

# THINGS WORTH KNOWING

Lucifer matches were first used in 1834. Ships were first copper-bottomed in 1783.

It takes nearly 2000 silkworms to make a pound of silk.

The Dark Ages continued from the sixth to the fourteenth century.

The first national copper coinage was issued from the mint in 1672.

As many as 4061 muscles have been counted in the body of a mo'h.

A widow in marrying again should not use the name or initials of her late husband.

In Japan the grip was most prevalent among the upper classes, while the cholera selected its victims from the poorer citizens.

The recent census of the German empire gives a population of 49,420,842, which is an increase of 2,665,188 since 1885.

While the Canadian dominion is controlled by the conservatives, every province except British Columbia will have a liberal government.

The Zulus are a tribe of warlike Kaffirs, who were formed into a powerful kingdom about the beginning of this century by a chief named Chaka.

The first consignment of samples of Chinese tobacco has been received by London brokers. China is desirous of competing in European markets.

Three hundred to 400 tons of coal per day is the amount used in some of the large passenger steamers on the Atlantic. This is about one ton per mile run.

California's gold produce has so overshadowed all other mineral productions in that state that it is rather surprising to learn that since 1873 the yield of quicksilver has reached a total value of \$70,500,000.

The heaviest damages ever paid by a railroad for injuries to a passenger were recovered by an Erie lawyer, who was injured while travelling on the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern road in 1883. They amounted to \$48,750.

Europe is much amused at the tour of a stilt walker, who is proceeding for a wager from Paris to Moscow. At one place a policeman tried to stop him, but he took three gigantic strides and was beyond the reach of this official. His stilts are a yard long.

An English dentist who tried hypnotism in his profession was very successful. He extracted a tooth for a lady while she was in a hypnotized condition, and when she was awakened she said she had not felt the removal of the tooth, and she has not experienced any discomfort since.

In the Stone Age man was yet ignorant of pottery, had no knowledge of agriculture, and no domestic animals except, perhaps, the dog. His weapons were the axe, the spear, and the javelin, and he was probably acquainted with the lance. In the Bronze Age, bronze was used for arms and cutting instruments of all kinds. In the Iron Age, iron superseded bronze for arms, axes, knives, etc.

The Egyptian mummifying process of preserving the bodies of the dead is cast in the shade by a French chemist, who has discovered a process of electroplating a corpse with gold, silver, nickel, bronze or copper, according to the size of the friends' pocketbook. It is horrible to contemplate, but the time has arrived when statues, as perfect as life and in any desired metallic casing, may be erected in mausoleums, armor halls or libraries.

A very pretty idea is carried out in London which aims to bring about a love of plants and flowers among the poorer classes. A fund is raised out of which prizes are paid for the best display of window gardening or of potted plants, and the scheme has become so very popular that thousands of cottage homes are now beautified by floral effects, and it is no uncommon thing to see a window set out with plants growing in old tea-pots, cans or cigar boxes marked as a prize winner.

Dr. Charcot reports a girl of fifteen, "with blue eyes and long blonde hair," an inmate of a Paris hospital, who has "fine" spells, her eyes becoming periodically and suddenly "frightfully convulsed in the orbits," when she will assume a position on all fours, hop and skip around the room, imitate a cat in the "pht" and "meow" sounds, and wind up by fainting, rolling over on her back and assuming normal human conditions. He has dubbed her "femme-chat" or cat woman.

The Germans have sent to Germany a few African chiefs whom they wished to impress with their power. The most amusing delegation which has yet gone to Europe from Africa was that of King Mandara who lords it on the southern slope of Mount Kilima-Njaro. They saw nothing in Berlin that seemed to them half so grand as their own country, and they were constantly drawing comparisons between the young Emperor William and their sovereign which were not complimentary to the German ruler.

The telephone is put to a new use in a hotel at Tampa, Fla. Instead of an electric press button, every room will have a telephone connected with the office. Guests will be able not only to communicate with the office, but with their friends in other rooms at will. The great orchestra, which was one of the marvels of the Paris exposition, is to be placed in the music-room of the hotel. It has been arranged that any guest in his room can, by merely telephoning to the office, be connected with the orchestra and have the music transmitted to him in full volume.

It is said that ten pounds of tobacco contains as much poison as would kill any person.

The daisy gets its name from day's eye, because it unfolds its simple beauties at the "peep of day" and earlier than any other of Flora's tribe.

Glass windows, except in churches and gentlemen's houses, were rare before the time of Henry VIII.

It is calculated that 72,000 persons were hanged in England during the 38 years of the reign of Henry VIII.

The horseshoe is a favorite emblem for wedding presents, the shape of the table for a wedding breakfast and for floral emblems on that day.

At the present time fashion gives wide latitude for the exercise of individual taste and, as a consequence, jewelry is worn with more freedom by both sexes than before in years.

Birthday rings are beginning to be the rage among young misses all over the country. There is a pleasing sentiment about the idea that tickles the feminine fancy, and puts the manufacturer on his mettle.

"Abe" is a regular old word—"a word of honorable antiquity," says Dr. Murray. "Afore," like "abear," is good old English. Bunyan uses the expression "Had I known that afore" in the "Pilgrim's Progress."

Although whales grow to enormous size, sometimes eighty and even ninety feet long, the throat is so small that it cannot swallow a bite as large as a tea-biscuit. This applies to the common whale; the sperm whale has a mouth large enough to swallow a man.

The four-in-hand continues the fashionable and dressy scarf for young men. The only objection to it is that in the heavy materials in which it is made, it is not comfortable for warm weather, and it will not be long before the heavy four-in-hands are shed for something light, loose and care-less.

The one-hour verdict of a Maine court in 1869, believed to be the shortest sentence to imprisonment in a criminal case in the United States, was greatly underdone by an English judge who sentenced a woman to five minutes in jail for having married a man without obtaining a divorce from a former husband. This stands now as the shortest sentence on record.

The word "blatherskite" in its origin is Scotch, being composed of the Scotch blather-bletcher, equivalent to the German blabbern, to talk nonsense, and skate, a term of contempt. The original meaning was "one who talks nonsense in a blustering manner." From this comes the meaning, a good-for-nothing, a man who talks too much. The word is good English.

The orange crop in southern California in 1889 amounted to about 2,200 carloads, each car containing 300 boxes, which means that southern California sent east 500,000 boxes of oranges in that year. The oranges now being packed and shipped from that region will easily fill 3,000 cars, and it is at this rate that the culture is advancing annually in this section. The first oranges in southern California were planted by the old mission fathers, who undoubtedly brought the seed from Spain. In the past 10 years the consumption of oranges has grown 500 per cent in that state alone. Rival and new roads have opened up a market which it has never before known.

At Mount Eagle, about eight miles from Charlottesville, Albemarle county, Va., there is a large residence, on the windows of which from the outside can be seen the photograph of a man's head and shoulders, the head and shoulders of a woman and child, and in another pane of glass the distinct outlines of a cat. The theory is that the parties were looking through the windows at the river during a storm, and a flash of lightning photographed them indelibly on the glass, but it is not known who they were. The pictures cannot be seen from the inside, but that they can be plainly seen from the outside is vouched for by prominent citizens of Charlottesville.

The earliest coins for American use are said to have been made of brass on the Bermuda islands about 1612. Captain John Smith appointed Daniel Tucker as governor of Bermuda, and in his history states that this governor enforced labor, and that the colonists had "besides meat, drink and clothes a certain kind of brass money, with a hogge on one side, in memory of the abundance of hogges was found at their first landing." Previous to this time Sir Thomas Gates and a party of 150 had been wrecked on the islands, and for nine months they subsisted chiefly on the flesh of wild hogs. The gratitude of these people knew no bounds, and they stamped the image of their benefactor in brass and used it as money—the most endearing form it could possibly assume.

The story of Psyche, who by the vengeance of Venus was transformed from a white into a black, was substantiated on a fashionable lady of Tiflis. The lady, a splendid blonde, went to a mineral bath by the advice of her physician. No sooner was she in the water than her face, arms, and breast became as black as coal. The old woman who served in the bath screamed with fright, and the lady herself fainted when she saw in the mirror what had become of her white complexion. The change was due to a simple chemical action. The lady had forgotten to wash off the paint she had used, which contained some solution of lead. The mineral bath she took contained sulphur and natron. The action of the latter upon the lead produced the black color. The lady will not be seen in society for the next two months.

Of the old people in the United Kingdom above the age of 60, rich and poor alike, one in seven is at the present moment in receipt of parish relief.

Out of the 2,700,000 residents in Paris, it is calculated that 1 in 18, or 150,000, live on charity with a tendency toward crime. In London the proportion is 1 in 30.

The historical gray coat of Napoleon I., which was stolen from a museum, was found recently by the police in the Quarter du Temple in Paris. An old clothes dealer had given the thief 70 cents for it.

Cannon were used in a musical performance at the Crystal Palace, London, on one occasion, with a good effect. Handel is said to have exclaimed during the performance of one of his choruses—"Oh that I now had a cannon!"

The first or preliminary official returns of the American census of 1890 give 1,513,501 as the population of the city of New York, being an increase of a little more than 25 per cent. within 10 years. The population in 1880 was 1,206,299.

The Turkish sultan's kitchen costs the empire \$200,000 annually. The building extends 150 feet on every side. The dishes are sealed in the kitchen by no less a person than Osman Pasha, the hero of Plevna, and are unsealed in the sultan's presence.

Greece was subject to the Turks from 1540 till 1822, when the Greeks rose in arms and proclaimed their independence. After a five years' struggle they succeeded in securing it, and it was guaranteed by the treaty of London, to which Great Britain, Russia, and France were parties, in 1827.

The word "Mafia" is made up of an acrostic, each letter of which is the initial of a sentence which was used first at the time of the Sicilian Vespers or the revolt of Palermo in the year 1282. These words are "Morte Alla Francia Italia Ahela," and the translation is "Death to the French," or "Death to France Italy desires."

Vegetation in the Alps recedes downward from year to year. Formerly Alpine roses grew at an altitude of 7,600 feet. Now they are seldom found higher than 6,500 feet, and are at that height stunted. Beeches have gone down 1,200 feet. Various berries, which once flourished 7,500 feet above sea level, do not grow in higher altitudes now than 5,800 feet.

New York, according to the best judges, now has a Hebrew population of from 225,000 to 250,000. It is the centre of Judaism in the world. It contains more of the Israelites than all Palestine. It will take the lead in all matters pertaining to world politics in which Jews are interested.

In 1889 there were 2643 miles of line open and working in Ireland. The passengers carried numbered 20,293,000, and the receipts from this class of business and from the carriage of mails reached \$1,592,000. Goods traffic yielded \$1,369,000, making a total of \$2,961,000, or \$1,120 per mile. This is \$40 per mile more than in the previous year.

The distance from the farthest point of polar discovery to the pole itself is 6 deg. 46 min., or, in round numbers, 460 miles. But this polar radius, though only 460 miles in extent, is covered by ice gorges and precipices of incredible difficulty; and frost is so severe that no instrument of human invention can measure its intensity, and it blisters the skin like extreme heat.

Beds are quite an innovation in Russia, and many well-to-do houses are still unprovided with them. Peasants sleep on the tops of their ovens; middle-class people and servants roll themselves up in sheepskins and lie down near stoves; soldiers rest upon wooded cots without bedding; and it is only within the last few years that students in schools have been allowed beds.

The 17th of March, 432, is said to be the day on which the patron saint of Ireland died, though it is not definitely known. It is known, however, that he died at Saul, near Downpatrick, where his relics were preserved down to the period of the Reformation. For some reason the reformers left St. Patrick's name out of the calendar, but an order of knighthood was established by King George III. in his honor, and there appears but little likelihood of the day being forgotten by the saint's adopted countrymen.

On a dry day rub with a brush, or with the hand, a thin piece of paper; it will become electrified in a short time and adhere to your hand, your face or your coat as if it had glue on it, and you will not be able to get rid of it. Electricity, in the same manner, a thick piece of paper—a postal card, for example—and you will see that, as with sealing wax, glass, sulphur or resin, this card can attract light bodies—small pieces of cork, etc. Balance a cane on the back of a chair and wagger any one in the audience that you will make it fall without touching it, blowing on it or moving the chair. All you need to do, is to dry the card well before the fire, rub it vigorously with your sleeve and put it close to one end of the cane, which will follow it as iron follows a magnet, until, having lost its equilibrium, the cane will fall to the floor.

Everybody knows what "foolscap" paper is, but everybody does not know how it came to bear that name. In order to increase his revenue Charles I. granted certain privileges, amounting to monopolies, and among these was the manufacture of paper, the exclusive right of which was sold to certain parties, who grew rich and enriched the government at the expense of those who were obliged to use paper. At that time all English paper bore the royal arms in water marks. The parliament under Cromwell made sport of this law in every possible manner, and among other indignities to the memory of Charles, it was ordered that the royal arms be removed from the paper, and that the fool's cap and bells should be used as a substitute. When the rump parliament was prorogued these were also removed; but paper of the size of the parliamentary journals, which is usually about 17 by 14 inches, still bears the name of "foolscap."

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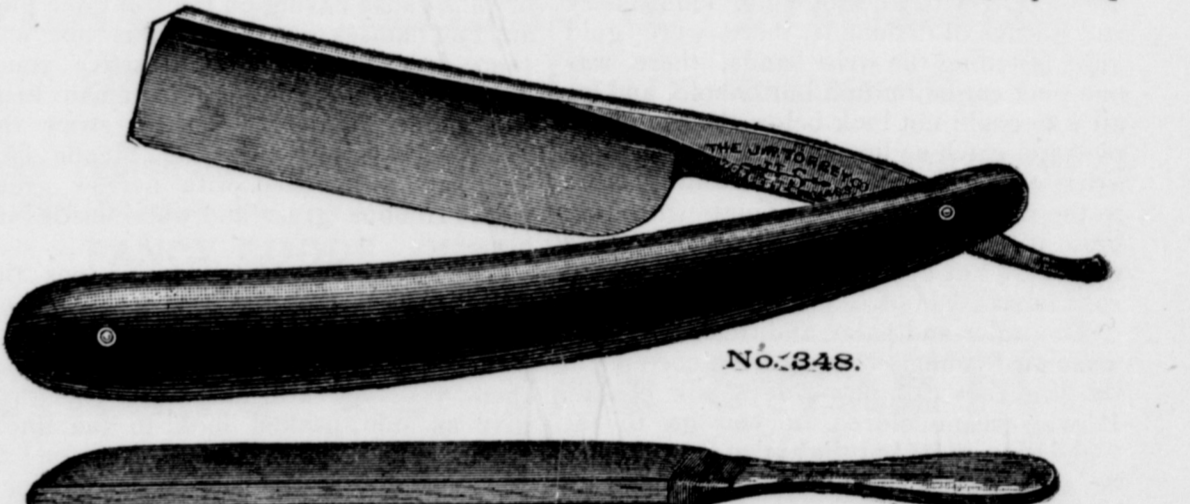
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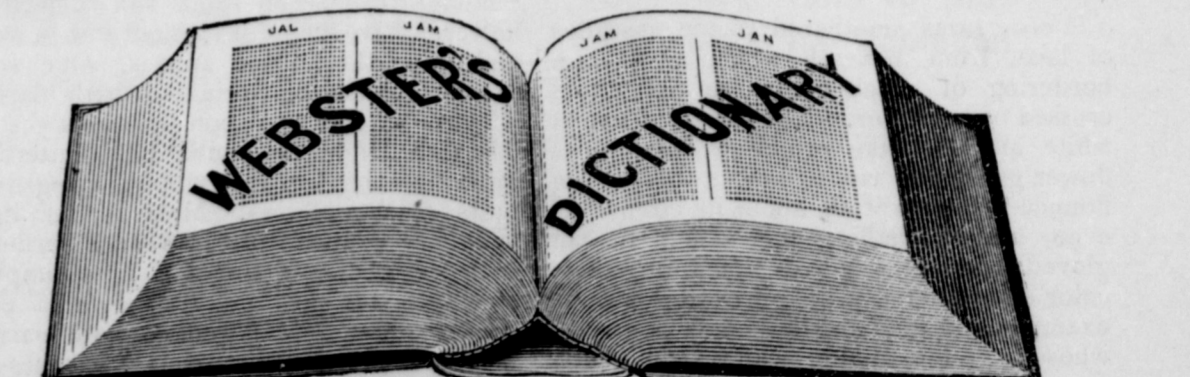
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