

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

The velocipede was invented by Drais in 1817.

The piano was invented by Cristofali, in 1711.

The Gatling gun was the work of Gatling, 1861.

The revolving pistol was the invention of Colt, in 1836.

The royal standard of Persia is a blacksmith's apron.

Aniline dyes were discovered by Unverdorfen in 1827.

The torpedo was the invention of Dr. Bushnell in 1777.

Flints for gun locks were used in the French army, 1630.

Seven miles is the greatest height ever reached in a balloon.

Among the nobility of England 21 per cent. have no children.

In Southwestern British Columbia there are fully 1,000 wild horses.

England employs 5,600 women and girls in and about its coal mines.

Chinese control almost the entire shoe-making business in California.

Mohammedans consider silk unclean because it is produced by a worm.

Over one thousand steamships are traversing the four great ocean routes.

Some silk worms lay from 1,000 to 2,000 eggs, the wasp 3,000, the ant from 3,000 to 5,000.

A copy of the first dictionary, made by Chinese scholars B. C. 1109, is said to be still preserved in Peking.

Ducks fly at an average rate of ninety miles per hour. With a fair wind it is believed that they can make 150 miles in the same time.

Brass pins were first made by the Saracens in Spain in A. D. 800; were brought to England by Catharine of Arragon, wife of Henry VIII.

There are 140 distinct Christian denominations in the United States. Of these there are 15 varieties of Methodists, 14 of Baptists and 12 of Presbyterians.

The first newspaper in the modern sense was issued monthly at Venice in 1536; the first English newspaper was published in 1622; the first American in 1704.

The Emperor of Germany has subscribed a thousand dollars in aid of the publication, by the Berlin Geographical Society, of a book on the discovery of America.

It is claimed that there is a lighthouse to every fourteen miles of coast in England, to every thirty-four miles in Ireland, and to every thirty-nine miles in Scotland.

Sir John Millais, artist, often receives checks signed in blanks for him to fill, with a request for pictures of Scotch scenery. These requests, checks and all, are declined.

The water clock was known in Rome B. C. 158. Dial clocks were first put up in A. D. 913; striking clocks were Saracenic, about 801; pendulum clocks were invented in 1641; repeating clocks in 1676.

Snuff has been made from a very early period, first and most largely by the Spaniards, who prepared it with care and scented it with various materials. Next the Low Countries, Scotland and England extended and popularized the use of snuff.

The Dominion has 38 incorporated banks, with assets amounting to the tidy sum of \$269,491,153, while the liabilities total but \$188,337,504. The total amount of money on deposit in June 1891, in the chartered banks, Post-office and Government Savings Banks, Montreal and Quebec Savings Banks and in the hands of loan companies, was \$217,800,738. This gives an average of about \$45 per head of population.

In Canada's seventeen asylums for the insane there were in 1890, 8,831 patients, of whom 4,432 were males and 4,296 females. Ontario had of these 3,318 in the provincial asylums and nineteen in the Homeoid retreat, Guelph. Kingston penitentiary has 32 insane convicts and in the common jails were 76 persons of unsound mind, awaiting admission to the fully occupied asylums. In addition to these, there were in the hands of the authorities 454 applications for admission. This gives Ontario an insane population of 4,211.

The official dress of the judges of England has remained practically unchanged for more than three hundred years. At different seasons of the year the judges wear different robes. For instance, during the Easter and Trinity terms they wear purple garments trimmed with a dull-coloured silk, which, it is said, is in commemoration of the purple robe worn by our Saviour. In Hilary and Michaelmas terms they wear a black cloth costume trimmed with ermine. For centuries past the colour of the robes has also remained the same, namely, black, purple, and scarlet. The black is always trimmed with ermine; the purple with shot silk; and the scarlet with ermine in winter and spring, and shot silk in the summer.

In Ontario there are 5,623 public schools, 500,815 pupils, and an average attendance of 253,943. The average cost per pupil was \$8.44. The classes were taught by 2,774 men and 5,183 women teachers. The Romanists had 243 schools, with 32,790 pupils, and an average attendance of 18,153. The cost per pupil was \$7.45. There are also nine Protestant Separate schools, with eleven teachers, 526 pupils, and an average attendance of 245. In Quebec there are 939 Protestant

and 3,779 Roman Catholic elementary schools. The Protestant pupils number 28,657, and the Roman Catholics 146,535. The proportion of Protestant pupils is apparently steadily decreasing. In 1887 15.1 per cent., in 1888, 14.2 per cent., and in 1889, 13.3 per cent. The total number of teachers was 8,669, of whom 7,232 were Roman Catholics and 1,173 Protestants.

"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

"Yes, I'm all broken up. Domestic trouble." "Wite dead?" "No. Cook left last week."

"Why do you keep such strong cheese?" asked the customer. "To help the porter lift things," said the grocer.

"I have written a poem," he said, "and what would you say if I told you that I did not dedicate it to you?" "Thank you."

He—My, my, how the trees outside there are moaning and sighing today. She—So would you if you were as full of green apples as they are.

"Is that really a glass eye?" said Maude to the optician. "Yes, ma'am." "How strange! it is not transparent. How does the wearer see through it?"

Professor—Wait, wait. You are playing that part too loud. Don't bang so. Maiden—Oh, don't worry about that, professor. The piano is a rented one.

He: "I'm the piano-tuner, mum." She: "I haven't sent for any piano-tuner."

He: "Yes, mum, I know, mum; it were the gentleman next door sent me here, mum."

"I saw you making eyes at Miss Tuferust at the party. Look out for yourself." "Why?" "Every member of her family is dead." "What of it?" "She did the cooking."

Judge: "Before I pass sentence, prisoner at the bar, have you anything to say?" Prisoner: "Yes, your lordship. Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

Mabel—"I suppose you heard of Sister Lou's marriage?" She's taken a flat up town." Miss Jellus—"Yes, I heard she had a flat, but didn't hear where she had taken him."—Judge.

Deck hand—You're on the wrong side of the ferry boat; this is the "Men's Cabin." Mrs. Maloney—And that's the "Wimmin's" over there. Where do the ladies be after goin'?

A Grave Omission.—Naval Officer—I'm afraid I shall be severely court-martialed for running into that scow. Assistant—You've a good defence. There isn't any scow marked on the chart.

Mr. Dudley—"I suppose you get lots of love letters?" Miss Chorus—"Yes, but not as many as my brother. He gets a hundred a day." "Is he an actor?" "No, letter carrier."—Texas Sitings.

"Well, old fellow, how goes it? Do you expect to win your action at law?" "Oh, certainly! I consider it a forgone conclusion; at least, judging by appearances: my lawyer is building a new wing to his house."

Teacher: "How many bones have you in your body, Jimmy?" Jimmy: "Two hundred and nine." Teacher: "But the other pupils have not so many." Jimmy: "Well, they ain't had fish for dinner, like me."

She—Well, if I can't live on my income, and you can't live on yours, where would be the advantage in our marrying? He (thoughtfully)—Well, by putting our incomes together one of us would be able to live at any rate.

It was four-year-old Sammy's first appearance at a full dress reception. "Mamma," he said, in a horrified whisper, as the first arrival swept grandly into the parlor, isn't she looking for the bath room?"—Chicago Tribune.

A tobaccoist, named Farr, had the following painted above his door: "The best tobacco by Farr." A rival tobaccoist on the other side of the street painted up: "Far better tobacco than the best tobacco by Farr."

"I saw two dead mutes arguing politics today." "You know their signs, then?" "Yes." "Did they seem to understand what they were taking about?" "Understand? Why they had the whole thing at their fingers' ends."

Magistrate: "Is the prisoner known to the police, constable?" Constable: "Well known, your worship." Prisoner (maliciously): "E's right. I used to be postman at the Red Cow, and used to bring 'em out their art pints."—English paper.

Refined Speech—"Oh, what a lovely statuette!" exclaimed Mrs. Hojack, admiring one of the ornaments of Mrs. Crewe-Doyle's parlor. "Yes," replied Mrs. Crewe-Doyle, much gratified by the caller's admiration; "that is as pretty a little bust as I could find."

Mrs. Van Neering (who doesn't like her portrait, and is finding as much fault with it as possible)—"And the color in the cheeks does not suit me at all." D'Auber (in disgust)—"Take the brush, madam, and fix it to suit yourself. You have, undoubtedly, had more experience in that branch of painting than I have."—Puck.

"What caused the rupture between Jack and Miss Shammer?" "Oh, he agreed with her." "Agreed with her? That is rather strange cause to make a quarrel. Will you explain?" "Certainly. She said she couldn't imagine what he could see in her to love so much, and he said he couldn't, either; it was a surprise to him."

Two ladies who had not seen each other for years recently met in the street. They recognized each other after a time and their recognition was cordial. "So delighted to see you again! Why, you are scarcely altered." "So glad; and how little changed you are. Why, how long is it since we met?" "About ten years." "And why have you never been to see me?" "My dear, just look at the weather we have had."

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

James Tuckett, famous as Inspector Bucket in Dickens' "Bleak House," is now living in San Francisco.

Bismarck's bedroom contains only three pieces of furniture—an enormous wash-hand-stand, a small camp bedstead, and a bootjack.

The real name of Dumas' famous Camille was Alphonsine Plessis; the great author portrayed her character as it really was. She had a natural talent and an instinctive refinement which no education could have enhanced. She never made a grammatical mistake; no coarse expression ever passed her lips.

Pope Leo XIII. will celebrate two jubilees next year if his life should be spared so long. On Feb. 19, 1893, halt a century will have passed since he was called to the episcopate by being appointed Bishop of Damietta, and on Dec. 13, 1893, forty years will have passed since he received the cardinal's hat.

Miss Dora Shoemaker, a daring Philadelphia girl, has distinguished herself at the Thousand Islands by swimming from South Bay Beach to Pullman Island, a distance of a mile, in the St. Lawrence. She was followed by friends in a boat, but she not only crossed the channel without assistance, but wanted to swim back again.

The present Maharajah of the lovely city of Jeypore was starving in exile on an allowance of one pound a month, when he was astonished one day to find himself appointed to the throne, with an annual income of \$2,500,000; and there was also found in the royal treasury half a million in solid silver, which it took him twenty-three days to count.

Eight million pounds is the estimated value of the Sultan's jewels. If his Majesty has any hobby at all it may be said to be the purchasing of jewels and witnessing private theatricals. No professional of note—he be actor, singer, or conjurer—passes through Constantinople without an invitation from the Sultan. He always pays for these performances in England notes.

Cardinal Moran, the Archbishop of Sydney, made a vow in early life never willingly to look upon the face of a woman. The vow, intended as a species of mortification, was rigorously kept by the cardinal from the early days of his priesthood in Rome until he became the first Australian cardinal. Cardinal Moran is a distinguished historian and a close personal friend of the present pope.

A well-known commercial traveller in South Africa gives the following account of his last quarter's operations: Travelled 3,964 miles; carried four trunks; shown goods 116 times; sold goods 96 times; been asked the news 5,061 times; told the news 2,210 times; lied about it 2,160 times; did not know 691 times; been asked to drink 1,861 times; drank 1,861 times; changed politics 46 times.

As Queen Victoria was out driving the other day she met a circus company proceeding along the road from Balmoral to Ballater, and straightway ordered them to give a performance at the castle. The entire royal family attended the performance, as well as the servants and tenantry, and the Queen enjoyed everything, from the trapeze performers to the trained donkeys, and liberally rewarded the showman.

Mrs. Alice Shaw, the professional whistler, had a pleasant experience when she visited Roberts college at Constantinople. As she walked out in the quiet of an early summer morning, she whistled her wonderful bird call, and at once nightingales flew out from the grove on all sides to listen to the accomplishments of the new comer. Mrs. Shaw studied her art for six years. She asserts that whistlers are born, not made.

Moy Hoe, a Chinaman at San Francisco, has probably one of the most curious contracts existing in the United States or elsewhere. He is employed by the Chinese companies at the Golden Gate to seek out and gather together the bones of his deceased countrymen for shipment back to China. In carrying out his duties he travels incessantly from one extremity of the United States to the other, and has in this way collected the bones of thousands of Chinamen.

Mr. Richard Mansfield—he of "Hyde and Jekyll" fame, who rides through the States in an elegant parlor car drawn by a milk-white locomotive—may be a little extravagant in his affections, but there is one matter with respect to which he has given evidence of profound wisdom. This is the matter of advertisement. He has instructed his manager to discontinue the exploitation of his—Mr. Mansfield's—historical prowess upon advertisement boards and wandering sandwich boards, and has directed him to confine all his attentions to the advertising columns of the newspapers. "It pays better," says he; and he is right. It does.

Realism may be carried too far on the stage. So, no doubt, thinks Mr. Kyrle Bellew, after his recent experience. During the production of the "Lights of Home," at the Adelphi Theatre, a celebrated critic commented on the absurdity of Mr. Bellew coming before the curtain to take his call, with clothes as dry as tinder, just after the scene where he is washed ashore, and therefore presumably soaked through. To meet this objection Mr. Bellew, who is nothing if not conscientious, permitted water to be sprinkled over his shirt before taking his call, with the result that he caught a severe cold, lost his voice, and was out of the bill for some time.

Marie Corelli, writer of "The Romance of Two Worlds," and other fiction of originality and strength, is not, as her name would imply, a native of Italy, but a thoroughgoing English girl, the daughter of Charles Mackay, formerly of the *Illustrated London News*. Miss Mackay has several of the eccentricities of genius, doing all her writing at night and under the influence of strong inspiration, and has adopted her *nom de plume* because of her love for Italy and all things Italian. She is attracting great interest in London now on account of the queen having given the sanction of her approval to the young writer's books, which the great lady has, according to the English idea, honored by reading.

"August Flower"

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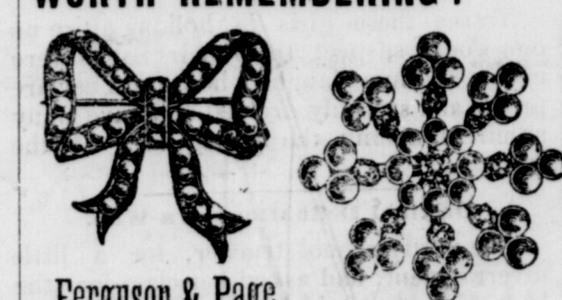
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