

# THINGS WORTH KNOWING

About one-fifth of the whole blood is sent to the brain.

Electricity moves at the rate of 288,000 miles per second.

Spain has 10 universities, 380 professors, and 16,200 students.

There is about one respiration to every four beats of the heart.

The average frequency of respiration is about eighteen per minute.

Europeans began to wear cotton clothing in the time of the Crusades.

London consumes 30½ gallons of water a day per head of the population.

There are 25,000,000 squirrels killed annually in Russia for their skins.

There are 40,000 women studying in the various colleges of the United States.

The catacombs of Paris contain the remains of about 3,000,000 human beings.

During the Spanish Inquisition, which lasted 300 years, 26,000 persons were burnt.

The conquering nations of all ages have been those of strong bodies and trained minds.

It is said that the natives of certain localities of India and Africa use a shell money very similar to "wampum."

In England, from 1600 to 1680, 40,000 witches were burnt; 3000 of these perished in the time of the Long Parliament.

Caspar estimates that 25 per cent of the suicides in Germany are caused by drink, and Brown 12 per cent in England.

In the smallpox epidemic at Leipsic in 1871, the death rate was 12,700 per million inhabitants, 70 per cent of whom were unvaccinated.

The coroners' inquests for London show 80 deaths yearly from hunger, without counting persons who commit suicide in extreme want.

Grosvenor square, London, extends to 10 acres; Parade, Vienna, 15; Schloss, Berlin, 16; Bellecour, Lyons, 32, and St. Stephen's, Dublin, 40.

On Short cables about 30 words of five letters each can be sent by "needle and mirror" alphabet per minute, and about 25 by the Siphon Recorder system.

March hare is a corruption of "marsh" hare. Hares are wilder in marshes than elsewhere, because of their great flatness and the absence of hedges or cover.

As far back as the tenth century Northmen from Greenland had reached the coast of North America, and probably anterior to this the Vikings had pushed their enterprises not far off.

At the close of the civil war there were 700 steam vessels entered on the naval register of the United States, but today only 27 of them remain. Of these survivors the most famous is the *Kearsage*.

Ten per cent of the counties in the United States are named for presidents. In Kansas there are seven counties which bear the names of presidents—Garfield, Grant, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lincoln and Washington.

A herring of six or seven ounces in weight is provided with 30,000,000 ova. After making all reasonable allowances for the destruction of eggs and for the young, it has been calculated that in three years a single pair of herrings will produce 154,000,000.

The dominion of Canada has railways running through the several provinces to the extent of 13,000 miles, and to this mileage increases are continually being made. Its telegraphic communications embrace 31,673 miles of wire, and this, likewise, is always being added to.

In China, previous to the eleventh century cotton was rare and precious, and a cotton robe was deemed a fitting gift for an emperor. It was grown only in gardens, and Chinese poets sang the beauty of its flowers. It was early known in Arabia, for its name—the cotton—is derived from an Arabic word.

The common popular expression, "A little bird told me so," is not a literal quotation, but is borrowed from the 20th verse of the 10th chapter of Ecclesiastes: "Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber; for a bird of the air shall carry thy voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter."

It seems to be the natural habit of sheep to betake themselves to the highest parts of the hill to spend the night. It is generally regarded as a sign of the approach of good weather when the flock sets off early to bed. When they linger about late on low land, or do not go to the hill-tops at all at night, unfavorable weather is indicated.

The biggest trees in the world are the mammoth trees of California. One of a grove in Tulare county, according to measurements made by members of the State Geological Survey, was shown to be 276 feet in height, 108 feet in circumference at base, and 76 feet at a point 12 feet above ground. Some of the trees are 376 feet high, and 34 feet in diameter.

The weaving of cotton into cloth was first done in India centuries ago. Nothing woven in America can compare with the filmy fabrics wrought in East Indian looms. One man will take months to complete a single piece, which is so exquisitely fine that we cannot wonder that it is poetically called "woven wind." Who but the elves or the brownies could sew seams in a web as dainty as this!

St. Augustine is the oldest city in the United States. It was founded by the Spaniards in 1565.

In the state of Connecticut, U. S. A., last year, one patent was taken out for every 700 of its population.

England, since the battle of Hastings, has had 35 rulers, whose average length of reign has been 23 years.

The waltz had its beginning in Germany, and thence was taken to France, shortly after which it was introduced into England.

Hungary was the birthplace of the gallopade or galop, and from Poland came the stately polonaise or polacca and mazourka.

St. Lawrence's church, Isle of Wight, is said to be the smallest church in England, being 20 feet long, 12 broad, and 8 feet in height to the eaves.

From the Hindoos the Egyptians and Persians learned to use cotton for clothing, but the Persians at first employed it only in the vestments of priests.

The word muslin comes from Mosul, in Asiatic Turkey, where it was at one time largely manufactured, just as at a later date cambric received its name from Cambray, in France.

The biggest orange-tree in Louisiana is claimed to be in Terrebonne parish. It is fifteen feet in circumference and fifty feet high. The yield this year is expected to reach 10,000 oranges.

According to the last census, as quoted by Mr. Grant, the British consul-general at Warsaw, in a recent report, the number of Jews in Poland is 1,380,000 in a total population of 8,250,000.

Andrea Amati, the great violin maker, was born in 1565 and died in 1620. He had two sons, Antonius and Hieronymus, and Hieronymus had a son, Nicholas. All were celebrated violin makers.

A compound of six parts of dry white lead, twenty-six parts of white fish glue, three parts of rain water and one part of alcohol will make a cement that will withstand injury except from very hot water.

The tree cotton of India, with its reddish purple flowers, is grown about the temples of the Hindoos, and from its yellowish fibres is made the sacerdotal tripartite thread of the Brahmins—the emblem of their trinity.

In a return recently made to the United States government of the statistics of the patent office at Washington, we learn that from 1790 to July 1, 1888, there were 2300 patents taken out by women. They embrace all subjects, from dress-improvers to submarine telescopes.

The republican song called the "Marseillaise" was the composition of a French officer of engineers, Rouget de Lisle, when at Strasburg, in February 1792. Its name simply originated in the fact that a body of French troops played it, probably for the first time, on their entering Paris after a march from Marseilles, in the July of the same year.

Seventy-five million dollars is contributed yearly in the United States to the sustenance of the church. \$31,000,000 more being for purposes purely devotional. Within the century now drawing to a close 150,000,000 copies of the bible have been printed in 226 different languages. Fifty years ago there were 502 missionary stations in foreign parts; there are now 5,765. Fifty years ago there were 653 ordained missionaries; today there are 6,696 such servants of the Lord. Then there were but 1,266 other laborers and helpers abroad; now there are 40,552.

The death rate of the city of Mexico is very high. It is said that it averages about 37 in 1,000, and the only wonder is that it is not higher. Were it not for the perpetually bright sun and the high altitude the city would be a morgue, a vast charnel-house, a Golgotha, a place of the skulls. Think of a city which has had a population of hundreds of thousands for many generations built upon and over a swamp, with no drainage whatever, and let this city go on with its accumulated mass of filth increasing year by year and sinking down into the soil, and you have some idea of sanitary Mexico city.

The Irish census show that Belfast, with a population of 273,000, is within 5,000 of the population of Dublin, and that it is growing ten times faster than Dublin. Londonderry and other northern towns are also growing, while Cork, Limerick and other southern cities have been steadily going down. The Roman Catholics are numbered 3,549,856, a decrease of 10 per cent. since the last census, ten years ago; protestant episcopalians number 600,230, a decrease of 6 per cent. in the same time, and presbyterians 446,687, a decrease of 5 per cent. Ireland has a protestant population of 1,100,000.

The Hawaiian Islands, or Sandwich Islands, are the most northerly cluster of the Polynesian Archipelago, constituting a kingdom and consisting of twelve islands in the North Pacific between Mexico and China, and 2,100 miles southwest from San Francisco, extending about three hundred and sixty miles in a curve from northwest to southeast. The names and area of the islands are as follows: Hawaii, 4,040 square miles; Maui, 603; Molokini, islet; Kahoolawe, 60; Lanai, 150; Molokai, 169; Oahu, 522; Kauai, 527; Lehua, islet; Niihau, 70; Kaula and Bird, islets; making a total area of about 6,100 square miles, of which two-thirds are included in the principal island, which gives its name to the group. Only seven of the islands are inhabited. The total population of the islands in 1888 was estimated at 87,647. In 1888 there were 189 schools, with 8,770 pupils, of whom 5,320 were Hawaiians and 1,227 were of mixed blood.

## TRUE STORIES OF THE PRESENT.

Adventures More Remarkable Than Those Found in Story Books.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Russell visited Lincoln Park, Chicago, last week, and their little three year old daughter, Bessie, took great delight in gazing at the animals. Her papa purchased for her some cake which she gave indiscriminately to the elephant, the buffalos, the deer, and the other animals. When they went to the bear pit the huge, ungainly brutes sat on their haunches to catch in their capacious mouths the crumbs thrown them by the laughing child who danced merrily up and down in her father's arms. With no thought of danger the father leaned against the iron fence and held his little daughter high up so that she could watch the lumbering movements of the uncouth beasts in the pit. She clapped her hands merrily as one of them fell backward in a vain endeavor to seize a piece of cake. Just then she gave a little jump and loosened her father's hold. He tried to seize her dress—too late—down among the hairy brutes she rolled, and a groan of horror went up from the crowd which witnessed the affair.

The father never hesitated. Placing one hand on the iron fence he vaulted over and fell scrambling and rolling on the rock bottom of the pit. Little Bessie had fallen plump on top of one of the big brutes, and she appeared uninjured.

There were several bears in the pit into which the child had fallen—sleek-looking, well-fed fellows whose meat-digestive powers had long since been ruined by sweetmeats and cakes. They seemed more astonished than angry at the precipitate arrival of the visitors, and showed no inclination to eat them.

Mr. Russell seized the baby in his arms, the bears looking on in seeming wonderment at this unexpected addition to their family. The bear pit is about 15 feet in depth, being constructed of rough rock. Around the inside, about ten feet from the ground, a row of curved, sharp-pointed iron spikes have been placed to prevent the bears from climbing out. These seemed to present a very effectual barrier to Mr. Russell's escape, loaded down as he was with his burden.

Everything was excitement. Women screamed, men shouted and swore, but none made any efforts to rescue the man and child. Everyone had lost his head. On the ground, by the side of the pit, lay a pole which had been used to remove some debris from the pit. On the end of the pole was a hook. One of the men recovered his senses, and, picking up the pole, thrust the end of it down into the pit. Mr. Russell placed the hook under a belt which was around the little girl's waist, and slowly the precious burden was pulled to the top.

One of the bears seemed desirous of becoming acquainted with Mr. Russell, and in a diffident manner shuffled slowly up to him. Mr. Russell was watching the man with the pole, and the first intimation he had of danger was when bruin stood up on his hind legs and looked calmly into his face. With a yell he sprang backward, and with a stout cane which had tumbled with him when he jumped he dealt inquisitive bruin a sound whack on the snout. The bear gave a snort of terror and pain—bruin's nose is his most tender spot—and he slunk howling into a corner. The other bears kept a respectful distance.

With the help of the pole Mr. Russell then succeeded in quickly making his way to the top, with no injuries except a bruised knee and a badly damaged suit of clothing. Mrs. Russell had fainted but kind hands quickly resuscitated her, and she sobbingly clasped her little darling to her breast. The only injuries which Bessie sustained were a few scratches on the face and a slightly sprained wrist. Mr. Russell has forewarned zoological gardens and bear pits for the future.

Jacob Conroth has a little farm, near Lawrenceburg, Ind. Last Tuesday his wife, her housework done, put her four months' old baby in its carriage and trundled it off down the lane to a berry patch in a half cleared field. A daughter aged six, went along to mind the baby while the mother could pick berries enough for supper for the men whom they had for harvesting. The little girl attended to her task only until her mother was out of sight and hearing. Then she started to see how many berries she could gather into her own apron. She left the baby placidly communing with a rubber-tipped nursing bottle. Mrs. Conroth heard a cry from the baby, then two or three shrieks of terror from the guardian. She hurried back crying as she ran: "What's the matter? What's the matter?" "A snake!" the child yelled in answer. "It's biting her!" Tearing her hands and garments at every step against the tangled briars the mother pushed on in agony. Coiled about the chubby arms of the child and lapping with venomous tongue the milk which oozed from its lips, in the little carriage there lay a monstrous blacksnake. Frigate and fear and faintness could not still the mother's cry. She fell to the ground screaming. Farmer Conroth and his men came running from the harvest field. He saw his wife prostrate and thought her dying. He picked her up, but pointing toward where the carriage stood, she cried: "The baby! Save the baby!" But the men were too slow. She saw the serpent now slowly choking her child to death. The little one's feeble struggles, which had angered the reptile, were growing every instant weaker. The men had pitchforks and harvest hooks, but dared not use them. With a wild scream Conroth's wife broke from her husband's arms, rushed frenzied to the carriage, seized the snake by the neck, and tore its folds from about her child. The long black body writhed and lashed in a mad effort to fasten the fangs in the mother's arms. She struggled and struggled, and at last hurled the hated thing from her. Then she fainted dead away. The harvesters killed the snake. Then they carried Mrs. Conroth to the house. She went into violent hysterics, which have not yet entirely ceased. It is feared she will go insane altogether. The babe was unharmed. When the farm hands measured the snake they found it to be nearly ten feet long.

A strange scene was witnessed recently in a Northern Pacific trestle at the water works. The trestle is about 600 feet long and 55 feet high. Under it is the Union Pacific roadbed. The ties are about eight inches apart and are evenly distributed the entire distance.

At an early hour the attention of a dozen people was attracted by a large sorrel horse which had walked along the trestle from the south and was unaware of the danger ahead. He was unable to turn around and had fully five hundred feet yet to travel. The spectators were struck with awe, expecting every moment to see the animal dashed to atoms by a fall. Now fully mindful of his danger, it was remarkable to note the instinct with which the animal stepped cautiously from one tie to another. He had just reached that part of the trestle above the Union Pacific roadbed when he became dazed and missed his footing. His hind feet caught in the tie and threw him, so that the rear portion of his body overhung the framework of the immense bridge, while he held himself by his forefeet. The scene was a sickening one, and the spectators looked every moment for the fatal fall. Suddenly, with a powerful lunge, the animal threw his body toward the trestle and managed to regain his feet. Again he started on his perilous walk, and when within a few feet of the end of the bridge fell again, and was caught in much the same manner. Martin Scully started to the assistance of the animal with a rope, but the horse was so close to terra firma that he made another effort to regain his feet and fell to the sloping bank, just a short distance below. He then rolled down the bank for about twenty-five feet. His mouth and hoof were badly bruised in the struggle, but otherwise he was uninjured.

Artemus Harper of Pocono mountain left A. E. Brundage's store on Skinner creek one Friday afternoon for his home, five miles distant, so the story goes. He had a two-year-old heifer behind the wagon and when he got into the Westford woods on the summit of the mountain, he hitched his team to a tree and trudged over to a swamp to pick a basket of greens. In a short time Mr. Harper heard the heifer bellowing as though she was in distress. Running back to the road he found a big she bear clawing at the heifer's neck. Before he could do anything the heifer broke the rope and started to run, but the bear bore her down and tore a hole in her throat. The helpless heifer fell on her side and the bear ripped her bag loose and went to devouring it.

Mr. Harper started to club the bear at once, and the enraged beast sprang at him, knocked him flat, and immediately pounced on the heifer again. He was badly hurt by the fall, and, seeing that the heifer was dead and that the bear was crazed from hunger, he made up his mind not to run the risk again of losing his own life. He had no weapon better than a club, but in his pocket there was a flask of gunpowder that he had bought at the store.

Stealing up behind the bear he poured the powder into the long hair on her back. Then he threw a lighted match into her hair. It ignited the powder, there was an instantaneous flash about her back, and the bear suddenly forgot about her hunger, sprang into the bushes, and went tearing and howling through the woods. The bear was all ablaze when Mr. Harper got his last glimpse of her, and she continued to roar until she had been out of sight two or three minutes, but she didn't return. Mr. Harper cut the heifer's throat, and then he drove on to Calvin Van Beyn's place. Mr. Van Beyn and two of his sons went to the woods with Mr. Harper. The carcass of the heifer was loaded on the wagon, and Mr. Harper drove it home and divided the beef among his neighbors.

Improving Their Figures. Mothers about to put corsets upon their young daughters for the first time and begin the process which they call improving their figures (?) should read the account published recently in a French medical journal of the experiments of a French physician. While traveling in India he procured a number of feminine monkeys, whose forms he explains were very similar to those of women, and enveloped them in a plaster of paris jacket as near like an ordinary corset as possible. Then he gave them chloroform to see the effect of the chest stricture upon the respiration. Several of the monkeys died very quickly, all suffered seriously. In these days of dress forms, hygienic waists, and the like, a trim figure is easily attainable with the strappy corset, like a coat or mail, which has been thought necessary. —N. Y. Times.

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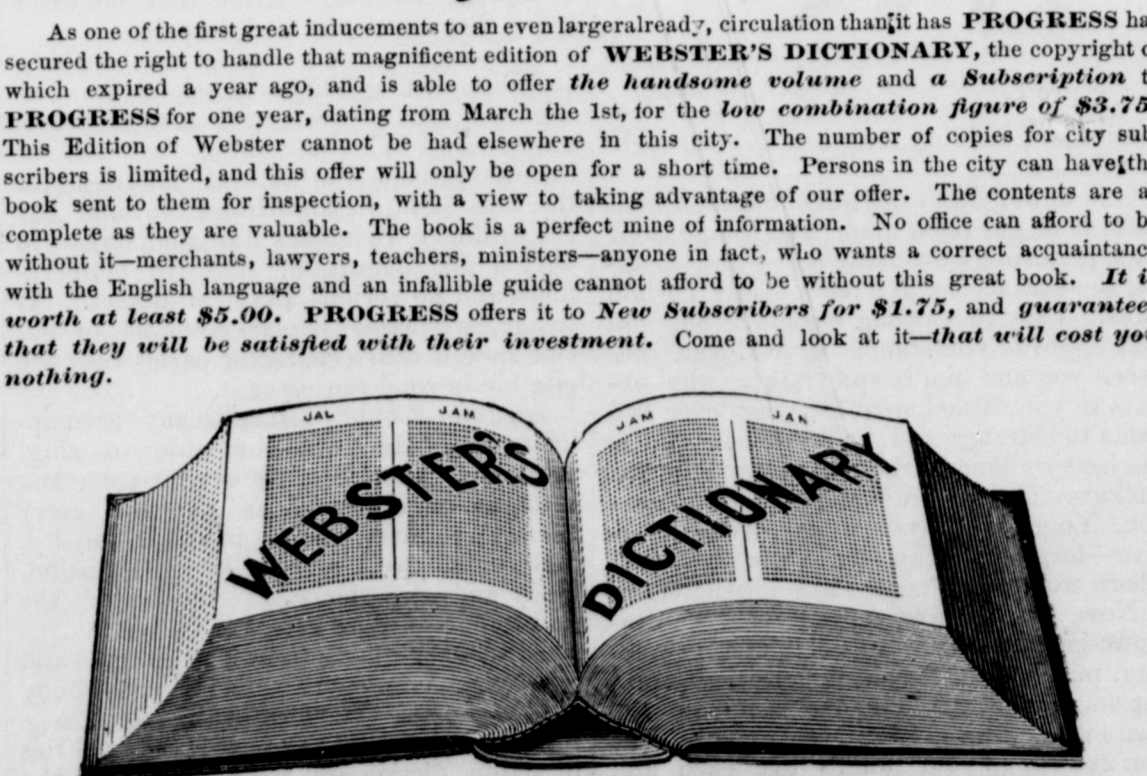
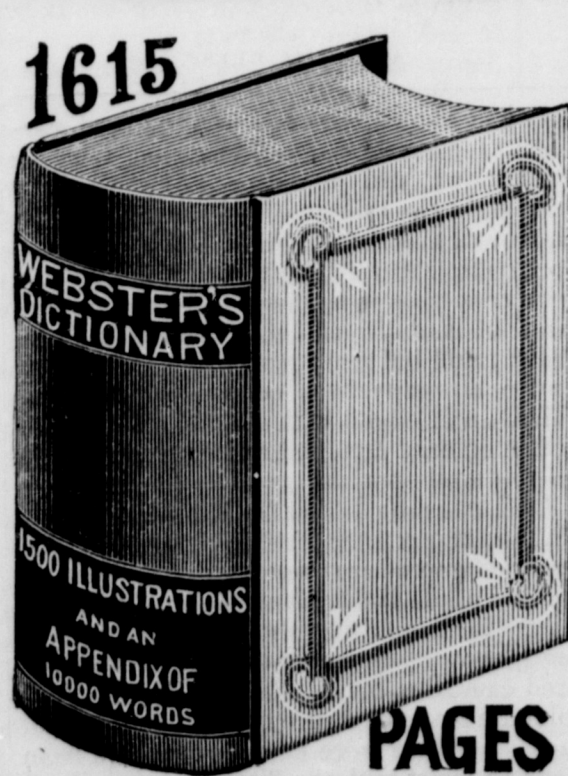
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