

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

Four out of every six men use tobacco.

Women of rank go bareheaded in Mexico.

Only one person in 10,000 lives to be a centenarian.

The fur seal and fur otter trade of Alaska is worth \$300,000 a year.

Great Britain possesses 1,900,445 square miles of African territory.

A human body, when cremated, leaves a residuum of about eight ounces.

Ten days per annum is the average amount of sickness in human life.

In every minute sixty-seven people die in the world and seventy are born.

One half of the wealth of England is in the possession of 1,000 individuals.

The sunflower bears 4,000 seeds, the poppy 32,000 and the tobacco plant 70,320.

Two hundred and fifty million letters pass through the postal offices of London every year.

If London streets were put end to end they would reach from that city to St. Petersburg.

During 1891 the total number of persons killed in the Punjab by wild beasts and snakes was 861.

The speed of the fastest Atlantic steamer is now greater than that of the express trains on Italian railways.

A German geologist estimates that the Dead Sea will be one mass of solid salt within less than 500 years.

Professor Huxley says that an oyster is a far more complicated piece of machinery than the finest Swiss watch.

On the Royal Sovereign, the new English battleship, there are 800 electric lights, connected by 30 miles of wire.

Yeddo, the capital of the Japanese Empire, contains 4,000,000 inhabitants and has a greater area than London.

A dog market is held every Sunday in Paris, where it is possible to buy anything from a black and tan to a huge mastiff.

One test for distinguishing diamonds from glass and paste is to touch them with the tongue. The diamond feels much the colder.

The British Isles comprise no fewer than 1,000 separate islands and islets, without counting mere jutting rocks or isolated pinnacles.

The region about the Dead Sea is one of the hottest places on the globe, and the sea is said to lose 1,000,000 tons of water a day by evaporation.

"Lutetia," the ancient name of Paris, means in effect "midtown," the city when the Romans found it being chiefly composed of mud-built houses.

The proposed underground electric railways for London will be sixteen feet below the Thames, sixty-eight feet beneath Regent's Park, and eighty-five feet below Oxford street.

The largest volcano in the world is at Mauna Loa in the Sandwich Islands. The crater is twenty miles in diameter and the stream of lava flowing from it is fifty miles long and in places four miles wide.

The last public execution in England was that of Barrett, in 1868, for his share in the Clerkenwell explosion of the previous December. Executions have been carried out within the prison walls in Germany since 1877.

According to statistics compiled by the International Telegraph Bureau of Berne, there were despatched in Europe during the year 1891, 207,595,000 telegrams; in the remaining portion of the world, 88,422,000, a total of 296,017,000.

There are albinos among animals, birds, etc., and the examples are the white elephant, white mouse, white blackbird, and white crow. The word comes from the Latin *albus*, white. The eyes of human albinos are weak in the day time, but they can see better than other persons at night.

The famous leaning tower of Saragossa is at last being pulled down. It was repaired in 1860, but had for some time been condemned. The Spaniards are very proud of this old landmark, as it has, since the year 1304, been the witness of many a siege bravely repulsed by the sons and daughters of Saragossa.

The first instance of a Member of Parliament being unseated for corrupt practices occurred in the reign of Elizabeth in 1571. One Thomas Long, who was returned for Westbury, Wilts, paid £4 to the mayor and a Burgess of the town named Watts for the seat. The House unseated the member, and issued an order that his money should be returned to him.

A wonderful example of patience in the Chinese is afforded by a consular report dealing with the manufacture of salt in central China. Holes about six inches in diameter are bored in the rock by means of a primitive form of iron drill, and sometimes a period of forty years elapses before the coveted brine is reached, so that the work is carried on from one generation to another.

At Queretaro, near Mexico, soap is the currency of the place and a legal tender for payment of debts. The cakes are about the size of the familiar brown Windsor, and are each worth about three farthings. Each cake is stamped with the name of the town in which it is current and that of the person authorised to manufacture and utter it. Soap money of one town is not current in another.

An official record states that the number of persons who committed suicide in Paris during last year was 890, and of these suicides 243 were by hanging, 205 by drowning, 164 by asphyxiation, 138 by shooting, 65 by jumping from a window or

monument, 33 by poisoning, 24 by stabbing, 5 by being run over by trains, and 13 by other methods. Five out of every six suicides by hanging were committed by men, and 130 of the 138 cases in which a gun or revolver was the weapon used; while in a majority of the suicides by drowning and by jumping from a window the victim was a woman.

"PROGRESS" PICKINGS

Stout Lady—"Does a bicycle reduce the flesh?" Mr. Slimpurse (wearily)—"If you buy it on the installment plan it does."

Customer (who has lost all his teeth, to landlord who has served him with a very tough steak): "Landlord, you are a flatterer!"

She—"Am I indeed your Queen?" He—"You are only—"

He—"I wish I had held you last night."—Brooklyn Life.

His Advice. Newman—My ideal is a life of domestic happiness. Oldy—"It's a good ideal my boy. Keep single and you may attain it."

With and by. Young man—I was very much taken with Miss Brainlet. Old man—You might be taken by her if you tried right hard.

It was an agricultural editor who wrote: "Pumpkins are said to be fattening for hogs, but we never have tried them ourselves."—Boston Transcript.

She—"You would be surprised if I were to tell you that I am past 25, wouldn't you?" He—"I would be surprised at your telling me."—Indianapolis Journal.

The Indignant Mother—You say the young scamp took you in his arms? What did you say to him? The Artless Daughter—I said, "Hold on!"—Brooklyn Life.

"So Jane is married? Is she happy?" "I guess so. At least she has the fullest confidence in her husband." "How do you know?" "She gives him her letters to mail."—N. Y. Press.

Miss Wabash of Chicago (to a persistent suitor)—Yes, I love you, but I cannot marry you; at least, not this time. But if you remain single and still want me I will marry you the next time I marry.

Jobson—They say that one half the world doesn't know how the other half lives. Robson—Do they? Well, the man who wrote that never lived in a small town and kept a communicative servant.

"This must be a fine stream for trout," said a pedestrian to a man who was fishing. "I think so, too," said the angler, "for I have been fishing here for an hour and can't get one to leave it."—Boston Bulletin.

"I've invented a new wheelbarrow," began the inventor. "And you are looking for a man to push it, of course?" interrupted the capitalist. "Yes!" "Better go to an intelligence office."—Ind. Journal.

"Ma," said a newspaper man's son, "I know why editors call themselves 'we.'"

"Why?" "So's the men that doesn't like the article will think there are too many people for him to tackle."—Washington Star.

Hicks—"No, sir; I wouldn't tell a lie to save my life." Wicks—"To save your life? Neither would I. But lies do not always save life. Remember your friend Ananias, and tremble."—Boston Transcript.

"I have met this man," said the lawyer, with extreme severity, "in a great many places where I would be ashamed to be seen myself," and then he paused and looked with astonishment at the smiling court and jury.

Visitor (admiring the new piano)—Yes, it's very pretty, dear. And you play it already, do you? Can you play by note? Little girl—O, dear, no! But papa can, I spect. I heard him tell me he was going to pay for it by note.

"Why does a woman wear a tall silk hat when she rides on horseback?" asked Jones the other day. "So that the horse may believe she is a man and be frightened of her," replied Brown, who had carefully studied the subject.

A Tipperary man hailed a fellow-laborer with: "So ye've got a baby at yer house. What is it, a boy or a girl?" "Guess."

"It's a boy." "No." "Well, then, it's a girl." "Faith," said the delighted father, "somebody's bin telling ye!"

Mrs. Gooseberry.—De chile done gone an' swallowed'r bottle'r ink. Doctor Giggams (newly graduated)—Ink—plain ordinary ink? Humph! This is easy. Oxalic acid will remove ink immediately. I'll write you a prescription for it.

She was a girl of wisdom. He said to her: "Do you not love to wander in the moonlight?" "Yes," she answered. "Why?" "Because it saves gas." Then he did some mental arithmetic, thought it over and said: "Will you be mine?"

Mamma—George Winkelford called to see you again last night. Irene, did he not? He is a worthy young man, and I hope you didn't treat him distantly. Miss Irene (with a vivid look)—Distantly? Not at all. I—I was very much drawn to him, mamma.—Chicago Tribune.

"I look upon a handsome bonnet as a dangerous thing," said Mr. Goodfather. "How is that?" asked a friend. "I bought my daughter the handsomest bonnet I could find in town a short time ago, and it has not only turned her head, but it turns the head of every other woman who walks past it."

The wife—And what shall we name baby, dear? The husband—What's the matter with Mary? I've had ten or twelve sweethearts by that name and am rather fond of it, of course. Besides they may each of them send her a silver cup. The Wife (freely)—That's so—and if any of them are solid we can sell them.

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Oscar Wilde is said to be deep in the development of a new flower, a golden veined tulip, which he declares to be "a triumph of classic horticulture."

Tennyson destroyed a mass of his letters and manuscripts a few years ago in a fit of alarm, caused by his reading Froude's "Reminiscences of Thomas Carlyle."

The greatest stamp collectors in the world are Philippe Ferrari, son of the late Duchesse de Galliera, and the Czar, whose collection is said to be worth \$600,000.

Justin McCarthy is following in the wake of those socialistic novelists who write with a reforming purpose, and has produced a novel on the Irish question.

Emin Pasha is reported to be in destitute circumstances and is living with an Arab at Lahore, being unable to leave until he gets help. Will Stanley rescue him again?

The dowager duchess of Sutherland will not be destitute, financially, even if the English section of the family do ostracize her. Her Florida estates will produce an annual rental of \$250,000.

Martha D. Bossey, winner of the prize for the badge of the women fair managers of the Columbian Fair, is the only woman designer employed by Tiffany & Co. She is a young woman, but little past 20.

M. Pasteur will attain the age of 70 years Dec. 27. A subscription has been opened by a committee of the Society of Physical and Chemical Sciences at Copenhagen to offer him a medal on that occasion.

Gladstone claims direct descent from Henry III., King of England, and from Robert Bruce, King of Scotland. Among his ancestresses, too, is Lady Jane Beaufort, who married King James I. of Scotland.

William Bradbury, the London publisher, whose death was announced recently, was senior member of the firm that brought out Dickens' earliest stories, and to guard against leaks Mr. Bradbury and his brother, being practical printers, themselves set Dickens' manuscripts.

George Ohnet's "Maitre des Forges" was written, it is stated, during his honeymoon, with no little help from his wife, and the latter, after several publishers had declined the manuscript, persuaded him to publish it on his own account. They are said to have drawn over \$200,000 from its sale.

Max Muller finds a rival to Columbus in Sir William Jones, who, in the last century, opened the way to Oriental scholarship. He told the Oriental congress in London six weeks ago that the discoverers of that old, that prehistoric world, deserves our gratitude as much as Columbus and his companions.

Bonamy Price once had a chance talk of some length with Tennyson in a public conveyance. "In Memoriam" proving the subject of most of it. When it became necessary for them to part the poet took the professor by the hand affectionately and said: "Who are you? I must know who you are." But Bonamy Price said, "No, I'm nobody," and the story is so told as to indicate that he did not reveal himself.

The new English Ministry contains a number of landlords, of whom Lord Spencer is the wealthiest. His rent roll is \$230,000 a year; Lord Rosebery claims \$160,000 a year; Lord Ripon's rental is \$145,000; Lord Kimberley's, \$125,000; Mr. Acland is heir to \$170,000 a year from land; Lord Houghton has \$55,000; Lord Carrington, \$200,000; Lord Vernon, \$120,000, and Lord Ribblesdale, \$135,000.

The first woman to receive the distinction of being elected a fellow at Yale is Miss Mary Augusta Scott, who graduated at Vassar, where she received her master's degree, and afterward studied at Johns Hopkins and at Cambridge. She will work for the degree of doctor of philosophy. Between twenty and thirty women have already registered as students of the post graduate department, which is the only department thrown open to women.

One of the best-known portrait painters of Boston is Mrs. Phoebe Jenks, who was past 30 years of age before she discovered that she had either decided taste or talent for painting. In her husband's studio she breathed the intoxicating art atmosphere, sketched a little, studied painting, but never attempted anything herself, until one day, trying to reproduce a bunch of flowers that had pleased her, she succeeded so well that art has found in her a most successful as well as devoted disciple.

The late M. Renan wrote a vast number of personal letters, from civility rather than inclination, and often with great trouble. He was averse to pen-ank-ink conversations. He hardly ever dropped an epistle into a letter-box without wishing he had not penned it, and he often fell asleep when engaged in private correspondence. M. Renan took upon herself for some years to answer most of the letters he received. It is easy, therefore, to understand his urgent request that none of his private correspondence should ever be printed.

The Marquis of Bute's intense love for Nature is well known, and fully illustrated in the following anecdote, which has the merit of being true. One day when wandering over the grounds of Mount Stuart, book in hand, he noticed that a magnificent oak, which overshadowed a laborer's cottage, had been deprived of one of its largest branches. On asking the reason, his factor said he was afraid of the branch falling and crushing the cottage, and therefore had it removed. "You should not have removed the branch," said his lordship; "you ought to have removed the cottage."

Mr. Thomas Hardy in speaking of the history of "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" admits Mrs. Hardy's share in the making of the novel, through suggestions of situations and study of the quaint people of Dorsetshire, where the plot is laid. The family selected by Mr. Hardy from among the many houses of decayed glory but ancient lineage common to that region trace their line back to the conquest through Woolbridge Manor House once one of their country seats and now but a farm house. It is to divine that it was Mrs. Hardy who suggested the trying on of the jewels by Tess. It was she, too, who heard a neighbor boasting that a certain vault was full of the "skelingtons" of his family.

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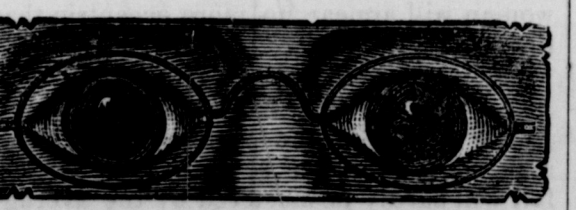
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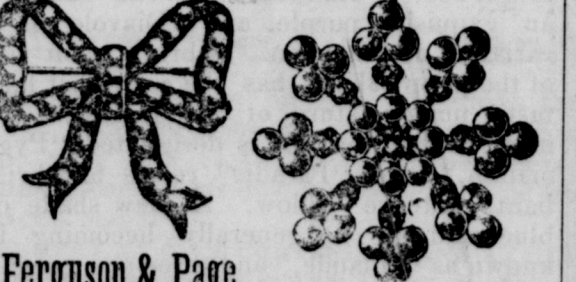
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