THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

The sum of £600,000 is spent weekly in England relieving the poor.

There are over seventy miles of tunnels cut in the solid rock of Gibraltar.

The strongest telescope brings the moon to an apparent distance of 100 miles. Nearly 22,000 Hindoos lost their lives

last year from being bitten by snakes. Fully 25 per cent. of all the champagne made is lost by the bursting of bottles.

The amount of tobacco chewed in the the United States last year was eighty-five

Of the 69,000 Frenchmen who fought with Napoleon at Waterloo only eight now

Astronomers claim that the temperature of the planet Neptune reaches 900 degrees below zero.

Between three and four thousand litres of wine are made every year from grapes grown in the garden of the Vatican.

The natives of the Solomon Islands be-

lieve that cyclones are caused by some monstrous invisible birds flapping their There is a reptile common to the Sacramento valley known as the blowsnake. A

full grown blowsnake thinks nothing of swallowing a half dozen eggs at a time. But one in seven of the adult male wage workers in Great Britain belongs to a trades

union. Yet the strikes organized by the unions in 1890 and 1891 cost the wage earners about \$9,000,000. The Crimean war added £41,000,000 to the national debt of Great Britain, besides costing the lives of some 24,000 men, of

whom only about a quarter were killed in battle or died of their wounds. The largest and heaviest building stone ever quarried in England was taken from the Plankington bed, near Norwich, in February, 1889. It was in one piece, without crack or flaw, and weighed over thirty-

A person who has totally lost the sense of hearing in one ear, although he may imagine that the defect is of little consequence, cannot locate the direction of a sound to save his life, even when the centre of disturbance is quite near him.

Professional cycling is a paying business in France. Sunday is the day over there when races are so plentiful that many youngsters have given up all other employment and earn their living by racing. In some cases they earn as much as from £20 to £30 per week.

It is probably not known to the general public that all the names placed before Chinese shops and laundries are talse. Every Chinaman in business has a "shop name" and a "private name," and by the latter he is known only to his family and intimate acquaintances.

It is said that a large proportion of the plumes worn by the ladies who attend the Queen's Drawing Room, are hired from a shop, which makes a business of renting out plumes. The feathers are worth £1 to £2, and the rent of them is five or six shillings for each occasion.

The Kalmucks, of Astrakhan, a roving people numbering about one hundred and fifty thousand souls, have at last been freed from serfdom. When the other Russian serfs were freed in 1861 it was considered dangerous to extend this privilege to these people, lest their wildness would lead to its

A German authority says that almost a third of all humanity, that is, 400,000,000, speak the Chinese language. Hindu language is spoken by more than 100,000,000, the Russian by more than 80,000,000, the German by 57,000,000, and the Spanish by 48,000,000. Of the European languages the French is fifth in place.

Of the entire human race, 500,000,000 are well clothed, that is, they wear garments of some kind that will cover their nakedness; 250,000,000 habitually go naked, and 700,000,000 only cover the middle parts of the body; 500,000,000 live in houses; 700,000,000 in huts and caves, the remaining 250,000,000 virtually having no place to lay their heads.

When a glass stopper sticks in the bottle, pass a strip of woollen cloth round the neck of the vessel and see-saw it backwards and forwards. This friction heats and causes the neck to expand, so that the stopper becomes loose. On this principle of expansion by heat a tight screw may be withdrawn from a metal socket by surrounding the socket with a cloth dipped in boiling water.

Flying foxes are distressing the agriculturists in some parts of Australia, and a local paper says that at the present rate of increase it is greatly feared they will soon become as great a menace as the rabbit pest. A camp of the foxes, about four miles from Erina, New South Wales, contains fully 100,000 of the pests, "and when disturbed they rise like a cloud obscuring

The floating dock and the typewriter are among the many important inventions that were hit upon by men who have made no attempt to patent their ideas. A photographer conceived the idea of the floating dock before the device was perfected and put to practical use, and a naval officer thought out a practical typewriter, but was persuaded by friends to abandon his invention as a thing that nobody could be induced

According to an old legend the baby's dimples mark the spots where angels' fing-ers touched the child in bearing it from heaven to earth, but unromantic doctors have a different explanation. They say that dimples probably result from detective development of a muscle. When the muscle is called into use the defective portion fails to respond, and a hollow is lett, into which the flesh and skin of the cheek, tor example, fall, and thus the dimple is formed.

The smallest painting ever made, probably, was the work of the wite of a Flemish artist. It depicted a mill with the sails bent, the miller mounting the stairs with a sack of grain on his back. Upon the terrace where the mill stood were a cart and horse, and in the road leading to it several peasants were shown. The picture was beautifully finished, and every object was very distinct, yet it was so amazingly small that its surface could be covered with a grain of corn.

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"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

Irate Husband - Facts are stubborn things. She-Then what a fact you must

"After he draws his salary, then what does he do with it?" "Er-um-well, paints the town mostly."

Notwithstanding the many changes in tashions, the prettiest thing in dresses still continues to be the pretty girl.

"Charley's trying very hard to win your affections." "Yes, he's a man after my own heart. But I won't have him." First stranger-It seems to me I have

seen your face before. Second Stranger-Quite likely. That's where I carry it. He-My income is small, and perhaps it

is cruel of me to take you from your father's root. She (anxiously) - I don't live on the Young mother—Don't you think baby very much like his father? Lady visitor—

Yes I do. But don't worry. He may grow out of it. " Did Miss Goldcoin look upon your suit

with favor?" "Oh. yes; she thought the clothes were all right, but she objected to the wearer. Crummer-I am told that Carson always

heaps coals on his enemies' heads. Vokes -Well, he is rich, and can afford to do such things. A Geneva watchmaker has invented a

talking clock that can be so adjusted that it will invite the courting young man to stay Tourist-This is rather a live little place,

isn't it? Citizen-Well, I should remark; there's been sixteen lots sold in the cemetery in the last two weeks. We may talk all we like about women

being the weaker sex. but last year they did something man could not do. They lost thirty millions of hairpins. Cholly-Old fellow, what are you trying to raise a goatee for? Fweddy—I've got tiahd of being chucked undah the chin by

mothably old ladies, bah jove! A -When a man tries to borrow money from a friend, that is experimental philosophy. B.-Yes, and when the friend refuses, that is natural philosophy.

Maud-How do you like the new way I do my hair, Frank? Frank (wants to say something particularly nice) - Why, you look at least thirty years younger!

Will I find your husband at the club this evening?" "I'm sure you will, for he kissed me goodbye and said his work would keep him at the office until late." It always bothers a Frenchman who is

murder has been committed, and the next day that the murderer has been committed. Blinkers-One never loses anything by keeping his engagements punctually. Winkers-My experience is he is apt to lose halt

an hour's time waiting for the other fellow. Mrs. Flipp-Oh, Jack. why will you persist in wearing your shabby, last winter's suit? Mr. Flipp-Only because you would persist in buying your natty next winter's

"What's the mattaw with Cholly?" He's in a dweadful fix." "Do tell." 'He's so pwoficient in tying Ascot scawts that evewy person takes them fah weady-

Jack A. Knape-Aha! So you spent last evening at Miss Sears', did you? Hiram Scarum-How did you guess it? Jack A. Knape-I recognized the tidy on the back buttons of your coat.

"Aren't you going to remember me, sir?" asked the waiter as the guest was leaving. "I don't know whether I shall remember you or not, but I'm certain I won't forget

Dawson, to stranger at Mrs. De Noo's reception—Who the devil is this Mrs. De Noo, anyhow? Stranger-She is Mr. De Noo's wife. Dawson-And who on earth is De Noo? Stranger-I.

A man in Michigan committed suicide by drowning. As the body could not be found, the coroner held an inquest on his hat and jacket found on the bank of the lake. Verdict-"Found empty."

A correspondent declares that choosing a wife is very much like ordering a meal in a Paris restaurant when you don't understand French. You may not get what you want, but you will get something.

Tommy—Oh, Mr. Tomkins, may I touch you? Mr. Tomkins—Certainly, Tommy; but why do you wish to touch me? Tommy-Well, I heard sis say you were so soft, that I want to see for myself.

"How long," says a contemporary, "can one live without air?" It depends on the air. Most people could live a long time without some of the airs which have been popular during the last twelvemonth.

He-How charming you look, dear, in that dress. It becomes you admirably. She-Oh, yes, that's an old story. When the season is changing, you always discover how charming I am in my old clothes.

Beals—Is Bagley head over heels in debt? Beals—Yes, I hear so. He signed a contract with his tailor to pay two dollars a night for the hire of a dress suit till he returned it. After the second night it was

Biggs-You say your wife always pins a flower on your coat before you leave home? "Yes, she has for a month." Biggs-Well, it shows she thinks of youit's because she never can remember to sew on the button.'

Sister Goldbug-I'se berry sorry, Bre'r Whitetop, to seed you comin' out o' dat saloon yisterday. Brother Whitetop—Can't help it, Sister Goldbug; I'se can't expend all my time in dere; I'se got to go home wunce in er while.

A colored boy, called as a witness before a court-martial, was asked by the judge advocate if he understood what an oath was. The witness replied: "Yes, sah! I reckon I does. I'se been waitin' at the officers' mess most six months."

"I don't think that is a trained nurse you have sent here," said Mr. Nupop to the doctor. "Why do you think she isn't?" "When she came to announce to me the birth of the boy she didn't say he was the very image of his father."

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT

Jules Verne was 42 before he turned his attention to scientific fiction, in "Five Weeks in a Balloon."

The Czar of Russia is the largest individval landowner in the world. The area of his possessions is greater than that of the republic of France.

William Dean Howells, the novelist, is charming in conversation when he wants to be, but he can be equally crusty when the mood Leizes him. He can repel an unwelcome interviewer probably quicker than any other man in literary circles.

Queen Victoria is still looking for a peer to fill the highly ornamental post of Lord-in-Waiting at Court. It is said that Lord Ashburton, to whom it was offered, declined it "because he was indisposed to take a salary for walking backward." M. Carnot, President of the French Re-public, is a slender man of medium build, of very pale complexion. He usually has his moustache closely trimmed, and wears a beard which is exceedingly black. In conversation he is particularly charming—

at all times genial and witty. In delivering his inaugural, President Cleveland spoke without notes, as he always does. It is said of him that he never read a speech in his life. In the act of writing it he half commits it to memory, and then, with one more reading, he knows

every word and punctuation mark in it. Sarah Althea Hill Terry came into public notice again a few days ago. She is confined in the Stockton, Cal., Insane Asylum, and recently made a murderous attack upon the attending physician. The untortunate woman is a raving maniac, and has lost all traces of her phenomenal beauty that was at once her fortune and her ruin.

Mrs. Hodgson Burnett is very fond of picture galleries. When in London she goes to all the season "shows," under the guidance of some artist friend. The authoress has a love of art for its own sake, but she has also tound it helpful in her work. When seeking inspiration for a new story, she finds nothing so suggestive as a good

Rita von Booth is the real name of the lady known to readers of fiction as "Rita." It was not until after she had married Mr. von Booth that she wrote her first novel, "Dame Durden," her case being a remarkable contradiction of the general belief that marriage is injurious to woman's art. By birth a Scotswoman, "Rita" spent her early life-she is still under forty-in THROAT, ETC., AND ARE INVALUABLE Australia, and she now resides in Cornwall. TO ORATORS AND VOCALISTS. R. &

Henrik Isben, the Norwegian dramatist, was in his youth apprenticed to an apothecary at Grimstad. He abandoned the pestle and mortar, however, to continue his studies at the Christiania University, where playwright, Bjornsen. The author of "Hedda Gabler" works systematically, but does not produce very quickly. In dispoing on moroseness.

One thing noticeable in the decoration Queen's children. A very pretty group represents the Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold and their dog, Wardie. A statu- ness. ette represents the Queen on horseback, wearing the long riding-skirt which was the fashion in her day; but her gown is lownecked and short-sleeved, and she wears round her neck the collar of the Order of the Garter. The curtains, chairs, and carpets of the room are all of the Victorian

The Austrian Archduchess who was recently married did not take her splendid bridal robe with its embroideries of silver margarites and costly lace to her new home, but made a gift of it to the church where her sisters and brothers prayed continually for her recovery during a serious illness. The beautiful gown is to be made into a set of Easter garments for the priests, and the bride will keep only for remembrance of the day the veil of tulle and the myrtle wreath, which all German and Austrian brides wear in token of their

Gen. Patrick A. Collins of Boston, recently appointed consul general to England, says he was not an applicant for the place, although it was his choice. When apthe new administration, he chose London because he feels as much at home there as in New York. He will probably start next month, and he is arranging his affairs to that end. The position is not in any way political or diplomatic, and the duties simply require business ability, knowledge of commercial affairs, diligence, tact and

Mr. Ira Tripp, a Pennsylvanian millionaire, has, for the last twenty-three years, had a most curious and novel way of enjoying his pipe and cigar. Up to the age of sixty (he is now eighty-three) he was a confirmed smoker, but on account of indifferent health his doctor ordered him to break off the habit. Mr. Tripp agreed to do so, but though pipe and cigar never pass his lips now, he still enjoys the weed, for a colored gentleman attends upon him, whose only duty is to smoke the best Havannahs which can be procured, and puff the smoke under his employer's nose.

Baron Hirsch—a cosmopolitan Crœsus is supposed to be worth two millions sterling a year, and although he lives in a princely way in London, Paris, or elsewhere, gratifying every luxurious and æs-thetic taste, he distributes much of his wealth in philanthropic projects. In England the profits of his racing—he headed the list last year—are given to hospitals on a mathematical scale of precision. His benevolence to the oppressed members of his own race is well known, and in Paris he maintains a large office as headquarters for his benefic. nt schemes for the social amelioration of

Alexandre Dumas hardly ever takes up a pen until he has thoroughly composed in hard his has thoroughly composed in hard his factorial failur, at the failur failur, at the failur failur, at the failur failur, at the failur fa his head all he can put on paper, hence his writing is very clean. Alphonse Daudet is constantly making notes of his thoughts and impressions on scraps of paper, and these he puts away in his writing-desk. When he is ready to go to work on a novel, he takes these notes and rewrites them. The Corner King and Prince Wm. Streets. result is an elegant manuscript. Emile Zola's writing is large and bold, and so is that of Leconte de Leslie and of Francois Coppee; but Victorien Sardou writes so finely and delicately that it is not easy to read his manuscript.



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