

## THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

A letter written in London made a tour of the world in sixty-two days.

The worth of a ton of diamonds at the present day is estimated at \$35,000,000.

A chestnut tree on Mount Etna is the largest in the world. Its circumference is 204 feet.

The sea is not of uniform saltiness at all depths, for the saltiness occasionally increases with its depth.

The United States has produced two-thirds of the cotton consumed by the world for the last sixty-seven years.

Out of the 17,000,000 inhabitants of Spain, exactly 11,045,870 are ignorant of the art of reading and writing.

Worn sovereigns and half-sovereigns, to the amount of £16,000,000, were withdrawn from circulation last year.

The entire population of the world could be provided for in the United States, allowing each person one and a half acres of land.

It is stated that no Japanese is ever guilty of swearing, for the simple reason that oaths are unknown to the Japanese language.

In a square inch of the human scalp the hairs number about one thousand, and the whole number on an adult scalp is about one hundred and twenty thousand.

The railways in France employ 24,080 women, the majority of whom, however, receive a small sum merely for opening and shutting gates where roads cross the track.

Three good washes are received by an Abyssinian during his career—at his birth, on his marriage morn, and at his death. At all other times he shuns soap and water.

There are no undertakers in Japan. Each family buries his own dead in an economical manner, and the morning doesn't commence until the object of grief has been disposed of.

Many of the South Sea Islanders believe that Paradise can be inherited only by persons of perfect physical forms. Where this belief prevails, a man will die rather than submit to amputation.

In order to realize the size of a water molecule, you must imagine a drop of water to be magnified as big as this earth, and then a molecule would be between the size of a small shot and a cricket ball.

The Clothworkers' Company, founded in the reign of Edward IV., has amongst its valuable collection of plate a loving cup presented by Samuel Pepys, of "Diary" fame, when he was master of the company.

Sir John Lubbock once fed some ants on food soaked with alcohol. Like human beings, they became "tipsy." When the other ants discovered their condition they picked them up and dropped them into the nearest water.

Scorpions are so numerous in Durango, Mexico, that there is a bounty of sixty cents (about half a dollar) a hundred for them. The persons who are legalised to hunt for them are authorised to enter and search private houses.

Once again a cure for cancer has been announced. The alleged discoverer, Dr. Patscheff, of Moscow, is about to visit Paris and describe his mode of treatment, the chief feature of which is a course of sulphur baths for two hours each day.

The Imperial Canal, of China, is the longest in the world, and the greatest in point of traffic. Its length is about 1,000 miles, and it connects forty-one cities situated on its banks. It was completed in 1350, after six-hundred years had been devoted to its construction.

Rio de la Plata means River of Silver; Orinoco, Coiled Serpent; Jamaica, Land of Wood and Water; Porto Rico, Rich Port; Andes, Metal, especially Copper; Venezuela, Little Venice; Valparaiso, Vale of Paradise; Alleghany, Endless; Himalaya, abode of snow; Arizona, Sand Hills; Azores, a Hawk; Merrimack Swift Water; Palestine, Land of Wanderers.

The interest on money is so high in Siam that when a man once gets in debt the most he can possibly hope for by the hardest kind of work is to pay the interest on what he owes. This, of course, has discouraged industry, and has encouraged the practice of allowing women to do most of the work. Mass, being proud and ambitious, soon tires of industry indulged in for its own sake.

The telephone is now used by deep water divers. A receiver and transmitter combined is affixed to the inside of the helmet near the diver's ear. By a slight turn of his head he can speak into the telephone and he can hear readily from it at all times. Its value in deep-sea work, for reporting progress or receiving instructions is clear. Formerly the only communication was by a system of pulls at a cord.

An ingenious general information machine has been set up in a railway station of Melbourne. By pressing different electric buttons the following among other things will appear: a list of the best hotels in the city, a list of the plays at the theatres, with their play bills, a list of omnibus routes, and the cab fares to the various points of interest. The principle of the machine is capable of indefinite expansion.

The West Indian migratory crab is the only creature that is born in the sea, matures in fresh waters, and passes its adult life on land. Once a year these creatures migrate in thousands from the uplands of Jamaica, deposit their ova in the sea, then migrate to the rivers and streams, pass through a fresh-water stage, after which they follow their parents to land until the time comes for them to return to the sea to lay their eggs in turn.

A "snail's pace" need no longer be used as a term more or less indefinite. Those skilled in the science of "snailology" can tell you just to a dot the snail's rate of travel. These interesting facts were ascertained by some wonderful experiments in Florence, and it was all done in this way: Half a dozen of the molluscs were permitted to crawl between two points ten feet apart. Exact time was kept from the start to finish, and thus the average "pace" was ascertained. The experimenters reduced their figures into tables of feet, yards, rods, furlongs, etc., and thus found that it would take a snail exactly fourteen days to travel a mile.



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## A TRAIL OF HORROR.

A Story of a Mad Dog and His Victims. It was after the noonday meal, and I lay on a heap of new-mown hay on the barn floor, with the doors open and the gentle breeze blowing through. The horses, with harness still on were munching their oats, in the stable, and at the door was a load of hay to be drawn in by and by. Fifty rods down the dusty highway was a schoolhouse, and the shouts of children at their games came plainly to my ears. The swallows chattered and chattered under the eaves of the big barn—now and then a bumblebee came sailing about as if wondering what was going on—and from a hollow stump just back of the barn I caught the "cheep! cheep!" of young bluebirds as the mother brought them food.

It was an hour of peace and good will. Lying there half asleep and too lethargic to move a finger. I should have smiled in contempt had a voice whispered that there was danger to any soul in that peaceful neighborhood. Of a sudden there was a sniffling and whining at the open front doors. I lay facing them, and had to but open my eyes to see the farmer's dog standing there looking directly at me. He was a monster in size, and for two or three days had been skulking about in dark spots and uttering low growls of annoyance when any one came near.

At the first glance my heart choked me. I had once looked into the eyes of a mad dog, and instantly realized that this was another case. If terror, distress, passion, thirst, hunger, and savageness can be combined in a look, you have it in the dilated eyes of the canine when the frenzy first comes upon him and he is undecided what to do. Clots of foam fell from the dog's breast and on the floor as he worked his jaws, and every hair on his body seemed to stand erect as he fastened his eyes on mine. He may have been blind for the moment, or he may have thought me dead. Neither of the horses could see the dog, but it was clearly remembered that they suddenly ceased feeding and even seemed to hold their breaths. Instinct must have warned them.

For a long minute the dog looked straight into my eyes, and had I not been lying down I believe I should have fallen. Then he suddenly raised his head, uttered a long-drawn howl, and I heard him growl fiercely as he sprang away. A cow was approaching the barn. He bit her savagely in the neck, and made straight for the house. The old farmer sat under the shade of a cherry tree by the kitchen door, smoking his pipe. He was suddenly assaulted and rolled to the ground and his right ear almost torn from his head. He knew that it was his dog, but when he rose up the beast had disappeared. It was only ten steps to the gate. Up the highway there was nothing in sight. Down the highway was a school house, with a dozen children on the grass in front. Between him and them was the dog, running with his head down and uttering no sound. The old man was helpless, except to pray. He shut his eyes as he saw the dog dash upon the first child. He heard the screams and shrieks of fright, and then his pain and distress brought him to the ground.

As you have seen a shadow flit across a field so sped this dog. None saw or heard him until he suddenly sprang into the midst of them. He snapped to the right and the left. The troth flew from his lips and fell in patches on the grass. Nine out of the twelve children fell his fangs once: four of them were bitten twice. He had marked his victim and gone before any one could realize what had happened. Faces, necks, cheeks, arms, hands, legs, the mad beast had snapped as he bounded back and forth. Halt a mile below the schoolhouse a farmer stood beside his oxen in the highway as he talked with a man in the field. He saw the brute coming, but before he realized his peril one of his hands had been mangled and both of his oxen bitten. A traveler was approaching on foot. He heard the cry of "Mad dog!" and ran for the fence. As he reached it there was a sharp pain in one of his legs, as if he had been cut with a knife. He looked down from his perch and saw a pair of fiery eyes and a mouth filled with yellow froth, but next instant the object had vanished.

"Mad dog! Mad dog! Look out for him!" So rang the cry from field to field and from house to barn and barn to house along the dusty highway. A few heard it in time but only a few. Here and there the dog turned in to right or left—and there he spared some one as he held to the road. At the toll-gate he passed a woman by; a quarter of a mile below he turned by the side and bit two hogs and a cow. At the bridge he bit a woman, but passed three men unnoticed. Straight on through the long main street of the village, appearing as suddenly as the lightning's flash, gone almost before the pain of his bite had been felt, he marked a victim at almost every rod. Horses, oxen, cows, hogs, dogs, men and women and children—whatever living thing came in his way felt his sharp fangs, and yet he seemingly did not halt for an instant. Ten long miles away from the barn where I had looked into his eyes the dog met his death at the hands of a farmer whom he had bitten. Feel your flesh creep as you read the record: Forty-seven human beings, 32 head of live stock, and 16 dogs! A lion would have struck down a single victim and satisfied his appetite. A tiger hunted to frenzy might have killed two or three in order to escape. A mad elephant, breaking loose, has been known to kill half a dozen people before he could be shot or secured. Even the blizzard of mid-winter or the terrible cyclone of summer would have left no such trail of horror across the land.

A Grateful Hamilton Husband. Husbands are not all ungrateful, as the following letter will prove: "Hamilton, Oct. 27th, 1892. I hereby certify that the Membray Medicine Co. can use my name in testimony of the beneficial results obtained from the use of Membray's Kidney and Liver Cure, having cured my wife of kidney trouble. It deserves my gratitude. F. H. HOFFER, 405 James St. north."

Sextons are proverbially long-lived men. Not many of them, however, can surpass the record of Mrs. Sarah Kitchen, who recently departed this life at the age of ninety-three, she having been the faithful sextoness of a Leicestershire church for seventy-four years. Thus it is proved that, in still another direction, women can meet men on the same ground and hold their own.

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## MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Mark Twain's 20-year-old daughter has already written a play.

It is estimated that five millions of women are earning wages in the British Isles.

The Empress of Austria not only smokes from fifty to sixty Turkish cigarettes a day but during the course of the evening also gets through several "terribly strong cigars."

The Empress of Austria is said to have beaten the record in regard to being a juvenile grandmother, for she was only thirty-six when her first grandchild was presented to her.

When the Princess of Wales was married, the king of the Belgians gave her lace of the value of \$10,000. Since that time the Princess has gone on collecting and now her lace is worth something like \$50,000.

The Earl of Aberdeen, who is to leave for Canada on September 7th, belongs to perhaps the most long-lived family in the British Peerage. The title, which was granted in 1682, still possessed by the fourth bearer in 1860.

The Empress Frederick of Germany possesses a unique tea service. The tea tray has been beaten out of an old Prussian halpenny. The teapot is made out of a German farthing, and the tiny cups are made from coins of different German principalities.

In addressing the House of Commons Mr. Labouchere invariably adopts a colloquial style, never attempting any flights of eloquence. To a stranger he appears to be taking the House into his confidence, and he delivers his jokes and witticisms with a most unconscious air.

In the matter of parasols the duchess of York is very rich. They number sixty, and all of these, or nearly all, were made to order and are covered with the same materials as the gowns. The lighter of the parasols are covered with silk, which is then draped with lace or chiffon, or loops of ribbon.

Leutenant Peary has taken with him to northern Greenland a cote of carrier pigeons, which he will use as messengers in connection with his explorations. He does not think the birds will find it too cold, but he is a little afraid that they will have trouble with the galeforce, a bird of prey found in the Arctic regions.

It is not often that a royal princess indulges in a ride upon an engine, but the Infanta Eulalia enjoyed that experience during her visit to the United States. The speed put on was terrific, and the princess thoroughly appreciated the situation. When she bade the engineer "good-bye" she was able to boast that she had ridden at the rate of a mile a minute on a locomotive.

Mlle. Almee Rapin, an armless artist who drew with her feet the pastel of the Duchess of York, is a young Genevoise of rare intelligence. The eldest daughter of a Swiss barrister, she as a child drew with her feet better than those people draw with their hands, and at the age of 15 began her artistic studies in one of the best studios in Switzerland.

A noticeable feature of the World's Fair attendance is the presence of so many Catholic Sisters among the sightseers. They are particularly interested in the monastery of La Rabida, where the carefully scrutinize the relics of Columbus and the valuable loan collection of the Pope. They themselves, in their black gowns, give a finishing touch of realism to the building.

Paul, a well-known London waiter who has just retired, in his younger days served the "Cock" in the morning, Simpson's in the afternoon, Evan's in the evening, and Rosherville Gardens at night; and there is a story of a nervous feeder who took a meal at each of these places in town and fled home in fear at midnight, believing himself to be possessed by a demon waiter.

No one amongst the younger members of the Royal Family takes a greater delight in assuming an alias than Princess Maud of Wales, who, when she has finished her stay in Scotland, is hoping to pay her annual visit to her late governess, now married and living in Devonshire. When she goes down south she insists upon being called "Miss Mills," and upon being treated as a member of the family. She will have no ceremony of any kind.

According to the 'Figaro', the largest family in the world is that of King Siam. His majesty has two official wives, eighty-eight wives of minor order, and seventy-two children. Even if he had not been blessed with any direct heirs the throne would not have gone out of the family, for the King has fifty brothers and sisters, and 226 uncles and nephews. The King boards his relatives, and this explains why there should be as many as 200 cooks in the Royal kitchen.

Amusing stories are told of the important airs which are assumed by juvenile prodigies. Little Jean Gerardy threatened to leave an Edinburgh hotel altogether because the landlord had put him on the second floor. And the new little girl pianist never commences to play without saying: "Are the critics present?" Max Hamburg was perhaps the most blasé of all the child pianists. He had the greatest objection to being kissed, and used to be furious with the ladies who paid this tribute to his talents.

There has been a pleasant sequel to the recent incident at the Leeds Assizes, when the Lord Chief Justice sentenced a boy to imprisonment for applauding in court. At the close of the case his lordship had the boy called into his room, and told him that while he retained his strong disapproval of his conduct, he was, perhaps, wrong in not making allowance in his case; people who were better educated had set him a bad example. Thereupon he set the boy at liberty, with a half-sovereign and some kindly advice.

Princess Ghika, Queen Natalie of Servia's sister, is an extraordinary woman. Like her illustrious relation, her only child is a boy. Being passionately fond of girls, in order to preserve her son's girlish appearance beyond the years of baby-flowing hair, a kind of divided skirt, and a bodice with short puffed sleeves. The little prince was often taken for an oddly-dressed girl. Now the Princess Ghika's relatives have interferred, and she is no longer allowed to work her own sweet will with the habiliments of her only son.

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