

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

No bread is baked in private houses in German cities.

From 1828 to 1845 platinum coins were minted in Russia.

The Lydians were the first to coin money about B. C. 1600.

The United States silver 3c piece was first coined in 1851.

Aristotle says that "money exists not by nature, but by law."

The Spartans had an iron coinage, no other being allowed.

The first coining machine was invented by Bruchner in 1553.

The notes used by the Bank of England cost exactly 1c. each.

The English mint was established by Athelstan about 928.

The first colonial coinage was minted in Massachusetts in 1652.

During 1892 there were 3,651 desertions from the British Army.

In the tenth century there were thirty-eight mints in England.

Julius Caesar was the first man to put his own image on a coin.

There are thirteen hundred varieties of postage stamps in the world.

Annual consumption of coffee is 650,000 tons, worth \$260,000,000.

The American cents of 1787 bore the motto, "Mind your business."

Homer mentions brass money as in use B. C. 1184 among the Greeks.

Herodotus says that Croesus was the first sovereign to make coins of gold.

The most ancient coins are of electrum, four parts of gold to one of silver.

The coinage of 20c. pieces began in 1875 and was discontinued in 1878.

The coinage of trade dollars began in 1874 and was discontinued in 1878.

During the reign of Henry VIII. 23 to 25 per cent of coin metal was alloy.

Brass money was coined in Rome by Servius Tullius as early as 573 B. C.

Before the day of coined money the Greeks used copper nails as currency.

All German workmen in Russian Poland have been ordered to learn the Russian language by January, 1894.

In a ton of Dead Sea water there are 187 pounds of salt; Red Sea, 93; Mediterranean, 85; Atlantic Ocean, 81; English Channel, 72; Baltic, 28; Black Sea, 26; and Caspian Sea, 11.

The grand total number of coins—gold, silver, copper, and bronze—now in circulation, throughout the United Kingdom is more than 900,000,000, which would mean three for every inhabitant of Europe.

A noted physician says that the most prolific cause of woman's nervous diseases, hysterics, spinal diseases, and sick headache, is high-heeled boots. When he can persuade his patients to cease wearing them they are patients no longer.

A high medical authority states that bathers do not lose their life through cramp. "The drum of the ear," he says, becomes perforated, and the pressure of the water causes unconsciousness. As a precaution the ears should be protected with a stopper of wool.

In Hawaii, one of the Sandwich Islands, there is a spot called the Rock of Refuge. If a criminal reaches this rock before captured he is safe, so long as he remains there. Usually his family supply him with food until he is able to make his escape, but he is never allowed to return to his own tribe.

Tonnage of English ports.—The principal English ports stand in the following order:—

	Tons Arriving.	Tons Leaving.
Liverpool.....	13,564,044	8,295,326
London.....	8,570,999	8,416,424
Tyne Ports.....	7,361,711	7,385,116
Cardiff.....	7,196,182	7,389,294
Hull.....	2,667,392	2,638,194
Sunderland.....	2,192,876	2,068,798

Germs of contagious diseases are capable of multiplying themselves with marvellous rapidity. A single germ, when placed in surroundings favourable to its growth, quickly divides into two. Each of these then divides itself again, and so on, the number very soon reaching into thousands. It has been estimated that by the end of twenty-four hours one single germ will have multiplied itself into more than 16,500,000 germs.

At twenty years of age a temperate person is supposed to have a chance of living for forty-four years. Should the same person, still living a temperate life, reach the age of sixty-six, the chances are that he will live fourteen years longer. At twenty years of age an intemperate person is calculated to have a chance of living only to the age of thirty-five; while if he survives sixty his chance of life is limited to eight years more. The death-rate among the intemperate on beer is about forty-six per 1,000; while that of intemperance on spirits reaches the high average of sixty per 1,000.

The English Parliament compares favourably in size with those of other nations. With 670 members in the House of Commons and over 553 in the Upper House it is far and away the largest in the world. France comes nearest with 584 in the Chamber of Deputies and 300 in the Senate. Spain comes next with 431 in Congress and 360 in the Cortes. Then comes Germany with 397 in its Reichstag and 58 in its Bundesrath, followed by the Austrian Reichsrath with 353 and 245 in the Lower and Upper Houses respectively. The United States has 356 representatives in Congress and 88 Senators.

Indian mothers are wiser in one respect than we are. They are most careful to inculcate the habit of keeping their children's mouths shut from their infancy. When a baby is laid down to sleep the mother carefully presses its lips together. The habit, thus early acquired, seldom departs in after-life. English mothers, as a rule, regard with little concern an early inclination to keep the mouth open on the part of their children. It is a mistake to allow the defect to pass unnoticed, for, if only a matter of carelessness, it may tend to foster a weakness of throat or lungs, and if from some physical cause, it should be seen to at once, before it is too late to remedy the evil.

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If you regard her health and strength, and want to keep your home free from hot steam and smell, and save fuel, washing powders, and the clothes,

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When Cards Were Invented.

It is said that the Chinese, who seem to be responsible for most modern inventions, invented playing cards; that one of their wise men invented them to amuse the wives and concubines of the Emperor Seunho, who reigned about 770 years ago. The Hindus, however, claim that cards were first devised by the early Brahmans. In the museum of the Royal Asiatic Society, London, is a pack of cards said to be 1,000 years old, but modern critics think that it is of much more recent date. It is said that Richard I. of England was the first European to play cards, and that he used them while besieging Acre, 1190, and that cards came into use in Europe on the return of Crusaders. An Italian historian of the fifteenth century says in 1379 a game of "cards," which comes from the country of the Saracens, and is with them called "nab," was brought to Viterbo, an Italian town.

The earliest definite mention of cards is in the account books of the treasurer of the household of Charles VI. of France, in 1393; there the payment is noted of 56 sols parises to a painter of three packs of cards for the king. In the wardrobe account (1278) of Edward I. of England, Walter Stourton is noted as being paid 8 shillings and 5 pence "to the King's account for playing the four kings." This would seem to indicate cards and even a particular game, thought generally to be American in its origin; but historians say that one game of four kings was not poker, but chess, the old name of which was "four kings."

A Hard Witness.

Mr. Jones lent Mr. Smith a horse, which died while in Mr. Smith's possession. Mr. Jones brought an action for the value of the horse, attributing his death to bad treatment.

During the course of the trial a witness (Mr. Brown) was called to testify as to how Mr. Smith treated horses.

Counsel (with a bland and confidence-inspiring smile): "Well, sir, how does Mr. Smith generally ride a horse?"

Witness (with a merry twinkle in his eye): "A-straddle, I believe, sir."

Counsel (with a scarcely perceptible flush of vexation upon his cheek, but still speaking in his smoothest tones): "But sir, what gait does he ride?"

Witness: "He never rides any gait, sir. His boys ride all the gates."

Counsel (his bland smile gone and his voice slightly husky): "But how does he ride when in company with others?"

Witness: "Keeps up it his horse is able; if not he goes behind."

Counsel (triumphantly and in perfect fury): "How does he ride when alone?"

Witness: "Don't know. Never was with him when he was alone."

Counsel: "I have done with you, sir."

What Not to Do in a Collision.

"What would you do in a collision?" I asked.

The engineer pushed back the little black skullcap from his iron-gray hair and said, in the low tone which is usual with him:

"It is pretty hard to say what a man should do when he hears the whistle of danger ahead or sees that a crash is coming. Even the best of us are liable to get confused at such a moment. What would you do if you woke up in the night and found a burglar holding a pistol at your head? There are no rules for such cases. What I would not do, though, is to reverse my engine, although many engineers are liable to lose their heads at a critical moment and make that mistake. It is a curious thing that reversing your engine suddenly when going at a high speed makes the train go faster instead of slower. The reason is that the drivers slip and the locomotive shoots ahead as if she were on skates. The only thing to do is to put on the air brakes and pray hard."

Medicine in Vegetables.

The following information may be useful: Spinach has a direct effect upon the kidneys. The common dandelion used as greens, is excellent for the same trouble.

Asparagus purges the blood. Celery acts admirably upon the nervous system, and is a cure for rheumatism and neuralgia. Tomatoes act upon the liver. Beet and turnips are excellent appetizers. Lettuce and cucumbers are cooling in their effects upon the system. Onions, garlic, leeks, olives, and shallots, all of which are similar, possess medicinal virtue of a marked character, stimulating the circulatory system, and the consequent increase in the saliva and the gastric juice promote digestion. Red onions are an excellent diuretic, and the white ones are recommended to be eaten raw as a remedy for insomnia. A soup made from onions is regarded by the French as an excellent restorative in weakness of the digestive organs.

Some Odd Bees.

The "tazma" of Ethiopia deposits its stores of honey without wax. It looks like a giant mosquito, and its product, which it hides away underground, is eagerly sought after by the natives as a remedy for diseases of the throat. In some parts of India there are giant bees which suspend combs as big as house doors in the branches of trees. The Guadalupe bees lay their honey in bladders of wax about the size of a pigeon's egg, and not in combs. The bees, which are abnormally small, have no stings, and are of a black color, and the honey which they produce is of an oily consistency, never hardening.

The Remedy Was Simple.

Smoker—You sell cigars, and yet you are opposed to smoking in your store. Why?

Druggist—The smoke is offensive to many of my customers.

Smoker—Of course. But that's easily remedied. Sell better cigars.

And Bigger than Ever.

Amicus—You lost your head completely at the banquet last night.

Snakley—Well, I've got it back this morning.

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Great Men as They Worked.

Turner was an artistic drudge. He laboured steadily during daylight hours, receiving a few visitors and taking no relaxation.

Tennyson wrote only by inspiration, and was very irregular in his hours of labour. His manuscripts were written in a small, distinct hand.

Coleridge, during his later years, wrote best under the inspiration of the bottle. He was a careful writer and revised with much particularity everything intended for the press.

Goethe was never tired of revising his writings. The last three years of his life were spent in putting the final touches to a complete edition of his works.

Victor Hugo worked during regular hours, never allowing himself to be disturbed while at his desk. He took no artificial stimulants, and rarely worked overtime.

Emerson wrote regularly, and spent much time in revision. It is said that many of his essays were copied ten or twelve times before he allowed them to be published.

Beaumont and Fletcher discussed the plots of their plays before sitting down to write. They often strolled about the streets in search of incidents that could be used as material.

Young's "Night Thoughts," as the title would suggest, were written for the most part at night. They were occasioned by the death of his step-daughter and her husband.

Martin Luther wrote steadily, ten or twelve hours a day. When engaged in translating the Bible into German he often remained at his desk eighteen hours out of twenty-four.

Haydn was forced to compose in the family room at home, and generally in the presence of his wife. She gave him no peace, and he finally left her, as he once said, to get time to write.

The famous Adam Clarke used to write, without relaxation or intermission, ten or twelve hours a day. He never took any amusement, and always enjoyed the best of health.