THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

Chinese botanists can grow oaks in thimbles.

America has 9,144,590 men available for

military duty. More than 700 Lives of Columbus have been written in various languages.

The first real newspaper in the world was printed in 1457, at Nuremburg, and called the Gazett.

In Paris it is required that every vehicle traversing its streets at night, if only a wheelbarrow, shall carry a lantern.

Scorpions are the most quarrelsome creatures in the world. Two placed in the same box will always sting each other to

France is claimed to be the greatest egg and poultry-producing country in the world, the value of eggs alone amounting to £40,-000,000 annually.

The wives of Siamese noblemen cut their hair so that it sticks straight up from their heads. The average length of it is about an inch and a half.

A single red hair is the chief attraction in a mosque at Delhi. It is carefully kept under glass, and is said to have been plucked from the moustache of Mahomet.

It was Sir Boyle Roche, a member of the Irish Parliament, who asked, "Why should we trouble ourselves about posterity? What has posterity done for us?" Sir Boyle's most famous bull consisted of his assertion that a man could not be in two places at once, like a bird.

African diet varies as much as do the people, and such trifles as roasted spiders, caterpillars, ants stewed in butter, ostrich eggs, baked elephant's trunk and feet, puma, fat sheep's tails, stewed puppies, mice, and odd articles not generally regarded as food, are consumed.

Up to the end of last year the total number of women who had taken medical diplomas, entitling them to enter their names on the British register of qualified practitioners, was between 150 and 160. A considerable proportion of these lady doctors are now in India, where they practise in connection with medical missions.

Many of our most popular vulgarisms have their origin in some whimsical perversion of language or fact. St Martin is one of the worthiest of the Roman calendar, and a form of prayer commences with the words: "O mihi beate Martin," which was corrupted to "My eye and Betty Martin," and still further to "Hie! Betty JEWELRY MADE TO ORDER AND REPAIRED.

The most expert 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, 400feet high; Louth, Lincolnseire, 300 feet; Grantham, 273 feet; and a steeple in Cambridgeshire, 280ft.

The gorgeous brilliancy of phosphorescent sea is produced by countless millions of globular creatures, some of which are as much as six inches long, and are apparently formed of gelatinous and translucent matter. In the Indian ocean they often cover a surface of many square hundred miles, and during the night the appearance is that of one vast field of snow.

Slaves were termed "contrabands" in the American Civil War, because in 1861 General Butler, when in command at Fortress Monroe, refused to deliver up to their former owners some slaves who had taken refuge within his lines of fortifications, on the ground that they were " contraband of war." Lincoln's proclamation abolishing slavery was issued September 22, 1862, and came into effect January 1,

To make paste for attaching paper to glass: Flour, two teaspoonfuls; water, 4 ounces; bichromate of potash, five grains. The flour must be rubbed to a smooth paste with the water, then placed in a saucepan over the fire and kept stirred until it boils. Add the bichromate slowly, stirring all the time, then stand to cool. The paste must be kept in the dark and used as soon as possible. Soak the paper in it and attach to the glass, then place in direct sunlight for a day. This sets up a chemical change and renders the paste insoluble.

A steam man is the latest novelty. The inventor, Professor George Moore, made a similar apparatus with partial success a number of years ago, but his present venture is larger, and intended to draw a wagon. The figure, 6tt. high, is incased in metal, and looks like a knight in mediæval armour, with helmet and visor, smoking a cigar. The cigar, however, is an escape pipe, and the plumes of the he'met veil the top of the chimney. The turnace and boiler are contained inside the trunk, and the moving mechanism in the rest of the body. The man walks briskly, at a pace of four or five miles an hour.

"Fin de siecle" is a French term, which literally translated is "end of the century." It is a fashionable saying indicating the supposed moral intellectual and political disintegration attendant on a dying century which originated in the dilettante circles of Paris in 1890. In February of that year, a caustic picture of Parisian lite, entitled, "Paris Fin de Siecle" by M. Blum, was brought out at a Paris theatre. Though the play was a failure, part of its title, borrowed apparently from Bourget's "Messonges," passed into current slang. It flattered the semi-humorous notion that civilization gets worn out at the end of a century, and that a new dawn will be ushered in by a terminal unit of measurement in our calendars.

The Golden Fleece is an order of knighthood founded in 1429 by Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy, on his marriage. He named it "Toison d'Or" because of profits from speculation in wool. In time the King of Spain, succeeding as Duke of Burgundy, became Grand Master of the the order, which thence became attached to the Spanish throne. Later Mary, daughter of the last Duke of Burgundy, married Maximilian, Archduke of Austria, and her descendants, claimed the right to control the order. In 1725 an agreement was made between the Emperor Charles VI. of Germany, as Archduke of Austria, and Philip V. of Spain, by which each sovereign should confer the order for himself, the appointments to be valid in the countries of both sovereigns.



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WHY HE DECLINED.

Mr. George deForest Grant and His Opinion on Drinking. The following story is told about the Bradley-Martins, the marriage of whose

daughter to Earl Craven took place a short

time back in New York. It seems that George deForest Grant, who is a great tavorite in New York, in the clubs and in society, was in the same Paris hotel with the Bradley-Martims, whom he did not know. Mr. Grant, who is of convivial temperament, was lying in bed one morning about eleven o'clock, when his servant presently brought in a note, which Mr. Grant opened. It ran as

Mrs. Bradley Martin presents her compliments to Mr. George de Forest Grant, and begs to know whether he would surrender his first-floor apartments for the use of her niece.

Mr. Grant was so amazed that he at once became very wide awake. He proceeded to indite the tollowing reply-Mr. George de Forest Grant p esents his compli-ments to Mrs Bradley-Martin, and desires to know

It did not take long for this remarkable missive to bring an answer, which ran as

Mrs. Bradley-Martin is much surprised at the extraordinary question put to her by Mr. George de Forest Grant, but begs to assure him most emhatically that her niece does not drink. The correspondence then came to a sud-

den end through the following note from Mr. Grant-Mr. Grant—
Mr. George deForest Grant very much regrets that he cannot give up his first floor apartments to Mrs. Bradley Martin's neice, for he is convinced as that young lady does not drink, it very much easier for her to get upstairs than it is for Mr. Grant.

A Nice Kind Of a Nephew.

A few seasons ago two ladies were enterng a house in Belgravia one day to attend afternoon tea, when they were accosted by a well-dressed individual, who said— "I presume you are going to Lady

G-'s ?" and all went in together. The lady of the house did not recognise the gentleman, but was quite cordial when he spoke, for she concluded all must be

right as he accompanied her triends. They had scarcely entered the room before the hostess was called away for a few minutes just as a handsome silver service was being placed upon the table.

As soon as he was gone, the gentleman said to the company-"See what a trick I'll play upon my

aunt," and straightway proceeded to fill his pockets with silver spoons, sugar-basin cream jug, etc. He then hastily left the Shortly afterwards Lady G- returned,

and said with some surprise-"I thought the servant had brought in all the tea-service." 'Yes," replied one of the ladies confi-

dentially, "but your nephew said he would play a little trick upon you, and accordingly has carried off most of the articles." "My nephew !" exclaimed her ladyship; 'I have no nephew in the world. I quite

yours !

thought the gentleman was a friend of

When He Was Careful. An English judge travelling in the United States, finding himself short of cash, presented one of the drafts he had at a lo-

cal bank, but was told he must be identi-He explained to the bank agent that as he knew no one in the district this was impossible, and he showed him his card, his letters of introduction, his name in his pocket-book and the initials on his handkerchief, but all to no purpose. Identification

was absolutely necessary. During the conversation, the stranger learned that the banker was also the local judge, and after he had exhausted all his attempts to convince him of his identity, he said chaffingly-

"Come, judge, you must admit, you've often hanged a man on less evidence. "That may be so," replied the judge, but when it comes to parting with the dollars one has to be careful."

An Explanation.

The following story is told of a London The beggar in question was, it seems, in

the habit of sitting on one of our bridges, accompanied by a dog with a placard in-scribed "Blind" attached to his neck, and was tortunate enough to awaken the charitable sympathies of a gentleman, who, every morning when he passed the mendicant, dropped a penny into his hat.

One day the usual donation was omitted, and the supposed blind man ran after his benefactor as fast as his crutches would permit, and boldly asked why the usual penny had not been forthcoming. "Why I thought you were blind!" ex-

claimed the man of charity, amazed. "No, sir, it is not I," replied the beggar; 'It's the dog."

Flattered Himself Too Soon. The curate of a country parish lately preached a charity sermon, and the col-

lection which followed amounted to £20 7s. 41/2d. In the vestry, after the service, the churchwardens counted it out, and mentioned the result. "Well," said the reverend preacher, "I

must have preached pretty well to get all "No doubt you did, sir," replied one of the churchwardens who had been collecting "but the squire put in a £10 note, and he's

They Had No Accidents.

deaf."

A story is told that recently the captain of a cricket team decided to start the bowling with one of his players who was more noted for speed than accuracy. The batsmen went to the wickets ready

to play, but, before beginning, one of them shouted to the bowler-"Noo, mister, let ye and me hev a clear understanding. If ye hit me with that bahl, aal hit ye with this bat; so ye can set yorsel'

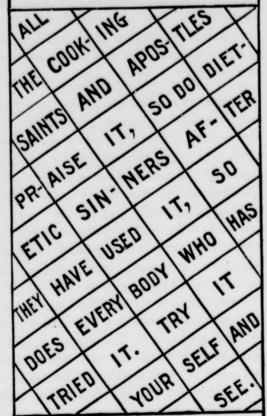
There were no accidents that day. Sized up the Situation.

Angry wife (sarcastically)-Good morning. How was the show? Did it have a full Belated Husband (who has sense enough left to realize that deception is useless)

-Yesh,full ash a goat. Among the Nobility.

l'essie;-Flora is going to marry the Italian count. Jennie-Ineed! did she make him promise to give up drinking? Bessie-No; to take a bath once a week.

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

The Duchess of Devonshire has for years written anonymously for the Saturday

William Waldorf Astor, who has recently settled in England, draws an annual income

of about £200,000 from land in New York. The name of Baroness Burdett-Coutts perennially appears in the newspapers. The latest paragraph about her is that she has edited Woman's Mission at the request of Princess Christian.

The Empress of China has celebrated her sixtieth birthday by issuing a manifesto enjoining a general restraint of extravagance and prohibiting the customary gifts of silks and presents by the Ministers.

Princess Mary of Teck, is very quiet in her taste for dress, and is inclined to favor bonnets rather than large hats, so authority says hats are to be tabooed again and bonnets will be in order, even for young girls. Ex-Queen Natalie of Servia is intent up-

on a match-making visit to St. Petersburg. The betrothal of the boy King of Servia, who recently proclaimed himself of age, and shut his regents up in the palace, is to be discussed. A memorial is to be erected to Elizabeth

Barrett-Browning by the inhabitants of Ledbury, England, the home of her childhood. It is to take the form of a clock tower and an institute consisting of reading rooms, library, class rooms, and offices, and is to cost £2,000.

The Prince and Princess of Wales make it a rule to hand over to the Zoological Gardens any animals sent to them as presents from abroad. Their latest gift is a trio of springboks, of which graceful species of deer the Gardens have not possessed a specimen for many years.

Mme. Fernand Ratisbonne, who entertains extravagantly at her home in Paris, gave a rose tete the other day. Roses covered the staircase, balustrade, chandeliers: doors and windows were encircled by roses, and the cotillon favors were all roses. The hostess wore a rose-colored toilet, and the supper tables were decorated with roses.

The immense number and length of the avenues of fine trees round the Duke of Buccleuch's seat at Boughton arose out of the eccentric wish of a late relative of the Duke's to make an avenue of trees connecting that place with London, a distance of seventy-six miles. Upon finding the project impracticable, he planted the same number of miles of avenues round the

The Empress Charlotte of Mexico celebrated her 53d birthday on Wednesday the 7th of June. Few princesses have had a sadder life than hers. Born at Lacken on June 7, 1840, she married the Archduke Maximilian, later Emperor of Mexico, on July 27, 1857, and ten years later he was shot by the successful Mexican patriots, since when the Empress has been always

Louise Michel, the remarkable heroine of the French Commune, has always been very skilful in the art of teaching. In New Caledonia, to which she was transported for her share in the Commune, she was given charge of a school, and when she first came to London was for some time very successful as a schoolmistress. Louise Michel still occupies herself by giving private lessons.

Mme, Sarah Bernhardt is a Parisienne of the Latin Quarter. She was born in 1844, her mother being a Berlin Jewess, who was then a struggling milliner in the Rue de l'Ecole de Medecine, a few doors from the house where Marat was living when assassinated by Charlotte Corday. Her sister Jeanne is two years younger. The house in which the great actress first saw the light is an old, dilapi-

When Sir Henry Bessemer first promulgated his famous method of converting iron into steel (which was the result of years of labor) the Sheffield manufacturers ridiculed the invention and would have nothing to do with it. The scientist, undaunted, started business in Sheffield himself, and such was his success that everyone in the trade had soon to apply for licences to use the patented process. This was nearly forty years ago, and Sir Henry was born

eighty years ago. Mrs. R. H. Tyache, in conjunction with her husband, has been making the largest bag of bears ever shot in one season in Kullu, in the central Himalayas. She has written a book called, "How I Shot my Bears," and she gives points to old and experienced hunters. While Mrs. Tyache has been shooting bears in the Himalavas. Lady Hapetoun has been busy killing deer in Auckland. At rifle practice it is said that she makes bull's-eye after bull's-eye in a way that compels admiration even from

the guardsmen. Lady Henry Somerset introduced a new feature into a teetotal demonstration by appearing in a landau, of which all the interior was lined with white picotees, edged with a border of corn flowers, while from the corners of the carriage sheaves of tall arums and blue lilies reared themselves to a height of three teet. On the box sat a liveried coachman and footman sporting vellow ribbons, and on either side rode an equerry in frock coat and top hat. Lady Henry was simply dressed, and was greeted with loud cheers.

The Earl of Aberdeen, who has recently been appointed Governor-General o Canada, and his Countess, will be practically at home in Canada. The Earl has spent much of his holiday time there, in fishing and in moose hunting among the mountains Lord Aberdeen is a man of gentle and benevolent instincts, and he has, with his wife, won an almost world-wide renown for his philanthropic work. The Earl's drawing-room in London has for years been the rendezvous of social reformers. His lordship is forty-six years of age.

It has always been the regret of the Duke of Teck that he has never been per-Always carry a large stock and are continually receiving new mitted in England, to take up a salaried position. The only sphere open to him was that of special pleader for charity, and he has, he says, been averse to advertising himself thus. His great resource has been his beautiful garden at the White Lodge, Richmond Park. The view from the semicircular drawing-room reminds one of the Long Walk at Windsor. The White Lodge is built in the form of a horseshoe, but it is not a large house and has no billiard room.

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