

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

Palm leaves on the Amazon grow thirty feet long.

The healthiest children in the world dwell in the Scottish highlands.

It takes seventy different persons to make one knife.

An uncut diamond looks very much like a bit of the best gum arabic.

The best pearls are found on the Ceylon coast and in the Persian Gulf.

A greater number of widowers re-marry in Spain than in any other country.

Diamonds are so small that 1500 go to the carat that have been cut in Holland.

Political offences in Germany and France are punished by imprisonment in a fortress.

The explosive power of dynamite is eight times stronger than that of gunpowder.

The quantity of oranges and lemons raised in Southern Italy is placed at 57,000 tons.

The number of marriages performed through the world each day is estimated at 3,000.

In all the wars in which Britain has taken part she has won 82 per cent of the battles.

Three-tenths of the earnings of a Belgian convict are set aside for his benefit on release.

It is computed that 1,000 cattle give 67 tons of beef, and 1,000 sheep 13 1/2 tons of mutton.

Smoking is permitted in the prisons of Belgium only as a reward for good behaviour.

It is estimated that there are 8000 more papers in London than there were this time a year ago.

All improper resorts in the City of Mexico are regularly classified, graded and licensed.

St. Petersburg's population is 1,000,000. There are 2,165 police, who in 1890 made 76,002 arrests.

Each of the Lutheran missionary societies of Germany contributes \$75,000 for foreign missions.

The cathedral of Mayence has in its possession the crucifix worn by Marie Stuart at her execution.

In Normandy the marriageable maidens wear skirts with stripes that correspond to the dowry they possess.

By the force of a wave at Bishop's Rock lighthouse the bell was torn from its fastenings, although situated 100 feet above high water mark.

An egg of the great auk sold in London for \$1,500 the other day. There are sixty-eight of these eggs in the world—two in America.

In China the name Chang is pronounced "Jong," with the long sound on the "o." This may account for the nickname "John" as applied to Chinamen.

The Austrian poor-law gives every man sixty years old a right to a pension equal to one-third of the amount per day which he had usually earned during his working years.

It is a remarkable fact that the area of land assigned to potatoes in France is nearly equal to the combined potato areas of the United Kingdom and the United States.

The longest continuous cataleptic sleep known to science was reported from Germany in 1892, the patient having remained absolutely unconscious for four and a half months.

It is announced that a furnace has been unearthed somewhere along the Nile in which the hot blast was used centuries before the modern Neilson formulated the same idea.

When sugar is added to water the mixture does not freeze at several degrees below the freezing points. This enables bricklayers to continue at work when ordinary mortar would congeal.

The strength of ice is well known to be very great. A thickness of only 1 1/2 in. will support a man's weight. Cavalry are safe on it; an 84 lb. cannon on 6 in., and a railway train on 18 in. thickness.

The bottom of the Pacific between Hawaii and California is said to be so level that a railroad could be laid for 500 miles without altering the grade anywhere. This fact was discovered by the United States surveying vessel engaged in making soundings with the view of laying a cable.

Land snails are distinguished by an extreme tenacity of life in every stage of growth. Dr. R. Stearns in his report on the mollusc fauna collected during the voyage of the Albatross in 1877-86, tells of one small living without food for at least six years and being apparently no worse for the long fast.

The Tartars are supposed to have as a nation, the most powerful voices in the world. The Germans possess the lowest voices of any civilized people. The voices of both Chinese and Japanese are of a very low order and feeble compass, and are probably weaker than any other nation. Taken as a whole, Europeans have stronger, clearer and better voices than the inhabitants of the other continents.

Perhaps it is more interesting than strictly useful to know that the diameter of trees not only varies from summer to winter, but from day to day. They are larger from noon until dawn next morning than from dawn to noon; they are smaller in winter than in summer. Low temperatures, as well as high, promote evaporation. The trees evaporate from their branches in winter, and so the colder the weather the more they shrink.

English is destined to be the universal language of commerce. Since 1000 the number of those who speak the German language has increased from 30,000,000 to 70,000,000; the Russian started with about the same figures and increased in about the same ratio; the French increased from 30,000,000 to 50,000,000, while the English which started with less than 20,000,000, has grown to the stupendous figure of 125,000,000. Such a growth is unparalleled in the history of the world, and furnishes excellent reason for the belief that in less than a century English will be spoken and written wherever any extensive business is done.

Physicians,

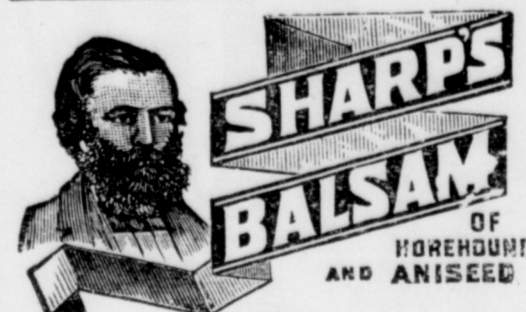
the world over, endorse it; babies and children like the taste of it. Weak mothers respond readily to its nourishing powers.

Scott's Emulsion

the Cream of Cod-liver Oil, is the life of the blood, the maker of sound flesh, solid bones and lung tissue, and the very essence of nourishment.

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has been used by Millions of Mothers for their children while teething for over Fifty Years. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for diarrhoea.
Twenty-five Cents a Bottle.

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WHEN IRVING WAS POOR.

The Noted Actor Tells of a Time When He Needed Clothing.

The place was a cozy room in a cozy house in a quiet street off the Strand, London; the time was Saturday; the hour, midnight, says a writer in the New York Tribune. A company of professional men, composed of some of the lawyers, doctors, newspaper men and actors whose names are famous on both sides of the Atlantic, were scattered in groups about the rooms smoking and chatting after the Saturday night supper, which had become a standard institution with them. In a sheltered corner over by the fireplace, sat a small knot of men, every one of whom had reached the top, or at least the front rank, of his profession. The talk drifting in a smooth, desultory, half-sleepy way from phase to phase, had gradually assumed a retrospective hue. From one to another the story had passed, each telling the tale of an empty pocket, or a hopeless tramp of thirty miles or so in thin shoes along a snow-bound road in search of employment. Henry Irving, thoughtfully smoking, with an air of deep attention, had not spoken and did not speak until the others, having exhausted their stock, turned to him. He had experienced harder luck than any of them, and they knew it. He looked up at them for a moment, and then, after a pause, said:

"The recollection uppermost in my mind just now, while you boys have been talking about tramping and winter roads and all that, is of a certain Christmas dinner at which I was present. I wonder whether any of you remember a poor fellow, long since dead, Joe Robins, who played small parts in London and outside it, and who made the one big mistake of his life when he entered the profession. Joe had been in the men's underwear business and was doing well, when an amateur performance for a charitable object was organized and he was cast for the part of the clown in a burlesque of 'Guy Fawkes.' Joe belonged to one of the Bohemian clubs, and on the night of the show his friends among the actors and journalists attended in a body to give him a 'send off.' He played that part capitally and the mischief might have ended there, but some one compared him to Grimaldi. His fate was sealed. He sold his stock, went on the stage and a few months later I came upon him playing general utility on a small salary in a small theatre in Manchester. One relic of his happy days still remained to him. He had retained shirt, collar and underwear sufficient to last him for a generation. But if Joe lacked ability as an actor, he had a heart of gold. He would lend or give his last shilling to a friend and piece by piece his stock of underwear had diminished until only a few shirts and underclothes remained to him.

"The Christmas of that year—the year in which we played together—was perhaps the bitterest I ever knew. Joe had a part in the pantomime. When the men with whom he dressed took off their street clothes he saw with a pang at his kind heart how poorly some of them were clad. One poor fellow, without an overcoat, shivered and shook with every breath of the wind that whistled through the cracked door, and as he undressed there was disclosed a suit of the lightest summer gauze underwear, which he was wearing in the depth of that dreadful winter.

Poor as Joe was, he was determined to keep up his annual custom of giving his comrades a Christmas dinner. Perhaps all that remained of his stock of underwear went to the pawnbroker, but that is neither here nor there. Joe raised the money somehow, and on the Christmas day was ready to meet his guests. Among the crowd that filed into his room was his friend with the gauze underwear. Joe beckoned him into an adjoining bedroom, and, pointing to a chair silently walked out. On that chair hung a suit of underwear. It was of a comfortable scarlet color; it was of silk and wool; it was thick and warm and it clung around the actor as if it had been built for him. As the shirt fell over his head there was suffused through his frame a gentle, delicious glow that thrilled every fibre of his body. His heart swelled almost to bursting. He seemed to be walking on air. He saw all things through a mist of tears. The faces around him, the voices in his ears, the familiar objects in his sight, the very snow falling gently outside the windows seemed as the shadows of a dream, with but one reality—the suit of underclothing."

"His feelings seem to have entered your heart," said one of the listeners.

"They might well do so," replied Mr. Irving, "for I was that poor actor."

Playing a Fiddle by Electricity.

Violin playing by electricity has been accomplished by Frank D. Brown, whose "electric violin" is the latest novelty in the musical line in the United States. Its inventor says: "I attach it to a piano or organ keyboard, and the keys of the instrument are electrically connected with the keyboard, so that when any of the keys are touched they actuate the violin notes that correspond with notes of similar pitch and tone of the piano or organ. I can sound either the notes of the piano or violin as I choose, or both at the same time." The inventor then illustrates the method of doing so: "A violinist playing that instrument can ordinarily strike but two strings of the violin simultaneously, while with this device one can strike as many strings of the violin as he can with both hands strike keys and notes of the piano or organ. It will enable the sounding of new chords that it was before impossible to strike with the bow, and these chords will, of course, contain more notes than it has ever before been in the power of the violinist to strike." The inventor contends that new effects and expressions can by his device be obtained from the violin, which will more than ever charm and entrance its hearers. The same gentleman is engaged also in another invention to "hitch on" an entire orchestra to a pianoforte keyboard in the same manner.

When She Discovered it.

Mr. Saphend (during the honeymoon.) When did my little ducky darling first discover that she loved me? Bride (sweetly)—When I found myself getting mad every time anyone called you a fool.

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT

Two of the late Richard Proctor's children—a son and a daughter—are devoting their lives to the science of astronomy.

The king of Portugal has set an example to lofty monarchs by effecting assurances upon his life in English offices, to the value of \$400,000.

The Dowager Lady Churchill is to be in attendance upon the Queen during all the time that Her Majesty is to be absent from England.

Rev. Narcisse Cyr, who died recently in Springfield, Mass., at the age of 70, had achieved fame as a missionary, journalist and preacher. He was a Canadian by birth.

During the coming summer President Eliot, of Harvard, will complete his twenty-fifth year as president of that institution, and there is a movement on foot to present him with a gold medal at the next commencement dinner.

Dr. Muriel Matland King is all the fad in London now. She is a physician and lectures to fashionable ladies on the laws of life for themselves and their children. As royalty has put the stamp of approval on her work she is doing admirably and making money.

The dowager empress of China celebrated the 60th anniversary of her birth recently. She literally had the streets of Peking painted red. One million two hundred thousand pieces of silk, forty feet long and one yard wide, were used in decorating the streets.

Zola is bringing out soon a "religious" novel, called "Lourdes." It is not a novel really, he says, but a mystery of five days. Instead of chapters he proposes making divisions into "days." The action is extremely simple, and there is little of what we call love in the book.

Queen Margaret of Italy has a wonderful collection of lace dating back to B. C. 1000, some of them gathered from Egyptian and Etruscan tombs. When her Majesty celebrated her silver wedding she received the enormous, total of over twenty-two thousand begging letters.

Mr. Gladstone's library contains every theological work which has come out since 1828, the date of the owner's matriculation at Oxford. Most of these books, it is needless to say, were presented to him by their authors, and Mr. Gladstone is not obliged to relate under oath, luckily, how many of them he has read.

Rear-Admiral Lucas was the first officer upon whom the Victoria Cross "for valor" was bestowed. He was at the time a midshipman on board H. M. S. Heckla, and the deed of gallantry which won him the distinction was performed on June 21, 1854, during the Crimean War. A live shell struck his vessel and he threw it overboard.

The 11th of April next will be the 100th anniversary of the birth of Edward Everett at Dorchester, Mass., and it is suggested that the day be appropriately celebrated. He was president of Harvard College, four terms governor of Massachusetts, ten years in congress, minister to England, secretary of state, and candidate for the vice presidency.

John Wilkinson, who died recently in London at the age of 93 years, was the most famous bibliomaniac in England. He was an authority on the history of editions, engravings, pictures, coins and other works of art. The business with which he had been connected had been carried on since 1744, or about the time of the death of Pope and Swift.

Whenever Queen Victoria calls upon Mme. Albani at Old Mar Lodge the first proceeding of the famous singer is to send word to her cook to prepare a certain variety of mufin of which her majesty is particularly fond. Then Mme. Albani sings, "The Lass o' Gowrie." "Cam' Ye by Athol" and "The Blue Bells of Scotland," which are the queen's favorite ballads.

Josiah Hoops, of Westchester, Pa., has been collecting American birds for over forty years, and now has carefully mounted what is believed to be one of the finest collections in the United States. It numbers 6,000 specimens. He is still continuing the work. One group is a family of sixty-eight varieties of warblers, which have been gathered from Tampa Bay to Puget Sound, having their nests and eggs beside them.

Although Thomas Bailey Aldrich is nearly 60, his easy-going way of life has kept him youthful and he looks younger than he is. His hair is slightly tinged with gray, but his face is ruddy and fresh and his voice is genial and "as balmy as one of his own stories." A stranger meeting Mr. Aldrich for the first time might take him for a well-groomed Englishman, though there is a Gallic suggestion in the carefully waxed ends of his mustache.

The Ex-Empress Eugenie, according to foreign papers, has given 1,000,000 lire (about \$200,000) as a bridal present to her niece, Princess Eugenie-Latitia Bonaparte, who became engaged to Prince Fabrizio Massimo a few days ago. The Princess is 21 years old and the bridegroom 26. Princess Eugenie is the second daughter of Prince Charles Bonaparte. Her eldest sister was married, a few years ago, to Lieutenant Enrico Gotti, of the Indian army.

The rumours circulated with reference to Mr. Gladstone's failing eyesight, recall the fact that our English Prime Minister died blind. Lord North—the Minister of the American War—totally lost his sight. On meeting General Conway, one of his foremost Parliamentary opponents in former years, who had also become blind, Lord North wittily remarked: "Well, General, there are not two men in the kingdom who would be more pleased to see each other than you and I."

Alexandre Dumas is as unashamed as his father was of the negro blood that runs in his veins. The bishop of Autun having recently delivered an address on the abolition of slavery, M. Dumas wrote him a sympathetic letter in the course of which he said: "A reader like myself, who has only to go back four generations to find negro slaves among his ancestors, could not remain deaf to this eloquent appeal. It is, therefore, not only for our brothers, from the Christian point of view, that I thank you, Monseigneur, but perhaps also for some real relatives whom I may still have on board the slave-traders' vessels."



Injured Nerves. A Sad Accident. Thrown From Carriage, and Suffered Eight Years.

A Nurse in the Hospital 4 yrs.

Eight years ago I was thrown from a carriage, striking on the back of my neck, completely shattering my nervous system. I could not sleep; was very constipated, and the least thing worried me; my friends feared I would become insane. I tried physicians and patent medicines, but I received no benefit until I took

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