

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

The number of Jews in Jerusalem at the present time is about 40,000.

The turbot, which produces as much as 10,000,000 of ova, is the most fertile of the flat fishes.

The most thinly-populated countries in Europe are Norway and Finland, which have only 16 people to the square mile.

The men outnumber the women in Chicago, the excess of males over twenty-one years of age being nearly eighty thousand.

Among European countries Belgium still exceeds all others in density of population. The proportion is 530 persons to a square mile. Belgium is followed by Holland with 365 to the square mile, and the United Kingdom with 312.

The coal product of the United States reached a total of 141,229,513 short tons during last year, and the value of this production at the mines previous to any shipment expenses was \$160,226,323.

The total Indian net opium revenue in 1867-68 was approximately 74,93,983 rupees, and in 1889-90 it was 79,08,322 rupees, the highest revenue being derived in 1880-81, when it amounted to 91,62,236 rupees.

The Druids were accustomed on certain days to cut the sacred mistletoe with a golden knife, in a forest dedicated to the gods, and to distribute its branches with much ceremony as New-Year's gifts among the people.

Many of the natives of India have such a superstitious dread of the wolf that they will not kill it, nor aid in slaying it, nor mention its name, lest, if its blood be shed, they may bring evil on themselves or their children.

It was somewhat curious that Russia admitted women to subordinate posts in her administrative system while the rest of Europe still excluded them. Female clerks in the postal and telegraph service, the railways, and so forth, are quite an old institution there.

A curious point in Swedish criminal law is that confession is necessary before a capital sentence can be carried out. If, however, the culprit persists in protesting his innocence in the face of overpowering evidence, the prison discipline is made extremely strict and severe until the desired confession is obtained.

A German publication gives the following figures on the population of the earth: Europe, 357,379,000; Asia, 825,954,000; Africa, 163,953,000; America, 121,713,000; Australia, 3,230,000; Oceanic Islands, 7,420,000; Polar Regions, 80,400; total, 1,479,720,400.

French duels have constantly assumed an epidemic form. In the seventeenth century Louis XIII signed 8,000 letters of pardon in twenty years. Richelieu arrested the practice by a vigorous act. The Comte de Chapelle and the Duc de Bouteville had fought a duel in the Place Royale in Paris. They were tried and beheaded.

The phrase, "Bean in the cake," signifies unexpected good fortune. It refers to the custom of the Romans, in their Saturnalia, of placing a bean in a cake, the finding of which, when cut and distributed, constituted the fortunate one king of the festivities. The custom was perpetuated in more modern days on Twelfth Night. It is commonly observed at the present time at weddings, when a ring or jewel is often substituted for a bean in the wedding cake.

The average age of British soldiers is twenty-seven years; their death rate is nine per 1,000, and of every 100 seventy are English, twenty Irish, eight Scotch and two colonial.

The Indians in endeavoring to pronounce the word "English," or "Anglais," made it "Yengees," or "Yangees," and this is said to be the origin of the term "Yankees." The Indians gave the name to the English colonists, from them it was adopted by the British, who applied it generally to New Englanders only. Europeans subsequently applied it to all natives of the United States; and during the civil war the southerners applied the term to all inhabitants of the Northern states, but it properly belongs solely to native New Englanders.

Announcements are repeatedly made that wet years follow each other at intervals of ten, eleven, or twelve years. As regards the twelve-year period, it is said that the years in this century of which the numbers are multiples of twelve are wet. This statement is supported by the years 1824, 1836, 1848, 1860, and 1872; but not by the years 1800, 1812, and 1884. Accordingly the rule is not to be trusted implicitly. In the last century it failed signally, for only two of the series, 1728 and 1776, were wet; while 1740, 1752, and 1788 were dry, and the fall for 1764 was exactly the average amount.

The oldest inhabited dwelling house in the United States is the Van Rensselaer mansion near Albany, which was built in 1642.

By one of the laws of Pity, one of the seven wise men of Greece, every fault committed by a person when intoxicated was deemed worthy of a double punishment.

Since the introduction of obligatory service, in 1874, the Jews have furnished 160,000 soldiers to the Russian army, being an annual contribution of from 12,000 to 15,000 men.

There were in the United States in the census year 596 farms, with a total of 169,851 acres, devoted exclusively to seed growing, of which 96,567½ were reported as producing seeds.

Densely populated as it is in some places, the earth has room for a great many more people. It is estimated that there are twenty-two and a half acres for every living person.

The Japanese language is said to contain 60,000 words, every one of which requires a different symbol. It is quite impossible for one man to learn the entire language, and a well-educated Japanese is familiar with only about 10,000 words.

Some Derivations.

Canter is an abbreviated form of Canterbury gallop, so called because pilgrims to Canterbury rode at the pace of a moderate gallop. A grocer, so says the dictionary, was originally one who sold by the gross. A "grenade" derives its name from its shape, which resembles a pomegranate. A "biscuit" means "twice baked," because, according to military practice, the bread or biscuits of the Romans were twice prepared in the ovens. Did you ever notice the leaves of the dandelion?

They are said to resemble, in form and size, the tooth of the lion, and so the French call it the dent de lion and we "the dandelion." The pope was formerly called "the pape," which means the same as "papa," or father. Vinegar came from two Latin words, vin and acer, meaning "vine" and "sour." These are only a few of the many

A MOORISH WEDDING.

The Peculiar Ceremonies Employed—Their Ideal of Beauty.

It was evening when we started off to a Moorish wedding. The gentlemen had to remain outside the house, as no man is permitted to look on a Moorish lady. We found ourselves in a short passage leading into the "patio," a square hall round which the rooms are built.

On one of the beds of the apartment sat the bride, tailor fashion, with a veil of checked muslin entirely enveloping her. This was presently raised and disclosed the lady to our view. She was a girl of 14, and being very fat was considered a beauty.

Indeed, when nearing a marriageable age, it is common for girls to lie for weeks covered with warm blankets, passing their time in dozing and feeding on the fattening diet of milk. "boos koosoo" (the native dish), oil, peas or a certain bean, supposed to be infallible as a fat producer.

Her face presented the most extraordinary appearance, being painted white with a delicate pattern in pale blue, yellow and black on a three cornered patch of crimson on each cheek and chin. The eyebrows were indicated by a thick line of dense black, and from the corner of the eyes, which were blackened, extended a fan shaped design in black to the top of the eyes.



CANADIAN GIRLS IN LONDON.

There are 161 important steam navigation companies in the world, of which the English own 64, the French 35 and the Germans 12. In the United States there are 15.

The banana belongs to the lily family and is a developed tropical lily from which the seeds have been eliminated. It possesses all the essentials to the sustenance of life. Ground that will grow ninety pounds of potatoes will grow 4,000 pounds of bananas.

"Temple." To the present understand the word means a house of worship. The temple to the Most High has to be an architectural structure. The word in its original term and use had no such meaning. Its root is "tam," to cut—as to cut off a piece of land for special dedication, for religious or other purposes. In passing into Greek it became "tem," hence "templein," to cut off; and "tome," a section of a book; "tonsure," the cutting off of the hair; contemplate, the cutting off of other thoughts to consider a special one; also anatomy, the cutting apart of the body—dissection. These words and more spring from the same Aryan seed. The architectural sense comes from association with a dedicated—cut off—spot of earth. The word has no innate religious or sacred significance, save such as men of any faith or unfaith may give it. Such family names as Temple, Templeman, Templar, Templemore, etc., spring from connection with temple service and templar life.

curious and interesting things I found in my afternoon's search in the old dictionary. When you are at a loss for something to do, follow my example and you will be surprised at the many bits of information you can pick up in a little time.—*Omaha World.*

Origin of Two Masterpieces.

The suggestion of the "Old Oaken Bucket" came to its author, Samuel Woodworth, in a barroom. A friend with whom he was drinking said jocularly that when they were boys the old oaken bucket that hung in his father's well was good enough for them to drink from. Woodworth immediately went home and wrote his famous verses. Poe's first thought of "The Bells" came to him while walking the streets of Baltimore on a winter's night. He rang the bell of a lawyer's house (a stranger to him), walked into the gentleman's library, shut himself up, and the next morning presented the lawyer with a copy of his celebrated poem.

A Clergyman's Mistake.

Cricket is now being played by many well-established clubs in the vicinity of New York, and these clubs count amongst their members many clergymen of English birth, who are among the best and most enthusiastic of players. It was one of these who the other Sunday, following a Saturday when he had been one of the victors in a hard-fought match, delighted his congregation by announcing from the sacred desk: "And here endeth the first innings."

The tips of her fingers and toes were dyed terra cotta with henna. Ayesha (so she was called) was clad in a gorgeous kaffan of red silk and gold brocade, embroidered in gold, and reaching to her ankles. Her undergarments were pure colored brocade, and her waistcoat green velvet and gold. Over the kaffan hung a light gauze garment, open down the front, and confined by a band of gold and silk in many colors.

Her headdress was composed of silk handkerchiefs, pinned round so as to show a narrow edge of each on the forehead. Above these came a band of black velvet with a close design of seed pearls and emeralds. Her neck was encircled by many necklaces, principally strings of amethysts. While we were gazing at her we heard a cry in the patio, which was quickly taken up by the women in the bridal chamber. The bridal veil was immediately dropped and the women assumed their helks, a long white woolen shawl. The reason of this commotion was the entrance of Ayesha's brother, a tall Moor in dark blue cloth djellaba and white turban.

Draperies were dropped over the opening, and Ayesha, in her cage, were hoisted on a mule at the door of the house. The procession then came, the bride's box, surrounded by twenty or thirty Riflans doing a wild fantastic "powder play" with their long brass or silver mounted guns. Then more candles and a long array of friends. In this way was the bride borne to her husband's home.—*London Graphic.*

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