

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

The pneumatic tube dates from 1667. London eats 1,600,000 sheep a year. A tobacco plant yields 360,000 seeds.

British India licenses 10,147 opium shops. Canadian railroads stretch 15,588 miles. Mice skin is the fabric in a Russian coat.

An ocean racer uses \$13,000 in coal each trip. Some bricks are made of plaster of paris and cork.

It is stated that America has 3,980 miles of electric railway.

Workmen in Malaga are said to be allowed a short interval in every hour for smoking.

Fully 800,000 domestic animals, valued at £1,500,000, are annually devoured by the wolves in Russia.

The largest tomb in the world is the Pyramid of Cheops, 461 ft. high and covering thirteen acres of ground.

In Burma it is rather a suspicious thing to give money for a charitable object. It is supposed to mean that the donor has been very wicked, and is desirous to make amends.

In parts of Norway and Sweden, where, during the summer, there is almost continuous daylight, barley crops are grown with only from six to eight weeks intervening from seed-time to harvest.

Bald heads are rare in China. A Mongolian genius, years ago, discovered a method of sticking in hairs in the bald spots, and his secret was soon learned by his imitative countrymen.

Excepting the Death Valley of California, the hottest region on the globe is between the first and second cataracts of the Nile. It never rains there, and many natives do not believe foreigners who tell them that water descends from the sky.

The route from England to India is strewn with treasure, owing to the many shipping disasters. An industrious statistician reckons that some hundreds of millions' worth of gold and jewels lie at the bottom of the sea on that frequented way.

There are tribes in Africa that cannot count beyond ten. These men refuse to sell animals in any other manner than one at a time, lest the payment for several at once should exceed their mental capabilities and involve them in financial disaster.

In a cave in the Pantheon the guide, by striking the flaps of his coat, makes a noise equal to that produced by firing a 12-pound cannon. In the cave of Smelin, near Viborg, Finland, a stone thrown down a certain abyss makes a reverberating echo which sounds like the dying wail of some wild animal.

A "photo-corrector" has been invented, and is in practical use, by which the dimensions of any part of a photograph can be altered "and the whole made harmonious."

A person five feet and a half in height can be made to look five feet or six feet high, as desired, and hands, feet, or any other part, can be similarly corrected.

Amber is a resinous mineral solid found abundantly on the shores of the Baltic, and occasionally in Greenland, England, Italy, Spain, Sicily, Siberia and China. It is supposed to be a fossil gum or resin from its constituents and properties, and from containing the bodies of insects incased in its mass. It burns the same as resin.

There are exactly 88,564 trees in Paris. The Passy Quarter possesses the most, 10,669. Afterwards come in order the Champs Elysees, Grenelle, Montparnasse, Les Ternes. The Second Arrondissement has the fewest trees, 739. Experiments are about to be made to cultivate exotic flora in the streets and gardens of the capital.

The expression "Vox populi vox Dei" —the voice of the people is the voice of God—has been used only in a political application. Its earliest known use is in the writings of William of Malmesbury, who was born A. D. 1075 or 1095, and died 1142. He quoted the expression as a proverb even in his time sufficiently well known.

In Mandargudi there is a large idol temple, and the area of its court is ten or eleven acres. The idol employs a whole retinue of servants—servants to wake him in the morning, to take him to bathe, to cook his breakfast, to wait on him, to grow flowers for him, to fan him, to sing for him and to take him for an airing. In a town of 20,000 inhabitants, the chief events and interests concern the idol. And there are eighty other temples in the town beside.

Kentucky has been called the dark and bloody ground. The name is said to be a translation of the Indian word "Kain-tuk-ee," though some authors claim that it signifies "at the head of the river." The epithet was originally bestowed because the region was the scene of many sanguinary conflicts between the red men of northern and southern tribes. Later, the constant feuds rendered the phrase peculiarly appropriate to this locality.

Blotting-paper is mentioned by Rogers in his history of prices as selling in England as far back as 1465. It was a gray, un-sized paper. Sheets have been found between the leaves of manuscripts, where it had been left after using. Probably, like so many other "inventions," envelopes and colored papers for example—blotting paper was the result of a happy accident. Although blotting-paper is not a new invention, it is not long since it was comparatively little used. Sand was sprinkled on the written paper to absorb the ink, and old desks contain places where the sand-casters or sand-boxes were kept.

So far as known the first counterfeiting was done in 1758 by a man named Richard William Vaughn. He was engaged to a young lady in Stafford, England, and, desiring to impress her favorably with an idea of his wealth, he employed a number of artists, each to execute a portion of a Bank of England note. Through one of the engravers the discovery was made known. Vaughn was arrested, and his offense was deemed to come within the scope of the law punishing counterfeiting the King's coin. Vaughn was hanged, but the ease with which he demonstrated how counterfeiting could be done soon led to numerous imitations.

HE LOVED good bread, pie, and pastry, but his stomach was delicate. SHE LOVED to cook, but was tired and sick of the taste and smell of lard. SHE BOUGHT Cottolene, (the new shortening) and THEY LOVED more than ever, because she made better food, and he could eat it without any unpleasant after effect. Now THEY ARE HAPPY in having found the BEST, and most healthful shortening ever made - COTTOLENE.

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"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

Friend—I suppose everything is settled in regard to the marriage of your daughter? Stoakley—Well, yes, everything but the bills.

He—May I ask you for a dance? She—Certainly; the last one on the list. He—But I'll not be here, then. She—Neither will I.

He—I don't believe you'll ever marry me! Why you've already been engaged to nine men! She—Yes; but I never married any of them George.

She—I hope it isn't my twenty thousand that you're after George? Mr. Grasper—Believe me—no, darling. I'd marry you if you had only nineteen thousand.

Lady (on leaving a crowded street car) Well, I'm glad to get out of this crush. I've had to stand on one foot all the way. Voice from the corner—Yes, and that one foot was mine.

Riggle—What did Miss Dawson say when you broke off your engagement with her? Twaggle—She didn't say anything; she was speechless. Riggle—What a wife you've missed!

Sawdoff—Did you give that note to my wife? Boy—Yessur Sawdoff—And what did she say? Boy—She never said nothin'. There was two more women there, an' they all jes' kep' on talking.

Great author—Waiter, this steak is as tough as leather. Waiter—I've always heard you was an original character, sir; but I'm hanged if you don't just say the same as all on 'em do!

But, Emma, how can you prefer the plain and shabbily dressed Julius to my elegant and handsome brother? That is quite simple; your brother is in love with himself and Julius with me.

Salesman—Now, ma'am, what can I show you? Lady—I am looking for a cheap dress pattern. Salesman (trusquely)—Other side of the store for cheap dress goods; this is the bargain counter.

Inquiring person—What time did the hotel catch fire? Fireman—Midnight. Inquiring person—Everybody got out safe? Fireman—All except the night watchman. They couldn't wake him up in time.

If Torkins pays me what he owes me, I shall go to the World's Fair this summer. And it Torkins doesn't pay you what he owes you? Well, it will probably be Torkins that will go to the World's Fair.

Lady (leaving a shop)—Ah! I am up to the tricks of these people. I made him come down two shillings on the price. Stopman (to himself)—I am up to the tricks of these lady customers. I put the price up four shillings.

Husband—Do you know that every time a woman gets angry she adds a new wrinkle to her face? Wife—No, I did not; but it is so, I presume it is a wise provision of Nature to let the world know what sort of a husband a woman has.

Brethren, said a preacher when the collection was being made, perhaps one of you will be good enough to put a needle and some thread in the bag, so that I may be enabled to make some use of the buttons with which you are all so liberal.

Wife—Why, Charles, what do you mean by burning our old love-letters? Husband—I have been reading them, my dear. And it occurred to me that after I die someone who wished to break my will might get hold of them, and use them to prove I was insane.

What trade are you? asked his worship. Sure, now, your honor, an I am a sailor. You a seafaring man! I question whether you were ever at sea in your life. Be jabbers, now, and does your honor think I came over from Oreland in a waggin'?

You have a lively set of clerks," he said to the proprietor of the establishment. "It must be pleasant and profitable to have employees so full of energy and enthusiasm."

"Yes," responded the proprietor; "we close early to-day, and they are getting ready to go home."

Mr. Fitts—What are you smiling at, dear? Mrs. Fitts—I was just thinking how you used to sit and hold my hand for an hour at a time, before we were married, how silly you were! Mr. Fitts—I wasn't silly at all. I held your hand to keep you away from the piano.

Mrs. McShantée (triumphantly)—I see you are taking in washin' again, Mrs. McProudee. Mrs. McProudee—(whose husband has just lost a paying job)—Sure it's only to amuse the children. They wants the windies covered with steam, so that they can make pictures on them.

I should like to meet your friend yonder, whom you have introduced to many people this evening. "Sh-h! You don't know what you ask. I have made him acquainted with a lot of fellows whom I don't like, in order that he may have some one to borrow money of beside myself."

Chipinoo—My boy does not seem to care for business at all. All commercial transactions seem to bore him. Can you suggest any business that would be likely to be attractive to him? Underdeek—If you mean a business in which he will take a big interest, you might make a pawnbroker of him.

Jinks—That fellow Sillipate is the most inexcusable fool I ever saw. Winks—What has he been doing to you? Jinks—A few days ago someone invited him to dinner at our boarding-house. Well, sir, that idiot just praised every dish on the table, and complimented the landlady on her cooking, until she raised her terms two pounds a week.

Clara, I love but thee alone." Thus sighed the tender youth. "Oh, hear me, then, my passion own. With trembling lips and earnest tone, I swear I speak the truth." He paused—a blush o'erspread her cheek. She let him draw her near. Scarce for emotion could she speak. Yet she did ask, in accents meek, "How much have you a year?"

Restaurant Proprietor (to head waiter)—I want you to pay particular attention to the guests from this time out. Head waiter (surprised)—Have I been negligent, sir? Proprietor—You misunderstand me, James I want you to keep your ears open, and if you find the guests have been to the Chicago Exposition, tack about two dollars more on the bill. They'll never notice it.

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Princess Christian is an adept jam maker. The Chinese Emperor some time ago had 260 pairs of boots made for himself.

Before the Behring Sea Court of Arbitration, Sir Charles Russell made one of the longest speeches on record. It lasted for eleven days, and Sir Charles spoke for forty-two hours.

Walter Besant, the English author, has come to this country to attend a convention of authors at the Chicago Fair. He will visit Boston to meet Dr. Holmes and other American writers.

Alphonse Daudet has never been present at any of the "first nights" of his dramas, and it is only from the demeanour of his co-cierge next day that he learns if his play has been successful.

Sister Gertrude, a nun in the Loretto Convent at Dublin, has written a drama, entitled "Nemesius." It is dedicated to the memory of the martyrs of the catacombs and has been performed at Loretto Abbey.

The Queen of the Belgians is very fond of music, a good pianist, and a performer on the harp. She has composed one opera, called "Wanda." The King hates music, and when the piano is opened he vanishes from the room.

One of the most curious State offices is that held by Sir Wyndham Anstruther, who is the Heritable Carver of the Royal Household—an office created by James I. It is a long time since the Anstruthers carved the Royal meat.

The millionaire Baron Hirsch, is preparing to make a visit to the Argentine Republic, where, for two years past, he has been striving to establish Jewish colonies, and where he has purchased a good deal of land for colonizing purposes.

The Dowager Duchess of Sutherland claims the distinction of being one of the few women who have seats on the directorate Board of a public company, and reports she displays considerable ability in the management of a coal mine.

Last season 12,000 head of game shot on the Sandringham estate was distributed by the Prince of Wales among his employes, tenants, railway officials, intimate friends, and relatives. The circular game-larder, which is detached from the house, holds as much as 6,000 head.

No State ceremonial, or public matter in which the Queen takes part, is even planned without all the details having been submitted to her Majesty; and all programmes which are published before she has authorized them are liable to be cancelled, in consequence of their premature appearance.

Sir William Fraser, in his new book, tells how on one occasion Brigham Young and his numerous wives attended a performance of "The Lady of Lyons." Young "sat quietly without a word during the greater part of the time; but when the agony was piled up, he rose, and, followed by his spouses, left the theatre, exclaiming: "I won't stand such an almighty row being made about one woman!"

A favourite contribution of the Baroness Burdett-Coutts to ordinary appeals for charity is a pound, which is enclosed in a superfine, court-shaped envelope, frequently with the name of the recipient traced by her own hand, while the rest of the address is added in a different handwriting, presumably her secretary's. The envelope is carefully sealed with red wax, bearing the monogram "B. C.," and surmounted by a coronet.

This story is told at the expense of the Empress of Austria, in connection with royal photographs. Permission to be granted a sitting by her Majesty was always refused, till one up-to-date photographer insisted to the trade a counterfeit presentation, which was so unlike as to be almost a caricature. The royal vanity was touched, and thenceforth appeared more pleasing and much more truthful portraits of the Empress.

Like many another distinguished author of the day, Mr. B. L. Farjeon, the novelist, began his career in journalism. Leaving school at fourteen, owing to the poverty of his parents, Mr. Farjeon emigrated to Australia, and after some experience of "the bush," took to writing for the newspapers. In course of time Mr. Farjeon became editor and part-proprietor of a New Zealand daily paper, and it was thus busily occupied that he commenced and finished his first story, "Grit."

The Sultan of Morocco not long ago discovered that one of his viziers was becoming too powerful. He therefore summoned him to tea and complimented him on his great wealth. The vizier, becoming vain, boasted of the number of his houses, horses, wives and slaves, and the Sultan rebuked him, saying that he was too rich. To show the man exactly what he was worth, His Majesty had him taken by soldiers to the slave market, where he was put up for sale, and received only one bid of 8d. His property was also taken from him.

When the Queen is in the Highlands, a messenger starts from Whitehall at two o'clock every afternoon, and arrives at Balmoral at six o'clock next morning. The Queen transacts business between half-past ten and half-past six, so that the boxes which arrive early in the morning are returned the same afternoon, the messenger starting about half-past two and arriving in London at half-past seven next morning. A messenger leaves Balmoral every day except Saturday, and one arrives every day except Monday. The Queen, of course, has also a private telegraph wire.

The good-nature of Miss Ellen Terry is well known. There is a pretty little story which deserves to be recorded. She was passing along Oxford street one cold winter's day when suddenly her attention was attracted to two little poorly-clad children flattening their noses on a confectioner's window. As she drew near she perceived their eyes were fixed longingly on a dish of newly-baked buns exposed for sale, and they were busily counting the currants which graced the top of each bun. The kind-hearted actress entered the shop, had the dish of buns placed in a bag, and then put them in the hands of the surprised children. With a few cheering words, she left the little ones wondering who the kind fairy was who had made them possessors of more buns than they had ever had in their lives.

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