

# THINGS WORTH KNOWING

Spiders have eight eyes.

Music type was invented in 1502.

One million dollars in gold weighs 3,685.8 pounds avoirdupois.

In Saxony about 70 per cent. of the workmen earn less than \$150 per year.

A medieval writer on demonology places the total number of devils at precisely 44,435,556.

Electricity in its various forms of application, is said to give employment to 5,000,000 persons.

In Chinese the letter "i" has 145 ways of being pronounced, and each pronunciation has a different meaning.

According to a calculation published in a London paper, the entire population of the world would stand on a field ten miles square.

German born residents furnished 8.76 per cent. of the strength of the Union army during the United States war of the rebellion.

The population of India, by late census, is 300,000,000. The census was taken in seventeen languages, at the expense of \$1,000,000.

In spite of its ice and severe cold, Labrador possesses 900 species of flowering plants, 59 ferns and over 250 species of mosses and lichens.

In area, the United States has 3,025,000 square miles, exclusive of Alaska, and 3,602,990 with Alaska. Canada has 3,470,227 square miles.

In olden times, when every part of the body had its price, the beard was valued at twenty shillings—a large sum for the time—while the loss of a leg was only estimated at twenty shillings.

The custom of kissing hands as a mark of respect is said to be the most ancient and the most universal. From the remotest times through the ages of Greece and Rome to the present day, it has existed.

Norway is liberal but exactly tolerant to all. In that country all Christian sects, except Jesuites, are tolerated and are free to exercise their religion within the limits prescribed by the law and public order.

The Paris Exposition of 1885 cost \$5,000,000; the London Exposition of 1862 cost \$2,300,000; the Paris Exposition of 1889 cost \$6,500,000. The cost of the Exposition next year at Chicago will exceed \$20,000,000.

The earth's surface only exceeds the moon's by about thirteen and one-half times. The moon's surface is fully as large as Africa and Australia together, and nearly as large as North and South America without the islands.

It is now admitted that the inherent hue of water is blue. Even distilled water has been proved to be almost exactly of the same tint as a solution of Prussian blue. This is corroborated by the fact that the purer the water is in nature the bluer is its hue.

In Canada in 1891 were sent 118,275,000 letters, which travelled twenty-seven million odd miles. The post offices number 8,061, and the miles of post route 58,905. Three hundred and fifty letter carriers deliver the missives in big towns; elsewhere the citizen goes to the office for his mail.

Although limited by Act of Parliament to 1,000 men, the regular army of Canada numbers 1,009. The active militia number 36,977, of which Ontario has 17,387; Quebec, 11,536; New Brunswick, 2,451; Nova Scotia, 3,646; Manitoba, 1,064; Prince Edward Island, 617, and British Columbia, 276.

The police force of Paris, in 1871, numbered six thousand, one hundred men; now there are only six thousand four hundred policemen, and the population has increased one and a half millions in the time. Last year New York City expended \$4,000,000 on its schools and \$4,250,000 for its police. In three years the increase of the cost of the police has been sixty-three per cent. and the increased cost of the schools seventeen per cent.

During the middle ages, when astrology was in vogue, a character similar to the present letter R was the sign of Jupiter, the preserver of health. The doctors, who were equally devoted to the science of medicine and of astrology, always began their prescriptions with the following words: "In the name of Jupiter take the following doses in the order set down hereinafter." In the course of time this formula was abbreviated until only the letter R remained.

In 1890 the population of the United States aggregated 62,622,250 persons, of whom 136,400 (one in every 459) were serving sentences in prisons. Of the five geographical divisions the North Atlantic has the largest share, showing a total of 28,258, of whom 11,468 are credited to New York, thus giving to the empire state the unenviable leadership of all others in her criminal list. This is principally due to the immense population of the state, but largely to the great proportion of criminals who immigrate yearly from other countries.

In 1890 there were 38,540 convictions for various offences in Canada. Four hundred and thirty-five persons were sent to the penitentiaries, which have a population of 1,251. Kingston contains 586 convicts, St. Vincent de Paul 342, Dorchester 174, Manitoba 73 and British Columbia 86. But ten convicts died last year, while a like number escaped. Twenty-six persons were charged with murder in the year mentioned, but only nine were convicted. One was confined in a lunatic asylum, and eight were executed. Between the first of July, 1867, and the thirtieth of June, 1891, there

were 93 persons executed in Canada. The largest number executed in any one year was in 1885, the year of the Northwest rebellion, when, on the Regina scaffold, several rebels suffered the penalty of their misdeeds against the welfare of the state.

## "PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

They say it is dangerous to go into the water after a hearty meal. But who expects to find a hearty meal in the water?

"Does your new dress fit you well, Clara?" "Oh, splendidly! I can hardly move or breathe in it."—New York Press.

The girl of the period really may be versed in grammatical laws, But all who know her regret to say She never comes to a pause.

"I don't see how a woman can marry a man," remarked Miss Fitty. "Well, there's really nothing else to marry," replied Miss Flypp.

Jinks (examining his prescription)—"These doctors are awfully fond of Latin, aren't they? Filkins—'Yes; it's a dead language, you know.'—Truth.

"Me mamma says we can't play with you 'cause you have the mumps." "Ah, go on! 'Taint so, fer I give 'em to Sammy Gibbs day afore yistery."—Life.

"How do you like that?" said the mediaval torturer as he tightened the thumb screw. "Oh, it will do—at a pinch," answered the prisoner philosophically.

Briggs—Isn't that the same suit you had last year? Griggs—Yes; and it's the same suit that you asked me last year if it wasn't the same suit that I had the year before.

Uncle John—No, I am your uncle on your mother's side. Dolly (recently punished)—Well, if you knew mamma as well as I do, I guess you'd be on papa's side.

She—Why do you toy so nervously with that fan. Are you afraid of it? He (gallantly)—I am afraid of anything that could produce a coolness between us.—Life.

Aunt—Why, Clara! How do you manage to get one hand so much more sunburned than the other. Clara—That is the hand on which I wear my engagement ring.

Clerk—"How shall I mark these goods?" Old Tapeyard—"Just figure out fifty per cent. profit and add seven odd cents, so the women will think it's a bargain."—Puck.

"I've got a new baby brother," said Tommy. "That's all right," answered Freddy, "but I'm going to have a new grown-up brother as soon as sister marries him."

No Hope—Cholly—"How do you know she won't marry you, dear boy?" Chappie—"Precedent, me dear fellow. She nevah has married any one." Cholly—"That's so, by Jove."—Truth.

Mr. Gruflengrumbler—"Did you hear about that western woman who set a bear-trap last week and caught a young man?" Mrs. G.—"No, but I've heard of a woman who set a young man-trap and caught a bear."

"How is it with you?" asked the editor of the subscriber who was dying in arrears. "All looks bright before me," gasped the subscriber. "I thought so," said the editor. "In about ten minutes you'll see it blaze!"

Stanby—Miss Triller hasn't favored us with any music this evening. I'm going to make her sing. Old Mr. Triller—I'll make it worth your while if you will, young man. It's more than that Italian professor I've subsidized can do.

Miss Flypp—I don't believe that a woman should marry her opposite. Miss Trivert—Don't you? Miss Flypp—No, I don't. Do you suppose I could be happy with a man who possessed neither beauty nor mental attainments?

Cashier—"I can't honor that check, madam. Your husband's account is overdrawn." Woman—"Huh! Overdrawn, is it? I suspected something was wrong when he signed this check without waiting for me to get the hysteresis."—New York Weekly.

Dashaway—"Willie, do you think your sister likes me?" Willie—"She told mamma the other day she thought you were one of the nicest men she ever met." Dashaway (handing him a quarter)—"What else did she say?" Willie—"When you were asleep."

Mrs. Mainchance (sentimentally): "I declare, darling, you hold the umbrella over me just as carefully as you did in our courting days—more carefully, if anything." Mr. Mainchance (prosaically): "I didn't have to buy your millinery in those days, Myrtilla."

A country newspaper correspondent in Maine, recently sent this cheerful bit of news to his paper: "Brooks is at last provided with a nice hearse and our citizens can now be conveyed to their graves in decent shape. This is something that has long been needed here."

He Knew that Face—"I can't think where I have met you," said the puzzled tourist on the steamer, "but your face is very familiar." "I am the man, sir," replied the other, with dignity, "who was cured of that tired feeling by using twelve bottles of Dr. Rybold's Sarsaparilla, sir."—Chicago Herald.

Little Boy—"Mamma, may I have that big family bible a little while?" Fond Mamma—"Of course you can, my pet. Your thoughts are on higher things, I see." Little Boy—"Yes'm." Bridget (to herself two hours afterwards)—"Humph! More of that jam gone. I don't see how that boy reaches it."—Good News.

Mrs. Livingstone (to her sons, whose well brushed hair and clothes contrast with their unwashed faces)—Why, boys, why didn't you take your bath this morning? Marie says your towels aren't even unfolded, and your pitchers are full. One of the Boys—Why, mamma, it said on our door, "No washing allowed in the rooms," so, of course, we couldn't take a bath.

## MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

The young Khedive of Egypt is a splendid athlete. He can out-distance any of his subjects in running. He can also play a capital game of chess.

The Czar is never lonely on his splendid yacht, the Polar Star, as she carries a crew of 300 men who are selected from the best sources in the imperial fleet.

The original of Rider Haggard's mighty hunter, Quatermain, is said to be Mr. F. C. Selous, who for some time past has been constructing roads in Mashonaland.

The czar of Russia has recently found time to become interested in the game of cricket, it is said, and has organized two elevens among the young men of his court.

The little queen of Holland has had a military uniform prepared for her, the reason being that she was appointed by the Emperor William to the nominal colonelcy of a regiment.

A reunion of the Harlan family, descendants of George and Michael Harlan, who came to this country from Scotland in 1682, is to be held at Richmond, Ind. There are about 8,000 of them.

The only native lady in Cairo who dares to go about unveiled is the Princess of Egypt. She even goes so far as to give dinner parties and other entertainments, to which male foreigners are invited.

The private secretary of the Prince of Wales, Sir Francis Knollys, had a daughter christened Louvina, being an amalgam of the christian names of the three young Princesses of Wales—Louise, Victoria, and Maud.

Mrs. Gladstone still sits on the platform every time her grand old man makes a speech, and she doesn't have to assist him in restoring order, either. Her task is rather more agreeable than the one which fell to Mrs. Stanley.

The peeresses of Great Britain, such either by birth, marriage or creation, are exempt from arrest or imprisonment on civil process, and in the event of a peeress being charged with crime, she would be tried by the House of Lords.

M. Pasteur is lying in a rather precarious state of health at Villeneuve-l'Etang, near St. Cloud. The eminent scientist is subject to an affection of the heart, and about a month ago he suffered from a bad attack that left him very weak.

The Princess of Monaco, who has at last prevailed upon her husband to close the gambling establishments in his principality as soon as the leases expire, is said to have concluded to convert the beautiful casino at Monte Carlo into a hospital.

Baron Alphonse de Rothschild has his principal pictures so hung that they can be instantly countersunk into the walls and protected by chilled steel shutters. He is quite prepared for the raids of the anarchists or the visits of the iconoclasts.

The Austrian Emperor, in order to acknowledge a singular display of loyalty, accepted the sum of five florins, equal to about \$2, which had been bequeathed to his majesty by a poor peasant recently deceased in the Austrian province of Carinola.

Victoria's maids of honor, who are paid \$1,500 a year for their services, earn their salaries. They are obliged to appear before the Queen in a new gown every day and to be in readiness to attend her majesty at any and every hour of the day.

Tennyson has been staying in London and astonishing all his friends by his physical vigor and the buoyancy of his spirits. He has been attending many theatrical performances and has made excursions on foot about the city in company with his son.

A man called Auguste has just died in Paris, leaving behind him the respectable sum of 100,000 francs, or \$20,000, the whole of which would appear to have been amassed from the profits earned by picking up cigar ends in the streets of the French metropolis.

Queen Victoria is somewhat sensitive in the matter of her authority as sovereign of a nation fast growing democratic. To a member of her court who said, "I suppose they will make several new peers now that Mr. Gladstone is in," Victoria replied with emphasis, "They?"

The Australian Premier, Sir George Richard Dibbs, who is making a tour through this country, was the first native born Australian minister to visit London. While he was there the Queen knighted him. He is about fifty-eight years of age, and stands six feet four inches tall, and, in spite of his wealth, finds his chief pleasure when at home in the use of a turning-lathe in the spacious workshop he has built at his summer home near Sidney.

The late Suleiman Pasha, known to history as the luckless hero of Shipka Pass where 12,000 Russian and Turkish soldiers lost their lives in the frightful carnage, was a most reserved and unostentatious man. He was tall and gaunt in figure, with a wrinkled face and a short red beard and mustache. When in the field he slept on the ground under a piece of canvas stretched over two sticks, and fared liked his men. His contempt of red tape was excessive, and he cut many a Gordian knot of diplomatic intricacy with the sword.

There is a report in Munich that the insane King of Bavaria a few weeks ago suddenly awoke from his chronic apathy to momentary intelligence. He is said to have suddenly understood his surroundings. After he had conversed rationally for some time with his attendants, one of them made the remark: "Now your majesty will show yourself to your people in your capital." The king shook his head and answered: "Gladly would I go to Munich, but my people want to see a sane king, and I am a sick one. I know these fits of madness will never leave me."

When Alexandre Dumas the elder brought out one of his early tragedies, his patron, the Duc d'Orleans, was so pleased with it that he resolved to present the author with a gold snuff box, with his portrait set in diamonds. Seeing Dumas at Chantilly races the duke sent an aid-de-camp to inform him of his intention. After congratulating the poet warmly the officer asked him where he should leave the box for him. "Well," said the Bohemian, "since you are so obliging, would you mind pawning it as you go along and leave the money at my lodgings?"

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