

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

Venice is built on eighty islands.

White is the color of grief in China, Japan and Siam.

The French army prefers Irish horses for its cavalry.

Great Britain owns half the ocean ships of the world.

The Egyptians attributed the invention of beer to Osiris.

Living is nearly 40 per cent. cheaper in London than in New York.

"Root-walking Gentlemen" is the polite name for burglars in China.

California has forty Chinese temples, New York four, Idaho two, and Oregon one.

Sparkling champagne was first made by Petrus Perignon, a monk, who died in 1715.

In Russia, as in many other countries, both husband and wife have a ring in testimony of their nuptials.

A Healthy Man requires 16 to 20 times a minute, or over 20,000 a day; a child 25 to 35 times a minute.

Newfoundland rivals Ireland in that it is without reptiles. No snake, frog, toad, or lizard has ever been seen there.

The smallest tree in the world is the Greenland birch. Its height is less than three inches, yet it covers a radius of two or three feet.

The distance from the furthest point of polar discovery to the pole itself is 490 miles. During the past century scientists have made but fifty miles progress.

If all the cabs in London were put in a line, there would be a total length of 44 miles of cabs. Yet in London there is only standing room for 23 miles of them.

China makes a poor show in the journalistic world. For all its 401,000,000 inhabitants it has only 24 newspapers, of which 10 are daily ones and 14 appear at longer intervals.

During an average week about 80,000 letters on which the postage has not been paid, or insufficiently so, are discovered in London, and they are taxed to the amount of about £700.

The Tower Bridge, London, now nearing completion, will have cost £200,000. In its construction there have been used 24,000,000 bricks, 415,000 tons of granite, and nearly 16,000 tons of iron and steel.

At twenty years of age a temperate person is supposed to have a chance of living for forty-four years. Should the same person, still living a temperate life, reach the age of sixty, the chances are that he will live fourteen years longer.

The albatross, the largest web-footed bird, measuring sometimes 17 feet from tip to tip of wing, and weighing up to 20lb, frequently accompanies ocean steamers from the Cape to Melbourne, a distance of 5,500 knots, without being seen to rest on the way.

Every American president has had from three to thirty-two towns named for him. There are thirty cities and towns named after Alexander Hamilton, thirty Clintons, twenty-four Websters, twenty Bentons, thirteen Calhouns, seven Clays, nineteen Quincys, twenty-one Douglasses and twenty Blaines.

Someone has said that the three hardest words to pronounce consecutively are, "I was mistaken." Let the person who believes this assertion try his articulating powers on the names of the lakes in the State of Maine—three, for instance, —Hunkatyabob, Zitzmornungohio, Mahogapragobgug.

Three hundred "Urania pillars" are being erected in the streets of Berlin. They are eighteen feet high, of cast iron, and each contains a clock, meteorological instruments, weather charts, astronomical and geographical announcements, and a plan of the neighbouring streets for the benefit of strangers.

A book, called "Love's Telegraph," gives the following as a modern amatorial custom:—If a gentleman wishes to make known his desire to be married, he wears a ring on the first finger of his left hand; if engaged, on the second; if married, on the third; and on the little finger if he is a determined old bachelor.

An ancient ducking-stool for scolding wives is still preserved at Fordwich. The other day some antiquarians, anxious to test the apparatus, found a youth who was willing to don female attire and go through the ordeal. The apparatus speedily ducked the lad into the river, but refused to pull him out again, and but for timely assistance he would have been drowned.

The most dangerous part of the British coast is that between Flamborough Head and the North Foreland, including as it does both the Humber and the Thames. The next most dangerous district is that between Anglesea and the Mull of Cantyre, which included the Mersey and the Clyde. Next comes that between Hartland point and St. David's Head, which includes the Bristol Channel. The district between the North Foreland and St. Catherine's including of course the Straits of Dover, comes but fourth on the list.

Scientists say that red hair means that there is a superabundance of iron in the blood. And the analyst says that it is the matter that enters red hair that imparts the vigor, elasticity, the great vitality, the overflowing thoroughly healthy animal life which runs through the veins of the ruddy haired, and this strong sentient animal life is what renders them more intense in their emotions than their more languid fellow creatures. Philosophers notice it as a peculiar fact that red-haired old maids are very rare.

The term starboard or port when applied to the wheel of a ship is a conundrum to a landsman which he has difficulty in getting through his head. How the turning of the wheel which acts on the rudder brings about the desired result of starboard and port can be illustrated by reference to a Chinaman. A starboard wheel throws the stern of a vessel to starboard, changing the course of the bow to port and vice-versa. So with the Chinaman, when he turns his head to the left, which is port, his pigtail swings to the right, which is starboard. Opposite results are obtained when he turns his head the other way.

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AS IN A LOOKING GLASS.

The Important Part Played by a Mirror in Catching a Thief.

A mirror played an important part in detecting a Parisian rogue. The thieves of the French metropolis are the cleverest rascals in the world, and positively elevate their villany to a science; in no other European capital is one-half of the ingenuity exhibited by this class. The famous Duval eating-houses, or restaurants, are located in all parts of the French capital, though they are all run by the same company. The professed object of this company is to serve excellent food in good style, and for a very moderate charge. It has been lately discovered that a system of thieving was being practised upon these establishments, whereby they lost a considerable amount of small silver articles such as forks, spoons, and similar tableware, but by whom taken it was difficult to find out. However, a careful watch was set, and with the following result:

It was found that a respectable-looking person would enter the dining-saloon and give his order for dinner, of which he partook. During the meal he conveyed one or more articles to the other side of the table, fixing them there by means of wax, with which he was provided for the purpose. Should the servant who waits upon him miss any of the spoons or other articles, the rogue is still in no danger, and offers himself to be searched with perfect impunity and an air of injured innocence. Of course he is allowed to depart, but immediately after an accomplice enters, orders his dish, whatever it may be, seating himself at the same table, whence he removes the secreted articles to his own pocket, of course taking care that the waiter shall not miss any articles from the table as set before him. There is no reason for suspecting this individual, who quietly pays his bill and departs to share the booty with his waiting confederates.

A case of this kind occurred a few weeks since in the Place de la Madeleine, where the superintendent suspected the trick, allowing the first party to retire after apologizing for searching him. He, however, sent for a detective in plain clothes, and bade him watch that particular table. Presently after the departure of the first rogue, his confederate entered, seated himself at the table in question, and while taking his soup, began his work, little dreaming that the peaceable-looking citizen opposite with his back toward him, was watching every movement in the looking-glass through a hole in the newspaper which he held before his face and was pretending to read. It was almost as good as a play, and the detective was obliged to restrain himself, or he would have burst into a fit of laughter.

No sooner had the rogue succeeded in transferring the last of the forks and spoons to his pocket than he rose very leisurely, walked to the cashier's desk, and took out his money to pay for the meal. But at the same moment there was a hand laid heavily upon his shoulder, and the detective very bluntly slipped a pair of handcuffs upon his wrists. The missing articles were found in his pocket, and he was marched into prison.

AMID THE LIONS.

What They Are Like When They Are in the Enjoyment of Freedom.

It is difficult to estimate the destruction of life and property caused in Africa by lions. From the age of eight months to a year lion-whelps begin to attack the flocks of sheep and goats which during the day come into the neighborhood of their home. It is not before they are two years old that young lions are able to strangle a horse, a bullock, or a camel by a single bite in the throat, and to clear the hedges, more than six feet high, by which the denizens are supposed to be protected. The period from one to two years of age is absolutely ruinous to the country; in fact, the amiable family kill not merely to feed themselves, but to learn how to kill.

It is easy to imagine the expense of such an apprenticeship to those who have to supply the materials worked upon. The Arabs in pitching their tents in a fresh spot calculate as follows: So much for me, so much for the Government, and so much for the lion; and the lion has always the lion's share.

Lions are not adult until they are eight years old. At that age they have acquired their complete strength, and the male, a third larger than the female, has its full mane.

Do not judge of wild lions by the degenerate individuals you behold in menageries. The latter have been taken from the tract, and brought up like tame rabbits, not with their mother's milk open air life, and liberty but with insufficient and unhealthy diet.

Hence their mean and slender proportions, their wretched physiognomy, and their scanty mane, which make them resemble poodle dogs, and would cause them to be disowned by their fellow-brutes in a state of Nature, who live well by plundering the Arabs, and on which they lay a tax ten times heavier than that which is paid to the State.

A lion's life lasts from thirty to forty years. He annually kills or consumes two hundred and forty pounds' worth of horses, mules, oxen, camels and sheep. Taking the average length of his existence as thirty-five years, every lion costs the Arabs \$42,000.

Excursion Rates for Corpses.

The Mariota Journal says that while an excursion train to Alabama was waiting at the depot a negro appeared at the ticket window in the depot and purchased a ticket for himself. Then he said to the ticket agent:

"Boss, I want 'nuder round trip 'scursion ticket for a corpse."

The agent opened his eyes in astonishment. An excursion ticket for a corpse was something new to him, even with his varied experience.

The negro explained: "You see, boss, my brudder died yesterday, and I want ter take the corpse down to Montgomery and let de fambly view de 'mains, and den bring 'em back to Birmingham and bury 'em. Dis will be a heap cheaper den fur de fambly to come up here."

What Kept Him Awake.

Doctor (who had ordered his patient to take some sleeping-powders)—Well, do you sleep any better now?

Patient—Doctor, I can sleep well enough, but just as I am about to close my eyes the nurse wakes me up and gives a sleeping-powder.

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1—Fever, Congestion, Inflammation.	25c
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16—Whooping Cough.	25c
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18—Nervous Debility.	100c
19—Urinary Weakness, Wetting Bed.	25c
20—HUMPHREYS' WITCH HAZEL OIL.	25c
21—Pile Ointment.	25c

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

On an average the letters received by the Emperor of Germany number 630 a day.

M. Maire, of Paris, is known as the "dog barber." He daily clips from ten to thirty dogs. The price of a clip is four francs.

Baroness Burdett-Coutts has in her possession a famous tiara of diamonds that is said to have once belonged to Marie Antoinette.

The Princesses of England's Royal family have, on the average, married at the age of twenty-two; the Princes when about twenty-eight.

M. Worth, it is said, abhors tailor-made gowns, calling them "stable clothes," and turns his artistic eye in another direction when they are in view.

The King of Assam has 200 wives, who divided into nine classes. When one of these ladies dies her body is let down over the palace walls to be buried, it is against the law for a dead body to be carried through the doors.

The Due de Galliera is probably the most notable philatelist in the world. Every year, we are told, he spends some £8,000 in adding stamps to his collections, which ten years ago was valued at more than £50,000, and to-day is said to be worth nearly £150,000.

General Dods, whom the French describe as a kind of colonial Napoleon, has negro blood in his veins and has conducted several successful wars with native tribes on the border of Senegal. His wife, who, by the way, is an Englishwoman, has accompanied him in several expeditions.

A story is told of the Queen, that when she was twelve years of age, Dr. Davys, her tutor, set her to draw out the genealogy of the Royal line down to the present time. Presently she said, earnestly: "Mamma, I cannot see who is to come after Uncle William, unless it is myself."

The little Queen of Holland, who has just attained her thirteenth year, is being very strictly brought up. She goes to bed at half past eight, and is punished when she is naughty. She evidently thinks her lot a hard one, for she was overheard scolding her doll, and in order to terrify it, threatened to turn it into a queen if it did not behave better.

The children's books written by Mrs. L. T. Meade are almost entirely made up of her own experiences. Mrs. Meade has put all her own children into stories, and has also made a study of her friends' children, many of whose quaint ways and sayings have been transferred to paper. Mrs. Meade has lived in the slums, in order to obtain actual knowledge of the lives of gutter children.

His Majesty the Sultan of Johore, who has been spending the summer at the Isle of Wight, speaks English well, and French and German indifferently. He has a private income of £100,000 but the revenues of Johore are worth in addition £1,200,000 per annum. Attired in full official dress the Sultan wears jewels to the value of two millions sterling. He has a great fancy for good horses and well-appointed yachts.

It is announced from Spain that Emilio Castelar, the eminent Republican leader, has retired permanently from public life, with the declaration that, while he will always be a Republican, he does not intend to act against the monarchy; for he has come to believe that under present conditions no other form of government is better adapted to the needs of Spain. So he advises his friends to act with the liberal party in the future and support the crown.

Henry Jones, better known as "Cavendish," the authority on whist, was born in London sixty-four years ago. He studied medicine, and was a practising physician for about twenty years. He devoted much of his time to the study of his favorite game at cards, and about the year 1854 founded a "little school" for whist-players. The notes and records of the long succession of play at this place were all preserved, to form the basis of his book, "Cavendish on Whist."

The Samoans, according to their latest visitor, have been celebrating Mr. R. L. Stevenson's 40th birthday. There must be a mistake here, Mr. Stevenson is only 43. He is still one of our younger novelists. Of the others, Mr. Meredith and Mrs. Oliphant are each 65; Mr. Besant is 55; Mr. Hardy and Miss Broughton are each 53; Mr. Buchanan is 52; Mr. Grant Allen is 45; Mr. Rider Haggard is 37; Mr. Barrie and Mr. Doyle are each 33; Mr. Kipling is 29; and Mr. Quiller-Couch is 28.

Julian Hawthorne did not at first adopt his father's profession. The author of "The Scarlet Letter" had his son trained as an engineer, and at twenty-two the young man was sent to study science at Dresden. He had spent two years there and was taking a holiday in America when the outbreak of the Franco-German War changed his plans. It was deemed expedient to postpone his return to Germany, and during this time of waiting, Mr. Julian Hawthorne wrote several things for the American magazines. They were so favorably received that he determined to abandon science for literature.

From the day of the accession of Frederick the Great to the week after the death of the Emperor Frederick the cuisine department in the palaces of the Kings of Prussia was under the direction of French chefs. The present Emperor, however, placed his kitchen entirely in the hands of German cooks, and the French language was banished from the menus. After five years of this regime the Emperor has resolved to return to the practice of his predecessors, and two French chefs of high reputation have just arrived at Potsdam; but his Majesty has ordered that the German menus are to remain in use.

Princess Augusta Marie Louise is the daughter of Prince Leopold Maximilian of Bavaria. She is of the impressive age of nineteen, and some time ago fell in love with a handsome young lieutenant in the light cavalry. The match was, of course, unacceptable to the Royal parents, and the lieutenant was exiled to a far-off garrison and forbidden to come to Munich, in the hope that the Princess would overcome her passion and forget him. His absence, however, had the contrary effect: she fell ill and pined, and Prince Leopold has at last been constrained to give his consent to the union of the young lovers.

A POOR MAN

indeed is he whose blood is poor, who has lost his appetite and his flesh and seems to be in a rapid decline; but

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