

## THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

There are 13,000 kinds of postage stamps.

About 95,000 Americans visit Europe every year.

The black diamond is so hard that it cannot be polished.

Emerald is now one of the rarest of precious stones.

The best opals are obtained from Hungary and Honduras.

Black, pink and golden pearls are more valuable than white.

Some mahogany trees in Honduras are worth from \$5,000 to \$6,000.

A girl is considered of marriageable age at 12 in Switzerland, Spain, Greece, Hungary and Portugal.

The Pullman cars are all named by one of Mr. Pullman's daughters. She gets \$1,250 a year for this service.

Refuse hops, hitherto thrown away in breweries, are now converted into a good article of paper by a foreign chemist.

The carrying capacity of the cables between Australia and Europe is from 72,000 to 100,000 words a day. The actual traffic is about 5,000 words a day.

The Czar receives no salary from the government, but has an income of something approaching two and a half millions sterling a year from his estates.

It is generally believed that coal was first discovered in America in the State of Illinois by the early French explorers some time between the years 1673 and 1680.

In China they tie a red cord around a baby's wrist so that it may grow up quiet and obedient. Should a child turn out bad, they say "his parents forgot to bind his wrists."

The hottest place in the United States, according to the 1893 meteorological reports, is Bagdad, Ariz., where the mercury often stands as high as 140 in the shade for a week at a time.

The reason why red infuriates animals of the ox family is because red is the complementary color of green, and the eyes of cattle being long fixed on herbage while feeding, when they spy anything red it impresses their sight with greatly increased intensity.

The number of horses and mules possessed by the British army is about 27,000. Of these rather more than 12,000 are with the European troops in India, and the remainder at home, in Egypt, and at the Cape. The cavalry regiments have 12,000 horses in all.

It is generally supposed that the Brooklyn bridge has the longest single span (1,565 feet) in the world, but there are several much longer, two in the bridge in the Firth of the Forth are each 1,700 in length and that over the Oxus has a span of 2,004 feet. The proposed Hoboken bridge will have a single span of 2,850 feet.

The secret codes used by the United States state department are the most carefully guarded of all the nation's secrets. One of them is called the "sphinx," it is so guarded. This was devised by a New Yorker, now in the state department, and is as susceptible to changes as the combination lock of a safe. Hundreds of messages have been sent by it, and it has never leaked.

The phrase, "mad as a hatter," has no reference to that respectable artist who designs the crowning article of civilized male attire, but relates back to the Anglo Saxon word "atter" (an adder or viper). "Mad" was formerly used as a synonym for violent or venomous, and is still employed in that sense. The phrase, therefore, strictly means "as venomous as a viper," the old form, mad as an atter, having been corrupted to "mad as a hatter."

They began to have dressmakers' bills over 2,800 years before Christ. One of these bills, on a Chaldean tablet, has just been discovered. All the items on it prove the good taste and luxury of the people of those days. There were "ten white robes of the temple; eight robes of the house of his lady; ten collars of the house of his lady; ten pair gold collars, two white robes, two scented robes."

Venice owes the accumulation of great wealth to one of her natives named Joquin. It was in the year 1656 that he observed that the scales of a fish called the bleakfish possessed the property of giving a milky hue to water. After experimenting with it he discovered that when beads were dipped into it and then dried they assumed the appearance of pearls. This covering, however, was easily worn away, and successive experiments led to the manufacture of hollow glass beads, all blown separately, then polished in revolving cylinders and finally coated inside with the pearly liquid, the latter being protected with wax. This branch of industry is carried on in Venice to this day.

The real Blarney stone is situated at the northern angle of Blarney Castle, about twenty feet below the summit, and bears the inscription "Cormack MacCarthy fortis me fieri fecit, 1446." (Cormack MacCarthy the strong caused thee to be made, 1446). A window is near the stone, which may be kissed by a person hanging head down from the window. One who "kisses" Oh, he never misses to grow eloquent. According to tradition George Carew, afterward Earl of Totness, besieged the castle and obtained its surrender, but he was put off from day to day with soft speeches until he was the laughing stock of the time. This was during the reign of Elizabeth about 1601.

As a matter of fact, thunder and lightning occur simultaneously; the interval observed between the phenomena being due to the fact that sound only travels at the rate of 1,100 feet per second, while the passage of light is almost instantaneous. But it is an easy matter to tell, at least approximately, how miles a thunder-storm is away. A normal pulse will beat about one stroke to the second, and by counting the pulse beats during the interval of the lightning and the thunder, the lapse of seconds is arrived at and consequently the number of feet which can be reduced to miles. For example, if thirty seconds elapse between the flash of the lightning and the crash of the thunder, the storm centre is at a distance of 33,000 feet, or about six and a quarter miles.

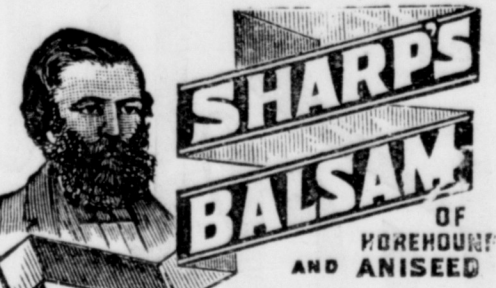
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## MONEY IN OLD SERMONS.

Though it Took Some Time for People to Find out the Fact.

A few years ago, two Englishmen, who had been left executors under the will of a friend, found a scrap of paper among his notes on which was written, "Seven Hundred Pounds in Till." But, in spite of careful search through the apartments, the money could not be found. The furniture and books were sold, and the legacies paid in proportion.

The singularity of the circumstance occasioned the executors frequently to converse about it, and at last they recollected that among the books sold was a folio edition of Tillotson's sermons. The possibility of this being what was alluded to by the word "Till" made one of them immediately wait upon the bookseller who had purchased the library, and ask him if he still had the edition of Tillotson he had bought about seven weeks before. He replied in the affirmative, and handed down the volumes.

Without hesitation the applicant paid the price that was asked, and on carefully examining the leaves was delighted to discover, singly dispersed in various places, bank-notes to the specified amount of seven hundred pounds!

No less remarkable than this is the fact that a gentleman in Cambridge, reading in the bookseller's catalogue of this edition to be sold, had written, desiring that it might be sent for his inspection, which was done; but the books not answering the gentleman's expectations, had been returned, and had remained in the bookseller's shop until the time of this remarkable discovery.

A Camel in Granite.

One of the most curious rock formations in the world is to be seen in Arizona. It is a short distance east of the stage road between Tucson and Oracle, and stands on a knoll several feet above the surrounding sand hills. When first seen the effect is startling, and the mind has to get over a shock before the peculiar object can be comprehended. It is a most perfect representation of a camel, and is formed of one piece of granite.

This curiosity is of colossal size, but perfectly proportioned. It is about sixty feet high, and is very wide and smooth. There are very few fissures on the surface, and they strangely, are in the proper places to form features. The only real projection from the surface is exactly placed for an eyebrow. The two humps are plainly to be seen, and the neck is curved beautifully. The rock is really a solid piece rising from the ground, but the effect of legs is produced by a clump of dark-colored brush that grows beside the stone. The white stone shows plainly at both sides of the brush, and the effect of the legs is unmistakably produced. The strangest part of it is that it looks like a camel from all sides and at all times of the day or night. There is no disguising the resemblance.

The Electric Headlight Works Well.

The electric headlight is now used on many railroads, and W. B. Sparks, who is interested in a Southern road, says that his company has found it a very profitable investment. The lights cost about \$37.50 each, fixed on the locomotive, and they cost no more than the oil light to maintain. The old headlight would not throw its light on a very dark night more than one hundred and fifty feet, and it is impossible for an engineer to slow up his train in that distance even with the emergency-brake. Now, the electric light throws its rays from a hall to three-quarters of a mile in front of the engine; obstructions can be easily seen at that distance, and some of the engineers insist that a switch disk can be more easily made out by it at night than in the day-time. The lights, moreover, do away with switch lights, which is quite a saving to roads that use them to any great extent. Mr. Sparks says that the engines using the electric headlights on his road have never killed a cow, and he is confident that the saving in stock claims alone will more than pay for the headlights on the road within two years.

Meaning of Perspiration.

As a rule, the surface of the skin does not appear moist to the eye, but moisture is always being given off in the form of what is called "insensible" perspiration. When the temperature is high, or under physical activity, or mental emotion, beads of water appear irregularly on the skin, and this is called "sensible" perspiration. The amount of perspiration varies very much according to the condition of the blood and nervous system, and to the state of the air, but, as a rule, nearly twice as much water is given off through the skin in the same time as from the lungs; but not more than one-third or one-fourth as much carbonic acid gas is given off from the lungs. The skin, however, gets rid of about 1-1/2 per cent. of solid saline matters and other waste products. It is in fact a chief means of keeping the body pure, so we should take every care to preserve it in good working order.

Diagnosed the Damage.

A story is told of two Irishmen who were caught asleep one night in the loft of a burning building. One of them hastily drew on his trousers and jumped from the window. In his fright and hurry he had unconsciously pulled on the garment wrong side foremost, with an effect which, when he recovered his equilibrium after the jump, excited his profound consternation.

"Pat! Pat!" called out his companion, still in the loft; "air ye kilt intirely?"

"No, Moike," replied Pat, in hopeless tones, "it's not kilt Oi am, me bye, but I fear me Oi'm fatally twisted!"

A Misfit Football Suit.

Mrs. Oldtime—I do think these colleges might teach boys a little sense. Neighbor—Don't they?

Mrs. Oldtime—No, they don't. I sent my grandson a nice, big, soft, warm leather bed for him to use this winter, and what do you think he wrote back? He said he was much obliged for that football suit, but it didn't quite fit.

For Indigestion

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## MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Mrs. Childs, widow of the late George W. Childs, will probably make her home in New York.

"I have lost my last old friend," were Mrs. Grant's words on hearing of George W. Childs' death.

John Jacob Astor's new 90-foot yacht will be propelled by electricity, and will mark an era in boat-building.

Giovanni P. Morisini, the late Jay Gould's partner, although a millionaire, neither drinks nor smokes and lives as regular a life as a busy man consistently can do.

President Cleveland drinks his breakfast coffee from a cup that is worth \$100. The china set of which it is a part was made to order for the White House at a cost of \$5,000.

Mme. Schliemann is fulfilling the promise made to her late husband, and is now personally superintending the work of excavations at Troy, for which his name is so famous.

Mrs. Humphrey Ward's new book will be published in England and America early in April. It is the history of a woman whose name it bears and deals with the social problems of modern life.

Queen Natalie of Servia has received a large addition to her private fortune through a bequest from her aunt, the Princess Yekaterina Nicolaevna Murisi. This lady was recently found dead in her bed.

For the delectation of the Prince of Wales the Duke of Teck keeps a special brand of imperial Russian cigars, which are very large and very strong. His Royal Highness contents himself with one, and most smokers cannot face them at all.

Mme. Carnot is one of the most popular women in France. She has made a success of the once-dreaded balls at the Elysee Palace. She gives delightful dinners. Her slight deafness seems no drawback. She speaks English very well, is an admirable mother to her three sons and one daughter, and is extremely charitable to the poor.

Professor Garner is by no means a pioneer in the investigation of the Simian language. Lady Burton records in her husband's biography that the late Sir Richard had forty monkeys which sat down daily with him at dinner, and that he had quite mastered the elements of their speech. He had learned about sixty of their most familiar words, but the record was lost in a fire.

The late Sir Andrew Clark, when accused of "abusing his eyes" by writing hard during the railway journey from London to Holyhead, said: "I am using my eyes not abusing them. You cannot injure any organ by the exercise of it; it is excess of use which injures. I have been always accustomed when travelling to write, and occasionally to read, without the smallest symptom of mischief, otherwise I would not do it."

People who are so fortunate as to be asked to visit Miss Ellen Terry at her South Kensington home need not expect that they will be permitted to sit and twirl their thumbs in idleness. The philanthropic actress has a basket of work always on hand. It is filled with unfinished garments for the poor, and every feminine visitor may choose between knitting and sewing, while the accomplished man may hold zephyr or furnish supplies.

One of the most notable of Salvation Army workers in America is Miss Van Norden, daughter of Mr. Warden Van Norden, the broker, banker, and millionaire, of New York. Although heiress to immense wealth, she takes her part in army proceedings just like any other "soldier." She sings at the open-air services, and at indoor meetings may frequently be seen making the collection in her tambourine. Miss Van Norden, when engaged in salvation work, dresses like the other members of the army.

The "Grand Old Man" of the French Chamber of Deputies is M. Pierre Blanc. At eighty-seven he is still hale and vigorous, with a great capacity for work. M. Blanc has not sat in the Chamber very many years, but as Deputy for his native department, the Hautes Alpes (formerly known as Savoy), he has been senior member by right of age since his seventy-fifth birthday—a unique record—and as such has performed the opening ceremony of the Chamber on no fewer than six occasions. His sympathies are strongly republican.

The habits of the Queen are very simple and regular. Years ago it was customary for her to rise at seven in the summer and eight in the winter; now she generally stays in bed until nine, having cocoa and toast before getting up. Breakfast proper is not quite punctual now, but in summer it is still often partaken of on the terrace. This meal, as a rule, as far as the Queen is concerned, consists of fried bacon, egg, thin bread and butter, and tea, but occasionally porridge is substituted. One Indian attendant and one servant wait at table. During breakfast the arrangements for the day are made.

Prince Esterhazy, who died recently at his palace in Vienna, in his 77th year, was the head of the great Hungarian family of Esterhazy von Galantha, and he owned enormous estates in Hungary and Austria. His father was for many years Austrian Ambassador in London, and on state occasions his Excellency appeared in a uniform on which were diamonds valued at £100,000. It was this diplomatist who "shut up" a well-known English territorial magnate who had thought to astonish him with the information that his lordship always had 4,000 sheep of his own on his estate, to which the prince replied, "And I, my lord, have 4,000 shepherds."

Lord Charles Russell, who was eighty-seven the other day, is one of the very few men still living—and the number has been diminished by Sir Harry Verney's death—who sat in the House of Commons when it assembled in the old St. Stephen's Chapel, destroyed in the fire of 1834. Even Mr. Villiers, though "the Father of the House," has not this distinction, for he did not enter Parliament until a few months after the fire; and Mr. Gladstone and Sir Edward Dering are probably the only commoners left who did so, though among the peers the Duke of Northumberland, Lord Verulam, and one or two more may be numbered.



Mrs. Warren E. Whittemore, East Dixfield, Maine.

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