

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

France has a mine 4,000 feet deep.

Tomatoes were not cultivated 100 years ago.

The room in which Napoleon I. died is now a stable.

Churches built in America in 1891 numbered 8,508.

The modern panorama is due to Micheli Du Crest, a Frenchman.

Thirty-four pounds of raw sugar make twenty-one pounds refined.

It is said that the best walking pace is seventy-five steps per minute.

A child just born has less chance of living a year than an octogenarian.

The first banana was brought to the United States about fifty years ago.

The adherents of Buddhism are estimated at more than one-third of the human race.

Among the South Sea Islanders black and white striped goods are even now worn in sign of mourning.

The dry land of the globe equals 55,000,000 square miles and the area of the ocean 137,200,000 square miles.

A tribal law in Mashena, Central Africa, decrees the death by drowning of twin babies immediately after they are born.

Only citizens who are able to read and write have the power to vote in Bolivia and several other South American republics.

The glassmakers of Thebes, forty centuries ago, possessed the art of staining glass, and they produced the commodity in the utmost profusion.

The first coins made in this country were in Mexico in the mint established there in 1535. The coin was called the real. They are now worth from \$1.50 to \$6 apiece.

"Elocute," "orate," "enthuse," "anniverse," "philanthrop" and "revolute" are some of the newspaper verbs now apparently fully adopted into the American language.

The six-foot driving wheel of a locomotive running a mile a minute revolves nearly 300 times a minute. Polishing wheels are made to revolve nearly or quite 1,500 times a minute.

The armies of the civilized nations of the world number 3,600,000 men. Besides the loss of their time and labor, they cost at least \$1,000 a year each, and that amounts to \$3,600,000,000.

The furthest distance which sound has, up to this time, been known to travel was 1,600 miles, on the occasion of a volcanic explosion, in 1815, at the Tambora Mountain, in the island of Sumbawa.

In 1790 three patents were issued; 100 years later the number was 26,292. The total of patents granted during the 100 years was 453,944, or an average of nearly thirteen patents for every day.

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.

The hill near Jerusalem where the crucifixion of Jesus occurred is termed of limestone. The shores of the Dead sea are lined with pumice stone, showered out of some volcano that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, which cities finally sank beneath the waters of the Dead sea.

Who were the "Nine Worthies"? They were the Hebrews Joshua, David and Judas Maccabaeus; the Pagans Hector, Alexander and Julius Caesar, and the Christians King Arthur, Charlemagne and Godfrey de Bouillon. All were renowned warriors.

The highest viaducts and bridges in the world are St. Justina, Tyrol, 460 feet high, 197 feet long, without piers; Garabit, France, 406 feet high, 1,852 feet long, stone and iron; Du Viar (proposed) France, 382 feet high, 1,508 feet long, iron arch; Forth, 375 feet, steel.

Properly speaking, a Creole is any person born in America of foreign parents. But as the word comes from the Spanish and French, and was first used in Louisiana, its meaning has been restricted so that it is applied now only to Louisianians of French or Spanish descent. The word comes from the Spanish *criollo*, from the verb *criar*, to beget, to create.

The first American strike of which there is any record existing occurred in New York in 1741, when the demands of the journeymen bakers for higher wages having been refused they left their work in a body. This movement aroused great public indignation, and the leaders were arrested and tried for a charge which seems strange in the premises—"conspiracy against the king."

There are several explanations given of the origin of the word Mascot, but the following seems to be the most likely, "masque" in the French language means literally "masked" or covered, but it is also applied, from the derivation, to "one born with a caul." Superstition attributes good fortune to the caul and high prices have been paid for one, the owner being regarded as certain good luck as it is in his possession. A child who was fortunate enough to have been born with a caul is looked upon as being particularly lucky. In this way the child was called a "masque" and was supposed to be always fortunate and being good luck to others and the word "masque" might be very easily corrupted from "masque." Another possible derivation, although not as well supported as the former, is the following: In many countries of Europe there was a widespread superstition that the seventh son of a seventh son would be very lucky, have

powers of healing and so forth. In France the seventh son of a seventh son was called a "marcon," branded with the fleur de lis and was supposed to possess healing powers of a far higher order than the most skillful doctors. In New Orleans there was a particularly famous one called "Le Beau Marcon," his power being particularly strong during holy week. On Good Friday hundreds are said to have visited him. Mascot might have possibly come from "marcon."

"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

When a man "feels his oats" it is not always evidence of his being a stable character.—Yonkers Gazette.

The man who has "the pull" at a picnic is generally the thoughtful chap who has brought a flask.—Boston Bulletin.

The mean man likes the magazine that tells women how to dress on nothing a year and look well.—New Orleans Picayune.

The coffee palaces of Melbourne, says an exchange, are the finest in the world. The grounds are probably likewise very fine.—Rochester Post.

Counting the chickens before they are hatched is the highest way of showing confidence in the reliability of the hen.—Baltimore American.

WEAL AND WOE.

His bicycle threw him And had did he feel; But in life one is sure To have woe with his wheel.

Mrs. Chilly—"You are a terrible man, doctor. I believe you think women have no brains." Dr. Sharpen—"You are mistaken, madam; I have seen them at autopsies."

Love's Chronology.—At fifteen, she dreams; at twenty, she sings; at thirty, she talks; at forty, she lectures; at fifty, she retires into seclusion; at sixty, she narrates her campaigns.

Yeast—"Did you notice Miss Fussan-feather color up when she came into the room?" Crimsoneak—"No; I thought she did it before she came down stairs."—Yonkers Statesman.

Just the Man.—Gent: "You have come about the place of coachman. Can you drive slowly and carefully?" Applicant: "Certainly, doctor; I was five years coachman to an undertaker."

"The style of writing that you do must be very hard work." Herbert—"Well, it is; but what made you think of it?" Gladys—"Why, it makes me tired to read it."—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Adam's Advantage.—Rowley—"There is one satisfaction that Adam as a gardener." Surface—"What was that?" Rowley—"He didn't have neighbors who raised hens."—New York Herald.

A Wife's Economy.—He: "I am delighted with my new doctor; he promises to make my rheumatism disappear within a month. She (shocked): "But then we shall have to buy a barometer."

In Old Ocean's Arms.—Murilla—"Don't you find ocean bathing very strengthening?" Millicent—"Yes, indeed. It strengthens one's nerve. I used to be quite shy before I began it."—New York Herald.

The Fly in the Ointment.—"You ought to be very glad your corns are cured," said the pessimist's wife. "I suppose so," replied the pessimist, "but now I can't tell when it's going to rain."—New York Sun.

A medical certificate is among the treasures of the London General post office, worded as follows: "This is to certify that I attended Mrs. in her last illness, and that she died in consequence thereof."

Economy.—"Keen scheme that of Harlow's," said Hicks. "Took his boy to church last Sunday—pinched him just before the collection and the boy cried, so Harlow had to take him out. Saved his money."

"Mercy!" exclaimed Mrs. Homespun when she read in the paper that Jay Gould made ten cents every time the clock ticked. "I should think he'd be worried to death for fear the clock would run down."—Boston Transcript.

Hoffmann Howes—"Wheah has Howell Gibbon been lately?" Rockaway Beeche—"Staying at home, deah boy. His name was misspelled in one of the society papers and he is waiting for the affair to blow over."—Puck.

Lady (to gentleman who had just fallen down stairs)—"Good Heavens, how it frightened me! I thought it was my husband who fell down." Gentleman—"I wish to goodness it had been I. I am as much disappointed as you are."—Texas Siftings.

Some pupils were asked by an examiner at a school examination whether they knew the meaning of the word "scandal." One little girl held up her hand, and being told to answer the question said: "Nobody does nothing, and everybody goes telling of it everywhere."

An entomologist says that there are 1,000,000 and more species of insects in the world. The 999,999 species can be found crawling down your back while on a Sunday-school picnic, while the remaining one, if caught, will be sent to the World's Columbian Exposition as a curiosity.

Mrs. Huckstep (at the reception)—I am surprised to see you looking so thin, Mr. Leezer. My son George spoke of you the other day as feeling quite rugged. Miss Huckstep (so artlessly)—Why, no, mamma! Don't you recollect! What George said was that Mr. Leezer told him he was feeling pretty rocky.

A western editor is said to have hit upon a plan to keep subscriptions paid up that takes the cake. Every time a delinquent subscriber is mentioned in his paper, his name is inverted. For example:

Every other subscriber understands what it means, and there is a grand rush to get right side up again.

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Miss Ella Ewing of Scotland county, Mo., is a coy dandy of 18 summers who measures 8 feet 2 inches in height and is still growing.

Longfellow's birthplace in Portland has been bought by John Musgrave, who is remodeling the house. This gives relic-hunters a glorious chance, one of them recently carrying off a whole mantelpiece in his arms.

Mr. Gunter, the author of *Mr. Barnes of New York*, *Mr. Potter of Texas* and various other successful trans-Atlantic novels, is just on to the right side of 40. He was for many years a railway clerk before he made his great success.

Joseph Cook, the noted Boston author and lecturer, is described as a broad shouldered man with a massive head and intellectual face framed in becoming side whiskers of mixed gray and red, and kindly features illumined by a pair of large blue eyes.

Maria Delha, the new prima donna who has captured the fickle Parisian fancy, is a young girl less than 20, who began her life work in a Paris restaurant, where an artist overheard her singing to herself as she wiped the tables, and took her to Paris, and educated and introduced her.

Mrs. Potter Palmer will drive the last nail in the women's building at the world's fair. After it is put in place, it will be withdrawn and presented as a souvenir. The nail is composed of gold silver and copper, and has an adjustable head resembling a brooch, and containing a Montana sapphire.

The Prince of Wales is undoubtedly the best dressed man in Europe, if not in the world. His wardrobe is larger and more varied than that of any other man of fashion. It is on record that, upon the recent taking of an inventory at Marlborough House, it was found that His Royal Highness possessed as many as 300 pairs of trousers. Morning coats, waistcoats, afternoon coats, dress coats, overcoats, ulsters, and hunting suits were there in large numbers.

Old readers now grown to manhood who in boyhood days pursued with delight the romances of William T. Adams and got many pleasant views of life through *Oliver Optic*, will be glad to know that the Boston schoolmaster is entertaining the present generation and hopeful of charming the next. He has written altogether more than 100 books for boys, and is now busy at work with another. Mr. Adams is 70, but well enough preserved to last for thirty years to come.

The Prince of Wales and the Duke of York have been visiting the Earl of Warwick at the historic Warwick castle. The Earl adopted several ingenious plans to entertain his guests, among them being the utilization of the theatrephone, a form of the ordinary telephone, which conveys for long distances everything audible that goes on upon a stage or elsewhere. The arrangements were so successful that the Prince of Wales desired that the instrument be connected with the Covent Garden theatre. This was done, and on Tuesday the party in Warwickshire heard the whole of the opera *Romeo and Juliet*.

Net many weeks ago Queen Margherita, of Italy, summoned that sweet young Italian songstress, Signoria Palloni, to sing for her at the royal palace; and now, on the eve of her majesty's departure for a summer outing at Naples, she has presented the debutante with a fine pendant of Etruscan gold, surmounted with the royal crown, under which is an oval of blue enamel bearing the queen's own initial, "M." in diamonds. Accompanying the pendant there was a beautiful little Venetian chain, and the kindest of messages, in which she bade the young singer to persevere, for she should desire her assistance at the court concerts of the coming season.

The Czar is described as the largest among crowned heads, and the Kaiser comes next. The latter is stated to have a mania for eating at extraordinary times, and although dining copiously before going to the theatre, he generally insists on the despatch from the imperial kitchens of a forenoon containing a fully-prepared supper, which he devours in one of the private rooms of the theatre between the acts. The King of Portugal is also more gourmand than gourmet. King Humbert of Italy is a light eater, and so is Emperor Francis Joseph. The Kings of Denmark, Sweden and Norway possess truly royal appetites, while the King of Wurtemberg is contented with the simplest fare, and delights in a raw onion.

The Sultan of Johore, who is soon to visit the United States, is an Oriental potentate with all the vices but with few of the virtues of his kind. His grand tour of Europe a couple of years ago was a protracted spree from start to finish, and a costly one, for he was the prey of every gambler and ady entress of quality on the continent. The sultan is a handsome man with an immense amount of vanity and a consuming fondness for bedecking himself in fine clothes and brilliant jewels. His highness is the first East Indian potentate to give a positive promise that he will visit the world's fair, and he promises further to make an exhibit of a Malay village, which will be interesting. He will bring along a gorgeously attired guard of soldiers. The Sultan is credited with being one of the richest as well as one of the most enlightened princes of the east. Through his influence a private subscription has been raised to defray the expenses of the Malay exhibit.

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