

# THINGS WORTH KNOWING

The marine fan palm has a new leaf every month.

There are always 1,200,000 people afloat on the seas of the world.

Phoenix Park, Dublin, is upwards of seven miles in circumference.

A turnip seed increases its own weight 15 times in a minute when growing.

The cocoa-tree of the Maldiv Islands every month produces a cluster of nuts.

The eggs of poultry near Cojain, in the Mahratta States frequently contain two yolks.

The word "dad" for father is not slang, but pure Welsh, the language which was spoken in London before the Saxons and Romans came.

Germany possesses 24,844 miles of railways; France, 21,396; Great Britain and Ireland, 19,811; Russia, 17,823; and Austria, 15,442 miles.

Sir Anthony Ashley first introduced the cabbage into England from Holland. It is said that a cabbage cut out of stone lies at his feet on his monument at Wimborne, in Dorsetshire.

In Africa there is said to be 500 missionaries, 400,000 converts, and about 25,000 a year being converted. During the past five years there have been more than 200 martyrs in Africa.

In twelve years the number of post-paid letters despatched in the twelve months in France have increased from 312 to 570 millions, unpaid letters have decreased by more than a half to less than 3,000,000; post-cards have increased from 30 to 41 millions.

The beech-nut was esteemed by the ancients as human food. However, it was known to have a narcotic effect, and physicians in the middle of the 17th century condemned it as capable of inducing fever, pleurisy, and hydrophobia.

Cicero relates that the ugliest and most stupid slaves in Rome came from Britain. Moreover, he urges his friend Atticus "not to buy slaves from Britain on account of their stupidity and their inaptitude to learn music and other accomplishments." Caesar also describes the Britons generally as "a nation of very barbarous manners."

Kossuth says in one of his works: "An Englishman would live twenty years in a house without knowing his neighbors! A Frenchman would know all of them in twenty-four hours. Let the sociable Frenchman be planted among the tattooed islanders of the South Seas, and in two years he would be found tattooed. Put an Englishman in the same position, and he would be king of the island in the same time."

Toothache is the commonest malady of the St. Petersburg fair sex.

About 600 millions of herrings are caught off the coast of Scotland every year, and cured.

In the towns and cities of Chili all the shopping of any consequence is done in the evening. In Santiago the stores are open till midnight, and during hot afternoons they are locked up.

There is nothing on the Thames like the Ginnelle lock on the Seine. There a man can open or shut the lock by simply touching an electric button as he sits comfortably at his ease in a smart office.

With respect to the Irish belief in fairies, of which they distinguish several kinds, we are reminded that the ragwort is dedicated to them. It is known in Ireland as the Fairies' Horse; and just as the witches delight to ride on the broom or the thorn, so the fairy gallops about at midnight on this golden l-blossomed flower.

During the year 1890 the area throughout the United Kingdom devoted to what is technically known as "small fruit"—such as strawberries and gooseberries, apples and pears—was 46,733 acres; this year the acreage has advanced to 60,138.

The recent bulletin of the American census announces that the ratio of land to water surface in the United States is 98.16 to 1.84. The average number of inhabitants to each square mile of land is 21.08. If, however the whole territory were as thickly inhabited as Rhode Island is now, the population of the union, instead of being over 62,000,000, would be nearly 946,000,000, or about two-thirds of the entire population of the world. The United States is capable of supporting 1,000,000,000 or more.

Whole forests may be seen coated with shelly substances on the continent of New Holland. These encrustations are supposed to arise from decompositions of shellfish, which, transported by the winds, are deposited in the form of dust on trees and plants.

The festival of St. Crispin and St. Crispian falls on the 25th of October. Crispin and Crispian are said to have been two Roman youths of good birth, brothers, who in the third century went as christian missionaries to France. In imitation of St. Paul, they supported themselves by working at the trade of the shoemaker during the night, while they preached during the day. They were successful in converting the people to christianity until their course was finished by the sword about the year 287.

The coachman of Berlin wear a distinctive hat when conveying physicians, and are granted the right of way by a city ordinance.

We are told that among the Portuguese the rosemary was dedicated to the fairies under the name of Alicum or Elfin Plant; and in Spain, where it was worn as an antidote against the "evil eye," its magic properties were believed in up till quite recent times.

The shoemaker craft throughout the whole Christian world have from an early period regarded Crispin and Crispian as their patron saints, but particularly the first. They often celebrated the day set apart for these saints in the calendar with processions and festivities.

The magnetic needle points in the same direction as to the magnetic poles in all parts of the earth. The magnetic poles do not correspond with the axis of the earth; there is therefore a variation of the needle at places not on a meridian which coincides with both poles. The needle dips as it approaches the magnetic poles.

Coughing can be stopped by pressing on the nerves of the lips in the neighborhood of the nose. A pressure there may prevent a cough when it is beginning. Sneezing may be stopped by the same operation. Pressing also in the neighborhood of the ear may stop coughing. Pressing very hard on the top of the mouth inside is another means of stopping coughing.

Next to wool, silk, it is said, is the easiest to dye of all the textile fibres. In fact it runs riot in the whole gamut of color. The aniline dye evolved by German chemists from coal tar gives many of the delightful tints. For the rest there is madder and Brazil wood, turmeric and cochineal, saffron, indigo, logwood, fustic, Prussian blue, and a hundred more. There is no shade, no tint, no cloud of color, but may be caught and repeated in order that beauty may go beautifully.

Professor Meiklejohn, of St. Andrews, suggests a new point of origin for the influenza epidemic. He is of opinion that the vitiated atmosphere of the Russian churches and cathedrals is amply sufficient to breed and to disseminate the poisonous germs that are supposed to cause this terrible disease. These places are constantly frequented by crowds of the poorest classes, and no adequate method of ventilation is adopted to renew the air that has been impregnated with the fetid exhalations from their bodies.

Last year French smokers consumed 4,600,000 francs worth of cigars, 10,000,000 of cigarettes, 29,000,000 of snuff, and 91,000,000 worth of pipe tobacco. The greatest snuff-takers are old peasant women and priests. Snuff is often allowed to sisters of charity, as it renders the nose insensible to the bad smells of slums and hospitals, and acts as a disinfectant of the air taken in by the nostrils. The greatest number of pipe smokers are along the coast from Nantes to Calais. Fishermen as well as sailors use the pipe. The consumption of ladies' cigarettes rose from 101,900 francs to 800,000 francs last year, and the orders received at the tobacco manufactory promise a still further increase under the head. There is one anti-tobacco society in France.



THE OLD AMANUENSIS

For potency Chartreuse must be awarded the palm, containing, as it does, 53 per cent. of that element which, if it doesn't always cheer, certainly inebriates.

Sixty millions of pounds worth of insurance will, it is said, be placed by the exhibition committee at Chicago, and this does not include the policies taken out by individual exhibitors.

Coal mining requires an average sacrifice of two lives per day. Of each 150 men working in the mines one must lose his life within a year.

It is estimated that there are 200 paid church choirs in New York and within a radius of five miles of the city. This means that 1,000 singers and organists earn their living by church choir work.

The average number of American patents issued yearly is about 20,000. England, which comes nearest to us, issues only about 4,000 to 5,000 a year, and its system is very much more lax than ours. Patents are issued in England without any conditions as to novelty or merit, and not two applications in a hundred are rejected. In Prussia the number granted annually is less than 100; in Belgium 1,500 to 2,000.

Lieut. Schwatka confirms what recent explorers have said concerning Alaska. The country is a broken one and the rivers are practically unnavigable. Alaska can only be opened up by railroads. It contains some magnificent forests and the soil appears to be well filled with minerals. It may be a great country for mining, and, if so, its development by railways is sure to come sooner or later.

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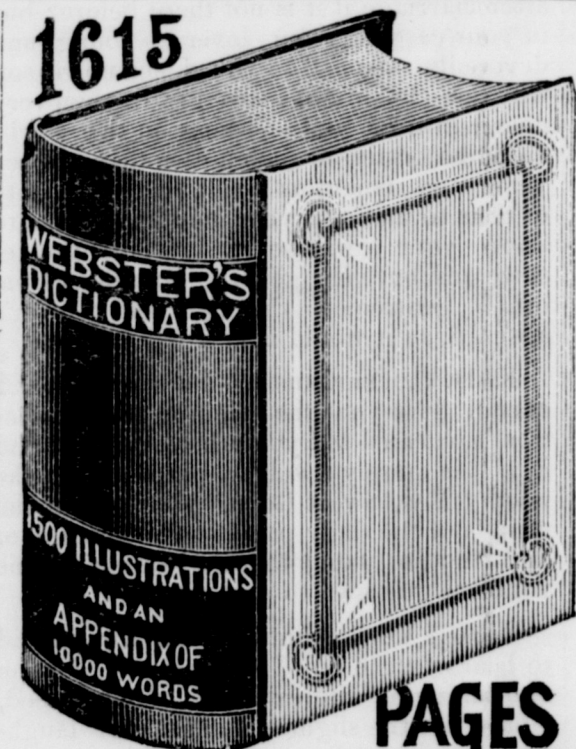
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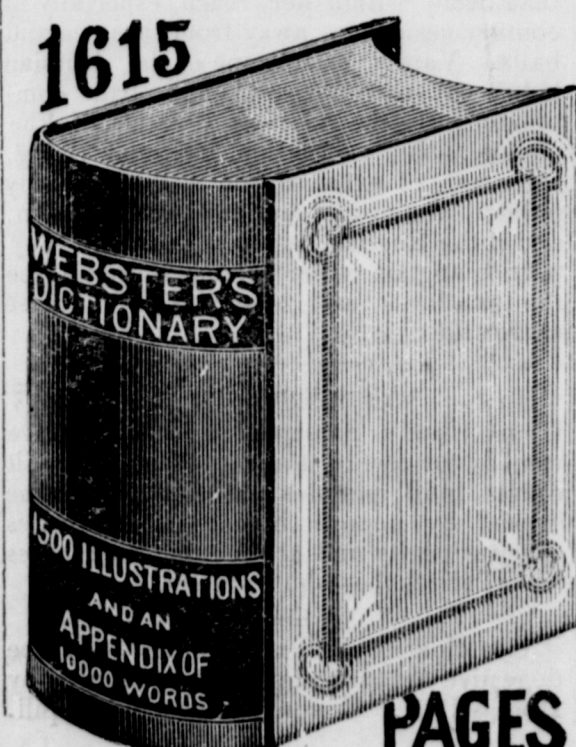


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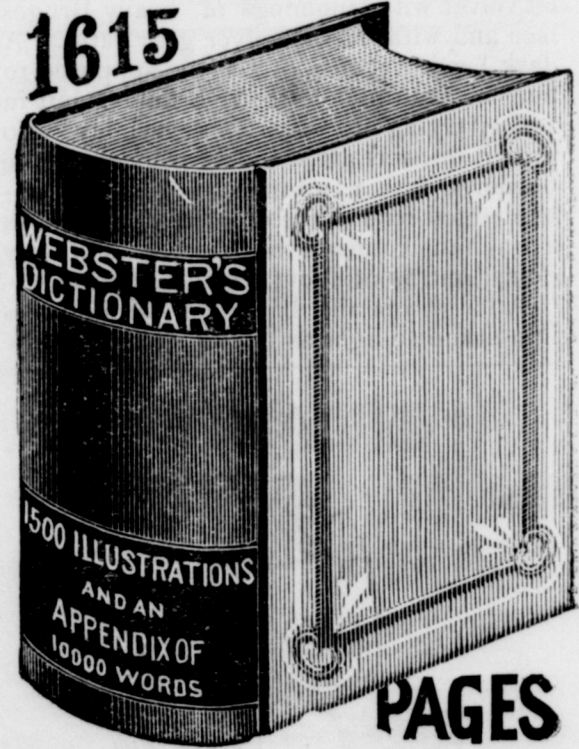
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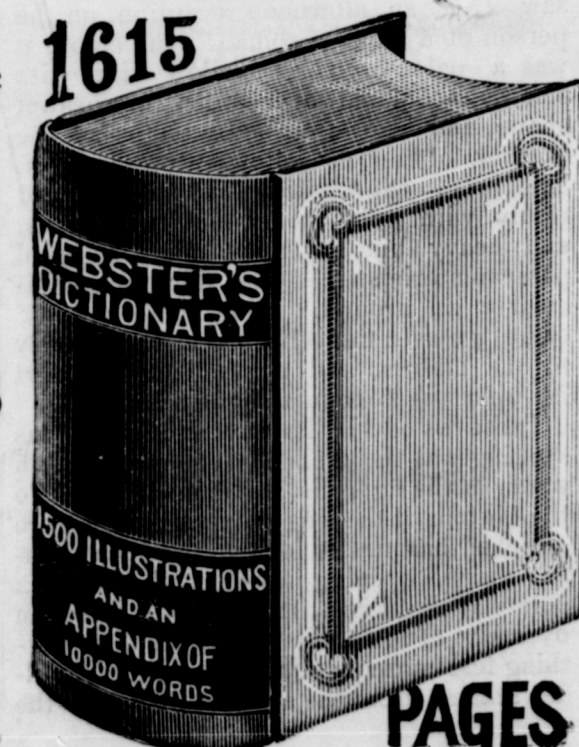


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