

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

Catharine de Medici imported muffs into France from Italy.

Shoes with heels six inches high were worn at the court of Louis XIV.

In 1800 the shipping entering the Mersey was 400,000 tons per annum. It is now 10,000,000 tons.

On the bank of the river Naha, between Bingen and Coblenz, there is an echo capable of repeating a sentence seventeen different times.

The lighthouse tower at Cape Hatteras is 189 feet high from its base to the centre of the lantern. It is the tallest lighthouse tower in existence.

Marriages are not allowed in Bavaria unless the authorities are convinced the persons wishing to marry have the means to support a wife and family.

It is no unusual thing for a turtle to lay as many as one hundred and twenty-five eggs, although from sixty to one hundred eggs is a more usual "lay."

In France there is an unwritten but immutable law that a painting shall not be exhibited without the artist's consent, no matter what the wishes of the owner may be.

The orange was originally a pear-shaped fruit about the size of the common wild cherry. Its evolution is believed by naturalists to be due to twelve hundred years of cultivation.

Of the total number of 109,000 locomotive engines which are at present running on the earth's surface, Europe claims 63,000, America, 40,000, Asia, 3,800, Australia, 2,000, and Africa, 700.

The baby bird of India ingeniously illuminates its nest. It catches fire-flies, and, without killing them, with moist clay sticks them to its nest. On a dark night the baby's nest is like a bright beacon.

It is generally supposed that the oyster is an exceptionally nutritious article of food, but chemical analysis shows that the nutritive value of a quart of solid oyster meats is equal only to that of two-thirds of a pound of bread.

During the times of George I. and II., the wedding-ring, though placed upon the usual finger at the time of marriage, was sometimes worn on the thumb, in which position it is often seen on the portraits of titled ladies in those days.

The larger portion of the walnuts consumed in England are of foreign growth, and average in quantity about 250,000 bushels. The bulk of these come from France and Belgium, and small quantities from Germany, Holland, and Italy.

The art of making paper from fibrous matter reduced to a pulp in water appears to have been discovered by the Chinese about eighteen hundred years ago. Chinese paper is made from the inner bark of the bamboo and mulberry trees, hempen, rags &c.

According to the best and most recent calculations 100,000,000 tons of water pour over Niagara every hour. This represents 16,000,000 horse power. The annual coal production of the world would not furnish steam power sufficient to pump it back again.

Roumania is perhaps the highest-taxed country in the world. Every bottle of foreign wine has to pay a shilling duty. There is a tax even on female servants; there is a tax on one's door-plate; there is a tax which doctors must pay yearly for the privilege of exercising their profession.

Russia still has many odd and curious marriage customs. One is for the bride and bridegroom to race rapidly down the aisle as soon as the bridal procession enters the church, because of the belief that whichever places a foot first on the cloth in front of the altar will be master in the household.

There is a little patch of about 30,000 square miles in North-Western Texas known as the "Pan Handle," which at one time was fit only for grazing. Within the last three or four years about 5,000,000 bushels of wheat have been harvested there, and it promises to be a great wheat and fruit country.

The custom of setting several glasses before each person for the different wines that are to be served, belongs to the nineteenth century. In the eighteenth century the glass was dipped at each new wine into small earthenware vessels filled with water which were placed upon the table within reach of the guests.

About 250,000 canaries are raised every year in Germany, and besides the 100,000 birds that are sent to America the English market takes about 50,000; the next best customers being Brazil, China, the Argentine Republic, and Austria, to which countries salesmen are sent with large numbers of birds every year.

When, as sometimes happens, one is forced to wear an uncomfortably tight shoe, it may be of value to know that folded cloth wet in hot water laid over the pinching point will often speedily afford relief. Change the cloth several times to keep up the heat, which shortly stretches the shoe and shapes it to the foot.

In Homer's days the Greeks were purely flesh-eaters; but a few centuries before Christ we find the Athenians such thorough fish-eaters that, instead of the morning meal or mid-day meal as we do, they spoke of their mid-day fish or evening fish, just as the North German speaks of his mid-day bread or his evening bread.

Brass is a very variable metal, every maker having his own mixtures and his own methods. A mixture of four of copper to one of zinc will form a mixture suitable for pump-rods and having a tensile strength of about fourteen tons to the square inch. A tough brass for engine-work has a composition of tin, two; zinc, two; and copper, thirteen. This allows for some loss of the more volatile metals in the crucible.

Banks of emery are common in the whole of the region of Anatolia. Working is limited to the deposits which are near to the railways, in order that the expenses of transport may be reduced to a minimum. The exportation, very insignificant a few years ago, has now attained some importance. It reached 10,226 tons in 1889. It has not been possible to ascertain the volume of the consignments for the last two years.

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THE duty for me to tell the public through you just what your remedy has done for me. I am 45 years of age. My life during the past 23 years has NEVER BEEN FREE FROM SUFFERING UNTIL NOW. Since I began to take GRODER'S SYRUP, I am no longer a gloomy, melancholy dyspeptic. There is NO ACHE or pain in any part of my body. My food digests readily and causes me no distress whatever. Your medicine is the first of the hundreds I have tried that has given me any relief. I am ready to answer any inquiry concerning this statement, for I firmly believe in Groder's Syrup and desire other sufferers to obtain help as I have.

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JOHN A. KIMBALL. Before me, J. E. BARNES, A Justice of the Peace in and for the City and County of Saint John.

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"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

What's in a name. It depends upon who spells it.

Sport: And so you were ruined by last horses? Broke: No, by slow ones.

The world may owe us a living, but no collection agency will accept the claim.

"He asked me to marry him, but I hardly know what to do. They say he is a fool." "He is."

Ethel (musingly)—Why should he want to marry me, I wonder? Clarissa—Upon my word, I cannot imagine.

All things come to those who wait. The particular thing for which they are waiting is generally the last to make its appearance.

There is one valuable thing about those fashion plates in the weekly papers. They are useful in showing women how not to dress.

In five minutes a woman can clean up a man's room in such a way that it will take him five weeks to find out where she put things.

"What do you use this sign 'Back in five minutes' for?" "Oh, I put that up on the office door when I go off for half a day or so."

Johnny (knowingly): What a lovely disposition your sister has, hasn't she? Yes, just now. But this is her ball-room disposition, you know.

Old Lady—I hope, my boy, that you do not sell papers on Sunday. Small newsboy (sadly)—No, mum. I ain't big enough to carry a Sunday edition yet.

Tailor—I made the pistol pocket only half pint size, Colonel. Col. Blood—You may keep the trousers, sir. I do not carry bottles of water in my pockets.

"Did you see 'Rescued from the Deep; Or, He Had to Dive for It' last night?" "Yes." "What part does old Driggs play?" "The tank, as usual."

"I am troubled with insomnia, doctor. What should I do for it?" When you go to bed think it is time to get up, and I guess you'll want to go to sleep."

She—Why is it when doctors get ill they never attend to their own cases? He—I don't know, but I should say it was because they can't charge themselves for it.

Bluffers—I wonder if Diggs has much money behind him? Spatts—He had the other day when I saw him—he was leaning against the Bank of New Brunswick.

"I see that 1,800 girls were graduated from the Boston cooking school last year."

"I'm! No wonder that the proprietors of patent dyspepsia remedies get rich."

"The weather bureau has been having a soft snap of it of late." "How is that?" "All the clerks have had to do was to report a cold wave and they hit it every time."

Clergyman—Is not this Panama scandal an amazing affair? Politician—It is that. With the chance those fellows had they ought to have made twice as much out of it.

"To tie a cravat in the latest style is a greater art than to find a collar button," says an expert. This is true. To find a collar button is not art at all. It is luck.

Adoring one (in lavender kids and a blue scarf): Oh, how I wish I were that book you clasp so lovingly! She: How I wish you were, so that I could shut you up.

Her Father—Is there any chance of promotion in your business or increase in your salary? Suitor—Is there? Why my position is next to the lowest in the establishment!

Butcher—I need a boy about your size, and will give you \$3.00 a week. Applicant—Will I have a chance to rise? Yes, I want you to be here at four o'clock every morning.

Merchant: I always give the preference to a married clerk. Friend: Why is that? Merchant: Because I find that they are not in such a hurry to get home of an evening as the others are.

"Your eyes are awfully red, Jennie." "Yes, I was up most of the night." "What doing?" "I had let the diary I started on New Year's fall behind, and I was writing it up to date."

Cigarette Manufacturer—How can we increase the sale of our cigarettes? Clerk—Why not put a life insurance policy in each box? Cigarette Manufacturer (thoughtfully)—Too risky.

Doctor—Put out your tongue. Husband—I beg your pardon. Tell my wife to put out her tongue. Doctor—What do you mean, sir? Husband—Because it is not my tongue that makes me sick.

Mrs. Uneasy (weeping): Tom, dear, I don't know, but I believe my liver is out of order. Mr. Uneasy: Oh, well, never mind, as long as you have got a kind heart. I didn't marry you for your liver.

George—Suppose a fellow's best girl gets annoyed when you ask for a kiss. Henry—Take it without asking. George—Suppose she gets annoyed then? Henry—Then you've got some other fellow's girl."

What's the matter with Henpeck that he looks so poorly of late? "Homesickness, I guess." "Homesickness? Why, he is not away from home." "No; that's the reason. Mrs. Henpeck makes him sick of it."

"And you want to marry my daughter? Why, sir, she is my only child." "Well, sir, if you will give her to me I will come here and live with you and you will have two children instead of one. What more could you ask?"

Lawyer—I is reported you have frequently expressed yourself as opposed to capital punishment? Deacon Higboul (drawn for jury duty)—I won't have no scruples in that man's case. He cheated me on a horse trade once.

"Come up to my house to-morrow night," said Henpeck. "I'm going to celebrate my golden wedding." "Golden wedding! Why, man, you've only been married three years." "I know it, but it seems like fifty; so everything is all right."

"And a hundred carriages followed him to his grave," said the man who was describing the funeral. "Who are they talking about?" asked a stranger; "a great statesman, warrior, poet or what?" "They are talking, sir, of Mike the bruiser, who kept a dive."

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WILLIAM CLARK.

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Reskin was an able writer at the age of eighteen.

Thirty-one cents a line is the price recently paid M. Zola, in France, for the serial-rights of a novel.

Princess Galitzen, a member of one of the oldest aristocratic families of Russia, is now a stablemaid in a French circus.

Charles and Alfred Tennyson received one hundred dollars for "Poems of Two Brothers." The manuscript is now worth five thousand.

The last man wounded in the civil war by a Confederate bullet was Sargeant Crockett of the Sixty-second United States Colored Infantry.

One of the most prosperous inventors of the day is George Westinghouse, whose wonderful brake has brought him in a fortune of \$20,000,000.

One of the last official acts of the Emperor of Germany before the dawn of the new year was to sign the death sentence of a woman convicted of murder.

The wife of M. Clemenceau, the "hero of a hundred duels," is an American woman. She has been separated from her husband for a number of years.

Emperor William has received from the Sultan of Turkey an oriental set of furniture made of pearl and ebony. To the Empress he sent two vases of enamel and silver.

Count Gege Primoli, the young Duke De Morny of France, and "Lennie," Duke of Newcastle (in England), are said to be the most expert amateur photographers in Europe.

It is said that Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward gives a month to a short story, composing carefully, revising twice at least, and reading the manuscript aloud, the better to test the style.

The late King Louis II of Bavaria encumbered the royal property to such an extent that it will require a payment of £150 a day during eighteen years before his debts are paid off.

The heir to the Austrian throne, when he becomes Emperor, will govern nine countries, bear thirteen titles as dukes, one as archduke, two as grand duke, and also thirty-three other titles.

Mile. Bonheur's house at Fontainebleau is fairly alive with pets; sheep, horses, goats and dogs; creatures with pedigrees and without them; creatures famous for beauty or remarkable for their rarity.

Ladies visiting the Comte and Comtesse of Paris, on an ordinary three days' invitation to Stowe, are expected to take six new toilet costumes along with them. Three changes of dress per day are insisted upon.

Benjamin Harrison is the name given to no fewer than forty-four baby boys in the United States. They are named after the late President, and on each occasion he received a letter from the parents at the time of the christening.

Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, believes in the benefits of walking as an exercise, and takes a long "constitutional!" before breakfast every morning. In the summer time she is frequently out of doors before 8, returning to breakfast at 8. By 9 she is at work with her pen.

A writer thinks it strange that women should desire to become writers when success in literature seems to mean a single life for a woman. Mary Wilkins, Kate Field, Norah Perry, Edith Thomas, Sarah Orne Jewett, Lucy Larcom, Louise Imogen Guiney, Gail Hamilton, Octave Thonet, Grace King and Constance Fenimore Woolson are unmarried.

Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt is said to have the most imposing bed in New York. It revives the ancient style of posts and canopies, and it stands enthroned, as it were, on a raised platform in the centre of her room. This platform is two steps high. The bedstead is of rosewood, and the canopy used to be lined with an enormous plate-glass mirror. The mirror was taken out a short time since, and is now replaced by the more conventional old-rose satin.

The Emperor of Germany has a very simple remedy for a cold, which he has found invariably successful. He goes to bed and stays there for twenty-four hours, and rises at the end of that time quite well again. At a recent reception he told the President of the German Imperial Diet that he had caught a severe cold while staying at the house of the Hereditary Prince of Meining, which was very draughty. He had quite cured himself by this simple means.

The workmen who go in advance of the Czar whenever he travels form a squad of six mechanics. Two are locksmiths, two carpenters, and two masons. All are married men, born in the Czar's service, and absolutely devoted to their Sovereign. Their business is to examine the walls, flooring, chimneys, locks, and furniture of the apartments which the Czar is to occupy. The chimneys in particular, engage their attention, for every flue leading to a room in which the Czar is to sleep or eat has to be grated and barred at top or bottom.

Alphonse Daudet, "the French Dickens," as he is sometimes termed, who is shortly to pay us a visit, is one of the most striking figures in the world of Paris. His fine head is enveloped in flowing locks of jet-black hair, which fall thickly on his shoulders, and the lower part of his face, the pallor of which is in striking contrast to his lustrous eyes, is likewise covered with luxuriant mustachios and beard—in short, an incarnation of the poet of romance. With all this outward display of Bohemianism, he has been happily "ranged" these many years, and he finds in Madame Daudet a constant and a valued helpmeet.

Mr. Webb, late United States Consul at Manila, who became a convert to Islamism and recently threw up his post to engage in the work of making all Americans Mohammedans, is reported to have been successful beyond all expectation in procuring large sums of money for his mission. Before he even entered Hyderabad 10,000 rupees were promised there for his work, and now that he is there it is expected the enthusiasm of the wealthy Mohammedans of the city will easily double that sum. In Bombay over 10,000 rupees were subscribed, and the Mohammedans of Calcutta and Rangoon have furnished about 20,000 rupees.

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