

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

In Japan there is no proper translation of the word "God."

Of the 657 existing kinds of reptiles 400 species are harmless.

Lead pencils should be soaked in linseed oil to make them write easily.

Camels are found in the coldest as well as the hottest parts of Asia and Africa.

It is curious that butterflies and bees have tastes akin to those of the human family.

Wasps, bees and ants have social and political organizations quite as complex as those of men.

Tokio, Japan, boasts of having 800 public baths, in which people can be steamed and washed for a cent.

The theory that diamonds owe their origin to volcanic eruptions receives support from eminent scientists.

People with very pale nails are subject to much infirmity of the flesh and persecution by neighbors and friends.

To keep your feet warm place a piece of blotting paper in your shoe. It is quite as efficient as a cork sole and not so bulky.

The greatest depth of the sea is reported to be at a point twenty-three miles north of Guiana, where soundings showed a depth of 26,850 feet.

In the southwestern islands of Japan the women are the laborers. Their hands are rough and tanned with heavy work, while the men's are delicate and white.

The Japanese some time ago adopted burial of the dead, but they have reverted to their old custom of burning the dead on account of its sanitary recommendations.

Cigar ashes are used for medical purposes as a cure for ringworm, epidemic scarlatina, etc. They are useful on account of the lime and alcoholic properties they contain.

There are only 70,000 people in Iceland, but they print eight newspapers on the island. As a result, about the whole population is educated, in the sense that the number of illiterates is very small.

A bar of iron worth \$5 worked into horse shoes is worth \$10; made into needles is worth \$30; made into penknife blades it is worth \$3,285; made into balance springs of watches it is worth \$250,000.

For several hundred years, and down to comparatively recent date, money was coined at from twenty-five to thirty different cities in France that had inherited the privilege. Now all French money is coined at the Paris mint.

The paper tree of the South Seas is a species of the mulberry. Its inner bark is so delicate that a soft and pleasant feeling cloth is made from it which the natives use in making their "best suits." It is also used in the manufacture of a very fine grade of paper.

The most striking characteristic of the Mexican flowers is their deep, rich color. The prevailing hues are always glowing and intense. The tropical forests of the country afford a rich field for the botanists, for in their shades bloom the most exquisitely-tinted flowers and orchids.

The largest driving belt in the world, 120 feet long, 7 feet wide and nearly an inch thick, the weight being a ton and a half, to put a fly wheel 22½ feet in diameter in communication with a pulley over 8 feet in diameter, to run with a speed of 67 feet per second, has been made in Paris for a factory in Amiens.

A snake moves by means of the ribs and the scales on the abdomen, to which each rib is attached by a set of short muscles. These scales take hold of the surface over which the serpent may be passing, and in that manner aid the creature to glide, often very rapidly, around the trunks of trees and along the smaller branches.

The Jimrikisha, the admirable vehicle of Japan, was invented or adapted by one Goble, a marine of Commodore Perry's flagship, when he had afterwards returned to Japan as a missionary. Its use dates from 1867 or 1871, as different Japanese authorities assert, but it has quickly spread to China, the Straits, and even India.

The quince-tree is believed to have been one of the numerous fruit-trees brought to England by the monks in the eleventh century. Its native habitat has been much disputed, some writers assigning it to Austria, others to Northern Persia and Anatolia, where at least, as well as near the Caspian Sea and in the Caucasus, it is found in abundance growing wild.

A lamp may be lit with a piece of ice. A small piece of metallic potassium is laid on the wick and touched with the ice, when the water immediately produces a flame. This is due to the property of this metal to oxidize with exceeding rapidity on contact with water. This curious experiment is to be made with great caution, as it is too much of the potassium is used an explosion will take place.

Forest vegetation is much richer in North America than in Europe, and comprises 412 species, of which 176 are native to the Atlantic region, 106 to the Pacific, 10 are common to both, 46 to the Rocky Mountain region, and 74 are tropical species near the coasts of Florida, as against 158 species in Europe. Six North American species of forest trees—the Judas tree, persimmon, hackberry, plane tree, hop hornbeam and chestnut—are also indigenous in Europe, all new growing there naturally south of the Alps.

The emerald was a well-known gem when Moses wrote the Book of Exodus, and was used as an ornament by the

ancient Egyptians, as is proved by finding it occasionally among the old mummies. Herodotus mentions an emerald column in the Temple of Hercules at Tyre which emitted a light at night, and Pliny in his writings several times alludes to this charming stone. Egypt contains a vast store of emeralds; and South America used to be rich in emeralds. When Pizarro discovered Peru, he found the natives worshipping an emerald as large as an ostrich-egg, and the temple containing it was so adorned with emeralds that several chestnuts were sent to Spain, each containing one hundred-weight.

"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

I mailed her such a valentine
I'm sure she will resent it;
But still this consolation mine,
She doesn't know who sent it.

Nell—"Did you enjoy your sleigh ride?" Belle—"Not very much, Charlie can't drive single handed."—Philadelphia Record.

Chicago Youth—Pardon me, sir, but may I have the hand of your daughter? Chicago Father—No-sir-ee! Take the whole hog or none.

Housekeeper—Why don't you go to work and earn money? Dirty tramp—They'd be apt to pay me in bank bills, an' I'm afeard of bacteria.

"Waiter, have you seen my hat? A new one—" "You are too late, sir; the best ones have been gone for more than an hour."—Chicago Ledger.

"You must not make fun of your grandfather, Tommy; you should always respect gray hairs." "Yes; but, mamma, how can I when he's bald?"

Partial Approval—Ethel (showing her engagement ring)—"Don't you admire her taste?" Maud—"Yes, as far as jewelry is concerned."—New York Sun.

Armless Wonder—Will you come out ridin' next Sunday wid me? Cressant Beauty (scornfully)—Naw; wot's de good—even if yer can drive wid yer feet.

Little Tot—Mamma, let us do out and spend our money. Mamma—No, dear; it's raining. Little Tot—But didn't you say we should save up for a rainy day.

He—"This pudding is something fearful; it tastes absolutely horrible." She—"It is not possible, for the cook-book says it tastes delicious."—Texas Siftings.

Quackenbach—Congratulate me, old fellow! I have obtained control of a patent medicine. Friend—What is it good for? Quackenbach—Any prevailing epidemic.

Bingo—Wasn't the servant girl unusually pleasant this morning? Mrs. Bingo—Yes. Her beau called last night. Bingo—See if you can't get him to come here and live.

A bird,
A man,
A loaded gun;
No bird,
Dead man,
"Thy will be done!"

Teacher—Supposing you had two ones and I should give you three thirds, how many would you then have? Dick Hicks—That would depend on the size of the pot.

Mr. Richfello—"I understand that Miss Beautiful intends to give a masked ball." Rival Belle—"No wonder, poor child—with such a complexion."—New York Weekly.

"Do you know that Mrs. Coldwater actually asked me today what a jag was?" "She did?" "Fact. The idea of a woman having a husband and not knowing what a jag is!"

Miss Budd (wishing to impress her youthfulness upon her listener)—My mother looks young for 50, does she not? She married at 30. Her listener—Er—was that her—er—second marriage?

Tommy, aged 5, had been whipped. He went at once to the office of the family legal adviser, who was in the habit of calling at the house. "Please Mr. Brown," said he, "I want to be divorced from papa and mamma."

Mrs. Einstein—Can't you dink of some-dings to kaviet dot child? He yants like everydings to go to der circus. Einstein—Keep kaviet, Ikey; der first time dere is a chance I will dake you to see der eglipse of der sun.—Truth.

First he—"Stella de Bilton did not appear tonight." Second he—"That was because of the accident. A moth got into her dressing-room this afternoon and ate up the two costumes she wears in the first act."—Pick-Me-Up.

Wife—"You've been drinking again." Husband—"Can't help it, m' dear—make me sho happy, m' dear." "Huh! Makes you happy, eh? I'd like to know why." "Be'cause I see I like to know why, m' dear."—New York Weekly.

Mrs. Hicks—"There is one thing about a man I never could understand." Hicks—"What is that?" Mrs. Hicks—"Why he chains up his watch and spectacles and gives his collar-buttons the freedom of the whole house."—New York Herald.

Mr. Saply—I have a dreadful toothache, Miss Mabel. Are you ever troubled with that ailment? Miss Mabel (blushing deeply)—No indeed. Mabel's Little Sister (aged five)—You wouldn't either, Mr. Saply, if you took your teeth out like sister does.

Young wife—Why, George, aren't you going to eat your pudding? Young husband—Is this made from Mrs. Tombstone's recipe? Young wife—Yes, dear George. Young husband—Then, my dear, I cannot touch it. Mrs. Tombstone has already buried four husbands.

Ragged Robert—What luck did yer have in that there restaurant? Mouldy Mike (sadly)—I got er big meal ther, reg'lar spread, but I had ter pay all th' money I had fer it. Ain't a cent left fer drinks. Ragged Robert (in disgust)—Pay! Why didn't yer dead beat it an' let em sent fer a perliceman, as yuh said yuh would. Yer wouldn't a got more'n ten days. Mouldy Mike (pathetically)—But they wasn't goin' to send fer a perliceman. They was goin' ter send fer a stomach pump.

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

The income of the Emperor of Russia, derived from lands owned by the nation, is named at twelve millions of dollars. A portion is expended on hospitals and other benevolences.

One of the crowned heads—a woman, by the way—has presented the Shah of Persia with the costliest pipe in existence. The pipe is richly studded with precious stones, and its value is said to be \$400,000.

An item is current to the effect that Dickens was a shorthand writer. He was, as a matter of fact, and he said once that the accomplishment was as hard to acquire as half a dozen modern languages, and much less valuable.

The son recently born to Prince Frederick Leopold of Prussia, is the twenty-fifth living prince of the royal and imperial house of Hohenzollern. There is little danger that Prussia or Germany will ever be in want of an heir.

Louis Kosuth has lately suffered so much from asthma and weak eyes that he has had to abandon his favorite studies in botany, of which he has collected 4,000 specimens. The venerable "Liberator" will be 90 years old if he survives till September next.

Bret Harte's manuscript of a story was once refused by the publisher, James Fields of Boston. A few years later Fields paid \$10,000 to Harte for all the stories the latter should write during the year. Harte furnished the *Atlantic* a few stories and made \$9,500 out of the deal.

Pang Yun, credited with being the richest Chinaman east of San Francisco, has become the husband of Miss Ada Norton, a recent graduate of the high school at Indianapolis, where Yun is also in business, and described as the handsome and accomplished daughter of a wealthy citizen of Indiana's capital.

It was an odd coincidence that Cardinals Manning and Simeoni were elevated to their highest rank in the church the same day and died on the same day. What is more, the last official letter penned by the English cardinal was by chance addressed to his Vatican confrere, the late prefect of the propaganda.

Prince Victor Emanuel, heir to the Italian crown is one of the handsomest and most accomplished men of his station in life. Although near 30 years of age and widely traveled, he is yet unmarried. He is liberal in his political views, versed in several languages, amiable and intellectual and generally and justly loved.

The Emperor William of Germany, before he came to the throne, was much given to skating, and was frequently seen on the ice with his wife. He would put one hand on her shoulder and she one hand on his, and then they would skate forward and backward. Their skill excited wide admiration, and the fashion they set was taken up by many other people.

Abbas Bey, the new Khedive of Egypt, will not come of age until July, when he will be eighteen years old. He has been thoroughly educated, and speaks English, French and German. The last three years he has passed at the Oriental Academy in Vienna, but during the earlier part of his boyhood he went to Egyptian schools, where he mixed in a democratic way with boys of lower social rank.

Capt. George Callaghan, an Englishman, who died a few days ago in Valencia, at the age of 100 years, was at one time a guard of Napoleon Bonaparte on the island of St. Helena. Callaghan entered the English navy in 1811. In 1819 he was sent to St. Helena to watch over the great emperor. Callaghan loved to relate his reminiscences of Napoleon, and always said that the fallen ruler had a great liking for him.

Florence Nightingale was a slender woman of graceful figure and great dignity of manner. She exhibited remarkable fortitude at all times, and especially when present at surgical operations. Once when the agonies of a patient in the hands of the surgeons put to flight his attendants Miss Nightingale turned and rebuked them, saying: "Come back! Shame on you as Christians! Shame on you as women!"

Tennyson was only 8 years old when he covered both sides of his brother's slate with a poem on "Flowers," done in unimpeachable meter. His brother had said to him, "See if you can write poetry," and when he read the verse on the slate he merely said: "You've done it." Between the ages of 11 and 12 the young poet wrote an epic of 4,000 lines in Scott's octosyllables mingled with heroics. These were the only finished poems of Tennyson's boyhood, but when about 14 or 15 years he commenced a drama in iambic meter which still survives. Thus he practiced himself in three different meters before he began seriously to write or publish. There is no man, however, who is so careful of his poetical reputation as Lord Tennyson, and it is not likely that he will permit this early drama ever to see the light of day. The number of his own poems which Tennyson has suppressed during his lifetime would fill a bulky volume.

Mr. Spurgeon used frequently to visit Monaco, but he kept away from the gardens of the gambling hell. Those gardens are the most beautiful in the world. When asked why he kept away from them he said: "Not because I think there is any danger of my passing through the gardens to the gambling tables. No! But a friend of mine once related the following incident: One day M. Blanc met me and asked me how it was I never entered his grounds. 'Well, you see,' said I, 'I never play, and, as I make no returns whatever to you, I hardly feel justified in availing myself of the advantages of your grounds.' 'You make a great mistake,' said M. Blanc. 'If it were not for you and other respectable persons like yourself who come to my grounds I should lose very many of my customers who attend my gambling saloons. Numbers of persons who would not have thought of entering my establishment feel quite safe in following you into my garden, and from thence to the gambling table the transition is very easy.' After I heard that," continued Mr. Spurgeon, "I never went near the gardens. And," he added, "the same argument applies to the theatre."

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Thomas.

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Every Meal.

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