

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

In Ireland a belt made of woman's hair is placed about a child to keep harm away.

Nearly 20,000 pounds of bread are daily eaten in the Sultan of Turkey's household.

The total forest area in the United States at the present time is estimated at 481,764,599 acres.

Only citizens who are able to read and write have the power to vote in Bolivia and several other South American republics.

In no country of the world, since the days of Abraham, have the people of the Jewish race amalgamated with the people of any other race.

The tea plant when raised from seed produces a small crop in three years, but they take six years to come to maturity. They live to the age of 40 or 50 years.

Melons were first called canteloupes from being cultivated at Cantelupo, a village near Rome, where they had been introduced from Armenia by missionaries.

People in Japan are called by the family name first, the individual, or what we should call christian, name next, and then the honorific—thus, "Smith Peter, Mr."

He estimates that the earth is about 92,043,074 miles distant from the sun, and that the parallax of the sun is 8-800 seconds, with an error of 3-100ths of a second at most.

There are records of elephants that have lived for 200 years, and age 150 years is not regarded as so very old for an elephant. It takes about a quarter of a century to get the elephant to full maturity.

A pig's tail is said to be unerringly indicate the condition of the animal. If it hang loose, it shows that the pig is not well, and that its food should be changed. If it be coiled tightly, the pig is healthy and happy.

It is not true that large heads always indicate intellect. Professor Virchow, the German scientist, points out that the Greeks, one of the most intellectual of nations, are also one of the smallest headed of races.

Under the Roman rule the Egyptians excelled in glass-making. Caesar Augustus having a great admiration for glass of Egypt, when he had subdued that country (26 B. C.) ordered that it should form part of the annual tribute to be paid to the victors.

A stout Arabian camel can travel, with a load of 800 pounds, at the rate of about three miles an hour. The swifter varieties, such as the light dromedary, are said to carry a single rider a space of from 70 to 100 miles in 24 hours, and that for several days in succession.

In Japan archers test their arrows by balancing them on the nails of the second and third fingers of the left hand and rapidly twirling them by the feathered end with the fingers of the right hand. If the arrow makes a whirling sound it is crooked and must be straightened.

If the number of persons daily entering the city of London were despatched from any given station by train, as many as 1977 trains, each conveying 600 persons, would be required for the purpose. If the trains were all joined together in a continuous line, they would extend 221 miles.

Blankets, it is said, were named after their first makers, three brothers of Bristol, England, named Edward, Edmund and Thomas Blanket, who established a large trade in this article of woolen goods, and were the earliest manufacturers of it in the middle of the fourteenth century.

The indebtedness of the United States is estimated at \$22 for each person, while the debt of Italy is \$147; of France not far from \$190; of Germany about \$47; of Austria \$100; of Great Britain \$78; while Canada owes \$57, Australia \$197 and Argentine Republic \$154 for each inhabitant.

The principal source of revenue in Korea is a land tax, as in China, paid in produce, and fixed annually according to the condition of crops. The grain (mostly rice) thus collected in government granaries in different provincial towns and at Seoul is used in the payment of salaries and other purposes.

Whereas some little time back it required four or five pounds of coal per indicated horse-power to propel a ship at a speed of 12 miles an hour, the most improved steamers can now steam at the rate of 20 miles per hour with a consumption of not more than a pound and a half of coal per indicated horse-power.

The tallow tree of China is so called from the fact that it produces a substance resembling tallow, and which is used for similar purposes. The fruit is enclosed within a pod. A white pulp is found within, and this substance the Chinese use in making candles, mixing a little oil with it to make it softer and more pliable.

Hypnotism, as practised for the amusement of the public, has been virtually extinguished by the Belgian government, as permission to perform now costs 20,000 francs. Doctors are at liberty to make any hypnotic experiments in the cause of science, but the Belgian government very rightly considers that the power is too dangerous a one to be practised without authority.

When a gun is fired absolutely in the vertical, the ball will fall a few inches to south and west from the gun, in northern mid-latitudes; due west at the equator, and north-west in southern mid-latitudes. This deviation of the return ball is caused by the angular displacement of the vertical or

radiant line from the earth's axis, at the point of discharge; the vertical line swinging on the earth's axis as a centre by virtue of the earth's revolution to a measurable amount during the upward and downward flight of the ball.

Dr. Jastrow records some experiments he has been making with various individuals in order to discover what words and ideas are the most common. He set 25 men and 25 women to write down as quickly as possible the first hundred words which came into their minds. Out of these 5000 words he finds only 2024 different, some of the words commonly being used many times in the 50 lists of words. He finds also that women are more inclined than men to use the same words as one another, and that their ideas, as we might, perhaps, naturally suppose, run greatly on articles of dress.

"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

Sunday School Teacher—Who loves everybody, Johnnie? Johnnie—My pa does, cos he is runnin' for office.

Maude—Congratulate me, Clara; I'm engaged. Clara—Well, you've been mighty quick about it. Here it is only the second week of leap year.

There are two kinds of dogs, the good kind which belongs to yourself and the worthless cur that is kept by your neighbor.—Boston Transcript.

Intruder—I would like to show you this "Ode to winter." Editor—I don't want to see it. I know always what's owed to winter. It's a plumber's bill.

"Well, doctor, what do you think of my mother-in-law?" "I can't give you much hope, because" "Never mind, doctor, you have already given me enough!"

"How do you get along with Miss Holdoff, Jack?" "I proposed to her the other night and she sat on me." "She did? By Jove, you must have been in clover."

The Skeptical Aunt—What does he do, Dolly, for a living? Dolly (greatly surprised)—Why, auntie, he does not have time to earn a living while we are engaged!

Shocked Lady—"Do you know what becomes of little boys who swear?" Little Boy—"Yes'm. When they gets big 'nough they kin earn two an' a half a day drivin' a team."—Good News.

Master—"Mary, I wish you would be more careful. I am very sorry to hear my wife has to scold you so often." Mary—"Oh, don't you mind me, sir. I don't take any notice of it."—Comic.

Hungry Guest—"How is this? I ordered a steak and a poached egg. I see the egg, but not the steak." Table attendant—"Dat's all right, sah. De steak am under de egg."—Texas Siftings.

"Do you feel the same for your husband as you did when he was courting you?" "Well, hardly the same. Then most of the time I was mad for him; now most of the time I am mad at him."

First Boy—What did yer mother do to yer fer gon' skatin' on thin ice an' gettin' in? Second Boy—She boxed me ears. "Did it hurt?" Nope. She was so mad she didn't wait fer me to git me ear muffs off."

She (at the ball)—I don't know that I have ever met you in the evening before, and I hardly knew you in a dress suit. Isn't the gentleman here who occupies the same apartments with you? He—No. He stayed home.

Mr. N. Peck—"I should think you would be ashamed to wear the hair of another woman on your head." Mrs. N. Peck—"Shame yourself, for you wear the skin of another cat on your feet."—Brooklyn Eagle.

"Ah!" said Chappie, jockingly, to Miss Keene, "this is leap year, don'tcherknow; do you intend to avail yourself of its privileges?" "I really cannot tell what I might do," she said with a smile, "if a man should come along."

"So they sent your poem back?" "Yes, but the editor gave me a very favorable criticism." "What did he say?" "He said he was glad to see that I had at last learned to write only on one side of the paper."—Washington Star.

Husband—"I don't see why you women always begin lifting your skirts before you get within ten feet of a mud puddle." Wife—"I don't see why you men never roll up your trousers until you get half way through a mud puddle."—Puck.

St. Peter—"Let me—see, miss, where are you from?" New Arrival—"I am from Boston." St. Peter (playfully)—"Ah, yes. I have heard of Boston." New Arrival—"Now, see here. If you say one word about beans, I won't go in."—New York Weekly.

Chicago Man—"I want to change my order for a linen duster, and order a fur-lined coat." Tailor—"Yes, sir. Nothing wrong, sir?" Chicago Man—"Oh, no. I have just moved into a more northern part of the city."—Clothier and Furnisher.

"But why are you so very anxious to see a whale, Mr. Trotter?" asked the captain, after the lady had asked for the twentieth time if one were in sight. "I want to see one blubber, captain. It must be very impressive to see such a large creature cry."—Harper's Bazar.

Lieutenant Buttons (just home from the ball)—I say I'm tired of this everlasting society foolishness. I'd like to get away where I could have a chance to smell powder. Colonel Straps—By Jove, youngster, I should say you had already. There's a dab of it on the end of your nose.

"Has my husband been here?" inquired a woman of the bartender. "He's a tall, red complexioned man and wears a slouch hat." "A man answering that description got a half pint bottle of whisky about ten minutes ago." "How big a bottle?" "Half a pint." "Some other man," said the woman.

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Baroness von Ebner-Eschenbach, one of the foremost of Austria's women novelists, is a practical watchmaker and often repairs the choice timepieces of her friends.

The bronze busts of the late ex-idol of France, Gen. Boulanger, are a drug on the market in Paris, and junk stores are declining to take them even at old metal prices.

Archibald Forbes declares that the late Count von Moltke was the mildest-mannered man of war whom he ever knew. His look was that of the scholar rather than the soldier.

Rubinstein lives in shabby furnished apartments in Dresden, but owns a magnificent residence, which is entirely given up to his wife and sons. He is nearly blind from cataract.

It is highly probable that Lord Wolseley will succeed Lord Stanley of Preston as Governor General of Canada. The date of Lord Stanley's return to England is to depend entirely upon the period of the general election.

Walt Whitman does not fear death. In the future state he believes that the humblest beggar will share the same joys with the world's mightiest potentates, and to all there will be given more gladness than the world can ever dream.

A neighbor one day saw Mr. Browning, the poet, alight from a hansom; the cabby looked at the fare in his open palm with an air of dissatisfaction, and, wheeling round, delivered himself of this parting shot: "You may be a d—d good poet, but you're a bad paymaster."

In 1867 the famous Indian scout and hunter, William F. Cody, entered into a contract with the Kansas Pacific railway, then building, at a monthly compensation of \$500, to deliver all the buffalo meat that would be required for food for the army of laborers employed, and in eighteen months he killed 4,280 buffaloes, earning the title of "Buffalo Bill," by which he is known in both hemispheres.

The Baroness von Zuyllan of Paris has the finest stables in the world for her magnificent horses. Even those of the great czar himself do not equal them in magnificence. On Sunday afternoons she takes her tea in the stables, where down the centre of the great building a thick pile carpet is placed leading up to the tea room. The horses come up to the table for sugar from their mistress like pet dogs. The buildings cover three acres of ground.

Col. Thomas W. Knox, the author of so many delightful stories for boys, has travelled many times all over the world, and seen life in all its varied phases, on the plains, in India, China and Japan, Russia, Siberia, Greece and Egypt. Indeed, it would be difficult to name a country in which Col. Knox has not been, and from these strange lands he has brought many odd and valuable pieces of bric-a-brac that decorate his apartments in the Lotus Club.

Mr. Gladstone has three writing-tables in his library: one for Mrs. Gladstone—he is a model husband—the second for his own correspondence and a third for literary work, a plan of which all literary toilers will heartily approve. The study is called the Temple of Peace; and, besides a collection of interesting books, the place and name of which are individually known to their owner, there is a motley collection of walking-sticks and miscellaneous presents from friends all over the world.

A poor washerwoman of New Orleans, Margaret Haughey, is honored by a statue erected by the ladies of the city, to the "orphans' friend," as she was called. By her industry and thrift she accumulated a fortune, the income of which while she lived and the principal after her death, were devoted to the various orphan asylums of New Orleans. The statue stands in Margaret Place, in front of an asylum that she loved to remember, and represents a plain, elderly woman seated in a chair, with one arm encircling the neck of a little child, who gazes up affectionately into her face.

Ex-president Cleveland was never overfond of reporters. But since the coming of his little daughter, Ruth, he has withdrawn himself entirely from the interviewing fraternity, and not a man on the New York press can obtain even a brief chat with him on any subject. He is the only great man in public life who has not some warm friends among the reporters of New York. For the past few months he evades them, and seems to be anxious to make a name for himself as the silent man. Letters and persuasive entreaties do not move him. He goes on in his own stolid way, paying no heed to their inquiries, seemingly only anxious to be let alone.

Of all kings, a Persian king is the vainest, of all "subjects," his are the most servile. He is told every day that the splendor of his throne equals that of the firmament, and petitioners for his favor preface their requests by praying that their own souls and the souls of mankind in general may be sacrificed in his behalf. He "sits for company" arrayed in a tunic of blue velvet, buttoned with pearls as large as pigeon's eggs, wearing on his right arm a diamond as valuable as the Kohinoor, on his shoulders diamond epaulettes, round his waist a belt of gems, and a dagger, worth a million and a half of dollars, in his girdle. Etiquette requires that he shall not seem to see his visitors until the moment comes for opening his oracular lips and saying the few words which a "son of the son of kings" may condescend to say to meaner sons of Adam.

Prince Bismarck recently expressed his feelings in the following way to a deputation from a Low German club: "I am old and 'dried up,' as the foresters say; and I feel that I have far less strength to devote to public affairs. I have become the slave to my domestic habits—a single night in the train is a feat for me, whereas I used to be able to stand two or three of them—and I sleep badly in other people's houses. In short, my bodily vigor is on the wane." The Emperor William has decided to have constructed a new royal Prussian throne. The first Prussian king, Frederick I., possessed a magnificent one, consisting of red velvet and heavy gold and silver frames and decorations. During the Napoleonic invasion in the early part of this century the precious metal was, however, melted down, and there are now only two smaller chairs of much less value left, which used to stand on the right and left of the throne chair.

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