

# THINGS WORTH KNOWING

A statistician gives the number of newspapers in the world at 83,000. Only twelve in the United States have a daily circulation of 100,000 copies.

The year 1900 will not be a leap year. Only those centennial years—years that end a century—are bi-sexile whose first two figures are divisible without a remainder by four.

The words flotsam and jetsam were used in ancient law to describe different kinds of wrecked goods. Goods flotsam were those which floated away when a ship was wrecked and goods jetsam were those cast over from a ship in peril.

The earliest known lens is one of rock crystal unearthed by Layard at Nineveh. This lens, the age of which is measured by thousands of years, now lies in the British museum, as bright and as clear as it was the day it left the maker's hands.

In distance the moon is 240,000 miles away from our earth, around which she gravitates like a satellite. Her diameter is about 2,153 miles, she has a solid surface of 14,600,000 miles and a solid content of about 10,000 of cubic miles.

The average age at which women marry is 25.5. Married women live two years longer than single women, although one woman in seventy dies in childbirth. February is the month in which the greatest number of births occur; June in which occur the fewest.

The first recorded patent of a sewing machine was issued in 1755. Since then there have been hundreds, perhaps thousands of improvements and many patents issued. The machine in its present condition owes much, however, to Elias Howe, as it was through his efforts that much of its perfection and popularity came about.

The latest determinations of ocean depths, fixes the mean depth of all the oceans at 3,803 metres, or about 12,700 feet, less than two and half miles. The Pacific ocean averages about 1,100 feet deeper than the Atlantic. The North Atlantic is deeper than the Southern Atlantic, and the Arctic ocean grows shallower the nearer the pole is approached.

In ancient times gold was obtained abundantly from the rivers of Asia. The sands of Pactolus, the golden fleece secured by the Argonauts, the yellow metal of Ophir, the table of King Midas, all illustrate the Eastern origin of gold. Alexander the Great brought nearly \$500,000,000 of gold from Persia. Gold also came from Arabia and from the middle of Africa by way of the Nile. But all of these famous sources of supply were long ago exhausted.

Queensland occupies the northeastern portion of Australia. It was discovered by Capt. James Cook in 1770. It was first attached to New South Wales under the name of the Moreton Bay district. In 1825 the first convicts were landed there and employed in making roads and other public improvements. Convict immigration ceased in 1839, and in 1842 the country was thrown open to free settlers, and in 1859 it was erected into an independent colony. Its area, including the coast islands, is 678,000 square miles, and the population was estimated in 1873 to be about 146,690, though this is exclusive of the aborigines, it being impossible to gain a reliable estimate of their number.

It was supposed a few years ago that the ocean bottom was largely a counterpart of the land features of the globe, with its mighty mountain ranges pushing up toward the surface of the sea, and deep valleys and plains sinking to almost unathomable depths. This is found to be true only to a limited extent. Here and there, to be sure, mighty mountains push toward the surface or rise above it, forming islands; and then, again, the bottom sinks in a narrow trough, as off the northeast coast of Japan, until it seems as though the sounding line could never measure its depth. But the ocean bed, in the main, is found gently to undulate, and would appear, if it could be observed, as of a slightly rolling plain.

A lately invented device brought forward by a Western engineer proposes to utilize the waste steam from locomotives during their frequent stops at way stations, made necessary for taking in fuel, water, and for other purposes, the steam saved by this method to be applied to the pumping of water for filling the tanks or reservoirs about the station. In a large number of cases, as is well known, large stations have to be supplied with an engine and steam pump, using fuel for making steam. Under these circumstances it is claimed that the first cost of the proposed plan will be less than that required for the ordinary steam pumping arrangements now in vogue, and, as the latter also involves an attendant, more than the entire cost of steam is gained by the use of the new method.

Vaccination as a preventive of small-pox was discovered by Dr. Edward Jenner, an English physician. His attention was directed to the subject upon casually hearing that persons engaged in milking cows frequently had the cow-pox, a mild disorder of the eruptive kind appearing on the udder of the animal, and communicated in a similar form to their hands and that the belief was common among the agricultural classes that whoever had taken the disease was secure against the infection of small-pox. After frequent experiments he ascertained that only one form of the eruption on the cow's udder possessed this property, a number of these experiments being made upon his son, a boy 6 years old. He labored against opposition for many years before the value of his discovery was acknowledged by the medical profession.

A baby is born at every beat of the human heart. That is more than one for every tick of the clock. These "living jewels" dropped unstained from heaven take wings and fly back whence they came

one for every minute of the day. From January 1 to December 31 between 38,000,000 and 40,000,000 living jewels are dropped into the cold world. There are more baby girls than boy babies. The proportion of female births to male births is as 100 to 90. So that between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 more girls are born in the world each year than boys. There is always a surplus of women, and the extra number of girl babies keep up the supply. The rate of infant mortality is enormous. In numbers 5,000,000 babies never live long enough to talk, 5,000,000 more never have a chance to walk or run, and 5,000,000 more never get old enough to go to school.

## "PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

"Why is it that Fikil has such an admiration for blondes?" "I don't know. Perhaps it is because his wife is a brunette."

Goslin—"What expressive eyes Miss Amy has!" Dolley (who has proposed to her)—"Yes; her noes are very expressive, too."

A Bad Business—Jimmie—"How's business?" Cracker—"Bad, very bad." Jimmie—"What yer been doin' lately?" Cracker—"Robbin' sales."—N.Y. Weekly.

Stranger—"This is a dead town." Editor—"Yes." Stranger—"How do you manage to make a living out of it?" Editor—"I'm coroner."—Atlanta Constitution.

Dobber (displaying portrait of Miss Snodgrass)—"There, sir, don't you think that is a speaking likeness?" Snodgrass—"Hardly. There's too much repose about the mouth."

She—"There's no poetry in a kiss. It's like a trunk. He—Like a trunk? She—"You can always find a man to express it; and it's wiser to check it if you don't want it to go too far."

"Isn't it a little late to be darning stockings?" asked Glim, as he went home at 11.30 and found his wife at that work. "O, it is never too late to mend," replied the industrious woman.

Benefactor—"Are you too weak to work?" Tramp (indignantly)—"Sir! Benefactor—"I mean does it make you tired to work?" Tramp—"I don't know. I never tried it to find out."

Caucus—"We want to nominate you as our candidate." Citizen—"But I've never done anything to—"

Caucus—"Oh, that's all right. Just wait till the opposition newspapers open out on you."

Editor—"And so that is the great leader of society? Why, I thought he owned that establishment, I have noticed him coming out so often." Bertie—"Of course. He goes in daily to have his hat stretched."—Judge.

Tourist—"So you teach the young idea how to shoot, eh?" Texan School Teacher—"No, stranger, pistol practice hasn't one of the regular studies at our school, but I think it ought to be, by jinks!"—Kate Field's Washington.

Charlie Youngnoodle—"Do you know, Miss Alice, that you have sapphires eyes, ruby lips, and golden hair?" Alice—"Go away! But there is one thing I haven't got. Charlie Youngnoodle—What's that?" Alice—"A diamond ring."

Friend—"How sad you look!" Mrs. Truedagain—"Lost my husband recently, you know, and—" Friend—"Yes, but you can get another one." Mrs. Truedagain—"I have got another, but he is worse than the first."—Truth.

Gilholly—"They say pearls mean tears, but I guess it's all humbug." Gus De Smith—"No, it's not." "How do you know?" "My wife wanted some and I didn't get them for her. You bet pearls mean tears every time."—Texas Sittings.

A big job on hand.—Cleverton—"What's your hurry, old man?" Dashaaway—"I haven't a moment to spare. I've got to attend a reception this evening, and I'm going around to my laundryman to see if I can borrow one of my collars."—Clothes and Furnishers.

Family physician—Well, I must congratulate you. Patient (quite excited)—"I will recover?" Family physician—Not exactly; but—well, after consultation, we find that your disease is entirely novel, and, if the autopsy should demonstrate that fact, we have decided to name it after you.

"I suppose you haven't forgotten that it is leap year," he said, as he took a seat beside her, "and so I must be careful not to lead the conversation in a dangerous direction," and he laughed. "I had quite forgotten it," she said, with a yawn; "what's the use of remembering it when you never meet a man who is worth proposing to?" This time he didn't laugh.

The new baby had proved itself the possessor of extraordinary vocal powers, and had exercised them, much to Johnnie's annoyance. One day he said to his mother: "Ma, my little brother came from heaven, didn't he?" "Yes, dear," Johnny was silent for some time, and then he went on: "Say ma." "What is it, Johnny?" "I don't blame the angels for bouncing him, do you?"

Miss Gale (at a Chicago tea)—"I've heard so much about these Boston fellows being so clever, but I don't catch on to it. They strike me as being pretty slow." Miss Breeze—"What makes you think that?" Miss Gale—"Well, there's that Mr. Bean; I was introduced to him half an hour ago, and we have been talking ever since, and he hasn't asked me to marry him yet."—Boston Courier.

Mistress (to new housemaid fresh from the country)—Now, see, Mary, this is the way to light the gas. You turn this little tap, so, and then apply the match. So, you understand? "Yes, ma'am; g'fite, ma'am." Mistress (next morning)—Why, what a horrible smell of gas! Where can it come from? We shall all be suffocated. New Housemaid (with much pride)—Please, ma'am, what shall I do next? I've made all the beds, and dusted the room and turned on all the gasses ready for the night, and—

## MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Queen Victoria is said to be the only living person who has known and talked with Sir Walter Scott.

The Queen of Greece is the best Royal needlewoman in Europe; she cuts out and makes most of her own underclothing.

King Christian of Denmark goes about the streets of Copenhagen in a plug hat and isn't even saluted by the people he meets.

Pullman's daughter, Julia selects the names for all of his sleeping and palace cars, and he is said to pay her \$1,000 a year for the exercise of her ingenuity.

During the whole course of his life Mr. Gladstone has only written three anonymous articles, and the authorship leaked out in each case a fortnight after the date of publication.

Max O'Rell says that every one, except kings and the prime ministers of a few great powers, likes to be interviewed; and he considers it a compliment to be asked to give a newspaper his ideas.

Mrs. Langtry is said to have the largest collection of fans in the world, representing almost every era. A special room has been designed for them by Oscar Wilde, walls and ceiling and rare cabinets being used to receive the dainty trifles.

Prince George of Wales, it is said, will not marry his cousin, the daughter of Prince Christian, as it was reported that he would. The lady is said to be so unattractive, and to possess so long and sharp a nose that since her sister was married she has been dubbed "The Solitary Snipe" by certain heartless people.

The assertion that Count Leo Tolstoi was obliged to leave Moscow and was sent off to his estate is purely a fabrication. The famous author is now living on the estate of his late friend Royefski, in the Dankoff district, in the province of Khazan, where he is carrying on his philanthropic work of relieving the famine stricken peasantry. He has already opened ninety soup kitchens, and the benefits received by his charitable efforts have spread like an oasis over a dismal desert.

George Kennan, the Siberian traveler, began life as a telegraph operator, and had the name of being the swiftest receiver of a telegraph message in the employ of the Western Union. He first went to Siberia at the time of the attempt to establish telegraphic communication between Europe and America via Behring Sea and Siberia, before the success of the Atlantic cables had been demonstrated. While in Siberia he did some writing for some newspapers, that determined his present career.

Louise Michel, the famous woman Socialist agitator, greatest advocate of one phase of the idea of "women's rights," whose life has been one wild turmoil of excitement, is reported to have settled down to the prosaic life of keeping school in a quiet corner in London, and to have determined to henceforth lead a quiet existence. The school is of the ordinary kind, and she will teach the young idea to shoot intellectual sprouts and not oppressive politicians. Louise Michel is said to be not by any means the only political figure of one time prominence swallowed up in quiet retirement in London.

Five young Cabinet Daughters in Washington are well known for their practical, useful lives. Miss Blaine superintends her father's house, attends to the marketing and pays the bills; Miss Miller cares for the household affairs every week; Miss Wanamaker looks over the overwhelming number of appeals for charity which are sent to the family; Miss Rusk plans table decorations, menus, flowers and all accessories of social teas and luncheons given at the hospitable Rusk mansion; while Miss Foster, the fresh-faced, sensible, natural young daughter of the Secretary of the Treasury, preceded her mother to Washington, hired the servants, superintended the unpacking and arranging of the furniture, and held two official receptions before her mother's arrival.

An amusing story is told of a certain occasion in the house of commons, when one Thomas Massey Massey moved that the church of Henry VIII. should get rid of the name of "mas" in Christmas, and substitute in place of the too Romish expression the more Saxon one "tide," thus, "Christide." O'Connell, who happened to be present, and who was seldom at a loss for the right word at the right time, moved that "as the honorable gentleman prized the old Saxon so much, he would do well to begin at home, namely, to Saxonize his own name. Let him do away with the 'mass' in 'Thomas Massey Massey,' and put his beloved 'tide' in the place of it, thus, 'Thotide Tidey Tidey!' Needless to say that the house roared at the complete turn of the tables on the objector to the 'mas' in Christmas.

It was a curious scene, that which you saw when Mr. Gladstone was addressing the house of commons last Thursday afternoon, says a writer. The stranger in the back part of the gallery might have thought it all inexplicable dumb show, for all the splendid resonance of the voice has gone, there is an occasional huskiness, and it has to be carefully husbanded in a way that is infinitely pathetic to those who reflect on the heroic recklessness with which it was spent at one time in the service of great causes and of vast audiences. But he who was able to sit near, and above all, anybody who looked with eyes of insight on the house, could see the full marvels that were revealed. The house of commons in moments of supreme inspiration and emotion has about it something of that light that never was on land or sea. You may see, if you have no imagination and no readiness of responsive emotion, on even such occasions nothing but an array of somewhat shabby green benches, covered with scattered rods of commonplace men with the dread uniformity of English clothing. But if you look closer and sympathetically on such an occasion, you can see a rapt look on all these faces that has in it a certain beauty and a deep impressiveness. It is the soul peering with all its depths, so carefully hidden in ordinary times, its wealth of passion, tenderness, reverence, awe; it is the soul revealing itself in its nudity, without shame, without resistance, without the power to resist.

## "August Flower"

The Hon. J. W. Fennimore is the Sheriff of Kent Co., Del., and lives at Dover, the County Seat and Capital of the State. The sheriff is a gentleman fifty-nine years of age, and this is what he says: "I have used your August Flower for several years in my family and for my own use, and found it does me more good than any other remedy. I have been troubled with what I call Sick Headache. A pain comes in the back part of my head first, and then soon a general headache until I become sick and vomit. At times, too, I have a fullness after eating, a pressure after eating at the pit of the stomach, and sourness, when food seemed to rise up in my throat and mouth. When I feel this coming on if I take a little August Flower it relieves me, and is the best remedy I have ever taken for it. For this reason I take it and recommend it to others as a great remedy for Dyspepsia, &c."

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