

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

Four millions more of gold was mined in the United States in 1893 than in 1892.

The Dakota River is the longest unnavigable river in the world—over 1,000 miles.

Fifty-one metals are now known to exist. Three centuries ago only seven were known.

In Norway persons who have not been vaccinated are not allowed to vote at any election.

Crucifixion is the method of sacrifice adopted in the Benin country on the West coast of Africa.

In Java, as a part of the marriage ceremony, the bride washes the feet of the bridegroom.

Pliny describes a reaper in use in his time which gathered the heads of the grain, leaving the straws standing.

The embracing extent of the British Empire may be judged from the fact that it contains 10,000 islands and 2,000 rivers.

India has nearly one-fifth of the earth's entire population, and also has a higher birth rate than any European country except Russia.

The island where Robinson Crusoe was monarch of all he surveyed is now inhabited by about 60 people, who attend the herds of cattle that graze there.

Houses which are damp because of proximity to undrained land, may be rendered more habitable by planting the laurel and the sunflower near them.

In Bengal, India, there are three harvests reaped every year, peas and oil seeds in April, the early rice crop in September, and the great rice crop in December.

The superstitious peasants of Great Britain believe that a white pigeon alighting on a chimney or flying against a window betokens a speedy death in the house.

English noblemen are the only ones in Europe who ever wear coronets on their heads and the sole occasion when they do so is at the coronation of the sovereign.

Spanish Hebrews pour out all the water contained in the vessels of a house wherein a person has died, fearing that the angel of death may have washed his sword in some of it.

The number of telephones in service in the United States is 512,407, and the total length of line is 255,800 miles, or about ten and one-half times the circumference of the earth.

The largest room in the world, under one roof and unbroken by pillars, is at St. Petersburg. It is 120 feet long by 150 feet in breadth. By daylight it is used for military displays, and a battalion can completely manoeuvre in it. Twenty thousand wax tapers are required to light it.

There are about 100,000 islands, large and small, scattered over the oceans. The United States alone has 5,500 around its coasts; there are 365 in the Bay of Rio Janeiro, 16,000 between Madagascar and India, and some 1,200 off the eastern coast of Australia, between its mainland and New Guinea.

The diving apparatus is one of the latest objects to which the telephone has been applied. A sheet of copper is used in place of the glasses in the helmet, and to this a telephone is fixed, so that the diver, when at the bottom of the sea has only to slightly turn his head in order to report what he sees, or to receive instructions from above.

"Big Ben" is the bell which strikes the hours of the great clock at Westminster. It weighs about 14 tons. The clock is an immense piece of mechanism. The dials are 22½ feet in diameter, the hour figures 2 feet high and 6 feet apart, the minute marks fourteen inches apart, the minute hand 16 feet long, the hour hand 9 feet long, the pendulum 15 feet in length, and the winding gear hangs down the tower 160 feet.

Californian redwood trees cut down sixty years ago have made sprouts which are now trees from three to five feet in diameter, and from 100 to 150 feet high. It is the rapid growth of some of these trees which leads people to doubt their great age, but there seems to be no reason for doubting that the method of calculating by annual rings of wood is sound, and that the great age imputed to some of these trees has solid groundwork to build on.

There are 3,985 paper mills in the world, and they produce annually 950,000 tons of paper. About half this quantity, or 465,000 tons, is used for printing purposes, nearly 300,000 tons of it going for newspapers and periodicals alone. The Government offices of the world consume 100,000 tons, the schools, 90,000 tons, while private letters, etc., make up 52,000 tons. These paper mills employ 270,000 hands, two-thirds of whom are women.

The name of "love apple" applied to the tomato, is thus explained: The plant is a native of the warmer parts of America, and the name tomato is from the Spanish-American tamate. It was introduced into Europe from Morocco, and the Italians, who received it about the beginning of the sixteenth century, called it "pomo di Mori"—apple of the Moors. The French, deceived by the sound, translated it "pomme d'amour," which became "love apple" in English.

Mexico has the most luxurious railways in the world. The rails of the Mexico Gulf railway are laid on sleepers of mahogany, and the bridges are built of white marble. On the west coast of Mexico there is another line, which has sleepers of ebony and ballast of silver ore, drawn from the old mines beside the tract. The reason for this apparent extravagance is that the engineers had no other material on the route, and found it cheaper to use these than to import the ordinary material.

And now electricity has been found to furnish a cure for frostbite. Dr. Hebbing has been successful in Germany, in 20 cases, in healing people of frozen noses. The treatment consisted of applying electrodes to the opposite sides of the nose, and passing a moderately strong current for five or ten minutes, moving the electrodes about. The immediate result is a reddening of the tissues, which may last several days, after which the skin and the flesh resume their normal condition. In extreme cases, from 10 to 15 applications have been found necessary.

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MANY AND MONSTROUS ANTS.

Insects of Florida Which Teach Lessons of Order and Good Government.

There are more ants to the square mile in Florida than in any other country in the world. There are ants which will measure more than half an inch in length, and then there are ants so small that they can scarcely be seen to move with the unaided eye. There are red ants and black ants and troublesome ants. But as bad as they are, says a writer in the Savannah News, I have never heard of them eating out the seat of a man's trousers, as a missionary, Rev. Mr. Wilson, once told me he saw the army ants do in India while the man was sitting on the earth for a few minutes beside him. But the Florida ants will take out the lettuce and other minute seeds from the soil in which they are planted and actually destroy the seed. They will suck the life out of acres of young cucumbers and melon plants, uproot strawberry plants or cover the buds with earth to such an extent as to kill them.

They will get into pickle, sauce, syrup, sugar, on meat, in hash, will riddle a cake or fill a loaf of baker's bread till it is worthless. All remedies failing, I took to baiting them near their nests with slices of meat, bones, apple and pear parings, and when I had from 50,000 to 100,000 out turned a kettle of boiling water on them. I have killed during the last week over 1,000,000 in the space of a quarter-acre lot, and I have almost whipped them out. I had to do this to secure my lettuce plants, and many observant farmers complain of seedmen when they should attribute their troubles to insects.

It is very curious and instructive to see how promptly the ants which escape the scalding go to work taking out the dead, and after pulling them outside first, then go to excavating again and rebuilding their cells and runways. This being done very quickly, the next work on hand is the laying in of a supply of food, by hauling the dead bodies of the hot water victims into their storehouses. You may see a small black ant hauling and tugging at the carcass of a red ant twenty times its own weight, and he always succeeds in the end in hauling it into the warehouse of the colony. Next you may see a sort of ambulance corps searching for the disabled. These are taken to the underground house, where the surgeons and nurses are in waiting. Then, too, you may see the housekeeper and housemaid directing this one or turning another back on an errand or to some other duty. There is not a moment's delay, no halting feet, no idle hands, but all move as if it was their last day on earth and this was the only hour left in which to redeem a misspent life. For lessons in industry and perfect government go to the ants.

Instinct Told Them the Right Road.
"I had an experience to be remembered once at Moosehead," said Joseph Williams. "Three of us were out on the lake one winter's day in January when a storm came up. We had a couple of horses and rode on sledges made of split birch poles. To get home and settled in the cabins before night came was our one wish, but for two hours the icy clouds had been blowing up on the horizon, and now came down in a whirl of snow and ice wind. In half an hour we were lost on the ice. Two hours later we crossed our own tracks again and knew that we had been going about in a circle. To stay out there all night would be death, and to keep on travelling about aimlessly meant to fall at last exhausted. Finally, as the wind blew keener along the level surface, and the snow beat on our faces with more cutting effect, we called a halt and discussed again the chances. An old guide who was with us suggested that we let the horses take their own way off the lake. It seemed foolish, but we agreed. Striking the horses smart clips with the whips, we were surprised to see them turn each to the left and start off to the east. We thought that this would take us farther into the lake, but submitted, and in half an hour the trees along the bank loomed up through the storm and we were safe. A horse knows by instinct what a man doubts and questions in such times."—[Lewiston (Me.) Journal.]

Keeping an Eye on Bank Employees.
On the occasion of a visit to Paris last winter I renewed acquaintanceship with a very old friend who is employed in a bank in that city. During the evening we took in several innocent and harmless recreations, and I suggested to him that we might see something a little more out of the common. To my surprise he said that if I wanted to see Paris on the shady side he would find me a reliable guide, but he certainly could not be like a statesman out of office at 9 o'clock the following morning. Pressed for an explanation, he told me that every official in his bank, and he believed in every other bank, was practically under police surveillance day and night, and that pictures of each of them were in the hands of skilled detectives. Instead of waiting until a bank official got behind in his accounts in consequence of excessive gambling or high living, the directors preferred to close the stable door before the horse had got out.—[St. Louis Globe-Democrat.]

Fall of Contradiction.
The husband wasn't a temperance man exactly, and when he was less so, to state the case emphatically, he was disposed to be cranky in his ideas. His wife's mother was inclined to be harsh in her judgment, as that relative of a man or woman sometimes is. One day after he had been discussing a point and had gone out, the old lady made a few remarks.

"You shouldn't talk so," apologized his wife. "Harry is full of contradictions." The wife's mother gave a sniff at the atmosphere.

"Yes," she said significantly. "I presume whiskey and water can be considered contradictions."

Not Suitable for a Country Store.
Peddler—I've got some signs that I'm selling to storekeepers right along. Everybody buys 'em. Here's one—"If You Don't See What You Want, Ask for It!"

Country storekeeper—Think I want to be bothered with people asking for things I ain't got. Give me one readin'." "Et Yeh Don't See What Yeh Want, Ask Fer Something Else."—[Puck.]

Horsford's Acid Phosphate.
If you are NERVOUS, and cannot sleep, try it.

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who are thin, hollow-chested, or growing too fast, are made Strong, Robust and Healthy by

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A Scientific Cure without the knife, I am, therefore, proud of my direct descent from the house of Hanover. My love and sympathies are all with the fatherland.

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Annie Besant and Colonel Olcott, the well-known theosophists, have returned to London from India.

King Humbert, of Italy, alone, among European sovereigns, discourages kissing a monarch's hands. He may be often seen giving a hearty handshake to a noble or a workman.

One of the Napoleonic princes, Prince Louis Napoleon, is serving in the Russian navy. He speaks Russian like a native and is the strictest disciplinarian in the service. The marines dislike him.

The late General Early, whose picturesque personality caused him to be known through the war as "Lee's Bad Old Man," was in his later years, according to the testimony of a Richmond friend, "a daily reader and thorough student of the Bible."

General J. D. MacAdams, a retired French soldier, once a member of the chamber of deputies and now a member of the general council of the department of Basses-Alpes, is travelling through the United States studying American municipal systems of government.

Lady Frederic Kavadish and Mrs. Henry Sedgwick are the first two women to appear on a royal commission in Great Britain. The board to which they have been appointed is to consider the best methods of establishing a well-organized system of secondary education.

A French writer has compiled information regarding the favorite wines of eminent men. Napoleon I. preferred Chamberlain, Frederick the Great, Tokay; Peter the Great, Madeira; Rubens, Marsala; Rabelais, Chablis; Talleyrand, Chateau Margot; Goethe, Johannesberger, and Byron, Port.

Elvira and Elmira Fife, maiden twin sisters, are living at Peterborough, N. H., at the age of 83, and claim to be the oldest twins on earth. It is related of them that, although living in the same house and eating at the same table, they have always lived separately; that is, each has cooked her own meal.

Moved by the example of Peter the Great, perhaps, Count Julian Teleky, who belongs to a rich Hungarian family, is just now learning the ship-building trade in San Francisco. He represents a Russian syndicate which is about to establish a line of steamships between the Pacific coast and Eastern Siberia.

The Duke of Rutland is the Adonis of his party, the dandy of the house. During his fifty-three years of political life he has never been anything other than a dandy, though he is now so isolated an example of the old nobility as to find his counterpart only in some rustic patrician upon the stage.

The town of Rockport, Mass., has had only two town clerks in fifty-four years. Colonel William Pool was chosen when the town was incorporated in 1840, and served twenty-nine years. His son, Calvin W., was then chosen, and has filled the office for twenty-five years, and March 4 was re-elected at the last town meeting.

Admiral Ramsay, who has just been promoted to the place made vacant by Admiral Benham's retirement, has been in the navy for almost forty-four years and has held command and rank since 1866. He has advanced five files in the last year and Admiral Walker is his immediate senior, while Commodore Skerritt is just below him.

The Shah of Persia is exceedingly superstitious. He always carries with him when he travels a circle of amber, which is said to have fallen from heaven in Mohammed's time, and which renders the wearer invulnerable; a casket of gold which makes him invisible at will, and a star, which is potent to make conspirators instantly confess their crimes.

In society Lord Rosebery is very popular. His manner is very natural. His smallness of stature is carried off by good looks and a certain dignity which is a curious contrast to his good humored bonhomie, for Rosebery is more of a humorist than a wit, and his clean-shaven face, coupled with a stolid visage, makes his little quirks quite irresistible.

The Duke of Edinburgh, now of Saxecoburg, said recently: "I have never felt at home in England. There is no warmth of character in the English race, and there is a vein of disloyalty running through the length and breadth of the land. I am, therefore, proud of my direct descent from the house of Hanover. My love and sympathies are all with the fatherland."

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