

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

The British House of Lords has 572 members.

Absolutely pure gold is said to be 24 carats fine.

The United States produce 46,000,000 tons of hay.

Scientists are of the opinion that some icebergs last for 200 years.

No one can breathe at a greater height than seven miles from the earth.

In all countries more marriages take place in June than in any other month.

The farmer in Japan who has ten acres of land is looked upon as a monopolist.

The first American coins were made in England in 1612 for the Virginia Company.

The first English gold coins were minted in 1257, in the forty-second year of Henry III.

Liebig, the chemist, says the human body is composed of air—condensed and uncondensed.

At the beginning of the Christian era the relative values of gold and silver were as 1 to 9.

In 1631 the invention of milling the edges of coins, to prevent clipping, was introduced.

The price of horseflesh, when sold in England for human food, ranges from 3d. to 9d. a pound.

With a population of nearly 5,000,000 Switzerland consumes 27,000,000 quarts of brandy every year.

The number of emigrants who left Irish ports in 1892 was 51,000, a decrease of 8,868 as compared with 1891.

German dentists now make false teeth of paper. They are said to be a very natural imitation of the real article and to last for years.

In tropical forests such a proportion of the plants are of the sensitive variety that sometimes the path of a traveller may be traced by the wilted foliage.

In some parts of New Zealand orange-growing is a very profitable industry. Sometimes the crop from an acre of trees amounts in value to more than \$1,000.

A museum now being erected at Leyden will be the largest in the world next to the British Museum. Within its walls space will be provided for 80,000 stuffed birds.

The National Debt of Great Britain has been very much greater than it is today. In 1816, the year after Waterloo, it amounted to £846,000,000; while at the end of the last financial year the total was £675,332,339.

The most lucrative post in the world's colonial services, next to that of the Viceroy of India, is held by the Dutch governor general of Java, who is appointed practically for five years, and draws a salary of £14,000 a year.

Mr. Alexander Graham Bell calculates that a mother, in talking to her infant, speaks 35,000 words a day—equal to about four hours' continuous talking, and this, notwithstanding the fact that the baby does not know what any single one of the 35,000 words means.

In 1778 the heat of Bologna was so great that numbers of people were stifled. In July, 1793, the heat again became intolerable. Vegetables were burned up and fruit dried on the trees. The furniture and wood work in dwelling houses cracked and split, and meat went bad in an hour.

The origin of "a feather in his cap" is thus explained:—In Asia and among the American Indians it was a general custom that he who killed an enemy should wear a feather in head-gear, and he was permitted to add a fresh feather to his cap for every other whom he afterwards slew.

The "Parliament of Bats" met at Leicester in the reign of Henry VI. It was so-called because, on the king forbidding the members to wear swords, they brought with them instead clubs and long staves. When clubs were ruled out of order members carried stones and lumps of lead instead.

More than one-third of the total revenue of the United Kingdom is derived from alcohol and tobacco. The Excise duty on spirits amounts to more than twelve millions; the Customs duty to more than five millions; the Excise duty on beer to more than eight millions; the Customs duty on tobacco to ten millions.

A statistician has estimated that a man fifty years old has worked 6,500 days, has slept 6,000, has amused himself 4,000, has walked 12,000 miles, has been ill 500 days, has partaken of 36,000 meals, eaten 16,000 pounds of meat and 4,000 pounds of fish, eggs and vegetables, and drunk 7,000 gallons of fluid.

Giraffes have become absolutely priceless since the Derwishes have occupied the basin of the Upper Nile. They were once to be bought for about £240 each, now a good giraffe would fetch over £1,000. The Jardin d'Acclimation at Paris recently refused to sell three very young ones for £2,000. Elephants, on the contrary, rarely vary in price, ranging from between £160 to £480.

After a long study of the earth's political geography, Dr. A. Oppel has concluded that about 1,700,000 square miles are uninhabited or ownerless, and about 5,000,000 square miles are without settled government. The remaining 45,000,000 square miles are occupied by seventy-five definite states, most of them so insignificant that the eighteen largest take up 87 per cent. of the whole area.

Railways are comparatively few in Norway, owing to the cost of construction in a mountainous country, and to the disinclination of the people to speculative enterprise. The highways, however, are excellent, and one may "travel post" almost anywhere in a public carriage or post-chaise. The post stations are seven miles apart, and the traveller changes horse and carriage at each one of these stations.

The stock of paid notes for five years in the Bank of England is about 77,745,000 in number, and they fill 13,400 boxes, which if placed side by side would reach 2½ miles. If the notes were placed in a pile they would reach to a height of 5½ miles, or if joined end to end would form a ribbon 12,455 miles long. Their original value was over £1,750,626,600, and their weight over 90½ tons.

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WHAT THE EYES SAY.

Their Color and Form Claimed to be Indications of Character.

Undoubtedly, the most expressive organ of the human face is the eye. It has a language of its own, which may only be interpreted by those who have studied its interesting dialect.

The color and form of the eye are unerring indications of character. Take the color first.

Brown eyes invariably indicate a sympathetic and kindly disposition; their owners are amiable, and may generally be regarded as trustworthy.

Grey eyes usually denote thoughtfulness, tact, and discretion; while black ones are almost always associated with a rash and impulsive nature.

Blue eyes may be variously interpreted, according to size and form. When they are normal in size and very clear and sparkling, their possessor is of an ardent, hopeful, enthusiastic turn of mind—vivacious and merry in temperament; but lustreless, diminutive blue eyes are not a good sign, most especially when they recede far under the forehead; they generally show a selfish, unsympathetic, and suspicious character.

Large blue eyes are usually tokens of a receptive and potent mind, sometimes allied with extreme sensitiveness and even jealousy.

Again, take the form and size of the organ of vision.

Very large eyes in a diminutive countenance are generally a sign of latent malevolence.

Oblique eyes indicate craftiness.

A full round pupil denotes fickleness and passion.

Eyes partially closed are tokens of astuteness, often combined with insincerity.

Blank staring eyes bespeak an unoriginal mind, crude perceptions, and great pretentiousness.

A clear, shapely pupil upon a pure white iris suggests purity and nobility of character.

Eyes that move slowly denote innate shrewdness and tactful ability.

Diminutive black eyes beneath heavy brows are tokens of great sagacity and supreme cunning.

All Had the Same Idea.

The parishioners of a small village in the neighborhood of St. Emilion determined on making an Easter present to their dear old cure. To effect this it was unanimously agreed that each of them should contribute a couple of litres of wine. One of the villagers having provided a hoghead for the purpose, every man brought his quota of the vintage, and the barrel was speedily filled.

Shortly after, the cure invited to dinner a select few of the subscribers to this novel testimonial. Of course, this curious wine—the result of a mixture of everybody's vintage—had to be tasted, and the servant returned from her visit to the cellar holding in her hand a large jug of water!

"What is this?" asked the cure.

"The new wine, sir," replied the servant.

The cure was dumfounded at this strange result—not so the guests, who were splitting their sides with laughter.

Each man had said to himself, with the craft of a true French peasant, "If I put a couple of litres of water, instead of the wine I promised, into that great barrel, no one will be the wiser."

The unfortunate part of it was that every man had been seized with the same idea!

Cannot Lose its Grip.

The mechanism of the leg and foot of a chicken or other bird that roosts is a marvel of design," said a well-known taxidermist recently. "It often seems strange that a bird will sit on a roost and sleep all night without falling off, but the explanation is simple."

"The tendon of the leg of a bird that roosts is so arranged that when the leg is bent at the knee the claws are bound to contract, and thus hold with a sort of death-grip the limb around which they are placed."

"Put a chicken's feet on your wrist and then make the bird sit down, and you will have a practical illustration on your skin that you will remember for some time."

"By this singular arrangement, seen only in such birds as roost, they will rest comfortably, and never think of holding on, for it is quite impossible for them to let go until they stand up."

How he Did it.

Thouin, the gardener of the Jardin des Plantes, sent a rather simple-minded servant with two rare figs, to his friend Buffon. On the way the servant, no longer able to control his craving for the fruit, ate one.

Buffon, who had been previously informed that he was to receive two figs, asked the servant where the second was, and the man was obliged to confess his fault.

"How did you do that?" cried the enraged Buffon.

The servant took the remaining fig and, swallowing it, replied:—

"I did like that."

How Fate Pursued Him.

Titlton—Lord Lacash went out to see the Chicago Exhibition, didn't he?

Titlton—Yes; but he only got as far as New York.

Titlton—How was that?

Titlton—Why, he got snapped up by an American heiress, and, of course, she insisted on spending the honeymoon in Europe.

When Weary And Languid.

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Why Dew is Formed.

The earth revolves on its axis once in every twenty-four hours, and in consequence of the tremendous pace at which it travels it prespires freely.

The convocation of Bishops at Canterbury England, the highest authority in the Anglican church has declared that "The religion of Christ has nothing to fear from the reasonable and careful extension of the Sunday opening of libraries, art galleries, museums and industrial exhibitions."

The consecration service of the Rev. William Lawrence, D. D., as bishop of the diocese of Massachusetts, will be held in Trinity church, Boston, on Thursday, Oct. 5.

GOOD Food - Digestion - Complexion

are all intimately connected—practically inseparable. Though the fact is often ignored, it is nevertheless true that a good complexion is an impossibility without good digestion, which in turn depends on good food.

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

The Duchess of York has taken a university extension course in Elizabethan literature.

A straw hat, plaited entirely by Queen Victoria, has been sent to Chicago for exhibition.

Lady Caithness gave a ball in Paris, when supper was served at 5 o'clock in the morning.

Thomas A. Edison, the inventor, recently said: "I never carried a watch in my life. I never wanted to know what time it was."

The Prince of Wales, who is very fond of all dogs, has a special affection for a little Dandie Dimont, Venus by name, formerly the property of the late Duke of Clarence.

Sir Patteson Nickalls, who was recently created a knight, is one of the most popular figures on the London Stock Exchange, where he is known to his fellow-members as "Pat" Nickalls.

Rear Admiral Thomas O. Selfridge, United States Navy, retired, probably the oldest naval officer in the world, has been visiting relatives in Boston. He is 91 years old having been appointed a midshipman from Massachusetts on New Year's day, 1818.

The Queen, when possible, brews her own tea. She uses orange-pekoe, at 5s., and disapproves altogether of the general "blends." The Duchess of Edinburgh takes her tea in Russian fashion. It is brewed in a samovar, and drunk with a lemon in place of either sugar or cream.

Prince Yoshi Ito, the only son of the Mikado, is not quite fourteen. Girls are barred from succeeding to the throne in Japan, so that the family ambition is centred in this boy, though there are three small daughters in the Imperial Household, aged five, three, and a year and a half.

Mlle. Rosa Bonheur's love and loving study of animals have given her strange control over them. It is now several years since she gave to the Jardin des Plantes a beautiful lion and lioness, which to this day recognize her if she approaches their cage, and thrust their heads against the bars for the touch of her sympathetic little fingers.

The world of journalism almost lost M. Blowitz. M. Thiers offered him the French consular post at Riga, out of gratitude for the help he had given in the suppression of a local revolution at Marseilles. M. Blowitz was introduced to the Times by Lawrence Oliphant, who was then its Paris correspondent, Mr. Delane being the editor.