

# THINGS WORTH KNOWING

Mexicans eat salt with their oranges.

In 1816 percussion caps were invented.

Previous to the year 1443 there were no barbers' shops in London.

The English channel at its smallest breadth is 20 1/2 miles across.

The daily surplus of births over deaths in the United Kingdom is 1500.

1821 was the year in which Mechanics' institutions were first established.

In the public libraries of Europe there are more than 21,000,000 printed volumes.

Henry V. was the first king after the conquest who built ships for the defence of the coast.

Apples have been cultivated on the soil of Great Britain ever since the time of the Roman invasion.

Lace of a very delicate texture was manufactured in France and Flanders as far back as the year 1320.

Inoculation for the smallpox was first practised in England in 1721. Vaccination was introduced into use in 1799.

The Canadian Pacific railroad is paying 4 per cent. on \$200,000,000. The Grand Trunk is worth \$100,000,000.

Experts say that the Canadian copper and silver mines from Sudbury to Rat Portage will produce a billion dollars.

There are 800,000,000 acres of unoccupied waste land in Assiniboia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and the northwest territories.

Nearly 160,000 miles of railroad are in active operation in the United States, and they employ about 3,000,000 people in various capacities.

Until about the end of the first quarter of the seventeenth century England supplied the North American colonies with most of the wheat they required.

In olden times saints' days were regarded as lucky days, and were marked on the calendar with red ink. From this sprang the term "red-letter day."

Whooping-cough has been known for three hundred years. It mainly affects young children, 96 per cent. of the fatal cases being those of children under five years old.

The preventive action of vaccination is shown by the fact that it has kept smallpox out of the colony of Western Australia for 31 years, only one case having been known to occur there.

In the year 1543 an act was passed for the toleration of irregular medical practitioners, which enacted that "persons being no common surgeons may minister outward medicines."

Scarlatina has been known for 500 years or more, but not in Britain for more than 200. It is commoner in the urban than in the rural districts, and is mostly seen in October in this country.

Blood-money was the compensation paid by a homicide to the next of kin of the person slain, securing the offender and his relatives against subsequent retaliation. It was once common in Teutonic and Scandinavian countries, and is still a custom among the Arabs.

The dahlia derived its name from the Swedish botanist, Prof. Dahl, who first cultivated it. This beautiful flower was brought from Mexico, of which it is a native, in the present century. It soon became a favorite, and in 1815, about two months after the battle of Waterloo, it was introduced into France.

The quantities of basic steel made in the various countries during the 12 months ending December, 1890, are as follows: England, total, 503,400 tons, of which the quantity with under 0.17 per cent. carbon was 351,404; Germany and Luxembourg, total, 1,493,157, and 1,138,241; Austria, total, 202,315, and 114,857; France, total, 240,638, and 175,550; Belgium, Russia, and the United States, total, 163,573, and 111,963; grand total, 2,603,083, and 1,892,015.

Between Jan. 1 and April 1 of this year, 1,788 bodies have been cremated in the cities of Gotha, Zurich, Milan, Rome, Padua, Bologna, Florence, London, New York, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Lancaster, Los Angeles, Washington, Buffalo, Stockholm and Gothenburg. The crematories in Manchester and Hamburg will be opened next July. Eighteen Berliners have been cremated this year and the Berlin society for cremation has increased its membership to 1,100.

That part of the Pacific ocean which lies between Australia and New Zealand is without a name, and because of this great inconvenience is caused, according to the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. So the association has resolved to petition the lords of the admiralty to name this sea the Tasman sea. It was in 1642 that the Dutchman, Tasman, after circumnavigating Australia and discovering Van Diemen's land, sailed across this sea and discovered New Zealand.

The titular saint of Wales, Saint David, is said to have been the son of a Welsh prince. He was an archbishop, and, according to Giraldus, an old historian, he was "a mirror and pattern to all, instructing both by word and example, excellent in his preaching, but still more so in his works. He was a doctrine to all, a guide to the religious, a life to the poor, a support to orphans, a protection to widows, a father to the fatherless, a rule to monks, and a model to teachers; becoming all to all, that so he might gain all to God."

Fox-fire is a kind of rotten wood which at night resembles a mass of glowworms, and owes its light to the decaying "mice-lum" of a fungus.

Escanaba, the county seat of Delta county, Michigan, in the United States of America, claims to be the "greatest iron port in the world." Escanaba is over 320 miles north of Chicago, and has a population of only 6000 persons. In 1880 it sent out 1,240,000 tons; in 1889, its export of iron ore was 3,003,000 tons; and last year its shipments were put at 3,808,000 tons.

The poverty of the peasants around Warsaw, Russia, is so great that whole gangs of them have made it a practice to steal coal from the freight trains which enter the city by night. Some of the gang jump on the trains in motion and throw the coal on the road, which their coadjutors gather in sacks and wheelbarrows. The railroad companies have obtained permission to place special guards on each train.

It is difficult to form an accurate estimate of the quantity of bacon treated in London, but judging from the number of bacon dryers in the metropolis and of produce merchants who use private stoves, it is believed that the total output is 1,500,000 cwt. per annum. This quantity, which would be equal to 42 pounds per head of the population, is not all consumed in London.

The Veddas are the aborigines of the Island of Ceylon, and are a very remarkable people. The pure, unmixed Veddas are now hardly more than 200 or 300 in number, and they therefore cut a very small figure in an island that has over 2,000,000 population. They are scattered among the forests on the east side of the island, and are difficult of access, because the traveller must provide himself with provisions for the journey across the island if he wishes to visit the natives in their almost unexplored territory.

In Holland the following poetic names for the months are in use: January—Lan-romaand, chilly month; February—Sprok-chaand, vegetation month; March—Lentmaand, spring month; April—Grasmaand, grass month; May—Blommaand, flower month; June—Zomermaand, summer month; July—Hooymaand, hay month; August—Oostmaand, harvest month; September—Hertsmaand, autumn month; October—Wynmaand, wine month; November—Slaagmaand, slaughter month; December—Wintermaand, winter month.

A Russian paper shows that the migration of laborers from the interior governments into the Siberian territory is assuming alarming proportions. For the last four years no less than 37,000 families of peasants have wandered away to Siberia each year. Meagre as their prospects are in Central Asia, the people of the central governments still rush thither, driven by poverty and famine. Many of them perish on the road by sickness and climatic changes. Now that the trans-Siberian railroad is to be built, the emigration of laborers will be greatly increased for the coming years.

The Landes, the great savannah of France, stretches from Bordeaux to Bayonne. Many vain attempts were made to induce trees to grow upon it. At last, one M. Bremontier conceived the idea of planting with the pine seeds the seeds of the common broom, the hardy tuft of which should protect the tiny sapling until it could stand by itself. The result surpassed hope; pine forests have sprung up and endured throughout the Landes; they have broken for ever the power of the wind storms, and their pitch and timber are even a source of some riches to the department.

Marriages are concluded in "an original manner" among the convicts on the island of Saghalien, Russia, as the St. Petersburg papers report. When a party of female convicts arrive the men are given a half holiday and taken to a park, where they meet the newcomers. A general inspection of brides then takes place. In an hour or so the guards call time. The men must then come up to the officer in command and point out the women they have selected. If the women are satisfied the bonds are tied then and there. If two or more men happen to choose one woman the officer awards her to the one whose conduct is the best.

In China there is a root called Khe-ki-ye, which often sells for from 20 to 100 times its weight in gold. In Nanchuria the same root under a different name, it is anything even more unpronounceable, sells equally as high. These roots, which in order to be highly valuable must be of a peculiar shape, are bought only by mandarin, priests and others of the wealthiest classes. Single roots of this wonderful (?) plant, not weighing more than the tenth of an ounce, are said to often sell for from \$50 to \$75 each. What is still more remarkable about this valuable Eastern root is the fact that it is a closely allied species, it not identical, with our common ginseng.

The great Koh-i-Noor diamond has been for forty years the rarest of the crown jewels of England's queen and India's empress. The diamond has had an eventful history, having been first mentioned by Tavernier, who saw it at Agra in 1665. From this time on it passed often from the hands of one eastern potentate to that of another. Every war changed its ownership. Finally, after the annexation of the Punjab in the year 1849, the diamond came to England and was turned over to the queen. The stone is a mutilated one, and when it first came into the possession of Victoria it was necessary to have it recut at an expense of about \$40,000, and a diminution in its weight of 80 carats, making its present weight 106 1/16 carats. The Koh-i-Noor has been variously valued at from one and one-half to five millions of dollars.

In the time of Henry III. it was enacted by statute that beer might be sold in cities at the rate of two gallons for a penny, and in the country three or four gallons for the same.

Smallpox has been known for at least 2000 years, and is one of the most dreadful scourges to which our ancestors were exposed. It is so constantly present in India and the Soudan that those parts of the world are generally regarded as the home of the disease. Since the introduction of vaccination, the mortality has vastly decreased, having fallen from 18 per cent. to 102. Since 1885 it has been practically extinct in London.

Black-rod is the usher belonging to the Order of the Garter, so called from the black rod which he carries. His full title is Gentleman-usher of the Black-Rod, and his deputy is styled the Yeoman-usher. They are the official messengers of the house of lords; and either the gentleman or the yeoman usher summons the commons to the house of lords when the royal assent is given to bills; and also executes orders for the commitment of parties guilty of breach of privilege and contempt.

The origin of the game of cards is rather uncertain. It is said to have been brought to Viterbo in 1379. Cards were first taxed in England in 1710. In 1825, the duty being then 2s. 6d. per pack, less than 150,000 packs were stamped; but in 1827 the stamp duty was reduced to 1s., and 310,854 packs paid duty in 1830. By an act passed in 1862 the duty on cards was reduced to 3d. per pack, and the sellers were required to take out a license. Every pack of cards made in England for home use pays duty to her majesty, for which the ace of spades is the printed receipt. The manufacturer pays for the production and engraving of a steel plate containing twenty aces of spades; he also sends paper to Somerset house, and the authorities at the stamp office print him off thousands and tens of thousands of aces. These are sent to him in certain quantities, and under certain bonds and seals and restrictions. He proceeds to use them by pasting the sheets of aces on carton, and making cards of them. The excise officer calls on him at intervals, and for all the sheets of aces which he is not in a condition to produce he has to pay the duty on each ace, and a government stamp is pasted round every pack to show that a duty has been paid. Another steel plate is engraved with the ace of spades for export cards, but no duty is paid on these. As there are men who will try to drive a coach and six through almost any act of parliament, so there are old schemes whereby second-hand cards may be sold over again. The cut-corner cards are an illustration of this.

## COMFORTING SUPERSTITIONS.

Nails Driven Into an Oak Tree Prevented Toothache.

The curious beliefs of the mediæval English as to the cause and cure of various diseases were often even more shocking than absurd, if such could be possible. A ring made of the hinge or handle of a coffin was credited with the power of relieving cramps, which also received a solace when a rusty old sword was hung up by the patient's bedside.

Nails driven into an oak tree were not a cure, but a preventive of toothache. A halter which had been used in hanging a murderer, when bound around the temples, was said to be an infallible remedy for headache. A dead man's hand could dispel tumors of the glands by stroking the part nine times with it, but the hand of a man who had been hanged and then cut down from the gallows by a maiden was a remedy infinitely more efficacious.

Some of these remedies still exist among the superstitious poor of the provinces, but are not now strictly adhered to. To cure warts, for instance, the best thing to do is to steal a piece of beef from the butcher, with which the warts are to be rubbed, after which the meat is to be interred in sandy soil: as the process of decomposition goes on the warts will wither and finally disappear.

The chips of a gallows upon which several persons had been hanged was also one of the items in mediæval materia medica; these, when worn in a bag around the neck, were pronounced an infallible cure for ague. The nightmare, supposed, of course, to be the result of something supernatural, was banished by means of a stone with a hole in it, which was every night suspended at the head of the sufferer's bed.

The last remedy went by the name of "hagstone," because it prevented the witches from coming and sitting on the patient's stomach. The witches, which from popular pictures could not have sat upon a horse a moment, were credited with riding them across the moors at breakneck speed at the dead hour of midnight, when better disposed and less frisky persons were asleep. In cases of this kind a "hagstone" tied to a stable door at once put a stop to such heathenish vagaries.—*St. Louis Republic.*

## A Good Way to Keep Flowers.

There is nothing better than a common potato to keep flowers fresh. Cut one into halves and insert the stems into holes bored in them for the purpose. Then arrange them in a low basket or shallow dish and conceal the plebeian vegetable with leaves or moss. There is moisture enough in an average sized potato to sustain a flower for two weeks. Don't keep the potato bouquet in too warm a room, however. This is also an excellent method for mailing a flower bud. After it is inserted in the potato, cotton should be put about it for support, and the whole inclosed in a box with a slit for air.—*N. Y. Times.*

## The Way She Managed it.

"Well, with cleaning and moving, and everything out of place and upset I haven't done a bit of washing for two weeks," said one woman to another one day this week, "so you can just imagine the work I have ahead of me together with setting the house to rights." "Thank goodness," said the other, "that I am not like you, for indeed I couldn't commence to do a days washing after all this cleaning." "You hire a girl I suppose! Well I'd rather do it myself, than watch one." "Oh no I don't, I just send my washing to Ungars, and they do it so reasonably, and with so little trouble that I wouldn't think of having them done in any other way."—*Advt.*

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## Dissolution of Partnership.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned, under the name and style of TURNER & FINLAY, was on the TWENTY-FIRST day of MARCH last, dissolved by lapse of time.

St. John, N. B., 2nd April, 1891.

## TRUSTEES' NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that ROBERT TURNER, of the City of St. John, Dry Goods merchant, has this day assigned all his estate to us, in trust for the benefit of his creditors. The trust deed now lies at the office of E. & R. McLeod & Ewing, Barristers, Ritchie's building, Princess street, Saint John, and all creditors wishing to participate in the trusts of the said deed are required to execute the same within three months from the date hereof.

Dated the third day of April, 1891.

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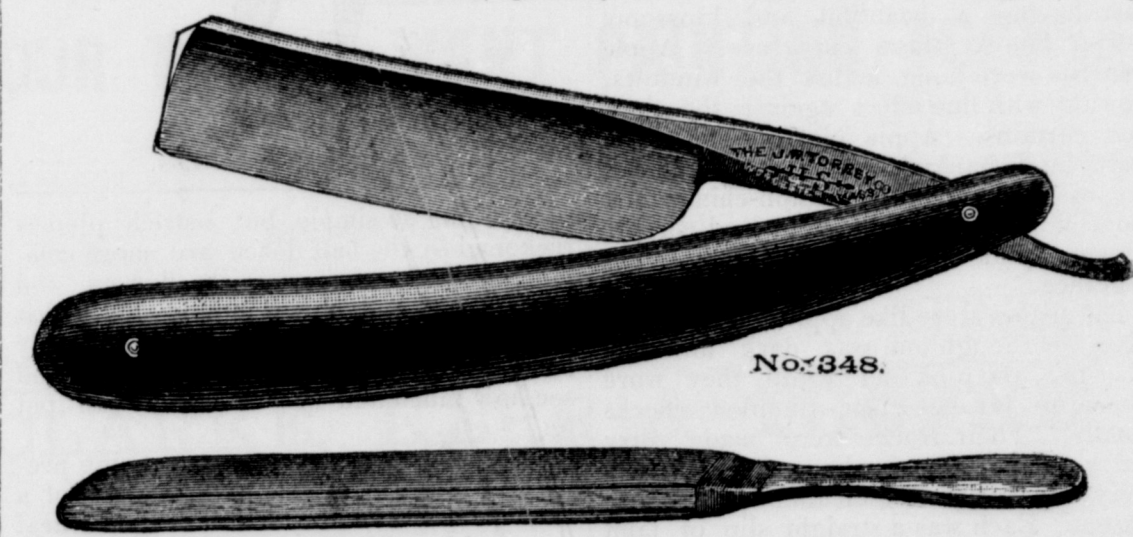
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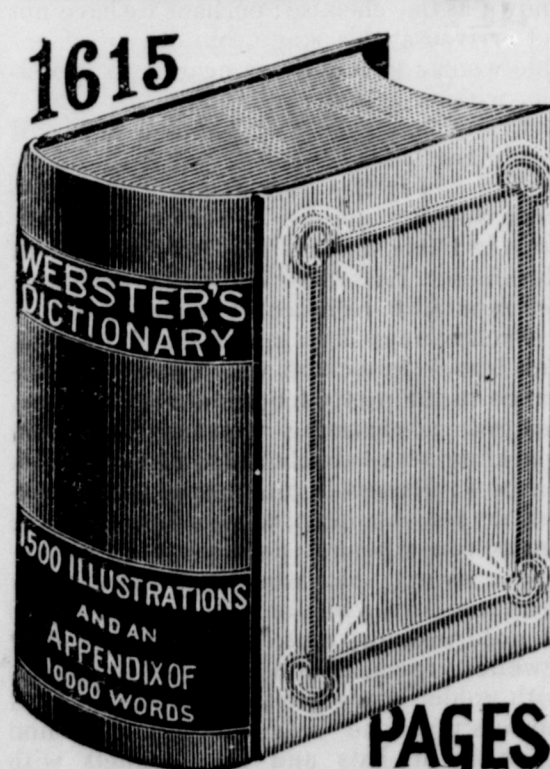
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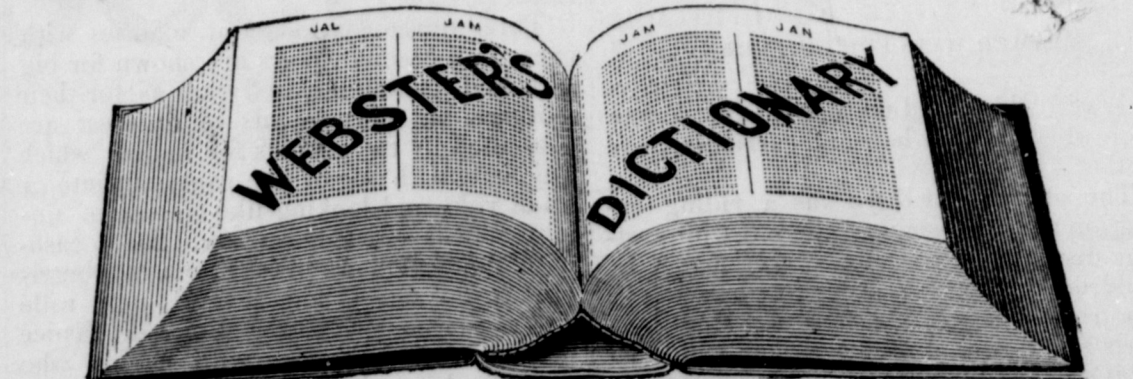
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