

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

Greek marriages are usually celebrated on a Sunday.

Nearly a quarter of all cases of insanity are hereditary.

The floating population of the Thames numbers 300,000 souls.

The Jewish population of Russia is estimated at about 5,000,000.

It has been computed that of the 38,000 square miles of Iceland, only 15,000 are pasture land.

During the reign of Edward I. of England rum was sold only as a medicine in apothecaries' shops.

There are now 27,786 Irishmen in the British army. In 1860 there were 60,000 and in 1870 44,000.

Romanian mothers tie red ribbons around the ankles of their children to preserve them from harm, while Estonian mothers attach bits of asafetida to the necks of their offspring.

The railroads in the United States employ an army of 689,912, of which 135,580 are "trainmen," 31,896 "switchmen," "flagmen" and "watchmen," and 522,436 are classified as "other workmen."

Britain has 31 ironclads, 69 cruisers (some of them more effective than battleships), 15 torpedo and despatch cruisers, 150 torpedo-boats (these include the new ships under the naval defence scheme).

The Hindoos have a coconut festival every year at the end of August to mark the beginning of the end of the monsoon. During the festival athletic contests take place and wandering minstrels recite their tales and poems.

Electric roads cost less than cable or horse car roads. The average cost of the electric roads a mile, including equipment and roadway is \$46,697, while the horse car and cable roads, cost respectively \$71,387 and \$350,326.

The chances for loss of life in railroad accidents in the United States are one person killed for every ten million carried. Statisticians claim that more people are killed every year by falling out of windows than there are in railroad accidents.

A locomotive was constructed by George Stephenson in 1814, and travelled at the rate of six miles an hour. This does not appear to have been the first. In 1811 Mr. Blenkinsop, of Leeds, constructed a locomotive, for which he took out a patent. His engines began running on the railway extending from the Middleton Collieries to Leeds, a distance of about three miles and a half, on the 12th of August, 1812.

Few people know the real color of gold, as the metal is seldom seen except heavily alloyed, which renders it redder in color than when in its pure state. The gold found in the Ural Mountains is the reddest of all in its natural state; Australian gold is redder than that of California, while gold obtained from the placers is redder than that obtained from the quartz. What causes these different colors is one of the mysteries of metallurgy.

The aggregate amount paid in wages to diamond workers in Holland is about \$5,000,000 a year, and it is estimated that 10,000 persons are employed in this industry. Two million dollars worth of these precious stones go direct from Holland to the United States every year, and the same amount is also shipped to London and Paris. Experienced calculators estimate the value of diamonds received annually in America at fully \$5,000,000.

There are about 30,000 locomotives in the United States, being one to every five miles of railroad, and 1,109,000 cars of all kinds, of which 27,000 are passenger coaches. The locomotives cost \$450,000,000, the cars \$600,000,000, making the approximate cost of the rolling stock 1,500,000,000 dollars. Each year a freight engine hauls 35,000 tons, and a passenger engine pulls 60,000 passengers. These railways employ 725,000 persons, nearly all men, who provide a living for nearly 3,000,000 people, or about 1-20th of the whole population.

If we sum up the encouragements to hope, founded on the success of christian work, the figures are as follows: Three centuries after Christ there were 5,000,000 christians. Eight centuries after Christ there were 30,000,000 christians. Ten centuries after Christ there were 50,000,000 christians. Fifteen centuries after Christ there were 100,000,000 christians. Eighteen centuries after Christ there were 174,000,000 christians. Now there are 450,000,000. The followers of the three religions—Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism, all combined, are less in number than the christians alone. Including the latest division of Africa among the European powers, about four-fifths of the land of the world is under christian control.

The cost of British royalty is about \$5,000,000 a year. In addition to the maintenance of palaces and the building of royal yachts the incomes voted to the family are enormous. The Prince of Wales has over \$500,000 and the princess \$50,000 a year. The younger sons of the Queen have been voted \$125,000, the daughters \$30,000 each, the Duke of Cambridge, the Queen's cousin, \$60,000, and his two sisters \$25,000 and \$15,000 respectively, and \$500,000 was voted to the Empress Frederick of Germany when she was married. The Lord Chamberlain, Lord Steward, and Master of Buck Hounds get \$28,500 per year each, seven Lords in Waiting get \$3,500 each for a few weeks each year "in attendance." The Ladies of the Bedchamber have \$2,500 a year each.

The custom of celebrating wedding anniversaries with peculiar gifts dates back to the medieval Germans, among whom, if a married couple lived to celebrate the 25th

anniversary of their wedding, the wife was presented by her friends and neighbors with a silver wreath, partly in congratulation of the good fortune that had prolonged the lives of the couple for so many years, and partly in recognition of the fact that they must have known a fairly harmonious existence. On the celebration of the 50th these anniversaries came to be known as the silver wedding day and the golden wedding day. The custom has been enlarged upon until now we have the cotton, which is the first anniversary; paper, second; leather, third; wooden, fifth; woolen, seventh; tin, tenth; silk and fine linen, twelfth; crystal, fifteenth; china, twentieth; silver, twenty-fifth; pearl, thirtieth; ruby, fortieth; golden, fiftieth, and the diamond wedding on the seventy-fifth anniversary.

"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

"Hoffy's met with a dreadfully distressing accident." "Deah me!" "Ya-as. Spawined his cain." "Howwible!" "Puck." "They tell me you are a happy father." "Yes." "Are you setting up the cigars?" "No. I'm sitting up nights."—Kate Field's Washington.

"Hands wanted on boys' trousers" is the daily advertisement in the newspapers. "Twas ever thus from childhood's hour."—Texas Sittings.

Banks—"Who do you suppose originated the expression, 'As full as a goat'?" Tanks—"Oh, some fellow who had been working the can."—New York Herald.

Her Mother—I saw him kiss you. I am terribly shocked. I did not suppose he would dare to do such a thing. Herself—Nor I. In fact I bet him he didn't dare.

Waiter (to departing guest)—Sir, do you know, you remind me strongly of the Spaniards at the capture of Granada? Guest—How's that? Waiter—You give no quarter.

Cumso—Mrs. Bobbit is a regular after dinner caller. Mrs. Cumso—Indeed! She invariably comes just before dinner. Cumso—That's what I say. Dinner is what she's after.

He—"Forgive me for kissing you; the perfume of that rose in your hair intoxicated me, and I did not know—" She—"Isn't it funny! That's an artificial rose, you know."—Life.

"Is this a fast train?" asked the traveling man of the conductor. "Of course it is," was the reply. "I thought so. Would you mind my getting out to see what it is fast to?"—N. Y. Sun.

Charlie (who has stayed late)—"Oh, Miss DeFreeze, I've an idea! Miss DeFreeze—"Well, an idea is not much good unless you carry it out." He took the hint and his hat.—Yonkers Statesman.

"Are you pretty well acquainted with your mother tongue, my boy?" asked the school teacher of the new scholar. "Yes, sir," answered the lad, timidly: "ma jaws me a good deal, sir."—The Critic.

Shocked at the Evidence.—Judge—"Well, officer, who is this person and what is she charged with?"—Officer—"Sure, it's the 'Magnetic Girl,' your honor, and she's charged with electricity."—Puck.

"I must pause and reflect," she said in response to the gentleman's marriage proposal. "Ah my dear Miss Marie," he said with beautiful courtesy, "one so bright as you does not need to pause to reflect." He got her, of course.

Making a long story short.—Husband—"What a splendid dinner you have tonight." Wife (complacently)—"Yes, dear, I thought it would please you." Husband—"What kind of a dress are you thinking of getting?"—Life.

Phrenologist—"Your bump of imagination is abnormally large, sir. You should write poetry." Visitor—"I do write poetry." Only yesterday I took a poem to an editor, and that bump you are feeling is where he hit me. Don't bear on it so hard."—Tid-Bits.

Clarissa—And he proposed to you? Ethel—Yes. So, you see, you were wrong when you said he had declared that he wouldn't marry the best woman in the world. C.—I don't see how I was wrong. His saying that was no reason why he shouldn't marry you.

"Why, Edwin," exclaimed the tearful bride. "You certainly told me before we were married that you would gladly give me all the pin money I wanted." "Yes," said Edwin, gloomily; "I know I did; but I didn't suppose you meant diamond pins."—Somerville Journal.

"A fast horse is he?" "Trots like a stroke of greased lightning." "Well, that's fast enough. What do you call him?" "What Ma Says." "What Ma Says?" That's a strange name. Why do you call him that? "Because what ma says goes."—Cape Cod Item.

"I don't feel right about going in there," said Chillon Feevor, in front of a physician's house. "Pshaw! He's one of the best doctors in the city," replied Coffin Cops. "I know; but look at his sign—'9 to 1.'" "Well?" "Well, I don't take any such chances as that."

Uncle William was talking with Lucy, his best little niece, about Christmas. He wished to know her mind upon a certain highly interesting subject, but preferred to get at it indirectly. "Now, Lucy," said he, in a casual manner, "if I were going to buy a doll for a little girl, what kind of a one do you think she would like?" "Oh, Uncle William," answered Lucy, with undisguised interest, "there is nothing like twins."

The Teacher—There is one of my brightest boys sitting over there on that rock writing, while his companions are wasting their time in idle play. No doubt he is writing his lessons out for tomorrow. Here, Jimmy, let me see what you are writing. Jimmy—No'm; I don't want to. "Ah, see his modesty. Come, I want to read it." This is what she read: "Please excuse my son James from school today, as he is needed at home."

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Colonel Gordon of Missouri has a beard six feet in length, which sweeps the ground when allowed to flow at full length.

The Earl of Dudley is perhaps the most interesting man to the insurance companies in England. His life is insured for \$6,000,000.

The Polish Count Graborki is a fireman on a Pan Handle locomotive. He is a manly and well-educated young fellow, with an excellent record of service in the German army, and he is thoroughly content with his situation.

The physicians of Pope Leo XIII. are announced as expressing the opinion that their patient cannot live much longer than six months. Then the time approaches when the Vatican may have a new policy toward the Quirinal.

Mrs. Russell Sage has proven herself a plucky woman than her husband was a man by choking a wretch who got into her house to demand \$2,500 to prevent him from shooting Mr. Sage. When she had choked him she thrust him out in the street.

The day of youthful prodigies is evidently not over. In Berlin the 12-year old 'cellist, Jean Gerardy, who created a great sensation in London a year ago, appeared recently with signal success. In Milan, on the other hand, a little girl of the same age, Bianca Panteo, has caused quite a stir in musical circles by her remarkable performance on the violin. She will be heard in Austria and Germany during the coming months.

The Queen has several great grandchildren, including the five little sons of the Empress William and the grandchildren of Princess Alice of Hesse, but the birth of a daughter to the Duchess of Fife is of more immediate interest to the English people, because thereby they have now four generations of royalty upon British soil. Lady Alexander Duff, though denied the style of Princess, is third in descent from Her Majesty and some day will be the granddaughter of a king.

There is a great controversy going on in London now as to who is the most beautiful woman in society. There are Lady Dudley and the Princess of Wales, who defy the flight of time and reign queens of beauty forever. The Duchess of Leinster and her sisters bear away the palms from hosts of lesser beauties, but above them all, when the history of the period is written will be recorded the name of Lady Brooke. There is something incontestably victorious in the beauty of her pale features, her glowing splendid eyes, the piquant charm of her upturned chin, and the haughty languorous grace of her smile.

Among the many reminiscences related of the ex-Empress Eugenie in the days of her glory are several which indicate the impulsively generous heart of the unhappy woman who wanders about the streets of Paris unknown and unnoticed where once she rode in state. It is said that one morning at breakfast a general related to the emperor the misfortunes of a brother officer, who "because he had not fifteen thousand francs must be dishonored." While the emperor questioned further particulars of the story the empress flew to her room, and, returning with a package of bank notes, said: "Take them, general, and never tell me his name." Even now she does not know the name of the man she befriended.

I recall one occasion, when a case of most atrocious wickedness had transpired, and had occasioned much excitement, that the next Sabbath Mr. Beecher fearlessly alluded to it, and in the most severe terms writes Mrs. Beecher. The offender was notoriously wicked, and the people feared him. His church was greatly excited at their pastor's rebuke, and after service gathered about him exceedingly alarmed. "Why, Mr. Beecher, you risk your life by speaking of — in those terms! By tomorrow he will have been told of what you have said, and we fear will make trouble, even if he does not resort to violence. It was not wise for you to have expressed your opinion so freely." "I do not fear him. It was wise for me to do my duty as I see it. It would have been useless for me to have said what I did had I not hoped and intended that he should have known it." Monday morning, as usual, Mr. Beecher went to the post office, and to do so must pass the large hotel, around which there was always many idle people loitering, and where, if this man intended mischief, he would probably be. Knowing Mr. Beecher's habit of going to the office in the morning, I was very much troubled, but said nothing until he left the house, and then begged two young men who were boarding with us to go with him; but they were afraid I doubt if he thought of the fears that had been expressed after the sermon. He certainly did not allude to what passed when he returned; but one of our people came in soon after and told me. As usual the veranda of the hotel was filled with "loungers." He passed by, went to the post office and returned, this person stepped down and stood before him with a pistol. "Mr. Beecher, were you alluding to me in your remarks yesterday morning?" "I was." "Take it back, or I'll shoot you!" Mr. Beecher looked him sternly in the face for a moment and said: "Shoot away!" and walked on. The man followed him some rods with the pistol aimed at him, and then, as he ashamed to face the people on the hotel steps, turned down another street and walked away. Mr. Beecher often met and passed him after that, but no other word ever passed between them.

Nothing the Matter with Toronto.

Toronto is most probably the strictest Sabbatarian city in America, and very few cities in any part of the world are more rigid. All business is suspended on Sunday, all stores are closed; it is even forbidden to sell newspapers or soda water; no street cars are allowed to run, and any kind of transportation is difficult to get. But a great many of the less truly good Torontonians have been objecting strongly to the tightness of things. Queen's park is a beautiful place, but it is quite a long way out of town, and, as no street cars are allowed to run, many thousands of citizens are deprived of the enjoyment of the park, simply because they cannot walk the great distance. The street car question has been made a politic issue, and it is probable it will be decided at the polls at the coming municipal elections.—N. Y. Sun.

"German Syrup"

The majority of well-read physicians now believe that Consumption is a germ disease. In other words, instead of being in the constitution itself it is caused by innumerable small creatures living in the lungs having no business there and eating them away as caterpillars do the leaves of trees.

The pileum that is coughed up is those parts of the lungs which have been gnawed off and destroyed. These little bacilli, as the germs are called, are too small to be seen with the naked eye, but they are very much alive just the same, and enter the body in our food, in the air we breathe, and through the pores of the skin. Thence they get into the blood and finally arrive at the lungs where they fasten and increase with frightful rapidity. Then German Syrup comes in, loosens them, kills them, expels them, heals the places they leave, and so nourish and soothe that, in a short time consumptives become germ-proof and well.

A Germ Disease. The physicians of Pope Leo XIII. are announced as expressing the opinion that their patient cannot live much longer than six months. Then the time approaches when the Vatican may have a new policy toward the Quirinal.

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