

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

China has twenty-seven American merchants.

The first strike in America was the sailors' strike of New York in 1802.

The average weight of the brain to the body of a healthy man is 1 to 41; in idiots it is 1 to 144.

There are about 300 lifeboats in the United Kingdom, which are manned by 12,000 voluntary seamen.

Scientific authority asserts that a cubic inch of soil contains from 60,000 to 2,250,000 minute organisms.

England and Ireland together drank 42,000,000 gallons more beer than Germany last year.

When the wind exerts a pressure of 1 pound to the square foot, it is blowing at the rate of 14 miles an hour.

The results of 380 analyses of principal vocalists as to their use of stimulants, showed that 33.3 per cent. were practically abstainers.

According to careful estimates three hours of hard study wear out the body more than a whole day of hard physical exertion.

Gold is so very tenacious that a piece of it is drawn into wire one-twentieth of an inch in diameter will sustain a weight of 500 pounds without breaking.

Of 16,151 persons engaged in the Massachusetts fisheries, 10,588 are Americans, 3,888 hail from British North America, while 2,175 are of other nationalities.

It has been supposed that Swedes were the best carpenters of the nineteenth century, but it seems now, according to an authority, that Italians are pressing them close for the first place in carpentry work.

"As blind as a mole" must henceforth take its place in the waste heap of shattered similes. A German naturalist had demonstrated that moles have eyes and that they can see as well as other animals.

If all the locomotives in the United States were coupled together they would make a train 200 miles long. Add the passenger cars and we would have a train 7,000 miles long, carrying 1,500,000 passengers.

The great treasury vault at Washington covers more than a quarter of an acre and is twelve feet deep. Recently there was \$90,000,000 in silver stored there, an amount that weighed 4,000 tons and would load 165 freight cars.

At the birth of a child in lower Brittany the neighboring women take it in charge, wash it, crack its joints, and rub its head with oil to solder the cranium bones. It is then wrapped in a tight bundle, and its lips are anointed with brandy to make it a full Breton.

The character "&" is a ligature combining the letters which compose the Latin word "and." In what is called the "Old Style," these letters are distinctly visible, being in the form of a small Greek epsilon, with the 7 formed on the tail of the curve of that letter.

The population of the world is about 1,500,000,000 people. One-fourth dies before the fifteenth year and the average duration of life is thirty-three years. Thirty-three millions and thirty-three thousand people die each year, making a total of 91,501 each day.

Drunkennes is the failing of the Hercules beetle, a South American insect. It sometimes attains a growth of six inches. It is said that it rasps the back from the tender branches of the mamme tree till juice flows. This it drinks until it drops to the ground intoxicated.

The custom of having a Court poet—one whose duty it is to write to order, as it were—is at present confined to England, among civilized nations. In ancient times the custom was well-nigh universal. Every Court had its poet and painter, as well as its dwarf and buffoon.

Short sight is more common in town than amongst country folks, for the simple reason that townspeople have less need for long sight; they have fewer opportunities for exercising their sight on distant objects, and their occupations do not favor its development by training or selection.

It has been proved that Jewish lives are, on an average, nearly 50 per cent. more valuable than those of any other known people. They escape great epidemics more readily than the other races with whom they live. Notable examples of this were seen in the "black death" in 1348, and in the numerous epidemics of cholera, which is so rare among the Jews that the very fact of its occurrence has been doubted.

In Great Britain there are 700,000 criminals, 22,000 juvenile thieves. There are 100,000 fallen women and 500,000 drunkards. The annual cost of liquors is \$750,000,000. Suicides last year numbered 2,297, and 2,157 were found dead. Ten thousand children died from violence or neglect. Over 100,000 people are absolutely homeless, and 100,000 are out of work. The workhouses shelter 190,000 and 3,000,000 people outside are so wretchedly poor that they are hardly civilized.

The mental disposition, and even the physical strength, is believed by many to be indicated by the hair. Black, curly, and stiff hair are said to indicate a melancholy temperament; fair hair a sanguine or phlegmatic temperament; and red hair either a very cunning or a very good character. Hence, it is said, we meet in prisoners with many red-haired women and black haired men; rarely with fair-haired criminals. Yellow or red hair is rarely found among maniacs. Very red hair sometimes

indicates a scrofulous disposition. All this is, of course, subject to so many exceptions that it is scarcely to be relied upon.

Death superstitions are rife in the West Indies. To the people there everything out of the ordinary is a "sign." In Cuba a person with a sore or wound of any kind will not look upon a dead person, fearing that the spot will become incurable. The rum used in washing a dead body is, however, regarded as a sure cure for all eye troubles. If the light from a candle or lamp falls on the face of the dead that death will shortly come to him or her who was carrying the light. Rain during a burial is considered an excellent "sign" throughout the islands. It one measures his own height with a rod which has been used in measuring a corpse for the coffin he himself will die within the year. A stroke with the hand of a corpse is believed by the West Indian to be a sure cure for all pains and swellings.

PROGRESS PICKINGS.

Friend—What became of that young man you were engaged to last summer? Miss Catchem (innocently)—Which one?

"Well, congratulate me, old fellow, I am a father." "Good! Boy or girl?" "By Jove! So excited I forgot to ask."

Kitty Winslow—They say you can tell a girl's character by the way she holds her hands. Tom DeWitt—Hm; I can tell more about it by the way I hold her hands.

First cockroach—"I wish I knew what to do this afternoon." Second cockroach—"Come around to my five o'clock insect powder."—Judge.

Merchant—"What kind of cider is that?" Farmer—"Tramp cider." "Merchant—"What do you call it that for?" Farmer—"It never works."

New Boarder—"Landlady, do you call these buns spinsters?" Landlady—"No. Why?" New Boarder—"Nothing; only they seem to be so very old made."

Gay bachelor—"Do you think there is anything in the theory that married men live longer than unmarried ones?" Henpecked friend (wearily)—"Oh, I don't know—seems longer."—Life.

"I believe that boy is training himself to be a policeman," said the woman who keeps the apple stand. "What makes you think so?" asked her friend. "Because he hooks an apple ever time he passes." "Some, fin awful's happened, mamma." "Well what is it, sweetheart?" "My d-doll—baby got away from me and bwoked a plate out in the panty."

"I think it would not be a bad idea if part of your paper were devoted to the fair sex." "Why, great snakes, madam?" responded the editor of the Plunkville Bugle, "the whole staff is afflicted that way."

The Humane Girl.—George—"Either you must marry me or put me out of my misery." Ethel—"Must I choose?" George—"You must." Ethel (with a sigh)—"Well, where is the ax?"—New York Herald.

Conductor—"We have missed the connection and you will have to wait at this station six hours." Old lady (who is a little nervous on the railroad)—"Well, I'm safe for six hours anyway."—New York Weekly.

Another burglar, who must have been a stranger in these diggings, broke into our room last night, but all we got out of him was seventy-five cents. Some of these burglars ain't worth robbing!—Billville Banner.

"When he saw the enemy coming he turned and ran. I call that cowardice." "Not at all. He remembered that the earth is round, and he intended to run around and attack the enemy from the rear."—Harper's Bazar.

Our New Cashier.—Cashier—"I'm sorry, sir, but you will have to be identified before I can pay this check." Patron—"But it is drawn to bearer." Cashier—"I know that, sir; but how do I know that you are he?"—Harper's Bazar.

"Well, John," said his employer; "how do you feel after your vacation?" "Like a new man, sir." "Well, it's a good thing, John. I've been thinking I'd try a new man at your work; but perhaps you'd do."—Puck.

"It is singular that Johnson should marry such a useless woman as he has got. They say she can't as much as sew a button on his coat. Where did he become acquainted with her?" "He was introduced to her by his sister, who got acquainted with her at the sewing circle."

Struggling Minister—"There was a stranger in church today." Wife—"What did he look like?" "I did not see him." "Then how did you know there was a stranger among the congregation?" "I found a gold dollar in the contribution box."

"Your husband is always finding fault with your cooking, your household management, your dresses, and, in fact, everything. I wonder you can live with him." "It's only habit; he doesn't mean it. It's the fault of his business, not of his heart." "The fault of his business! What does he do?" "He is a newspaper critic."

Mrs. McBride—George, dear, when we were married, only a year ago, you said I should help you carry your burdens. McBride—Yes, love. Mrs. McBride—Then why didn't you let me help you yesterday? McBride—I don't understand you, love. Mrs. McBride—Why, papa says he saw you with a heavy load on, and you never let me help you with it.

"John," said a loving wife, "I wish you would sing two or three lines of a song for me." "What on earth do you want me to do that for?" "There is something I want you to bring home and I've forgotten what it is, but I think I'll remember it if you sing." The good-natured husband complied, and the charming wife said: "I remember now. It's a file I want."—New York Press.

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

When Edison, the inventor of the telephone, first entered Boston, he wore a pair of yellow linen breeches in the depth of winter.

Edison is at work on a phonograph for the use of blind children that shall do away with the raised letter books hitherto used in their instruction.

Bret Harte is in London and will probably never return to America. His hair is snowy white, but he still retains all his old fire. The author is only 53.

Emperor William is fond of shooting, but because of his withered arm he is not an accurate marksman. It is with the greatest difficulty that he can shoulder his rifle.

Mr. Parnell was a handsome man, with a fine figure, which seemed to take pains to conceal in ill-fitting clothes. Occasionally he appeared in a coat that showed the marks of the tailor's skill, but as a rule he was poorly and even shabbily dressed.

The Czar of Russia and the Siamese King are among the monarchs who are alleged to ride bicycles. The Empress of Austria has a ladies' safety which she rides with almost as much skill as she does a horse, and the Princess of Wales moves about on a tricycle.

Emperor Wilhelm was very anxious to know, while visiting a certain corps, whether the officers had any nicknames for him. After being pressed, one of the young men modestly replied that because of the emperor's great enthusiasm about naval matters they usually alluded to him as "Gondola Willie."

Patti, in her Welsh castle, still keeps alive the almost obsolete custom of ringing a curfew bell. When the diva is ready to retire for the night she presses an electric button, and a gong rings through the castle, the signal, lights out, for the entire household. This is the curfew very much "up to date."

A Quakeress, Betsey Ross, is said to have made the first flag of stars and stripes used in the United States army. She did the work in a little brick house still standing on Arch street, Philadelphia, and now there is talk of buying it and moving it, as well as William Penn's house, to Chicago for the World's Fair.

Mrs. Evans, the new Lady Mayoresse, as her official designation goes, of London, was at one time a chambermaid in a country hotel in a small Kentish town, where her future husband, then a London alderman, used to spend his winters. Her married life has been most happy, and she is now a woman of grace, dignity and intelligence.

Wm. J. Florence, the actor, left, it is believed, a comfortable fortune to his widow. He was earning a salary of \$1,500 weekly with Jefferson. The family home in Park avenue is free from all incumbrances. He had an insurance of about \$15,000 on his life. The profits from the "Mighty Dollar" alone were supposed to be \$500,000.

The juicy Concord grape takes its name from the town of Emerson and Thoreau where it was originally cultivated and where Ephraim Bull, the man who first grew it for the table, is still living, a veteran of eighty-five years. Mr. Bull found the grape growing wild near Concord, in 1843, and after a series of experiments in improving and domesticating it, he succeeded in bringing to market the perfected grape as it is known to-day.

Mr. Gladstone's father lived in great state at Fasque, never driving out except in a carriage with four horses and outriders. Sir Thomas, the elder brother of Mr. Gladstone, who succeeded him, was a tory of the most partizan type, and his gigantic son, the present Baronet, keeps up his position on the same lines. Of course the conservatives never lose an opportunity of maliciously commenting on the fact that the wealth of the Gladstone family has been derived partly from the slave trade and partly from the production of whisky.

Prof. F. Nicholls Crouch, the composer of the music for "Kathleen Mavourneen," was born in London on July 31, 1808. He now lives in Baltimore and with the sole exception of being slightly deaf, he bears no impress of old age. Until a few years ago his hair and thick, long moustache were jet black. A physical peculiarity is an ear with immense lower lobe clinging close to the side of the head. At the time he composed "Kathleen Mavourneen" (1835) he was a recluse in his chambers in Great Titchfield street. A lamentable marriage had terminated in disgrace and separation.

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