

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

One out of every five native women of India is a widow.

The play of color in the opal is due to minute fissures in the stone.

Diamonds, so small that 1,500 go to the carat, have been cut in Holland.

There is said to be no civilized race that is not addicted to some form of stimulant.

The total length of street pipes of the metropolitan water companies is 4,859 miles.

The diamond has been found on all the continents and in almost every country in the world.

The largest diamond ever known was the Great Mogul, which weighed in its rough 795 carats.

All Chinamen start the journey of life on equal footing. Rank is conferred by the Emperor, never inherited.

Of the seven thousand two hundred and fifty-seven in the United States navy, over one-half are of foreign birth.

The diamond mines of Brazil have yielded over 15,000,000 carats of stones, valued at \$100,000,000.—Chicago Dispatch.

There are only one aluminium factory in the United States. The majority of these establishments are in Germany.

Some of the fish in the royal aquarium in St. Petersburg have been on exhibition for more than one hundred and fifty years.

During the most peaceful years of the world has 3,700,000 soldiers. The pay, equipments, food, and clothing of these men cost, it is calculated, nearly £1,600,000 a day.

The age of whales is ascertained by the size and number of laminae of the whalebone which increase yearly. Ages of 300 and 400 have been assigned to whales from these indications.

Anyone found in the streets of Russia, in an inebriated state is imprisoned, and when sober is ordered to sweep the streets for a day. Well-dressed men may be seen sometimes fulfilling this menial office.

The longest time which a note has remained outside the Bank of England is 111 years. It was for £25, and it is computed that the compound interest during that long period amounted to no less than £6,000.

It is estimated that the death-rate of the world is sixty-seven a minute, and the birth-rate seventy a minute, and this seemingly light percentage of gain is sufficient to give a net increase of population each year of almost 1,200,000 souls.

What is believed to be the oldest piece of metal money ever made is carefully treasured at Philadelphia. It was minted at Aegina about 700 B. C. The design is in high relief, representing a tortoise crawling along the face of the coin.

Tiny trees and flowering plants, ponds, bridges, and lanterns, dwarf pines, six or eight inches high but one hundred years old, and peony plants of equal age, but eight feet high, are some of the wonders that are to be seen in Japanese flower gardens.

The Eastern hemisphere, on which dwell 92 per cent. of the population of the world, has 170,792 miles of railway, or 46 per cent. of the railways of the world. The Western hemisphere, having but 8 per cent. of the population of the world, has 199,489 miles of railway, being 54 per cent. of the mileage of the world.

A German physiologist, who devoted himself with great patience to the counting of the hairs on different heads, to ascertain the average number on a human head, found that, taking four heads of hair of equal weight, the number of hairs according to color was as follows: Red, 90,000 black, 103,000 brown, 109,000 fair, 140,000.

A glass stopper that has become firmly fixed in a bottle can always be removed with ease by dipping a towel in hot water and wrapping it round the neck of the bottle. The neck expands with the heat, and with a vigorous twist out comes the stopper. It will not do to pour the hot water on the neck of the bottle, for in nine cases out of ten the unequal expansion will crack the bottle.

A cure for sleep-walking can be effected by laying upon the carpet, by the side of the sleep-walker's bed, a strip of sheet metal—iron, zinc, or copper—so wide and long that when he puts his feet out of bed they will rest upon the metal. The coldness felt will awaken him thoroughly, and he will go to bed again. A friend, the writer adds, checked the habit of sleep-walking in his son by placing a strip of wet carpet by the side of his bed.

Of all the coal mined in the world, from the beginning of this century to the present time, Great Britain has produced one-half. In 1891 she mined 36 per cent. of the world's product, while the United States produced 33 per cent. The United States is increasing its output at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, while the increase in Great Britain is less than 2 per cent. The cost of coal is increasing in Great Britain and decreasing in the United States. England exports 31 per cent. of her total product of coal, while the United States exports less than 1 per cent.

Painters are often bothered with grease spots on a floor they are intending to paint. If the grease is not taken out a good job cannot be made, and grease, when once fixed in wood, is almost impossible to remove. The best that can be done is to wash over the greasy place with a strong saltpetre solution of thin whitewash, leave it for a time until dry, then renew it once or twice, and finally scrape the place thoroughly before painting. Even then it sometimes happens that the spot will be observable from its not receiving the paint as well as the rest of the floor.

Paper can be manufactured out of almost anything that can be pounded into pulp. Over fifty kinds of barks are said to be used, and banana skins, bean stalks, pea vines, cocanut fibre, clover and timothy hay, straw, sea and fresh water weeds, and many kinds of straws are all applicable. It has also been made from hair, tur, and wool, from asbestos, which furnishes an article indestructible by fire; from hop plants from husks of any and every kind of grain. Leaves make a good strong paper, while the husks and stems of Indian corn have also been tried. In the United States there are about 2,000 patents covering the manufacture of paper.

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TESLA'S WONDROUS DISCOVERY.

The Servian Electrician Able to Furnish Light Without Using Wires.

It is not an extravagant statement to say that never before in the history of the world has there been a scientific discovery about which centered such magnificent dreams as are being built up on certain recently discovered electrical principles. Among those the foremost place must be given to the astounding discoveries of the young Servian genius, Nikola Tesla, which are so novel and so extraordinary that the most imaginative of inventors are unable to foresee what form their development will take. Just as experimenters were beginning to think that they knew all that could be learned about electricity, and that further improvement must be in the line of more perfect mechanical application, Mr. Tesla shows us the electric fluid under conditions in which it differs from ordinary electricity as much as light differs from heat. A current of 2,000 volts will kill a man in the twinkling of an eye, but this modern wizard lets currents pour through his hands with a potential of 200,000 volts, vibrating a million times a second and showering from him in dazzling streams of light. For some time after the experiment ceases his body and clothing emit streams and halos of splintered light.

The wildest dream of the inventor could not have foreseen that while currents of low frequency are deadly, these are harmless. Mr. Tesla says that he will soon be able to wrap himself in a complete sheet of electric fire that will keep a man warm at the north pole without harming him. Neither Merlin nor Michael Scott nor any of the wizards of old ever wrought a more potent miracle, even in fancy. The meaning of this is too far beyond us to be realized at present. We can no more grasp its significance than Franklin could discern the electric motor in his captured thunderbolt. Equally astounding and with more visible usefulness is Mr. Tesla's discovery that currents of such enormous potential and frequency can be transmitted without the use of wires. A room can be filled with electricity from copper plates in ceiling and floor, so that electric lights will burn without any connecting wire as soon as they are brought in. In the same way intelligence and power may be transmitted without a circuit, doing away with the necessity for trolleys, storage batteries and subways. When it is considered that such startling changes as these are already theoretically possible, it will be seen that in the inventions upon which we so complacently congratulate ourselves we have only timidly paddled along the great sea yet to be explored.

WHEN SCOT MEETS SCOT.

The Graham of Claverhouse was Too Much for the Argyle.

In the closing days of the World's Fair a weary woman went into the British section, and sitting down upon a handsome sofa, first rested against the cushions, then turned and put her feet up to secure a recumbent posture.

Noticing this, a Scotswoman, who was in charge of the exhibit, approached and objected. "But I am tired," said the other woman, "and I wish to rest." "It's against the rules," replied the manageress, "that these couches should be used to lie upon; I will bring you more cushions, and make you as comfortable as possible, but you cannot lie down here."

"Why, I am from England. This place is created just for us, and why shouldn't we be comfortable?" "I can't argue that with you; I am here to enforce the rules, and must obey my instructions."

The other woman continued to protest, growing more offensive as she met with continued firm, though civil, resistance, and at last she played what she considered her trump card. "Madam," she exclaimed, drawing herself up, "it is time that I let you know who I am; I am a second cousin of the Duke of Argyll."

The Scotswoman's eyes gleamed. "That settles it," she replied instantly and decisively. "I am a Graham of Claverhouse, and between your family and mine is a feud of 500 years' standing. No Argyle trespasses here while a Graham is in charge."

The Steel Age Has Come. The Eiffel Tower, built wholly of metal, is an example, and a good example, of a step in the direction which architects will be driven to follow in future. The great railway stations, exhibition buildings and other structures of steel, concrete, paper and glass, which the needs and inventions of our day have called into existence, show which way flows the stream of tendency. The new building material has come to stay. In another century houses may not merely be built with steel girders; they may be made of metal frames bolted together and gripping walls of papier-mache. Then the age of the tent will return. A man will buy his house from a manufacturer and will hire a site to set it up on. When he moves from one place to another he will take his home with him. Building leases will die a natural death. Towns will wander about, and a great many curious results will arise.

Handy for Use in the Kitchen.

Housekeepers who do not have scales handy often desire some means of accurately determining the weights of different materials to be used in the kitchen. It is useful for them to know, therefore, that one quart of wheat flour, even with the edge of the cup, is almost exactly one pound; that a quart of butter is fourteen ounces; a quart of white sugar is two pounds; that ten medium eggs weigh a pound. Eight tablespoonsful of any liquid make a gill, four tablespoonsful make a wineglass, and sixteen spoonfuls make a tumblerful. The ordinary tumbler holds generally half a pint.

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT

Rev. Dr. Arthur C. A. Hall has been created third bishop of Vermont.

Mark Twain is fond of cats, and has one named Satan, another called Sin.

Mrs. Gladstone owns property at Niagara Falls, Ontario—three acres of land, worth about \$5,000 an acre.

Rev. Dr. Talmage will make a tour of the world, accompanied by his wife and two daughters, and will be absent about five months.

Nearly half of the estate of the late Miss Margaret F. Ewing, of Philadelphia, which is valued at between \$200,000 and \$300,000, is left to her three domestics.

Rider Haggard has taken to farming in the Waveney Valley, England, and he is said to be so scientific that his crops are worth about one-quarter of what they cost him.

Mrs. Mary Lama, of Savannah, who died recently, bequeathed her estate, valued at about \$25,000, for the establishment of a home for widows of the catholic faith in that city.

Mr. Gladstone has been devoting his spare time to an enthusiastic study of the Basque languages, the dialect of the strange people who inhabit the slopes of the Pyrenees.

The Queen rarely sends any telegrams to any member of the Royal Family, or to her intimate friends, otherwise than in cipher, a system of figure ciphers having been carefully prepared for her and their use.

Max Labandry is the name of a young French "Coal Oil Johnny" who has just come into a fortune of 27,000,000 francs. He is making the princes of Monte Carlo stare by his expenditures. Mrs. Langtry is one of his warm friends.

Among the oldest princesses in Europe is the Princess of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, who celebrated the eightieth anniversary of her birth recently. Among her children are the King of Roumania and Prince Frederick of Hohenzollern.

F. G. Johnson, who started out to reach the far north, is returning to England by way of Lapland. About the only work he accomplished in the far north was the testing of his sledges and their appliances in the neighborhood of Yugor Strait.

Miss Richardson has been elected second vice president and Miss Eaton secretary of the senior law class in the University of Michigan. The vice presidents of the junior law class and of the senior class in the dental department are women.

The thoroughly English appearance of Lady Henry Somerset gives little hint of her French ancestry. Yet her great-grandmother, Mme. d'Etang, was one of the maids of honour at the Court of Marie Antoinette, while the Chevalier d'Etang was a devoted adherent of the unfortunate queen.

King Humbert of Italy is said to be almost a total abstainer. On state occasions and at official dinners he is, as a matter of course, obliged, for form's sake, to drink a little wine, but he takes merely the smallest sips, and those only when it is not to be avoided. In private life he is said to rarely have wine on his table.

Dr. Robert Collyer, of Chicago, in his sermon referring to his seventieth birthday, says that he has never been absent from his pulpit on a single Sunday from sickness, nor has he ever been sick in bed one day in his life. He is glad he was born in the good motherland, England, and glad that he was born again in beautiful America.

The Comte de Montesquieu, a rich and eccentric French nobleman, lives in the neighborhood of Paris in a show-place, especially remarkable for the dining room, which contains a winter garden. Walking about among the plants are a great number of small, live Venetian turtles, variously enamelled, and encrusted with precious stones.

Prince Krapotkin, the celebrated Russian exile and advocate of anarchy, looks the anarchist every inch of him. He is tall and lathy, with deep-set eyes, bald head, and patriarchal whiskers and moustache, which flow in a grey, unkempt mass over his breast. His principal gesture when speaking consists in spreading the fingers of both hands wide apart and sawing the air with his arms.

An Irish paper tells a good story of a visit Justin McCarthy paid to a second-hand book store in Cork not long ago. After offering him several works of fiction, the bookseller finally produced a copy of one of Mr. McCarthy's own books, but still the customer was not satisfied. At last the bookseller, in desperation, exclaimed, "Well, sir, if I was a man so hard to please as you, I'd take to writing books myself!"

"Eight hours a day" is Miss Willard's rule in the matter of work. She writes and reads from nine in the morning till six in the evening, with half an hour for a walk and half an hour for lunch, and except when lecturing, is in bed by nine o'clock. Even when lecturing or travelling Miss Willard's retiring hour is not later than ten; she regards that as quite late enough for anyone who wishes to lead a long and healthy life.

Rev. F. J. H. Axford, Rector St. John's Episcopal Church, Cornwallis, N. S. says: Mr. Borden is a neighbor of mine and I know that his statement is true.

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