

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

The average marrying age of a Frenchman is 30 years.

To every 1,000 miles in London there are 1,123 females.

The population of the United States increases by 1,000,000 persons yearly.

All petitions to the British House of Commons must be in handwriting, and may not be printed.

In Australia no newspapers are published nor railroad trains run on the Sabbath. Telegraph offices are closed and all business is suspended.

The microscope shows 4,600 muscles in the body of the common caterpillar, and that the eyes of the dragon fly contains 28,000 polished lenses.

Hats for men were first invented at Paris by a Swiss in 1404. They were first manufactured at London by Spaniards in 1510.

The number of passengers carried on Egyptian railways in the year 1890 was 4,595,286, as against 4,378,453 in 1889 being an increase of 317,833.

Twenty-two acres of land are needed to sustain a man on fresh meat, while the same amount of land under wheat feeds 42 people, under oats 88 people, under potatoes, Indian corn and rice 176 people, and under the plantain or bread fruit tree over 6,000 people.

Twenty-four carat gold is all gold; 22-carat gold has 22 parts of gold, 1 of silver and 1 of copper; 18-carat gold has 18 parts of gold, and 3 each of silver and copper; 12-carat gold is half gold and has 3/4 parts of silver and 3/4 of copper. Its specific gravity is about 15; pure gold is 19.

A few years ago it was suspected that the latitude of places on the earth's surface changes. A number of astronomers agreed to make observations for two years, and the result has just been made public. Latitudes do change. Berlin, for example, was fifty feet nearer the north pole in September than it was in March.

The most ancient sacred fire now existing in India was consecrated twelve centuries ago in commemoration of the voyage made by the Parsees when they emigrated from Persia to India. The fire is fed five times over 24 hours with sandal wood and other fragrant materials combined with very dry fuel.

The standard coins on the Continent are: In France, the franc; in Spain, the peseta; in Italy, the lira; in Holland and Austria, the florin; in Germany, the mark; in Russia, the rouble. Belgium and Switzerland use the French name for the piece of 20 sous. Each of these pieces is like the American dollar, divided into 100 parts, called kopecks in Germany, kreutzer in kopeck in Austria, cent in Holland, and in Italy, France and Spain by the word meaning hundredth.

A curious and interesting calculation has been made on the dynamic power of coal. A single pound of good steam coal has within it dynamic power equivalent to the work of one man for one day. Three tons of the same coal represent a man's labor for the period of 20 years, and one square mile of a seam of coal, having a depth of four feet only, represents as much work as one million men can perform in 20 years.

The size of the biggest ball ever fired from a cannon was four feet in length and weighed 2,600 pounds. Such were the dimensions and weight of the enormous projectile fired from the largest cannon yet manufactured at Krupp's works at Essen for the fortifications of Constadt. It is made of the finest quality of cast-steel and weighs 270,000 pounds (about 135 tons). The caliber is 16 1/2 inches and the barrel 44 feet long, the core having been removed in one piece. The greatest diameter is six and one-half feet and range about twelve miles. It will fire two shots per minute, each estimated to cost \$300. At the trial the projectile was propelled by a charge of 700 pounds of powder and penetrated nineteen inches of armour, going 1,312 yards beyond the target.

The title "The" still borne by so many Irish gentlemen, is claimed to be the oldest one in Europe, meaning the chief man of the chief family of the name, although only a minority of the present chieftains are rich men. The title does not of necessity go by primogeniture, a younger brother being, on occasions of deaths in the family, sometimes elected. It is a great discourtesy to address an Irish chief as "Mr.," the mode of address being the seemingly abrupt surname, such as "Yes, O'Connor," "No, O'Donoghue," and so on. The signature is the same as a peer's, "O'Reilly," "MacDermott," &c. The description in lawyers' deeds is as thus: "Hugh MacDermott, of Fitzwilliam square, in the County of the City of Dublin, Esq., Q. C., commonly called The MacDermott, Prince of Coolavin, Chief of his Race." Marshal MacMahon is The MacMahon, and very proud of the fact is the old last Marshal of France.

Few persons have ever troubled themselves to think of the derivation of the word dollar. It is from the German thaler (valley) and came into use in this way some 300 years ago. There is a little silver mining city or district in northern Bohemia called Joachimsthal, or Joachim's Valley. The

reigning duke of the region authorized this city in the sixteenth century to coin a silver piece, which was called "Joachimsthaler." The word "Joachim" was soon dropped and the name "thaler" only retained. The piece went into general use in Germany and Denmark, where the orthography was changed to "daler," whence it came into English and was adopted by our forefathers with still further changes in the spelling. The Mexican dollars is generally called "plastre" in France, and the name is sometimes applied to our own dollar. The appellation is incorrect in other cases, for the word piastre or piastra has for the last fifty years has only been applied with correctness to a small silver coin used in Turkey or Egypt, which is worth from five to eight cents.

"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

"You have been losing flesh lately, haven't you?" "Yes, I've been shaving myself."—Exchange.

Citizen (to tramp)—"Say, do you want a job?" Tramp (haughtily)—"Do you know who I am, sir?"

Judge—"If I let you off this time will you promise not to come back again?" Prisoner—"Yes, sir. The fact is I didn't come voluntarily this time."—Boston Post.

"I would like to get a muff." "What for?" demanded the clerk. "To keep my hands warm, you simpering idiot!" exclaimed the venerable female.—Texas Sittings.

"Suppose the devil should rise before you, Littleton," said Cobely. "What would you say?" "I'd ask him if he'd laid in his winter coal?" said the coal merchant.—Epoch.

Mamma-in-law—"So, Harold, your papa said he hoped my trip would be of benefit to you?" Harold—"Yes, pa said he hoped if you went to California you'd go for good."—Boston Budget.

"You know that I love you," she said. "Then why not give me time to consider before I name the day?" "That's all right enough," he said, gloomily, "but I've lost three girls that way already."

Old gentleman (to little boy, who is playing soldier)—"Ab, my little man, you're a son of Mars, eh? Little boy (indignantly)—"Course I'm a son of Mars. Didn't suppose I was a son of auntie's, did yer?"

The Impossible—Jess—"Miss Sears has a good voice, but she is always attempting the impossible." Jess—"What did she sing last night?" Jess—"Make Me a Child Again Just for To-night."—New York Herald.

Wife—"Dear, what does this mean in the paper where it says the toast will be drunk standing?" Husband (experienced)—"That means, darling, that that particular toast comes early in the evening."—Columbus Post.

He (at 11 p.m.)—"There's one thing I'd do, Miss Smithington, if I were rich." She (wearily)—"What is that, Mr. Lingerly?" He—"I'd travel." She (sympathetically)—"I'm so sorry, Mr. Lingerly, that you are not rich."—Detroit Free Press.

He—"Do you think I—ah—shall have a good beard?" Barber (after a close inspection)—"I'm afraid not, sir." He—"Aw, weally. My fawther has aw very fine beard, you know." Barber—"Maybe you take after your mamma, sir."

He—"You can always tell when a woman has told all she knows about a piece of neighborhood gossip." She—"How?" He—"She concludes with: 'I should be glad to tell you all about it, but my lips are sealed.'"—New York Herald.

Mr. Billus—"Maria, I think you lavish altogether too much time and attention on that poodle." Mrs. Billus—"Poor little fellow! I feel so sorry for him, John! You know he hasn't any club where he can go and spend three or four hours every evening."—Chicago Tribune.

Sweet-tempered wife—Don't you know, Jim, it looks very bad for you to come home so late every night? Jim—Looks bad? How? S. T. W.—The neighbors will think you are dissipated. Jim—Why, that's the very reason I come home so late. So the neighbors won't see me.

Editor—"You say you wish this poem to appear in my paper anonymously?" Would-be-contributor—"Yes; I don't want any name to it." "Then I can't publish it." "Why not?" "Because I am conscientious about the matter. I don't want an unjust suspicion to fall upon some innocent person."

Miss Primrose—Do you know, my brother Ned told me the other day that Tom Allison said I was N. G. Miss Violet—Why, whatever did Tom Allison mean by saying such a thing as that! Miss Primrose—I'm sure I don't know. I've been trying to make out ever since what N. G. stands for, and all I can think of is "nice girl."

Mr. Jolliboy—My gracious! The old fashioned snow storm makes me feel young again. Little Johnnie should be over at the hill coasting instead of sitting in a stuffy school room such grand weather as this. I'll go up to the school and find him. Mrs. Jolliboy (quietly)—Perhaps, my dear, you might save some steps by looking for him on the first hill.

Miss Youngly—The men of the present day do not compare with those of ancient times. Nowadays, no young man would swim across the Hellespont to see the object of his affections as did Leander. Mr. Synical—You are quite right, but the reason is that there would be no possibility for it. Nowadays in a case of that kind the girl herself would swim across!

He had resented the affront with vigor and emphasis when the tailor presented his bill and insisted upon payment. "Bah," he said, scornfully, "bah, sir, it takes nine tailors to make a man." "I know it does," responded the tailor, pleasantly, "and now that that I've done my share, why in thunder don't you go around to the other eight?"—Detroit Free Press.

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Baron Hirsch gives away a million dollars a year, the Parisian papers say.

There is a woman in Oregon who has worked twenty years at stone cutting.

The young Empress of Germany is a champion knitter, and uses big wooden needles for most of the work she does.

"About the only time my tailor gives his customers regular fits," said Buttins, "is when they neglect to pay their bills."—Yonkers Statesman.

The King the Belgians always sleeps on a camp bed. He is an adversary of capital punishment, and no execution has taken place in Brussels during his reign.

Buffalo Bill's Indian warrior, "Charging Thunder," has an apt name. The redskin has been sentenced to a month's imprisonment at Glasgow for fracturing the interpreter's head with a club.

Spain's little king takes a daily drive in a carriage drawn by four mules, which are selected instead of horses because they are considered safer and never get impatient, no matter how long the royal lad keeps them waiting when he leaves the carriage in the Prado to play about.

Rider Haggard at one time wore a gold ring taken from the mummy of the Egyptian Queen Taia. In its place the finger now bears a signet-ring found with the coffin of Rameses the Great, the Pharaoh of the Oppression. Ditchingham Hall, his home in Norfolk, abounds in curious and sporting trophies.

It is apparently almost as difficult for a tradesman to gain entrance to Marlborough House, the London residence of the Prince of Wales, as it is to get within the lines of an armed camp. A narrow glass door in the right wing of the palace is reserved for such visitors, and only those having an appointment previously arranged for by the Prince's valets are admitted, while several soldiers and minor officers of the law are close about to prevent the admittance of undesirable persons. A "trade interview" with his Royal Highness is said to last about three minutes.

Justin McCarthy once said to a publisher: "I have come to see if you will take that story I offered the Galaxy?" "Yes," cordially responded Mr. Sheldon, "and sixty more like it." Time passed, and one day McCarthy walked into the Galaxy office with an imposing pile of manuscript under his arm. "What is that?" asked Mr. Sheldon. McCarthy laid the bundle of manuscript upon the publisher's desk and replied: "Here are sixty stories you ordered on the occasion of my last visit." He got a cheque covering the whole lot.

A curious story from Russia relates that the Grand Duke Sergius, Governor of Moscow, recently went about that city disguised as a peasant to find by personal observation whether there was any truth in the complaints of extortion made against the bakers. At one bake shop, where he insisted on buying three kopecks' worth of bread from a loaf valued at three kopecks and a half, a quarrel ensued, which resulted in the calling of the police, who ejected the pseudo-peasant without ceremony. When the Grand Duke's identity was disclosed three of the police officers concerned in the affair committed suicide.

Otto, King of Bavaria, is reported to show symptoms of breaking health. Were it true, this would be comfortable news for his attendants. He is a madman in whom the instincts of the wild beast predominate and the qualities of a human being are almost lacking. At times his behavior is that of a caged tiger. As he possesses enormous physical strength, and has, until lately at least, exhibited perfect physical strength, his attendants are exposed to great peril while his paroxysms last. The difficulties of their position are increased by the fact that they are compelled to show a certain degree of respect for their lawful king, even when in his ferocity he wants to kill them and smash the furniture.

A French journalist has recently given some curious information about the women who are tempted and who fall during their shopping expeditions. He says that in Paris no fewer than 4,000 women are caught every year stealing before the counter. The number of titled ladies seized with kleptomania while examining the fashions is almost incredible. Among the most recent culprits were a Russian princess, a French countess, an English duchess, and the daughter of a reigning sovereign. As a rule, these more distinguished offenders are let off on the payment of a round sum for the relief of the poor, and when the shoplifter is known to be rich the sum exacted rises to as much as 10,000 francs. The police authorities consent to this sort of condonation.

Cardinal Manning was married when quite a young man to one of the Miss Sargents, of Lavington, "the four celebrated sisters," who became respectively, Mrs. Samuel Wilberforce, Mrs. Manning, Mrs. George Ryder, and Mrs. Henry Wilberforce. They all inherited the consumptive taint which had proved fatal to their two brothers, and all died young. Manning accepted the family living of Lavington, one of the most beautiful places in the south of England, having speedily acquired so extraordinary a reputation as a preacher, writer, exemplary parish priest and learned divine, that at the age of 32 Bishop Otter appointed him Archdeacon of Chichester. The death of his wife, four years after their marriage, closed the most blissful period of his life, and this bereavement left a permanent impress on his character.

Gen. Gallifet, of whom the French expect rather more than of any other officer in case a war should soon involve their country, was originally a Bonapartist, but is now devoted to the republic. He was a cavalry officer in the Franco-Prussian war and led a charge against the enemy at Sedan that appalled the Germans. He was made a prisoner at that battle, but offered to exchange himself for a Prussian officer and join the French army as a private, not resuming his rank until the close of the war. Marshal MacMahon had told Gambetta that they should try to get Gallifet back on any terms, as his presence was indispensable to enable the French to organize the guerrilla warfare of the Franc-tireurs. But the Prussians were unwilling to give up the man of whose restless energy in the field they had seen so much. And thus Gallifet's services were lost to France for a time. His age is now 62.

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