

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

Out on the Island of St. Helena they have taken up the silk worm industry, and are pushing it with great energy. Lately 12,000 young mulberry plants were sent there from France

Algeria is the greatest cork-producing country in the world, having 2,500,000 acres of cork forests, of which 300,000 are made to yield regular crops. The finest crop is obtained from that province.

About 1,500 tons of iron and brass wire are annually manufactured into pins in the United Kingdom. The greatest pin factory in the world is said to be the Newhall Works, Birmingham, which has an output of 10,000,000 pins per day.

A watch for the blind is among the newest inventions. A small peg is set in the middle of each figure. When the hour hand reaches a given hour the peg for that hour drops. The sightless owner, when he wants to know the time, finds which peg is down, and then counts back to twelve.

We are all anxious to discover a true weather indicator—one that is strictly up to date. Not many know of the following method: Go out and select the smallest cloud you can see; if it decreases and disappears, it shows a state of the air that is sure to be followed by fair weather; but if it increases, you may expect rain.

The coldest known spot on the earth's surface is on the Eastern slope, a shelving mountain that runs down to near the water's edge, on the Eastern bank of the Lena River, in Northeast Siberia. Dr. Wolkoff, director of the Russian meteorological service, gives the minimum temperature of the place as being 88 degrees below zero.

According to French divorce statistics, the most unhappy period in marriage is that extending from the fifth to the tenth year. After that the figures drop rapidly. Only 28 per cent. of couples seek divorce between their tenth and twentieth years of union. Only one pair in a hundred seek to cut the knot after the period over thirty and under forty years.

Never let a bird-cage hang in a room where the gas is light, unless it is exceptionally well ventilated; the air near the ceiling is always the most impure at night. Set the cage on the ground, and you will find the bird's health improve. After the gas has been alight some time put your own head near the ceiling, and see how you would like to sleep in such an atmosphere.

An interesting statement has been published by a French army doctor to the effect that the regularity of the marching step in the army has a most deleterious effect upon the health of even the strongest soldiers. This regularity causes the indefinite repetition of a shock to the brain which does not occur in the ordinary irregular walk. As a preventive of this shock he has suggested the attachment of a rubber heel to all military boots, with which experiments are now being made in the French army, to the undoubted relief of the soldiers.

The most curious railway in the world, which is only in use during the winter, is that between Cronstadt and Oranienbaum, which is laid upon the ice. Its success has suggested the construction of a similar winter railway between the two important commercial centres, Kremenshug and Jekaterinoslay, which are united in summer by the steamboat traffic along the River Dnieper. This means of communication is closed in winter by the ice, and a long and costly roundabout journey has to be made between the two towns, though they do not lie far apart.

During the past six years the mean temperature of Paris has been about two degrees below the normal, and Great Britain, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Austria, and Germany have also been growing cold. The change seems to have been in progress in France for a long time, the growth of the vine having been forced far southward since the thirteenth century; and a similar cooling has been observed as far away as Rio Janeiro, where the mean temperature has been going down for years. In Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Russia, on the other hand, the last four years have been slightly warmer than the average.

It is well known that the clerical profession is remarkably good for the bodily as well as the spiritual health—in fact, the clergy enjoy the lowest death-rate of any class. The lawyers do worse. In Great Britain the comparative mortality of clergymen (taking 1,000 as the standard) is 556, while of lawyers it is 812. But the doctors, exposed as they are to disease, accidents, broken rest, and constant strain and anxiety, stand lower still. Their mortality is 1,122, which is equal to that of slate and stone quarrymen, whose occupation is ranked among the unhealthiest of all trades. In fact, it appears that only one out of two qualified medical men is likely to survive beyond his sixtieth year.

Men of science will be greatly interested in the test shortly to be applied to the stability and weight-carrying power of the Menai Bridge. The 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers are about to march over it, probably about 800 strong. If we give an average of 200 lb. to each unit, we have thus a weight of, say, eighty tons, due to the military alone; but it is a low estimate to reckon two spectators for each soldier, and thus we reach 240 tons. Unless specially cautioned, also, the soldiers and the crowd in sympathy with them will march in step giving rise to regular oscillation, which would almost make a pyramid shake. The experiment thus becomes of absorbing interest, since, if the bridge fails under the test, the regiment and the spectators will be precipitated into the Menai Straits.

Great Britain, has Mr. Goschen, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in a speech five years ago, ninety-five persons who have an income of over \$250,000 a year. The largest fortune in personal property left in England from 1870 to 1880 was Baron L. N. de Rothschild's of \$13,500,000. In this time there were only thirteen men who left over \$5,000,000; fifty-six

who left over \$2,500,000 and 195 who left \$1,250,000. This, it is true, makes no account of real estate, and English fortunes are more largely in reality than those of any other country. In 1873 sixteen English landholders were estimated to have rents outside of London of \$175,000 a year or more. Of these, three, the Duke of Northumberland, Earl Derby and Sir J. W. Ramsden, were credited with \$800,000 annually; three, the Dukes of Devonshire and Bedford and Sir Lawrence Polk, with \$600,000 and the rest with lesser sums.

"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

A busy body—the earth.
A steady job—sitting for photographs.
There is no hayseed about the average grass widow.
The society bud is a beautiful specimen of haughty culture.
He—You seem to be very happy. Anything on hand? She—Don't you see the ring?
He—Great minds run in the same channel, Miss Effie. Miss Effie (innocently)—How do you know?
"So you want to marry Emma—but she is my only daughter." "Oh, that's all right sir. I only want one."
Young Man—Does your sister play the piano, Bobby? Bobby—Play it! No; but she works it about seven hours a day.
"Do you suppose scientists will ever discover the missing link?" "They can't help it. I danced with two of the links last evening."
Customer—Haven't you made those trousers too short? Tailor—The trousers were all right; but—excuse me, sir—your legs are too long!
"The young woman who marries a dissipated young man with the idea of reforming him is liable to have her hands full as well as her husband."
Maud—Did you accept Jack's letter offering to marry you? Cora—I did not. Maud—Why not? He's awfully rich. Eva—It was manifolded.
New Constable—I examined the prisoner. Judge Duffy—Well, what did you find on him? New Constable—Only a black eye, your Honor.
Sportsman—Confound you, you've shot the dog. I thought you told me you could hold a gun. Pat—Sure, and so I can. It's the shot, sir, I couldn't hold.
The Bashful Lover—"Miss Emily, I—er—hem!" She (sweetly)—"Do you, Mr. Mamma's dear? Now wouldn't you like to join our sewing society?"
Hold up them hands, hoarsely whispered the highwayman to the Bostonian at midnight. "Say those hands please, begged the Bostonian, as he hoisted them aloft."
Hungry Guest—What have you got to eat? New Waiter—We have some fine fried fish. "Is it ready?" "Oh, yes, it was cooked the day before yesterday."
At Southsea—She—Oh, James, how grand the sea is! How wonderful! I do so like to hear the roar of the ocean. He—So do I, Elizabeth; please keep quiet.
Gutterby—There are so many ciphers in society these days. Swinton—"Possibly; but you know the proportion of ciphers in 400 is as two to one, and figures won't lie."
Customer—Look here, I haven't had these trousers a week, and they bag at the knees. Taylor—That is not my fault, sir; you shouldn't be so ardent in your proposals.
"Don't you believe Christmas cards are very appropriate as presents?" "I do. They are the best things out. Those you receive one year you can give away the next."
Doctor, what causes so much pneumonia just now? asked McGinnis of Dr. Fitzgerald. "The principal cause of pneumonia is getting the feet wet," replied Dr. Fitzgerald.
Percy Goosehead—I don't want to marry a bluestocking—some girl that knows more than I do. Evelyn Sparks—Why don't you say at once that you mean to remain a bachelor?
"How do you like your new place?" asked one servant girl addressing another. "Very well. The missis was pretty hard to manage at first, but she's gradually coming round."
They are now adapting electricity to farming. Perhaps the farmer may yet get away from mortgages and sit in peace on the top rail pressing the button, while electricity does the rest.
"What?" said the woman of the house. "More to eat? Why I gave you something this morning." "Yessum," said Bootless Bob, the tramp. "I have to eat. I'm no actor, mum."
Aged lover—You treat me as if I were a dog. Coquette—Oh, no, I don't. I like dogs. I pat them on the head, take them out walking, and I even let them kiss me. I don't treat you that way, do I?
Lord Braxfield, a Scotch judge, admitted the abilities of a criminal who was undoubtedly an accomplished murderer, for the judge said:—"Y're a clever chiel, but y'll be nane the waur of a hanging, my man!"
Mrs. Col. Yerger—Oh, you needn't talk, John. You was bound to have me. You can't say that I ever ran after you. Col. Yerger—Very true, Maria; and the rat trap never runs after the mouse, but it gathers him in all the same.
An ostentatious miser had just bought a picture for six thousand five hundred francs. "I would ask you," he said to the dealer, "to make it six thousand. I am obliged to inform my wife of my purchase by telegram—it will make two words less!"

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Renan's name is to be given to a street in Paris.
Ouida has written altogether twenty-seven novels. They still enjoy a large sale and return large royalties to their author.
Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir presumptive to the Austro-Hungarian throne, has started on a trip around the world.
Count Tolstoi's object in coming to this country next spring is to "live with the farmers and study their agricultural methods."
The Duke of Veragua, a descendant of Columbus, has been appointed president of the committee on Spanish Exhibit at the Chicago fair.
Edison, the electrician, is satisfied with cracked wheat and cream for lunch, and dines as plainly as if he were still a poor operator who had to count every quarter he expended.
The young King of Spain is not in vigorous health and his mother deemed it judicious not to let him participate freely in the festivities attending the visit to Madrid of the King and Queen of Portugal.
The Duke of Sutherland is the largest land owner in the United Kingdom. The duke possesses no less than 1,358,545 acres of land, all of which, save about 15,000 acres, are in Scotland, and his rent roll is more than \$700,000 a year.
M. Marinoni, who commenced life as a factory lad, is now chief owner of Le Petit Journal of Paris, France, circulating nearly 1,250,000 copies daily, and proprietor of several valuable patents, including the famous rotary printing machine that bears his name.
Gov. Russell, of Massachusetts, declined to approve a bill fixing his official compensation at \$8,000 per annum, but signed it when it was made to provide the higher salary for his successor. He is now about to become an \$8,000 Governor as his own successor.
Ex-Gov. Garcelon, of Maine, now 85 years old is a rather spry old gentleman and fond of horses. He may often be seen behind a spirited young animal in the street of Lewistown, and he handles the reins with skill. Twenty-three horses may be found in his stables.
Dr. Wayland, President of Brown University, is said to have been once addressed by a student of philosophy as follows: "Doctor, I don't believe I have any soul." "Possibly not, possibly not, young man," said the doctor; "you ought to know. I have one. Good-day, sir."
It is stated in Paris that M. de Lesseps knows nothing whatever about the Panama trial and the sensational circumstances attending the present investigation. His mind the report says, is so impaired by age that he is totally incapable of consecutive thought and he never even asks for a newspaper.
Sir John Bernard Burke, Ulster King of Arms, Registrar and Knight attendant on the Most Illustrious Order of St. Patrick who died in Dublin, last week, was the author of "Burke's Peerage," the genealogical and heraldic dictionary of the peerage and baronetage of Great Britain and Ireland.
Ida Lewis, the lighthouse heroine, still cares for the Lime Rock lighthouse, off Newport, R. I., where she lives alone with a gray cat and the sound of the waves for company. She has saved eighteen or twenty lives. Mrs. Martha White, of Copalis, in the State of Washington, has gained a similar name for courage. She went into the surf on a cold night in January and saved the lives of three sailors.
This story, now going the rounds, shows that Whittier, like other great men, was a victim of "bores," who besought all sorts of favors. His sister once said to a friend: "There has no idea how much time Greenleaf spends in trying to lose these people in the streets. Sometimes he comes home and says: 'Well, sister, I had hard work to lose him, but I have lost him. But I never lose a her. The women are more pertinacious than the men; don't thee find them so, Maria?'"
Capt. Robert A. Annett, an American master mariner now in Liverpool, has been shipwrecked eight times in ten years. He lived like Robinson Crusoe on Morant Caes an island in mid-ocean, for several months; was a member of the crew of the yacht Maria, which sailed from this port in November, 1887, to search for Pirate Morgan's treasures, and which was wrecked after eight months of a romantic cruise; and during the Buenos Ayres insurrection was taken prisoner by the insurgents and condemned to death.
Jay Gould abhorred all business dealings with women. This dates from an experience early in his career on the market. Two maiden aunts up in the country sent him their savings, \$500, to speculate for them in stocks. He did so and lost it. The money was strictly returned to them, and at no inconvenience to Mr. Gould. But this was not business; it seemed to open depths which might become deeper. He was frequently entreated afterward by women who were near to him, as by women outside, but his dealings thenceforth were with men.
Mr. Grant Allen tells us that his upward path from obscurity to a very modest modicum of success was anything but an easy one. "I had a ten years' hard struggle for bread, into the details of which I don't care to enter. It left me broken in health and spirit, with all the vitality and vivacity crushed out of me. I would say earnestly to the ingenious and aspiring: Brain for brain, in no market can you sell your abilities to such poor advantage. Don't take to literature if you've capital enough in hand to buy a good broom, and energy enough to annex a vacant crossing."
The Khan of Khiva, Lyed Mahommed Rahim, is now paying a visit to the court of Europe. He has visited St. Petersburg and will visit Berlin, Vienna, London and Paris. The Khan is in his fifty-third year. He speaks several languages, including the Persian, Arabic and Russian, and his dress is that of a European, although his connections are those of an orthodox Mussulman. He travels in company of his mollah or priest and his own cook, as he eats no food but that prepared according to the rites of his religion. The Khan's annual income is about \$200,000 a year. His court is quite modern in its rules and observances and his harem contains about forty women.

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—H. E. Basham, McKinney, Texas.

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—Mrs. A. Collins, Dighton, Mass.

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Prevents hair from turning gray. "My hair was rapidly turning gray and falling out; one bottle of Ayer's Hair Vigor has remedied the trouble, and my hair is now its original color and fullness."
—B. Onkrupa, Cleveland, O.
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