

# THINGS WORTH KNOWING

A hole one one-thousandth of an inch in diameter can now be bored through a diamond, a sapphire or a ruby.

It is said that three-quarters of the entire manufacturing capital of the United States, or \$6,000,000,000, is directly or indirectly based upon patents.

In Ireland less than 800 persons own one-half the land; 492 members of the House of Lords own 14,250,012 acres, which rents for \$57,864,630.

The Carthaginians were the first to introduce a stamped leather currency. Leather coins with a silver nail driven through the centre were issued in France by King John the Good in 1306.

A writer in a French magazine states that, according to the statistics of 1881, there were then in France 6,000,000 persons connected with small industries, as against 3,280,000 connected with the great industries.

A tear is composed of water, minute proportions of salt, soda, phosphate of soda and mucus, and when seen under the microscope, after evaporation, looks like a very small fishbone, owing to the salines forming themselves into lengthened cross-lines.

Smokeless gunpowder has been made within the past year by Prof. Charles E. Munson, of the United States navy. The powder was tested September 8, 1891, with highly satisfactory results at the Washington naval ordnance proving grounds.

"The Arabian Nights" is not the work of any one person. Originally the tales were related by the story tellers of Arabia. They were afterwards committed to writing by one or more persons, and finally were collected in the form in which they are now found.

Royal Worcester is a porcelain manufactured in Worcester, Eng. The productions are famous for their beautiful translucency and the rich variety of their colored and gilded decorations. The works, which were formerly patronized by George III., have since been styled in his honor the royal porcelain works.

Weaving appears to have been practiced in China more than 1,000 years before it was known in Europe or Asia. The Egyptians ascribed the art to Isis, the Greeks to Minerva, and the Peruvians to the wife of Manco Capac. Our Saviour's vest or coat had not any seam, being woven from the top throughout in one whole piece.

If a Chinaman wants you to stay to dinner he gives no invitation; if he does not he requests you to remain. Servants receive no pay in China. To revenge himself on his enemy a Chinaman hangs himself on his neighbor's door. The law then executes the whole family. No bank failure has occurred in China for 900 years. For a failure the officers must lose their heads.

The total Indian population of the United States and territories, according to the census of 1890, is in the neighborhood of 240,000. The five great tribes and their numbers are as follows: Cherokees, 23,000; Choctaws, 18,000; Chickasaws, 6,000; Creeks, 14,000; Seminoles, 3,000. The other tribes are all comparatively small, except the various branches of the great Sioux nation, and are distributed on reservations in twenty-three different states and territories.

Perpetual motion is a movement that is not only self-active, but also self-creative. A machine which when set in motion would continue to move without the aid of external force and without the loss of momentum, until its parts were all worn out, might be said to have solved the problem of perpetual motion. The impossibility of constructing such a machine has so long been demonstrated that as early as the year 1775, the Parisian Academy of Sciences refused to receive any further schemes for perpetual motion.

Although there is no well-authenticated date when quon pitching was first brought into notice, still the oldest authorities do not attempt to deny that it is one of the most ancient pastimes in existence, and, contrary to the general belief, among the healthiest and most exciting. Whether the game found its origin in England or Scotland is another doubtful question, for during the last fifty years at least the game has steadily progressed in both countries, and the championship has alternated between representatives of each.

The annual mortality of the entire human race amounts, roughly speaking, according to a French medical journal, to 33,000,000 persons. This makes the average deaths per day over 91,000, being at the rate of 3,730 an hour, or 62 people every minute of the day and night the year round. A fourth of the race die before completing their eighth year, and one-half before the end of the seventeenth year; but the average duration of life is about thirty-eight years. Not more than one person in a hundred thousand lives to be a hundred.

It is said that the biggest umbrella in the world has been made for the use of a West African king. The umbrella, which can be closed in the usual manner, is twenty-one feet in diameter and is adorned with a polished mahogany staff of the same length. The canopy is made of Indian straw, and has a score of straw tassels and a border of crimson satin. On the top is a pine shaped straw ornament which terminates in a gilded cone. When in use the umbrella is fixed in the ground, and under its shelter the king is able to entertain thirty guests at dinner.

Child marriages in India is said to have had its origin at the time of the Mohammedan invasion. Conversion to Islam was the principal object of the Mussulman conquerors, and to facilitate this they be-

gan to marry by brutal force the girls of the Hindus. Cruel and oppressive as they were, they paid some respect, however, to the married Hindu women. To secure the safety of Hindu girls the institution of early marriages became indispensable. Gradually the practice developed into a superstition among the old men and women of Hindu families, who think their hearts will not be consumed on the funeral pyre if death were to intervene before they had witnessed the marriage of the grandchildren.

In Grafton's Manual of his Chronicles, 1565, the unlucky days, according to the opinions of the astronomers, are named as follows: January 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 15, 17 and 20 are unlucky; February 26, 27 and 28 unlucky; 8, 10 and 17 very unlucky; March 16, 17 and 20 very unlucky; April 7, 8, 10 and 20 very unlucky; May 3 and 6 unlucky; 7, 15 and 20 very unlucky; June 10 and 22 unlucky; 4 and 8 very unlucky; August 29 and 30 unlucky; 19 and 20 very unlucky; September 3, 4, 21 and 23 unlucky; 6 and 7 very unlucky; October 4, 16 and 24 unlucky; 6 very unlucky; November 5, 6, 29 and 30 unlucky; 15 and 20 very unlucky; December 15 and 22 unlucky; 6, 7 and 9 very unlucky.

## "PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

"You say your present boss treats you better than Mr. Smith did?" "Yes, sorr, and oftener."

Totling—"Here's a story called 'The Politician's Conscience!'" "Dinling—" "Short story, isn't it?"—Epoch.

A photographer in a western town surprised the people the other day with a new sign that read as follows: "Photographs taken while you wait."—Judge.

A Wicked Husband—Bond—"Why do you call your wife an old hen?" Gallon—"Because she always cackles when she lays for me."—New York Herald.

Bilkins—How do do? Had the gips yet? Wilkins—No, Bilkins—I'm sorry for you, old fellow. What on earth do you talk about when you meet people?

"So your son has been starting as an actor, Mr. Casheunter?" "Yes." "Do tell me all about him. Who is supporting him?" "I am."—Baltimore American.

Mrs. Grogan—An' is 't th' roomatics thot's ailin' Hogan? Mrs. Hogan—No. He spraint his back lasht avenin' tryin' t' throw me out th' windy; poor dear man!

Old Sport—"How fast do you think with continued training our best race horses will go?" Youngun—"Can't say, I'm sure, but never so fast as the money we bet on them."

"Gracious!" cried Uncle Jack, looking at Tommy's Noah's ark. "Noah has a large family." "They isn't all Noah's," answered Tommy. "Some of 'em is relatives visitin' 'em."

Janitor (to artist returning from a vacation)—"There have been so many callers since you left that I have been obliged to write the names from the slate to make room for others."—Fliegende Blätter.

"Look here, George, I am positively tired of your talking love to me this way every time you call." "Marry me, then, and I'll never speak another word of love to you as long as I live."—N. Y. Press.

The soft answer—She—"Promise me that if I die you will never marry again." He—"What? And let people think my dear little first wife was such a terror that I didn't dare to? Never."—Brooklyn Life.

"Now," said papa, as he put the stick aside, "I don't think you'll hit poor Tom Tudd again. Don't you feel sorry?" Johnny (tearfully)—"I can't say that I feel sorry, pa; but I feel hurt."—Philadelphia Times.

Man in wagon (who has bought an un-sound horse from the Quaker)—"No, I don't expect you to take him back. I only want you to lend me your hat and coat, so that I can sell him to somebody else."—Harper's Weekly.

A boy was asked which was the greater evil, hurting another's feelings or his finger. "The feelings," he said. "Right, my dear child," said the gratified questioner. "But why is it worse to hurt the feelings?" "Because you can't tie a rag around them."

Mr. Farmer—laying down his paper—"Well, well, old man Oatsy is dead at last and the paper says he was a centenarian. I didn't know that." Mrs. F. (surprised)—"No, nor I. I allus thought he was a methodist."—Detroit Free Press.

Little Dot—Ma, may I take the baby out in my doll's carriage? Mamma—Why? what for? Little Dot—Susie Stuckup has a new doll 'at shuts its eyes an' cries 'Wah, wah!' I'm doin' to betend the baby is a doll and let her hear him yell. Then I dess she'll stop puttin' on airs."

Lucy—I'll tell you news! Wetherby Witherspoon is secretly engaged to Nina Nimble! Mamma—How do you know? Lucy—Well, Nina told Florence, Florence told Margery, Margery told Sadie, Sadie told Georgie and Georgie told me. Now be sure and don't tell anybody. It's a dead secret!

"I suppose, Freddy, you love your sister very much," said the young gentleman who was paying his addresses to Freddy's sister. Freddy—I love her when there's fellows around. She's mighty good to me then, but she is cross as the mischief after they're gone. She's like a fiddle—she's no good without a bean.

Young author—"I am thinking of beginning a literary career, and I thought I would come and ask you if you would give some advice. Is there anything you would advise me to do that would help me to get a reputation?" Experienced literary man—"Yes; I should advise you to write under an assumed name."—Somerville Journal.

Kissing while we're coasting  
O'er the glittering ice,  
May be very naughty,  
But it's awful nice.  
In the dreamy summer  
Kissing in the dell,  
Probably is wicked,  
But I'll never tell.

## MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Prince George tickled all England when he once told his older brother to "go into the corner and sing God save your grandmother."

Neal Dow is 87 years old and vigorous enough to get in a rousing whack for prohibition now and then. He lives in the house he built in Portland, Me., sixty-five years ago.

The new Lord Mayor of London was born of obscure parents in a small hut which is now shown to travellers sojourning in the picturesque county of Glamorgan-shire, Wales.

An English magazine says that Bismarck cares little for concerts, but that he is fond of music at home, particularly of songs that are sad and in a minor key, and that his wife is an accomplished pianist.

In Vienna there is a club of rich men pledged to marry poor girls. If a member marries a rich girl he is fined \$2,000, the money being presented to some worthy impecunious couple engaged to be married.

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.

The speaker of the House of Commons is a very lucky person, who is enabled to draw a salary of \$25,000 a year while he exercises the functions of his office, and when he is retired is hoisted to the peerage and revels in a pension of \$20,000.

Margaret Deland, the author of "John Ward, Preacher," is a pretty woman of fine physique, a long way this side of 30, with a wonderful command of language in conversation and a manner indicative of the highest culture. She lives in Boston.

Dan Rice, who was a circus man before Barnum and the greatest clown in America, is engaged in the real estate business in New York, and has been making money at it. He is devoting his time outside of his real estate business to writing his memoirs.

Mrs. Gladstone is said to be hardly inferior to her husband in energy and industry. She has always been interested in charitable and church work and in politics, and has at the same time maintained close watch upon her household affairs and her children.

James Whitcomb Riley is called the most popular of the American poets by the leading magazines. All of his work has a refreshing and strengthening tone that makes it most pleasant reading, and tributes are being paid to it in many quarters.

Julia and Mary Howard, twin sisters, died at their home in Wilkesbarre, Pa., almost at the same time. Their deaths occurred on the same day of the year and at the same hour that they were born. They were sixty years of age. One was a victim of pneumonia and the other of dropsy. They had lived with each other always.

The families of the Queen of England, the King of Greece and the Czar of Russia have made arrangements to erect a handsome monument in Copenhagen in honor of the golden wedding of the king and queen of Denmark. The model of the monument will be presented to the royal pair next May, on the anniversary of their wedding.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox has more offers of literary work than she can do, and she is paid a higher price per newspaper column for her writings than any woman at present writing for the press. She is never paid less than \$25 per 1,000 words, and sometimes more. Her articles generally make about three thousand words, and she usually writes one or two a week.

A story which is told of the late Charles Jamrach, the naturalist and dealer in wild animals, who died in England last summer, is so well vouched for that it may be accepted as worthy of belief. Mr. Jamrach was married more than once, and the story is to the effect that when a friend consoled him on the loss of his second wife, the naturalist answered with a heavy sigh: "Yes, yes; as you say, she was a good wife. But," he added, as if he felt compelled to speak the whole truth, "she never took kindly to the animals. Why, even in the winter she wouldn't let the snakes sleep under the bed!"

Walt Whitman not long ago refused a friend a letter of introduction to Tennyson, doubtless thinking that old age and infirmity entitled a great man to some protection from the general public. And the same applicant tried in London with equally poor success for some time, but at last secured the coveted passport. The visitor, by his own account, was politely invited to withdraw at the end of a short conversation, and, when he asked if he might call again, he received this answer: "You would be welcome if you had anything particular to communicate to me, but otherwise it would, most likely, be unprofitable to both of us. Do you think you can find your way? Oblige me by ringing the bell."

The excellent English spoken by the new Khedive of Egypt is due to the fact that from his babyhood until his 12th year he was in the almost exclusive charge of English nurses and governesses. English women, indeed, appear to monopolize the early education of the Anointed of the Lord. Thus the Emperor of Germany, the children of the Emperor of Austria, little King Alfonso of Spain, the present King and Queen of Portugal, as well as the prince and princess of the reigning families of Sweden and Denmark have, every one of them, been at one time or other of their lives in the charge of English nurses. The little Queen of Holland has an English governess, while it was but a short time ago that the Czar Alexander III. and his four brothers bore with their own hands to the grave, on one of the coldest and bitterest days of a St. Petersburg winter, the coffin containing the remains of the old English nurse who had cared for them from their earliest infancy up to the age when they were furnished with military governors and independent households of their own. The coffin was covered with wreaths and clusters of hot-house blossoms, and the eyes of the Czar were full of tears as the frozen earth was thrown upon it and hid it from view. The sisterhood of English nurses and nursery governesses may therefore be said to have enjoyed a large and important share in shaping the course of the world's history.

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