

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

A Diamond for cutting glass lasts about three months.

London has 40 restaurants in which only vegetable food is served.

Two thousand varieties of apples are raised in the United States.

As a rule the length of the face is the same as the length of the hand.

One out of every 180 inhabitants of the United States owns or rides a bicycle.

The horse has a smaller stomach in proportion to its size than any other quadruped.

It has been calculated that the annual income of the London Hebrews is nearly £5,000,000.

The tomb of Mohammed is covered with diamonds, sapphires, and rubies valued at £2,000,000.

More women than men go blind in Sweden, Norway and Iceland; more men than women in the rest of Europe.

The highest rate of discount ever established at the Bank of England was 10 per cent. on May 11, 1866, during a panic.

Some of the women of China are beginning to comprehend the folly of compressing their feet. A missionary has been enlightening them on the subject.

Greek and Roman doors always opened outward, and when a man was passing out of a house he knocked on the door, so as not to open it in the face of a passer-by.

The Church of England is supported by income from investments, endowments, and by voluntary contributions. The total revenue of the Church is about £7,000,005.

The games of dominoes, chess, baccarat and lansquenet have come from China, and are very old, being traceable as far back as two or three thousand years before the Christian era.

In London alone there are between 5,000 and 6,000 people engaged in chimney sweeping. They ply their vocation in 800,000 houses, and in connection with these are over 10,000,000 chimneys.

Since the Conquest there have been twenty-four wars between England and France. In the last war, between 1803 and 1815, it is estimated the total destruction of human life amounted to 1,200,000.

The consumption of Indian tea has, in twelve years, risen in Great Britain, from forty tons to 28,171 tons. The total consumption of tea in the United Kingdom is now over 205 million tons, as against ninety tons in 1864.

Swedish women often work as farm labourers. Those who have babies carry them on their backs in a leather bag, as Indian squaws carry their young. This plan permits the mother to use both hands at her farm work.

The chief home of the racing pigeon is in Belgium. There the sport is a natural pastime, and a good pigeon frequently wins for its owner large sums of money, the prizes being considerable, with often heavy pools added.

The inhabitants of Thibet are the dirtiest people on the earth. Not only do they never wash, but when once full grown have been attained they never take their clothes off. When the garments they wear become old others are put over them.

It has been computed, as an illustration of the great cheapening of ocean freights which has taken place in recent years, that half a sheet of note-paper will develop sufficient power, when burned in connection with the triple expansion engine, to carry a ton a mile in an Atlantic steamer.

It is believed that lightning is visible at a distance of 150 miles, but it is still in controversy how far away thunder can be heard. A French astronomer has made observations on the subject, and he declares it impossible for thunder to be heard at a greater distance than ten miles. An English meteorologist has counted up to 130 seconds between the flash and the thunder, which would give a distance of thirty-seven miles.

The men of the Victorian navy are said to be nearly all total abstainers. They used to be allowed a certain quantity of rum daily. Those who did not care for that drink took, in place of their "grog," a small sum of money per annum. Gradually the numbers of the abstainers increased, until nearly all the crew were receiving "grog" money instead of rum. The Defence Department of the Legislature has now decided to abolish this monetary allowance and in lieu of it to increase the ration scale for food and tea.

The cough or puff, of a railway engine is due to the abrupt omission of waste steam up the chimney. When moving slowly the coughs can, of course, be heard following each other quite distinctly, but when speed is put on the puffs come out one after the other much more rapidly, and when eighteen coughs a second are produced they cannot be separately distinguished by the ear. A locomotive running at the rate of seventy miles an hour gives out twenty puffs of steam every second—that is ten for each of its two cylinders.

Speaking of the wasp as a paper manufacturer, Lord Brougham said, she makes a paper as excellent as any manufacturer, and he held that she has, for sixty centuries, been acquainted with what was only discovered by man between 500 and 600 years ago. His lordship also states that on examining the structure of wasps' nests he found that she makes two kinds of paper—white and brown, the former being white cambric—and both are glued together by a smooth and durable cement. The white paper took the ink just as well as if it had been sized.

In the great momentum of the woman movement, which gains new victims every day, and one is induced to overlook the fact that woman was a power morally, socially and intellectually, in the fifteenth century as well as the nineteenth; that the doors of universities were open to her, not only to study, but to teach within their sacred precincts. In the University of Salamanca she had a place, and when Isabella of Spain desired to acquire the Latin tongue it was to a woman she turned for a tutor. In Italy, even in the thirteenth century, it is recorded that a noble Florentine lady won the palm of oratory in a public contest in Florence, having to contend against learned doctors who came from all over the world.



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THIS IS WORTH KNOWING.

A Bit of Social Hypocrisy That is More Excusable Than Other Frauds.

Marion Crawford has this to say in his new novel; "the easy habit of talking and saying nothing, which sometimes saves critical situations for those who possess it and which can be acquired by almost any one who is not shy."

"The first step in studying that useful accomplishment is to talk when everybody else is talking, and not to pay the slightest attention to the sounds which pass one's lips. Any noise will do, bad or good—as the bearer of the good news to Aix put it—only, if possible, from the first let the noise take the shape of words. As every one else is talking, no one will hear you. Some of Mother Goose's rhymes are excellent for such practice; but those who prefer to recite the Eton grammar will obtain a result quite as satisfactory in the end. No one listens, and it makes no difference. You will then get a reputation for joining cheerfully in the talk of the day. But if you sit looking at your plate because you have nothing to say, the givers of dinner parties will curse you in their hearts, and will rarely ask you to eat their food, which treatment, though it will ultimately prolong your life, will not contribute to your social success.

"Gradually, if you practice the system assiduously, you will be able to walk alone, so to say. By attraction, your unconscious phrases will become exactly like those of your neighbors. You will then need only to open your mouth, stretch the vocal chords, and supply the necessary breath, and admirably constructed man will roll out, even when everybody is listening, and while you are gazing time to select in your mind a sufficiently cutting epithet with which to adorn your friend Smith Tompkins' name when it is mentioned, or while you are calculating the exact amount of money you can ask the said Smith Tompkins to lend you the next time you have lost at baccarat."

Came in With the Tide.

The Norwegian barque Elsa Anderson recently had a strange derelict in tow. This was an English-built brig, which had, judging by the rig, etc., been buried in the ocean more than fifty years. When off the Faroe Islands, there was an upheaval of the ocean, which nearly swamped the Elsa, and soon afterwards, a mile away, was seen a strange, uncanny craft. The Elsa Anderson approached, and ultimately took her in tow.

The vessel which had been brought to the surface by the submarine disturbance was covered with a myriad of sea-shells, and resembled one of those miniature vessels overlaid with shell-work so often seen at seaside places.

The ancient brig was boarded, when the hold and underdecks were found to contain very little water. In the captain's berth were several iron-bound chests, the contents of which had been reduced to a pulp, except a leather bag, which was so hardened as to require an axe to open it. In this receptacle were discovered a large number of golden guineas bearing date 1809, and worth upwards of a thousand pounds.

There were also several watches and a stomacher of pearls, blackened and rendered valueless by the action of the water. Three skeletons were also discovered, one being that of a woman, who in life had been nearly 7 ft. in height. About the neck of one of the men was a gold chain, attached to which was a silver crucifix and a rosary.

Night Growth.

Plants grow much more in the night than in the day, as can be proved any time by measurement. Measure a vine at night, then measure it again in the morning and the next night, and it will be found that the night growth is two or three times that accomplished during the day. During the day the plant is very busy gathering nourishment from various sources; and during the night this raw material is assimilated into the plant life. The same fact is true of the animal creation. Children grow more rapidly during the night. In the daytime, while the child is awake and active, the system is kept busy disposing of the waste consequent on this activity; but during sleep the system is free to extend its operations beyond the mere replacing of worn-out particles; hence the rapid growth. This is why so many invalids need so much rest and sleep.

Matrimony Made Easy.

During the past six months there were joined in wedlock, before the Glasgow sheriff, 360 couples. This method of marriage, although technically known as "irregular," daily increases in popularity with certain classes of the people. It is cheap—the whole ceremony costing less than thirty shillings—and it is understood to be as efficacious as any other. There is no delay, "no waiting," the actual function before the sheriff occupying not more than sixty seconds. In presence of two witnesses, who swear that there are no encumbrances in the shape of existing wives or husbands, and that the parties have resided in Scotland three weeks, the lovers agree to take each other as man and wife.

She Played Possum.

They were driving home late from a party, she, poor, weary girl, dozed off into an early morning nap. The temptation was more than any son of Adam could resist, and he gave her a swift, noiseless, neatly-executed kiss. There was no protest from the half-parted lips, so he continued the swift, noiseless, neatly-executed business. When she awoke he frankly told her all and begged her pardon.

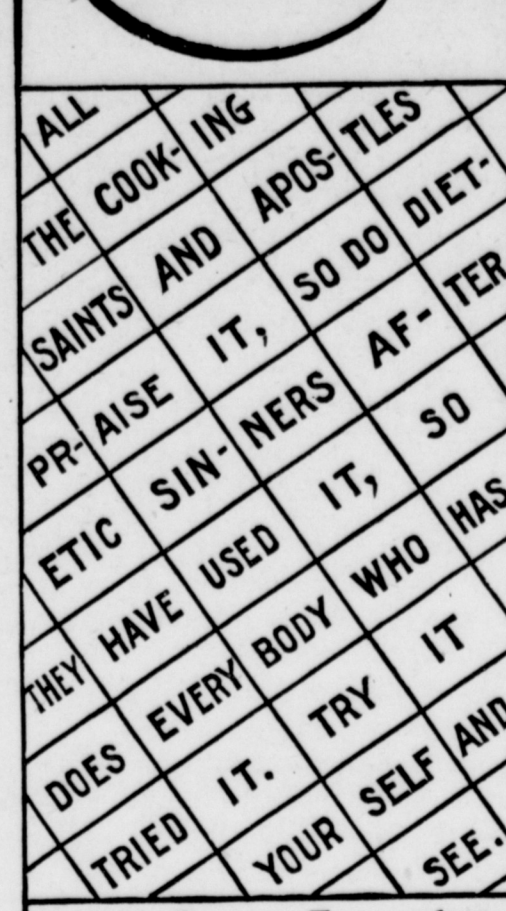
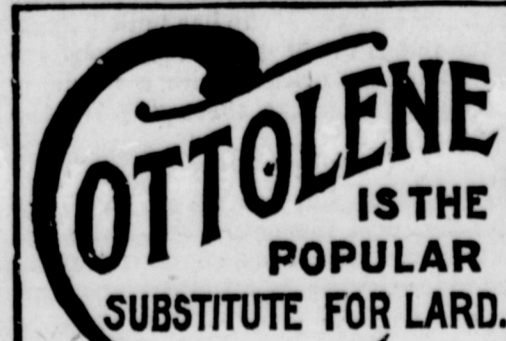
"Never!" was the intense response. "Never! How dare you kiss me when I am not in a condition to know it?" He promptly remedied that flaw in this case, and now he has a lingering suspicion that she was wide awake the whole time.

He Didn't Stay to Say Good Bye.

Mr. Grumpy (to his daughter).—"Oh, you've brought yourself home, have you?" Miss Grumpy (who is accompanied by her dude admirer).—"Yes, pa, I've brought myself home and something to boot."

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

As an expert with the rapier, there are few men in Europe who can equal Sir Charles Dille.

President Cleveland receives from ten to twenty letters a day containing recipes for reducing his weight.

Lord Salisbury weighs just over 252 pounds with his clothes on; Mr. Gladstone is under 168 pounds.

The Empress of Austria has to give a written receipt for the State jewels every time she wears them.

Four members of the Imperial College of Physicians at Peking, who failed to give a proper diagnosis of His Majesty's indisposition recently, were punished by having a year's salary taken from them.

When the wife and daughters of the Chinese Minister to England were presented to Queen Victoria, they were allowed to remain seated after their presentation, as their small feet unfitted them for long standing.

Captain Magnus Andersen, the intrepid commander of the model Viking ship which he took across the Atlantic to the Chicago Exhibition from Bergen, some years ago acquired experience of adventures voyaging by sailing from Glasgow to Newfoundland in a boat less than 20 feet long.

The aged Duchess of Cleveland, the mother of Lord Rosebery, who is one of the last, if not the last, of the surviving ladies who officiated as bridesmaids to the Queen at Her Majesty's marriage over fifty-three years ago, is a lady of great activity of mind and body. She is just about to set out on a journey to South Africa.

The little children of Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg are having dancing-lessons from Mrs. Wordsworth—a wonderful woman. Born quite blind, it was not until she was eight years old that she was able to see at all; but an operation gave sight to one eye, and she is now as quick with that one as most people are with two.

Francis Parkman, the historian, has recently passed 70 years. He graduated at Harvard in the class of 1844, and the work of his life has been concentrated upon the successive volumes which illustrate the enterprise of France in settling her colonies in the New World. He has invested authentic and trustworthy history with all the charm of romance.

The Princess Bismark conducts her house on a free and easy plan. Breakfast is served at all hours in the morning, each member of the family and each guest appearing only when ready. Dinner is supposed to be served at half-past three, but it is generally four o'clock before the party is gathered round the board. Then they have coffee, and at about eight o'clock a somewhat promiscuous supper is served.

W. W. Oules, R. A., tells a story of the time when he was painting John Bright's portrait. One day John Bright said to him when sitting: "Now, what does it cost to set an artist up in business? I suppose a ten or twenty-pound note would do it?" Mr. Oules replied, "Oh! yes." "Well," said John Bright, "I think you ought to consider yourself a lucky young fellow to earn £500 or £600 a year on a £20 plan."

There is a curious instance on Lord Armstrong's estate, in Northumberland, Eng., of his lordship's applied science, in the shape of a workman's clock, which was designed and made under his direction. Besides striking the hours the clock rings a bell at the various times when the workmen go to and from their work. On Saturday the bell varies its warnings in recognition of the half-holiday, and Sunday it observes as a day of rest.

Lord Shannon, who has been called the "Cowboy Lord," is a unique type of Irishman. His wild life in America gave him a taste for rough men and hard labor, and he spends much of his time in his beautiful country seat in county Cork with his men in the fields. He is particularly fond of wood-chopping, and the results of his labors in this respect are always distributed as fuel to his cottagers, who, it can be easily imagined, are devoted to their landlord.

Lord Roberts received his first lordship's taste of war in 1857. He was under Sir Colin Campbell, on the celebrated march to the relief of Lucknow. Sir Colin wanted a flag raised on the mess-house. This was within half a mile of where the enemy were in force. Lieutenant Roberts seized the flag, made his way to the mess-house, and, amid a rain of shot, raised the flag on the turret nearest to the foe. Presently it was shot away and again and again he replaced it.

According to a Scotch paper, the present Duchess of Sutherland owes her position to the superstition concerning the unluckiness of thirteen. One day at the house of the late Lord Rosslyn it was discovered that there were thirteen persons at the dinner table. To add to the number, Lady Millington, a daughter of the house, who had not yet come out, was sent for to join the party, and the young Marquis of Stafford was so charmed with her that he almost immediately after proposed and was accepted.

Dr. W. C. Grace, the English cricket champion of twenty-five years standing, has a great horror of being interviewed. He utterly declines the honour, and refers interviewers to his Biography or his more extensively circulated book, "Cricket."

Although, of course, those who are sent forth to interview the great man are somewhat disappointed at his refusal to talk or be talked to, it is not surprising that the Doctor shuns newspaper men, since he is a man who is much run after and pestered by hero worshippers. Very few men have been so fettered or made so much of as Dr. Grace.

Lady Burton, who recently issued a biography of her late husband, Sir Richard Burton, is the daughter of the late Mr. Henry Arundell, the representative of an old family of Roman Catholic gentry. She spent some years in an English convent and then went to France to complete her education, where she met Richard Burton, a lieutenant in the Bombay Army, who was home on leave. Some years later, in spite of the opposition of her family, she became engaged to him. After their marriage she accompanied him in most of his travels, sometimes journeying in male attire as his son, and was thus able to view many Eastern interiors that are entirely closed to women.

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