

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

A quarter of Scotland is owned by twelve persons.

Less than 800 persons own half the soil of Ireland.

The world's passenger cars can seat 1,500,000 people.

Russia does not recognize the right of her subjects to swear off their country.

A favorite dish of the East Indians is an ant mash. The insects are caught in pits and mashed by hand like raisins.

In Norway all christian sects, except Jesuits, are tolerated, and are free to exercise their religion within the limits prescribed by the law and public order.

The first train run in Great Britain was between Stockton and Darlington on September 27, 1825. George Stephenson was the driver and the speed was not more than five miles an hour.

The famous Khajak tunnel of India pierces the Khajak Amran mountains about sixty miles north of Inetta at an elevation of 6,400 feet. It is 12,800 feet long and was constructed broad enough to carry a double line of rails.

In the Kingdom of Poland there was formerly a law according to which any person found guilty of slander was compelled to walk on all fours through the streets of the town where he lived, accompanied by the beadle, as a sign that he was unworthy of the name of man.

A horse will travel 400 yards in four and one-half minutes at a walk, 400 yards in two minutes at a trot, 400 yards in one minute at a gallop. The usual work of a horse is taken at 22,500 pounds raised one foot per minute for eight hours per day. A horse will carry 250 pounds twenty-five miles per day of eight hours. An average draught horse will draw 1,600 pounds twenty-three miles per day on a level road, weight of wagon included. The average weight of a horse is 1,000 pounds, and his strength is equivalent to that of five men. The greatest amount a horse can pull in a horizontal line is 900 pounds, but he can only do this momentarily; in continued exertion probable half of this is the limit. He attains his growth in five years. A horse will live twenty-five days without solid food, seventeen days without eating or drinking, but only five days on solid food without drinking.

The division of time into hours was practised amongst the Babylonians from remote antiquity, but it was Hipparchus, the philosopher, who introduced the Babylonian hour into Europe. The sexagesimal system of notation was chosen by that ancient people because there is no number having so many divisions as sixty. The Babylonians divided the daily journey of the sun, the ruler of the day, into twenty-four parasangs. Each parasang, or hour, was subdivided into sixty minutes, and that again into sixty seconds. They compared the progress made by the sun during one hour at the time of the equinox, to the progress made by a good walker in the same period of time, both covering one parasang; and the course of the sun during the full equinoctial day was fixed at twenty-four parasangs. Cleobius, of Alexandria, constructed the clepsydra or water-clock for marking the varying hours of the Egyptians, while Abul-I-Issan, an Arabian horologist who lived in the thirteenth century, was the first man to introduce the equal hour theory.

The youngest age at which a king ascended to the English throne was eight months and twenty-five days. Henry VI., surnamed of Windsor, was born there on the 6th of December, 1421, and ascended the throne of this country on the 1st of September, 1422, on the death of his father. The infant king was the only issue of the marriage of Henry V., by his queen the Princess Catherine of France. The care of the person and education of the king were committed to Richard de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and the king's great-uncle, Bishop (afterwards Cardinal) Henry Beaufort. Henry VI., after reigning nearly forty years, was deposed in March, 1461, and murdered in the Tower in June of the same year. On the 17th of December 1431, Henry was at Paris crowned king of France, but his reign was fatal to witness the gradual decay and final subversion of the English dominion in France. Henry was after his death revered as a martyr by the Lancastrians, and many miracles were reported to have been wrought at his tomb. Henry VII., tried to prevail upon Pope Julius II. to canonize him; but, says Bacon, in his life of Henry VII., "the general opinion was that Pope Julius was too dear, and that the king would not come to his rates."

In the second century a dispute arose as to the proper time for celebrating Easter between the eastern and western churches. The great mass of eastern christians celebrated Easter on the 14th day of the first month or moon, considering it to be equivalent to the Jewish Passover, when Christ was crucified. The Western christians celebrated it on the Sunday after the 14th, holding that it was the commemoration of the Resurrection of Jesus. The council of Nice, A. D. 325, decided in favor of the western usage. At the time of the introduction of the Gregorian calendar it was debated whether a fixed Sunday after the 21st of March should not be adopted. In deference the ancient custom, the ecclesiastical authorities decided to adhere to the method of determining the day by the moon. It must be understood, however, that it is not the actual moon in the heavens, nor even the mean moon of the astronomers that regulates the time of Easter, but an altogether imaginary moon whose periods are so contrived that the new (calendar) moon always follows the real new moon—sometimes by two, or even three, days. The effect of this is that the 14th of the calendar moon—which had from the time of Moses been considered full moon for

ecclesiastical purposes—falls generally on the 15th or 16th of the real moon, and thus after the real full moon, which is generally on the 14th or 15th day. The rule is that Easter day is always the first Sunday after the full moon which happens upon or next after the 21st of March; and if the full moon happens on a Sunday, Easter day is the Sunday after.

"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

Miss Olmadié—"I do wish I were a man." Miss Youngun (artlessly)—"Gracious, no; you'd be setting your cap for yourself all the time."

First Detective—How did you discover that English defaulter's identity? Second Detective—I got off a pun and he was the only man in the crowd who laughed at it.

Their relative value—Mrs. Jaysmith (proudly)—My husband is worth fifty thousand dollars. Mrs. Gargoylé—I wouldn't take a hundred millions for mine.

"My son called me an old crank the other day, and my wife wouldn't let me punish him." "Why not?" "She said a child never should be punished for telling the truth."

"I can take a hundred words a minute," said the stenographer. "I often take more than that," remarked the other in sorrowful accents; "but then I have to. I'm married."

Young man—"Do you think your sister would hate to marry and leave you?" The terror—"Oh, yes. She said she would have been married long ago if it hadn't been for me."—Lile.

"Is this one of the popular songs of the day?" inquired the customer in a music store yesterday. "I guess so," said the clerk; "I saw a man hit with a brick this morning for singing it."

His Forte.—Cousin Sue—"Mr. Bungley told me he was somewhat of an athlete. What does he do?" Jack—"Oh, he's very skillful in tossing glasses over a horizontal bar."—Harvard Lampoon.

Jinks—"My wife belongs to a sewing society." Spinks—"So does mine." Jinks—"What does your wife sew?" Spinks—"Gossip, mostly." Jinks—"Guess they must belong to the same one."

One Day More.—Marguerite—"Why do they call this leap year?" Pearl (wearily)—"I suppose because there are 366 days in which one has a chance to jump at an offer of marriage."—Brooklyn Eagle.

"All things considered," remarked the parishioner, "I rather prefer the short sermon." "And mine are always long," observed his pastor. "That's what I was thinking," said the parishioner in a far-away tone.

Mrs. McCorkle—"What did your husband say about your new hat?" Mrs. McCorkle—"He fell to the floor insensible when he saw the bill." Mrs. McCorkle—"I told you it was a stunner when you bought it."

In a certain cemetery, which shall be nameless, there is a gravestone with this inscription: "Mr. Charles Fielt with repose here; at present he is still alive and carrying on the shoemaking business at 41,144 Larrabee street."

She—"If you don't let go my hands, sir, I'll ring for the servants." He—"But if I don't let go how can you ring?" She (thoughtfully)—"That's so—and—and poor mamma's got a headache, so I dare not scream."—New York Herald.

Never Get Hurt.—Old Lady: "Ooo! Horrors! There's a runaway! And there's a man in the wagon. Ooo! He'll get killed!" Bystander—"Calm your fears, madam. He'll come out all right. 'Tisn't a man; it's a boy."—Good News.

"We cannot see ourselves as others see us," said Henrietta, when George was trying to convince her of his good points. "No," said he. "If we could you wouldn't do anything but look at yourself." Then she was convinced of her good points.

A thread manufacturer having got, by some accident, a severe cut across the nose, and having no court plaster at hand, stuck on his unfortunate organ one of his gum tickets, on which was the usual intimation: "Warranted 350 yards long!"

The Only Course Left.—"If you want to win her regard you must praise her." "But I hate flattery. It goes against my conscience." "But just a little." "I couldn't do it." "Then the only thing left for you to do is to run down every other woman."

Excited individual—Officer, I've been robbed. I left a paper parcel, containing five poems, on that seat, and now it's gone! Officer—Well, you can write 'em over again, can't you? Excited individual—Yes; but there was a sandwich in the parcel, too!

The Idea!—Picture Dealer: "No doubt you will be pleased to decorate your elegant apartments with a number of oil paintings. I have on hand a number of old pictures by the most famous artists." Upstart—"Old pictures! Thank goodness we are sufficiently well off to afford new ones!"

A careful husband—Friend (after tea)—"Your little wife is a brilliantly handsome woman. I should think you'd be jealous of her." Host (confidentially)—"To tell the truth, Simpkins, I am. I never invite anybody here that any sane woman would take a fancy to."—New York Weekly.

Teacher—Tommy, you know what I told you yesterday—that if you didn't run right home and tell your mother you had played truant last week I would give you a good whipping. Tommy—Yes'm; an' I told her. Teacher—What did she say? Tommy—She said if I hadn't told her she would have licked me, too.

A preacher the other Sunday, becoming annoyed at people continually looking round to the door to see who was coming in, paused in his discourse to say: "Ladies and gentlemen, if you will give me your close attention, I will keep a look-out at that door, and if anything worse than a man enters I will warn you in time to enable you to make your escape."

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

The King of the Belgians always sleeps on a camp bed.

The Rothschilds have an annual income of \$35,000,000.

Lillian Russell is said to be earning something like \$900 a week.

The poet Burns spelled his name Burns (his family name) until the publication of his poems in 1786.

Mrs. Grant has up to date received from the Scribners as her share in General Grant's book the amount of \$414,855.28.

Donna Isadora Cousino of Chili is worth \$200,000,000, making her the richest woman, if not the richest person, in the world.

The nearest living relative to Shakespeare is probably Thomas Hart, a resident of Australia, who is eighth in descent from Shakespeare's sister Joan.

Seventy-seven dollars was paid in London the other day for the copy of Adam Bede George Eliot presented to Thackeray. It was the first edition, and contained the author's autograph.

Miss Helen Gladstone, daughter of the ex-premier, is the vice-president of Newnham college, the women's annex of Cambridge University. Miss Gladstone is 46 years old and of a very retiring disposition.

The Queen of Italy devotes a day occasionally to visiting the hospitals in Rome. Recently she went over the infants' surgical ward in Consolation Hospital, and had a smile and caress for each of the little pale patients.

Jules Verne writes his extraordinary stories in a little room crowded with charts, electrical apparatus and scientific instruments. Even in his most imaginative flights he keeps as close as he can to the line of scientific possibility.

Father Duren, a Roman Catholic priest in Wisconsin, who rescued the daughter of a wealthy Parisian from drowning in the Mediterranean last winter, has received from her father \$55,000, which the good man will devote to charitable purposes.

The Empress of Russia has sent a magnificent present to her parents, the King and Queen of Denmark, on the occasion of their golden wedding. It consists of a full "team"—half a dozen—of those snow-white stallions for which the Russian Court is famous. Not a dark hair is to be found on them from forelock to hind fetlock.

Bernhart's manager is trying to make her hurry along her performances, so that they shall not exceed those of other theaters in length. At present a Bernhart evening lasts until 11.30 or 12.30 o'clock, for the reason that the actress declares that she cannot portray such vivid parts without taking a nap between acts. The manager storms and Bernhart weeps, but she doesn't hurry up just the same.

A curious story is told of Darwin and snakes. He used to go into the London Zoological Society's Gardens, Regent's Park, and, standing by the glass case containing the cobra, de capello, put his forehead against the glass while the cobra struck out at him. The glass was between them; Darwin's mind was perfectly convinced as to the inability of the snake to harm him, yet he would always dodge. Time after time he tried it, his will and reason keeping him there, his instinct making him dodge. His instinct was stronger than both will and reason.

Princess Maud of Wales has hit upon a novel mode of replenishing her exchequer. Her mother makes her an allowance, a considerable part of which she spends in charity; but there are so many appeals that her little fund is entirely inadequate to meet them. She makes a habit of gathering up all the peacock feathers that are dropped by a great flock of pea-fowl at Sandringham, and these she weaves into fans and fire screens to be sold at charity fairs. The fact that they are very prettily and tastefully done gives them a considerable value, and she reaps from them a neat little sum for her pet pensioners.

It is stated that Queen Anne, wife of Richard II., first taught English women to ride on side-saddles, when, heretofore, they rode astride. As late as 1772, Queen Mariana Victoria of Portugal always rode astride. There has been some discussion as to whether this ancient practice should not be revived and the side-saddle abandoned. In May, 1890, a lady, wife of an English baronet, appeared in the Row, attended by her groom, and mounted cross-legged. Her riding habit was not only somewhat longer than the new fashion enjoins, but longer than the old one as well, and was simply a very voluminous divided skirt.

Of all Irish landlords, perhaps none was more popular with his tenants than the late deceased Earl of Leitrim. As an instance of what may be termed his approachability, it may be stated that, on the birth of his second son, an old woman on the estate called at Manorvaughan to offer her congratulations, and, remarking to the earl that this was "the first of the breed" born on Irish soil, suggested that the boy should be called "Pat." The earl good-naturedly said he might do so, and accordingly the child bears the name of Hon. Francis Patrick. It is characteristic of the same man's determination and resource that at one time he voluntarily did duty in the engine-room of a small coasting steamer, which he had established for trading purposes along the Donegal coast, for a period of three weeks when he was without an engineer.

Madame Modjeska, the famous actress, lives on a ranch which lies at the foot of Santiago Peak, in California, 15 miles from a town or railway. She is an enthusiastic farmer, and takes great pride in her live stock, of which she has a large number. Her herd of short-horns numbers over 400, and she has a singularly proportioned flock of Angora goats. These animals she has found to be very profitable. Madame Modjeska rises at six o'clock in the morning and is out all the forenoon superintending the management of her cattle and bees.

There are now twenty-one law firms in the United States composed of husbands and wives, and there are about 200 American ladies who practise law in the courts or manage legal publications. Miss Phoebe Cousins was the first woman admitted to the Washington University at St. Louis, and she has now practised with her father for twenty-one years. Several women make large incomes by the law in America.

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