

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

In New Zealand cats are used to destroy rabbits.

Tame turkeys can be trained to hunt wild ones.

Among flowers chrysanthemums live the longest after being cut.

China has 400,000,000 inhabitants and but forty miles of railroad.

The flattening of the poles of Jupiter can be seen through the telescope.

As long ago as 1821 Goethe advocated a ship canal across Nicaragua.

The apple contains a larger amount of phosphorus, or brain food than any other fruit.

In the days of Columbus only seven metals were known to exist. Now there are fifty-one.

The Greek Church employs two rings in the marriage ceremony—one of gold, and the other of silver.

Chilians never enter or leave a coach, street car, or public vehicle without bowing to all its occupants.

The scales used in the London Mint can show a difference in the weight of a card after a name has been written upon it.

The celebrated Treadneedle Street, London, was so called because in former times it was occupied chiefly by tailors.

It would take 12,000,000 years to pump the sea dry at the rate of 1,000 gallons per second, so some man of figures has calculated.

Bricks from what is believed to be the remains of the old Tower of Babel are still found in great profusion at Birs Nimrud, Babylonia.

Bees are said to have an antipathy to dark-colored objects. Black chickens have been stung to death, while, white ones of the same brood were left untouched.

The edible dogs of China are known by their bluish-black tongues. They never bark and are very taciturn. Four million and a half are slaughtered annually for the Celestials.

When a man is made a knight he has to pay certain fees. They are: Home Office fee, £7 13s. 6d.; Crown Office fee, £59 patent stamp, £30; warrant stamp, 10s.; docket stamp, 2s.—£97 12s. 6d.

All the gold in the world (not counting that still in a virgin state) would not make a cube of more than 613 cubic yards. A cube of the above dimensions could be put in a room twenty-four feet each way.

One of the latest uses of electricity is tree felling. A platinum wire is stretched between two poles and made incandescent. It burns through the trunk in about an eighth of the time usually taken to saw through it.

Lemonade, say the doctors, is best when made with boiling water, covered up closely and allowed to cool. In this way it has more flavor and goodness, and best suited to an invalid, and one lemon will go as far as two.

The highest mountain in the world, Mount Hercules, in the Isle of Capra, or New Guinea, was discovered by Captain A. J. Lawson, of London, in 1881. It is 32,763 feet high, or 3,788 feet higher than Mount Everest.

Stale tea leaves are said to be excellent for cleaning bottles that have had milk in them. Put a few leaves in the bottle, pour in water, shake, then rinse out with clear water. It will make them clear as crystal and remove any particle of milk.

A strange custom is still observed in a Hungarian town on St. Joseph's Day. Two young women who have been married within the past twelve months assemble in the market-place and offer themselves to be kissed at so much money per kiss.

It is known that some trees have attained the following ages: Elm, 355 years; cypress, 359; ivy, 450; larch, 570; chestnut, 600; orange, 630; palm, 650; olive, 700; Oriental plane, 720; cedar, 800; lime, 1,100; oak, 1,500; yew, 2,800.

Salt is a useful dentifrice. It preserves the teeth, keeping them white the gums healthy, and the breath sweet. Put some salt in an iron shovel, place it over the fire, and, when quite hot, pour into a thin bag. Apply to any part affected with neuralgia or intense pain.

Chamois skins are not derived from the chamois, as many people suppose, but are the flesh side of a sheepskin. The skins are soaked in lime water and in a solution of sulphuric acid. Fish oil is poured over them, and they are carefully washed in a solution of potash.

The red coral, which is used in jewelry and which is known as precious coral, is mostly obtained in the Mediterranean, the Barbary coast furnishing the dark red, Sardinia the yellow or salmon color and the coast of Italy the rose pink. It is also found in the Red sea. None is found in American waters.

Lithography was discovered by a poor poet named Senefelder, who had written a drama and determined that it should see the light. The publishers would not print it. He determined to print it himself. He had no type. He resolved that engraving would answer, but had no copper, and was too poor to buy any. He concluded to use stone, and after many failures finally made a brilliant success and a large fortune through his invention.

The weight of different kinds of wood is exceedingly variable. White pine is the lightest of the common woods, a cubic foot of it weighing 34 pounds; willow wood weighs 36, red pine 37, yellow pine 38 and pitch pine 43. Poplar weighs 46 and hickory 52. Logwood weighs 57, mahogany 66, live oak 67 and lignum vitae, the heaviest of all, weighs 83 pounds to the cubic foot. A block of lignum vitae thrown into the water will sink like a stone.

Chatham Island, lying off the coast of New Zealand, in the South Pacific Ocean, is peculiarly situated as it is one of the few habitable points of the globe where the day of the week changes. It is just on the line of the demarcation between dates. There at twelve noon on Sunday, Sunday ceases, and instantly Monday meridian begins. Sunday comes into a man's house on the east side, and becomes Monday by the time it passes out of the western door. A man sits down to his noon-day dinner on Sunday and it is Monday noon before he finishes it.

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HORRIBLE RITES IN RUSSIA.

The Ancient Practices of offering Human Sacrifices Still Exist.

Very few persons are aware that human sacrifices are still offered up in a part of the Russian empire. The fact is, nevertheless, certain. Among the Tchukchis such sacrifices still take place, and seem likely to continue. At the same time no blame can be attached to the Russian Government or to the Orthodox Church, because all efforts to stop the practice have proved ineffectual. The sacrifices alluded to are those of old people and the sick, who, finding no longer any pleasure in life, resolve to have done with earthly life and to increase the number of happy spirits.

The Tchukchi who has made up his mind to die, immediately notifies his neighbors and near relations. His friends visit him and try to make him change his mind. Prayers, reproaches, complaints, have no effect on the frantic. Seeing him thus resolved his friends go away to make the customary preparations. At the end of from ten to fifteen days they return to the hut of the Tchukchi, with white mortuary garments and weapons, with which, in the other world, he will fight evil spirits or hunt the reindeer. After making his toilet, the Tchukchi withdraws into a corner of his hut. His nearest relative stands by his side, holding in his hand the instrument of sacrifice—a knife, a pike, or a rope. If the Tchukchi has chosen the knife, two of his relatives hold him under the arms and by the wrists, and, at a given signal the sacrificer thrusts his knife into his breast. If the pike has been chosen, two of his friends hold this weapon, and two others throw the victim on its points. For strangulation two of the sacrificers draw the rope tight until death ensues, then the breast is opened to let the blood flow out. The assistants go to the corpse, and bath their hands and faces in the blood. The body is then placed on a sledge drawn by a reindeer and taken to the place of funeral. Arrived at their destination the Tchukchis cut the throat of the reindeer, take from the dead body its clothing which they tear to pieces, and place the corpse on a funeral pile. During the process of cremation, the assistants offer up prayers to the happy souls in the other world, asking them to watch over those who are still in the land of the living. These practices, horrible as they are, are followed in exactly the same manner to-day as in the ancient times.—(Gazette de Yakutsk (Siberia)).

How Steel Chains are Made.

Hitherto it has been found impossible to make steel chains without heating the metal, or to produce steel links with a stay or crosspiece. These difficulties are now reported to have been solved by a clever Birmingham inventor. The chain is made from a steel bar of cruciform section, and of the greatest length obtainable. This bar is put through a series of machines, in each of which pieces are punched out, so that after five operations the links are perfectly formed, but are still connected together at the point where the inner side of the bow of one link crosses that of the other. In fact, the bar represents a rigid chain, but on being passed through another machine it comes out as a roughly formed but perfect chain with separate links. The chain then undergoes three more operations, in which it is rectified, rounded and finished ready for use. The process is a cold one, so that there is no deterioration of the metal by heating, the only heat applied being near the end of the manufacture, when the chain is annealed in an oven for a short time. Owing to the limited length of the bars the chain has to be made in sections, and eventually coupled up by special links, which are made stronger than the chain itself. These chains, which are made suitable for general use, are produced in various sizes, from one-half inch down to three-thirty-seconds of an inch. Some of the one-half inch chains made from steel have a tensile strength of twenty-four tons per square inch.

Nitro Glycerine.

Nitro Glycerine is a mixture of glycerine, nitric and sulphuric acids. The two acids may be mixed and cooled artificially; the glycerine is then dropped into the mixture and the result is washed in plenty of water, the nitro-glycerine separating as a heavy yellowish liquid. Dynamite is porous earth, soaked in nitro glycerine: the German interior earth called kieselguhr takes up three times its own weight of nitro-glycerine and makes the best dynamite. Nitro-glycerine uncombined is stronger than dynamite: it is also more dangerous to handle. Sugar, white magnesium powder, tripoli and alumina are used in making dynamite, as they take up and hold large quantities of the nitro-glycerine. Nitro-glycerine is from four and a half to six and a half times as powerful as gunpowder, and dynamite is rather less powerful.

To Honor Joan of Arc

Efforts are making in France to substitute the birthday of Joan of Arc as the national feast day in place of the 14th of July, the anniversary of the taking of the Bastille. The Bastille episode anniversary no longer excites the same enthusiasm it did at the beginning of the present regime. And then it is being pointed out that the honor of having demolished the Bastille belongs to Germans and not Frenchmen. History is quoted to the effect that the siege and capture of the famous prison "was more especially the work of foreigners, of whom the majority were Germans," and thus the French have been annually celebrating the shedding of French blood by Germans.

He Wanted Information.

Young Mother—Baby is somewhat cross to-day. He is teething.

Bachelor (in great awe of the mite of humanity)

And when do you expect him to commence—er—hairing?

A noted health officer claims that a large number of cases of bronchitis, pneumonia and inflammation of the lungs during the winter are directly traceable to the exposure of the patient at football games in the fall.

Officials of the Smithsonian institution have discovered evidences which lead them to believe that the mound builders were the progenitors of the modern Indians.

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Madame Carnot has not been photographed for fifteen years and says she never will be again.

A recent visitor to Count Tolstoi at his home says that he makes the impression of a figure out of the Bible.

Lord Wolseley is said to have written most of his memoirs of the Duke of Marlborough standing at a desk before breakfast.

Prince Bismarck is the possessor of 482 crosses and decorations. It would require a breast of 21 feet in width to wear them all at once.

Ensuper William, of Germany is honorary Colonel-in-Chief of 27 regiments of soldiers, holding that rank in most of the European armies. His military wardrobe is of enormous size.

It is said that the khedive's mother has picked out as a bride for her son the princess Naime, daughter of the Sultan of Turkey, who was born in 1876, and is said to be beautiful and highly cultured.

Little King Alfonso, of Spain, is nine years old. His ninth birthday anniversary was celebrated at Madrid, on Thursday last by a reception at the palace, a military review and a state dinner all on a grand scale.

Another attempt is being made to secure the release of Mrs. Florence Maybrick. It is said that a feature of the petition will be the strength of the testimony as to the late Mr. Maybrick being a confirmed opium-eater.

Lieutenant Waethe, of the German Army, who intends to found a vegetarian colony on a South Pacific island, has not eaten meat in ten years. He neither drinks alcoholic liquor nor smokes.

The effort of a committee in Germany which was appointed to secure subscriptions to erect a monument to the memory of Poet Heine is not meeting with much success, and the scheme will probably have to be abandoned.

Sir Julian Pauncfote, the British Ambassador at Washington, heartily favors the project to raise a monument on the field of Braddock's defeat "because it was one of the few battles in which England and America were allies."

Sir Howell Salmon, of the British Navy, became a cadet when 12 years old; was made a commander at the age of 23, a post captain when 28, and has been on the admiral list for fifteen years. He is soon to become commander-in-chief at Portsmouth, England.

The Grand Duke Nicholas Czarowitz of Russia is not at all a Romanoff to look at. He resembles his Danish mother, and there is a strong likeness between the Czarowitz and the Duke of York. He has the scholar's temperament, amiable, modest and simple of manner.

John D. Rockefeller, the millionaire oil magnate, is one of the most difficult men to obtain access to New York. He takes a deep interest in religion and passes the plate at his church every Sunday. His days are spent at the Standard Oil Building at the lower end of Broadway, but no crank ever succeeds in getting into that structure.

When Mr. Gladstone first became Premier a gentleman called on his old tutor, the Rev. Mr. Rawson, of Seaford, Liverpool, to congratulate him on the high position gained by his pupil. The old gentleman replied: "I have two letters this morning from old pupils—one prime minister, the other gate keeper of a workhouse. Such is life."

Lord Fairfax, or, as he calls himself, Dr. Fairfax, of Maryland, is the only English peer who is an American citizen, and who also brings up his children as such. He took the degree of M.D. before the Fairfax titles and estates fell to him. He has never taken his seat in the House of Lords, nor the oath of allegiance as a representative peer.

Chief Arthur, of the brotherhood of locomotive engineers is a very plain, unassuming man of 63. For many years he handled a throttle, and he is now almost constantly engaged in settling disputes that arise in railroad circles. The chief is a well built man of 5 feet 6, rather heavy, with a face bronzed by the weather, and with a short-cropped white beard and no mustache. His talk is quick and blunt and to the point.

Abdul Hamid, Sultan of Turkey, has a firm conviction that he will reign for forty years, and this belief has banished all fear of disease and danger from his mind. He, however, dreads the cholera, because a dervish one prophesied that he would die of cholera morbus. This has been a source of great benefit to his subjects, as every effort is made to prevent the spread of cholera, owing to the Sultan's desire to escape being attacked by it.

Charles de Lesseps has received an official notification from the grand chancellerie of the Legion of Honor to the effect that he had been expelled from the order in which he held the rank of officer. No such notification has been addressed to his father, Ferdinand de Lesseps, and it is probable that the authorities are delaying the despatch of a communication of this character in the expectation that his death may relieve them of the necessity of sending it.

Mrs. Cleveland never wears a glove on her right hand at receptions, as her experience during her first occupancy of the executive mansion taught her that by so doing she avoided the intense pain that invariably followed a great amount of handshaking when the glove was kept on. Mrs. Harrison was compelled to altogether omit handshaking on account of the condition of her hands, which were at times so swollen with rheumatism as to make the slightest pressure a matter of positive agony.

Miss Hallam, better known as "Sister Victoria," who nursed the Duke of Clarence in his fatal illness, is said to be one of the best nurses connected with the big London hospitals. She is a native of South Wales, where her father was a tin-plate manufacturer. She became a probationer in St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, some sixteen years ago, and was first brought into contact with the Royal Family during Prince George's illness. When the Duke of Clarence became ill, the Princess of Wales begged that she might be sent for. She has remained intimate with the family ever since.

Only the Scars Remain.

"Among the many testimonials which I see in regard to certain medicines performing cures, cleansing the blood, etc.," writes HENRY HUDSON, of the James Smith Woolen Machinery Co., Philadelphia, Pa., "none impress me more than my own case. Twenty years ago, at the age of 18 years, I had swellings come on my legs, which broke and became running sores. Our family physician could do me no good, and it was feared that the bones would be affected. At last, my good old mother urged me to try Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I took three bottles, the sores healed, and I have not been troubled since. Only the scars remain, and the memory of the past, to remind me of the good Ayer's Sarsaparilla has done me. I now weigh two hundred and twenty pounds, and am in the best of health. I have been on the road for the past twelve years, have noticed Ayer's Sarsaparilla advertised in all parts of the United States, and always take pleasure in telling what good it did for me."

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