THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

Icebergs sometimes last for 200 years. In 1530 oranges were first imported into

England from Italy.

The fashion of serving the fish before meats began in 1562.

Ching Noung, B. C. 1998, taught the Chinese to make bread. In the twelfth century gloves with separ

ate fingers were first seen. Wine skins, made of the hides of pigs,

goats, calves and oxen, are still used in the rural districts of Spain. There are 950,000 persons imprisoned in 875 jails in Russia. The prisons were

built to hold only 570,000. A chemical preparation of camphor is

said to be one of the principal ingredients forming smokeless gunpowder. The polar bear, which inhabits the Arctic

length, and weighs 1,600 pounds. In Great Britain the number of deaths from explosions in mines during 1892 was

regions, sometimes measures nine feet in

126, against 251 in 1891 and 290 in 1890. A recent experiment has proved that carrier pigeons may be trusted to convey messages from ships several hundred miles

A copy of the first edition of Columbus' letter, in Latin, announcing the discovery of America, printed at Rome in 1493, sold in London for £315.

Two thousand one hundred and seventy stray dogs were captured in the streets of London by the police during last January, of which only 269 were claimed by their

Stockings made from human hair are worn by Chinese fishermen as the best preventive of wet teet. They are drawn over ordinary cotton stockings, being too rough for putting near the skin.

There are now upwards of 3,000 lighthouses in different parts of the world, the average cost of maintaining which is about \$2,500 each per annum, floating lights costing twice this expenditure.

There are far more evictions in New York city than in the whole of Ireland. In 1890 the evictions in that city numbered 23,895; in Ireland, during the same period, they were a little over 5,000.

Great Britain is amongst the lowest of civilized countries in regard to the tender age at which it allows child labour in factories. Seventy-six thousand children of ten years of age are now at work.

The flounder lays 7,000,000 eggs annually; several others from 1,000,000 to 3,000,000; while the turbot is credited with depositing from 11,000,000 to 12,000-000 during each breeding season.

There are estimated to be at present 40,000 elk, 1,500 deer, 400 buffalo, 1,000 black tailed deer, 300 mountain sheep, and plenty of bear, beaver and other varieties of animals in the Yellowstone Park.

The cheque cannot be proved to have existed in the commercial transactions of Europe, outside of Italy, until late in the seventeenth or early in the eighteenth century; in England not till about 1760.

Transportation from England dates back from the time of Charles II., when offenders were despatched to the North American colonies. It was abolished in 1857, since which time penal servitude has been substi-

Among trees the elm reaches the age of 335 years; the ivy, 450; the chestnut, 500; the olive, 700; the cedar, 800; the oak, 1,500; the yew, 2.800; while Humboldt computed the age of a baobab tree, a species of banyan, to be 5,700 years.

An estimate made by the London Philatelist of the extent and value of existing postage stamp collections, based largely on the showings of a census taken for the purpose, places those existing in England at a total market value of £125,000, and those in the rest of the world at £100,000.

There are now 2,268 newspapers published in the United Kingdom: 1,762 in England, of which 459 are published in London; 102 in Wales; 214 in Scotland; 166 in Ireland; and 24 in the smaller isles. Of these 146 are English dailies; twenty Scotch dailies, seventeen Irish, sevenWelsh, and two dailies are published in the isles.

The British parliament was opened in person by Her Majesty on January 21, 1886, and never since, her place having been taken by commissioners. It is interesting to note that the Queen made this last appearance at Westminster during the Salisbury administration, which was the first after the Redistribution Act had come into

Neither the lord mayor of London nor his lordship of Dublin receives a salary. But allowances to meet the expenses of hospitality are made to both: in the former case it is £10,000, and in the latter. £3,000 a year. It is said that the respective holders of the dignity have to supplement these sums by at least an equal expenditure from their own resources.

Numbers of experiments have been made to test the speed and destination of corked bottles thrown into the sea in various parts of the world. The most remarkable example was that in which a bottle travelled 6,000 miles in about two years and a half -roughly. It travelled from 63 degrees south latitude and 60 degrees west longitude to Western Australia.

The bronze statute of William Penn. which is to adorn the top of the high tower of the Philadelpeia city hall, is thirty-seven feet high and weighs 60,000 pounds. Penn's nose is 13 inches long, his eyes are each 12 inches wide, his mouth stretches from corner to corner 14 inches, his hair is 4 feet long and his cuffs are 3 feet. The great buttons on his coat are 6 inches in diameter, his finger-nails are Chinese in their threeinch length, while his feet are 5 feet inches long.

Although the musk ox is still plentiful in the arctic regions of this continent, it is believed that there are not more than five or six mounted specimens of the creatures in the United States. One of the latest received was ordered three years ago, and finally delivered after 1,700 miles of sledging and a great many miles of other travel. According to the best authorities the odor that gives the musk ox its name can not be traced to any one special secretion.

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I have recommended it to hundreds. I find the most effective way of taking this medicine is in small and frequent doses."--T. M. Matthews, P. M., Sherman, Ohio.

"My wife suffered from a cold; nothing helped her but Ayer's Cherry Pectoral which effected a cure."—R. Amero, Plympton. N. S.

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"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

Mrs. Pie.-What will you do if I give you a good breakfast? Tramp.-Eat it,

Rob-Where do Skye terriers come from? Sam-Maybe from the sky when it rains cats and dogs.

He.-Women have no reason. She-Yes, they have. He-How do you know? She-Because I do.

When a person considers himself as "one in a thousand," he naturally considers the others as ciphers. Barclay-Don't these street cars ever go

faster than this? Houston-Yes. When you're running to catch one. A widower's second marriage will some-

times break up and destroy a home quite as effectually as a first-class fire. Brown-I'm glad I met your wife. She

seemed to take a fancy to me. Jones-Did she? I wish you'd met her sooner. The market reporter who writes, "Butter is firm" lives in his own or his mother's

house. The one who writes, "Butter is strong," boards. Druggist-We have port wine at three prices. Dick Hicks—All right; I'll take it. Mother said she always paid that for

what she got here. The bird that won't sing and must be made to is a matter of very small consequence compared to the bird that can't sing

but is willing to try. The Fiance-I overheard Clara Murray saying that you do not wear your own hair. Tell me, is it true? The Fiance (in-

dignantly) It's false. Jack-I may kiss you, then? Perdita (blushingly)-Some time in the future, Jack. Jack (eagerly)-When? Perdia -Day before tomorrow.

Guest-Why do you print your bill of fare in French? Fashionable Restaurateur -Because I want my patrons to think that I think they can read it.

Minnie Ball-But you need not despair; I can quite imagine that some foolish girl might find her ideal in you. Jack Sharp-I shall never be able to think so if you re-

Daughter (looking up from her novel)
-Papa, in time of trial what do you suppose brings the most comfort to a man? Papa (who is a Judge)-An acquittal I Mrs. Witherby—Does your husband play poker? Mrs. Plankington—Gracious,

no. Why it was only this morning he said he was satisfied he never would know how to play the game. First boy (contemptuously) Huh! Your

mother takes in washin' Second Boy-O' course. You didn't s'pose she'd leave it hangin' ont overnight unless your father was in prison, did ye? "You laugh at my cooking sometimes, John," said the young wife, "and for that

day." "Explain, please." "Well, you can't make game of it." "Don't you think 'dear' a tame word?' "It is, in the vocabulary of love, but when

reason I have served a barnyard towl to-

it is applied to the price of a woman's bonnet it assumes a strength that inspires the average husband with terror." Green-There was a time when I thought I knew everything. Brown-Yes. And

-What made you change your opinion? Well, the fact is I am courting a widow. Little Girl-Ma told me to tell you that the milk you sell makes the baby sick. Grocer-Tell your mother if the baby does

you think differently now? G.—I do. B.

not thrive on fresh milk to boil it. Little Girl--How long is the baby to be boiled?

Clerk-Lady in front caught stealing goods. What shall we do? Head of Firm -How is she dressed? Clerk-Furs and diamonds. Head of Firm-Beg her pardon, and ask if we shall send the bill to her

A gentleman apologized for words uttered in wine: "I did not mean to say what I did, but I've had the misfortune to lose some of my front teeth and words get out every now and then without my know-

Doctor-Will your ladyship please let me hear how you cough. Countess-I don't feel so inclined at this moment. (To her maid:) Elise, just you cough in the same way as I have been doing all this

Professor-So you confess that the unfortunate young man was carried out to the pump and there pumped on. Now, Mr. Geer, what part did you take in this disgraceful affair? Student (meekly)—The left leg, sir.

Bereaved Widow-I can't bear to see that agonized expression on the face of the deceased. Can't you make him look more natural? Undertaker (respectfully)—Not unless you let me take off that shirt you made for him, madam.

Friend-Why do you write "Dictated" at the top of each of your letters? You have no amanuensis. Business Man-No; but I'm a mighty poor speller, and if there are any mistakes in my letters the recipient will blame the stenographer.

Mudge-What have you in all that array of bottles? Chappie—Hair westoreh. Same bwand that the Pwince uses. Mudge-But the Prince of Wales is getting balder every day. Chappie—My deah boy, I cawn't help that, can 1?

"How did you like the sermon?" asked the minister of the drummer. "Oh, I liked some parts of it first rate," was the reply. Your remarks about sins of omission didn't hit me, but when you talked about those of commission I must say you were getting Mabel-Why, Claire, you are positively

moping, and you are to be married to-day. Claire — Yes, Mabel, I am worried. I know so very little about Jack, and-and-Mabel-Of course, you little goose! Don't you know you wouldn't be marrying him if you knew all about him?

Small Son-Papa, when I grow up, I think I'm going to be a great inventor. Papa—That's encouraging certainly. What makes you think you have inventive genius? Small Son-Why, I wanted to take a screw out, and I couldn't find any screwdriver, and so I unscrewed it with your

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Captain W. H. P. Hains, the commodore of the Cunard fleet, has sailed across the Atlantic no fewer than 505 times.

The youngest son of Charles Dickens is Edward Bulwer Lytton Dickens. He lives in New South Wales and represents his county in Parliament. Another brother, Altred Tennyson Dickens, is a stock agent in Melbourne.

The Emperor of China has a household consisting of 500 persons, including thirty bearers of state umbrellas, and equal number of fan bearers. thirty physicians and surgeons, seventy-five astrologers, seventysix cooks and sixty priests.

The Emperor of Austria is opposed to capital punishment. On one occasion he was called upon to sign a death warrant, when an unbidden tear fell and obliterated the signature. "See, I cannot sign it," said he, and tore the document to pieces.

Josiah Quincy, the new Assistant Secretary of State, under Cleveland, is the sixth of his name to achieve distinction. The first Josiah Quincy was a friend of Washington. Two others of the name have been mayor of Boston, and one was president of Harvard College.

Whenever the Empress Frederick visits Windsor, she invariably occupies the suite of rooms which belonged to her before her marriage as the Princess Royal. The furniture is upholstered in a lovely shade of yellow, and the walls are covered with priceless tapestries of Gobelins' manufac-

The youngest of the great electrical inventors in America is Nicolas Tesla, who has made a fortune, and is less than 35 years old. He was born in Montenegro and was educated in Hungary. For ten years he worked with Edison. He has been working for himself for the past five

Mrs. Oceala Turnbridge of Sheboygan, Mich., is the president of a private bank, a street car company and two literary socie-ties. She is 24 years old, remarkably pretty, and inherited a large fortune by the death of her husband two years ago. He was 90 years old when he married her five

Lady Aberdeen a few days ago made an excursion by moonlight to Blarney, and there, by candlelight, kissed the "Blarney Stone," in order to qualify herself before going out to the Irish Village at the Chicago Exhibition, where she is to be "at home" most of the time in a cottage with a thatched roof.

government, is a most enlightened stateman. THROAT, ETC., AND ARE INVALUABLE The president is popular both with his own | TO ORATORS AND VOCALISTS. R. & people and with European residents in Mexico. Were it not that public opinion is strongly in favour of bull-fights, President Diaz would undoubtedly take steps to abolish these barbarous spectacles.

Mr. Israel Zangwill, the author of "The Children of the Ghetto," is, as his name implies, of Jewish descent. A few years back he was a struggling schoolmaster; to-day he is a popular author, and one of the leading exponents of the "new humour." He is not yet thirty, and in appearance is strikingly like the late Lord Beaconsfield.

Queen Christina of Spain is the only Royal personage who had appeared as a balloonist. Some time ago experiments | ness were being made near Madrid for military purposes, when the Royal carriage drove up. The Queen inspected the balloons and announced her intention of going up in one, which she did, amid the enthusiastic cheering of the soldiers.

Most of the men of to-day who remember as children Mrs. Amelia Bloomer, the pioneer dress reformer, and the queer, baggy, zouave-like contrivance she sought to make popular, will be surprised to learn that she is living in the state of Iowa. The "Bloomer," as her article of dress was called, never received popular favor, and its ugliness would make its use impossible to-day.

When the wealthy and talented Mrs. Sears, of Boston, won the \$500 prize with rates. Apply at the office, her Romola at the Water Color Exhibition there was much quoting of the Biblical "To him that hath more shall be given." But the gracious prize winner has bestowed the entire amount, together with no inconsiderable sum from her own purse, upon a teacher in Boston, who has not had a vacation for fifteen years, to enable her to make a trip to Europe.

John D. Piggott, one of the best known British war correspondents in the world, has been in New York on business connected with Reuter Telegram Company, of London, England. Mr. Piggott brought the first news of the death of "Chinese" Gordon in Khartoum. He was with the relief expedition when a native reported the disaster and with an Arab boy he returned alone and flashed the great news over the whole world. Mr. Piggott is tall, wiry and less than 45 years old.

When the Duke of Clarence was about to be married, the various presentations were planned, a large diamond dealer, who was possessed of a buge yellow Cape diamond, agreed to sell the stone to form a portion of an elaborate sword-hilt, to be offered to his Royal Highness as a wedding gilt. The jewel has, since the duke's death, been lying idle and uncut, for the market for yellow diamonds of extra size is a limited one, and purchasers are scarce outside the ranks of Indian princes.

The popular authoress whose contributions to juvenile literature have been made under the nom de plume of "A. L. O. E." (A Lady of England) has made her home abroad. For the last sixteen years Miss Charlotte Tucker has resided at Batala, India, her whole time being devoted to the missions. In spite of failing health and advanced age—Miss Tucker boasts of being her Majesty's junior by two years—she manages to get through a wonderful amount of work in connection with the zenanas. The authoress of "Molly Bawn" is an

Irish lady of Scottish descent, whose maiden name was Hamilton, but who now bears the name other second husband, Mr. Henry Hungerford of Cahirmore. Mrs. Hungerford has six children, and her greatest delight after writing is to dig and delve with them in the large, old-fashioned garden of their home in County Cork. Mrs. Hungerford is also fond of driving, and is never happy except in the country. She has not been to London for three or four



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