

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

In 1313 a lamb was worth 5s.; two dozen eggs, 3d. Pin making employs 20,000 in Redditch, England. Shirts embroidered by hand and costing \$50 each came in fashion in the reign of Elizabeth.

Salmon was formerly believed to promote drunkenness. Bread was first made in England with yeast in 1624.

The kegs used for the exportation of gold hold \$50,000 apiece. The two bridges of Xerxes had 366 and 314 boats, respectively.

Diamonds so small that 1,500 go to the carat have been cut in Holland. A Chinese bank note 500 years old is preserved in a Chinese museum.

The Orloff diamond is believed to be responsible for sixty-seven murders. Fewer than 11,000 Prussians have incomes of more than \$7,000 a year.

The total number of families in the United States in 1890 was 12,690,152. In the Alaska mines potatoes sell for 50 cents each and tobacco for \$16 a plug.

The Chinese Emperor had 260 pairs of boots made for himself some time ago. Out of the standing timber in Washington, 1,300,000 cottages could be erected.

An earthquake wave once crossed the Pacific in twelve hours, or over six miles a minute. The tomb of Mohammed is covered with diamonds, sapphires and rubies valued at \$10,000,000.

Eighty-six, or nearly one-quarter of the 355 town of Massachusetts contain no resident physician. Berlin has the widest train roof on the continent—that at Anhalt station, which is 198 feet 5 inches.

The largest diamond ever known was the Great Mogul, which weighed in the rough, 793 carats. In the United States and Canada six out of every ten men who have reached the age of 30 are unmarried.

The diadem of the Russian Empress Anna contained 2,536 large diamonds and a ruby valued at \$400,000. The saltiest lake in the world is Lake Urumia in Persia, situated at more than 4,000 feet above the level of the sea.

For 200 years the paper from which Bank of England notes are made has been manufactured at Laverstoke in Hampshire. The oldest artesian well in Europe is found at Lillers, France. From its mouth water has flowed uninterruptedly for 746 years.

It is said that the people of Tokio recover quickly from surgical operations because they consume but little alcohol and eat but little meat. In Denmark it is the law that all drunken persons shall be taken home in carriages provided at the expense of the publican who sold them the last glass.

The great driving rope which pulls the cars across the new Brooklyn Bridge is 1 1/2 inches in diameter, 11,700 feet long, and weighs nineteen tons. Alexander the Great is the only celebrated man of history of whom it may be truthfully said: He was born in Europe, died in Asia and is buried in Africa.

One of the hottest regions of the earth surface is in the immediate vicinity of the Dead Sea. The sea loses a million tons of water a day there through evaporation. Since the Cape diamond fields were discovered in 1867, 50,000,000 carats of stones, valued at \$350,000,000, have been exported. These would load up two big coal trains.

The salaries paid to persons in the civil service of the United States amount to \$90,000,000 annually. This amount pays the wages of 180,000 persons. The average is \$500 a year. The first locomotive ever seen in Bangkok Siam, was recently started on the Korat Railway. The native population took immense interest in the trial run over the half mile of railway now laid.

A British scientist recently stated that if a man weighing 140 pounds were played under a hydraulic press and squeezed flat, the result would be 105 pounds of water and thirty five pounds of dry residue. One of the largest forests in the world is situated between Ural and the Okhotsk Sea. A well was recently dug in this region, when it was found that at a depth of 340 feet the ground was still frozen.

The silver mine at Przbirum, in Bohemia, is more than 3,300 feet deep, and the temperature at that great depth was found to be about seventy-six degrees Fahrenheit, a little lower than the temperature at the surface. A shoe that is uncomfortable from pinching may be righted by laying a cloth, wet in hot water, across the place where it pinches, changing it as it grows cooler, for a number of times. This will cause the leather to shape itself to the foot.

The people of New York city consume annually 225,000,000 gallons of milk, which is at the rate of 4,326,923 gallons per week, or 618,132 gallons per day. All this milk is not used as it comes directly from the cow. At least 50 per cent. of the amount is sold as cream, cheese, butter, ice cream, etc. In Turkestan every wedding engagement begins with the payment of a substantial consideration to the girl's parents. If the girl jilts her lover the engagement gift has to be returned, unless the parents have another daughter to give as a substitute. The plan is said to work well, and results in few divorces. Some interesting figures are published respecting the cost of the uniforms of the private soldiers in the English Army. It appears that the clothing of the gorgeous Life Guardsman involves the nation in an annual expenditure of £79s. 3d. A Highlander, with his feathery cap and tartan kilt, can be turned out for half the sum, and the common soldier in the line is appraised for £2 17s. 2d.

For Scrofula

"After suffering for about twenty-five years from scrofulous sores on the legs and arms, trying various medical courses without benefit, I began to use Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and a wonderful cure was the result. Five bottles sufficed to restore me to health."—Bonifacia Lopez, 327 E. Commerce st., San Antonio, Texas.

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"My daughter was afflicted for nearly a year with catarrh. The physicians being unable to help her, my pastor recommended Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I followed his advice. Three months of regular treatment with Ayer's Sarsaparilla and Ayer's Pills completely restored my daughter's health."—Mrs. Louise Rielle, Little Canada, Ware, Mass.

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"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

Teacher—Can any of you boys tell me what the Great Plague was? Tommy—Lessons. She—Do you think it possible for a man to love two women at once? He—Yes, fifty at once, if they were all like you.

She (fondly)—Do you care for me as much as—? He (wildly)—Who—who? She (in a whisper)—As much as ever.

Tourist—I understand they raise pretty nearly everything in this country? Farmer—Everything but mortgages, partner. "How is it that Jenkins's baby cured him of drinking?" "Because every time he went home tipsy he thought he saw twins."

"I thought you said this was a fast boat." "She was when I sold her to you." "How do you make that out?" "Fast to the wharf."

"What is the greatest accomplishment you know of?" said the talkative young man. "To say nothing silently," replied the young woman.

"What do you think would make a handsome paperweight for the professor on his birthday?" "One of his own sentences," was the sarcastic reply.

Young Gotnix (sadly)—I saw a sign in a window down the street that exactly described my condition. Jinks—What was it? "Cash girl wanted."

"And you will not tolerate a chaperon hereafter?" asked Sue. "No, indeed," smiled Ellen. "I'm a regular daughter of Eve." "What? So old?"

He—Your protege, the German sign painter, has lost his job. She—How? He—He painted some signs for the park which read, "Keep the Grass Off."

"You may bring me," said the Boston girl, "a small portion of Celtic disturbance." "A which, is it?" said the waiter. "Irish stew, you stupid," answered she.

Margaret—You mustn't point that gun at me, Carry. You know mamma told you never to point an empty gun at any one. Carry—But this one isn't empty, it's loaded.

Judge—Ah, you've seen me more than once already, haven't you? Prisoner—I have that honor. And, as we know each other so well, permit me to ask how your charming wife is?

Teacher—What part of speech is the word "egg"? Boy, hesitatingly—Noun, sir. Teacher—Is it masculine, feminine or neuter? Boy, looking sharp—Can't say, sir, till it's hatched.

"Those cigars I gave you lasted you a long time, didn't they dear?" "Yes," replied her husband. "The clerk who sold them to me warranted them to wear," she said complacently.

Amy—Don't you think Edwin and Angelina really love each other? Maude—I know they do. They sat together for two hours yesterday, and said nothing but "Oh, Edwin!" and "Oh, Angelina!"

"Papa, will you take me to see the circus to-morrow night?" "My son, it is wicked to go to circuses, but if you are a good boy I will take you to see the street procession when the circus comes in to town."

Young man—May I present myself as a suitor for your hand? Maiden—I am sorry to disappoint you, but the fact is I betrothed myself to day to another. Young man—Well, what about to-morrow.

Cross Fire.—Mrs. A. (maliciously)—You were such a charming debutante, my dear, fifteen years ago. Mrs. B.—Was I? I only remember you made such a lovely chaperone for me when I came out.

"So," said Mr. Donegan, "they've been printing the funeral notice of a man that wasn't dead yet? It's a nice fix they'd be in if he had been one of these people that believe in everything they see in the newspapers."

Bobby (to next door neighbor)—Please, Mrs. Brown, can Jack come home with me to lunch? Mrs. Brown—Does your mamma expect him Bobby? Bobby—Well, if I tell her Jack's coming she'll expect him then, you know.

Guest—I wish I had come here a week ago. Proprietor—Ah, that's very flattering to my establishment. Guest—I don't know about that. What I mean is that I would have preferred to have eaten this fish then instead of now.

"I thought you told me, sir, that you were a young man of regular habits," cried old Mr. Quakenbush, as his new assistant, recled into the hall last night. "So I am," responded the young man, "so I am. This is one of them."

Mrs. Mann—It is strange that you cannot hold the baby a few minutes, when you used to be able to hold me on your lap for hours. Mr. Mann—The young one is so restless. He squirms and kicks all the time. You didn't kick the least little bit.

"I think the Pilgrim mothers had a harder time than the Pilgrim fathers," said Hicks. "Why?" queried Dickson. "Why, they not only had to endure the same privations as the Pilgrim fathers, but they had to get along with the Pilgrim fathers as well."

Cobble—I see that Kittleworth has gone into business for himself. Stone—Yes. And he is coming around to live in the same house with me. Cobble—What's he going to do that for? Stone—He says he wants to be near some one who draws a regular salary.

"The charge against the prisoner," said the judge, addressing the witness, "is cruelty to animals and you have been called to testify in his favor. What do you know about it?" "I never knowed him to be cruel to animals. Why, that there man, ju'ge, feeds his pet bulldog on beefsteak. Cruel to animals! Why, I've knowed him to kick his wife for not taking good care of his dog."

"Claribel," called out the old gentleman in a loud, rasping and emphatic voice from the head of the stairway at 11.30 p. m., "you tell that slick haired, tallow faced, spider legged dude in the parlor there to take his No. 6 hat and walk off, and if he ever comes here again, by jocks, I'll kick him clear up through his necktie!" "Alfred," murmured the young woman, pensively, "something seems to tell me we had better part!"

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

The Shah of Persia is known as "The Branch of Honour," "The Mirror of Virtue," and "The Rose of Delight." Dr. L. F. Oswald has figured out that a century from the present time the United States will have a population of 300,000,000.

Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson is a portly, gray haired woman, who was a grandmother when she married her second husband. Jay Gould's children are about to build a church to their father's memory at Roxbury, Delaware county, N. Y., where he was born.

Hall Caine, who achieved literary fame at the age of 25, is not yet 40 years old. He was 31 when the "Deemster" was published. A sewing machine was included among the presents the ex-empress of Germany gave her daughter, Princess Margrethe, on her marriage.

John Howells, the novelist's son, was the only American who passed the examination for admission to the Paris School of Fine Arts this year. The Duke and Duchess of Newcastle will start for Canada and the United States about the middle of April, and subsequently will go to Honolulu.

Father J. J. Nouri, the American priest who recently described his discovery of Noah's Ark, has been committed to an insane hospital in California. General Anthonard de Vraincourt, who died in France at the age of 97 a short time ago, was almost the last survivor of the wars of the First Empire.

While on his recent gunning expedition ex-President Harrison was asked by a woman if he were President Harrison. "No, madam" was the reply; "I am Benjamin Harrison of Indiana." It is said of President Cleveland that he never read a speech in his life. In the act of writing it he halt commits it to memory, and then, with one more reading, he knows every word and punctuation mark in it.

The Czarina of Russia, although employing a number of seamstresses, makes nearly all the clothing for her younger children, and also takes their new hats to pieces and afterwards trims them according to her own taste. Mr. Swinburne resides in a substantial looking villa at Putney. He is very fond of walking, and his morning "constitutional" is taken in all sorts of weather. The poet's favourite walk is up Putney Hill to Wimbledon Common.

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes is trying by a most methodical mode of life to see how much he can prolong his ripening years. Among other things he never rises in the morning until the temperature of his room is at just the right heat. The Empress of Austria has added to her linguistic accomplishments the ability to speak, read and write modern Greek, which she acqrued with astonishing rapidity. She has translated several of Shakespeare's plays into that language.

Carlyle's old home in Chelsea, is occupied now by Elizabeth Ann Cottrell, a widow. The greater part of her household consists of fifteen dogs, seven of which a recent visitor saw lying in their mistress's lap as she ate her breakfast. Thomas Allen, who served under Wellington in the war with Napoleon and under General Scott in the Mexican war, and who enlisted at the age of 72 for service in the civil war, is still living at the age of 103 years, in Tyler county, W. Va.

Mme. de Lesseps, wife of "le Grand Francois," can write equally well in French and English. She is collecting her husband's private papers and correspondence, and proposes to write a book defending his course in regard to Panama. In all probability the greatest monarch, as far as size goes, who rules in the world, is the King of the Gilbert Islands, Telburn, who weighs 300 pounds. His son, the Crown Prince, is still heavier. A daughter of his Majesty, only 8 years old, weighs 110 pounds.

To his skill as diplomatist, politician, and public speaker, Lord Dufferin has added the art of painting in water-colors. At his Irish residence and in the embassy in Paris there are many specimens of his work, souvenirs, for the most part, of travel and residence in different parts of the world. Dr. Alexander Wekerle, the new Minister President of Hungary, is a perfect giant in breadth and stature. He is more than a head taller than the average man, erect as an Indian, and exceedingly active. His face is pleasing and attractive. It is cleanly shaven, with the exception of the short side-whiskers so common in Hungary.

Mr. Labouchere is fond of giving dinner parties, to which he invites people of all political creeds. At the table he takes very little part in the general conversation, but the ladies who are fortunate enough to be placed on his right and left always pronounce him to be a brilliant talker. Instinctively he seems to learn what they are most interested in, and about these things he keeps up during the whole meal a continuous flow of information, anecdote and satire. At Claremont the apartments formerly occupied by the Princess Charlotte are still kept shut up. The Queen also maintains under lock and key the rooms of Prince Albert at Windsor, Balmoral and Osborne. Her Majesty has given the same orders with respect to the Duchess of Kent's rooms at Frogmore, and since John Brown's death his rooms have been rigidly closed. In some of these unused apartments a brass plate has been put up, recording the fact of their late tenancy. It is understood that the Queen made her will in 1876. It is engrossed on vellum, quarto size, and is bound as in a volume, secured with a private lock. Several blank pages have been left at the end of the book for codicils. Some of which have already been added. Thus, when the Princess Alice died in 1876, modifications of the bequests were rendered necessary, and in the summer of 1884, after the Duke of Albany's death, further revisions were imperative. One entry relates entirely to the disposal of the Queen's Jubilee gifts which are not the property of the nation.

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