

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

Ducks fly at an average rate of ninety miles per hour.

The English Derby was established in 1780 by the twelfth Earl of Derby.

Blue and black are unlucky colors in China. Red is an auspicious color.

Waterproof umbrellas made of paper are coming into very general use in Paris.

There are 360 mountains in the United States each exceeding 10,000 feet in height.

Wild strawberries are spoken of in Spenser's "Faerie Queen." Shakespeare speaks of their cultivation.

In India the native barbers will shave you when asleep without awakening you, the touch is so very light.

If cork is sunk 200 feet deep in the ocean it will not rise again on account of the great pressure of the water.

At Quito, the only city in the world on the line of the equator, the sun rises and sets at 6 o'clock the year round.

Twenty thousand words have been added to the English language in the department of biology alone since Darwin's discoveries.

Siberia is one of the finest undeveloped countries in the world, and it is really difficult to exaggerate the enormous wealth of this gigantic region.

So light is the spider's web that a pound weight of it will reach around the world and then leave enough to stretch from New York to San Francisco.

Statisticians say that the average man of 154 pounds weight has enough iron in his constitution to make a ploughshare and enough phosphorus to make half a million matches.

Labrador, a country which we always associate with Arctic snowdrifts, icebergs, etc., has 900 species of flowering plants, 59 ferns and over 250 species of mosses and lichens.

Investigation of rain drops leads to the conclusion that some of the large drops must be more or less hollow, as they fall when striking to wet the whole surface enclosed within the drop.

Watch crystals are made by blowing a sphere of glass about one yard in diameter, after which the discs are cut from it by means of a pair of compasses having a diamond at the extremity of one leg.

The climate of Alaska is very cold in the inland districts, but mild along the coast. At Fort Yukon, the thermometer sinks as low as 70° below zero in the winter; the summers are short and hot, the winters long and cold.

The rate of infant mortality every year is enormous. In round numbers, 5,000,000 babies never live long enough to talk, 5,000,000 more never have a chance to walk or run, and 5,000,000 more never get old enough to go to school.

Dog days, from July 3rd to August 11th. They are so called from Sirius, the most brilliant of the fixed stars in the head of the constellation Canis Major, or the Greater Dog. During this period so called, Sirius and the sun rise within the same hour, and the ancients who worshipped the dog attributed the extreme of summer to the influence of this constellation—a superstition which has been perpetuated to the present day.

It is extraordinary how fatal electricity is to the discernment of certain colors. Yellow and pink, two totally different colors, look strangely alike by electric light. Heliotrope is also like pink and subtleties of shade are quite lost in it. There never was any light to show up shades and colors like wax candles, when those commodities were made of wax. It is certain that all the artificial light of these nights mix up colors and shades inextricably, the newest illuminant is the worst offender in this respect.

Helmholtz showed that a wave of thought would require about a minute to traverse a mile of nerve, and Hirsch found that a touch on the face was recognized by the brain and responded to by a manual signal in the seventh of a second. He also found that the speed of sense differed for different organs, the sense of hearing being responded to in the sixth of a second, while that of sight required only one-fifth of a second to be felt and signaled. In all these cases the distance traversed was about the same, so the inference is that images travel more slowly than sounds or touch. It still remained, however, to show the portion of this interval taken up by the action of the brain. Professor Donders, by very delicate apparatus, has demonstrated this to be about seventy-five thousandths of a second. Of the whole interval forty thousandths are occupied in the simple act of recognition, and thirty-five thousandths for the act of willing response.

In China, the first country in the world credited with using bank-notes, certain skins were so valuable that they were accepted as cash, and passed from hand to hand in the same way as bank-notes are at the present day. The negotiability of these skins arose thus: The Emperor Ou-Ti, being in want of money, gave his treasurer to understand that such a state of affairs must not continue. At that time it was customary for princes and courtiers on entering the royal presence to cover their faces with a piece of skin. Taking advantage of this custom, the treasurer ordered a decree to be issued forbidding the use of any other skins for this purpose except those of certain white deer in the royal parks. Immediately there was a demand for pieces of these skins, which, being a monopoly, were sold at a high price, and the royal coffers refilled. The steady value of the skins thus secured made them readily pass and be acceptable as an equivalent of coin of

the realm. In the Russian seal fisheries of Alaska, the workmen were formerly paid in a currency stamped on squares of walrus hide.

"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

"Don't you know that your father is the mainstay of the family?" "Golly, ain't he, though, and the spanker, too."—Brooklyn Life.

Maud—"Is Helen very nervous?" Alice—"Well, I should think so. Why, every night when she takes down her folding bed she shuts it up again to look under it."—Yale Record.

Mrs. Hicks—"People complain of being robbed at drug stores; they never overcharge me." Hicks—"What do you buy?" Mrs. Hicks—"Postage stamps."—New York Herald.

The pretty Mexican girl is not obliged to lie awake nights trying to decide which of two lovers she will choose. She knows that by the next morning there will be only one left.

Paterfamilias—"Why did you kiss my daughter against her will, sir?" Jack—"Well, because—don't you see—she changed her mind when it was too late."—Kate Field's Washington.

Don't know When to stop.—Smilax—"Bandersnatch talks at railroad speed when he gets started." Borax—"Yes—very like a railroad, except that he seems to lack terminal facilities."—Grip.

"Is Bronson as forgetful as ever?" "More so. Why, that fellow has to look himself up in the directory every night before he goes home from business." Forgets his address.—Harper's Bazar.

Corydon (at the picnic)—Let me give you a glass of lemonade, dearest. Phyllis (blushing)—Lemons do not agree with me. Corydon (brightly)—Oh, but there isn't enough of lemon in this to do you any harm.

An Urgent Case.—Lady (greatly excited): "Oh, doctor, do come at once to our house!" Doctor: "Yes, directly; who is dangerously ill?" Lady: "I am!" but, as I had no one to send, I came myself to tell you!"

"Does your husband get much pleasure reading his books, Mrs. Higley?" "Well, no. You see, he buys such expensive ones he has to work all the time to pay for them, and has no time for reading," returned the wife of the bibliomaniac.

Seasonable.—Summer is late this year, but it has come at last. A dealer in house fuel, not having been able to clear out his stock, has posted on his door the following notice: "Good firewood for the summer season, giving but very little heat."

Minority Rule.—"After all, there is much to be said in favor of minority rule." "Do you think so?" "Certainly. It is never the majority but the minority that discovers that the safety of the country is menaced by the perils of unwise legislation."

Jamie's father had taken him in to see the baby. "There, my son," he said, "is a little sister for you. Won't she be a nice present?" "Yes," replied Jamie, "she's nice enough, I reckon, but I'd rather have a goat."—Chicago Tribune.

"Palet is playing in hard luck," said one artist to another. "How?" "He painted a picture of the grate in his room, and got it so natural and life-like that a new servant he had threw a scuttle full of coal through it and ruined it." "Doctor, I don't know what to do with my boy. He doesn't seem to be sick, and he isn't lazy, but he acts kind o' dazed and queer, as if he had wheels in his head." "That's exactly his trouble, sir. He has bicycle on the brain. Get him one."—Chicago Tribune.

A lover, young and enthusiastic, who sang and played nearly two hours before the house of his lady-love one evening, was electrified—that is, shocked—after a short pause, by a cordial—"Thank you" from the "other fellow," who appeared at the window.

False Feathers.—Seedy Party (contemplating himself in a pocket mirror): "Here I am wearing the boots of a bank manager, the trousers of a landed proprietor, a baron's coat and vest, and even a count's hat, and in spite of all that I look like a tramp."—Fliegende Blätter.

She Prefers Tallow Dips.—"What kind o' fire-works are those?" asked Aunt Meddergrass of her city nephew, on the night of the Fourth. "Those are Roman candles, Aunt." "Are they? Well, I'm glad I don't live in Rome. I'd hate the worst kind to have to sew by the light of them things."—Puck.

Jiggs—I tell you, Cowbey, you've got to brace up pretty soon, if you don't want to become a physical wreck. Cowbey—Aw—what's the aw twouble? Jiggs—You're getting lopsided. You ought to lead a mastiff or a St. Bernard, or something with one hand to balance the weight of your cane in the other!

"What do you mean by disturbing me at this hour of the night?" said an Austin doctor angrily to a darkey who woke him up at three o'clock in the morning. "I jess allowed, boss, dat yer was so busy yer didn't hab time ter tend ter poor folks in de day time, so I 'lowed I'd jess drap in after supper."—Texas Siftings.

Timely Precautions.—Landlord of Seaside Hotel—Where are all the young ladies this morning? Head Waiter—They are out on the water killing a shark. L.—Killing a shark? That's a curious pastime for young ladies. H. W.—It's a man-eating shark, you know, and they're afraid he'll get hold of the only man that's here.

His Words were Frank.—In an American court a defendant who had lost his case rose up and gave his opinion on the judgement. His words were frank, and he was fined 10 dollars for contempt of court. A bill was handed over to the clerk which proved to be 20 dollars. "I have no change," said the clerk, tendering it to the offender. "Never mind about the other 10 dollars," was the retort. "Keep it, I'll take it out in contempt."

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Miss Hannah Fairchild, of Westport, Ct., has been a church member for fifty-five years, and has not missed a single service during all that period.

Queen Victoria's golden wedding presents to the king and queen of Denmark were a marble vase, nearly five feet in height, and a cask of Lochmarg whisky twenty years old.

Since Mr. Labouchere appended his name to a Salvation army appeal a fortnight or more ago, there has been a disposition to caricature him, dressed in the garb of the much-abused organization which he befriended.

M. Zola is a great lover of curios. His home in Paris and his country seat at Meulan are filled with artistic treasures, and he spends much of his spare time in the auction rooms. He only remains three hours at his desk, and those in the morning.

Queen Victoria has, like other women, her pet superstitions, one of which is the belief that anything made by a blind person brings luck. Accordingly the cradle with all its furnishings for the latest Battenberg baby has been prepared entirely by the blind.

Minnehaha, the 18-year-old daughter of Sitting Bull, is to be honored with a life-size statue in the South Dakota women's exhibit at the Columbian exhibition. It is related that she died of a broken heart after having loved hopelessly an army officer at Fort Sully.

A millionaire and his wife have just joined the Salvation army. They are Mr. and Mrs. George Montgomery, of San Francisco. Mr. Montgomery owns large mines in Mexico, and huge estates in California. They both wear the ordinary uniform of the "Army."

Sarah Bernhardt gives her friends to understand that she was one of eighteen children, and in consideration of that fact very naturally her mother forgets the particular year in which this gifted daughter was born. She was educated at a convent, four times to be expelled and four times taken back into the fold.

Queen Christina of Spain upon receiving the announcement that the thousandth baby had been named after her husband, sent the parents a layette, silver baby service, and a handsome nest egg, with the graceful message: "To the thousandth Altonso, from a woman whom two Altonsos have made happy."

George Gould didn't go to college; instead, he went into his father's office at the age of 16, and at 28 he is now a six-millionaire in his own right. Few young college graduates earn that much in as many years, but then it is to be observed that earning money is not the end at which a college education is aimed.

Andrew Carnegie was an errand boy in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad company when thirteen years old. Within five years he was appointed chief operator of telegraphy, and a few years after bought a small iron foundry in partnership with his brother, and laid the foundation of his present wealth, which he estimates as between \$50,000,000 and \$85,000,000.

A young English girl is seeing America on a somewhat novel plan. As she has not enough money to make the grand tour, she has adopted the idea of applying for work in the hotels of the cities that she visits. She remains in a place long enough to see the sights on her afternoons out, and with the wages she earns and a small sum she has on hand she intends to see most of America.

Prince Massimo, of Rome, whose palace was picked out as a good one to blow up with an anarchist bomb, does not claim to be a descendant of Fabius Maximus. The family sentiment on this subject was expressed by the Prince Massimo, who was asked by the first Napoleon whether that was the family origin, and who answered: "I do not know. All I know about it is that that tradition has been handed down in the family for twenty centuries."

One of the most interesting personages at Hyeres was M. Louis Cartigny, in his 102nd year. He was the last French survivor of Trafalgar, and he was to have been visited by the queen during her stay. By a curious coincidence the veteran died on the very day the queen arrived at Hyeres. M. Cartigny, who enjoyed excellent health up to the very last, was powdered-monkey on the vessel from which Nelson is supposed to have received his death-wound. On the surrender of that vessel he was taken to England, where he remained a prisoner of war for a number of years.

M. Dumas is sixty-six years old, and is to make his home henceforth in the country, having sold his next door neighbor at Marly le Roy. The Paris correspondent of the Tribune tells us something about his home life. He rises at 6:30 in the morning and at seven in the winter. After dressing he goes to his study, where he lights his own fire, reads his letters, receives his friends, and works a little. He does not read the papers, for he generally hears the news before it gets into the journals. His first breakfast consists of a glass of cold milk; the second, which occurs at noon, is a very plain meal. After eating, Dumas works until about four, when he goes out for a promenade. He walks rapidly, with head erect, rolling his shoulders a little. He dines at seven and goes to bed between ten and eleven. He is a light eater, but a heavy sleeper, and needs from eight to nine hours of repose. He expects to write many plays and novels in his new home.

The Dowager Empress Frederick, mother of the German Emperor, is a living confirmation of the saying, "Unhappy lies the head that wears a crown," even a crown by courtesy. She is just now most unhappy because she has a marriageable daughter upon her hands, the Princess Margaret. She loves her daughter, and does not consider her a mere sop to be thrown to the first nation that needs placating. On this point the empress and her self-willed son do not agree, as the emperor is most desirous that Margaret should marry the heir prospective to the Russian throne, while her mother bitterly opposes the match. The resulting rupture between mother and son will undoubtedly increase in seriousness, as the empress has declared her intention of standing by her young daughter, who, she declares, and very rightly too, has a right to some of the happiness and liberty enjoyed by her plebeian sisters, even though she be of royal blood.

"August Flower"

I had been troubled five months with Dyspepsia. The doctors told me it was chronic. I had a fullness after eating and a heavy load in the pit of my stomach. I suffered frequently from a Water Brash of clear matter. Sometimes a deadly Sickness at the Stomach would overtake me. Then again I would have the terrible pains of Wind Colic. At such times I would try to belch and could not. I was working then for Thomas McHenry, Druggist, Cor. Irwin and Western Ave., Allegheny City, Pa., in whose employ I had been for seven years. Finally I used August Flower, and after using just one bottle for two weeks, was entirely relieved of all the trouble. I can now eat things I dared not touch before. I would like to refer you to Mr. McHenry, for whom I worked, who knows all about my condition, and from whom I bought the medicine. I live with my wife and family at 39 James St., Allegheny City, Pa. Signed, JOHN D. COX.

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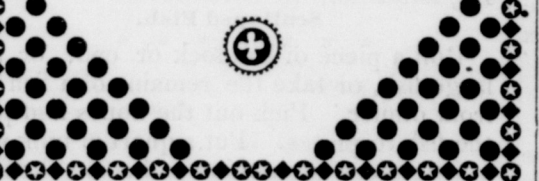
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