

hours. I have known a man who could not touch mutton, however cooked, while he would eat heartily of any other meat. Some there are in whom the thought of eating hare or rabbit excites loathing; some who would starve rather than eat shell-fish of any kind; and there are not a few to whom butter and cheese are abominations. Others are equally prejudiced against certain vegetables, but why and wherefore they can never tell you.—*Leisure Hours.*

BIBLE FACTS.—The learned Prince of Grenada, heir to the Spanish throne, was imprisoned in the Place of Skulls, Madrid. After thirty three years in this living tomb he wrote in his Bible the following: In the Bible the word Lord is found 1,853 times, the word Jehovah 5855 times and the word revered but once, and that in the 9th verse of the CXIth Psalm. The 8th verse of the CXVIIth Psalm is the middle verse of the Bible. The 9th verse of the VIIth chapter of Esther is the longest verse; 35th verse, XIth chapter of St John is the shortest. In the CVIth Psalm four verses are alike, the 8th, 15th 21st, and 31st. Each verse of the CXXXVth Psalm ends alike. No names or words with more than six syllables are found in the Bible. The XXXVIIth chapter of Isaiah and XIXth chapter of 2d Kings are alike, the word girl occurs but once in the Bible, and that in the 3d verse and IIIrd chapter of Joel. There are found in both books of the Bible 3,586,483 letters, 773,693 words, 31,373 verses, 1,189 chapters, and 66 books. The XXVth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles is the finest chapter to read. The most beautiful chapter in the Bible is the XXIIId Psalm. The four most inspiring promises are John XIVth chapter and 2d verse, John VIth chapter and 37th verse, St Matthew XIth chapter and 28th verse, and XXXVIIth Psalm, 4th verse. The first verse of the LXth chapter of Isaiah is the one for the new convert. All who flatter themselves with vain boastings of their perfectness should learn the VIIth chapter of Matthew.

CURIOSITIES OF STATISTICS.—As a fair example of curiosity of statistics, says Spofford, the Congressional Librarian, "take the army of Xerxes when it crossed the Hellespont to invade Greece.

Herodotus gives it as 1,700,000 foot, 100,000 horse and 517,000 naval forces; total, 2,317,000 and adds that this was swollen by the attendants to 5,200,000; and all this to invade a country which in no age known to history contained over 1,500,000 inhabitants. Another favorite myth of historians is the story of that famous Alexandrian Library of 700,000 volumes, burned by the Caliph Omar, A. D. 640, with a rhetorical dilemma in his mouth. Unfortunately for this highly-dramatic tale, no two writers are agreed as to the circumstances, except as to the single fact that there was a library at Alexandria. And that it ceased to exist in the seventh century. To ask a modern inquirer to believe that 700,000 books were gathered in one body 800 years before the invention of printing, while the largest library in the world, four centuries after the multiplication of books began, contained less than 200,000 volumes, is altogether too great a stretch of credulity. Even in reporting the size of modern libraries, exaggeration holds away. The library of George IV., inherited by that graceless ignoramus from a book-collecting father, and presented to the British nation with ostentatious liberality only after he had failed to sell it to Russia, was said, in the publications of the time to contain about 120,000 volumes. But an actual enumeration when the books were lodged in the King's Library at the British Museum, where they have ever since remained, showed that there were only 65,250 volumes, being little more than half the number reported. Many libraries, public and private, are equally over-estimated. It is so much easier to guess than to count, and the stern test of arithmetic is too seldom applied, notwithstanding the fact that 100,000 volumes can easily be counted in a day by two or three persons, and so on in the same proportion. Here, as in the statistics of population, the same proverb holds good, that the unknown is always the magnificent, and on the surface of the globe we inhabit the unexplored country is always the most marvelous since the world began.

DIFFICULTIES.—The greatest difficulties are always found where we are not looking for them.