

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

Lions and leopards are very fond of perfumes.

Salmon, pike and goldfish are the only fish that never sleep.

The telephone has been known in India for thousands of years.

Lobsters greatly fear thunder. When thoroughly frightened they drop their claws, but new ones begin at once to grow.

There are 800,000 more widows than widowers in England. In France for every 100 widowers there are 194 widows.

Of the 500,000,000 persons who were carried last year on steam vessels but sixty-five were killed. This shows that this means of travel is the safest in the world.

Siberia has a population of 868,552. In Irkutsk, the capital, are 487 schools. In the Transbaikai, where the political convicts are chiefly to be found, there are thirteen schools, the teachers of which are exiles or deported criminals.

The meaning of the word "limited" placed after a business firm's name, means that the liability of the stockholders of the company is limited, so far as each one of them is concerned, by the amount he has invested in the business. Thus, if a man has \$10,000 worth of stock in a limited company, he is liable only to the amount of that sum.

The total number of distinct words in the New Testament, excluding proper names and their derivatives, is 4,829. A few comparisons may be interesting. The vocabulary of the Old Testament is larger. Gesenius' "Lexicon," omitting proper names and obsolete roots, contains 5,810 words, of which 642 are marked "Chald." The "Iliad" and the "Odyssey" together contain 9,000 words. Shakespeare uses 15,000 and Milton 9,000.

The origin of the name Indian Summer, and the cause of that phenomenon is given as follows: It was to forest and prairie fires kindled by the Indians that the early settlers attributed the smoky appearance of the season. Hence the name Indian Summer. Scientists differ as to the cause of this phenomenon. A change in the condition of the upper strata of the atmosphere, confining the radiating heat-rays in the lower strata, is generally held to be the true explanation. A theory to account for the smoky appearance, which appears plausible, is that it is due to the decay or slow chemical combustion of leaves, grass and other vegetable matter under the action of frost and sun.

A geographical mile is 5,200 feet in length; a nautical mile is 6,086 feet long. The difference, 886 feet, is nearly one-sixth of a mile.

The regular army of Brazil consists of 12,000 soldiers, but the government can raise a military force of 100,000 men by conscription.

The largest body of fresh water on the globe is Lake Superior. It is 400 miles long, 160 wide at its greatest breadth, and has an area of 32,000 square miles.

Recent experience in cold storage shows that different articles of food require different degrees of temperature for their preservation, varying from thirty-three degrees Fahrenheit for eggs to from fifteen to twenty-six degrees for poultry and various kinds of game.

It has been shown by careful experiments made at the United States mint that \$5 are lost by abrasion every time \$1,000,000 in gold coin are handled. The experiments were conducted with bags containing \$5,000 each, and it was shown that the mere lifting of the 209 bags making up \$1,000,000 to a truck to be removed to another vault resulted in the loss stated, and that their transfer from the truck again made a second similar loss.

Few persons know the origin of the common name tomato. It originated in this way: The earlier experimenters with the fruit believed that it had a great effect upon the spleen—that is to say, it made persons liable to crossness good-natured—gave them, so to speak, a lovely disposition, and for this reason the plant was known to the ancient Spaniards as the Love Apple. By the name of Love Apple it is still known in many English-speaking countries. The word tomato is derived from the same source, that is to say, from the original Latin word amo, to love, although we use it now as a Spanish derivative, tomato being a Spanish expression.

The French population returns for 1890 show an excess of deaths over births, namely, 876,000 against 838,000. A similar excess occurred in 1854-55, owing to the cholera and the Crimean war, and again in 1870-71, owing to the Franco-German war. One of the causes last year seems to have been the influenza, for the mortality was 81,000 above the previous year, but the births fell off by 42,000 last year, being lower than in any year since 1870. The marriages are decreasing about one per cent., and the divorces in 1889 were 4,786 and in 1890 5,457.

JAPANESE WAYS.

Upside Down, Inside Out, Reverse and Obverse Methods.

Japanese ways are in many respects unique. It is not necessary to put absolute faith in the legend that when the waiters of Dai Nippon first made the acquaintance of bottles and corkscrews they were wont to twist the bottle on to the corkscrew instead of screwing the corkscrew in the cork. Nevertheless, you may see to this day, at almost any out of the way country inn, a tendency in that direction which seems to lend some truth to the story. The little handmaid who puzzles over the problem of uncorking your claret or whiskey has an evident leaning, until corrected, to solve it with the bottle. When your cook bakes a cake in an ordinary cake tin it is as certain that it left to himself he will serve it bottom upward and bottom sugared withal as it is that the butler will open your tins of jam or pate at the bottom instead of at the top.

Japanese books begin at what we call the end. The lines are vertical instead of horizontal, the first being on the right hand edge of the page, and are read downward from the top. The place for "foot notes" is at the top of the page, and that for the reader's marker at the bottom. Letter writing, like book printing, advances by vertical lines from right to left, and is always on one side of one strip of paper, which is unwound from a roll as the writer proceeds, and cut off where he finishes.

To fold the letter it is doubled over from one end of the strip to the other. The postage stamp is fixed on the closed seal flap of the envelope, instead of on its face. As for the mode of address it is the exact reverse of ours. Thus, "England, London, Printing House Square, The Times office, The Editor," would be the Japanese method of directing a letter to that paper. People in Japan are called by the family name first, the individual, or what we should call christian, name next, and then the honorific. "Mr. Peter Smith" is in this country "Smith Peter Mr."—Chicago Clipper.

Some Pretty Big Things.

The largest trees are the mammoth trees of California. One of a grove in Tulare county is 270 feet high and 105 feet in circumference at the base. Some of the trees are 375 feet high. Some of the largest that have felled indicate an age from 2,000 to 2,500 years.

The loftiest active volcano is Popocatepetl (smoking mountain), thirty-five miles southwest of Puebla, Mexico. It is 17,700 feet above the sea level, and has a crater three miles in circumference and 1,000 feet deep.

The most extensive park is Deer Park, in the environs of Copenhagen, Denmark. The enclosure contains 4,200 acres, and is divided by a small river.

The largest tunnel in the world is that of St. Gothard, on the line of railroad between Lucerne and Milan.

The largest pleasure ground in America is Fairmount park, Philadelphia, which contains 3,740 acres.

The most extensive cavern is the Mammoth cave, Kentucky.

THE SHAH'S SON.

Peculiar Marriage Custom by Which the Persian Ruler's Family is Enlarged.

Some weeks ago a youth of twenty to twenty-one years old, dressed as a peasant, arrived at Teheran, and after wandering for a day or two, presented himself at one of the Shah's palace doors and asked to be presented to Prince Naib-es-Sultaneh, his brother. The porters and the servants, thinking that he was out of his mind, began to chaff him. The youth, persisting in his demand of seeing the prince, the servants got out of temper and drove him away. He then told them that he would repent of their rudeness, because he was Shahzadeh (Shah's son).

Naib-es-Sultaneh, having somehow heard of the incident, sent for the youth. When the latter arrived, the prince asked him how he dared to call himself a Shahzadeh.

"Because I am the son of the Shah," answered the peasant.

"Shah's son! How?"

"When the Shah," said the youth, "on his pilgrimage to Kerbella, some twenty-one years ago, alighted in our village, he saw my mother, then a young girl, who pleased him and found grace in his eyes. His Majesty made 'Sigheh' with her. ('Sigheh' is a temporary marriage contract for a specified time. It may be for a few hours or for many years. Children born from the 'sigheh' have the same right with those born from 'Aghd' or proper marriage.) On leaving the place the Shah gave my mother a 'Destkhet' and a 'Nishaneh,' (a royal writ and a token), and told her if a boy is born let him come to me with these tokens and I will acknowledge him."

Upon this the youth drew out of his pocket a paper and a signet and handed them to the Naib-es-Sultaneh. The prince found the paper to be in the king's own handwriting and the signet to have formerly belonged to the royal treasury. On close examination of the youth's physiognomy he observed that some lineaments of his face greatly resembled those of the Shah. Naib-es-Sultaneh believed the youth's story, and after dressing him in a princely manner, presented him to the king.

His majesty, on hearing the young man's statement, recollected the event and observed the resemblance which the youth bore to himself. He ordered that the youth should henceforth be acknowledged as Shahzadeh, everything he supplied for his princely maintenance and masters be appointed to give him a proper education.—London Daily News.

Sonnet.

I hold before me, in weak, trembling hands,
The fading portrait of a woman's face;
A picture not of youth and girlish grace,
But one upon whose sacred head the sands
Of time had dripped until the gleaming strands
Shone wan with drifted white. A hand of lace
Circles the wrinkled throat in fond embrace,
E'en as these boyish arms, years gone, their bands
Of love clasped round the then fair neck of her,
As softly rained her lullaby upon
The drowsy ear in dreamland's tinkling drips;
And as I scan that face now thro' the blur
Of manhood's tears, I hear a voice, long gone,
Soft crooning thro' the portals of lost lips.
—Kimball Chase Tapley.

"German Syrup"

G. Gloger, Druggist, Watertown, Wis. This is the opinion of a man who keeps a drug store, sells all medicines, comes in direct contact with the patients and their families, and knows better than anyone else how remedies sell, and what true merit they have. He hears of all the failures and successes, and can therefore judge: "I know of no medicine for Coughs, Sore Throat, or Hoarseness that had done such effective work in my family as Boschee's German Syrup. Last winter a lady called at my store, who was suffering from a very severe cold. She could hardly talk, and I told her about German Syrup and that a few doses would give relief; but she had no confidence in patent medicines. I told her to take a bottle, and if the results were not satisfactory I would make no charge for it. A few days after she called and paid for it, saying that she would never be without it in future as a few doses had given her relief." @

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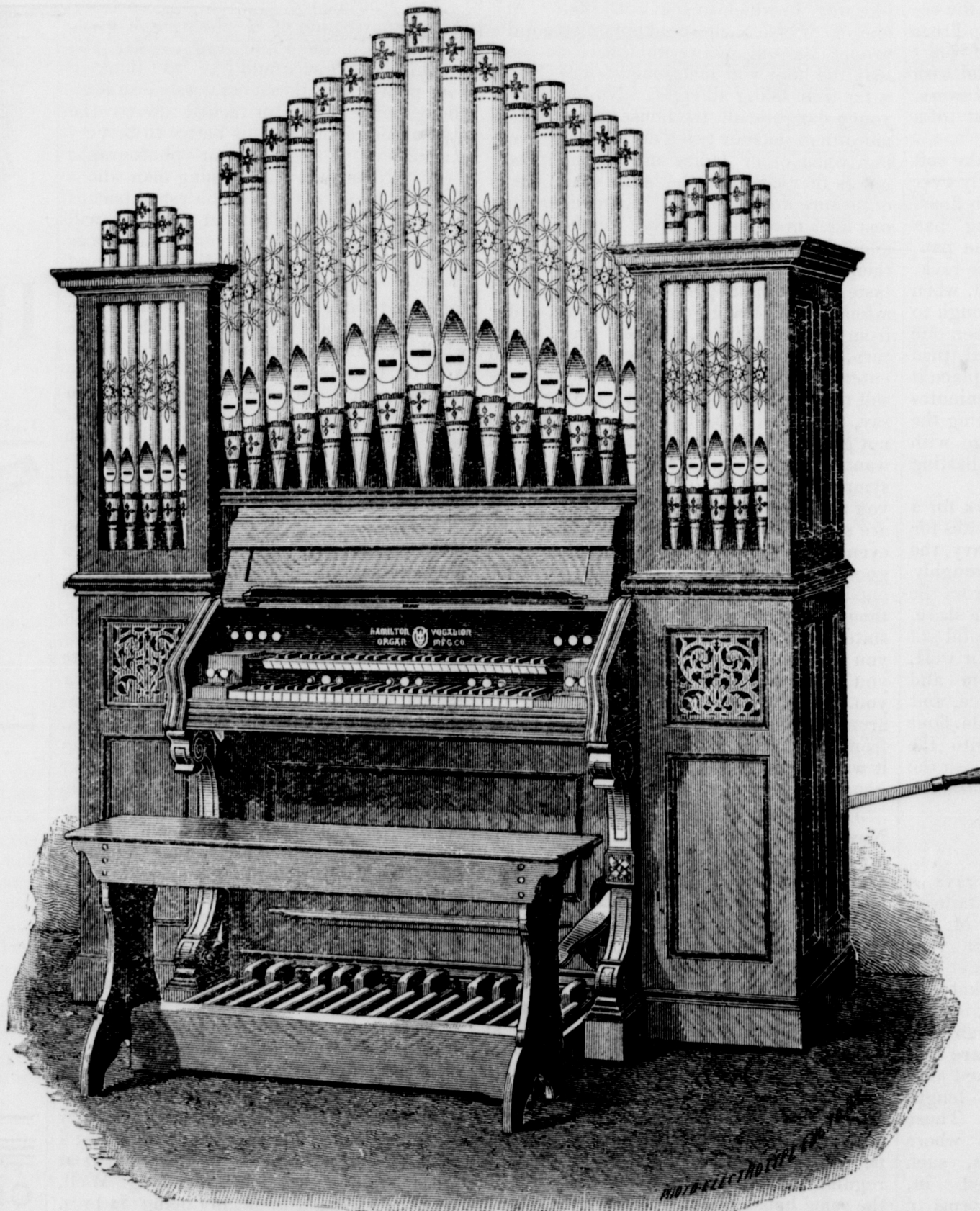
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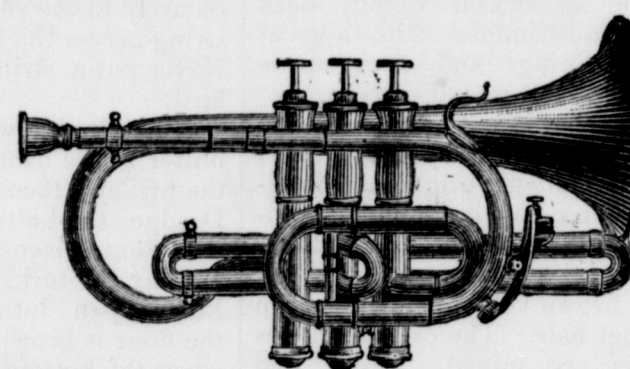
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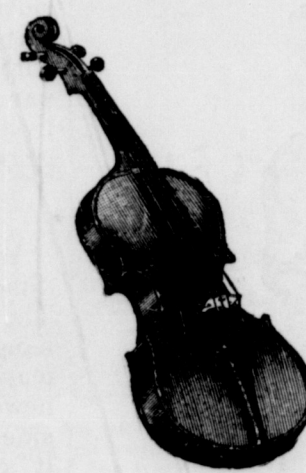
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