

# THINGS WORTH KNOWING

The largest pyramid in Egypt is 438 feet high.

The New Testament was first printed in Irish in 1602.

The mean height of land above the sea level is 2,250 feet.

Grasshoppers contain formic acid worth sixty cents an ounce.

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

Sweden, with nearly 5,000,000 inhabitants, has only 810 Roman Catholics.

The distance from the north pole to the equator, measured along the earth's surface, is 6,000 miles.

A cubic inch of gold is worth, in round numbers, \$210; a cubic foot, \$362,380, and a cubic yard, \$9,797,762.

It is stated that among every 1,000 bachelors there are thirty-eight criminals; among married men the ratio is only eighteen per 1,000.

Dancing is taught in many of the public schools of Scotland and is made a feature of the closing exercises at the end of the term.

The first wheat raised in the new world was sown on the Island of Isabella in January, 1494, and on March 30 the crop was gathered.

Excavations for a canal over the Suez isthmus were made over 2,000 years ago. A small canal was actually dug and in use 273 years B. C.

A man with a mind for statistics has computed that over sixty-five quadrillions of people have lived on the earth since the beginning of time.

In the time of Henry VII. parliament passed a law which declared that on and after that date pins should not be sold for more than 6s 8d per 1,000.

The first American directory was issued at Philadelphia in 1785 by Francis White. It comprised 83 pages, with 3,570 names, and was sold at half a dollar.

The exact physical center of the United States is the stone at Fort Riley, Kan., which marks the grave of Major Ogden, who died of cholera in 1855.

In London one policeman is required for every 312 of the population; in the English boroughs one for every 697, and in the rural districts one for every 1,150.

Bees are said to have such an antipathy to dark colored objects that black chickens have been stung to death, while white ones of the same brood were untouched.

Cranes, storks and wild geese fly fast enough to make the trip from Northern Europe to Africa in a week, but most of them rest north of the Mediterranean.

Numerous experiments to determine the best fire-resisting materials for the construction of doors proved that wood covered with tin resisted the fire better than an iron door.

The seasons nominally and according to the calendar begin as follows: Spring, March 20, at 3 a. m.; summer, June 20, 11 p. m.; autumn, September 22, 2 p. m.; winter, December 21, 8 a. m.

The oldest hotel in Switzerland, and probably the oldest in the world, is the hotel of the Three Kings, at Basle. Among its guests in 1026 were the Emperor Conrad II. and his son Henry III. and Rudolph, the last King of Burgundy.

The first instance of suicide recorded in scripture is that of Samson, (B. C. 1117). The second is that of Saul (B. C. 1055). Rather than fall into the hands of the Philistines, when hard pressed in battle, he drew his sword and fell upon it and so died. Judas Iscariot, through remorse, went and hanged himself.

The eagle had long been used as an emblem of power; the Romans, Russia, Prussia, Austria, all used the eagle to denote royal or widespread power; Napoleon used an eagle as an imperial emblem of France. But before his time the American eagle had been adopted as emblematic of the power of the United States.

Measurements of weight by the "stone" arose from the old custom farmers had of weighing wool with a stone. Every farmer kept a large stone at his farm for the purpose. When a dealer came along he balanced a plank on the top of a wall, and put the stone on one end of it and bags of wool on the other end, until the weights were equal.

It is generally conceded that gunpowder was used by the Chinese as an explosive in pre-historic times. When they first discovered or applied its power is not known. It is said that in the century before the Christian era a cannon was employed bearing the inscription "I hurl to death the traitor and extermination to the rebel." It has also been asserted that India has equal claims with China to the first acquaintance with gunpowder.

A spinning-top is maintained in an upright position by a combination of two forces—(1) the force of the earth's gravitation, or pull downwards; (2) the force of centrifugality, which pulls horizontally the top in all directions at once. And it is the combination of these two forces which maintains the top in a vertical position. The same thing is more obvious in the case of a school-boy's trundled hoop, which the moment the speed is relaxed begins to wobble, but on receiving a forward blow regains the upright position. The upright position is maintained only so long as the speed is sufficiently great to overcome the pull of gravitation, and when the top begins to spin round slower and slower, the vertical position is lost, the top begins to

sway from side to side, and finally falls to the ground. The speed of a top which went for forty minutes has been found to be at the same rate as an express train, or a mile a minute. The motions of the earth and of all the heavenly bodies are controlled by precisely the same guidance as that which keeps a spinning-top upright.

## "PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

Impatient Guest—How long is my steak going to be? Waiter—About eight inches, boss—we give big portions here.

Ban Anna was the fairy's name, Her cheeks were apple red, I shyly kissed her cherry lips, "Don't peach on me," she said.

A man always thinks his love-letters models of composition till they come up in a breach of promise case. Then he differs.

He—I know it's awfully impertinent, but tell me, are you engaged? She—I could tell better if you were to ask me another question first.

Scads—"You say he left no money?" Baggs—"No. You see, he lost his health getting wealthy, and then lost all his wealth trying to get healthy."

Jack—"There is one comfort in disputing with an old maid." Harry—"For instance?" Jack—"She doesn't tell you she did this and that before you were born."

Visitor—"Seems to me your baby sleeps a good deal. He is never awake when I call." Happy Father—"You call at the wrong time. His hours are from one to five a. m."

Dentist—"With or without gas? With gas, fifty cents extra." Mr. Hardache—"If you can't see in this glaring sunlight, I ain't goin' to pay you extra for gas, that's sartin."—Puck.

A Wise Precaution.—Johnnie (calling down stairs)—"Oh, ma, pa has lost his collar button." Ma—"Well, hurry and take the parrot out of the room and hang the cage in the hall."

An Revolver.—Judge Duffy—"I hope I shall not see you here again." Regular Customer—"Not see me here again? Why, you ain't going to resign your position, are you?"—Texas Sittings.

Doctor—"The trouble with you is that you are suffering from impoverished blood." Patient—"I should think it would be impoverished. It has already been examined by ten doctors."

Cudlip—"I wish the man on the corner who grinds that beastly hand-organ would take up his quarters elsewhere." Sapley—"He can't, poor fellow. He takes up only nickels and pennies."—Truth.

Mrs. Gadder—Have you seen Mrs. Hemphill since her husband eloped with the cook? Mrs. De Gush—Yes; she doesn't care; she was going to give the cook notice anyway.—Brooklyn Life.

"I tell you what it is, Martha, I'm tired of seeing that young fellow coming here two or three evenings a week. I think I shall have to sit on him." "I wouldn't, pa; 'twould be of no use. I've done it myself several times, and I think he rather likes it."

"My article on the death of Colonel Jones was plain enough," said the editor. "I wrote in plain words that he died shouting praises, and went where all is well." "Doesn't it read that way in the paper?" asked the proof reader. "It does not," said the editor. "It reads: 'He died shouting praises, and went where all is hell!'"

Mr. Belud, a house proprietor in Paris, accept as his tenants none but people of the lower classes, married, and with children. Every time a child is born in one of his houses, he presents the mother with ten francs, a chicken, and a supply of coal for the winter. He is himself the father of seventeen children. Comment is superfluous.

Seven or eight of them were talking in the court house the other day about the best position in which to sleep. "I lie on my face," said one. "I lie on my back," said another. "I lie on my left side," said a third, and so on until it reached an old fellow writing at a desk. "It doesn't make any difference to me how I lie," he said, without stopping his work, "I'm a lawyer."

Young Wite—Dear me! I put that plaster of Paris in an old baking powder can; and now I don't know which is the baking powder and which is the plaster. Husband—What do you want to do? "I want to mend a lamp." "Well, you can only tell by experimenting." "Of course. Why didn't I think of that? I will make two sponge cakes, and put one in one and the other in the other."

An Idaho newspaper, in writing up a ball, thus describes a fair lassie's garb: "Miss Y— wore a red bombazine dress ruffled with a point alpaca and overskirt of rose gingham with a border of parsley blossoms. Her turtleneck was particularly noticeable from the fact that her hair was so deliciously scrambled in front. She also wore No. 9 lilac double button gloves and No. 6 store shoes slashed at the heels and pompadour socks."

The editor of a southwestern religious paper recently received the following letter: "Dear sir: When my subscription expires I desire to stop taking your paper. The only practical article it has had for the last six months was a recipe for getting rid of red ants, and on making a trial of it I find it is no good. A paper that gives bad advice about red ants may be just as far off the track in its theology, and it ain't worth a blame to me."

"You have some fine ducks this morning," said the kindly old schoolmaster to a poulterer. "Yes, sir, all fresh today." "What is the price?" "You can take your choice, sir. I have them at all prices." "Well, I want to give my boys a treat, but I do not want them to be too tender. There are a dozen here—pick out four of the toughest." The poulterer obeyed. "Here, sir, you have four of the toughest birds in my shop." "Thank you, sir," said the schoolmaster, "I'll take the other eight."

## MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Cardinal Manning died so poor that there was not enough money left to bury him, and a subscription had to be raised among his friends for the funeral expenses.

A Miss Murphy edits the Melbourne Punch one of the funniest and most flourishing of colonial comic papers. She joined the staff some years ago in a subordinate capacity, and has attained to her present position solely by her ability. She is a great advocate of women's rights, and is exceedingly handsome.

The Rothschilds have a pretty way of providing a birthday present for all the girls of the family when they come of age. At the birth of each little girl six pearls, valued at \$2,500 are put aside. Six more are added at every birthday, and when the young lady reaches the age of 21 she is presented with the valuable necklace.

The ex-Empress Eugenie, it is said, when at Farnborough goes daily to pray in the mortuary chapel near. Everyone else is excluded while the empress is within. An armchair is placed at the foot of each of the two sarcophagi wherein lie the remains of Napoleon III. and the Prince Imperial, and first at one and then at the other the Empress sits alone in prayer. Both tombs are decorated with floral wreaths and scattered flowers. Of the latter, violets are the most numerous.

Lord Tennyson, the Poet Laureate, is one of twelve children of a poor country clergyman, the Rev. George Clayton Tennyson, rector of Somersby, Lincolnshire. He began writing verses at a very early age. When his grandmother died, his grandfather asked him to write a poem on the sad event, and when the boy had read it to him he presented him with a shilling, remarking: "There, that's the first money you have earned by writing poetry, and take my word for it, it's the last." This was an unfortunate prediction, for he has earned more money by his poems than any other person in the history of the whole world.

The elder Baron Rothschild had the walls of his bank plundered with the following maxims: Shun liquors; dare to go forward; never be discouraged; never tell business lies; be polite to everybody; employ your time well; be prompt in everything; pay your debts promptly; bear all troubles patiently; do not reckon upon chance; make no useless acquaintances; be brave in the struggle of life; maintain your integrity as a sacred thing; never appear something more than you are; take time to consider and then decide positively; carefully examine into every detail of your business; then work hard and you will be certain to succeed in life.

From his earliest days at sea Prince George has ever been a thoroughly efficient and also a popular officer, not only with his comrades in the gun-room or the ward-room, but also with all the men over whom he has had command. As a midshipman he was always keen to do all in his power to render the boat's crew or the gun intrusted to his charge the smartest and best-handled in the ship; as a lieutenant he was always alive to all the individual characters of the men on his division.

In these days of travel and increasing speeds in every direction it is noteworthy to find that there is a woman living at Chelbury, Dorset, who, during her seventy-four years of life, has never once slept outside the parish. She has never taken a railway journey, nor even seen a train. Though a regular church-goer all her days, she has never attended a service at, or set foot inside, any place of worship, save her parish church. She was christened and married there, as were all her family, and she hopes to be laid to rest in its graveyard beside her late husband, a carpenter. There are two other churches within half a mile of her cottage, but neither service nor preacher have tempted her from her own.

The stables of King Humbert of Italy are exceptionally fine, and contain (at present) nearly 150 horses, chiefly English bred. The double row of stalls forms a regular street, so beautifully kept that it is a pleasure to walk through it, and it is a pleasure to have his name printed in large letters on a little board above the manger. Amongst the English horses may be noticed such names as "Flirt," "Milord," "Lawn-tennis," "Epsom," and "Gentleman." Upstairs are the state carriages and those used on special occasions. Some of these are magnificently upholstered in white satin. The carriage in which the Queen drives every day is very plain, but this simplicity is counteracted by the brilliant scarlet liveries of her coachman and footmen.

Stuart Cumberland, the English mind-reader, and Miss Phyllis Bentley, a relative of his wife, and a performer of apparently miraculous feats of strength, were among the golden wedding guests of the King and Queen of Denmark. Neither the king, nor the Crown Prince, nor the czar, nor any of the other men present could force to the ground a billiard cue held by Bentley. The czar, who is regarded as the strongest monarch in Europe, physically, tried without success to lift this young woman from the floor by her elbows, or to push her against a wall; while she, alone, lifted a chair containing the czar, the Crown Prince of Denmark, the Duke of Cumberland—whether singly or collectively, the accounts received do not clearly indicate.

Little King Alfonso seems to be becoming the prop and the mainstay of the particular type of gossips who devote themselves to the circulation of interesting and more or less venacious particulars about royal personages. Only a few days ago we heard the very improbable story of how the baby monarch, at the age of six, had become a fluent conversationalist in no fewer than three foreign languages. This extremely credible information has been promptly followed up by an account of a "strange escapade" in which the miniature sovereign is said to have indulged. With much minuteness of corroborative detail we are informed how the small Alfonso, being suddenly missed from the garden at Royat, where he was playing with his elder sister, was discovered, after a prolonged search, in the casino, habited in the motley garb of a miniature clown. It is explained that his most sacred majesty had purposely betaken himself to the theater, and had there induced a loyal workman to disguise his royal person in the garb which the melancholy Jacques describes as "your only wear."

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