

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

Foot ball was a favorite game among the Greeks and Romans.

The British mint coins twenty-five tons of pennies every year.

The average life of a tradesman is about two-thirds that of a farmer.

A gold coin depreciates 5 per cent. of value in sixteen years of constant use.

Fish do not seem to exist below 400 fathoms, with the exception of the shark.

Switzerland has the largest army of any nation in Europe in proportion to its population.

The natives of Damascus are said to call drunken men victims of "the English disease."

Eucalyptus, or Australian gum-tree, sometimes grows 24 feet in 3 months; bamboo, 2 feet in 24 hours.

Four-fifths of the engines now working in the world have been constructed during the last twenty-five years.

Elections in France are always held on Sundays, in order to suit the convenience of workmen and peasants.

It would take forty years for all the water in the great lakes to pour over Niagara at the rate of 1,000,000 cubic feet a second.

The old city of London is the smallest of cities, but the most valuable. It has an area of one square mile which produces a rental of \$35,000,000 per annum.

The smallest spots that we can see on the moon with the unaided eye occupy about one-twenty-fourth of its visible area. i. e., some 150,000 square miles.

The ants have their great personages as well as the human race. These little insects go under commanders, and it is well known that bee colonies have their queens.

The people upon the two continents of North and South America, without the Arctic regions, are less than 122,000,000 in numbers, or only eight to the square mile.

Some idea of the ductility of gold may be had when it is stated that in making gold threads for embroidery it has been found that six ounces of gold can be drawn into 200 miles of wire.

The workers alone in the London hospitals amount to 6,000 persons, of whom 1,300 are honorary medical officers who devote their time to the treatment of disease without fee of any kind.

As far as can be calculated, the average length of life, which is computed in the seventeenth century to have been only 13 years, was in the eighteenth increased to 20, and in the nineteenth to 36. Men used to be considered old when they passed 50.

Lepers in India were treated with shocking inhumanity before christianity entered that country. Many of them were buried alive. The English rulers have put a stop to this custom, and for fourteen years there has been a special christian mission to the 135,000 lepers in India.

The census of 1890 gave 6,250,045, as the number of Roman Catholics in the United States, the Catholic Almanac estimates the membership at more than ten millions. The figures of some of the various protestant churches are: Baptists, 4,292,291; episcopalians, 470,076; congregationalists, 491,085; methodists, 4,980,240; presbyterians, 1,229,012. There are, by the census, 1,199,514 Lutherans.

Seventy-five miles an hour is 110 feet a second, and the energy of 400 tons, or a train of cars, moving at that rate is nearly twice as great as that of a 2,000 pound shot fired from a 100 ton Armstrong gun. This is the extreme weight and speed now reached in passenger service, and, indeed, is very rarely attained and then but for a short distances, but 60 miles is a common speed, and a rate of 40 or 50 miles is attained daily on almost every railway in the country.

The distinction between high and low church is purely formal, and is no part of the church's doctrine. The ritualists or high churchmen dwell more than the low churchmen on the relationship between the Anglican or Episcopal church and the Roman church; and believe that the chancel, vestments, and ornaments should be the same as before the reformation. There are various details pertaining to these beliefs; but in matters of actual doctrine the high and the low churchmen believe alike.

The reason for the eyeball being white is that the blood-vessels which supply its surface are so very fine that they do not admit the red corpuscles of the blood. The covering of the eyeball, the Tunica sclerotica, thus named for its hardness, is the largest and strongest coat of the eye, and covers the whole ball except the parts occupied by the entrance of the optic nerve behind, and by the cornea before. It is formed of elastic fibres running in every direction, and closely interwoven with each other, and has few blood-vessels compared with the choroids. The tendons of the four recti muscles of the eye are fixed to the fore part of the Tunica sclerotica. These, or the cellular vagina covering them, having been supposed to give an additional whiteness to the eye, and the part giving such whiteness has been termed Tunica albuginea; but the sclerotic coat is everywhere a pure white, and can receive little additional brightness from any such covering.

The great high bridge of the Southern Pacific railroad over the Pecos river, just west of Shumla, Tex., is the third highest bridge in the world, and is by several feet the highest in the United States, being twenty-six feet higher than the great Kinzua viaduct on the New York, Lake

Erie and Western railway. The Pecos bridge or viaduct is 2,180 feet long and 328 feet above the surface of the stream. It consists of forty-eight spans in all. They are nearly all iron plate girders, alternately thirty-five feet and sixty-five feet long. In the centre of the bridge, immediately above the bed of the river, is a cantilever span 185 feet long. The high structure is supported by towers, which rest upon stone ledges or rock piers. The dimension of the towers at their base is 35 by 100 feet, but they narrow down to 10 by 35 feet at the top.

"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

Kind party—"What are you crying that way for, little boy?" Little boy—"Cause it's the only way I know how to cry."

Ethel—"Dick, my new bonnet cost \$75." Dick (taking her in his arms)—"Ethel, my dear—dear Ethel."—Brooklyn Eagle.

Lady—"How is this insect powder to be applied?" Assistant (absent-mindedly)—"Give 'em a teaspoonful after each meal, madam."

Johnkin—"I hear you belong to an accident insurance society." Tomkin—"Yes, I joined over six months ago, and, confound it, I haven't got hurt yet."

"Indians must have a good time when they are boys," said Tommy. "Why?" asked his father. "Cause their nurses can't tell whether their hands are dirty or not."

Weary Watkins—"I've just figgered out wat I'd orter been." Hungry Higgins—"Well, wat?" Weary Watkins—"I think I'd make a first-class rich invalid."—Indianapolis Journal.

"Look here, George, I am positively tired of your talking love to me this way every time you call." "Marry me, then, and I'll never speak another word of love to you as long as I live."

Moriarty—"Honora, hasn't that young man av yures gone yit?" Miss Moriarty—"Not yit, Popper." Moriarty—"Well, you'd be askin' him if he thinks it's a courtin' or a wake that he's sittin' up to?"—Puck.

Jakcy—Fadder, a shentlemans haf fallen troo de coal hole! Isaac—Clap te cover oler him kervick, mein sohn, vile I runs for a policeman. Ve must arrest him for tryin' to steal te coal or he'll use us for tamages!

Jones—"I saw a conjurer last night who would give you two different kinds of drink out of the same bottle." Brown—"That's nothing, my boy. We've a grocer in our street who can sell you three kinds of tea out of the same box."

The Brute!—Wife: "Well, hubby, how did you like me this evening in the living wax-works?" Husband—"I was perfectly amazed." Wife (flattered)—"Really now?" Husband—"That you could keep your mouth shut all that time."

Ardent Lover: "I have called, sir, to ask your permission to pay my addresses to your daughter." Old Gentleman (some-what deaf): "Pay for her dresses? Why, certainly, my dear sir. Here are the bills." He had one glance at them and fled.

Mrs. Gazzam—George, you must really get me a piano. Gazzam—Nonsense, Nell! You don't know one note from another. Mrs. Gazzam—That's true; but I must have a piano, because papa has given me a piano-lamp for a birthday gift.

Inspector—How many wives may a man marry, Johnny? "Please, sir, only one." "Why not?" "The Bible says you mustn't." "And pray which text in the Bible forbids a man marrying more than one wife?" "He cannot serve two masters."

Aunt Furby Low (reading)—"Here's where two men went down in one of the city sewers and were killed by sewer gas. What do they want gas in a sewer for? I wonder?" Uncle St. Low (in deep disgust)—"To see by, of course. Do you think sewers have winders in them?"—Puck.

Boudoir generalship—Jane—"That Mr. Shallopote is at the door. Shall I tell him you are engaged?" Miss Pinkle—"Show him into the parlor, Jane." "Yes'm." "And, Jane, after he lays his box of candy on the mantel piece, tell him I am out."—New York Weekly.

Physician—Does he take the cod liver oil, as I prescribed? Mamma—Like a man! Every time he takes it I put a cent in his little bank, and when he has a hundred cents—Physician—Ah! when he has a hundred cents—Mamma—Then I will buy him another bottle of oil!

First boy—I's lost my gran'mother since I seen yer las', Jim! Second boy (the prize scholar of the Band of Hope)—Well, don't worry; she is waiting at the door of heaven for you! First boy—If she's waitin' for me it isn't at the door she'll be, but behind it with a stick. She always did here!

A party of commercial travellers were holding a festive session at a hotel. In the course of time they became hilarious. A pretty girl came in to assist in waiting upon them. "What's your name?" several of them inquired in a breath. "Pearl." "Are you the Pearl of great price?" "No. I am the Pearl before swine."

Locked out—(The family have been to the theatre. On returning home they find the door locked, and are admitted only after long and persistent ringing). Lady—"What is this? Why do you keep us waiting so long?" New cook—"Please, m'm, I thought it was my sweetheart; we quarrelled last Sunday, and I'm not friends with him!"—Fliegende Blätter.

A Thoughtful Husband—Calino had been dining at a friend's house when a violent storm broke loose. His host offered him shelter for the night, which he accepted, but afterwards disappeared. He returned an hour later, wet to the skin. "Where have you been in that state?" his friend inquired. "I have just been to tell my wife that I wasn't coming home to-night," was the reply.

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

The King of Greece rules over 800,000 fewer people than dwell in the two cities of New York and Brooklyn.

Andrew Carnegie says that the first and most important lesson he learned in the art of money getting was that "it isn't the man who does the work who makes the money; it's the man who gets other men to do it."

The Marquis of Queensberry was never in his life present at a prize fight. He is reported to have hastily drawn up his celebrated rules while in college to guide some chums in a "set-to," and although he has since been a recognized authority on pugilism, he takes very little interest in it.

One day in 1830 Joseph Gillott, now the famous steel penmaker, accidentally split one of his fine steel tools. Being suddenly required to sign a receipt and not finding his quill pen at hand, he used the split tool as a ready substitute. This happy accident led to the idea of making pens of steel.

The wife of Dean Liddell of Christ church college, Oxford, was a remarkably beautiful woman, as the dean was a remarkably handsome man, and their children inherited charming manners and personal beauty. It was for their daughter Alice, who died in her youth, that Alice in Wonderland was written.

William Morris, the poet, knows his Dickens as well as any man alive. He is given a fair start in any sentence of Dickens, he will carry the sentence on to the end with only a very slight departure from textual accuracy. If all extant copies of the "Pickwick Papers" were suddenly destroyed he could dictate the book for publication again, practically as we know it now. The poet has a superb memory.

Sarah Bernhardt's bed is a very curious one, and there is no other like it to be seen in France or elsewhere. It is nearly fifteen feet long, and when the fascinating Sarah is indisposed and receives her intimate friends reposing on a couch, she looks like a red-plumaged bird floating on a great sea of white satin. The ex-Empress Eugenie was another who declined to follow the conventional idea in beds. Hers was raised a few inches above the floor of her bedroom, and gave at a hasty glance the impression that she was sleeping on the carpet.

The Crown Princess of Denmark is the tallest royal lady in Europe, if not the tallest woman, her height being over six feet two inches. Her grandmother was Mile. Desirée Clary, the daughter of a stockbroker of Marseilles. This young woman, married Napoleon Bonaparte, afterwards Emperor, in order to marry Bernadotte, who eventually became King of Sweden and Norway. Her granddaughter, the Crown Princess of Denmark, is the richest, as well as the tallest, European princess, having inherited £5,000,000 from her maternal grandfather, Prince Frederick of the Netherlands, in addition to the fortune left her by her father.

As a boy, one of the greatest treats to Prince George of Wales was to be taken round the large public schools. The late Duke of Clarence always accompanied him, and both of the royal brothers being fond of gymnastics, they seldom left the school without trying the horizontal bars or the "giant-stride." The writer recalls a visit of theirs to the city of London middle class schools, Cowper street, Finsbury, E.C. They were dressed in Highland costume, and expressed a desire to try the giant-stride. The whole school—some 1,200 boys—were marshalled in the playground, and, "Bill," the drill instructor, selected half-a-dozen of the best jumpers to have a rope with the young princes. The two royal gymnasts seized their ropes and elapsed the efforts of all in their splendid leaps. Many old Cowper street boys—and their name is legion—will remember this little reminder of a royal visit.

A glance at the pages of history reveals the fact that early marriages have long been the fashion among royal personages. Here are a few instances: Queen Victoria was married when she was scarcely twenty-one, and the Prince of Wales espoused Princess Alexandra before he was twenty-two. The Emperor of Austria took to wife the radiant Elizabeth of Bavaria when he was not yet twenty-four years old. The present Czar of Russia was twenty-one when he gave his hand to Princess Dagmar of Denmark (who was two years his junior). King Humbert of Italy was twenty-four at the time of his marriage to the fair Marguerite of Savoy (then a girl of only seventeen). The present king and queen of the Belgians were aged eighteen and seventeen at the time of their wedding. The late king of Spain, Alphonso XII., was very little older when he formed his brief, bright union with his charming cousin, Mercedes. He was only twenty-two when he married his second wife, the present queen regent. And it was at the same age that the present emperor of Germany was united to Augusta Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein-Augustenburg. The unfortunate Prince Rudolph of Austria was twenty-two at the date of his ill-starred union to Princess Stephanie of Belgium.

Madame Adeline Patti's diamonds alone has been valued at \$300,000. The Empress Eugenie gave her a comb set with twenty-three diamonds as a wedding present when she married the Marquis de Caux. A gift from Queen Victoria was a superb diamond locket. Baroness Burdett-Coutts once gave her an enormous single diamond set in a ring. The diva's wonderful set of sapphires was sold when she was obliged by French law to divide her fortune with her first husband. The Emperor of Russia was the donor of a pair of immense diamonds, set as earrings. The late Emperor William of Germany gave her a splendid diamond brooch, and the Emperor of Austria a bracelet of similar gems. Madame Patti possesses twenty-three diamond bracelets, and has also a necklace made of very large and fine emeralds. Her set of turquoise, mounted with diamonds, includes four pins, two bracelets, earrings, and a handsome pendant. Madame Christine Nilsson, Countess de Miranda, possesses some very magnificent jewels. After a concert at Buckingham palace our queen clasped upon the arm of the sweet singer a bracelet of fine diamonds and rubies. A wonderful Hungarian opal, glowing with rainbow fires, was given her by the Emperor of Austria. The Emperor of Russia presented her with a magnificent set of emeralds and diamonds at the same time as the empress gave her an equally fine set of rubies, diamonds, and pearls.

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