

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

The average weight of a horse is 1000 pounds.

The first American paper money was made in 1740.

Mount Etna had its first recorded eruption in 425 B. C.

Covered carriages were first used in England in 1580.

The next transit of Venus will occur in the year of 2004.

Brazil declared her independence of Spain, Sept. 18, 1810.

Corn on the ear is never found with an uneven number of rows.

The human family is subject to 44 principal forms of government.

Manitoba has 627 schools, with 640 teachers, and 23,256 pupils.

Salmon, pike, and goldfish are said to be the only fish that never sleep.

The highest speed attained by a typewriter is 200 words a minute.

The whole number of stars known to astronomers at present is 10,000.

Eighty-five per cent. of the people who are lame are affected on the left side.

The Davy safety lamp for miners was invented by Sir Humphrey Davy in 1815.

The rifle was invented by Whitworth in 1800; the repeating rifle by Sharp, 1848.

The bagpipe, the favorite Scotch and Italian instrument, was invented in Greece 200 B. C.

Window glass was used in Italy in churches in the eleventh century, in English houses in 1557.

The Normans landed in England A. D. 1066, and the Spanish inquisition was established in 1480.

Copper-plate engraving was first done in 1511, wood engraving in 1729, etching on metal with acid in 1512.

Cannon were invented in 1330, were used by the Turks at Adrianople in 1453, were made in England in 1547.

At the castle Simonetta, Italy, there is an angle in the building which re-echoes a pistol shot sixty-one times.

Glass mirrors were known in A. D. 23, but the art of making them was lost and not recovered until 1300, in Venice.

The last census shows that while 33,163 lawyers receive \$35,000,000 every year in fees, 37,000 ministers get only \$6,000,000.

Quill pens were first used A. D. 553; there was a good deal of noise, but the bustles were such little mites you couldn't hardly see 'em.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

A well-ordered household.—Gentlemen—“Good evening, my little dear. Is your papa at home?” Little Dear—“I don't know; I'll see. Mamma is at home, and when she's around I can never tell whether papa is here or not, he's so quiet.”—Good News.

“Say, Sam, why is it you carry a bucket of water in one hand and a tiny piece of ice in the other?” Ice-man—“Well, I tell you; some o' my customers get up late, and I jus' leave a little lump of ice and pour a whole bucket of water on it. See?”—Judge.

Willie—“Mr. Dashaway, what is a thoroughbred?” Dashaway—“A thoroughbred, Willie, is a fellow who is game for anything.” Willie—“Then you must be one.” Dashaway—“Why?” Willie—“Sister says you are game for her.”—New York Herald.

Mamma (enthusiastically)—“How I wish we could afford to send Nellie abroad for a few finishing touches to her musical education!” Papa (no ear for music)—“If I could buy the finish without the touches, I'd pawn the furniture.”—Lippincott's Magazine.

“I'm sure I'd give satisfaction,” said the man who wanted a place on an ice wagon. “I've got a record as a sprinter, mister.” “What has that to do with your application?” “Why, I could get from the wagon to the front door before the ice melts, every time.”

Mr. Hall B. Roome—“Do you buy your sausage by the pound, Mrs. Hamone?” Mrs. Hamone—“Yes; why?” Mr. Hall B. Roome—“Nothing; only I would humbly suggest that in future you select a butcher shop a little more remote from that institution.”—Puck.

She (letting him down easy)—“I'm sure, Mr. Hardleigh, that you can find plenty of girls right here who could make you much happier than I could.” He (mournfully)—“Yes, but you see that's just the point. I've asked 'em all. You are my only chance.”—Brooklyn Life.

Mother—“Have you heard how Mr. Spanker is this morning?” Small son—“Oh, he's all right. He's gettin' well fast.” “Who told you?” “No one.” “Then how do you know?” “His little boys has begun to hear 'em their mother cuss.—Street & Smith's Good News.

Always Ahead.—Mr. Blecker—I see, Mr. Livewayte, that so far the World's Fair people have managed to get the biggest deficit ever known in a great exposition at the present stage of the work. Mr. Livewayte (of Chicago, proudly)—Chicago always has the biggest of everything, sir.

His dying request.—Physician (to dying editor)—“My poor friend, I can not conceal the truth from you any longer. You have only half an hour to live.” Editor (cheerily)—“Doctor will you please tell the foreman, when I am gone, to place my obituary on the front page, top of column, next to pure reading matter? I wonder if I am extravagant in indulging myself in that luxury for once in my life?”—Puck.

The English ivy attains so great an age that in England they say it never dies. There are ivy stocks 10 or 12 inches in diameter which are known to have been

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

The oldest member of the Beecher family, Dr. Edward, is now in his 90th year. He preached at his great brother's, Henry Ward, ordination in Lawrenceburg, Ind., and the latter always regarded him as his mentor in religious liberality.

Martin E. Brown has been awarded the contract for printing the official ballots of the ensuing election in New York City. The aggregate number of ballots required is 11,824,000, for which Mr. Brown is to get \$3.75 per 1,000, or over \$40,000.

Baldwin the famous parachutist, spent two years and a half in Europe, during which time he gained \$100,000. He would not enter his parachute at the Alexandria Palace for less than \$700 per journey. This sum he used to receive in gold, tied up in two stout bags, before he left.

Mrs. Martha Ricks, the aged negress who came all the way from Liberia to England in order to see Queen Victoria, has returned to her African home. Mrs. Ricks has been so much petted and well treated by royalty that she will have enough topics and to spare to last her in gossip during the remainder of her life.

Humbert, the King of Italy, is wonderfully fond of driving, and keeps upwards of two hundred horses in his stables for the purpose. His Majesty's difficulty is that in public he takes off his hat three times a minute with his right hand, and he is consequently obliged with the left to hold the reins, guide the horses, and also hold the whip.

Some years ago, when the late Victor Hugo was a resident in Guernsey, his manuscripts were bound under the great poet's own eye, by Mr. Henry Turner, of Mill Street, Guernsey. So careful was the author about them, that during the process of binding Mr. Turner had to return them to Hauteville House every night, and fetch them back next morning, lest they should suffer from fire, or get otherwise injured.

The house at Valladolid, Spain, in which Columbus died, is now used as a cow stable. Above the stone archway is a time-stained medallion, bearing a man's head, standing out in bold relief on the stucco. Underneath is the engraved inscription, “Aqui murio Colon—Año 1506.” (Here died Columbus, year 1506). Close to this hung a small signboard with the following inscription: “New milk sold here; you may see it milked.”

Charles E. Hatcher, one of Capt. McGrath's secretaries in the city delivery department of the Chicago postoffice, is preparing a unique exhibit for the postoffice at the World's Fair grounds. Part of Mr. Hatcher's duties is to decipher badly addressed letters after all the postoffice experts in that line have failed. In this Mr. Hatcher has no equal. The bulk of the badly addressed letters come from foreign lands. In sorting over these letters, Mr. Hatcher kept an account of the number of different ways the word Chicago is spelled. The record now shows 197 different ways.

The bust of the queen upon which the Princess Louise has been engaged for some months is now complete. It is a notable example of the princess's skill, and, standing in the queen's boudoir, at Osborne, it has attracted much attention among members of the royal family. The princess has also been at work upon some pictures which are intended for Chicago, and these, it is said, will, after the exhibition, be sold, the proceeds being given to some of the charitable institutions in this country in which she takes so much interest. Of all the daughters of the queen, Princess Louise is the best artist, though she is closely run by Princess Beatrice.

Whittier was always inclined to depreciate himself. A story is told of him illustrating his innate modesty. A gentleman, sojourning at a certain Eastern summer resort in the course of his rambles came across an elderly, sweet tempered old man, who was withal quite genial. As they walked along nothing seemingly escaped the eye of the old gentleman, who plucked the wayside flowers and remarked repeatedly, “How beautiful!” He said this so often that his companion was about to put him down as an agreeable old crank or a “Nancy,” but when they reached the hotel he asked the hotel clerk out of curiosity, “Who is that old gentleman?” “That, sir, is John Greenleaf Whittier.”

Sale in her Highland retreat, Queen Victoria has now plenty of leisure in which to recover from that fearful ordeal of hand-kissing through which she and so many eminent noblemen and gentlemen have lately passed. Nobody could pick up a newspaper without reading something about it; so what a mercy it is that all is over until the next time. It is recorded that when the Queen as a young girl held her first Council, she blushed up to the eyes when her elderly uncle, the Duke of Sussex, kissed her hand in token of homage. Her Majesty was not accustomed to her rank then, nor to such reverence from her elders; but she soon became used to it all. Any blushing now is done by new ministers hardly yet accustomed to their position and sensitive as to what their colleagues think of them while going through the graceful constitutional performance.

The name of Sarah Helen Whitman will be forever associated with the name of Edgar A. Poe as that of the woman he most passionately loved during life and who most jealously guarded and defended his memory when he was dead. Their names will be linked together like the names of Surrey and the fair Geraldine. Byron and Mary Chaworth, Burns and Highland Mary. It is well known that after the death of his child wife, Virginia Clemm, Poe, seeking “surcease of sorrow for his lost Lenore,” became engaged to Mrs. Whitman. But it was not to be; the engagement, for some mysterious reason that never has been clearly explained, was broken off. That Poe was blameless in the matter is proved by Mrs. Whitman's affection for his memory and defence of his character. Scarcely had the dead poet in his long neglected grave when slander and obloquy were heaped upon his memory. Mrs. Whitman was one of the first to come to the defence, and she has been beautifully said, “she walked backward and threw over her memory the shining mantle of her love.” She appeared as his champion whenever he was attacked, whether it was by some penny-litaker seeking to puff himself into brief notice by abusing Poe or some silly woman trying to skip into fame on Poe's name.

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A. G. BECKWITH,
Engineer of Public Works.
Department Public Works,
Fredericton, Aug. 2, 1892.

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