in 1880. The enrollment formed 20.27 per cent. of the population of 1890. The average daily attendance of pupils on each school day in 1890 was 8,144,938. The total amount expended during the first fiscal year for public school purposes was \$140,277,484, as against \$78,094,687 in 1888. The expenditure per capita of population in 1880 was \$1.56 and in 1890 it was \$2.24. The total value of grounds, buildings and apparatus of educational institutions in 1891 was \$72,894,729.

The right to the throne of England is not strictly hereditary, but by parliamentary authority. William I, had no right; at the time of his invasion Harold was the heir. William II, had no right, his elder brother Robert was the heir; and the same lack of right is noticed in the cases of Henry I., Stephen, John, Henry II., Henry IV., Henry V., Henry VI., Richard III. and Henry VII. William and Mary were, in the law of hereditary, usurpers; so were Anne and George I. In most of these cases the preference of parliament decided the question, and the crown passed from head to head, not on the ground of relationship, but by act of parliament. The parliament of Great Britain can, if it chooses, set aside the Prince of Wales and place one of his brothers or any other person on the throne.

The Bank of England, which is the great depository of bullion in the realm, holds at ordinary times in its vaults \$125,000,000. The Bank of Germany holds \$200,000,000 of bullion in gold and silver. The Bank of France usually holds \$475,000,000. The United States holds in the treasury and in the various national banks somewhere about \$700,000,000 in gold and silver. The increasing wealth of the various nations is somewhat remarkable. During the last ten years the Bank of France has more than doubled its reserves. The Bank of Germany in 1881 held about \$140,000,000; in 1889 it held \$180,000,000. In June, 1873, the amount of gold coin and bullion in the United States treasury was only \$75,000,000; in 1889 it had risen to over \$300,000,000. In the various national banks it stood at \$3,000,000; it has risen to \$80,000,000. In silver there is a still more remarkable increase.

Venice was called the "Bride of the Sea," from the ancient annual ceremony of throwing a ring into the sea by the doge. In the year 1177 it is said that the Pope of Rome presented to the Doge of Venice a ring, saying: "Take this as a pledge of authority over the sea, and marry her every year, you and your successor forever, in order that all may know she is under your jurisdiction and that I have placed her under your dominion as a wife under the dominion of her husband." Hence arose the strange custom of "wedding the Adriatic." When the yearly wedding day came round, Venice kept the anniversary in the most festive robes. All her officers and wealthy citizens might be seen in their gondolas, each boat

and its occupant striving to outdo all others in wealth of adornment. The gondolas formed in procession, the doge leading, and at a certain part of the procession a well-known and oft-repeated formula was recited, claiming for Venice authority over the sea; the emblematic ring was then dropped into its depths and the marriage was considered complete. The Venice of the doges is a thing of the past, and the custom has long been obsolete.

## BEECHER'S FIRST SERMON.

How He Held the Attention of a Congregation of Country People.

I was with an aunt in Northbridge, Massachusetts, resting after a long session of teaching, writes Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher, and Mr. Beecher came there during this visit to teach for the first time through a vacation. And here, where he taught his first school, he also preached his first sermon. Evening service was being held in the little, old school-house

## COIFFURES OF BARBARIAN WOMEN

Attending Weddings and Funerals Their Principal Amusement.

In Londa-land, on the western coast of Africa, dwell a race of people called the Balandro tribes. The women are a very lively class, doing little or no work, and spending the bulk of their time in attending weddings, funerals and similar amusements. Their wonderful flow of spirit is phenomenal in a latitude where the intense heat superinduces languor and rest; and it has been explained in some measure by the fact that their religion is intense fatalism—they believe in fate and accept what comes as inevitable. If they cannot get civilized fabrics to wear, they prefer to go nude, and will give the most extravagant prices for calico and other stuffs. They are "all face," as they say, and the weather does not affect them, so that they even sleep in the same condition, lighting great fires, which they call their "clothing." Like all tribes who pay little attention to clothes, they decorate their heads in the most elaborate manner.

The "buffalo horn" is a favorite design, and is formed by curling the back hair into small, long ringlets, and shaping the front into two rolls laid upon curved shells, producing the appearance of buffalo horns. The most singular method resembles the nimbus surrounding the heads of saints in church windows, by the hair being made into small plaits drawn upwards and outwards from the head, and held in that position by a light hoop of wood which encircles the whole face, coming round under

## MEN COVERED BEFORE HIM.

The Wonderful Magnetism of the First Napoleon.

Taine, in his "Modern Regime," ascribes the peculiarities of the French of today largely to the First Napoleon. He laughed at and stimulated their passion for equality. He took advantage of their little regard for liberty as understood by English-speaking peoples, and lessened it. He encouraged them in all their natural favor for centralization in government. Their craving for military glory, the theatrical airs of the nation and its public and literary men, the readiness with which the popular imagination responds to fantastic proposals for establishing French power in the Orient, are all Napoleonic.

The personal ascendancy of Bonaparte over the generation with which he came into contact and from which France inherits its present way of thinking, is shown by numerous anecdotes.

When Napoleon, at twenty-six years of age, was appointed as commander-in-chief of the army in Italy, Admiral Deceres, who had known him well in Paris, learned that he was to pass through Toulon. Deceres wrote long afterward:

"I at once proposed to my comrades to introduce them, venturing to do so on the ground of my previous acquaintance with him. Full of eagerness and joy we started off. The door opened and I was about to step forward, when the attitude, the look, and the tone of voice sufficed to arrest me. And yet there was nothing offensive about him. Still this was enough. I never tried



A DAUGHTER OF THE PHARAOHS.

where he taught, and the villagers had requested Mr. Beecher to take charge of it for that evening. At first he was surprised, but he quickly collected himself and consented to preach. How well I remember the look of surprise—almost scorn—on some faces, when he—this lad of seventeen—rose to address them. Some thought it a farce, until he began to speak. Then attention came levelled at him, and for nearly an hour scarcely one in that audience moved in his seat. The sermon was an earnest one, simple yet eloquent. Not once did he hesitate for a single word. Sentence followed sentence as smoothly as if they were uttered by a minister of long experience. Never did he in Plymouth pulpit, or on any other platform, hold an audience more fully under his control, so thoroughly spell-bound than in this, his first effort. I do not mean that he never preached better or more eloquently in later years—that would be a foolish assertion. But this was a simple, quiet country village, where, doubtless, good sound doctrine was given to the people, but with little of the earnestness or eloquence which so quickly touches people who have never been accustomed to that mode of preaching. He preached in the little old schoolhouse until his school closed, and I think the people who heard him then, and some of whom still remain, have never forgotten or ceased to love the young man who came to them so young, and labored for them so earnestly.

the chin, the hoop representing the nimbus and the plaits of hair the beams of light.

Another design is to part the hair on each side of the head, build into three pyramids on frames of grass mat, and then bend the three tips over to join an arch. The elaborate devices take several hours to build, and a clever artist is always in demand, the toilet generally being performed in the open air, with a crowd of admiring and suggesting spectators. Once dressed, it has to last for several weeks, and is protected from damp, etc., by neatly arranged palm leaves fastened into place with thorns in place of hairpins.

## Onions for Diphtheria.

"Why don't they use onions! For goodness sake, why don't they use onions! Where do they live? I will go up there today and tell them to use onions!" Such were the exclamations of my mother, says the editor of the Danvers Mirror, when we reported one day at dinner that a child of Mr. G. W. Dudley was dead and the whole family, including himself, alarmingly sick with diphtheria. Mother was moved to these earnest and interested expressions by a firm belief that she knows several lives saved by the use of onions in diphtheria, one of them being our sister. In these cases raw onions were placed in a bandage and beaten into a pulp, the cloths, containing onions, juice and all, being then bound about the throat and well up over the ears. Renewals may be made as often as the mass becomes dry.

after that to overstep the line thus imposed on me."

A few days later at Alborg, certain Generals of Division, and among them Augereau, a vulgar, heroic old soldier, vain of his tall figure and his courage, arrived at headquarters not well disposed toward the little *parvenu* sent to them from Paris.

Recalling the description which had been given to them, Augereau was abusive and in subordinate beforehand, saying:

"One of Barras's favorites. The Vendemiaire guard! A street general! Never in action! Hasn't a friend! Looks like a bear because he always thinks for himself! He is said to be a mathematician and a dreamer. An insignificant figure!"

They enter, and Napoleon keeps them waiting. At last he appears with his sword and belt on, explains the disposition of the forces, gives them their orders and dismisses them. Augereau is thunderstruck. Only when he gets out of doors does he recover himself and fall back on his accustomed oaths. He agrees with M. Sena:

"That little fiend of a general frightened him!"

He cannot comprehend the ascendancy which overawes him at the first glance!

The fact that stern and proud men freely confessed that they could not understand the terrible personal magnetism of Bonaparte is not the least remarkable testimony to his force. They seem to have accepted him as so immeasurably superior to other mortals that there could be no shame in their mental prostration before him.

# "German Syrup"

Here is something from Mr. Frank A. Hale, proprietor of the De Witt House, Lewiston, and the Tontine Hotel, Brunswick, Me. Hotel men meet the world as it comes and goes, and are not slow in sizing people and things up for what they are worth. He says that he has lost a father and several brothers and sisters from Pulmonary Consumption, and is himself frequently troubled

with colds, and he often coughs enough to make him sick at his stomach. Whenever he has taken a cold of this kind he uses Boschee's German Syrup, and it cures him every time. Here is a man who knows the full danger of lung troubles, and would therefore be most particular as to the medicine he used. What is his opinion? Listen! "I use nothing but Boschee's German Syrup, and have advised, I presume, more than a hundred different persons to take it. They agree with me that it is the best cough syrup in the market."

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