

# THINGS WORTH KNOWING

The Spanish colors are red and yellow.  
The national flower of Japan is the chrysanthemum.

Of the 193,318 recruits of the German army and navy in 1891, the percentage of illiteracy was .54 against 2.37 in 1875, 1.32 in 1882, and .71 in 1886.

The seven wonders of America are classed as follows: Niagara Falls, Yellowstone Park, Mammoth Cave, the Canyons and Garden of the Gods, Colorado; the giant trees, California; the natural bridge, Virginia; and the Yosemite Valley.

Today out of 100 pounds of flour millers have some seventy to seventy-five pounds of a whiteness and bread-making quality such as the old mills knew not, twenty pounds or so as good as the old mill's best, and only the remainder, five to ten pounds, of low grade.

There are between 40,000 and 50,000 rappers in Paris, divided into three classes, besides the *maître chiffonnier*, who is well to do. At the bottom comes the *ramasseur de nuit*. The total profit drawn by these people directly from the refuse of Paris averages almost \$15,000 a day.

Some experimental tests in regard to the strength of waterproof bricks have resulted in exhibiting a resistance to crushing on their part of from 5,000 up to 22,000 pounds per square inch, according to the quality or grade of the bricks—the average of ten varieties being 7,150 pounds per square inch.

Murder in the second degree is the international killing without deliberation or premeditation. Manslaughter in the first degree is the killing of a person unintentionally while the slayer is committing a misdemeanor, or while he is in the heat of passion, and uses an unusual or dangerous weapon.

Paris contains more trees than any city in the world, which is the reason why its streets and avenues are so beautiful. Statistics show that the parks and gardens in Paris number not less than 299,294 shrubs and 22,038 large trees. The number of trees which line the streets is considerably over 100,000.

In the reign of Henry VIII. the use of sable was forbidden to any below a viscount. A pelisse of sables, the property of the late Emperor Nicholas of Russia, displayed at the exposition of 1881, was valued at \$10,000. A coat lined with sables is often worth from \$1,500 to \$2,000. A set of sable tails can hardly be sold for less than \$250.

The average girth of trees in Britain is not more than twelve feet, nor the average height above sixty feet. But in New Zealand there are miles of kauris whose average height is not less than 100 feet and whose girth is not less than thirty feet and forty feet. The largest kauri yet discovered was seventy feet in girth, and the trunk was 200 feet high.

At the present time over 120,000,000 people use the English language, with 45,000,000 speaking French, 70,000,000 German and 75,000,000 Russian. That is to say, the English tongue has risen among the languages named from fifth place to first. It has also gained on the rest in relative amount of usage, expanding from about one-eighth of the total to one-third.

A married woman in business for herself can sign her name as she pleases. In endorsing a check it is customary to follow the form used to indicate the payee on the face thereof, and to write the endorsement about two inches from the top. If a woman dies without making a will her husband will be appointed administrator, and the bank will hold the money to his order on production of letters of administration.

The terms indicate the number of times a sheet of paper is folded. Thus a folio is a sheet folded once, giving four pages; a quarto is a sheet folded twice, and gives eight pages; an octavo is a sheet folded three times, giving sixteen pages, &c. The terms, of course, indicate also the number of pages printed at one time. As the sheet of paper may be of any size, the terms no longer indicate the size of the book with any exactness, so we have "imperial 8vos," "royal 8vos," "elephant folios," and other sizes.

Europe numbers at present forty sovereigns. Of these the longest on the throne is Queen Victoria, whose reign has lasted 54 years. After her come the Duke Ernest, of Saxe-Coburg, who has reigned 47 years; the Prince of Waldeck, 46 years, and the Emperor Francis Joseph, of Austria, 43 years. In a matter of age Pope Leo XIII. is the oldest, he being the only ruler who has passed 80. There are seven sovereigns who have passed 70, these being: Queen Victoria, Christian II., of Denmark; the Grand Duke Frederick William, of Mecklenburg-Strelitz; Grand Duke Adolph, of Luxembourg; Prince of Schaumburg-Lippe and Duke Ernest, of Saxe-Coburg. The five youngest sovereigns are: William II., of Germany, 32 years; Carlos I., of Portugal, 28 years; Alexander I., of Serbia, 15 years; Wilhelmina, of Holland, 11 years, and Alphonse XIII., of Spain, 5 years.

It is said that near-sightedness prevails to a larger extent among blondes than among brunettes. The discoverer refers to the number of spectacles worn in Germany as a proof of the correctness of his statement. His deduction, however, is wrong. In German schools the fact is well known that of the wearers of glasses the number of Jewish children, who are almost invariably brunettes, is much larger than that of blond German pupils. The same condition is observed here. Blindness reaches the highest point in civilized lands (216 persons to 100,000 of population) among the Spaniards, who are proverbially and conspicuously brunettes, while it is much smaller in Sweden (91 per 100,000, or less than half), the land

stalwart and rosy-cheeked blondes. The United States, has the lowest ratio of blind population in the world. Egypt has the highest!

## "PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

The patient hen does all the work.  
While the rooster does the cawing;  
Some women, too, toll like a Turk,  
And their men do all the blowing.

Jenkins—"Bagley gave me a cigar this morning." Jones—"Did you smoke it?" Jenkins—"No; I gave it to Bagley this afternoon."—Jester.

"How are Slipsion and his great scheme getting along?" "They're in perfect accord, I guess. Neither one appears to work."—Indianapolis Journal.

Rev. Poundtext—"Are you doing anything to mortify the flesh during Lent?" Sweet Parishioner—"Haven't you noticed that I am in church every Sunday."

Judge—"You are charged with habitual drunkenness. What have you to say to yourself?" Prisoner—"Nothing, your honor, nothing—only habitual thirst."—Drake's Magazine.

The rector's wife—"And how have you managed to get along this winter, Mrs. Murphy?" Mrs. Murphy—"Sure, ma'am, wid the help o' God and a few servant girls I've pulled t'rough."

Customer—"I don't want you to put any of those green bananas in the bag. I want ripe ones." Dealer (gruffly)—"These'll be ripe enough by the time you've paid for them."—The Jester.

"No, Mr. Gurley," replied Miss Dingbatts, in response to his impassioned appeal, "my heart is flint." "I'll steel it, then," replied Gurley, "and perhaps we can kindle a spark."—The Jester.

Miss Eater (after the theatre)—"What a splendid dinner table that was on the stage. It made me feel hungry myself. Mr. Munneyless—I felt that way, too; but I have since lost my appetite."

Patron—"What will you charge for a horse and sleigh for the evening? I am going up the road. Livery Man—"Twenty dollars. Patron—"Any rebate if I return the sleigh in good condition?"

Ethel—"Father is afraid he will not be able to get rid of this place if you come here so often. George—"What has my coming got to do with it? Ethel—"He thinks it may get to be known as a haunted house."

"Well, Auntie, and how did you like the play?" asked the Columbus friend of Aunt Sary. "Splendid! I was very much interested at the tragedian! Why, the expression on his face was perfectly amoniacal!"

No romance in her soul—"I lifted a mass of iron weighing 300 pound at the store today," boasted Sumway. "Did you?" replied his wife, admiringly. "Now see if you can lift a couple of hods of coal from the cellar."—Puck.

Frank—"D'you know, I heard the other day that the blocks from which they print those five-hundred-dollar bills in America take nearly a year to engrave." Ella—"Oh, really? I suppose that's why they're so expensive."—Judge.

Cock—"We are out of spice, ma'am. Shall I go out and get some?" Mrs. Rounder—"It is not necessary. (To her husband.) My dear, will you look through your pockets and give her what you have about you."—New York Sun.

"There is no music in you?" sneered the drum to the stick. "No? Well, I don't howl myself hoarse when I'm beaten?" was the tart response. And then the cymbals kissed each other so loudly that all discord was forgotten.—New York Herald.

Young Hopeful—"Father, did you understand trigonometry when you were a boy?" Man of affairs—"Trigonometry? Why, bless my son, there wasn't nobody in the whole country bandier with a gun than me!"—Harpers's Bazar.

Little Dot—"I made a doll's swing today and I asked Ethel May to lend me her doll to try it with, and she wouldn't do it. She's just the meanest, stingiest thing I ever saw. Little Dick—"Why didn't you use your own doll? Little Dot—"I was 'traid it might fall."

Briggs—"Is Jagway drinking just as hard as ever?" Griggs—"Worse. So much so that his people had to move into Hicks street. Briggs—"What was that for?" Griggs—"So that now, when he comes home late, he can tell everybody where he lives."

Mrs. Lordly Pompous—"I am going to the theatre, and will probably not be home until very late." New servant—"All right, mum, if I am not up when yez comes home, what's the matter with telling me in the morning all about the play?"—Texas Sittings.

Bloombumper—"Well, I suppose the sewing society went over a great lot of gossip this afternoon?" Mrs. Bloombumper—"No; we didn't talk a bit of gossip." Bloombumper—"How was that?" Mrs. Bloombumper—"Every member was present."—Judge.

"Well, I guess you will know me the next time you see me," said the man at whom Chollie had unconsciously stared for ten minutes. "I may know you, my good man, but I'm suah I shahn't recognize you, doncher know," was Chollie's crushing answer.—Indianapolis Journal.

One of the city's prominent life insurance agents has a bright boy. One day in Sunday school the little fellow's teacher was telling her class about Daniel in the lion's den. Tommy listened attentively and finally burst forth with: "Did Daniel's children get his life insurance when he was all eaten up?" This "broke up" the class.

Johnny (to his mother, who is putting a five dollar note in an envelope ready for mail)—"Oh, mamma, you don't mean to post that, do you? Mamma—"Why certainly, boy; what's to hinder? Johnny (entreating)—"Why you musn't, mamma, 'cause I saw a sign up on one of those wooden walls over there saying 'post no bills.'"

## MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

The English governess who has been selected to teach the King of Spain will have a salary of \$3,500, a residence in the palace and as many servants as she may desire.

Prince George of Wales' allowance has now been fixed by his father at \$75,000 a year, which is \$50,000 a year more than he received prior to the death of the Duke of Clarence. Prince George has already set up a household of his own.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have decided to erect a monument to the Duke of Clarence in the chancel of Sandringham church, and the queen intends to place a statue of her grandson in the Prince Consort's Mausoleum at Frogmore.

One of the most beautiful of Patti's possessions is her watch. Its size is not larger than a ten-cent piece. It is completely studded with diamonds, so that the case is one mass of brilliant, sparkling gems. Experts value it at not less than \$1,000. It is a foreign, open-faced, stem-wind watch.

Clara Louise Kellogg tells a story in which her mother, herself and the dowager Duchess of Somerset figure. The singer and her mother were dining with that august lady when the duchess calmly poured her tea into her saucer, sipped it with great enjoyment and remarked: "Now, ladies, do not think this rude, for I have just come from the queen, and I saw her do it. Let us emulate the queen." Whereupon they all drank their tea from their saucers.

The composer, Rossini, was one of the laziest of mortals. After he had produced his crowning triumph, "Guillaume Tell," composed at the age of 37, he passed 39 years in inactivity, amusing himself at Bologna by fishing and pig farming. He had so great an antipathy to exertion and was so enamored of "self-sufficing solitude," as Wordsworth calls it, that it is doubtful if he would go out of his way now, if he were alive, to hear the anthems of praise that are sung for him.

King Humbert's approaching visit to England is said to be due to the gratitude he feels when he recalls that Queen Victoria was the first of European sovereigns to recognize the young kingdom of Italy thirty or more years ago. He has, however, already visited the Emperors of Austria and Germany, his obligations to whom are of a more recent character. The Marquis di Rudini will probably not accompany his majesty, as there will be diplomatic matters to arrange; but Queen Margherita will go; and this will be her first extensive sea voyage. The whole journey will be made by water.

Every endeavor to economize is being made by the King and Queen of Portugal. The Palace of Necessidades, to which they are moving, is a very tumble-down place, and has lately been repainted in Venetian red to conceal the want of thorough repair. At Belem quite a stud was needed for the King and Court to drive to Lisbon and back. Queen Amelia preferred riding, and so required a park hack for herself, and another for the Comte de Sabrosa, her equerry. The Queen had also a phaeton and pair which she drove herself. As the Queen Dowager's civil list income was settled by a diplomatic arrangement with Italy it cannot be reduced. She has also the right to choose the palace in which she is to live, and has chosen the Ajuda which, being unfinished, has a "ramshackle" air. The Queen of Portugal looks happy in her photo with her infant sons around her, and has become a really beautiful woman.

The brain of Tourguenoff, the novelist, is said to have been the largest ever weighed, the indicator showing that its weight was exactly 2,012 grammes. The extraordinary size of this brain will be better understood when the reader is informed that the average human brain does not weigh above 1,390 grammes. In point of size the brain of Cuvier, the naturalist, comes next. It weighed 1,800 grammes. There are many cases in which an extraordinary intellect has accompanied heavy brain weight, but the records show that men whose mental abilities have never been questioned have had brains under the average in both size and weight. The cast of Raphael's skull shows that it was very small, much smaller than the average. Cardinal Mezzotani, who understood more languages than any other man who has ever lived, had a very small head. So, too, had Dickens, Lord Byron and Charles Lamb. From this it would seem that there is more in the quality than the quantity of the brain.

One day, during Cetewayo's visit to London, when he did not leave the house, his black majesty was neither sick nor sorry, but was merely engaged in occupation long ago ranked by Holy Writ among the impossibilities. Cetewayo cannot read, though he can see, and he accepted the picture posters on our walls as absolute gospel. The one which attracted him most represented a specimen of black ivory who had washed himself white with a certain soap. The Zulu monarch thereupon purchased half a ton or so of that commodity and proceeded to make himself "one of em" as he phrased it. All the day of his seclusion he spent in his tub, his chiefs diligently scrubbing and soaping him till they were exhausted with fatigue. Cetewayo's disgust when at dusk he saw he was raw with scrubbing but still black was intense. He flung the rest of the soap at his faithful servants, and, oiling his tender skin, vowed never to believe in a poster again.

Touching the Emperor William II.'s fondness for the indulgences of the dinner table, the emperor drinks no more wine than other men, but he can stand less stimulant than most men. The second glass of champagne makes his face flush, and if he drinks a third he gets into a pugnacious mood. His most incoherent speeches have been delivered after dinner, and, truth to say, he has said more wild things at table than newspapers have ever reported. At Berlin and again it has happened that Berlin newspapers, while putting one of His Majesty's after-dinner speeches into type, have received from the palace a "genuine text" differing sensibly from that which the reporters had taken down. The faithful Dr. Hinsdettzer and Count Douglas are the men who have made it their business to tone down the rashness of the Kaiser's words, but sometimes it happens that His Majesty, being in a truly imperial mood, will not allow any attenuation of his utterances. He repeats it of the next morning, but by that time the mischief has been done.

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