

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

Among birds the swan attains the great est age.

There are 13,000 kinds of postage stamps.

The British nation has £100,000,000 invested in American railways.

Two Chinese built suspension-bridges over two thousand years ago.

The longest artificial water-course in the world is the Bengal Canal-900 miles.

The parent of all the varities of apples is a sort of wild crab, and its home is in the Himalayas.

Hollanders are perhaps the greatest tea and coffee drinkers, using 240 ounces to the individual every year.

It is estimated that during four and a half centuries three thousand million volumes have been produced.

Parsley is said to have come from Egypt, and mythology tells us that it was used to adorn the head of Hercules.

Ireland has 156,000 dwellings of one room each, 357,000 of two to tour rooms, and 304,000 of five or more.

Investigations show that colour blindness is about twenty times as frequent among men as among women.

In northern New Zealand harvesting extends from November to January. In the south it extends from December to March.

Though hard, the diamond is one of the most brittle stones. A fall on a wooden floor will sometimes crack and ruin a fine specimen.

The amount of air that a man will inhale in twenty-tour hours would fill seventy-eight hogsheads and weigh fitythree pounds.

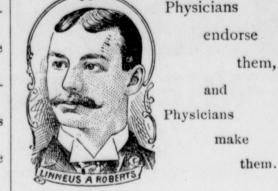
The Emperor of China pays his soldiers at the munificent rate of a trifle over 4s. a month, out of which they are required to purchase their food.

A pair of gloves passes through nearly 200 hands from the moment that the skin leaves the dresser's hands till the time when the gloves are purchased.

The counties in California have over 50,000 bee-hives, and export 6,000,000 pounds of honey, besides 300,000 pounds | COCOA is Skimmed Milk, of comb and 20,000 pounds of wax.

The produce of 21/2 acres (or about 7,200 lbs. of rose leaves) only makes $2\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. of otto of roses. The latter, however, in its pure state is worth from \$80 to \$90 per lb.

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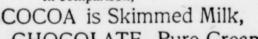


are by many supposed to be one and the same, only that one is a powder, (hence more easily cooked,) and the other is not.

This is wrong--TAKE the Yolk from the Egg,

TAKE the Oil from the Olive, What is left?

A Residue. So with COCOA. In comparison,



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Canadian Branch.

PROGRESS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1894.

HAPPY HITS IN RANDOM SPEECH Quick, Suitable and Amusing Replies in Ordinary Conversation,

Many of the neatest things in verbal humor, in sarcasm and in retort have been wholly impromptu. Sometimes even the speaker has missed at the moment the wit of his own words. The flash of amusement has come on other faces first. It was probably so with a wedding party which had assembled in a registrar's office. They were obliged to wait. The bridegroum was tardy. He came at last, and he was a white-haired patriarch of seventy. With gentle deprecation, the registrar addressed him -

"Another time," he said, "try to be here a little sooner.'

Even a genuine Irish bull may be a felicitous appeal, and that on the spur of the moment. It was a "boy" from the Green Isle, at once ingenious and ingenuous, who had his way with a gentleman "standing treat."

"How did you like that whiskey, Pat ?" asked his friend.

"Sure, yer honour," he answered, "it has made another man of me, and that other man would like a glass, too."

Satire can be savage when it is quite casual. There was an aspiring amateur actor who strolled up to a famous dramatic critic-

"What did you think of the performance of our club the other night?" was the insinuating query. Quick and sharp as a rapier thrust came the reply-

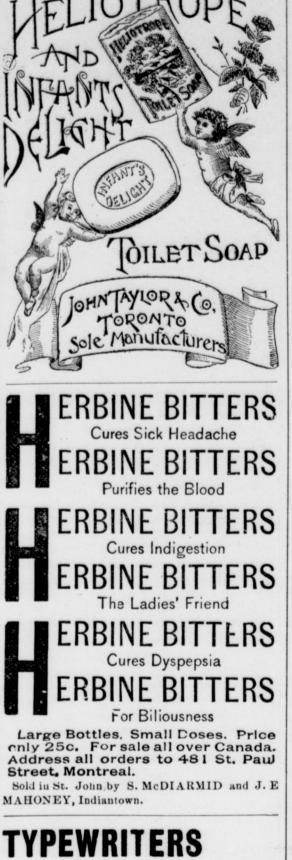
"I should hardly have called it a club; it seemed, to me more like a collection of sticks."

Where there is no particular peril of any sort, annovances have been abated by a happy hit in words. At one time there was a Captain Judkins in the service of a great Transatlantic steamship company. He was a gruff old salt, with little or nothing of the traditional gallantry of Jack Tar. He especially resented what he considered pointless questions of female passengers, and he would snarl back the very curtest replies. A lady tourist from Long Island was once on board a boat which Judkins commanded, and she was unwarned of his reputation for incivility. But she contrived to administer a wholesome lesson. She was standing at the captain's side one day, and, thinking no harm, inquired if he supposed it was going to rain? "Ask the cook," he said, pettishly.

"I beg your pardon," said the lady, with swift resource ; "am I not speaking to the cook ?"

Bystanders thought that the bear came off second best in the encounter.

Rebuke, deserved or not, is often foiled by a happy adventitious bit. An Irish minister tilled his own land in hard times,



MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

The Grand Duke Alexis of Russia is now said to be an enthusiastic stamp collector.

Thomas Hardy, the author, has been studying the labor problem, and in his next novel he will discuss the differences between capital and labor.

Colonel William E. Cody, (Buffalo Bill) gives as his reason for refusing to run for governor of Nebraska that he does not purpose to exchange an income of \$200,000 tor \$2,000 a year.

James Robinson, the once champion bareback circus rider, is spending his de-clining years on his farm in Miscouri. Robinson is a native of St. John, and spent his boyhood here.

The Emperor of China, who is twentythree years old, is now studying the French and English languages. while Prince Yoshi Hito, the fourteen year-old heir presumptive to the Japanese throne, is pursuing a course in German.

Early last year the Sultan of Turkey presented to the Queen a suite of rosewood furniture of native manufacture, and, in re turn, her Majesty has lately torwarded to Constantinople a magnificently - framed photograph of herself.

The Princess of Wales possesses furs of the value of £12,000. An expert furrier pays periodical visits to Marlborough House to overlook the Princess's collection, as a single moth in it might work hundreds of pounds' worth of damage.

The Empress of Russia is very fond of the Danish black or rye bread, such as is baked for the soldiers. During her majesty's visits to Denmark she eats this kind of bread every day, and when at home a loat is sent to Russia every fitth day.

The German Empress is a victim of the photographic craze. She is photographed in all sorts of costumes and upon all occasions. A recent portrait represents her with a hunting knife by her side, a revolver in one hand and a lasso in the other.

Mr. Justin McCarthy, M. P., is one of the most courteous men in Parliament. Even in beated debates Mr. McCarthy has never been known to speak harshly of a political opponent, and he is respected by all parties in the house. He is believed to prefer literature to politics.

President Carnot does not care much for the fuss and flummery of official life. A REPAIRED separate entrance was built to his box at the theatre Francais so that he should not be jostled by the common crowd, but he For Neurallgia refused to use it, and the new entrance has E S STEPHENSON & CO been bricked up again. Pope Leo, who is past 83, is the oldest and the King of Denmark, respectively 76 and 75 years old, stand next to him in this regard. The Grand Duke Karl Alexander, is the fitth oldest monarch. Clark Russell dictates his literary work lying down in his sitting room. "I have the plot before me," he says, "as I lie there, I close my eyes and realize the whole scene, which I describe as though it were illuminated on canvas by a magic lantern. caretully revised and sometimes one fourth

ruler. The Grand Duke of Luxemburg | For Rheumatism who lives in Weimar, is fourth in point of For Coughs and Colds Before any work goes to a printer it is For Aches and Pains

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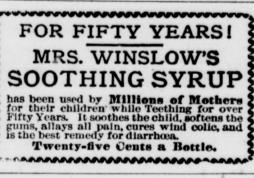
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There are 5,925 lighthouse stations in the world. Of these England has 817, the United States 802, Canada and Newtoundland 494, and France comes tourth with 444 lights. The whole of Europe has 3,477 lighthouses or stations.

Opium was first smoked by the natives of Java. They mixed the drug with their tobacco, and from them the Chinese learned the habit. Atter a time the Chinese tried the opium alone, and the effect proved more pleasurable to them than when both ingredients were used.

It is estimated that since the building of the famous Tower of Babel there have been 1,500 distinct languages and 3,500 colloquials, or 5,000 different forms of speech. At the present time 600 of the primary languages are dead, leaving 900 spoken all over the earth, with 2,500 colloquials.

Artificial eyes were first made in Egypt, of gold and silver, and subsequently of copper and ivory. Hundreds of years later, in the sixteenth century, when they were made in Europe, porcelain was the substance used, and the maker usually stamped his address on the white of the eye.

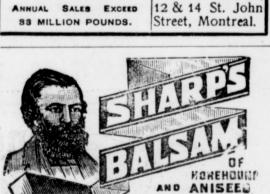
A Japanese auction is a most solemn affair. The public do not call out their bids, but write their names, together with John L. Carleton. Clarence H. Ferguson. the amount they are willing to pay, on slips of paper and put them in a box. These are looked through and the article awarded to the person who has made the biggest offer.

Breech-loading rifles were introduced into Europe in 1840, but did not at once come into general use. It is estimated that over 12.000,000 are now in actual service in the European armies, while 3,000,-000 more are reserved in the arsenals for emergency. Statisticians say that there are 100,000,000 guns of all kinds in the world.

The Great Wall of China has been carried across rivers, through the deepest valleys, over the highest mountains, and, in fact, every natural obstacle that stood in the way of its progress. It is 1,250 miles in length. The total height of the wall, including a parapet of 5ft., is 20tt. Its thickness at the base is 25tt., at the top 15ft.

In Southern Germany for some years past oil has been produced from the beechnut. It has given great satisfaction as a substitute for olive oil, but has not come into general use because the production is small. One reason why more has not been done in the production of this beech-nut oil has been the great scarcity of the nut in certain years.

which any article of gold or silver was made



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habits. The master came up with the man one morning sitting placidly on his plough in the midst of his furrows. "John," said the divine, gravely, "would

it not be a good plan for ycu to have a stub-scythe here and be cutting a few bushes alone the fence while the horses are resting a short time ?" John's answer was ready.

"See here, sir," he said, "wouldn't it be well for you to have a tub of potatoes in the pulpit and, while they're singing, to peel 'em for the pot?" The oddity of the idea secured a hearty

laugh and rescued impudence from dismissal.

The roles are occasionally reversed. They were so in the cases of a well-known English bishop and a querulous acquaintance. Complaint was made that the bishop treated the other in an off-hand manner, particularly in the matter of correspondence.

... My lord, when I write to you, you answer me on miserable scraps of paper," objected the grumbler.

"Very well, sir," was the bland reply. "Next time it shall be on toolscap."

A reply full of cleverness was given by a gentleman badgered for not accepting a post offered by government. He had pleaded unfitness. This was pooh-poohed, and he was challenged for the real reason ot his refusal. He neatly escaped.

"It what I have stated of my disability is true," he said, "it should be sufficient to have me excused. If I have spoken a falsehood, it is surely not advisable to give me such a position.'

Equally felicitous was the quick answer of a courtier to an Eastern princeling.

"Which do you think the greater man, myself o. my father ?" was the question. It had elements of danger, but the nettle was well grasped.

"Your father, sire," was the reply, for though you are equal to your tather in all other respects, in this he is superior to you -that he had a greater son than any you have.'

The Evolution of an Inscription.

About forty years ago, a young soldier of the French-African regiment of Zephyrs, during a bivouac in the Atlas mountains. carved an inscription on the rock, "Regiment II,, Des Zephyrs," to mark the place of their night's rest.

Now, a short time ago one of those numerous travellers who haunt the wilds of Africa came to this place and saw the inscription, already half obliterated by the weather. The intelligent archæologist pondered the inscription for days, and at length presented to the world the following reading ; -

"Regnante Imperatore Antonio II, Deus Excelsit Sanctum Zephirium," i.e., "In the reign of the Emperor Antonius II., God called St. Zephirius to Himself."

Not a Time For Mirth.

A young couple were getting married. Suddenly some absurd idea entered the

OT DI WUNDOW and he employed a ploughman who gave him considerable vexation by his indolent

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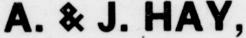
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John W. Mackay, supposed to be the richest man in the world, is not an Ameri- For Falling out of Hair can, but a native of Dublin. He has spent torty years of his life in the United States, and has entirely lost his native brogue. His wife is the lead r of the American For Distemper in Horses colony in London, but Mr. Mackay spends most of his time between San Francisco and Europe.

Mrs Frances Hodgson Burnett has extraordinary notions about the bringing up of children. Hers have never been allowed to be corrected since they were born. However much they may have outraged the traditions of good behavior, sense of shame and the force of example were the only remedies permitted. It was as much as a governess or servant's place was worth to torget this rule.

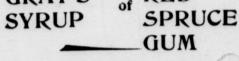
The Princess of Wales has a remarkable collection of hats and bonnets, consisting of all those she has worn during the thirty years she has led London tashion. Each hat or bonnet, carefully put away bears the date of its use; and a history of the whims, vagaries and changes of feminine fashion, which are never so capricious as in matters of headgear, might well be written upon this interesting collection.

Miss Mary Dickens, a grand-daughter of the great novelist, has already published two promising novels, "Cross "urrents" and "A Mere Cypher." She is several years short of thirty, and lives at Regent's Park with her mother and father, who, being the eldest son, bears the Christian name of the author of "Pickwick." Part of Miss Dickens' life was spent at Gad's Hill, but her recollections of her grandfather are of the shadowiest.

Gen. Mellinet, the "father" of the French army, died in Paris some two weeks ago at the age of 95 years. He was a grandson of a member of the Convention, and son of one of Napoleon's Generals. He had an active military career, and was highly honored civilly. Throughout his life he abstained from stimulants of all kinds, and averred he did not know the taste of wine. To the last he was healthy, vigorous, and a rather peppery old soldier.

Ferdinand de Lesseps, of Suez and Panama fame, is eighty-eight years of age, and besides being one of the foremost engineers of the day has been a diplomatist of some distinction. At one time he was attached to the Consulate in Lisbon, and subsequently held various consular offices in Europe and the East. During the bombardment of Barcelona, of which he was at time French Consul. he distinguished him-

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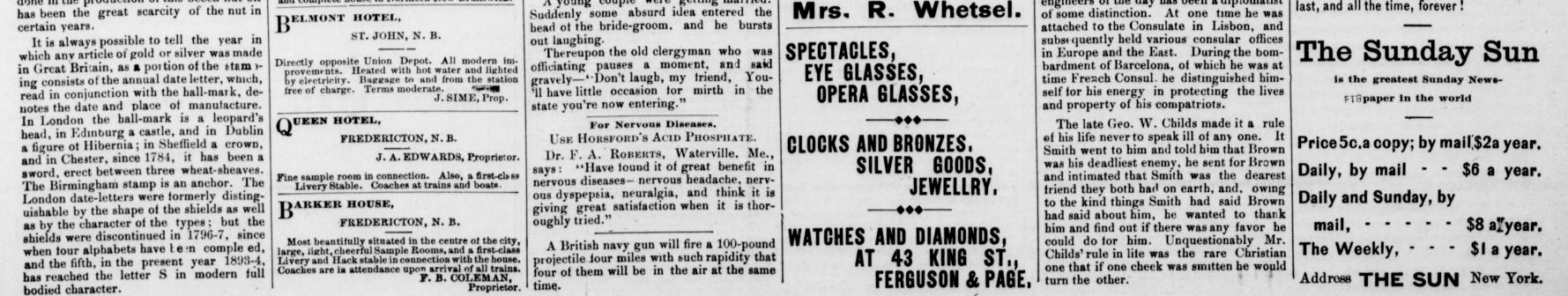
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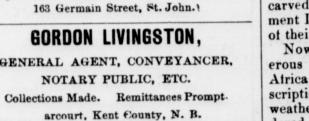


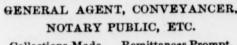
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