People of Russia, as a rule, speak only their own tongue.

Naphtha is death on moths, but very dangerous to handle

In London there is a fur company which was established during the reign of Henry

are those of 'he Big Four at Bellefontaine, In Russia, as in France, Italy and Spain,

titles carry no privileges, either official or social. The orange grows wild all over tropical Asia, and is everywhere regarded as indig-

Earthenware sleepers have been tried at Shimbashi station, Japan, with satisfactory

It is estimated that 3,000,000,000, oysters are consumed in the United Kingdom

Coal is dearer in South Africa than in any other part of the world; it is cheapest

The "rock cork" mentioned by Pliny and other ancient writers is thought to have been asbestos.

Some plants are so sensitive that the passage of a cloud over the snn will affect them to a considerable degree

Professor TyndaIl is said to have been the first man to ever attempt to produce an artificial rainbow—this in 1883.

The largest needle factory in the world is in Redditch, Worcestershire. Over 70,-000,000 needles are made weekly.

One mile of wire, such as is used in the manufacture of hair springs for watches, would weigh less than half a pound. Some species of fungi have neither roots,

stems, leaves, flowers nor seeds, and derive their nourishment through their pores. Cherrapongee, in southwestern Assam, is

the wettest place in the world, the average annual rainfall there being 610 inches. Some species of birds have exceptionally

been known to live 166 years' and the swan The longest span of wire in the world is used for a telegraph in India, over 6,000

long lives alloted to them. The raven has

teet, and is stretched between two hills 1,200 Native Australians have their war boomerangs, their hunting boomerangs and their

boomerangs—all different The South Sea Islands is the home of a worm which emerges from its hiding place only one day of a certain change of the moon

Brazil produces on the average 360,000 tons of coffee per annum—that, is, about four-fifths of the whole amount consumed in the world.

There is a remarkable "burning spring"in Lincoln County, Kentucky, which regularly overflows its banks every afternoon at halfpast 4 o, clock precisely.

In New-Mexico canons one may see natural stone pillars cut into fantastic forms by the sand blasts formed by the wind sucking up and down the narrow passes.

One of the oldest seats of learning in Europe, the University of Valladolid, celebrated recently its sixth centennial as an established university. In 1293 King Sancho IV. of Castile and Leon gave a charter to this school. But it had been in existence long before the Christian era.

Leaves of the talipot palm in Ceylon sometimes attain the length of 20 feet with a width of I8 teet. They are used by the natives in making tents. The leaves of the double cocoanut palm are often 30 feet long, while those of the Inaja p lm on the banks of the rivers of Brazil area sometimes 50 teet long, and 10 to 12 feet wide.

Alaska is large enough to allow territory equal to the size of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Empire of Germany with its twenty-six states, the Republic of France with its eighty-six departments, the kingdom of Greece with its thirteen monarchies and the Republic of Switzerland with its twenty-two cantons to be carved out of it.

A very simple method of inducing sleep in cases of persistent insomnia, and one that has succeeded where many drugs have failed, is simply to administer a moderate amount of liquid food before the patient goes to bed. This diverts the blood from the brain to the abdominal organs, and takes away the cerebral excitement that precludes sleep.

It is well known that sea water has a most beneficial effect upon the appearance of horses, imparting a satin gloss to their coats, a brightness to the eyes, and a generally refreshing appearance. It is no unusual thing at seaside resorts to see hostlers giving the animals in their charge the sea plunge as regularly as the most systematic bather on the beach.

A special feature of Java oranges is that they will keep from thirty to forty days, and, if properly packed, for even three months. New orange groves are continually being laid out, and now number some 400, against 200 some fifteen years ago. This industry has influenced the population of Java, which now contains 42,000 inhabitants, against 15,000 some twelve years

A good extemporized apparatus for removing carbonic acid gas from a well is simply an opened-out umbrella let down and rapidly hauled up a number of times in succession. The person who made and reports this experiment states that the effect was to remove the gas in a few minutes from a well so foul as to instantly extinguish a candle previous to the use of the MEAIS SERVED AT ALL HOURS.

The so-called rice paper is not made from rice, as its name implies, but from the snow-white pith of a small tree which, so far as is known, grows only in Formosa, and belongs to a genus represented in the United States by the common sarsaparilla and the spikenard. The stems are transported to China and there the rice paper is made, which is used by native artists for water color drawings or dyed of various colors and made into artificial flowers.



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AS BAD AS IN BANGOR. The Kind of Whiskey They Sold in Leadville

in its Early Days. As three men were standing in front of the bar of a Smithfield street saloon yesterday, says the Pittsburg Dispatch, one picked up the glass of whisky that was placed before him and, tasting it, made a face that looked as if he had taken poison. "My, but that's rank stuff," said he, as he put down his glass and wiped off his mouth with his handkerchief. "That's almost as bad as the whisky we got out west during the great gold and silver excitement. I remember in Leadville there was a wag kept a saloon who did not try to disguise the quality of the liquor that passed over his bar, but rather made careful preparations for the effects that he knew it would cause. It is said that a tendertoot once came in and asked for a whiskey. He was passed a bottle and a glass. Then, to his surprise, the bartender placed a small whisk broom by the side of the bottle. Of course he was puzzled, but he poured out his drink and drank it slowly, unwilling to profess ignorance in the ways of the wild west and thinking that some person might come to his rescue. The door opened and he saw the man who saved him. A big, burly fellow, bristling with revolvers and bowie knives, stepped in the door and, going up to the bar, ordered whiskey in a voice that seemed to come from somewhere below the cellar. A bottle and glass were passed to him and, as before, a whisk broom was added to the layout. The terderfoot watched the man carefully. He poured out a good-sized glassful, then after gulping it down, quietly picked up the whisk broom, and going over to a corner of the room, brushed away the sand from a portion of the floor. He then lay down and had a fit. But, of course, all the whiskey we got out there was not as bad as that."

Great Fun for the Boys.

A Christiania newspaper which does not give itself up to the comic element relates that a Dutch lawyer, named Nikolson, bequeathed the whole of his property to trustees, to be employed in the purchase of bicycles for the use of children attending school, while part of the money is to go towards paying a teacher to train the boys in bicycle riding.

The validity of the will has been disputed by the sons of the testator, who refuse to acknowledge it, so that it is still a question of doubt whether the children will reap the benfit of the strange bequest. That the testator was sincere enough, and that he recognized in the wheel untold blessings which might have escaped the observation of minds of less acumen, the concluding portion of the will should go to prove. It

"I have always found a bicycle a capital protection against the importunity of those people who p-rsist in stopping your walk to spin a long yarn in the hot sun or in the biting east wind. My machine, unlike a horse never shied once; and in my drives I have had no need to intrust life and limb to the tender mercies of a coachman."

She Invented the Cocktail.

The drink known as the cocktail was invented and named by Elizabeth Flanagan, the wite of an Irish soldier who died during the revolution. She then became a sutler and followed the troop of Virginian horses which in 1779 wintered at Four Corners, between White plains and Tarrytown, Westchester County, N. Y. Betsy Flanagan set up a hotel, which the American and French officers frequented. They would come in after a night at the card table for a "bracer," and Mistress Flanagan would provide them with a drink that made them feel as "fresh as cock's tail. In time the compound received the name by which it is now known.

How to Write to Royalty.

The paper on which letters to Queen Victoria are written must not be folded. No communication which bears evidence of having been creased will ever fall into Her Majesty's own hands. The proper method is to write on thick, glossy white paper, and to despatch the missive in an envelope which fits it. Any folded communication never reaches the Queen, for the simple reason that she won't look at it. All such letters are opened by the Mistress of the Robes, and as a rule their contents never get beyond her; or, if the letter is of importance it is returned to the writer with the directions how to forward it.

Dandelions for the Blood.

Few people, I think, know that dandelion is an excellent thing for the complexion. The young leaves should be eaten as a salad, or the root of the dandelion may be bruised, and the juice squeezed out, and mixed in the proportion of two-thirds juice to one-third of rectified spirits of wine. It should then stand for a week and afterward be filtered through blotting paper and a flannel bag. A teaspoonful is to be taken occasionally two or three times a day.

Try It on the Hotel Clerk.

One of the easiest and most trustworthy modes of determining whether a supposed diamond is genuine or false is as follows: Pierce a hole in a card with a needle or pin, and then look at it, using the stone as a lens. If the supposed diamond is genuine you will see but one hole: if false two will appear. With an imitation stone you may also see the lines on the skin of your finger; with the true gem you cannot.

The One They Wanted.

There is a story of an eccentric nobleman who amused himself by constructing an elaborate mausoleum for his own remains, and who, when the edifice was erected, asked the architect: "Is anything now wanted to complete your design?" "Only your lordship's corpse," was the

unexpected answer.

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"I should think bicycle riding would contract the chest," said Dawson. "It does," said Ryder; "but see what fine, full, rounded shoulders you get."

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

According to Figaro, Zola is the most popular French novelist, with Daudet a good second. George McDonald, the English novelist,

has greatly improved in health during his winters' stay in Italy. The baroness Emma Sporri. of Norway, is said to be the best-known woman pain-

ter in Northern Europe. Three United States senators were born in toreign lands-McMillian in Canada, Pasco in England and Walsh in Ireland.

The Bavarian government has awarded Ridgway Knight, the American painter, the cross of the Royal Order of St. Michael. A tew weeks ago the governor of New

Zealand was compelled to pay a fine of

five shillings because his coachman drove

too fast. Prince Bismarck is the possessor of 482 crosses and decorations. These, placed side by side, cover a space of twenty-one feet by

several inches deep. E. T. Reed, who succeeds Harry Furness as the illustrator of Punch, five years ago was an unknown artist. He is said to be exceedingly clever.

Rosa Young, a direct descendant of one of the Pitcairn mutineers and a woman of more then usual intelligence, is writing a history of the Pitcairn colony. The Czarowitz is said to be disinclined to

marry. He wants to renounce the succession to the thrown in favour of his youngest brother, the Grand Duke Michael Queen Victoria has inspected a number of villas in the neighborhood of Florence

with a view of purchasing one, which her majesty intends to present to Princess Beatrice. The millionaire of the United States navy is said to be commodore George E.Perkins.

In the army the wealthiest man is General Nelson B. Sweitzer, who is also a famous cavalryman. Professor Ibrahim Hakki Bey, the Turk-

returned to Constantinople so Americanized that his friends are atraid he may get into trouble. Miss Ella Hepworth Dixon, the daughter of Hepworth Dixon, who is

ish commissioner to the world's fair, has

making a name for herself in the literary world of London. is also an artist of more than ordinary ability. Prince Constantin Wiasesky, of Russia, is an indefatigable traveller. He has just returned to Paris after a trip of 43,000

kilometers across Asia and is ready to

start on a tour through Africa. Mr. Gladstone has received vast numbers of letters, the bulk of them from members of the working classes, and not a few accompanied by personal gifts, which the

ex-premier is earnestly besought to accept. The Princess Beatrice closely follows all the topical songs, and after dinner at Balmoral the queen frequently listens to a medley of popular airs played by the prin-cess, who in all theatrical matters is thoroughly up to date.

The Prince of Wales is the owner of one of the worst slum districts in London. He refuses to purify it. There are sixteen other slums, and the city council estimates that to renovate and purity them would cost \$10,000,000.

William Astor Chanler, the African explorer, has arrived at Zanzibar after his second expedition. His expedition was fairly successful. He will contribute a report of his exploration to the New York Geographical Society.

Mrs. Claudia Herrara, who died in San Francisco the other day at end the of 120 years, was born in Rial de Jesus Maria, Mexico. She moved to San Francisco when she was 75 years of age, and since then until recently was an active worker.

At Freshwater, on the Isle of Wight, a great granite cross in one stone is to be erected in memory of Tennyson. It will be a cross like the Irish crosses at Iona and elsewhere in Ireland and Scotland. It will stand on the highest part of the town.

Mrs. Anna W. Williams, whose profile graces the silver dollar, is a teacher of kindergarten philosophy in the Philadelphia normal school. She is also a lecturer of considerable popularity, and has written many papers on Froebel and his doctrines.

Mr. Jenkins, the almost forgotten author of "Ginx's Baby," has been chosen by the Dundee conservatives to run for the parliamentary representation of their city. He represented Dundee in the 1874-80 parliament, and it was then that his book, which attracted a great deal of attention, ap-

The Empress Frederick has induced two Berlin societies of amateur photographers to co-operate in bringing about an international exhibition of photographs by amateurs in 1895. Her majesty has undertaken to be a patroness, and has requested Princess Henry to act as her substitute on

Mrs. Humphrey Ward says that before she finished her first novel she was seized with writers' cramp and that every word of the novel had to be dictated to a shorthand writer. She has since recovered the use of her hand. Mrs. Ward often rewrites a page twenty times before she is satisfied with the result.

Thomas H. Benton, for thirty years United States senator from Missouri, would not allow the word "Hon." to be prefixed to the pamphlet copies of his speeches which he sent to his constituents and other persons. The title page reads: "Speech of Mr. Benton, of Missouri." There was but one Benton.

Wee Hun Peunk, once a millionaire Chinese miner in Arizona, who was last heard The Sunday Sun nese miner in Arizona, who was last heard in South Africa, whither he went with his pretty American wife to make another fortune, has succeeded in buying an interest in the Kagaaji diamond mine. It is said that Barney Barnato, the diamond king, is his partner.

The Duchess de Pomar is creating quite a sensation in Paris by a series of lectures at her residence. Owing to the growing interest in these lectures on christianity and mysticism the duchess restricts the admission to her house to bearers of personal invitations. To avoid the interruptions by late arrivals the doors of the mansion are closed precisely at 3 o'clock.

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