

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

It is said every child in Japan is taught to write with either hand.

Twenty million acres of the land of the United States are held by Englishmen.

Persia has a race of pigmy camels, who are but twenty-five inches high and weigh but fifty pounds.

A German geologist estimates that the Dead Sea will be one mass of solid salt within less than 500 years.

The microscopists say that a mosquito has twenty-two "teeth" in the end of its bill—eleven above and the same number below.

Galileo's first telescope was made out of a common lead pipe, into the ends of which were glued ordinary spectacle glasses.

The orange was originally a pear-shaped fruit about the size of the common wild cherry. Its evolution is due to 1,200 years of cultivation.

Africa is the most remarkable of all the countries as respects its animal distributions. Out of a total of 523 known species 472 of them are to be found in no other country.

The average length of life is greater in Norway than in any other country on the globe. This is attributed to the fact that the temperature is cool and uniform throughout the year.

Out of the 200,000 working women of New York there are 27,000 who support their husbands. Of these latter, probably there is but a very small percentage who would not be self-supporting but for intemperance and other vices.

Osage Indians are said to be the richest community in the world. They are but 1,500 in number, and they have over eight million dollars deposited to their credit in the treasury at Washington, and they own 1,470,000 acres of the best land in Oklahoma.

A calculation has been made of the force developed by a flash of lightning which struck a church, and the result is stated to have been 12,000 horse-power—that is, in ordinary mechanical power, equal to the raising of 396,000,000 pounds one foot high in a minute.

It seems the weight of a man's brain has nothing to do with his mental power. It is a question of climate, not of intellect. The colder the climate, the greater the size of the brain. The largest heads of all are those of the Chugatsches, who live very far north, and next come the heads of the Lapps.

The Passion Play was inaugurated in 1633, after a vow made by the villagers in the hope of staying a pestilence. The monks in the famous monastery of Ettal, near by in the Ammer Valley, wrote the original version, but the play has been frequently revised. The music was written by one Rochus Dedler in 1814.

The assessed value of all property in the city of New York is \$1,828,264,275. As the property is assessed at about 60 per cent. it is safe to say that the property in New York is easily worth including government and municipal property and that of the charitable and benevolent organizations, which is exempt, \$6,000,000,000.

Experts in ethnology recognize these degrees of negro blood: a half-negro is a mulatto; a half-mulatto is a quadroon; a half-quadroon is a metis, and by successive steps come meamoulou, demi-meamoulou, sang-mele, griffe, marabou, and saccata. Probably for all practical purposes the child of a quadroon ceases to be a negro in appearance.

In 1848 there were no envelopes or stamps. The letters were simply (or rather intricately) folded and sealed with wax and the postage was paid for in money in the United States. For less than 100 miles it was 6 1/4 cents a letter, for more than 100 miles 12 1/4 cts., and for more than 300 miles, 18 1/4 cts. It cost 40 cts. to send a letter to California.

No Austrian male subject who is married can procure a passport for a journey beyond the frontier in any direction without first having the express consent of his wife. In Austria, however, the railways hold out considerable inducements to married men to take their wives along with them when travelling; ladies, accompanied by their husbands, being charged only half fare.

The cause of the opal being deemed an unlucky gem is probably due to the nature of the stone itself. The iridescence of the opal is caused by innumerable minute cracks, which reflect the light from a thousand surfaces and so induce the play of color. It sometimes happens that, from no other reason, the cracks enlarge and the stone splits into a number of pieces. A valuable opal has thus been known to become utterly worthless in a short time, and of a beautiful gem only a thimbleful of fragments remains. Such accidents as this have probably given rise to the idea that the opal is unlucky to own, and the superstition growing, the idea became fixed that this gem brought misfortune to its possessor.

All that now remains of the Apostles of Christ are in the following places: Seven are sleeping in the sleep of the just in Rome, viz.: Peter, Philip, James the Less, Jude, Bartholomew, Matthias and Simon. The remains of three lie in the kingdom of Naples—Matthew at Salerno, Andrew at Amalfi and Thomas at Ortona. One, James the Greater, was buried in Spain, at St. Jago de Compostella. Of the exact whereabouts of the remains of St. John the Evangelist there is much dispute. Mark and Luke are buried in Italy, the former at Venice and the latter at Padua. St. Paul's remains are also believed to be in Italy. Peter is buried in Rome, in the church which bears his name; so, too, are Simon and Jude. James the Lesser is

buried in the church of the Holy Apostles. Bartholomew in the church on that island in the Tiber which bears his name. The "Legends of the Apostles" places the remains of Matthias under the altar of the renowned Basilica.

"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

Pipkin—"I don't believe I'll keep this typewriter; it is defective." Dealer—"In what respect?" Pipkin—"It doesn't spell correctly."

"Do not ask a man who is learning to ride a bicycle how he is getting on," says an exchange. A more tender subject is how he is getting off.

Tattered Tom—"Wot'r sleepin' on that hard log fer, 'stead of on th' soft grass?" Wearie Willie—"Too much trouble ter roll off."—New York Weekly.

Lodger—"I detect a rather disagreeable smell in the house, Mrs. Jones. Are you sure the drains—?" Landlady—"Oh, it can't be the drains, sir, whatever. There are none sir."

Harry—"Why don't you stand before the mirror when putting on your tie?" Chappie—"Because it is such demmed bad fawn to be seen below I am fully dressed."—N. Y. Sun.

"It's getting warm, isn't it?" said one young chicken to another, which had just emerged from the shell. "Yes," replied the other. "That's the reason I left off my ova coat."

First boarder—"I wonder what makes this strawberry short-cake so heavy." Second boarder—"Don't know, but it isn't the weight of the strawberries on top, anyhow."—New York Weekly.

Dorothy—"And when I grow up I shall get married and have a fine wedding, but I shan't ask you to it, mamma." Mamma—"Why won't you ask me to it dear?" "Because you didn't ask me to yours."

Hostess—"What has become of Sandy Smith, who stood so high in your class?" Alumnus—"Oh, he's taken orders." Hostess—"He's in the ministry, then?" Alumnus—"No, in a restaurant."—Brooklyn Life.

Unappreciated—"So you wrote her a poem?" "Yes," replied the young man, sadly. "What did she say?" "She said she admired my letter, but she didn't quite understand my method of using capitals."—Puck.

Little Girl—"My papa has to get up awfully early, so as to get to the office and see his clerks there attendin' to business." Little Boy—"My papa don't have to. He's one of the clerks."—Street & Smith's Good News.

Last Sunday morning Deacon Smith in service slept awhile, And Deacon Jones sat watching him, With grim, malicious smile, Which broadened when the preacher cried, "My friends, the Lord doth call." And Deacon Smith, but half awake, Said, "One small pair, that's all."

Aunt Rachel—"Peggy, girl, what kind of a botch have ye made of this sleeve?" "Pears like ye must be left handed, ain't ye?" New Protegee, colored—"Wall, Yes'm pa'ty. On one side I's left-handed, an' on tudder I's right-handed."

Equal to the Occasion—Weary Raggles (suddenly stopping)—"Ooo! Lookee there! Sign says: 'Help Wanted.' Le's run! Dusty Rhodes—You hain't got no business head. Just you pick up that sign an' carry it along, an' I'll foller behind an' pass 'round th' hat."

Barber—"Did that young man take you to the theatre in a carriage?" Daughter—"No; he took the elevated." "I thought he would, I knew he was too mean to live the moment I set eyes on him." "How did you?" "He wears a full beard."—New York Weekly.

Housekeeper—"Has any way been discovered to kill the pests that destroy carpets?" Great Scientist—"Yes, madam. Take up the carpets, hang them on a line, and beat them with a heavy stick." "Will that kill the insects?" "Yes, madam, if you hit them."—New York Weekly.

A Wise Youth—"Don't you think you waste time and money with your yacht, Mr. deLoaf?" asked the minister. "No, sir, I do not. There is no telling, Dr. Fourtley, when this world is to be deluged again, and I'm not going to be caught on dry land with the example of Noah before me."

Cumso—"You look sad. Have you heard some bad news?" Fangle—"Yes." "What was it? Did your tailor tell you that he wouldn't trust you any longer?" "No; that wasn't it. My wife came in and told me that the manager of the largest dry-goods store in town said my credit was good for anything in the store."—Smith, Gray & Co.'s Monthly.

A worldly father, after the style of Lord Chesterfield, is giving good advice to his son, who is about to enter into society. "And above all, avoid flirtations; and if you must flirt, or fall in love, sir, be sure that it is with a pretty woman, it is always safer." "Why?" asked the young man. "Because some other fellow will be sure to be attracted, and cut you out before any harm has been done."

"This Little Bit of French."—First friend (at the theatre): "What made you clap your hands just now, when Sarah Bernhardt advanced to the audience?" He addressed a few words to the audience?" Second ditto: "If I hadn't folks might have thought I didn't understand French. What was it she said?" First ditto: "She merely said that she did not feel well, and that another lady would finish her part."

A Soft Snap—Living Skeleton (grumpily)—"The two-headed man makes me tired! He wants the earth. Wild Man of Borneo—What's the matter with him, Sims? Skeleton—He gets two meals to my one; don't he? He smokes with one mouth and chews with the other; and he can whistle and sing both at the same time. While he is going to vote twice at the coming election, and I saw him kissing two different girls at the same time last night. And yet he wears only one suit of clothes, and rides on a single railway ticket. He wants the earth!"

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

The King of Greece has a pleasant way of spending some of the summer months. He turns farmer, and works as hard as though he was a land laborer. He can plough a field, cut and bind corn, in short, keep a farm going from start to finish, as though it was his livelihood.

Miss Margaret Thomas recently found, about a mile from the city of Bath, England, the house in which Fielding wrote his *Tom Jones*. The house is roofed with red tiles, has a stone front, in summer almost completely hidden under creepers and shrubs, and stands a little way from the road.

Mrs. Guild, an American sculptress, has recently completed a bust of Mr. Gladstone, which is very highly commended by the critics as a portrait and a work of art. Mrs. Guild has been obliged to reproduce the difficult features of the great statesman from studying it only in his library while he was at work.

In consideration of the great services which Presidents Grant and Garfield rendered the United States, it has lately been enacted that their widows be allowed to send their letters through the post free. They merely write their names on the backs of the envelopes, and this is sufficient to allow them to pass without any charge for postage.

The position of reader to the Queen is no sinecure, for Her Majesty likes to be read to some four or five hours a day. She delights in all good novels, volumes of reminiscence and travel. Herself an excellent elocutionist, she cannot bear to hear anything badly or unintelligently read. Her Majesty often gives hints to the lady reading, though she never interrupts till the reading is quite finished.

The Countess de Pourtales, who was one of the most beautiful among the many beautiful women of the court of Napoleon III., and is still one of the most celebrated of the *grandes dames* in the salons, which are the last footholds of French aristocracy, is a devoted wife and mother, a skilful financier, and a clever politician. It is said of her that "the Countess de Pourtales can wash her grandchild's face or hem a towel just as easily as she can dictate terms for the peace of a kingdom or place an empire at her feet."

Madame Bernhardt's opinions respecting her fellow-players are interesting. Miss Mary Anderson she considers very beautiful and graceful, and a good actress, but not great. Mrs. Langtry is beautiful, beautiful! "But Ellen Terry is the artist I love. Oh, she is a great artist, a grand artist—so graceful, so bewitching; and Mr. Irving is an artist too—more artist, however, than actor." Madame Bernhardt thinks that there are few really great artists in any country. Even France it would appear, possesses but four; while England and America can only be credited with a similar number.

On Monday Thursday, the Emperor of Austria took part in a curious ceremony by washing the feet of twelve old men. The ceremonial takes place in the throne room of the palace, and is preceded by the serving of a meal in four courses to the almsmen. The Emperor and Archdukes place the dishes on the table, and remove them themselves after the repast is over. The right leg of each man is then bared by court servants, the Emperor kneels, and pours a little water out of a golden basin over each man's foot. The ceremony is brought to a close by the Emperor hanging a purse full of coins round every old man's neck.

Signor Giolitti, the new Premier of Italy, is one of the tallest men in Rome. He is famous for his strength, which is truly herculean. He is an excellent boxer and a fine billiard player. The Premier is intensely democratic. On one occasion, while a member of Crispi's Cabinet, he was invited to go on a tour of inspection. A special car was attached to the train, beautifully fitted up for the minister's accommodation. When the train arrived at a town where a reception was to be given in Giolitti's honor, the authorities, clad in dress suits, opened the door of the special car to welcome his excellency. But, to the consternation of everyone, the car was empty. A search of the train was made, and Giolitti was found at last in one of the third-class compartments busily talking to the peasant passengers about corn and potatoes. He had become tired of his luxurious car.

Max O'Rell (M. Paul Blouet) is a native of Brittany, and was educated in Paris. Having passed through the Ecole Polytechnique, he received his commission a few months before the commencement of Franco-Prussian war, and fought at Saarbrück and Worth, being taken prisoner at Sedan. He was a German prisoner for five months, and being set free just in time to assist in re-capturing Paris from the Communists, he was severely wounded at a street barricade, and thus incapacitated for war. To this we owe his amusing books, for, adopting journalism as a profession, M. Blouet came to London as a correspondent of the *Paris Le Temps*. He became French tutor at St. Paul's school, and married an English lady. The success of his books, the first of which was *John Bull et Son Ile*, soon enabled him to give up teaching and to turn his attention to the career of public lecturer, which he has found extremely lucrative.

A writer who saw Dr. Mary Walker with all her eccentricities at the Chicago convention says: "Really nothing could be queerer than the personal appearance of this odd little old woman. Her ceaseless trowsers are of black broadcloth, and her Prince Albert coat. From her withered throat turn back the points of a standing collar that is fastened with a diamond stud. A black-and-red four-in-hand tie is ornamented with a large carbuncle scarf-pin set in pearls. A buttoned brown overcoat, buttoned gaiters, brown dog-skin gloves and a silk hat completed her costume as she appeared at the opening session of the convention. She is short and very slight and wears wide bowed spectacles, which give her a grotesque, goggle look. From some points of view she resembles nothing so much as a very bad clothier's dummy; from others she strikingly reminds one of a gigantic Kansas cicada, strangely colored black and brown, and again she is not like anything that is in heaven above, in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. However, absurd and objectionable as she is, one cannot escape a feeling of pity that she is so old and so fragile."

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