14

## THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

The test of civilization is the estimate of woman.

London is larger than New York, Paris, and Berlin put together.

The annual clothing bill for the British Army is more than three times as great as that for the Navy.

On Oct. 31, the bullion value of a silver dollar was \$0,529, or less than 53 cents, whic's is lower than it has ever been before.

The world's production of gold and silver for the past 10 years is \$2,558,064,700, or one-eighth of the amount produced in 400 years.

Germany has one post-office to every 1,774 inhabitants. In proportion to population the United States has twice as many.

The diamond, though hard, is one of the most brittle of stones. A fall on a wooden floor will sometimes crack and ruin a fine diamond.

Labrador has nine hundred species of flowering plants, fitty-nine ferns, and over two hundred and fitty species of mosses and lichens.

A pound of beef contains 8oz. water, 4oz. 340gr. of fat, 1oz. 62gr. of gelatine, oz., 122gr. of fibrine and albumen, and 370grs. of mineral.

The world's production of gold and silver tor 400 years, from 1493 to 1894, is: Gold, \$8,204,303 000; silver, \$9,726,072,500 total, \$17,930,375,500.

In the Shetland Isles there is a gull which defends the flock from eagles. It has therefore come to be regarded by the shepherds as a privileged bird.

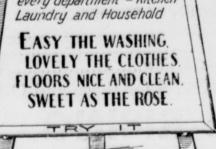
At the beginning of this century dandies in the German army wore earrings and adorned their fingers with as many rings as they could conveniently wear.

The mariners' compass was used for centuries by the Chinese before it was brought to Europe. Its invention or introduction is credited to Flavio Gioja, in the fourteenth century.

The Bank of England note is not of the same thickness all through. The paper is thicker in the left hand corner, to enable it to take a better and sharper impression of the vignette there, and is also considerably thicker in the dark shadows of the centre letters and under the figures at the ends.

It is said that one of the strangest botanical curiosities in the world is the "Wonder-Wonder" flower found in the Malay Peninsula. It is simply a blossom, without leaves, vine or stem, and grows as a para-





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# PROGRESS. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1893.

THAT RAT OF HOWTH. Interesting and Curious Tradition of a noble

English Family. The following most curious and interesting story torms one of the traditions of the family of Howth :

In the year 1750 the twenty-sixth Baron Howth was, one evening in March, entertaining a large company to dinner in the Hall, at Ashleigh Court. The great dining hall was filled with laughing, happy guests. It was an ideal scene of those good old days, ot lords and ladies gorgeously dressed, the brilliant lights from the silver candelabra illuminating the room.

They were just in the act of pledging each other, the host at the head of the table had litted his glass to his lips, when a great commotion was heard in the corridor, and the barking and the yelping of the dogs outside drowned the sound of talking within. Lord Howth instructed one of the servants to ascertain the reason of the noise. He returned in a moment ard answered :

" It is the dogs pursuing a rat, my lord." Almost as soon as he had finished speaking, the rat ran into the hall, chased by the dogs. To the great confusion ot the ladies, the rat mounted the table, ran up to Lord Howth. and stopping in front of him, looked appealingly into his tace, as it to ask tor his protection.

Lord Howth had a kind heart, and the action touched him ; he took the little creature in his hand, and ordered the dogs off. The animal refused to leave him after that, and wherever he went it was with him. His triends laughed and jeered, but Lord Howth took no notice, and showed his little pet many privileges.

Sometime later he was going abroad, and intended to take the rat with him, but his brother, Lord Colthorpe, who had twitted him with the absurdity of keeping such a pet, more openly than any ot his friends, so strongly of jected to it that Lord Howth consented, very reluctantly, to leave it behind.

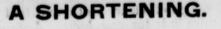
They had reached Marseilles. It was a wretched day, and they seated themselves in front of the hotel fire. They had not been there many minutes, when in rushed a miserable-looking object, dripping wet. It was the rat. It seated itself in front of Lord Howth, who sat looking at it in speechless amazement. Lord Colthorpe flew in a passion at the sight of it, and, grasping the poker, killed it.

An instant of silence, and then, with a fearful cry, Lord Howth fell at his brother's feet. and murmuring, "You have murdered me !" died.

From that time no member of the Howth family would ever willingly kill a rat.

Neither Party. In the Boston "Globe" we find an amusing account of two stray cows at Newport News, Virginia, one belonging to a white and one to a colored man. The cows were almost exactly alike. A farmer had bought one of them, which both white and colored man claimed The case was carried into court, and the evidence was so conflicting that neither judge nor jury could determine to which it belonged, so finally the judge (Judge Hicks) ordered the cow turned into the court house yard, trusting it would go to its right owner. But the grass in the court house yard was so thick and good that the cow was in the same condition as the man who told the evangelist he did not want to go to either the good place or bad, but wanted to stay right here. She wouldn't show the slightest preference for anything but grass in the court house yard. We were reminded of a somewhat similar case which came up some years ago in our Boston Justice's Court, where two men claimed to own a dog. The judge, in despair of ever getting at the facts, ordered the dog to be placed on the clerk's desk and held by the clork, and then the plaintiff to come to one side and the detendant to the other, and each, at the judge's order, to call the dog. then the clerk was to let the dog go to his master. The result was that the moment the clerk let go the dog he made a leap of about six feet and went out of the court room and court house doors as fast as he could travel.





Down the street through the busy way A lady passed on marketing day. Who, pausing at a grocery store, Stepped quickly in at the open door. With bated breath and anxious mien She queried : "have you COTTOLENE?"

The grocer, leaving off his work, Interrogated every clerk ; But none up to that time had seen

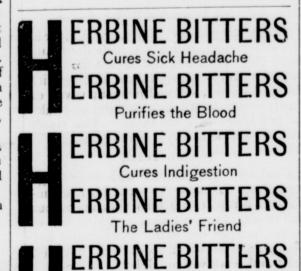
An article called "COTTOLENE." "What is it?" said he to the dame, "That answers to this curious name. What is it made of? What's its use? My ignorance you'll please excuse."

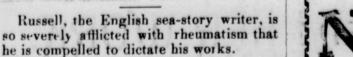
"You're not the merchant for my dimes, I see you're quite behind the times. For COTTOLENE, I'd have you know, Is now the thing that's all the go, An article of high regard ; A healthful substitute for lard. Its composition pure and clean; For cooking give me COTTOLENE."

As from his store the lady fled, The grocer gently scratched his head-On his next order, first was seen, "One dozon cases COTTOLENE."

Ask Your Grocer for it,

Made only by N. K. FAIRBANK & CO., Wellington and Ann Streets, MONTREAL.





Mrs. John Armstrong Chanler (Amelie Rives) is visiting at her old home in Virginia where she is recovering from a recent illness

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

The Prince of Wales rarely goes to bed until two o'clock in the morning, nevertheless he is invariably down again before nine o'clock.

It is said that Lady Wellesley, recently dead, was granddaughter of Sarah Higgins, the country girl of Tennyson's "Lord of Burleigh." When she married she did not know that she was marrying a nobleman.

President Diaz of Mexico is a hard worker, and has a hobby for collecting firearms of all ages and nations. He is a practical mechanic, having constructed all the furniture in his bedroom with implements ot his own manufacture.

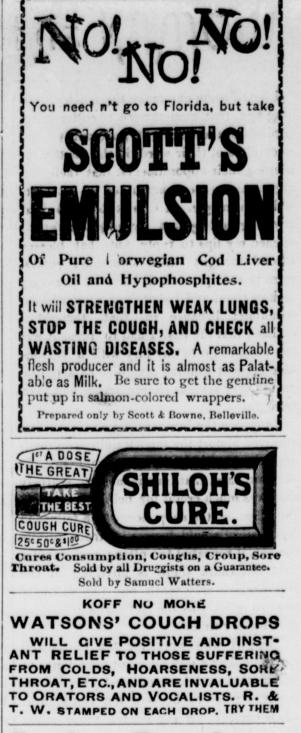
The Sultan of Turkey always eats and drinks alone, although he generally has a large retinue in attendance. He uses neither table, plates, knile nor fork, but only a spoon and his fingers, with which he fishes out his food from little saucepans.

The sisters Ravogli, the opera "stars," are not twins, as is commonly supposed, Sofia, the soprano, being a year older than Giulia, the contralto. In their devotion to each other, however, they might well have been twins. When commencing their stage career early in their teens, the two young girls exchanged vows never to make a contract to sing which did not include them both.

According to a correspondent who has studied the Emperor William closely, the Kaiser has what Charles Surface called a 'disinheriting countenance." The face is hard, self-contained and self-satisfied; the eyes are too close together, and there is an air of continual unrest and dissatisfaction, which gives the young sovereign the appearance of always wanting to do something else.

Horace Greeley's only surviving brother, Barnes Greeley, is now an old man of seventy-nine. He still lives on the old Greeley homestead at Chappaqua. A lady, who visited him not long ago, says he is tall, loosely jointed, shambling of gait, with snowy hair and beard, mild blue eyes, peaceful visage, and a tongue that is the peaceful visage, and a tongue that is the nearest approach to perpetual motion yet as ever. I never had sachet powder last as long" discovered.

Dr. W. H. Russell, the doyen of war correspondents, possesses an interesting trophy of his first Russian campaign. It is the little brass eagle from the shako of a Russian soldier who attempted to carry off the standard of the Guards in circumstances





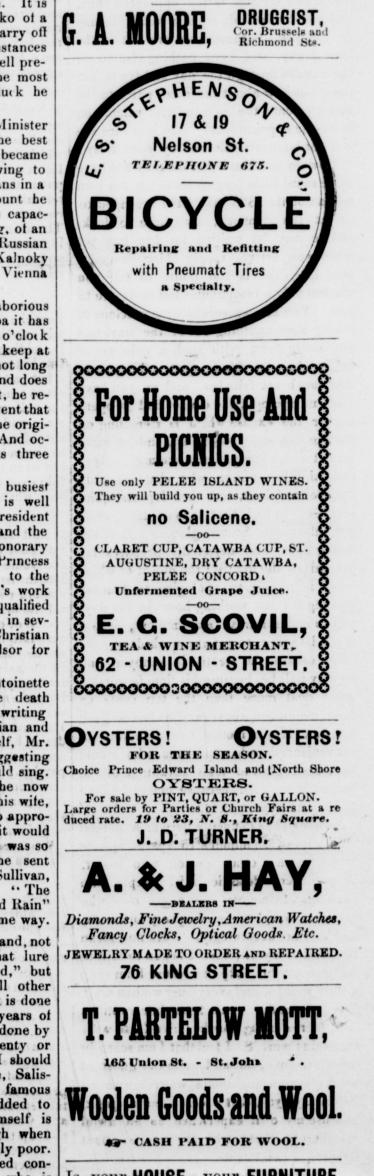
#### FRAGRANT AND LASTING.

YLANG YLANG, WHITE ROSE, Ess. BOUQUET, JOCKEY CLUB,

VIOLET, CASHMERE BOUQUET, PHUL NANA. A lady said, " I bought a packet of your Helio-

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site on decayed wood. This extraordinary flower is something like a yard in diameter, and has a globular cup in the middle with a capacity of five or six quarts.

Is a type-written signature a legal signature? Not at least for the purpose of obtaining a vote; so said the revising barrister at Sydenham, Eng. A Radical claimant had given in a claim with his signature printed by a type-writing machine. The revising barrister admitted it, but declared it to be illegal, as he held that the signature must be written, not printed.

If you are unfortunate enough to spill kerosene on your carpet cover the spot with dry, buckwheat flour and lay newspapers over all. It applied as soon as the oil is spilled, it will be removed in less than twenty minutes. Grease can often be taken from a rag carpet by applying dry, powdered starch in the same way. When the starch is saturated with the grease, remove it and apply more.

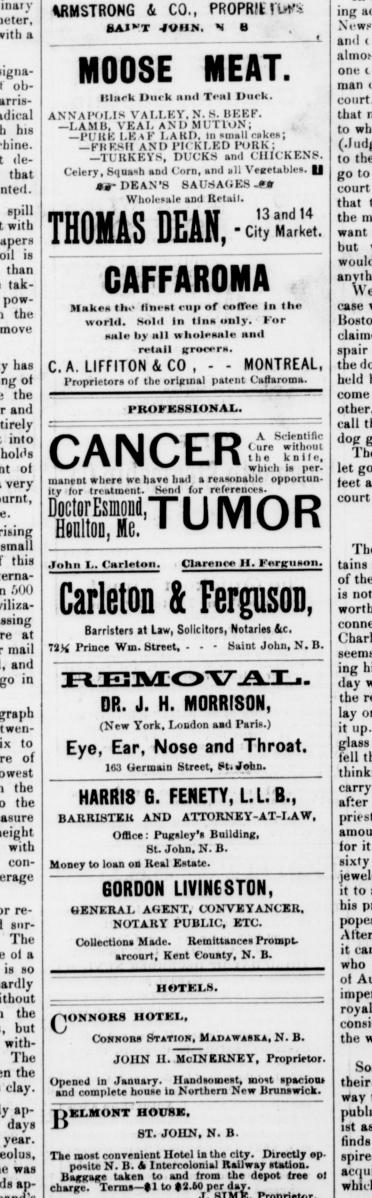
It is now reported that electricity has been successfully applied to the burning of bricks, and promises to revolutionize the industry by greatly reducing the labor and cost. The kiln-drying process is entirely dispensed with. The wet clay is put into a sort of covered iron mould, which holds about 1,000 bricks, a strong current of electricity is then turned on, and in a very short time the bricks are dried and burnt, and all ready to be turned out for sale.

Cape Horn is a great mass of rock rising abruptly from the sea and forming a small island. Upon one of the ledges of this rock stands a covered barrel, the international letter box of a region more than 500 miles from anything that resembles civilization. It is the custom of captains passing around the Horn to send a boat ashore at this point if possible, to take whatever mail is going in the direction of the vessel, and drop in whatever it is desired shall go in the other direction.

The number of poles used for telegraph wires per mile, varies from twenty or twenty-two on minor lines, to twenty-six to thirty on main lines. These poles are of regulation height, in order that the lowest wire shall not be less than 12ft. from the ground, and as the poles are set into the ground from 4ft. to 6ft., they measure from 20 ft. to 22 ft. in height The sag, or dip, varies, of course, with the number of poles per mile and the condition of the atmosphere, but the average is about 14in.

When rings are sent to a jeweller for repair he always cleans the stones and surprises the owners by their brilliancy. The accumulation of dirt on the under side of a diamond or other transparent gem is so slow that the dulling of the stone is hardly noticed. Usually they are cleaned without removal from their settings, with the chewed ends of wooden toothpicks, but they cannot be made entirely bright without taking them out of their clasps. The dirt that gets into the space between the ring and the stone is often as hard as clay.

The term "halcyon days," originally applied by the ancients to the seven days which follow the shortest day in the year. Alcyone, or Halcyone, daughter of Aeolus, married Ceyx, who was drowned as he was going to consult the oracle. The gods ap-



#### How a Treasure Was Found.

The imperial treasury of Austria contains the Florentine diamond. This is one of the finest diamonds in the world, and it is noted for its lustre and brilliancy. It is worth \$450,000 and has a romantic history connected with it. It once belonged to Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, who seems to have been rather careless in guarding his treasures. He went to battle one day with his diamond in his pocket, and the result was that he lost it. The diamond lay on the road and a Swiss soldier picked it up. He looked upon it as a piece of glass and threw it down again; but as it fell the sun's rays caught it, and the soldier thinking it a pretty trinket, concluded to carry it along as a pocket piece. Shortly after this he showed it to a priest. The priest admired it and gave him a coin amounting to about fifty American cents for it. The priest sold it to a jeweler for sixty cents, and a rich merchant paid the jeweler \$2,500 for it. The merchant sold it to an Italian duke for \$1,000 advance on his price, and the duke sold it to one of the popes, sho paid \$60,000 for its possession. After a number of other similar adventures it came into the possession of a grand duke, who married the Empress Maria Theresa, of Austria, and through her it came to this imperial treasury. It now belongs to the royal family, and has its place in what is considered one of the finest collections in the world.

Some authors have left it on record that their brain was never so fertile as in a railway train or an omnibus, or a crowded public thoroughfare. A well-known novelist assures us that after long experience he finds a church to be the place which inspires him most, and he has, consequently, acquired a reputation for church-going which he prizes very highly.

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of exceptional bravery. Dr. Russell preserves it as a memento of one of the most striking examples of dauntless pluck he ever witnessed.

Count Kalnoky, the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, is considered the best despatch writer in Europe. He became famous about thirteen years ago, owing to the publication by surreptitious means in a Hungarian newspaper of the account he wrote for the Austrian Office, in his capacity of Ambassador at St. Petersburg, of an important interview between the Russian and German Emperors. Count Kalnoky is a bachelor, and is seldom seen in Vienna

society. Robert Louis Stevenson is a laborious writer. During his stay in Samoa it has been his habit to begin work at six o'clock in the morning, and sometimes to keep at it all day long. He told a guest not long ago that on those days when his mind does not work as smoothly as its wont, he rewrites his manuscript to such an extent that at the end of the day not one of the original sentences is left unchanged. And occasionally he spends as much as three weeks on a single chapter.

Princess Christian is one of the busiest members of the Royal Family. It is well known that her royal Highness is President of the British Nurses' Association, and the position is not by any means an honorary one, as might be supposed. The Princess really devotes time and thought to the practical details of the Association's work in providing sick-rooms with well-qualified nurses. Besides taking an interest in several other institutions, Princess Christian has charge of a district in Windsor for charitable and religious purposes.

It was to the husband of Antoinette Sterling, Mr. MacKinlay, whose death recently occurred. that we owe the writing of "The Lost Chord." A musician and earnest student of poetry himself, Mr. MacKinlay was in the habit of suggesting to his wife the songs that she should sing. One day he happened to read the now tamous poem, and showed it to his wife, saying, "If this were only set to appropriate music, what a fine song it would make for you !" Mrs. MacKinlay was so delighted with the words that she sent them to Sir (then Mr.) Arthur Sullivan, asking if he cared to set them. "The Better Land" and "Sunshine and Rain" came to be written in much the same way.

Ibsen is desirous of visiting England, not on account of the attractions that lure foreigners to the "tight httle island," but solely to see the old men. "In all other countries," he says "the best work is done by men between forty and fifty years of age; in England, the best work is done by much older men, and a man ot seventy or eighty is often still in his prime. I should like to see such men as Gladstone, Salisbury and Herbert Spencer." The famous Norwegian dramatist might have added to his list other names. Ibsen himself is sixty-five. He is very rich, though when he began to write he was exceedingly poor. Physically he is short, but a marked contrast to his son-in-law, Bjornsen, who is Is your HOUSE, your FURNITURE, one of the tallest men in Norway.

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