

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

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Icebergs sometimes last for 200 years. The speed of a wild duck is ninety miles an hour. The Gatling gun was invented by Gatling in 1861. The Assyrians had seventy-two different kinds of wine.

Mexican flint knives were made so sharp that they could be used for trimming hair. The man who is perfectly proportioned weighs 20½ pounds for every foot of his height. Drowning, as a punishment for crime was legally enforced in Scotland up to the year 1611.

Among the Digger and Ute Indians there is no edible so highly esteemed as the common grasshopper.

The first patent in the United States was issued July 31, 1790, to Samuel Hopkins for making pot and pearl ash.

There are 950,000 persons imprisoned in 875 jails in Russia. The prisons were built to hold only 570,000 persons.

Herculite, the new French explosive, is so powerful that half a pound of it, in a recent test, displaced a stone weighing thirty tons.

There is a tooth of Buddha, preserved and worshipped in an Indian temple, which probably all the gold in the world could not buy.

Nearly 40,000 people in Great Britain pay a guinea a year for the privilege of displaying their crests on their stationery and plate.

In Sitka, when an Indian wife has lost her husband by death she goes into mourning by painting the upper half of her face a deep black.

The Greeks and Romans ate from a kind of porringer, yet during a portion of the Middle Ages slices of bread cut round took the place of plates.

At the head of the Gulf of Bothnia there is a mountain, on the summit of which the sun shines perpetually during the five days of June 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23.

A footpad was lately captured in a Hungarian town, and with him a bear that he had tamed and taught to walk with pedestrians whom he desired to rob.

Three hundred and twenty-eight thousand divorces have been granted by the courts of the United States during the past 20 years, 90 per cent of them to women.

Paris gardeners buy toads, which they use as insect destroyers. This is a regular weekly sale of these hideous little animals in the French capital. They cost \$1 a dozen.

The average length of life is greater in Norway than in any other country on the globe. This is attributed to the fact that the temperature is cool and uniform throughout the year.

At Stockton—in the Forest, Yorkshire, England, is a piece of land called "Petticoat Hole," and it is held on the condition of providing a poor woman of the place every year with a new petticoat.

It is not generally known that an orange hit in the exact centre by a rifle ball will vanish at once from sight. Such, however, is the fact. Shooting it through the centre scatters it in such infinitesimal pieces that it is at once lost to sight.

The Chinese empire and dependencies, Mongolia, Manchuria, Chinese, Turkestan, Kokonor and Tibet, occupy an area at least 5,000,000 square miles, or about one-third of Asia. The population is estimated at from 360,000,000 to 450,000,000.

The famous leaning tower of Saragossa is being pulled down at last, after repeated threatenings. It was repaired in 1860, but had long been pronounced unsafe. The "new tower" was built in 1504 to hold the town clock, and was a brick construction of Arabic style.

In Spain, about 1630, the hoopskirt became so monstrous that an edict was issued commanding their reduction and ordering the confiscation of hoopskirts above the regular size. The attempts to carry out the edict caused numerous riots, and were finally abandoned.

The chief German cities are (with population 1892): Berlin, 1,578,794; Hamburg, 622,530; Munich, 349,924; Leipzig, 354,899; Breslau, 355,186; Cologne, 281,681; Dresden, 276,522. New York city contains more Germans than any other city except the foregoing.

The fleur de lis, so famous for having been the device of the French Bourbons is of the same family as the common blue flag, seen everywhere in our gardens. It is a cultivated flag, grows from bulbous roots to a height of one to three feet, and its flower has three recurring petals.

The Russians call the "grip" Chinese catarrh, the Germans call it the Russian pest, the Italians name it the German disease, the French call it the Italian fever and the Spanish catarrh. The Italians invented the term "influenza" in the seventeenth century and attributed the disease to the influence of certain planets.

Most people do not know that a plant has lungs, but it has, and its lungs are in its leaves. Examined through a high power microscope every leaf will show thousands upon thousands of openings, infinitely small, of course, but each provided with lips which, in many species, are continually opening and closing.

Bees, according to a statistician, must in order to collect a pound of clover honey deprive 62,000 clover blossoms of their nectar. To do this the 62,000 flowers must be visited by an aggregate of 3,750,000 bees, or, in other words, to collect this pound of honey one bee must make 3,750,000 trips from and to the hive. As bees

are known to fly for miles in quest of suitable fields of operation, it is clear that a single ounce of honey represents millions of miles of travel.

Great numbers of vultures hover over Fara, on the Amazon river blackening every housetop and church spire. A heavy hne is imposed for killing one of these immense carrion birds, a fact which is less strange than it appears when it is known that they do more toward keeping that undrained city in a state of comparative cleanliness than is accomplished in any other way.

"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

"Say, why did Jones marry his boarding-house keeper's daughter?" "Had to or pay board."

"Did you know his business had run down?" "I supposed so. I heard he was going to wind it up."

Wile—I don't think much of this mince pie, do you? Husband—Not now but I expect to all the rest of the night.

"Dear mamma, please give me another candy. I've lost mine." "Why, where have you lost it?" "In my stomach."

Mrs. Waite—How is your husband's rheumatism? Mrs. Fort—Better, I think, or at least I am getting more used to it.

It was a very young mother who said that babies "don't often in their second summer than any other time in their lives."

"Where do the flies go in winter?" "I don't know. I have never tried to find out. I am quite satisfied to know that they go."

"Why is Miss B. wearing black?" "She is in mourning for her husband." "Why she never had a husband." "That is why she mourns."

Maddox—The Emperor of China has 10 men whose sole duty is to carry his umbrella. Gazzam—Is there so much danger as that of its being stolen.

Teacher (to the class in chemistry)—What does sea water contain besides the sodium chloride that we have mentioned? Bobby Smith—Fish, Sir.

Canvasser—Is the lady of the house in? Erina McGinty—Well, which wan of us does yez want? The chamber lady is oop stairs, but O'm de kitchen lady.

"I handle more letters in a day than you do," said a man to one of Uncle Sam's postal employees. "Indeed! What Post Office do you work in?" "Don't work in a Post Office at all. I'm a typesetter."

Teacher—Now my boy, tell me what animals are best protected by nature from the ravages of winter? My boy—Those that live on the line of the equator, sir!

Wile—Charley is perfectly devoted to art. He even talks of it in his sleep. Friend—What does he say? Wile—Last night he mentioned in an excited way about drawing a flush.

Tailor—Mr. Overdue, I hear that you are about to be married to Miss Bullion. Allow me to congratulate you. Overdue (extending his hand)—Allow me to congratulate you!

Mother—I thought I noticed John's arm around you last night. Daughter—There, now, I was right. Mother—How right? Daughter—I told him somebody would be sure to notice it.

"Why don't you propose to Miss Squires if you like her so much?" "I'm waiting for Christmas. Then, you see, I can make the engagement ring serve for a Christmas present."

Mistress—Bridget, where are the oyster crackers that I ordered? Bridget—Faith, mum, an' I broke every one av them, an' divil av an oyster could I find in one, and sint them straight back.

Snakey Pete—Gimme a drink of whiskey quick! I'm deadly sick! Bartender (as he gives it to him)—What are you sick of? Snakey Pete—(disappearing through the door)—Sick of being dry.

Gazzam—There's a married man paying marked attention to Mrs. Bloombumper. Mrs. Gazzam (shocked but intensely interested)—You don't say! Who is it? Gazzam—Mrs. Bloombumper.

"There is no doubt," said the professor, "that in many cases tobacco exerts a soothing influence on the mind." "Well," said the young wife positively, "the cigars I bought Harry for his birthday didn't."

Miss Golightly (the friend of the family, and to whom Sir Percy has proposed)—Of course I'm awfully obliged, Sir Percy—but, say, now, don't you think there would be some danger of my falling in love with your eldest son?

Instructor in Latin—Miss B., of what was Ceres the goddess? Miss B.—She was the goddess of marriage. Instructor—Oh no; of agriculture. Miss B. (looking perplexed)—Why, I am sure my book says she was the goddess of husbandry.

The Chill Autumnal Days. "We might, as well consider our engagement as broken, Reginald." "I don't see why! Your father said postponed." "Postponed until you arrive at years of discretion. And in your case, Reggy dear, you know what that means."

Customer—Those last cigars I had from you are up to nothing. The lower down you get in the box the worse they are. Tobacconist—You have always some fault to find. Just turn the box over and begin at the bottom, and they will improve as you go along.

"Is it true," asked the flower fancier, "that orchids require a temperature similar to that which prevails in the country of which they are the natives in order to thrive?" "Yes, sir," answered the imported English gardener. "A Heast Hinda hawkid needs a Heast Hinda 'eat."

MAN AND WOMAN TALKED ABOUT.

Paul Bourget, the distinguished literary rival of Dumas, was once a Parisian reporter.

Rider Haggard thinks Egypt the most interesting and least explored country in the world.

The volume of poetry which Lord Lytton, "Owen Meredith" left unfinished at his death will be published shortly.

The largest life insurance policy on one life is held by Postmaster-General Wanamaker. It is valued at \$1,250,000.

Miss Frances E. Willard is about to repeat her visit to England and will be, as before, the guest of Lady Henry Somerset.

English papers talk about Gladstone tripping about London in a heavy drizzle without an umbrella though wearing an Inverness cape.

Emile Zola is now paid for the right to publish his novels serially at the rate of three cents a word. That beats Alexandre Dumas' seven cents a line.

Queen Victoria never drinks more than two glasses of either champagne or claret, and after dinner Her Majesty is accustomed to take a small glass of Tokay.

The czar of Russia is the largest individual land owner in the world. The area of his possessions is far greater than that of the entire republic of France.

The marriage of the Archduchess Margaret of Austria, heir of the Austrian throne, with Prince Albrecht of Wurtemberg will take place this year.

Lincoln, Darwin, Tennyson, Gladstone and Oliver Wendell Holmes were all born in the same year—1809. That year has a right to consider itself an aristocrat among the years.

Mr. Gladstone varied his ordinary athletic programme of tree chopping the other day by lifting the first shovel of earth on the occasion of the commencement of work on a horse railroad at Wirral.

Mrs. Gladstone gave her services at the London Hospital during the last cholera epidemic. She was alone instrumental in making provision for the many children made orphans by the cholera.

Princess Marie of Edinburgh, the betrothed of Prince Ferdinand of Roumania, is a beautiful and clever woman, and has already won a warm place in the heart of the Queen of Roumania, Carmen Sylva.

Fred Douglass is fond of the fiddle. He learned to play in his youth when a slave. When young people gather in his house in Washington he sometimes accompanies the pianist, much to the delight of his audience.

The German Kaiser has presented 50,000 marks to the Society for the Promotion of Aerial Navigation for the construction of a colossal balloon, which will be fifty-six feet in diameter and as tall as a four-story house.

Miss Chapman, the well-known sculptor, has been commissioned to model the two Spanish bullocks Count Chotek, a leader of the Viennese aristocracy and a major in the Austrian army.

Baron Hirsch is said by a London newspaper to be the richest man the world has ever known, the statement being that he is worth six millions pounds sterling a year. This implies a capital of about five hundred million dollars.

The Princess Stephanie, widow of the Crown Prince Rudolph of Austria, recently created a tremendous sensation in Vienna by horsewhipping Count Chotek, a leader of the Viennese aristocracy and a major in the Austrian army.

The Empress of Austria is reputed to be the best royal housekeeper in Europe. Everything in the Austrian palace is under her own personal care. She orders cooks, butlers and laundry maids, and is constantly inventing something new in cookery.

The Grand Duchess Nicholas Alexandrovitch, widow of the recently deceased uncle of the czar, is about to leave the convent at Kiev, where she has spent several months, and take up her abode permanently in Jerusalem with ten nuns whom she will take with her.

M. Flammarion, the distinguished French astronomer, believes that great climate changes are going on in Europe and France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Belgium, Italy, Austria and Germany have temporarily, at least, lost several degrees of temperature.

Emperor William of Germany recently intended to decorate Count Tassile with the black eagle, but he sent him a red eagle by mistake, and as etiquette would not allow him to take back what he had once given, he was obliged to let the Count have both decorations.

The Duchess of Portland, who was the beauty of the day, died at York, in the 19th century. She was a dress made and sewn on her person. She stood for three hours upright while the dressmakers were busy fitting and sewing. Fifty yards of old lace were used.

Queen Victoria has learned to speak and write Hindostanee, so they say, and is so proud of her accomplishing this feat that she sends a contribution to a Christmas magazine, giving translation into Hindostanee of her letters to her people upon the death of the Duke of Clarence.

The engagement is announced of the Earl of Dalkeith, eldest son of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, and Hon. Margaret Alice Bridgman, second daughter of Viscount Newport eldest son of the Earl of Bradford. The Earl of Dalkeith has an annual rent roll of £200,000.

The Norwegians in the Northwest are having a portrait of Lief Erikson painted in Norway at a cost of \$25,000. They will bring this portrait to Chicago and unveil it on May 17. The Norwegians insist that it was not Columbus who discovered the New World, but that Erikson was the first white man who landed here.

Emil Zola wears a short beard trimmed according to the latest fashion. His broad, high forehead is marked by three deep wrinkles, and his hair and beard are slightly streaked with gray. His face is pale and his figure has lost much of its former stoutness. His shortsightedness has increased to such an extent that he cannot read or write without his eyeglasses.

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J. C. Davis, Rector of St. James Episcopal Church, Bufala, Ala.: "My son has been badly afflicted with a fearful and threatening cough for several months, and after trying several prescriptions from physicians which failed to relieve him, he has been perfectly restored by the use of two bottles of Bo-

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