

## THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

Photographs were first taken in England in 1802.

There are about 250,000 words in the English language.

A silk worm's thread is one-thousandth part of an inch thick.

One-quarter of all the people born die before 6 years and one-half before 16.

About 25,000 people are killed every year in India by wild beasts and reptiles.

Japan has no fewer than 700 earthquake observing stations scattered over the empire.

The largest room in the world unbroken by pillars is a drill hall in St. Petersburg, 60x150 feet.

The vanity of the sparrow is so great that it will gaze into a mirror by the hour it not disturbed.

Florida oranges are being shipped to Europe, where hitherto the Italian fruit has reigned supreme.

An inch of rain means a gallon of water spread over every two square feet, or about 100 tons to every acre.

If all the houses in England were placed together they would occupy a space of about 450 square miles.

If a well could be dug to the depth of forty-six miles the air at the bottom would be as dense as quicksilver.

In Corfu sheets of paper pass for money; one sheet buys one quart of rice or twenty sheets a piece of hemp cloth.

Among all drinks, soda water is the sedatest adulterated. Among intoxicants beer is the freest from the evil.

With a load of 400 pounds a camel can travel twelve or fourteen days without water, going forty miles a day.

New writings of Mohammed, which may possibly revolutionize the religion of the Orient, have been discovered.

William Brown, a colored man, 103 years old, recently applied at Mobile, Alabama, for a marriage license, which was granted.

The number of insane persons in Ireland has increased from 249 per 100,000 population in 1880 to 369 per 100,000 in 1892.

The origin of the word trump as used in card-playing is said to be the French word "trionphe," equivalent to the English "triumph."

London devours every year 400,000 oxen, 1,600,000 sheep, 500,000 calves, 700,000 hogs, fowls innumerable, and 9,800,000 gallons of milk.

It was in vogue at one time in Venice to gild the rolls of bread and the oysters on the supper table. The candles were also coated with gold.

A Liverpool hotel has put in some penny-in-the-slot gas fires. This system is applied to the gas supply, so that a fire in the grate can be turned on when needed.

"Admission by loaf of bread" was the announcement in respect of a concert at the Channing Hall, Sheffield, in aid of the distressed miners. Over 250 loaves were obtained by this means.

New Zealand is the first of English colonies to give women equal political rights with men. A Bill giving them such rights has just become law. It gives to all women, married or single, the same right to vote as is now possessed by men.

The phoenix, the fabulous bird of antiquity, was said to live 500 years and then to "renew its youth" by building a nest of aromatic woods, which it fanned into a flame with its wings. From the ashes of its nest a new phoenix arose.

The British cuckoo and the American crow blackbird are never known to build nests as other birds do. They content themselves with depositing their eggs in the nest of others, usually choosing that of some smaller representative of the feathered tribe.

Sponges are being propagated in a cheap way just now. About three years ago a cute German divided a few healthy specimens of live sponges into a goodly number of parts and placed them in deep water, with the result that he now has a crop of 4,000 at an initial expenditure of £5.

When Prince Louis Napoleon met his untimely fate in Zululand, Marshal MacMahon hastened to console with his Royal mother: "I am very happy, madame, at the circumstances that have arisen which give me the occasion to console with you. Your son died a soldier, and you ought to be glad."

For some time the Great Northern Railway authorities have been busy preparing for the illumination of Kings Cross Station by the electric light. The work is now almost completed. The plant has cost no less than £80,000. Besides the station, the hotel will be lighted with electricity, as well as several miles of the line.

An interesting attempt is being made to acclimatize the Wyoming elk in England. Sir Peter Walker acquired twenty head while on a tour in the United States, and the animals have arrived safely, after a journey of 2,600 miles across America and the voyage from New York. They have now been deposited in Sir Peter's park at Ormston.

The Chinese send three invitations to the guests that they desire to see at their great feasts. The first is despatched two days before the feast. The second on the day itself, in order to remind those they expect of their engagement; and the third just before the hour has struck, so as to show how impatient they are to see their friends arrive.

A new kind of cab, propelled mechanically, has been tried in Berlin. It resembles a large Bath chair with two seats, and is propelled by a petroleum-naphtha motor. It has three wheels and carries two persons, one of whom controls the machine. The motor develops nearly two-horse power and gives a speed of eleven miles an hour.

Texas raised 1,200,000 bales of cotton, which yield nearly \$50,000,000. The cotton seed product exceeds 600,000 tons. The sugar plantations on the Brazos alone produce 12,000,000 pounds of sugar and 1,200,000 gallons of molasses. Texas has 6,000,000 sheep and clips 25,000,000 pounds of wool. The pecan trees of Texas yield every year 9,000,000 pounds of nuts.

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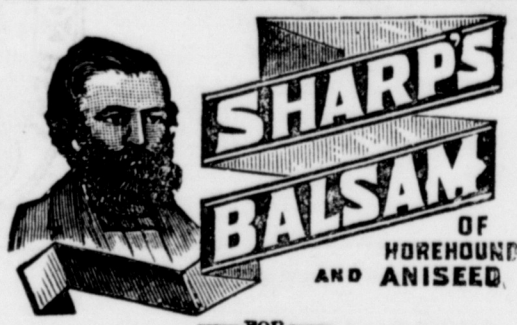
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## OMISSION IN THE CODE.

Running Into Danger May Be Used As A General Warning.

It was supposed, when the code of signals for communication between vessels at sea was constructed, that every contingency had been provided for. It appears, however, that there was one omission. In an article on the code recently published, the circumstances which led to the discovery of the omission are narrated. It appears that the day before the Guion steamer Arizona collided with the iceberg off the shores of Newfoundland some years ago she met the Anchoria of the Anchor line. The captain of the Anchoria had seen several icebergs drifting across the track which the Arizona was taking and knew that she would be in danger of collision. He at once consulted his code to find the signal "Icebergs ahead." No such signal was in the book and before the words could be spelled out, the doomed ship was beyond signalling range. The captain's apprehensions were verified. The Arizona struck on an iceberg and but for her watertight bulkheads would have gone to the bottom. The omission in the code was soon after rectified, but it came near costing many lives. If the captain had happened to think of it, there was a signal on the code which might have served his purpose. It was the signal, "You are running into danger." If he had displayed that signal, the Arizona's captain would have been put on the alert and the accident might have been averted. Ministers and Christian workers who are challenged to produce from the Bible specific condemnation of gambling, attending races, cardplaying, etc., are unable to do so, but there is no difficulty in finding there the general warning which applies to all such pursuits, "You are running into danger." (Prov. 13: 20.)

Wouldn't be left out.

"Are you the gentleman that takes in the society items?" inquired the caller, an undersized man, with a timid, appealing look on his face.

"Yes," replied the young man at the desk; "I can take in hand any kind of items. What have you?"

"Why, it's this way," said the caller, lowering his voice. "My wife gave a grand party last night, and I'm willing to pay to have this description of the affair put in your paper."

"We don't charge anything for publishing society items," observed the young man at the desk, taking the proffered manuscript and looking it over.

"That's all right," was the reply. "You don't understand. I wrote this up myself, and I put in a line or two that says, 'Mr. Halstick assisted his distinguished wife in receiving the guests.' That's the way I want it to go in, and I don't care if it costs a crown a line. I want my friends to know that I still belong to the family!"

What Ails the Piano.

A stinging instrument suspended in a favorable position near a pianoforte will sound when tones corresponding to the open strings are produced on the pianoforte. The volume of the answering tone will depend upon atmospheric conditions, the quality and color of the persuading tone and the sensitiveness of the responding material.

There is a familiar anecdote told of a famous tenor, who by singing the tone that it would fall to pieces. It is because of this total sympathy that the cause of a harsh, rattling tone that may suddenly appear in a pianoforte is detected with difficulty.

Though it may appear to be in the instrument, it is often far away and may come from a loose globe or pendant on a chandelier. Even a key in a door has been known to be the guilty cause.

Strange Correspondence.

A lady in London wished to communicate with a friend in America whose address she did not know. In order to obtain the needed information she wrote to another friend, who also lived in the New world.

The letter was duly despatched, but the ship which carried it was wrecked, and the mails went to the sea bottom. They were eventually recovered, however, and the letter in question, torn and discoloured, found its way back to the sender. While subjecting it to a minute examination, the lady was surprised to find part of another letter adhering to it, upon which epistle was the full address of the friend with whom she wished to correspond. In this strange way, without having reached its destination, her letter had brought to her the answer desired.

Some of Us.

The latest of our discovered relatives are the bats. The most curious of all nocturnal insect-hunters are the leathery-winged bats, which may be regarded, practically speaking, as very tiny monkeys, highly specialized for their task of catching flies and midges. Few people know how nearly they are related to us. They belong to the self-same division of the higher mammals as man and the apes; their skeleton answers to ours, bone for bone, and joint for joint, in an extraordinary manner; only the unessential fact that they have very long fingers with a web between, as an organ of flight, prevents us from instantly recognising them as remote cousins once removed from the gorilla.

A Matter of Course.

Just as she entered the doorway the tram-car gave a lurch, as such vehicles are apt to do, and the pretty girl was thrown plump in the lap of a fatherly Irishman.

"Pray pardon me," she said, as she rose to her feet, while the rest of the passengers tittered.

"Don't mention it, me darlint," replied the Irishman, "I cud hold ye a full hour." Then she blushed furiously until she got out.

For a Nerve Tonic.

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## MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Dr. Morgan Dix, New York, denounced the recent parliament of religions as a step towards agnosticism.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, M. P., has as many as five thousand orchids in "houses" and conservatories at his house just outside Birmingham.

Princess Marie of Roumania has a fancy for collecting scent bottles. Her present collection is estimated to be worth between £4,000 and £5,000.

The Prince of Monaco is passionately devoted to the study of navigation, and expends much of his time and fortune on this and kindred pursuits.

Lady Cathness, who is as well known by her other title, the Duchesse de Pomar, is one of the leaders of the Theosophical movement. It is a belief of hers that her body is possessed by the soul of Mary, Queen of Scots.

The Empress of Austria is an enthusiastic Greek scholar, although she did not learn the language of Homer till she was nearly fifty. Her Majesty spends much of her time at a palace she built for herself in the beautiful island of Corfu.

General Samuel J. Bridge, who died in Boston several days ago, was the donor to Harvard University of the statue of his ancestor, John Bridge, which stands on the Cambridge common, and of the founder, John Harvard, in the yard of Memorial Hall.

The Hon. John Collier, the distinguished portrait painter, comes of a Devonshire family, as his brother's title, Baron Monkswell, denotes. Both the late peer and his father showed great artistic talent, though their fame at present rests chiefly on their ability as lawyers.

The Dowager Duchess of Montrose and Mrs. Langtry, who are well known in racing circles, both adopt masculine guise in their dealings with the turf. The Duchess when entering her horses is "Mr. Mantion," while Mrs. Langtry conceals her identity under the name of "Mr. Jersey."</