

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

Twenty-five thousand horses are used in the carrying trade of London.

Six hundred cats were on exhibition at the recent Crystal Palace cat show in London.

The word "dandy" was first used in England in a poem by Galloway, published in 1780.

It would cost \$100,000,000 to feed the human beings and domestic animals of Paris for six months.

In the year 760 A. D., Pope Paul I, sent the only clock in the known world as a present to Pepin, King of France.

A correspondent of the London Lancet points out that when sugar is partly burnt in a gas flame it is destructive to mice.

The wife of a New York millionaire has for the last three years been travelling all over Europe trying to match a pearl.

Excavations in the pyramid field of Egypt show that the game of chess was known to the Egyptians 3,300 years B. C.

Street-car conductors at Hannibal, Missouri, are forbidden to aid women in getting on or off the cars except when requested.

By old English law a baron was required to have at least five hides of land, a church, a kitchen, a bell house and a borough gate with a seat in it.

Elephants are believed to sometimes live from 200 to 400 years, and the maximum age of the whale also reaches, it is computed, 400 years.

Some of the healthiest children in the world are found in the Scottish highlands, where shoes are seldom worn at an earlier age than 12 and 13.

Palindromes, words or sentences which spell or read the same backward as forward, in superstitious ages were supposed to possess magical virtues.

The new Brooks comet is now visible in the morning sky due east and about 20 degrees above the horizon at 5 o'clock in the constellation Coma Berenices.

It is estimated that about 250,000 canary birds are raised every year in Germany. The most important market is the United States, which imports about 100,000 birds per annum.

The deepest lake in the world is Lake Baikal, Siberia. It is 4,350 feet deep and its level is only 1,350 above that of the ocean. The greatest depths of Lake Superior and Michigan are but little over 800 feet.

The Korean does not have the trouble of carrying his umbrella in his hand. It is like an ordinary umbrella in shape, only it is smaller and has no handle. It is made of oiled paper and is worn on the head over the hat.

The anable, a fish that inhabits the rivers of Guiana, has two pupils to each eye, an upper and a lower one. When the fish is swimming it keeps this upper optic, which protrudes above the head, out of the water.

Ravens when on the wing spend much time striking each other, and often turn on their backs with a loud croak and seem to be falling to the ground. In fact, they are scratching themselves with one foot and have lost their centre of gravity.

Two famous Parisian prisons will shortly cease to exist. They are the Roquette, near Pere Lachaise cemetery, and the prison of Ste. Pelagie, with its sorrowful souvenirs of the reign of terror. The government intends to build a large prison in their stead.

The chief of the United States senate stationery room holds his office under the title by which he was elected years ago, "Mender of Quill Pens," though there is now but one senator who uses a quill pen, and the chief's duties are now quite unlike those which he first assumed.

A Liverpool hotel has put in some penny-in-the-slot gas fires. This system is applied to the gas supply, so that a fire in the grate can be turned on when needed. The experiment has been tried in one bedroom for 12 months, and the machines are now to be put into every bedroom in the hotel.

The flower badges of nations are as follows: Athens, violet; Canada, sugar maple; Egypt, lotus; England, rose; France, fleur-de-lis (lily); Florence, giglio (lily); Germany, cornflower; Ireland, shamrock leaf; Italy, lily; Prussia, linden; Saxony, mignonette; Scotland, thistle; Spain, pomegranate; Wales, leek leaf.

Georgia's criminal superior court has discontinued the kissing of the Bible in the administration of oaths. Judge Clark, in explaining the order to that effect, says: "Holding up the right hand is the more convenient form. Then the kissing of the book is a very nasty thing. I have heard of persons catching disease in that way."

High prices are sometimes paid by Australian sheep growers for thoroughbred rams. A breeder named Russell once gave \$5,000 for an animal bred in Victoria. This is because Australian bred sheep when inbred for three or four generations lose their wool and become hairy. A somewhat similar change is observed in rabbits. To check this tendency sheep herders import thoroughbred rams and pay almost any price.

A notable engineering feat was accomplished a few days ago in the completion of the boring of the Busk-Ivanhoe Railway tunnel under the continental divide of the Rocky mountains at Hagerman Pass, Colo. The tunnel is almost two miles long—9,393 feet—and is through solid grey granite. It took three years and twenty days, of twenty hours' work each day, to bore the big hole. It is 10,800 feet above sea level, through the top ridge of the continent.

Sisal grass is likely to prove a very important source of wealth for Mexico. It grows in long, narrow blades, often to the length of four or five feet, and these, when dry, curl up from side to side, forming a flexible string stronger than any cotton cord of the same size ever manufactured. It is in great demand among florists and among manufacturers of various kinds of grass goods, and it is said to be capable of being applied to many new uses. Ropes, cords, lines of any description and size may be manufactured of it, and a ship's cable of sisal grass is one of the possibilities of the future.

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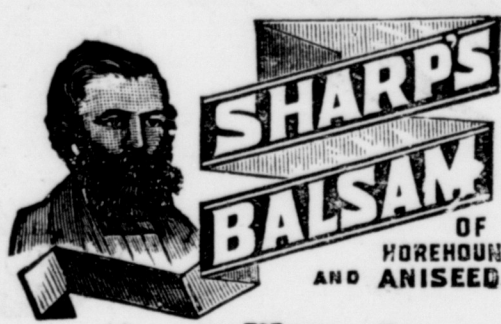
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VETERAN AMONG HORSES.

How Billy Taught the Small Boys a Sharp and Severe Lesson.

Billy was a veteran among horses. He had lived twenty-nine years and six months when I knew him, and all that time he had been learning to take care of himself with out troubling others to look after him. His reputation had never been good, though the older he grew the worse he grew, according to his master's statement. For my part I always thought the horse was justified in his treatment of those who ill treated him. He had been known to bite, to kick, to run away, though no one believed that he had really been frightened.

"It is just ugliness, wanting to show what he could do to be hateful," said his master, one day when the hired man came home with the news that Billy had shied at a bicycle, had run into a wagon and broken it and the one to which he was harnessed into "slivers" as the man expressed it.

This "fright," if it really was one, cost his master \$50, and Billy forthwith had blinders put on him. He never shied again, but the blinders did not improve his temper.

One day when he was just about finishing a meal which he was taking out of a pail set in front of him on the ground, a small boy came past with a long whip of straw in his hand. He did not know him, by he knew small boys when he saw them, and had no love for any of them.

The boy stopped and Billy kept on eating. The boy went nearer and nearer the curb, and at last reached over and tickled Billy's nose with the straw.

Billy made believe at first that he did not feel it, and the boy became bolder and tickled harder. Billy finished eating and then had time to attend to him. Turning suddenly, he tossed his head, caught the boy by the back of his jacket, lifted him off his feet and marched down the street with him. The boy screamed, but no one was near enough to seize him.

They did not go far, and before any one interfered Billy stopped and shook that boy exactly as a man might have shaken him for punishment, then dropped him, turned and walked back home.

No small boy dared to meddle with Billy after that, and although the boy was not hurt he had one of the worst scares of his life.

Ominous Signs.

A young couple evidently from the country, were walking down a certain London street recently, evidently looking for something very much in particular. At last they stopped before a large jeweller's window, in which were displayed a number of wedding rings. They stood by the window a few moments discussing some urgent question, the big, clumsy looking fellow, who measured about six feet, apparently hesitating.

"Go on, George," said the girl, who scarcely reached his elbows; "what's the use of backing out, now you've got so far?" "I don't half like to, Mary," he replied; "that smart-looking fellow in there is sure to grin at me."

What difference does it make whether he laughs or cries?" exclaimed the girl. If you haven't the pluck I'll go myself."

"That's it, Mary," was the response; if you'll do the asking I'll come with you and look on."

Followed by her bashful lover the little woman marched boldly in and chose the wedding-ring, while her swain twirled his hat, blushed and looked on. As they left the assistant gazed after them with a thoughtful air and remarked—

"I admire Mary's pluck, but I should hate to be George ten years from now."

Got Ahead of the Law.

In Siam, when there is a question at law between two parties, and a scarcity of witnesses to establish the truth in the case, it is customary to resort to the water test. Both parties are required to dive simultaneously into deep water, and the one that stays the longest under is adjudged the truth teller, and gets the verdict. It is said that there is a merchant in Bangkok who is fond of litigation, but is rather too old to undergo the water test successfully, to say nothing of the fact that he cannot swim a stroke. He was so frequently worsted in the courts that he took his son and placed him under the tuition of the most expert swimmer and diver in the kingdom. In due course the young man became exceedingly adept, and was then made a member of the firm. Now, whenever there is a case to be tried, this young fellow is the representative of the house. The firm often leaves the court dripping with water, but always "without a stain on its character."

In Search of Information.

Inquiring Boy: "And have you seen avalanches in the Alps?" Great Traveller: Yes, my son." "And elephants in Asia?" "Yes." "And tigers in Africa?" "Plenty of them." "Ever see a polar bear?" "Several." "Ever see any wild monkeys?" "Thousands."

"Did you ever see a—polar bear chasing an elephant with a tiger on his back and a lot of monkeys laughing to see an avalanche coming after 'em?"

Sadly Sarcastic.

"I never robbed a man but once," said the honest tramp, "and then I was starving. He would not give me a penny, and I couldn't stand the knocking in my stomach any longer. So I knicked him down and went through his pockets. What kind of a haul did I make? Just one little bottle which read on the label: 'Pep-sin; for that full feeling after eating.'"

Asthma Sufferers.

Who have in vain tried every other means of relief should try "Schiffmann's Asthma Cure." No waiting for results. Its action is immediate, direct and certain, as a single trial proves. Send to Dr. R. Schiffmann, St. Paul, Minn., for a free trial package, but ask your druggist first.

Sure Sign of Death.

Husband—"I am afraid, doctor, that my wife is very ill. She hasn't spoken a word all day." Doctor—"Then you don't need me. You want an undertaker."

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For Piles—External or Internal, Blind or Bleeding; Fistula in Ano; Itching or Bleeding of the Rectum. The relief is immediate—the cure certain.

WITCH HAZEL OIL

For Burns, Scalds and Ulceration and Contraction from Burns. The relief is instant—the healing wonderful and unequalled.

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Emperor Francis Joseph has presented his portrait to ex-Premier Count Von Taaffe.

Emperor William, as King of Prussia, has summoned the Prussian Landtag to meet on Jan. 16th.

The present Duke of Devonshire, better known as the Marquis of Hartington, succeeded his father on Dec. 21, 1891.

Mark Twain looks old. His fuzzy hair is almost white, and he stoops more than ever. But he can crack a joke with his usual vim.

Mr. Greenhalge will be the first Governor of Massachusetts born a British subject since Governor Hustis, who was elected in 1823, and served until his death, in 1825.

Professor Blackie, the eminent Scotch scholar, is a picturesque figure at his home, with his ruddy face, white hair and the manner of a young man. His versatility is remarkable.

Sivori, the veteran violinist, has recovered from his recent accident in Paris, and has gone to his home in Genoa. He was a pupil of Paganini, and in 1827 gave performances in England.

Marie Antoinette's famous poplar, which the unhappy Queen herself planted at the Little Trianon, fell to the ground during a recent storm. It had survived the royal lady just about 100 years.

The acouchement of Princess Friedrich Karl Ludwig of Hesse is expected to take place next month. She is the youngest sister of Emperor William. Her marriage took place on Jan. 25 last.

Dwight L. Moody, the evangelist, is to conduct a series of revival meetings in Washington this winter at the invitation of several ministers of that city, it sufficient money can be raised to meet the expenses.

The Duke of York's name is Wettin: the Duchess of York's maiden name was Von Rhedey, her father's name being that of his mother, Countess Claudine von Rhedey morganic wife of Duke Alexander of Wurtemberg.

Sir Walter Parratt, organist of St. George's Chapel, has been recently appointed conductor of her Majesty's private band. Not only can he play three games of chess at once, but at the same time he will perform Bach's music upon the organ.

Joseph Slivinski, the Polish pianist of whom music lovers this side of the Atlantic have been led to expect so much, is coming to New York. He is to make his debut at Madison Square Garden Concert Hall on Thanksgiving night with Seidl's Orchestra.

Miss Melian Stawell, a daughter of the late Chief Justice of Victoria, recently obtained a first-class ranking in the first division of the Classical Tripos at Cambridge, England, after having studied at Trinity College, Melbourne, and subsequently at Newham.

Charles L. Nichols, who died recently at Lyons Farms, N. J., was the original promoter of the elevated railroad system. He was made secretary of the New York company, but was ousted when the Gould management took possession of the "watered" corporation.

Counsel for Miss Jenny Mitchell, whose suit against the Sultan of Johore for breach of promise of marriage was recently dismissed on the ground that the Sultan was a ruling sovereign over whom the English courts have no jurisdiction, has lodged an appeal against this decision.

Mrs. Mina Fleming, whose discovery of a star previously unknown to astronomers has just been announced from the Harvard Observatory, is a young Scotchwoman. She has been in America hardly ten years, but for more than half the time has been doing astronomical work at the Harvard Observatory.

The little Queen of the Netherlands has just passed her 14th birthday. On that occasion she was presented by her mother, the Queen Regent, with fifty large dolls, each arranged as an officer in the Dutch army. This was to be an agreeable way of teaching her the different uniforms of soldiers holding her commissions.

Olive Schreiner has ended her visit to England and returned to South Africa. She has left only one book in the hands of her publishers. This will appear in the Pseudonym Library under her old pen name of "Ralph Iron." It is called, "Dream Life and Real Life," and is dedicated to her brother, who is the present attorney-general at the Cape.

Mr. and Mrs. Isidor Wormser, jr., of New York, who were married a few days ago, and who are spending their honeymoon in Washington, are not likely to suffer from "hard times." Among the wedding presents was a check for \$300,000 from Simon Wormser, the Wall street banker, father of the bridegroom, and another for \$100,000 from Isidor Wormser, sr., his uncle.

The three cousins, Princess Maud of Wales, the Grand Duchess Xenia of Russia, and Princess Marie, of Greece, are all singularly like their respective mothers. The Queen of Greece, for instance, often dispenses with the wearing of gloves, and so does Princess Marie, who also uses eyeglasses with a long handle exactly in the same manner as Queen Olga. Princess Xenia, who cannot boast the same good looks as the Empress, has, however, the same bright and happy smile as her mother, and that Princess Maud of Wales is much more like her beautiful mother than are her two sisters, is no news.

Archdeacon Sinclair's life is one of incessant and exhausting labor, and the ever varying character of his engagements taxes even his herculean strength. He has been known to travel two hundred miles back to London before 11 a. m., read through his heavy correspondence and dictate replies up to noon, attend a deputation to Mr. Gladstone, and make a speech thereat at 12.30 p.