

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

Black, pink, and golden-yellow pearls are more valuable than white.

It is said that there are more herring eaten than any other kind of fish.

It is estimated that there are no fewer than 36,000 sightless beggars in France.

Brussels contains a clock which is wound up by the wind, and never by human hands.

Recruits for the Chinese army are not accepted unless they can jump a ditch 6 feet wide.

In the last twenty-five years the average of man's life has increased 5 per cent., or two years.

Machinery, it is said, produces ninety per cent. of the manufacturing labor of the United States.

The diadem of the Russian Empress, Anna, contains 2,536 large diamonds and a ruby valued at £80,000.

One hundred detectives are employed in the Bon Marche in Paris, whose only labor is to watch for shoplifters.

By a short passage of 148 miles the Languedoc ship canal in France saves a sea voyage of nearly 2,000 miles by the Straits of Gibraltar.

Metal pens date back to a fairly distant period, a bronze pen, nibbed in a similar manner to those now in use, having been discovered at Pompeii.

King Henry I. had an arm 36 inches long. That is why the English yard is its present length; a little fact which many students have learned and forgotten.

White or "Irish" potatoes are now used extensively in the manufacture of buttons. By means of certain acids potatoes can be hardened to almost the resistance of stone.

The biggest edible oysters in the world are found at Port Lincoln, in South Australia. They measure sometimes more than a foot across the shell, and are said to be of the finest flavor.

A loaf 600 years old may be seen in Derbyshire, England. It was included in a grant of land by the Crown in the reign of King John, and has remained in the Soar family, of Amboston, ever since.

The longest single telegraph wire span in the world is that across the river Kistna, between Bezorah and Sektanagun, India. Stretched from one mountain to another, the wire is more than 6,000 feet in length.

An untamed swallow, which had its nest in a farm near Roubaix, was caught, and taken in a cage to Paris, where it was released. It returned to its nest in ninety minutes, having accomplished a distance of 258 kilometres, or over two miles a minute.

The ear-rings worn by Italian women indicate the part of Italy the wearers belong to; the longer the ear-rings the farther south the women come from. In the extreme south most of the ear rings hang close to the shoulders; in the far north they are quite short.

During the last four years murders in the United States have almost doubled in number. In 1889 cases of homicide numbered 3,567; in 1892 they reached 6,792. Yet there were only 107 legal executions last year. The result is an increase in the number of lynchings.

If the number of persons daily entering the City of London were dispatched from any given station by train, as many as 1,977 trains, each conveying 600 persons, would be required for the purpose. If the trains were all joined together in a continuous line, they would extend 221 miles.

The area of New York State equals that of Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont combined. It is greater in size than Maine and Maryland together. Add the area of Ohio and New Jersey and the total is less than that of New York.

A block of coal believed to be the largest ever mined in America was taken out of a mine in Roslyn, Wash., several days ago. It is 24 feet long, 5 feet 8 inches wide, 4 feet 8 inches high, and weighs 41,000 pounds. It is, perhaps, the largest lump ever mined in the world, as it is larger than the block England is sending to the Chicago Fair as a prize specimen.

The eclipse of the sun which occurred on April 16 was, according to the British Chronological and Astronomical association, a recurrence after a long cycle of eclipses of one which took place in 860 B. C. On that ancient occasion there was a tumult in Nineveh because of the sun's face being darkened and Shalmaneser II. took possession of the throne, the people believing the gods were displeased with its then occupant. The story is told on an obelisk in the British Museum.

A singular custom obtains to this day in some of the towns on the Lower Rhine, namely, that of "selling" maidens at public auctions. For nearly four centuries, on Easter Monday—auction day—the town crier or clerk of St. Goar has called all the young people together, and to the highest bidder sold the privilege of dancing with the chosen girl, and her only, during the entire year. The fees are put into the public poor-box.

The complexity of animal structure is marvellous. A caterpillar contains more than 2,000 muscles. In a human body are some 2,000,000 perspiration glands, communicating with the surface by ducts, having a total length of some ten miles; whilst that of the arteries, veins, and capillaries must be very great; the blood contains millions of millions of corpuscles, each a structure in itself; the rods in the retina, which are supposed to be the ultimate recipients of light, are estimated at 30,000,000; and Meinerth has calculated that the grey matter of the brain is built of at least 600,000,000 cells.

Because the word viking has come to be pronounced with a long "i" in the first syllable, and the "k" in consequence been transferred to the second syllable, the popular impression is that the ancient viking was a monarch of the sea. As a matter of fact, the word means something very like pirate. "Vik" is almost equivalent to "wick" meaning creek, bay, or inlet, and "ing" is only a suffix of origin, a patronymic in some instances, as in the name Buckingham. The vikings then, were sons of the creek, or creekers, unpleasant persons who kept their light craft ready at hand in creeks and bays to sail forth and carry them to neighboring shores for plunder.

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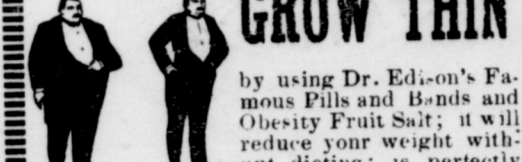
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"Humor is on the decline," said the funny man when he received back a rejected manuscript.

Jaggs—How is your brother getting along now? Baggs—Very slowly. He's a driver on a horse-car.

Mrs. Toperly—What did the doctor advise you to do for your red nose? Mr. Toperly—Oh, he advised me to diet.

Taylor—I've just measured four policemen for their uniforms. Essex—Ah, you've been getting a fit of the blues as it were.

She—So you're fully determined to marry her, are you? He—Absolutely. She—Um! Don't you ever feel sorry for her?

Bicycle-riding does not appear to be conducive to amiability. No sooner does a man bestir the wheel than he gets his back up.

Mr. Oldbeau (growing romantic)—Ah, how I wish I had lived in the knightly days of old. Miss Youngthing (growing weary)—Didn't you?

Bragley—Didn't you feel pretty cheap when her father kicked you down stairs? Chumpley—Well, I must confess that I felt very much below Pa.

Somebody says: "True happiness is found in pursuing something, not in catching it." The man who pursues the last car at night knows better.

Bighead—The world is full of men who are actors, though they are not on the stage. Flipper—Yes, and the stage is full of men who are not actors, though on it.

The boy who is whacked, cuffed, kicked, half-starved, over-worked, and otherwise neglected, generally, if he keeps out of prison and does not die, makes the best man.

Guest—Waiter, bring me some rice pudding. Waiter—Boss, I can't just recommend rice pudding today. "What is the matter with it?" "Nuffin, 'cept dar ain't none."

Merchant (to applicant).—Do you think you know enough to assist me in the office? Boy—Know enough! Why, I left my last place because the boss said I knew more than he did.

She—There's no poetry in a kiss. It's like a trunk. He—Like a trunk? She—You can always find a man to express it; and it's wiser to check it if you don't want it to go too far.

Mr. Wickwire—What is that woman across the way to sing? Mrs. Wickwire—My Sweetheart's Man in the Moon. Mr. Wickwire—Well if he don't hear her, it isn't her fault.

Uncle Treest (on his way to dentist's office).—Most likely it'll stop aches by the time I get in the chair. If it does I swan I'll pretend I've made a mistake and tell him I want a hair cut.

Mother—Horror! Do you play marbles for keeps? Little son—I never keep 'em, mamma. That's right. Yes'm I play right along until I lose 'em. Please give me five cents to buy some more.

The dainty hats in the store windows are evidence that milliners know how to trim their sales. And the dainty hats on the ladies' heads are evidence that the milliners know how to sell their trims.

Mrs. Hicks—Why won't you go to Dr. Tabernacle's church, dear? Hicks—I don't care to associate with that kind of people. The last time I went he told them they were all poor, miserable sinners.

Mrs. Walker—The baby's complexion seems to be growing darker every day. How do you account for it? Mrs. Chalker—I discovered that the milkman had been leaving us milk from a black cow.

McBride—I can't appreciate your funny fellow's jokes about women who shop but never buy. Snickers—Can't you? Why? McBride—The bills which come in on the first of every month seem to act as a preventive.

Enraged Customer—Look here; what kind of a shop do you call this? I've been waiting here over an hour, while my hat is being blocked! Salesman—Yes, sir; our sign outside says: "Block your hat while you wait."

Tailor (meeting friend on the street).—I thought you said you'd mail me that five-dollar bill that you owe me? Creditor—I did mean to, but when I went to the post-office to mail it I found this placard on the walls: "Post no bills."

Wife—Whv, Charles, what do you mean by burning our old love letters? Husband—I have been reading them, my dear. After I die, some one who wished to break my will might get hold of them and use them to prove I was insane.

Monoton citizen—Why are you trying to shoot that dog? Policeman—He's mad. Citizen—How do you know he's mad? Policeman—He refused water. Citizen—Monoton water? Policeman—Yes. Citizen—Bah! That's no sign.

Daughter—No, father, I cannot marry that man. He has red hair. Father—But, my dear daughter, that objection doesn't amount to anything. Don't you notice that he is almost quite bald, and in a short time will not have a single red hair on his head?

In her advertisement the lady principal of a school mentioned her lady assistant and her "reputation for teaching which she bears," so the printer left out the "which"; so the lady's advertisement went forth commending the lady's "reputation for teaching she bears."

Mrs. Merton—The baby I'm sure has the dumb ague; first he's burning up with fever and the next moment he's shivering with the cold. Dr. Pillum—Well, we'll soon break up the fever, and as for the latter symptom, you need not worry, it's only a chill in the heir.

"I—I must not listen to you, Mr. Capphead," protested the blushing girl, with eyes downcast. "You are only trifling, and—besides it is getting late."

"Please hear me out, Miss Helen," pleaded the infuriated young reporter. "I'll cut it down to 250 words."

For Scrofula

"After suffering for about twenty-five years from scrofulous sores on the legs and arms, trying various medical courses without benefit, I began to use Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and a wonderful cure was the result. Five bottles sufficed to restore me to health."—Bonifacia Lopez, 327 E. Commerce St., San Antonio, Texas.

Catarrh

"My daughter was afflicted for nearly a year with catarrh. The physicians being unable to help her, my pastor recommended Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I followed his advice. Three months of regular treatment with Ayer's Sarsaparilla and Ayer's Pills completely restored my daughter's health."—Mrs. Louise Riehl, Little Canada, Ware, Mass.

Rheumatism

"For several years, I was troubled with inflammatory rheumatism, being so lame, at times as to be entirely helpless. For the last two years, whenever I felt the effects of the disease, I began to take Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and had a spell of a long time."—E. T. Hansbrough, Elk Run, Va.

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

There has never been a Prime Minister of England since the time of Queen Elizabeth who has worn a beard, with the single exception of Lord Salisbury.

The Duke of Cambridge is the only member of the Royal Family, not excluding Her Majesty, who does not pay postage, he being exempted as Commander-in-chief.

The Princess Jerome Bonaparte (nee Paterson) used rather to look down on her plebeian father, who was wont, however, to take a harmless but satisfying revenge by addressing her as "My dear Betsy."

Prince Bismarck is credited with saying that when we read a medical book we fancy that we have all the maladies that it describes but when we read a book on morals we discover that our neighbors have all the faults pointed out.

Riaz Pacha, who now exercises great powers in Egypt, is a Hebrew by descent and religion. He is a man of enormous energy and will power, and has little fear of the young Khedive. He has many enemies, however, at Court.

The Countess de Nurasol, Miss Etta Hughes, and Fraulein Paula, who are respectively the Spanish, English and Austrian governesses of the infantas of Spain, receive salaries of £800 a year each and a home in the royal household.

That the Princess of Wales and her daughters are fond of photographic portraits of their friends may be told by the great number of cabinet portraits which adorn the drawing-rooms, morning-rooms, and boudoirs of Sandringham House.

The phonograph is being put to an excellent use by the Queen of Italy, who, while she often improvises charming little melodies, is unable afterward to repeat them. A phonograph is, therefore, placed on the piano when she plays, and in this way her impromptus are saved from oblivion.

An amusing story is told of Count Munster of the German Embassy in Paris. When he was Ambassador to St. James's he and his Austrian colleague, Count Beust, who arrived together at an evening party, were announced in stentorian tones by an anxious footman as "Their Excellencies Count Munster and Count Beust."

Sir William Harcourt has a pathetic interest in the death of Lord Derby, seeing that if it had occurred a month earlier the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have benefited, officially, to the tune of some £120,000. Such is the amount of the succession duties which falls to be paid through the demise of this millionaire Earl.

Professor Garner, who has interpreted about two hundred words of "monkey tongue" into our own language, is an American. He served in the Confederate army, and for some years, on the plains, carried on offensive and defensive operations against the Indians, an experience which developed his extraordinary powers of observation.

The greatest steeple-climber in England is said to be William Green. He has repaired fifty or more steeples and spires, and is sent for from all parts of the kingdom. His great achievements have been in repairing the spire of Salisbury Cathedral, 404 feet high; Louth, Lincolnshire, 350 feet; Grantham, 320 feet; and a steeple in Cambridgeshire, 280 feet.

"Do novelists make money?" is a question which Mr. Grant Allen has answered to his own satisfaction. His first book "Physiological Esthetics," was published at a loss, and his scientific work on "The Color Sense," which took him eighteen months to prepare, only brought him an average of three pounds per annum for ten years. Fiction pays him ever so much better.

France has lost one of its greatest men. M. Godillot is dead. His specialty was boots. He had an enormous manufactory near Paris, probably the largest of its kind in existence, and would turn out an order for, say, 30,000 pairs of boots for the army with the utmost despatch. His name lives in the French slang of the day, for his manufacture is so well known that Frenchmen commonly talk, not of their boots, but of their "godillots."

Sir Andrew Clark, Mr. Gladstone's doctor, shares the Prime Minister's devotion to High church doctrines. Out of his consulting-room in Cavendish Square he likes nothing better than a theological bout with two or three friends. Sir Andrew Clark has no small skill in such an argument and is well read in the theological literature. In his consulting-room he is humorous or grave, as the nature of the case may suggest, but for the imaginary invalid he has no pity.

It is an interesting fact that, although the Duke of Wellington is the ground landlord of the buried city of Silchester, which was deserted by the Romans, it is supposed in the fourth century, and never re-occupied, he is not at liberty to sell or give away the interesting relics which are from time to time discovered by the excavators, working under the Society of Antiquaries. The land was granted by the Crown to the Iron Duke, and in course of time it will revert to the nation, together with all treasure trove.

The foundations of the fortunes of the Bass family were laid by William Bass, who, rather more than a century ago, built the original brewery at Burton. It was his grandson, Michael Thomas Bass, father of the present Lord Burton, who made the name of the firm famous in every country where Englishmen penetrate. Although the firms of Bass and Allsopp are by far the largest, they do not nearly represent the brewing industry of Burton, where there are some thirty other breweries; Charringtons, Buxtons, Manns and Coopes all have branch establishments at the famous town on the Trent.

The Princess of Wales has the portraits of her family and near relations photographed upon cups and saucers of the most delicate china. The photograph is done in dull brown. This royal fancy has become the fashion, and portraits look out from all china milk jugs, cups, teapots, etc. Apropos of this tad was the gift of several young ladies to a popular society man, an amateur artist. He has a sumptuous studio in London, where he entertains his friends at afternoon tea. Some ladies he had entertained determined