

# THINGS WORTH KNOWING

Ten per cent of the population of India are widows.

There are only 40,000 Hawaiians left; fifty years ago there were 80,000.

An average of four persons die daily in England from delirium tremens.

The Chinese reckon this to be year 7,910,341.

The density of the population in England is close on 480 to the square mile.

The average rate of public speaking is one hundred and twenty words per minute.

The Mohawk Indians will not permit so much as a blade of grass to grow upon the graves of their companions.

In Prussia it has been found that the average duration of a Jewish life is five years longer than that of a Christian.

Among the Malay tribes it is considered the proper thing not only to blacken the teeth, but to file down the points till they are as fine as a shark's teeth.

Freckles are a result of fatty matter secreted below the cuticle, and when exposed to the air and sunshine, causes it to turn brown; and are the result of sluggish circulation.

The uplands of Central Asia are the native land of the horse and the ass, of the ox and buffalo, the sheep and goat, from which the domesticated varieties appear to have derived their origin.

Florida is honeycombed by underground streams. When these are obstructed from any cause the water works its way to the surface, making the great swamps which are characteristic of the state.

The yak, with its coat of long hair, is to the inhabitants of the highlands of Tibet what the reindeer is to the tribes of the Northern Siberian plains—an important means of support and locomotion.

The funeral urn and drapery date from the time when bodies were cremated. The ashes were gathered into the drapery and placed in the urn. Inscriptions were cut on the urn as we now cut them on grave-stones.

Canada lacks only 237,000 square miles to be as large as the whole continent of Europe; it is nearly 30 times as large as Great Britain and Ireland, and is 500,000 square miles larger than the United States.

In China an egg is the more appreciated according as it has been well sat upon by the hen; and the best flavor of all is supposed to belong to those eggs which are just about to produce a chick.

That the natives of New Zealand are not dying out so fast as is currently believed is shown by the census returns, which give 41,312 as the total of the Maori population, or a decrease of 120 for the five years.

There are more women in British India (124,000,000) than there are men, women, and children in Great Britain, France, and Germany put together, with the populations of several minor European States cast in as well.

Of the 474 foreign merchants in China only 27 are Americans. Of the others 290 are Englishmen, 72 Germans and 20 French. The foreign residents number 7,905, embracing 3,276 Englishmen, 1,161 Americans, 506 Germans and 557 French.

The growth of the nail is more rapid in children than adults, and slowest in the aged. It goes on more rapidly in summer than in winter, so that the nail that requires 132 days to renew itself in winter would do the same work in 116 days in the summer.

On the plains between the Rocky mountains and the Missouri river, in 1865, there were about 165,000 Pawnees, Sioux, Cheyennes, Kiowas, and Arapahoes. They are all gone now, and have been replaced by twice or thrice as many white men and women.

Carpet weaving in Persia is done exclusively by women of all ages. The only share that the men take in the work is that to them the merchants give out the designs, the colors, and money required for the weaving. The men also see to the purchase of the wool, etc., and afterwards deliver the carpets to the merchants.

The tanning of elephant's hides is a new American industry. The method used is like that adopted with cows' hides, but the bath is stronger, and the time of exposure about six months. When taken from the vat the leather is one and a half inch thick, and is made into small articles, such as pocket-books, satchels, and card-cases. Floor-rugs are also made of it, but their price is very high. A cigar-case costs from \$20 to \$100.

From the records of Yale college during the past eight years it is shown that the non-smokers were 20 per cent. taller than the smokers, 25 per cent. heavier, and had 66 per cent. more lung capacity. In the last graduating class at Amherst college the non-smokers have gained in weight 24 per cent. over the smokers; in height, 37 per cent.; in chest girth, 24 per cent.; and in lung capacity 8-37 hundredths cubic inches.

Some German scientists have recently furnished information in regard to the ages of trees. They assign to the pine tree 500 and 700 years as the maximum, 425 years to the silver fir, 275 years to the larch, 245 years to the red beech, 210 to the aspen, 200 to the birch, 170 to the ash, and 145 to alder, and 130 to the elm. The heart of the oak begins to rot at about the age of 300 years. The holly oak alone escapes this law, it is said, and there is in existence near Aschaffenburg, Germany, a tree of this kind which has attained the age of 410 years.

## ATTACKED BY SAVAGES.

The Experiences of a Yachtman in the South Sea Islands.

In dealing with the natives of the South Sea Islands one must be considerate, kindly and cautious, but at the same time quick to resent dishonesty, as otherwise these wild people will make themselves most unpleasant, to say the least. An Australian, who was cruising about these islands in a small yacht, found it necessary to make some repairs to his boat, and took advantage of a friendly harbor for that purpose. He purchased a bit of land with a small house upon it from the chief, and work was immediately begun.

Everything went well for a time, as the chief professed himself to be entirely satisfied and friendly. Soon, however, the workmen began to miss one small thing after another, and finally an irreparable loss was sustained, by the natives entering the house at night, and cutting the bellows of the forge through at the nozzle.

Hearing of this from the workmen, the gentleman decided to go ashore and demand satisfaction from the chief. The only result of the interview seemed to be a loss of temper on one side, and a display of insolence upon the other, the chief showing an offensive indifference.

"After delivering my ultimatum," says the yachtman, "I turned round, and found about fifty armed men coming out of the bush behind me. Hallo! thought I, this looks like fighting; so I began to back down to the beach, at the same time preparing a small revolver I had in my pocket.

"The old chief, meanwhile, had taken a tomahawk and spear from behind a tree, and made a rush for me, and as he lifted his tomahawk to strike, I fired full at his breast, but the revolver missed fire, and I only saved my skull by catching his arm as it fell, and giving him a trip at the same time, which enabled me to back away faster he could follow me.

"It was not safe to turn and run, as then I could not see to ward off any spears they might throw; but as the chief was making for me the second time, one of the others threw a spear, which I avoided by knocking it off with my hand; however, it pierced it below the first finger.

Then the chief made another rush for me, and as he struck I fell backward over the root of a tree. Again I tried to fire the revolver, but it would not work.

"At that moment I heard a rushing noise in the leaves, and a howl from the chief. My old dog Rover had him by the leg, in which he made his teeth meet; but he did not stop long enough to let the man get a blow at him, and though the natives threw many spears, they failed to hit him.

"The dog's timely assistance enabled me to get down to the beach and call H—, who jumped ashore with the muskets, when the natives cleared off. I sent over for Torrootooro, their chief, who came over with his canoes, and when he saw I meant business, he came to terms and paid the fine which I had demanded. Then I made the chief a present, he made me one, and we were good friends again, and there was no more trouble."

## MILLER BROS.' EXHIBIT.

It Contained the Best Pianos and Organs, and Was Admired.

At the recent exhibition, says the Halifax Mail, Miller Bros. (Granville street) occupied a large space (nearly the whole of the south end gallery), and their show presented a fine appearance. It was all enclosed by a nice net railing (of turned bannisters) and the place raised about eight inches, while all was covered by a nice carpet, the walls and ceiling being nicely papered, and suspended from the ceiling were three electric lights, and their whole place tastefully and richly draped and some nice paintings hung. They showed fifteen fine organs and pianos. The Karn organ in church and parlor styles, some of which were very fine in both appearance and tone, ranging in price from \$75 to \$450. Also some fine Karn pianos in mahogany, circassian, walnut and rosewood finish. The Evan Bros. piano in mahogany, walnut and rosewood finish; both of those makes of pianos are becoming very popular. Prices of pianos shown ranged from \$350 to \$600. Occasionally some very sweet music could be heard from their department. They also showed in a separate booth ten of the celebrated Raymond sewing machines in different styles of oak and walnut. Among them was a very fine cabinet machine, which attracted much attention, it being so simple to open and close and to operate; and when closed having the appearance of a writing desk. This machine has become of late years a general favorite with the public. This firm deserves credit for going to the trouble and expense they did in making so fine an exhibit. They received three diplomas on their organs and pianos. The highest award given, no prizes were offered. They have now been in business over twenty years and during that term have worked up a very large business in the lower provinces, which territory they control.

Those in attendance at the booths were Professor H. L. Lockwood, George Parker, J. H. Potter, A. Diack, J. H. Morse, Miss McKinnon, Miss Barrett. The monthly concerts at the school for the blind have been resumed. The first of these took place on Wednesday afternoon in the assembly hall of the institution. The visitors were conducted to different parts of the buildings, and were loud in their praises of the arrangement of the music rooms. Through the plate glass doors of each of these rooms a pupil could be seen practising upon one of the new Evans Bros. or Karn pianos recently put in by Miller Bros. of this city, who are the sole agents. Their pianos are particularly fine in tone and are giving every satisfaction. These musical receptions given by the pupils of the school for the blind are very entertaining and all interested in the education of the blind should not fail to take advantage of an opportunity to visit the institution. The large increase in the number of pupils was most noticeable.

## A Pair of "Slippers."

The shoemaker said, as he hammered away so merrily on his old lapstone, "My life is work, with but little play. But I always can call my soul my own."

"Not always," his wife exclaimed in glee, "As she gave his witty remark a shout; 'For the iron oil pierces your soul, you see, And what can you do when your soul goes out?'"

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How does he feel?—He has irregular bowels and peculiar stools—August Flower the Remedy. ©

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TRURO, N.S. Victoria Hotel, Dec. 11th and 12th.

HALIFAX, Halifax Hotel, Dec. 14th.

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