

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

The Romans used oyster shell as physic. White is the color of grief in China, Japan, and Siam.

A crest is a figure on a wreath, and a device is an emblematic representation.

The Kimberley diamond mines find work for 1,500 white men and 1200 natives.

Plants grow faster between four and six a. m. than at any other time during the day.

In Damascus there are 150,000 Christians, 130,000 Mahometans, and 5,000 Jews.

The first public use of music by every people has been in religious rites and ceremonies.

One of the smallest armies in Europe is that of the Prince of Monaco. It numbers about 120 men.

A rapid penman draws his pen through 16½ feet every minute. In forty minutes his pen travels a furlong.

The brain of the negro, though essentially similar to that of the white man, is not so large, averaging about five ounces less than that of the white man.

Smeaton ascertained by experiment that in a canal, four miles in length, the water was kept up four feet higher at one end than at the other, merely by the action of the wind along the canal.

The number of murders and homicides reported in the United States for the year 1890 was 4290. The palm for being the most murderous civilized nation has been lost to Italy and won by the States.

Between 1841 and 1859 steam were gradually substituted for sailing vessels in the British navy; and, since 1860, armoured ships, armed with guns of enormous calibre, have been substituted for timber vessels.

Three tons of steam coal represent a man's labor for a period of twenty years, and one square mile of a seam of coal, having a depth of four feet only, represents as much work as 1,000,000 men can perform in twenty years.

Few people know the original significance of the description "spinster." Formerly women were prohibited from marrying till they had spun a regular set of bed furniture, and till their marriages were consequently called spinsters (or spinners).

Somebody who has time on his hands has been figuring the whole thing out and finds that it costs the people of the United States \$250,000,000 a year to be born, \$300,000,000 to be married, \$75,000,000 to be buried, and \$900,000,000 to get drunk.

The average rate of speed of a man walking is, per second, 4 feet; of a good horse in harness, 12; of a reindeer in a sledge on the ice, 26; of an English race-horse, 43; of a hare, 83; of a good sailing ship, 14; of the wind, 82; of sound, 1038; of a twenty-four pounder cannon-ball (old style), 1300.

Of the entire human race 500,000,000 are well clothed, that is they wear garments of some kind; 250,000,000 habitually go naked, and 700,000,000 only cover parts of the body; 500,000,000 live in houses, 700,000,000 in huts and caves, and 250,000,000 virtually have no shelter.

Below is a list of the names by which the fairies have been known in the various countries: Fairies, elves, elle-folks, fays, urchins, oopies, ell-maids, ell-women, dwarfs, trolls, horns, nisses, kobolds, duendes, brownies, knucks, stromkaris, fates, wights, undines, nixies, salamanders, goblins, hobgoblins, poukes, banshees, kelpies, pixies, peris, djinns, genii and gnomes.

Buddhism was founded by Sakyamuni in the ninth century before Christ. It eschews all speculation about God and the universe, sets itself solely to the work of salvation, the end of which is the merging of the individual in the unity of being, and the "way" to which is the mortification of all private passion and desire. Bud dha, the enlightened, was the name Sakyamuni assumed on his conversion.

Certain numbers have always been held to be sacred, the number 7 especially so. In the belief of some of the early Christians 7 was made lucky, because a human being shed his teeth at 7, becomes a youth at twice 7, a man at thrice 7, and reaches his grand climacteric at nine times 7. 10 is also a sacred number, sanctified, it is said, in the human form by the ten fingers and toes, which, some people assert, are to be discerned in all large animals, and may even be traced in the hoof of a horse, five in each hoof.

Unlike fog, haze generally occurs during an unusually dry state of the lower stratum of air. In considering its cause it has been suggested that the small quantity of non-transparent matter required to produce the dimming effect should always be borne in mind. If the eye can observe the change that comes over a drop of water when the fifty-millionth of a gramme of fuchsin is introduced, possibly a weight of water or dust not much greater would suffice for visibility in a column of air 1,000 feet long. The air is at all times charged with dust particles to a degree difficult to realize. The purest air tested by Mr. Atkins when making his measurements on the top of Ben Nevis contained about 34,000 dust particles to each cubic inch, which would give 35,232,000,000 to a horizontal column of 1,000 feet. This being the case, it is manifest that a condensation upon a small proportion of these or a momentary adhesion by electrical attraction would suffice to produce the optical effect called haze or haziness.

The Roman censors frequently imposed fines on unmarried men, and men of full age were obliged to marry.

The Babylonians reckoned 365 days to a year, and had records of solar and lunar eclipses for thousands of years.

The Spartan women, at certain games, laid hold of old bachelors, dragged them around their altars, and inflicted on them various marks of infamy and disgrace.

The London docks are of immense size, covering no less than 120 acres—fifty of which are under cover, thirty-four are water, and the balance vaults.

The organization of a national naval force in England is assigned to Alfred the Great; but it was not till the time of Henry VIII. that a regular shape was given to the royal navy as a standing force.

Prose fiction written for entertainment is of considerable antiquity. Among the Greeks we find mention of a collection of stories known as the Milesian Tales, before which a sort of historical romance, the Cyropædia, had been produced by Xenophon (445-359 B. C.).

Cabalism is of the greatest antiquity, and

HOME LIFE OF THE PARSIS.

They Are Shy in Regard to Family and Domestic Matters.

It is frequently observed that none of the languages of the Orient have a word answering to the sweet occidental monosyllable "home." However this may be, the home in much of its truest and best sense does exist in some parts of the Orient in this day. The luxurious habits of the ancient Persians have left their impress to some extent upon their descendants in Western India, yet the loyal husband, the affectionate and devoted wife, and the respectful, obedient children are often found among them. In many of their dwellings much refined taste is manifested in the furnishings and decorations, woman is to a degree accorded her place as companion and helpmeet to her husband, and the true home atmosphere prevails.

There is, however, with the Parsi, as with all the better classes in the east, a certain shy manner of concealment with reference to family and domestic life, to intrude upon which would be rudeness. It would seem that the Aryan citizen of the Orient everywhere, the more he comes in contact with the European and the more he learns of domestic life in western lands, the more he exhibits a certain diffidence of manner toward his kinspeople from the west when the subject of the home life is touched upon.

In the larger cities of India the educated native gentlemen of all communities come much into contact with English society and see not a little of English home life, and it is no doubt through this influence that the Indian home is gradually being remodeled. The English lady in her Indian home is a subject of curious interest to the intelligent native. Hundreds of these have been quick to catch from observation and from reading the idea of deference paid to

FOREIGN BANK NOTES.

The Size, Color and Shape of the Money of Other Lands.

The bank of England notes is about five by eight inches in dimensions, and is printed in black ink on Irish linen water-lined paper, plain white, and with ragged edges.

The German currency is rather artistic. The bills are printed in green and black. They run in denominations from five to one thousand marks. The latter bills are printed on silk fiber paper.

Italian notes are of all sizes, shapes and colors. The smaller bills—five and ten lire notes—are printed on white paper in pink, blue and carmine inks, and ornamented with a finely engraved vignette of King Humbert.

The notes of the Banque de France are made of white, water-lined paper, printed in blue and black, with numerous mythological and allegorical pictures, and running in denominations from the twenty-franc note to the one thousand franc.

South American currency, in most countries, is about the size and general appearance of American bills, except that cinnamon brown and slate blue are the prevailing colors, and the Spanish and Portuguese are the prevailing language engraved on the face.

The Chinese paper currency is in red, white and yellow paper, with gilt lettering and gorgeous little hand-drawn devices. The bills, to the ordinary financier, might pass for washing bills, but they are worth good money in the flowery kingdom.

The one hundred ruble note of Russia is barred from top to bottom with all the colors of the rainbow, blended as when shown through a prism. In the centre, in bold relief, stands a large, finely executed vignette of the Empress Catherine I. This is in black. The other engraving is not all



IT MAY BE FOR YEARS.

the Pythagoreans went so far as to specify the particular character and sex of numbers. Thus 1 was male, as being the parent of all; 2 was female, as, in conjunction with 1, the two great properties of numbers, unity and multiplicity, are produced; but 3 was the first perfect number, because 3 multiplied by 3 makes more than 3 added to 3, which is not the case with 2, for 2 x 2 = 4, and 2 added to 2 = 4.

Electricity is applied to street cars by the trolley system in this way: The current of electricity is led from the generating machine at the station to the car through a wire placed above the ground. The elements of the system consist of a generating station, line, car, motor and return circuit. At the generating station an engine and boiler furnish power to drive a large dynamo. The current generated is conducted by a wire to a line which is strung on posts, and runs above and parallel with the track. The car to obtain the current makes continual contact with this overhead line by means of a trolley, this current passing down by wires to a motor which is connected with the axles of the car. After passing through this motor, the current passes into the wheels of the car, and thence into the track, and as the latter is connected near the generating station with the other pole of the dynamo, a complete circuit is thus formed. In addition to the track connection as a return for the current, the earth is used as much as it is employed in telegraphy, the track being connected at intervals with large plates buried in the ground. The circuit is further aided by connecting the rails of the track with copper wires to keep up the continuous electric current.

women in England and America, and consider it an honor to be allowed to converse with the lady of the house when invited to attend social gatherings among their English friends; yet few of these accept the entire invitation and take their wives with them. At such gatherings in Bombay the Parsis are the most numerous among the native guests, and generally minus the "better half," the Hindu husband still more seldom bringing his wife—the English ladies soon learning not to push the painful subject of the wife at home.

The Parsi lady does sometimes come out, however, and is made heartily welcome by her English sisters; she is very charming in her tasteful silken sari, and with her bright but gentle manner.

The Diffidence.

It's nigh on thirty years or more I let her have her parrots, An' we agreed that she an' I Could house with one another.

An' all these years of married bliss That I have shared with Hannah Have come to prove the diffidence Twixt man an' woman's manner.

Now Hannah has her garden beds, An' I let her have her parrots, While I weed out my turnip plot, An' hoe my early roses.

Then Hannah has her cats an' dogs, Her Poll an' pet canary, While I think more of useful beasts Ter keep the farm an' dairy.

We're both contented with our lot, I let her have her parrots, She never minds that I prefer The turnips, beets and carrots.

Fer in this life the pretty things Are put beside the common, An' that's the reason why a man Was made to love a woman.

—Detroit Free Press.

intricate or elaborate, but is well done in dark and light brown and black inks.

The Australian bill is printed on light-colored, thick paper, which shows none of the silk fibre marks or geometrical lines used in American currency as a protection against counterfeiting. Each one bears upon it a terrible warning to counterfeiters, threatening the penitentiary confinement "to any one who shall make, sell or have in possession any counterfeit or fac-simile of this bill."

The Face and Nose.

Faces with nose and chin both pointed are significant of cynical wit; the mouth is usually full of wit and satirical fancy, as we see in the profile of Voltaire. A great eye with a bony nose, with forked, descending wrinkles, shows great firmness and fire. The high, arched nose, "arched from the root to the point and rounding at the sides, shows great commercial capacity." The Rothschilds, Stephen Girard and John Jacob Astor have this formation of nose. Vanderbilt's "nose has the executive combined with the commercial." Noses of the greatest war generals are arched and commanding. Ill formed noses are seen sometimes in men of marked ability; but a broken, deformed or an ugly nose disfigures any face. "With a wise, courageous nose," says Lavater, "you will find a deep inspecting eye. The surrounding wrinkles and the eyebrows above are in favor of wisdom and worth. I have never yet seen a nose with a broad back, whether arched or rectilinear, that did not appertain to an extraordinary man. The straight formation of the nose betokens gravity; when in bent and crooked a noble manner of thinking."

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