

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

Patents are issued by sixty-four governments in the world.

It is stated that 70 per cent. of the people of Ceylon live by agriculture.

No convents either for men or women are to be found in Sweden and Norway.

The Indian population of the United States, exclusive of Alaska, is 250,483.

The body of an average full-grown man weighs 154 lbs. The weight of the skeleton would be about 24 lbs.

Edinburgh has 22,000 cows, while Dublin comes next with 11,000, and London stands third with a cow population of 8,000.

Kangaroos are such a plague in Australia that the government pays a bounty of eight-pence for each of these animals that is killed.

No woman is allowed to work in a mine in England, but according to returns for 1892 6,099 women were employed about mines above ground.

The most expensive legislature in the world is that of France, which costs annually \$3,600,000. The Italian parliament cost \$430,000 a year.

Nearly 22,000 Hindoos lost their lives last year from being bitten by snakes. For this heavy death report the cobra and the no less formidable krait were mainly responsible.

Fifty years ago the income of the laboring population of England was 500,000,000 sterling, or about £20 per head; it is now between 1,400,000,000 and 1,000,000,000 sterling, or £37 per head.

The ruby in the centre of the Maltese cross on top of the British crown is the stone that was given to the Black Prince by King Pedro, of Castile, after the battle of Najara. Henry V., of England, wore it in his helmet at the battle of Agincourt.

There are in the United States thirty-two botanical stations. Systematic botany and the physiology of plants are studied more or less at all stations; and at every one of them particular attention is given to the maladies of plants and the disease causing fungi.

Country roads in China are never bounded by fences, but are entirely undefined. While the farmer has a right to plough up any road passing through his land, drivers of vehicles have an equal right—and they exercise it—to traverse any part of the country at large.

One hundred million tons of water pour over Niagara Falls every hour. This is said to represent 16,000,000 horse-power. Some idea of this enormous amount of water may be had by understanding that all the coal produced in the world would not make enough of steam to pump a stream of equal size.

Sneezing is averted by pressing the upper lip, because by doing so we deaden the impression made on a certain branch of the fifth nerve, sneezing being a reflex action excited by some slight impression on that nerve. Sneezing does not take place when the fifth nerve is paralyzed, even though the sense of smell is retained.

It is a somewhat singular fact, the rarest of all noses is that found where one would naturally expect to find it—in the middle of the face. Taking a hundred heads, at random, one will not find, on an average, more than three in which the bridge of the nose descends perpendicularly from a straight line drawn exactly between the eyes.

The annual rainfall varies from nothing, as in the Sahara in Africa and the coast of Peru, to 473 inches, as in Cherrapunji, in South-Western Assam. The greatest rainfall in England is at Seathwaite, 145 in.; London has 25; Washington, 41; Paris, 22; Pekin, 17; Cracow, 13; Rome, 31; Berlin, 24; San Francisco, 22; New York, 43; Vera Cruz, 183; Melbourne, 29.

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. In the United States the proportion of divorces is ominously large, 88.71 to every 100,000 of population, the largest known, in fact, save in Japan, the figures for that happy empire being 608.45 divorces to every 100,000 of population.

There are many substances which have a property of rendering the fabrics to which they are applied incombustible, but they usually spoil them, either by changing the color or stiffening them to such a degree that they cannot be used. An easy and safe way of protecting curtains against fire is said to be by steeping them in a solution of phosphate of ammonia, obtained by mixing a pint of water with about three ounces of phosphate. In this way the color and texture remain unaltered.

The average life expectancy in the United States is now 55 years; in England, among the urban population, it is 50, and among the ruralists, 54 years. Russians have a expectancy of but 28 years, approximately, and Chilians the same; while in Ellobed, in the Soudan, 23 years is a generation. The average life in the Rome of the Caesars was 18 years; and now it is 40 years. Within fifty years the average in France has increased from 28 to 45½ years, and in the days of Queen Elizabeth the English average was but 20 years.

A woman's chance to marry at 15 to 20 years of age is said to be 14½ per cent. From 20 to 25 the chance is increased to 62 per cent.; from 25 to 30 it diminishes to 18; from 30 to 35 to 15½ per cent. From 35 to 40 the chances of an unmarried woman sink to 3½ per cent.; from 40 to 45 a still further diminution is seen, her chance being 2½. From 45 to 50 the old maid's chance of getting a husband is but ¾ of 1 per cent., while from 50 to 55 she is supposed to have but ¼ of 1 per cent. of a chance. This table of averages does not apply to widows.

The printing offices of Oxford and Cambridge Universities are called respectively the Clarendon and the Pitt Press. The Clarendon Press owes its name to the fact that Lord Clarendon's History of the Rebellion was published by the Oxford University, and the profits of the first edition were devoted to the erection of Clarendon Building, now superseded by the University Press, though the old title is still often used. The building known as the Pitt Press, Cambridge, was erected out of the surplus of the fund raised for the statue of Pitt in Westminster Abbey.

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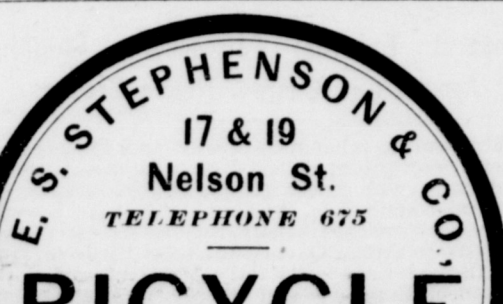
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A lady describing an ill-natured man says, "he never smiles but he feels ashamed of it."

"Bridget, did you hear me call?" "Yes mum, but you told me the other day never to answer you back."

Parent—This is your birthday, Tommy. What can I do for you that will cause you pleasure? Tommy—Spank Johnny!

First Gossip—Do you believe that awful story they are telling about Miss Prim? Second gossip—Yes. What is it?

Thirsty Tourist—Isn't two shillings warmer steep for a lemonade? Host—Steep? No! Why, you went and eat the lemon!

Buckton—Afterthoughts are best, Pat—Yis, sorr. Sure, an' a wise man is wan that always has his afterthoughts first of all.

"What kind of a memory have you?" "Bad—very bad." "In what particular?" "It remembers things that were better forgotten."

Mrs. Cumso—I advertised for a plain cook today. Mr. Cumso—Why didn't you advertise for a pretty one while you were about it?

A little girl, hearing her mother say that she was going into "half-mourning," innocently asked if any of her relations were "half-dead!"

"You say your husband is a great whistler?" "Yes, indeed, you ought to hear him sometimes when my milliner's bill comes home."

Hyson—Do you think marriage is a lottery? Henpeck—No, indeed. When you draw a blank in a lottery, that is the end of the matter.

Jumpuppe—It is wonderful how little a man can live on in this world. Jasper—Yes, especially when compared with the amount he wants.

Mabel—I really believe Tom thinks the world of me. Kate—I've often heard him say that this was a miserable world and he was heartily sick of it.

Butcher—How would a saddle of mutton suit you, ma'am? Miss B.—Very well; but let it be a side-saddle, because it's for my sister and myself.

Chipinote—I understand Solomon Isaacs died suddenly. What was the cause? Ukerdek—Someone told him his life insurance would expire next day.

Miss Oldmaid (very angular in figure)—Do you know Mr. Filde, the artist, wants me to stand for him as a model? Clara—What! Is he studying geometry?

Mr. Hardhead—I saved a big pile of money to-day. Mrs. H.—That is lovely. How? Mr. H.—Instead of suing a man for what he owed me, I let him have it.

A six-year-old was seated in a barber's chair. "Well, my little man," said the barber, "how would you like your hair cut? Oh, like papa's with a round hole at top."

Schoolmaster—Why was it that his great discovery was not properly appreciated until long after Columbus was dead? Nineteenth Century Schoolboy—Because he didn't advertise, sir.

Perdita—Why does Dikey Doolittle always keep his right hand gloved? Penelope—Why, don't you know? His right hand is a precious souvenir; he once shook hands with an English lord with it.

Kindly old gent—Well, my little man, what would you like to be when you grow up? Little man—I'd like to be a nice old gentleman like you, with nothing to do but walk around and ask questions.

Miss Kelly (to dry goods clerk)—Have you got any bustles?—A few. Bustles are going out, you know. Miss Kelly—They be! Gracious, if they go out much further, we girls will have to stand up all the time.

"There's no need of your sitting up so late for me to come home," suggested young Mr. Fitts to his wife's mother. "It's a habit I got into when waiting for you to go home," she explained, "and I can't get over it."

A young woman sent to a newspaper a poem entitled "I Cannot Make Him Smile," and was much displeased when the editor sent it back with a line saying that she would probably succeed if she showed him the poem.

Syms—Chicago presented the freedom of the city to the Duke de veragua. The resolutions were tendered on a solid gold salver. Symes—Who held the salver? Syms—One of the aldermen. Symes—Who held the alderman?

Mrs. Meadow (at city hotel)—Ooo! There's a fly in this soup. Mr. Meadow (who has travelled some)—Hush, Miranda, don't speak so loud. No use exposin' our ignorance. This 'tarnal bill of fare is in French, and mebbey we ordered fly soup.

Algy—Weginald, what did you say, you know, when you were presented to the Prince of Wales? Reginald (American duke, who'd been presented to H. R. H.)—Why, dear boy, the first thing I did was to apologize for the American Revolution.

Old gentleman (at his daughter's wedding)—Dy dear, I don't see how I am to get along without you. Bride—Oh! that'll be all right, pa. Since the ceremony was performed, my husband has confessed that he hasn't enough saved to go into house-keeping; so you won't lose me, after all.

Indignant Tourist (to Parisian hotel manager who had just presented his bill)—See here. You have charged me fifty centimes for writing-paper, and you know very well you have not furnished me with a scrap. Manager—Oui, monsieur, but it is the paper on which your bill is made out.

"Perhaps you are not aware that I had over a dozen proposals of marriage before I got yours," said Mrs. McDougall, stiffly, after a little tiff with her lord and master the other morning. "And perhaps, Madam you are not aware that I proposed marriage to nearly a score of women before I became acquainted with you," retorted that gentleman, haughtily.

"It seems to me," said Uncle Silas Sassafraz, as he read the rules and regulations tacked on the door of his room at the "Hyprine Hotel," "that these hotel people just systematically try to bleed people."

"What is it, father?" asked his wife. "Why, one of these dinged rules says, 'Don't blow out the gas,' and another says, 'Gas burned all night will be charged extra.' Now what's a fellow to do?"

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Mrs. Astor is said to never pay less than \$25 for a pair of shoes.

Duke Karl Theodor, of the royal house of Bavaria, has just performed his 2,000th successful operation for cataract.

Sir Edwin Arnold is a painter of much skill. He can manage a boat with any man, loves fishing, and cannot sleep by daylight.

Queen Christina of Spain believes that children could be brought up with much greater ease if each mother were allowed to punish, not her own, but her neighbour's children.

Mrs. Proctor, widow of the late Richard A. Proctor, the famous astronomer and the principal assistant in his professional work, has been appointed curator of the Proctor observatory at San Diego, Cal.

Miss Osgood, a Brooklyn lady, is the only American woman who has been admitted to work in the Sevres factory at Versailles. She worked there for a year and now reproduces the same work.

The two hereditary railway directors in England are the Duke of Sutherland on the London and North-Western, as owner of Trencham, and a similar privilege is by Act of Parliament attached to the owner of Wynnston on the Great Western.

It is once more current in society that the Prince of Wales is endeavoring to modify men's evening dress, and that the usual swallow-tails are soon to be replaced by a black or dark colored short coat, and also that knee-breeches are to be worn.

Baron Nathaniel Rothschild, of Vienna, is about to start on a hunting trip to Africa, to last six months. He has chartered a steamer for the use of himself and party where possible. The baron is an excellent amateur photographer, and purposes to bring back a number of photographs.

Edison, the inventor, prefers women machinists for the delicate details of his electrical machines. He says they have more fine sense about machinery in one minute than most men have in their whole existence. He backs up his statement by having 200 female employees in his works.

The new poet laureate will be Lewis Morris. The Queen and premier are agreed that he should be the man. He has been commissioned to write the marriage ode of the Duke of York and Princess May and that settles the question. The appointment will probably be officially announced next month.

The Ex-Express Eugenie spends two or three hours of every day in writing her memoirs. She has made special arrangements that her books shall not be published until twenty-five years after her death, and is so sensitive about her work that on no account will she allow anyone to have even a glimpse of her manuscript.