

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

The speed of the falcon often exceeds 150 miles an hour.

It is estimated that the cotton crop of the United States in 1892 was 9,038,707 bales.

To prevent a lamp from smoking soak the wick in vinegar and dry it well before you use it.

Oriental gardeners now produce "changeable roses," which are white in the shade and blood-red in the sunlight.

Among the natives of the West Indies baked snakes are a great feature in the menu, with palm-tree snout beetles.

There is in Glasgow what is said to be the largest steam crane in the world. When recently tested it was found capable of lifting 150 tons.

Diamonds so small that 1,500 of them weigh but a carat have been cut in Holland.

The artificial stone recently produced in England by an electrical process are also about this size.

In a work on criminology the learned investigator says that out of ninety-eight young men criminals, 44 per cent., did not blush when examined.

The first team of English cricketers to visit Australia was the one under the captaincy of H. H. Stevenson, which went over in 1861; but it was not till seventeen years later that an Australian team came to England.

There are no native kangaroos except on the continent of Australia. That country contains about 11,000,000 of them.

Quill toothpicks came first of all from France. The largest factory in the world is near Paris, where several million quills are dealt with yearly.

At Cotta, in Saxony, the names of persons who did not pay their taxes last year are printed and hung up in all the restaurants and saloons of the city.

The ink with which all the U. S. government paper-money is printed is made only by one man, who alone has the secret of its composition, the formula having been given to him by his father, the inventor of the ink, on his death-bed.

There is a difference of opinion as to when the society of Oddfellows originated. The oldest lodge of which there is any record, however, met in 1745, the places of meeting being three taverns—one in South-west, the other in Hatton Garden, and the third in Smithfield.

A statistician who has been looking into the matter of divorce has found that the proportion of divorces to population is least in Ireland—only one divorce to every 400,000 inhabitants.

The practice of keeping juries without food pending their decision of an action has long been obsolete. There was a time, however, when it was strictly carried out.

The alligator is an American variety of the crocodile; in outward appearance the chief difference between an alligator and a crocodile is that the former has a broader and shorter head, and a blunter snout.

The Almanac de Gotha is an almanac published in Gotha, the capital of the two Duchies of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, which form one of the States of the German Empire.

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TRYING AN EXPERIMENT.

Wanted to See the Man Who Put a Piece in the Paper.

He came in with an interrogation point in one eye and a stick in one hand. One eye was covered with a handkerchief and one arm in a sling. His bearing was that of a man with a settled purpose in view.

"I want to see," says he, "the man that puts things into the paper."

We intimated that several of us earned a frugal livelihood in that way.

He went on calmly, but in a voice tremulous with suppressed feeling and indistinct through the recent loss of half a dozen or so of his front teeth.

"Just so. I don't know much about this business; but I want to see a man—the man that wrote a little piece about pouring cold water down the spine of a drunken man's back and making him instantly sober. If you please, I want to see that man. I would like to talk with him."

Then he leaned his stick against the desk and moistened his serviceable hand, and resumed his hold on the stick as though he was weighing it. After studying the stick a moment, he added, in a somewhat louder tone:

"Mister, I came here to see that man. I want to see him badly."

We told him that particular man was not in.

"Just so. They told me before I came that the man I wanted to see wouldn't be anywhere. I'll wait for him. I live in North London, and I've walked seven miles to converse with that man. I'll sit down and wait for him."

He sat down by the door and reflectively smote the floor with his stick; but his feelings would not allow him to keep still.

"I suppose none of you didn't ever pour much cold water down any drunken man's back to make him sober?"

None of us in the office had ever tried the experiment.

"Just so. I thought just as likely you had not. Well, mister, I have. I tried it yesterday, and I have come seven miles on foot to see the man that wrote that piece. It wasn't much of a piece, I don't think; but I want to see the man that wrote it just a few minutes."

"You see, John Smith, he lives next door to my house, and he gets how-come-you-so every little while. Now, when he's sober he's all right; but when he's tipsy he goes home and breaks dishes and throws the fire-irons about, and makes it inconvenient for his wife, and sometimes he goes out calling on his neighbors, and it isn't pleasant."

"Not that I want to say anything about Smith, but me and my wife don't think he ought to do so. He came home a bit the worse yesterday, and broke all the kitchen windows in his house, and followed his wife about with the carving-knife, talking about her liver, and after a while he lay down by my pailing and went to sleep."

"I had been reading that little piece, and I thought if I could pour some water down the spine of his back, and make him sober, it would make his wife more comfortable; so I poured a bucket of cold water down John Smith's spine of his back."

"Well," said I, as our visitor paused, "did it make him sober?"

"Our visitor took a firm hold on his stick, and replied, with an increased emotion:

"Just so. I suppose it did make him as sober as a judge in less time than you could say Jack Robinson; but, mister, it made him angry—it made him the angriest man I ever saw; and Mr. John Smith is a bigger man than me, and stronger. He is a good deal stronger. I never knew he was half strong till yesterday; and he's handy with his fists, too."

"Then he went for you, did he?" we asked, innocently.

"Just so. Exactly. He went for me the best he knew; but I don't hold no grudge against John Smith. He isn't a man to hold a grudge against. I only want to see the man that wrote that piece. I feel as though it would soothe me to see that man. I want to show him how a drunken man acts when you pour water down the spine of his back. That's what I come for."

Our visitor, who had poured water down the spine of a drunken man's back, remained until six o'clock in the evening, and then went down to the Strand to find the man that wrote that little piece.

The man he was looking for crawled out from under a desk, and has gone to China for a little holiday, and will not be back before September, 1894.

Dodging the Hatter.

About fifty years ago a hatter in the south of England had a sign hung outside his door, with "J. Dodging" printed on it. There was a young clerk who was in the habit of passing by the shop every morning. One day he went in to buy himself a new hat, and left his old one to be done up, promising to call for it in two days' time, and then pay for his new one.

Day after day went on and he never turned up; he went to his business another way. So the hatter, becoming tired of waiting for his money, went one morning at the usual hour in search of him, and meeting him he exclaimed—

"Now, then, young man, I've got you. I am Dodging the hatter."

The young fellow then coolly exclaimed: "Oh, how strange! I am doing the very same thing."

Had Been There Himself.

Mr. and Mrs. Fitts were out driving. "I wonder," said she, "just what the poor horse's feelings are? It must be just horrid to be driven and dragged around, without any idea as to where one is going, except as someone directs."

"I fancy I can appreciate his feelings," replied Mr. Fitts calmly. "I imagine he feels just about as I do when you take me out on a shopping trip."

Sure to Get Him on that Point.

A Dutchman was whipping his boy one day. After laying on the rod for some time he stopped, and said:—"Vot you tink now, Hans?"

"Nothing, father."

"Yes, you do; you tink your fadder is a tonkey. Now I liek you for dat."

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

The Marquess of Londonderry has the smallest pony known. It weighs only sixteen pounds, and at its birth was but nineteen and a half inches high.

It is said that, on the principle that the laborer is worthy of his hire, Princess Louise accepted a handsome professional fee from the subscribers for her statue of the Queen.

Prince Bismarck is determined never to grow bent. When taking his daily walk he carries a stout cudgel across his back, held between his elbows. This helps to keep himself erect.

The wedding ring of the Princess May was made of gold produced in Britain. The nugget from which the ring has been manufactured was taken from the gold mines of Merionethshire, and is said to be a remarkably fine and pure specimen. The ring weighs about half an ounce.

The Princess Margaret of Connaught, who is only 11 years old, took her mother's place at the recent opening of a bazaar at Southsea. Her father accompanied her, and the two were addressed as "Your Royal Highnesses," much to the delight of the little Princess, who was presented with a handsome casket.

The Shah of Persia is extremely fond of children. When he arrived at Brighton on the occasion of his last visit to England, the company assembled there to receive him was extremely astonished to see him suddenly leave his carriage, hurry down to the beach, and join most heartily in the games of the youngsters who were playing there.

The German Emperor has a magnificent wine cellar, containing precious brands from all parts of the globe. Each brand has its separate inclosure, shut in by iron railings, with a tablet affixed giving name, age, price, and number of bottles. The head butler is an American. No flasks or decanters are ever placed on the Imperial table, but the wine is poured out by the footmen from the original bottles.

Professor Barnard, of the Lick Observatory, is still young, though the discoverer of sixteen comets. He is now busy photographing the Milky Way, on which task he has been engaged two years, and he will require three years more to complete it, for the labor involved is long and arduous. The old text-book gives the stars in the Milky Way as 20,000,000, but he says he can photograph more than that number in a dry-plate exposure of five minutes.

When Philippa Fawcett came out at the head of the Wrangler's list, three years ago, the university authorities smiled in a dazed sort of way and hinted that it was an accident. But this year no fewer than ten women have passed the Cambridge Mathematical Tripos examinations, two of them having attained the rank of Wrangler. However, they cannot label themselves as such. Examined only as a favor, they cannot take the degrees which their intellect and industry have won.

John Ruskin has had some curious experiences in the attempted realization of his ideals. He has been a lodging house keeper in a slum, in order to oust the 12-per-cent. sweater; a tradesman, with a view to providing the poor with cheap and good tea; and a weaver of home-spun, hand-made wools. His greatest sacrifice to his convictions, however, was made in the capacity of a crossing sweeper, when, broom in hand, with the assistance of a small staff of helpers, he undertook to, and really did, keep certain streets between the British Museum and the parish of St. Giles cleaner than did the public scavengers themselves.

Prince Krapotkin, the Russian revolutionist, was for many years in the employment of the Czar's Government, where his zeal and scientific knowledge won him much honor. He was led into the revolutionary movement by a visit to Belgium, and the industrial parts of Switzerland, where he joined the extreme section of the "International." Of the twenty-one years that have since passed five have been spent by the Prince in prison in Russia and in France. From the Russian gaol he escaped, and in France he was reprieved by the President after about half his sentence of five years' imprisonment for Anarchist agitation had expired.

An interesting traveller has reached London, M. de Bernoff, the Russian journalist, who has walked the whole distance from Moscow, with the exception of course of the "silver streak." He has had some exciting experiences. Just before starting his valet, Padlewski, left him, and created great excitement by murdering Count Seliverstov in Paris. Having fairly started on his journey, M. de Bernoff was robbed three times, and was once attacked by brigands. In Bavaria he was arrested as a spy, and kept in prison for some time. After a brief stay in England he will go on to New York, and walk through the States, paying a visit to Chicago.

For more than thirty years J. H. Blackburne has played chess. He is now fifty. He has played fifteen games blindfold, simultaneously. After such a contest, however, it is said that he cannot sleep for hours. He often discards the game for weeks, declaring that, after a hard-fought match, the sight of a chess-board becomes hateful to him. It is said that the first time he ever played Steinitz was at a club, where some friends, anxious for sport, managed to bring them together. Their identity was kept secret from one another, and each thought the other some ambitious amateur. After the opening moves, however, both realized that it was to be a hard fight. The game lasted nearly four hours, and ended in a draw.

Madame Sarah Bernhardt is a firm believer in the supernatural, and relates an instance of the mysterious spiritual sympathy existing between her and her son Maurice. When at New York on her first American tour, she woke one night after a terrible dream, in which she had seen her son bitten by two mad dogs. The vision made such an impression on her mind that early next morning she telegraphed to Maurice, and received the reply that he had been bitten by two dogs, but that the wounds in his arms were not serious. Moreover, the dogs were not rabid, but had been immediately killed. Madame Bernhardt could, she asserts, mention numerous other circumstances in her life which it would be impossible to put down to mere chance or coincidence.

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