

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

The Tartars take a man by the ear to invite him to eat or drink with them.

In a recent divorce case in Victoria the petitioner and respondent were each eighty years of age.

A man of about eighty, who has shaved regularly during his lifetime, sacrifices to the razor about 35ft. of hair.

The destructiveness of a new Gatling gun may be imagined when it is stated that it fires 3,139 shots a minute.

Medical men die off more rapidly than other professional men. Between the ages of forty-five and sixty-five two doctors die to one clergyman.

There are, according to the Belfast chamber of commerce, 400 floating wrecks at the present moment in the gulf stream, within a distance of 1,350 miles.

A mile of hedge and ditch equals an acre of land. The amount of extra land that would be rendered available for crops, were all the hedges in the United Kingdom trimmed properly, would be equivalent to 600,000 acres.

When a glass is as full as it possibly can be of liquor, the surface of the liquid is slightly convex, and the centre lies higher than the brim. In view of this fact such a glassful is called a bumper, because the liquor bumps up, or protrudes in the middle.

When a child dies in Greenland the natives bury a live dog with it, the dog to be used by the child as a guide to the other world. When questioned with regard to this peculiar superstition, they will only answer: "A dog can find his way anywhere."

A wealthy lady at Vienna has been robbed of £1,000 by her man servant, who bored a hole in her safe, and in place of the money left a paper, stating that he had stolen it to avenge himself for having had to cut off his moustache while in the lady's service.

At Gagoya, in China, a merchant, who is in his sixty-fifth year, has just divorced his twenty-sixth wife, and is about to marry the twenty-seventh. He had resolved when he was young to marry thirty wives, and is delighted that he has now only three more to marry to keep his vow.

Scientists say that if the bed of the Pacific ocean could be seen, it would disclose to view several mountains with truncated tops scattered over it. These mountains would be perfectly bare at the base, and all around their tops they would be covered with beautiful vegetation of coral polypi.

A woman in Tunis proclaimed that she had been told by an angel in a dream that whosoever drank of the water in her cistern would escape cholera. Within two days 20,000 persons passed through her premises to drink there, and the police had eventually to interfere to stop the profitable traffic.

The House of Lords had on its roll 401 members in 1830, and 433 in 1837; but to-day there are 572 peers in the Second Chamber. Since 1830 there have been 328 new votes added to the House of Lords, of whom 208 were added by Liberal Ministers and 120 by Conservatives. Mr. Gladstone alone has made eighty-two peers.

If a train, moving at the speed of twenty-five miles an hour, were suddenly stopped, the passengers would experience a shock equal to that of falling from a second-floor window; at thirty miles an hour they might as well fall from a height of three pairs of stairs; and an express train would, in point of fact, make them fall from a fourth storey.

Some idea of the magnitude of the business of the Post Office Savings Bank may be gathered from the fact that, in order to give effect to the new regulations, it has been necessary to print no fewer than 5,000,000 forms for the use of post-masters and depositors. There are now nearly 11,000 post-offices transacting savings bank savings in England.

Gambling debts are preeminently debts of honour in China, and are more willingly and speedily paid than any others. To pay them a Chinaman will pawn all his property, and even sell his children. For this he is regarded by the public as worthy of all praise, and the relatives who allow themselves to be sold are treated as models of filial devotion. Meanwhile, a tradesman to whom a debt is due may starve.

The ceremonies at the creation of a knight have been various; the principal were a box on the ear and a stroke with a sword on the shoulder. John of Salisbury tells us the blow with the naked fist by this it was that William the Conqueror conferred the honour of knighthood on his son Henry. It was afterwards changed into a blow with the flat of the sword on the shoulder of the knight.

The most extraordinary derelict ship of which there is record is the barque Marie Celeste, which was found in the middle of the Atlantic, deserted, with every sail set, dinner half-cooked in the galley, and not a soul on board, though she had every appearance of having been occupied immediately before. The weather was fair and there was a gentle breeze. She was towed into port, but no explanation of the mystery surrounding the vessel has ever offered itself.

An apparatus for fishing by electricity has been introduced, consisting of a large iron frame interlaced with netting, which can be opened and closed at the will of the operator. An electric light encased in a lantern is lowered into the net, the electricity being furnished by a motor in the bow of the boat. As the boat moves along the network is thrown open, and the bright light of the lamp, which is seen at a great distance in the clear water, arouses the curiosity of the fish, which swim into the trap.

A new amusement has been introduced in Belgium, which permits the peasants to have some sport. It is a sort of competition in cock-crowing, and the game is conducted in this way. In a garden are placed rows of cages, each containing a cock. Before each cage, about a yard away, stands the marker, who notes the crow of his bird. The competition lasts for an hour, and it is the cock which has crowed the loudest that takes the prize. At the last competition a rooster crowed 131 times.

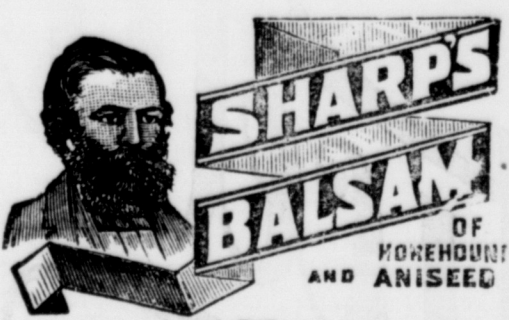
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(Copy of letter.)

St. John, N. B., Dec. 6, 1893.
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DIFFICULTIES OF PRONUNCIATION

What Frenchmen and Germans Cannot Get Their Tongues Around.

For making the s and z the tongue has to be partially applied to a portion of the palate next the teeth. Not only, however, must the contact be complete, but its place is indefinite. To make sh and zh the contact has to be made, not with the tip, but with the upper surface of the tongue, and must be an incomplete contact. Though for making the liquids the tip of the tongue and the sides of the tongue are used, yet the requisite is not any exact adjustment of the tip, but an imperfect contact with the palate.

For the th the tip is used, along with the edges of the tongue, but no perfect adjustment is required, either to the edges of the teeth or to the junction of the teeth with the palate, where the sound may equally well be made. Though for the t and d complete contact of the tip and edges of the tongue with the palate is required, yet the place of contact is not definite and the tip takes no more important share in the action than the sides.

Any one who observes the movements of his tongue in speaking will find there occur no cases in which the adjustments must have an exactness corresponding to the extreme power of discrimination which the tip possesses; for speech this endowment is useless. Even were it useful it could not be shown that it has been developed by survival of the fittest; for though perfect articulation is useful, yet imperfect articulation has rarely such an effect as to impede a man in the maintenance of his life. If he is a good workman a German's interchanges of bs and ps do not disadvantage him.

A Frenchman who, in place of the sound of th always makes the sound of z, succeeds as a teacher of music or dancing, no less than if he achieved the English pronunciation. Nay, even such an imperfection of speech as that which arises from a cleft palate does not prevent a man from getting on if he is capable. True, it may go against him as a candidate for parliament or as an "orator" of the unemployed (mostly not worth employing). But in the struggle for life he is not hindered by the effect of being less than others to maintain himself and his offspring.

He Came at Last.

"John," exclaimed the nervous woman, "there's a burglar in the house. I'm sure of it."
John rubbed his eyes and protested mildly that it was imagination.
"No, it isn't. I heard a man downstairs."

So John took a box of matches and went down. To his surprise his wife's suspicions were correct. Seeing that he was unarmed the burglar covered him with a revolver and became quite sociable. "Isn't it rather late to be out of bed?" he remarked.
"A-er a little bit," replied John.
"You're too late, in any case, because I've dropped everything out of the window and my pals have carried it off."

"Oh, that's all right. I'd like to ask one favour of you, though."
"What is it?"
"Stay here until my wife can come down and see you. She has been looking for you every night for the last twelve years, and I don't want her to be disappointed any longer."

Unhappy Business Men.

The most unhappy men in the world when suffering from the effects of sudden colds are business men. Sore throat, cough, hoarseness and irritation of the bronchial tubes, are common troubles with all men of business. Any one of these troubles is sufficient to interfere with the thorough prosecution of business affairs. The merchant loses his wonted activity, vim and energy, and often finds himself unable to cope with surrounding difficulties.

A word of advice even to the wise man of business will perhaps work a world of good. When the first symptoms of cough and throat difficulties appear, make use of Harvard bronchial syrup; the results will be wonderful and astonishing. As a rule two or three doses of this grand preparation are sufficient to banish any cough or cold.

Scores of our best business men always keep a bottle near them for cases of emergency. Twenty-five cents invested for a bottle of Harvard bronchial syrup often saves days and weeks of suffering and trouble.

Cutting It Fine.

A good story is told of a well-known north country theatrical manager who, by thrift and hard work, has amassed a very handsome fortune. Previous to the pantomime, the stage carpenters had to repair one of the traps, and the head carpenter went to the manager to inform him that it was impossible to do it properly in the dark.

"Well, lad, these certainly won't have my gas," answered the manager. "But, here, take this and buy a candle," and he handed the man a half-penny. The carpenter pleaded that they wanted at least two to show a proper light on the job.

"How long will the job take?" he asked the wily manager. "Oh, only about ten minutes, I expect," said the man. "Then thee must cut the candle in two," said the theatrical Cressus. "Thee won't have more brass."

Hard on the Doctor.

A queer coincidence occurred in the parish church of a small town in the Midlands a few weeks back. During the service one of the "pew-openers" notified a physician in the congregation that somebody had called for him to attend a patient. The doctor bounced out with hat and overcoat, and was soon on his way. About ten minutes later the pew-opener again walked down the aisle until he came opposite a well-known undertaker. There was a whispered word or two, and the undertaker hurried out.

It was not the same case, but he followed the doctor, and a broad smile floated over the congregation as they drew their own conclusions.

Until last year Sir Henry Tichborne was an enthusiastic collector of cigars, and gloried in the possession of some 80,000 of them including many rare and expensive brands.

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She bought Cottolene,
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food, and he could eat it
without any unpleasant
after effect. Now
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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

The Rothschild's have made their annual contribution of 100,000 francs to assist poor tenants of Paris.

John Hamilton Brown, who invented the wonderful new wire segmental gun, is a native of Maine, where he was born in 1837.

M. and Mme. Napoleon Ney, the descendants of the "brave of the brave," are famed in Paris for their dinners and their musical evenings. The hostess sings delightfully.

Mr. Lecky, the historian, studied at Trinity College, Dublin, with a view to taking orders. Coleridge was the first writer to convert him to rationalism, of which he is now so sturdy a champion.

Frederick Ruckert, the famous German painter of animals, committed suicide by drowning himself in the River Spree, near Berlin, a few days ago. He had expended a large fortune in helping to educate poor artists.

Miss Mary Hughitt Halliday, a Cairo, Ill., girl educated at Vassar and Packer, has been elected president of the Woman's Art Club of Sculptors and Painters in Paris. She has been in Paris only a year and is very young.

Professor Tyndall began life in the Irish Ordnance Survey as a draughtsman, with less than a pound a week wages. He then became a master at Queenwood College, and as soon as he had saved money went to study at Marburg, in Germany.

At an auction sale of autographs in London a day or two ago a letter of Byron to Coleridge brought only \$25, and a letter from Lord Nelson to Sir William Hamilton only \$40, while a number of letters written by American Presidents and statesmen sold for \$25.

Captain Magnus Anderson, of the Norwegian Viking ship, is endeavoring to establish a Sailors' Snug Harbor at Christiania, Norway, on a plan similar to the institution of the same name on Staten Island. The captain recently received a contribution of \$2000 from Norwegians of Milwaukee toward the object.

King Khama of the Bamangwato tribe, our strongest ally in the war with Lobengula, is by far the most advanced of South African monarchs. He is a Christian and, what is perhaps more noteworthy, a staunch teetotaler, having absolutely forbidden the introduction or manufacture of intoxicating liquors in his country.

Dr. Spence Watson, the well known chairman of the National Liberal Federation, practises as a solicitor, and lives at Gateshead. His name is great in the north as an arbitrator in trade disputes. Although much pressed to enter Parliament, Dr. Spence Watson believes that he can better serve the Liberal cause outside the House.

Lord Shannon, who has been called "the cow-boy lord," is a unique type of Irishman. His wild life in America gave him a taste for rough men and hard labour, and he spends much of his time at his beautiful country seat in County Cork, in the field. He is particularly fond of wood chopping, and the results of his labours in this respect are always distributed as fuel to his cottagers.

In Nantucket, Mass., is still to be seen the house in which Lucretia Mott, the Quaker anti-slavery worker, was born and for many years lived. A large frame structure, with the "hip roof" common to its era of architecture, it is much the same in general appearance as when first built. The present occupation of the dwelling is Judge Dutrieux, of the Nantucket District Court.

The young Duchess of Sutherland is the only literary lady entitled to be called "Your Grace" in Great Britain. When a child, Lady Millicent St. Clair Erskine, as she then was, an active contributor to the writing competitions in various young people's periodicals. Shortly after her marriage she went on a yachting tour, and on her return published a volume of travels.

The fame of a "musical prodigy," sometimes lasts through life. Signor Tito Mattei, the pianist, gave his first concert at the age of six, and when twelve was awarded a gold medal by the Pope for playing at the Vatican. He is now fifty-two. Born in Naples, Signor Mattei has spent the best part of his life in England, his first appearance in London taking place close on forty years ago.

It may interest continental travellers to know that, whilst the Prince of Wales is not a bad sailor, he dislikes the Channel crossing as much as the worst sufferer from sea-sickness. His Royal Highness stations himself in the hooded seat in the centre of the deck aft, the spot which is ordinarily reserved for ladies, and for the occupation of which there is much competition on the part of the first to board the boat at Dover or Calais.

The Hungarian Prime Minister has succeeded in re-establishing a royal court in Buda, Pesth. Hitherto, when the Emperor of Austria, as King of Hungary, came to visit the capital of Hungary, he took his Austrian household with him. Henceforth the Hungarian lords are to surround him upon all ceremonies in Buda Pesth, and they will also attend him at ceremonies in Vienna, side by side with their Austrian counterparts.

Among those who have had great influence in the revolution in Brazil (according to a correspondent) is a woman—"Mme. Gabriela de Matos—thirty-one years old, with large blue eyes and blonde hair. At the beginning of the revolt she attached herself to the troops of Yuca Tigre, becoming his adjutant. She accompanied the half wild leader on all his expeditions, clad in a uniform which was a strange combination of women's and men's attire.

The Lord Mayor of Manchester, who has been paying an official visit to the Mayor of Peterborough, gave at a civic banquet some interesting particulars of his early career. Born in the little fen village of Farcot, in Huntingdonshire, he was apprenticed to the drapery in Peterborough, and on the expiration of his apprenticeship left, with no resources, to seek his fortune. He got to Manchester, found work, prospered, and like Whittington of old, made a fortune, and, returning to his native town, married his first master's daughter.

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