

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

Some 6,000 lighthouses are marked on the world's chart for seamen.

It is supposed that there are at least 17,000,000 comets in the solar system.

Recent experiments show that California redwood is the most nearly fireproof of all building woods known.

There are 500,000 Mohammedans in Austria, and their women will receive only women physicians.

It is estimated that there are now about 150,000 Mormons in the United States, but many are only nominally so.

The name of December comes from *Decem*, ten, according to the position of the month in the old Roman calendar.

France is the greatest consumer of wheat in the world. It raises more wheat than any other country outside of America.

To produce a great photographic chart of the heavens, about 22,000 photographs would be necessary, each covering a space of four degrees.

The cultivation of the grape in France gives employment to no fewer than 23,000,000 people, scattered over 76 departments.

In Japan the leaves and flowers of the chrysanthemum are boiled and eaten with soy. The roots are also boiled and eaten with soy and sugar.

Every person under twenty-one years of age needs nine hours' rest out of the twenty-four. So says Dr. Cold, an eminent German physician.

The pace is a measure taken from the space between the two feet of a man in walking, usually reckoned at 2½ feet, but the geometrical pace is 5 feet.

Taking different nationalities, a medical writer says that the average brain-weight of the Scotch is 50 oz., English 48 oz., German 48 3-10, and French 48 7-10.

The currency of England was silver monometallic until the reign of Edward III., when gold was made a legal tender at a ratio fixed from time to time by the state.

The London mother places a book under the head of the new-born infant, that it may be quick at reading, and puts money into its first bath to guarantee its future wealth.

The Turkish mother loads her child with amulets as soon as it is born, and a small bit of mud, well steeped in hot water, prepared by previous charms, is stuck on its forehead.

The lowest body of water on the globe is the Caspian Sea. The level has been gradually lowering for centuries, and now it is eighty-five feet below the level of its neighbor the Black Sea.

The largest animal known to exist in the world at the present time is the roquial, which averages 100 feet in length; the smallest is the monad, which is only 1-12 100 of an inch in length.

A philologist statistician calculates that in the year 2000 there will be 1,700,000,000 people who speak English, and that the other European languages will be spoken by only 500,000,000 people.

The most extensive salt mine in the world is in Wieliczka, near Cracow, Austria-Hungary. For six hundred years it has been constantly worked, and from it 55,000 tons of salt are annually taken.

The first striking clock was imported into Europe by the Persians about the year A. D. 800. It was brought as a present to Charlemagne from Abdella, King of Persia, by two monks of Jerusalem.

Hogs are largely used to hunt for truffles in France. As soon as the animal takes the roots of the fungus in his mouth he is dealt a sharp blow across the nose and drops the truffle, when it is bagged by the hunter.

The night-flowering cactus usually opens their blossoms at seven or eight in the evening, are full-blown by eleven, and by three or four in the morning they fade. Sometimes from six to ten flowers open on the same plant in one night.

The first record we have of coal is about three hundred years before the Christian era. Coal was used as fuel in this country as early as 852, and in 1234 the first charter to dig for it was granted by Henry III. to the inhabitants of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The Cherokee form of marriage is, perhaps, the simplest and most expressive of any. The man and woman merely join hands over a running stream, emblematic of the wish that their future lives, hopes, and aspirations should flow on in the same channel.

A horse will travel 400 yards in 4½ minutes at a walk, 400 yards in 2 minutes at a trot, and 400 yards in 1 minute at a gallop. The usual work of a horse is taken at 22,500 lb. raised 1 foot per minute for 8 hours per day. A horse will carry 250 lb. 25 miles per day of 8 hours.

It has been computed that in a single cubic foot of the ether which fills all space, there are locked up 10,000 foot-tons of energy which has hitherto escaped notice. To unlock this boundless store, and subdue it to the service of man, is a task that awaits the electrician of the future.

The first coining of money is attributed to Pheidon, King of Argos, in 895 B. C. Coined money was first used in this country twenty-five years before the Christian era, but gold was not coined here till the eleventh century, and money was not given the round form to which we are accustomed until the lapse of another hundred years or so.

The length of a mile is not the same in every country. The French kilometre is about equal to five-eighths of our English mile. A Spanish and Polish mile is about 3½ English miles. A Swedish, Danish, and Hungarian mile is from 5 to 6 English. A Russian mile or verst is about 3¼ of an English mile. The French metre is equal to 109 yards.

"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

"Do you believe in fate, Pat?" "Sure and what would we stand without 'em?"

He's sulen, keeps from men apart;
His manner is forbidding ever;
Some think he needs a change of heart;
He really needs a change of liver.

An Emerald Islander was asked what his garment was made of. "Made ov?" said Paddy, "sure it's mostly made ov holes."

Little girl—"I wonder what's th' reason all our school teachers go an' get married?" Little boy—"I guess it's 'cause they like to boss."—Good News.

"What is pa swearing so ensergetically about?" "He is cross because his article on 'The Evils of Profanity' was crowded out."

Small Boy—"Papa, what makes you so bald?" Paps—"Oh, that's because my mother used to pat me so much on the head for being a good boy."

Young Lady—"That parrot you sold me last week doesn't talk at all. Dealer—"Yes'm; you said you wanted one that wouldn't be a nuisance to the neighbors."

Maud—"Can we play at keeping shops, mamma?" Mamma (who has a headache)—"Certainly; but you must be very quiet." Maud—"Well, we'll pretend we don't advertise."

Mrs. Hickey—"How is your son getting along in college?" Mrs. Dickey—"He is getting ahead rapidly." (And there was more truth than she dreamed of in her statement.)—Puck.

Mrs. Fiverooms Flatts (to grocer's boy)—"How is it the elevator won't come up?" Your bread must be fearfully heavy! Grocer's Boy—"Taint the bread that's on it, ma'am; it's the bill for what you owe."

An Irishman jumped into the water to save a man from drowning. On receiving sixpence from him as a reward, looking first at the sixpence, then at the rescued man, he said, "I'm overpaid for the job."

"It is an odd thing. Jones is such a modest man that I never saw him look in the glass; and yet he wears the loudest kind of neckties." "He doesn't dare to look in the glass, my boy. His wife buys his neckties."

"Poor old Lushforth fell down and broke the trestle of his nose." "Don't you mean the bridge?" "You might call it a bridge, but as no water passes under it I thought the other word better."—Indianapolis Journal.

"As for me, I hope to be cremated." I made that remark, observes Mark Twain, to my pastor once, who said, with what he seemed to think was an impressive manner—"I wouldn't worry about that if I had your chances."

Mr. Watts—"If that isn't just like a woman. Buttoning her shoe with a hair-pin." Mrs. Watts—"I don't care. Didn't I hear you telling Mr. Potts about having to put on your hat with a shoe horn?"—Indianapolis Journal.

Uncle Eben wrote to the college professor—"Have not heard from my boy for some time. Hope he is not sick. If he has been, I hope to hear that he is improving." The professor to Uncle Eben—"Boy not sick, and not improving."

Young Nevergo—"I beg pardon, Miss Polly, for leaving so early, for, weally, I feel so much at home heah, always." Miss Polly—"No apologies are necessary; I'm sure I always wish you to be at home when you are here."—Pittsburg Bulletin.

"Won't you please speak a little more plainly?" asked the man at the end of the wire, for the fourth time. "If I only spoke as plainly as I feel like doing, I'm afraid I'd be cut off," shouted the man at the other end.—Indianapolis Journal.

Very Bad Form—Jack Dresser—"There was an unusual bustle on Washington street this afternoon." Mrs. Dresser—"Unusual? Well, I should hope so. Didn't the poor thing know that they aren't worn any more?"—Boston Post.

First Citizen—"I'll bet \$5 the editor won't jug of whiskey at the raffle last night." Second Citizen—"What makes you think so?" First Citizen—"Why, don't you see that he says here: 'No paper next week.'—Atlanta Constitution.

St. Peter (to musician just arrived from Boston)—Come right in. You came at the nick of time, for they are just about to sing "Comrades." Musician (taken aback but equal to the occasion)—Er—excuse me, but I merely called to ask you to have the kindness to direct me to the other place.

Lady of the house—"Why don't you go to work? Don't you know that a rolling stone gathers no moss?" Browning the Bom (from Boston)—"Madam, not to evade your question at all, but merely to obtain information, may I ask of what practical utility moss is to a man in my condition?"—Truth.

"There," he said fondly, "just to show you how much I thought of you I took your picture with my new instantaneous camera. Here it is." "Do you think it looks like me?" she inquired, almost tearfully. "Why—er—yes, of course." "Then all is over. I cannot be yours. It must be my money and not myself that you seek."

Henry (seated in the sitting-room at the old homestead Christmas morning)—"Well, that is what I call genuine Christmas cheer, Uncle Eben." Uncle Eben—"Ain't it, though? The boys got it into the house last night 'bout my knowin' it, too." Henry—"Got what into the house?" Uncle Eben—"That cheer your sittin' on."

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Daniel Webster was able to repeat the whole constitution of the United States word for word, including punctuation stops.

Baron Arthur Rothschild, a nephew of the head of the great financial house, is serving his twelve months in the French army as a private soldier.

"Bismarck is what in Germany they call a 'chain smoker,' that is he smokes from morning till night without a break, lighting one cigar with the end of the other.

W. J. Florence was near-sighted and could never recognize any of his friends in the seats of a theatre from his place on the stage. He thought he could play better for that reason.

Queen Victoria was one of the exhibitors at a recent horse fair in England, and the reports show that she had to be content with a second prize, the first having been awarded to one of her subjects.

An incident in the life of Cyrus Field which created no end of discussion and aroused many bitter passions was his erection of a statue to the memory of the spy Andre, who was hanged during the revolutionary war.

London journals assert that a check for £10,000, recently received by the treasurer of the Gladstone Liberals from a local soap firm, was paid for a few words from the Grand Old Man indorsing the firm's soap for advertising purposes.

Archibald Forbes, the war correspondent, has two elaborate equipments—one for hot, the other for cold regions—and passports for every country in the globe, and he holds himself at the command of his editor in chief at all hours.

Jenny Lind Goldschmidt's memory will be kept alive among other ways by a musical scholarship, to establish which a large number of eminent artists have agreed to take part in a concert which will be given in London early next spring.

The Prince of Wales may have some things to learn, but he knows the enterprise of a modern newspaper reporter. At a reception at Marlborough House, his royal highness was informed that there were some gentlemen of the press outside. "Show them in," was the quick response, "for if they don't come in at the door they will come in at the elevator."

The emperor Francis Joseph sent a truly imperial silver wedding present to the czar. It consists of a dinner service for twenty-four persons, constructed of solid silver, superbly wrought and chased. There are nearly 300 pieces. The German emperor's gift was a silver sword, the hilt beautifully chased and profusely ornamented with turquoises, all picked stones.

Eugenie's small and elegant foot, once the admiration of the French court, has now, it is said, become swoolen out of shape by gout and rheumatism. The foot, in the days of its fame, was so Cinderella-like in its fineness that its discarded shoes could be worn only by children, for there was no woman in all Eugenie's train whose foot was small enough to fit them.

Russell Sage has the reputation of being a most abstemious man. A writer once said of him, in reference to this trait, which is coming to be distinctive of the great millionaires of America: "He has smoked only once in his life; a pint of sherry or whisky in his office last him from one to three months; a spoonful every other day, or once a week, in a wingglass of water, is all that he permits himself to indulge in."

King Oscar of Sweden is reputed to be the most accomplished royal personage in Europe. He is a playwright as well as a poet, and in addition to a profound knowledge of astronomy, he is well versed in general science. Like many other European sovereigns, he has a pronounced taste for music, and is a very skillful performer on the organ. In physical stature, he is a giant, surpassing even the czar in height.

The Shah of Persia is described by the opposition in his country as nearly played out. He drinks a bottle of brandy a day, and uses much hashish and opium. The child that he brought to Europe with him, the son of his cook, is now his sole and irresponsible grand vizier. There is no enterprise possible in Persia. The rich bury their wealth, and are seized and tortured for it. Revolt is beginning to show in various provinces. The masses of the people are affronted by the shah's surroundings, and beginning to look outside for redress.

Queen Victoria is supposed to have the largest collection extant of photographic portraits of notabilities of her time, from the portraits of kings, queens, emperors and empresses downward. They commence in the early dawn of the art of making sun pictures—in the days of those daguerreotypes on metallic surfaces which generally required you to hold them sideways before you could get a view of their rather pale and feeble traits. Hence they embrace the whole history of the art and are thoroughly representative of the progress of photography.

Nowhere else but in America would the romantic attachment between an heiress of the Vanderbilt millions and an unknown young hospital physician (which began in unromantic hospital wards) have been allowed to culminate in the subsequent marriage of Dr. William Seward Webb, of sterling old Connecticut stock, and Lelia Vanderbilt, the possessor of twelve million dollars in her own right. The marriage has been a happy one, and the doctor has renounced Æsculapius for the more lucrative profession of railroading, in which he has attained distinguished success.

Was not Voltaire publicly kissed in the stage box by the beautiful Duchess de Vilers in compliance with the demands of an enthusiastic pit to thus reward the author of "Merope?" The kiss has been the bribe of politics, for when Fox was contesting the hard won seat at Westminster the beautiful Duchess of Devonshire offered to kiss all who would vote for the great statesman. And the inspiration of patriotism is the kiss, for did not the fair Lady Gordon turn recruiting sergeant when the ranks of the Scottish regiments had been depleted by Salamanca, and tempted the gallant lads by placing the recruiting shilling between her lips for all who would take it with their own?

"August Flower"

For two years I suffered terribly with stomach trouble, and was for all that time under treatment by a physician. He finally, after trying everything, said stomach was about worn out, and that I would have to cease eating solid food for a time at least. I was so weak that I could not work. Finally on the recommendation of a friend who had used your preparations with beneficial results, I procured a bottle of August Flower, and commenced using it. It seemed to do me good at once. I gained in strength and flesh rapidly; my appetite became good, and I suffered no bad effects from what I ate. I feel now like a new man, and consider that August Flower has entirely cured me of Dyspepsia in its worst form. JAMES E. DEDERICK, Saugerties, New York.

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