

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

A factory in Germany makes the only absolutely pure sugar.

The fibrous covering of coconuts is used extensively in making ropes and mats.

Thirty-two thousand people in Thuringia, Saxony, are employed in making toys.

One hundred million Chinese are engaged in the culture, preparation, sale, carriage and exportation of tea.

As soon as a native Alaskan gets a \$5 gold piece or a \$10 bill he immediately trades it for silver, having no faith in gold or paper money.

The annual cost of maintaining the United States Army is about \$1,000 per man. The armies of Europe cost from about \$450 per man in England to \$125 per man in Russia.

In calming the ocean by means of oil, it has been found that petroleum and mineral oils in general are inadequate for the purpose, and that train oil is the most effective.

Aluminium is the best conductor of heat and electricity. In 1855 it cost \$90 a pound, in 1887 it was reduced to \$5 a pound and last year it was sold for ninety cents a pound.

The coal industry of the United States furnishes employment to 300,000 persons, to whom \$110,000,000 is paid annually in wages, and the capital invested is estimated at \$350,000,000.

Idaho has just about enough population and territory to give each person in the State a square mile of room. There are 84,290 square miles of land in the State and 84,385 people.

It has been estimated that the motive power furnished by steam engines of the world represents the strength of 1,000 millions of men—that is to say, twice as many as there are workmen.

A very extensive domestic industry in Russia consists of the manufacture of wooden spoons, which are made to the amount of 30,000,000 annually. They are nearly all made of birch.

Dried sulphate of copper in soap has valuable antiseptic and healing properties, almost entirely neutralizing by its use the ordinary dangers of physicians, nurses and any persons who are exposed to blood poison through cuts or scratches.

The largest amount of ground in the world devoted to the culture of gladioli is at Floral Park, N. Y., where J. L. Childs has fifty acres planted in that flower. At this place 150 acres are devoted to floral culture in the spring and summer.

The success of the French postal savings banks, which were established ten years ago, is shown by the report for 1890. At the close of that year the total deposits were over \$20,000,000, the number of depositors numbering over 2,000,000.

Knotted strings were employed by the ancient people of Peru for messages. To one thick cord they attached several thinner ones, and on the latter the knots were tied. A single knot means 10, a double knot means 100 and a triple knot 1,000. The little strings were of different colors, so as to represent various kinds of things.

The average daily output of glass bowls amounts to about 46,300 gross. Germany, Belgium and Austria-Hungary turn out about 37,000 gross, or about four-fifths of the product of the world. France so small an output as 100 gross. Berlin turns out about 6,000 gross daily. Of the other producing countries Sweden makes the highest with 1,516 gross daily.

In the United States the standard dollar of silver, weighing 412.5 grains, fineness 900, is legal tender to an unlimited extent, as also is the "daddy dollar," (416 grains), the coinage of which was discontinued in 1873. The half dollar, the quarter dollar, and the ten cent piece, are legal tender for \$10 or less; and the 5 cent piece of silver for \$5. This means that a creditor is obliged to accept silver to the amounts mentioned above in payment of debt, unless there be a contract to a contrary effect.

Cuttle bones for feeding to birds are mostly obtained from Chinese waters, although they are also collected floating in the Mediterranean; but no American species affords satisfactory bones. The blue-black ink which these animals vent when frightened is dried for commercial purposes into little cakes, which furnish the sepia of artists, usually much adulterated. The sepia also enters into the composition of India ink.

In Japan all drinks cost twenty-five cents, Mexican money. If you want beer, whisky, apollinaris sour, cocktail, toddy, a glass of champagne, or champagne cocktail, it is all the same. The champagne sold, which is the best, comes in small bottles. Of course the saloons lose money on champagne, but they make up for it on short drinks of whisky, brandy, etc. Japan beer is made by Germans and is as fine as any made in any place in the world.

The year is 365 days, five hours and forty-nine minutes long; eleven minutes are taken every year to make the year 365 1/4 days long, and every fourth year we have an extra day. This was Julius Caesar's arrangement. The eleven minutes come from the future, and are paid by omitting a leap year every 100 years. But if a leap year is omitted regularly every hundredth year, in the course of 400 years, it is found that the eleven minutes taken each year will not only have been paid back, but that a whole day will have been taken up. So Pope Gregory XIII., who improved Caesar's calendar in 1582, decreed that every centennial year divisible by four should be a leap year, after all. So we borrow eleven minutes each year more than paying our borrowings back by omitting three years in three centennial years, and

square matters by having a leap year in the fourth centennial year. Pope Gregory's arrangement is so exact, and the borrowing and paying back balance so nicely, that we borrow more than we pay back to the extent of only one day in 3,866 years.

"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

"Do ye kape butter here?" "Kape but ter ye greenhorn! I've kept butter this twenty years." "Well, kape it then. It's too oold for me."

I called upon my lady love
Against her stern behest,
So she just pressed the button—
The footman did the rest.

It's rumored as a strong proof of nature's disposition to assert itself that few girls learning the violin care to use the chin rest.—Philadelphia Times.

"Only love me a little bit, and I will be your faithful, willing slave." "But where is the fun in that? What a girl really enjoys is managing an unwilling slave."

Wooden—So Splendor is dead. I wonder if he left his wife anything? Bulfinch—Oh, yes, a great plenty. Wooden—Why, what? Bulfinch—Nine children.

Hunker—I wish I had courage enough to propose to Sue and end my misery. Spatts—That might not end it. Hunkey—How's that? Spatts—She might accept you.

"And now there's the devil to pay," exclaimed the newspaper manager late Saturday afternoon. And out of the cash-drawer he took \$2.50.—Somerville Journal.

Little Dot—"What you coughin' so much for all of a sudden?" Little Dick—"It's Saturday, an' if I cough a hull lot, mamma will think I've got a cold, an' she'll be 'raid to wash me."

After the play—He—"These dramatists have such a monotonous method of making their lovers propose." She—"Yes; but they do propose, and that is the main thing."—Boston Beacon.

"I think of you full often," wrote Miss Poesy to unregenerate Bungly the other day. "I wonder how she knew?" mused Bungly, just returned from a protracted spree.—Harvard Lampoon.

A police officer met an organ grinder on the street and said: "Have you a license to play? If not, you must accompany me." "With pleasure," answered the street musician. "What will you sing?"

Fangle—What sort of a dress was that Mrs. Snopser wore tonight? Mrs. Fangle—Demi-train. "That's precisely what Cumso said when he trod on it, but how did he know its name."—N. Y. Sun.

Doctor (to newly-made father)—Sir, you are to be congratulated. You are the father of twins. Happy Parent (doubtfully)—That's so. They might have been triplets.—Brooklyn Life.

He—What a modest, lovely creature she must be! See how she blushes on the slightest provocation. How fascinating! She—And yet some parents don't believe in our young women's institute of physical culture.

"I never withhold anything from my wife. I tell her every night all that I have done during the day." "And do you tell her every day what you have done during the night?" "Well, that's different."—N. Y. Sun.

Sweet girl (affectionately)—"Papa, you wouldn't like me to leave you, would you?" Papa (fondly)—"Indeed I would not, my darling." Sweet girl—"Well, then, I'll marry Mr. Poorchap. He's willing to live here."—New York Weekly.

"Paw," said little Tommy Figg, "I heard Mr. Watts say that great men's sons never did any good. I ain't a great man's son, am I?" Up to a late hour Mr. Figg's mind had not found a sufficiently diplomatic answer.—Indianapolis Journal.

"I have just learned the difference between a vase, a valis and a vauze." "How do you distinguish them?" "Anything that costs less than fifty cents is a vase; between fifty cents and \$7 is a vauze; over \$7 is a vase."—New York Herald.

"Oh, that must be too lovely for anything," said Hortensia, when she read an account of a strange robbery in the far west. "Lovely to be robbed?" asked Uncle John. "Lovely to be held up," Hortensia, with a roseate blush.—Boston Transcript.

"I wish I hadn't such a soft heart. Yesterday a fellow came in and begged for some money till I thought my heart would break. At last—" "Gave him a dollar, I suppose?" "I couldn't stand it; it was too much for me, so I sent for a policeman and had him pulled in."

First Lady—I saw your husband meet you on the street yesterday and I noticed that he removed his hat while speaking with you. I admire him for it. Very few men do that. Second Lady—I remember; I told him in the morning to have his hair cut, and he was showing me that he had obeyed.

Neighbor—"My! My! So the story is true, and your husband has really eloped with the servant girl?" Deserted wife (weeping)—"Yes; and she was the best girl I ever had, to—a perfectly lovely cook, and so quiet and respectful. Dear knows where I'll be able to get another."—New York Weekly.

Mistress—Ellen, when you have company in the kitchen, they must be more quiet. I heard hilarity here last night, and—Ellen—Sure, ma'am, O've not seen a Larrity since I left Tullamore. 'Twas Mister Hogan, the junk man; and the jokes av him wud make the pope himself die wid laughin'!

Guardian—How does my niece get on with her music—is she making any progress? Musicus—I regret to say that she is not. Her time and fingering are very defective, and all I can do to correct them makes no impression on her. She will run the scales to suit herself. Guardian—She inherited that from her father. He was twenty years in the coal business.

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

The Pope hopes to be buried in the Lateran by the side of Innocent III., whose tomb he has just finished there.

Capt. J. S. Simonds is the new chief of the London Fire Brigade, with a salary of \$4,000 and an official residence.

Bernhard Gillman, who is by some declared to be the best-known caricaturist in America, says he used to be bashful about meeting public men whom he had abused pictorially.

Victoria never was queen over India, the only title in that connection she has ever had is empress, which was conferred upon her during the premiership of Disraeli. She is Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India.

Ferdinand Ward, the "Young Napoleon of finance," who wrecked the firm of Grant & Ward, has nearly served out his term in Sing Sing prison. He has learned the printer's trade, and shortened his term by good behavior.

The youthful Emperor of Annam is only 12 years old and an inveterate cigarette smoker. He is a studious and serious little boy, with a lingering fondness for the childish toys that the French government sends him for amusement.

It is stated that Phil Armour, the provision packer of Chicago, carries on the heaviest individual business of any man in the world. During the past year his Chicago jobbing business amounted to \$60,000,000 and his elevator business to \$9,000,000, making a total of \$75,000,000.

Cardinal Manning is said to have been so careless in his dress as to be positively shabby in appearance at times. They even relate that on one occasion when he took a drunkard's bottle away on the street, the wretch gazed at him a moment and then ejaculated: "Take it, poor fellow, take it, ye need it more than I do."

Princess Dagmar of Denmark stood at the bedside of the dying Czarevitch of Russia, to whom she was shortly to have been married. The czarevitch placed her hand in that of his brother Alexander, who upon his death would become heir to the Russian throne, and betrothed them. Princess Dagmar is now Empress of Russia.

The Edinburgh ladies are raising money for a statue of Queen Mary of Scots. Some time ago the Duchess De Pomar endeavored to give a statue of Queen Mary to the municipality of Paris, but it was declined. It is suggested that the Edinburgh ladies obtain the statue from the duchess instead of having a new one, and possibly a less artistic one.

The Duchess Eugenie Litta Bolognini, of Milan, is winning the admiration and regard of all good women. Wearied of the monotony of fashionable life, she has sold her jewelry, laces and fans to secure \$600,000 with which to build a hospital for little children in her own city. It is her purpose also to take a subordinate position in the convalescent ward of the hospital.

In all the minor affairs of life the Duke of Clarence was kind-hearted and thoughtful of others. While at a reception, shortly before his death, he noticed that a young lady present in a professional capacity had not been taken out to supper with the other guests. He immediately dispatched his equerry to request her to join the rest of the company, and made it a point to see that she was well served.

Archibald Forbes, who is declared to have made \$100,000 by his lectures in Australia and New Zealand, says that "in America it takes you a year to get your name up, a year to make your pile and a year to fizzle out." Mr. Forbes' manners savor more of the camp than the court, and he hates show. He loves after a hard day's campaigning, to have a seat near a wood fire, a plate filled high with cabbage and beef and a quart mug of Bass to wash it down.

Pasteur has an eye of wonderful power. A visitor to his "menagerie," in Paris, where he has gathered various kinds of animals for experimental use, saw the chemist quell with a glance a fierce Spaniard mastiff which for his ferocity had been muzzled and chained. Pasteur had the brute brought before him, and looking the animal straight in the eye fearlessly took off his muzzle and removed his chain. The dog cowered at the glance, then tawnyed upon Pasteur, licked his hand and finally lay submissively before him.

Notwithstanding his great age and the visible signs of his approaching feebleness the pope passes a busy and hard-working day. He rises and sits until two o'clock, when he dines, he is constantly occupied, except for a brief promenade in the gardens of the Vatican at noon. After dinner he rests until four o'clock, when he begins a series of duties that keep him busy until nine at night, at which time he eats supper. The last meal of the day is a most substantial one, for it is composed of roast meats, eggs, and champagne cup with rum or maraschino in it.

A good story of Henry Ward Beecher is told by Whitelaw Reid. "When Mr. Beecher had avowed his faith in the advantages of having women speak in church, and at the next prayer meeting a proxy sister had taken up all the time to no purpose, and at the next had done the same, and at the next the same, and at the fourth had been, it possible, more tedious and oppressive than ever before, Mr. Beecher rose, with solemn air, as she took her seat, and observed in argumentative tone: 'Nevertheless, brethren and sisters, I believe in women speaking in prayer meeting.'"

Not all the pathos of the recent royal bereavement was concentrated on the person of the young Princess May. Her father must feel convinced at last that he was born to bad luck. The poor man has been entangled in a fringe of bankruptcy for twenty years and has been by parliamentary reformers whenever royal grants came up, and sarcastically alluded to in the flippant papers as the Duke of Tick. Finally, when the gates of fortune opened and a golden vista dazzled his vision, he could have had hardly time to borrow interest on his debts before they were shut again with a slam. To make matters worse, he was to receive the fat sinecure of Governor of Windsor Castle, but now so completely is his nose cut out of joint that the berth has been given to the Marquis of Lorne, who is not in the least need of it.

"German Syrup"

Here is an incident from the South—Mississippi, written in April, 1890, just after the Grippe had visited that country. "I am a farmer, one of those who have to rise early and work late. At the beginning of last Winter I was on a trip to the City of Vicksburg, Miss., where I got well drenched in a shower of rain. I went home and was soon after seized with a dry, hacking cough. This grew worse every day, until I had to seek relief. I consulted Dr. Dixon who has since died, and he told me to get a bottle of Boschee's German Syrup. Meantime my cough grew worse and worse and then the Grippe came along and I caught that also very severely. My condition then compelled me to do something. I got two bottles of German Syrup. I began using them, and before taking much of the second bottle, I was entirely clear of the Cough that had hung to me so long, the Grippe, and all its bad effects. I felt tip-top and have felt that way ever since." PETER J. BRIALS, Jr., Cayuga, Hines Co., Miss.

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