

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

The king of Siam has an umbrella worth some \$1900.

The heart of an adult weighs some ten or twelve ounces.

100,000 tons of apples are raised on English soil yearly.

There are 230 glaciers in the Alps said to be over 5 miles in length.

One pound of sheep's wool is capable of producing one yard of cloth.

Manufactured writing substances have been in use for nearly 4000 years.

The average length of women's hair is twenty-two to twenty-eight inches.

Fish, as a rule, increase in weight and length every year up to their death.

The takings of London theatres and music halls exceed £1,500,000 a year.

Eight deaths on an average occur in London streets daily through negligence.

It is stated that in the United States there are nearly a million opium smokers.

Artificial teeth have been found in skulls in Etruscan tombs dating back to 600 B. C.

In each gramme of cheese, when fresh, from 90,000 to 140,000 microbes are found.

There is a difference of only 22 square miles between the areas of England and Iowa.

California has 2,675 of the giant trees still left, and the largest of these is 33 feet in diameter.

"Sartor Resartus" is Latin, and means "The Tailor Patched," the title of an old Scottish ballad.

In the United States at the present time there is one protestant church for every 800 of the inhabitants.

In 1888-89 there were afloat over 13,000 British ships, with a combined measurement of nearly 7,000,000 tons.

It has been computed that as many as 2,500,000,000 of herrings are annually landed in the United Kingdom.

The French national debt is the largest ever known. Its interest costs its population more than \$5 per head per year.

There are upwards of 50 hospitals in London. The earliest, St. Bartholomew's, was founded in 1102, and St. Thomas's in 1552.

It is calculated that the expenditure for liquors and narcotics absorbs the net proceeds of one day's work of the world per week.

The most ancient piece of music extant is the Hebrew "Blessing of the Priests," which is still used in the Spanish and Portuguese synagogues.

The total amount of flour consumed in the United Kingdom per annum is 33,250,000 sacks of 280 lbs. each, and the proportion of American flour is about 5,000,000 sacks.

Zululand is divided from Natal by the Tugela river, and it is situated between the South African republic and the sea. It became a British colony in May, 1887.

From a large body of statistics which he has collected, De Candolle finds that 88½ per cent of the children of parents both of whom have the same color of eyes follow their parents in this respect.

An American company is now supplying milk to different local dairies in New York by a system of pipes like that used in distributing water. The milk is contained in a central reservoir, and retailed to customers at the dairies from the tap.

In Africa the following summaries of square miles are claimed by different countries: Spain, 210,000; Italy, 360,000; Portugal, 774,993; Congo Free State, 1,000,000; Germany, 1,035,720; Great Britain, 1,909,445; France, 2,300,248.

That which is popularly known as the funny bone, just at the joint of the elbow, is in reality not a bone at all, but a nerve which lies near the surface, and which, on getting a knock or a blow, causes the well-known tingling sensation in the arms and fingers.

The rook and the crow are entirely different birds. The rook resembles the crow, but differs from it in not feeding on carrion, but on insects and grain. In crows also the nostrils and root of the bill are clothed with feathers, but in rooks the same parts are naked or have only a few bristly hairs.

A report recently published in Denmark states the number of creameries now existing in that country to be 1200. Of these about 1000 are worked on purely co-operative principles by the farmers themselves. The remaining 200 are run by private individuals and companies, who purchase the milk from the farmers.

Besides his title of Prince of Wales, the heir apparent is a duke three times over, holding the dukedoms of Cornwall, Rothesay, and Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. He is a triple earl—of Chester, Carrick, and Dublin, and is also Baron of Renfrew. In addition to these titles, he may if he likes call himself Prince of Saxony and Lord of the Isles of Scotland.

By an act 25 George II. (1752) gibbeting in chains was first legally recognised, but it never formed part of the legal sentence, and was left to the judge's discretion to be ordered or not, as he saw fit. At Newgate it was the custom, after execution, to convey the body into a place called the kitchen, where it was thrown into a cauldron of pitch. This was the preparation for hanging in chains.

England has the most powerful navy in the world, and Russia the largest standing army.

Less than eighty years ago the offence of murdering a horse was actually punished by death.

America has 1,000,000 miles of telegraph wires; enough to reach forty times around the globe.

Londoners pay between £70,000 and £80,000 a year for water sold under the name of milk.

Farm lands in the United States, taking the country as a whole, occupy only 289 acres in every 1000.

The inhabitants of Nevada are few and growing fewer—16,505 having died or emigrated in ten years.

Underground London has 3000 miles of sewers, 34,000 miles of telegraph wires, 3200 miles of gas pipes, and 4500 miles of water mains.

The colored people of the United States in 1790 were one-fifth of the entire population, in 1850 they were less than one-sixth, and in 1880 the proportion was but a little more than one eighth.

The assessed valuation of New York city is \$1,785,857,338—\$1,464,247,820 being real and \$321,609,518 personal estate. This is an increase from 1890 of \$88,878,948, \$65,957,813 being in real and \$22,921,135 in personal estate.

The present Austrian Parliament contains 50 lawyers, 12 doctors, 8 architects and engineers, 29 civil servants, 20 priests, 146 landowners, 30 merchants and manufacturers, 9 authors and journalists, 40 professors and gentlemen of no profession.

The annual consumption of prunes in the United States is about 100,000,000 pounds, and of this quantity about 17,000,000 pounds are produced in California and the remainder is imported from Europe and Asia. This year the prune production of California is expected to reach 20,000,000 pounds.

For ten years preceding 1886-87 the average per year of lives lost at sea in British vessels all over the globe was 2584; in 1886-87 the number lost was 3454; in 1887-88 it was 2534; in 1888-89 in had become 2233, and this number was greatly swelled by the 703 native passengers lost in the little *Vaiarna* of sixty-four tons, which went a-missing on a coasting voyage in India.

Among the early miners of coin in northern Europe were the dwellers of eastern Germany. They were so skillful in their callings that members of them were invited to England to manufacture the metal money of the kingdom. These strangers were known as "Easterlings." After a time the word became "sterling," and in this abbreviated form it has come to imply what is genuine in money, plate or character.

The Falkland Islands are a group in the South Atlantic, belonging to Great Britain, and consisting of about two hundred islands, situated some three hundred miles east of the entrance to the Strait of Magellan. The area of this group is about seven thousand six hundred square miles, and their population was reported in 1880 as 1,000. These islands, with the exception of two, are very insignificant as to size and equally unimportant as to character.

The most dangerous part of the British coast is that between Flamborough Head and the North Foreland, including as it does both the Humber and the Thames. The next most dangerous district is that between Anglesea and the Mull of Cantyre, which includes the Mersey and the Clyde. Next comes that between Hartland Point and St. David's Head, which includes the Bristol Channel. The district between the North Foreland and St. Catherine's, including of course the Straits of Dover, comes but fourth on the list.

The Danish names of the months are as follows: January (Glugmaaned), lighthouse month; February (Blidemaaned), mild month; March (Tordmaaned), Thor month; April (Faemaaned), sheep month; May (Majmaaned), young leaf month; June (Skjersommer), midsummer; July (Ormemaaned), worm month; August (Hostmaaned), harvest month; September (Fiskemaaned), fish month; October (Sædemaaned), sowing month; November (Slagemaaned), slaughter month; December (Christmaaned), Christ month.

Chioggia, Italy, is a place of 20,000 inhabitants, mostly beggars. If it is true that one-quarter of the Venetians are paupers, then more than half of the Chioggia belong to the same class of citizens. It is a city of the sea, built on islands and intersected by canals for streets. The characteristic features are one broad street, a boulevard running from one end of the town to the other, paved with Istrian stone and flanked on either side by palaces and cafes, and a wide canal alive with the barges and the fish boats with their brightly-colored sails.

Wild geese, when migrating in autumn, form into lines shaped similar to the letter V, the leader taking his place at the point where the two lines meet, the two lines following as they sail away, far above the trees and beyond all danger from guns. They all seem full of glee and join in a chorus which sounds very much like hank, hank, hank. Any one who has heard these curiously sounding notes could never forget them. In former times those who heard them realized the happiness of the winged creatures in being so high and safe and it became quite a matter of course, when two persons met each other, under peculiarly favorable circumstances for this or that enterprise, to say "Every thing is lovely and the goose hangs high."

TRUE STORIES OF THE PRESENT.

Adventures More Remarkable Than Those Found in Story Books.

A thrilling experience, although not ending fatally, was had by a railway mail clerk who acted as a distributor on a local train. He had a car to himself, and at one station up in the Alleghany mountains had left his car for a minute or two to run forward to the engine, which was taking water. The water tank was directly west of the great tunnel, and when the tender was filled and the train started the clerk sprang for his car. The entrance to the car was on the side, and a solitary handle was grasped whereby the clerk pulled himself up to the door. To his horror he found the door had been jarred shut and could not be opened from the outside and the second he discovered this fact the train shot into the tunnel. With a desperation born of a terrible death staring him in the face the clerk hammered and kicked on the door and shrieked aloud for help, but the noise of the train drowned his cries and with both hands grasping the handle, his feet on the iron step and his body glued to the side of the car for fear of being dashed off by the jagged sides he was carried through the tunnel.

As the tunnel is a mile long and the atmosphere therein almost stifling this luckless mail clerk's experience can be better imagined than described. When the train shot into daylight again the engineer looked back, as is the custom to see if his train was following all right, and discovered the clerk in his harrowing position. Quickly stopping his engine the engineer ran back, and with the assistance of the conductor, helped the almost demented man to the ground, where he utterly collapsed, the strain upon his nerves being so great. For six months he was under a physician's care, and after he had become a well man again, said: "I thought that tunnel was ten miles long, and my head, I imagined, was hollow, with the dense smoke rushing in my mouth and nostrils and coming out of my ears like steam pipes. Whenever I think of that ride my brain reels and I feel myself crouching as I did upon the outside of the car during that horrifying experience."

A traveller in New Mexico tells the following story of his adventure with a wolf: My room was at the end of a long hall. I was familiar with every crook and turn about the house and didn't need a light. So I passed into my room and closed the door. It occurred to me then to take a smoke, so I felt around in the dark and found a cigar, and struck a match to light it. The next minute I think you could have knocked me down with a feather. Away down in the darkness under the bed two fiery eyes shone out like burning coals just for that brief moment that the match was burning and then it went out. Before I had time to think the creature was upon me, and was springing at my throat, the most savage animal I had ever met. I felt rather than saw what it was. The creature was a wolf, and it was mad.

Several animals afflicted with hydrophobia had been seen in the neighborhood during the past few months. There is no animal more formidable than a wolf when it has rabies, and I knew with what I had to contend. I had to struggle with a large wolf shut up in a dark room, and that when the slightest wound from its sharp teeth meant certain and horrible death to me. As it came to me first I threw out my hands and by some good fortune happened to strike its neck. I got both my hands about its throat and managed to hold it away from my face, but it was all that I could do.

I was nervous, I suppose, and the wolf was far stronger than it would have been under ordinary circumstances. The froth was dripping from its mouth and flew into my face as it struggled. It was the most desperate struggle of my life, just to hold that wolf and keep it from my face and throat, at which it constantly leaped in the most furious manner. All the time, from the moment it sprang at me first, I had been shouting and calling at the top of my voice. There was very little hope of doing any good with it, as the servants were too far away, and my room was on the opposite side of the house from their quarters; but that was the only chance.

It was very evident that I couldn't let go my hold for an instant. It was just as evident that I couldn't hold out this way long, and that unless help came after awhile my strength would eventually give way, and the wolf would tear my throat, as it was struggling then to do. And how long do you think this kept up? For two hours, for two mortal hours by the clock. I stood there, fighting for my life with that savage wolf, and shouting for help every moment of the time. A hundred times I thought my strength was gone, and that my arm would surely sink down powerless the next moment, and yet I always managed to hold him off a little longer.

At last, just as I was almost in complete despair, one of the servants was aroused by my continued shouting, and came running with his gun in his hand. I managed to hold the wolf until he made a light, and then I held him while the man put the muzzle of his gun against the wolf's head and killed him as dead as Hector. And then I went to my sister's room and had a spell of something that would have been hysterics if I had been a woman. Being a man, it was nothing but a case of nervous prostration.

"No," said one of the guests at a Texas hotel, to a group of gentlemen in the corridor, "I am no hunter, and have never pretended to be one, but I did a pretty bit of shooting once, not very far from where we are talking now, that just about saved my life and possibly other lives, too."

The gentleman, who is old, but never prosy, immediately had an interested audience.

"I am a pretty quiet citizen now," he went on, "but about forty years ago I was lively enough. People had to be lively that lived in this country then. I hunted and fished all up and down the Trinity for a good many miles, and never came back from one of my trips without game.

though, the best I could, and was about a hundred yards from the camp, I should judge, when I heard one long, wild scream in the direction of the camp, and I knew that it was my wife. I had my gun with me, an old fashioned, muzzle-loading, double-barrel shotgun—and I lit out as though the old Nick were after me, shouting to her that I was coming. My only thought was that some ruffian had stolen into the camp and frightened her, and I cocked the gun as I ran. After her scream there was silence, and then directly I heard the loud, frightened cry of the baby. My, how I did run! My foot caught under a root, and I fell fully ten feet, discharging one barrel of the gun, but it was up again like a flash, with one barrel still left to fight with. And there was the camp, with its fire smoking away, and everything was quiet in the wagon, where the family was sleeping, and off in a clump of bushes the baby was crying in a pitiful frightened way. Of course I ran in that direction first. It was a tangle of undergrowth, and I had to go half bent. Stumbling blindly ahead, almost in total darkness, merely guided by the child's cries, I came suddenly upon something that stopped me as though I were shot. The largest panther I ever saw had the child. It had dragged the poor baby out into the bushes and had faced around to meet me, holding the child by its dress. It stood for an instant with its head lowered and its tail waving wickedly, and then before I knew that I had seen it almost, it dropped the baby and sprang over its body upon me.

"The attack was so sudden that I was wholly unprepared for it. I had my gun in my hands, but there had not been time to use it. I was thrown down with great violence, and I can feel yet the creature's teeth crunching into my shoulders. That's the sober truth, boys. That old wound has been my barometer for many a year.

"The panther had landed square on my breast when I fell, but his impetus was so great it threw his body off to one side, though his teeth were fastened in my shoulder. With a mighty effort I rolled away from him and struggled up. A less active man could never have done it. He bounded away through the bushes a few feet, but without pausing an instant he turned and leaped again. This time my gun was ready for him. Only one shot! and if that failed there was no chance of escape for any of us. But I fired that shot and it caught the animal in mid-air. The shot went straight through his heart. His body struck me and almost knocked me down again, but he fell dead at my feet.

"The baby had been screaming all this time, but I gave my word I was afraid to go and look at him. When I did go to him, I found not so much as a bruise on his pretty white skin. The panther had held him by his dress, and had lifted him clear of obstacles, even when he leaped from the wagon with him.

"As for my wife, I found her in a dead faint, and it was the longest time before I could bring her out of it. She had been awakening from the doze by a feeling of weight and oppression, and had found the panther standing over her with his two fore paws upon her breast. She screamed and fainted, and the panther took the baby away from its place beside her. It was a providence about that shot, boys. I couldn't do it again if I were to try a thousand times. But it was a providence that came just when it was needed."

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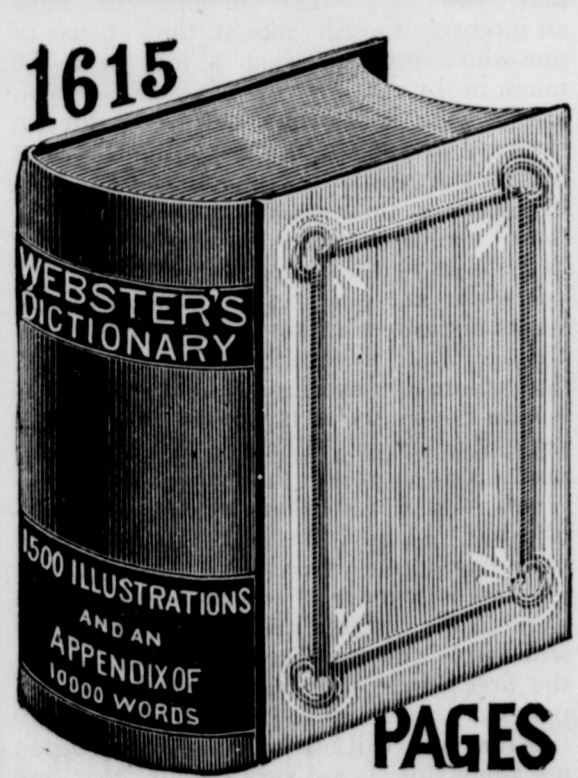
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