

# THINGS WORTH KNOWING

Wax candles were first used in the twelfth century.

In Manchester, England, is a bible two hundred years old, and nearly two feet square.

The wearing of trained skirts on the streets in Vienna is prohibited under penalty of arrest.

It is computed that the mines of the world produce about twenty-five tons of gold every week.

The manufacture of cigarettes has increased in thirteen years from 238,267,817 to 2,877,792,440.

London proper covers only one square mile of land, which rents for seven millions of dollars a year.

Seventy-five millions of eggs are said to be hatched annually, by the sun's heat, on the banks of the Nile.

Senator Stanford, of California, paid \$160,000 for Arion, a horse owned by Malcom Forbes of Boston.

Algeria has two million, five hundred thousand acres of cork forests. The best cork comes from this province.

The Roumanian crown is made of metal from the cannon that were captured from the Turks by the Roumanians at Plevna in 1877.

The production of soap in England is about 45,000 tons per week, of which between 3,000 and 4,000 tons are made in London.

Rather more than 69 persons in every 100 in London are living in comfort, while rather more than 30 in every 100 are living in poverty.

The smallest watch is said to be in a Swiss museum. It is three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter. It is inserted in the top of a pencil case.

Glass beads pass as money in parts of Africa. Among the Masai, five blue beads will buy a woman, but ten of them are necessary to buy a cow.

Women require one hour of sleep more a day than men. Fewer of the latter reach the age of 50 than the former, but afterward the sterner sex has the best of it.

A submarine electrical lamp has been tested in Toulon at a depth of thirty feet. It illuminated a radius of 100 feet. Fish surrounded it like insects about a lamp.

In Burma it is rather a suspicious thing to give money for a charitable object. It is supposed to mean that the donor has been very wicked and is desirous to make amends.

Recent experiment has proved that it is a delicate piece of lace to be placed between an iron plate and a disk of gunpowder, and the latter be detonated, the lace will be clearly stamped on the iron.

The gulf stream flows at an average speed of three and a half miles an hour. At some places, notably in the Straits of Messina, the current attains a velocity of fifty-four miles an hour.

In Italy loaves of bread are baked two and three feet long, while in France they measure from four to six feet and are often seen leaning up against the door of flats waiting the return of the housewife.

There are many people now living who will have only one birthday to celebrate for nearly twelve years to come. This strange circumstance is due to the fact that they were born on Feb. 29, and to the further fact that the year 1900 will not be a leap year.

The *Tourist Zeitung* publishes a list of Alpine accidents for 1892. There were 32 fatalities in all, 26 having occurred in accidents without guides and 6 with guides. Twenty-six were tourists and 6 were guides. Ten were caused by attempts to gather edelweiss.

Of fourteen torpedo boats ordered by the British government four to be 180 feet long, of a speed of 27 knots, or about 31 statute miles. The extreme speed obtained by a torpedo boat is credited to the "Adler," built at Elbing, Germany, 27.4 knots. She is only 152 feet long.

The Kalmucks of Astrakhan, a roving people numbering about 150,000 souls, have at last been tamed from serfdom. When the other Russian serfs were freed in 1861, it was considered dangerous to extend this privilege to these people, lest their wildness would lead to its abuse.

The sun has a motion in three ways, it has, first, a rotation on its own axis, which occupies about 25 1/2 days; second, a motion about the centre of gravity of the whole solar system—but this centre of gravity is always within the sun's own volume; third, a motion in space toward the planet Hercules.

The nest which is made into soup and eaten by the Chinese is that of a bird closely allied to the swift. The nests are made of a gelatinous secretion from the mouth of these birds. They are very highly valued, a million being worth \$175,000, which would make each nest come to about seventeen cents.

The Royal society of London dates from about the middle of the seventeenth century, and grew out of the meetings of learned men in London to discuss philosophical questions and make scientific experiments. They became an organized body in 1660, and on April 22, 1663, Charles II. granted them a charter.

The way to kill a snake is not to attempt to crush its head, the bones of which are very hard, but to strike the tail, where the spinal cord is but thinly covered by bone and suffers readily from injury. It is the same way with an eel. Hit the tail two or three times against any hard substance and it quickly dies.

The code of Draco, or "Draconian Code," was published in Athens, 624 B. C., and decreed that the slightest offence, as

well as the greatest, should be punishable by death. Draco, who formulated the code, declared that the smallest offence deserved death, and there was none greater for graver misdeeds. The laws, however, were too severe, and hence violated with impunity, so a new code was ordered to be drawn up.

"PROGRESS" PICKINGS.

There's this to be said of fall fashions, that a man never goes down with the same grace that a woman does.

Kirby Stone—Do you write when the inspiration strikes you? Algernon S. Harlap—No, when my landlord strikes me.

Miss Gossippe—Do you pay much attention to what your husband says? Mrs. Jealous—Not unless he talks in his sleep.

Edwin—Shall we live with your parents after we are married? Angelina—The question is, can we live without them?—Puck.

She—You say you are an artist, a musician and a poet? He (modestly)—All three. She—Oh, how awfully poor you must be!

Mr. Pugh—Never saw such a crowd at our church before. Mrs. Pugh—New minister? Mr. Pugh—No; it was burnt down last night.

Mike—Do you know of anything that resembles the half moon? Pat—To be sure I do. Mike—And what's that? Pat—The other half, sure.

"In days gone by the business man used to take his pen in hand," began Snooper. "And nowadays he takes his typewriter in his arms," added Skidmore.

French maid (from the window)—Qui est cela? Head of the house (returning at midnight) Well, hang it, it's the key in the cellar come downstairs and open the door.

Miss S-micircle—How could you refuse so charming a man as Mr. Pen, Ethel? Mrs. Hodge (a charming widow)—Think, dear, of what my hyphenated name would have been!

Shippin Clarke—A woman occupied this room before we came. Bill Datur—How do you know? Shippin Clarke—Don't you see how the carpet is worn in front of the bureau?

Customer—I want to look at some fur trimming, please. Clerk—What fur, please? Customer (in high dudgeon)—I want it for a dress, but I don't see what difference it can make to you.

Young Man: I want an engagement-ring for a young lady. Jeweller: Yes, sir, about what size? Young Man: I don't know, exactly; but she can twist me round her little finger, it that's any guide.

"Why didn't you thank that young man who rose up and gave you his seat?" "He gave it to me because he thought I looked older than any other woman in the car. That's why I didn't thank him. And I don't thank him!"

Tompkinson: Robinson, I want your advice. Brown, I hear, has referred to me as an inspired idiot. What had I better do? Robinson: Well, Tompkinson, I think you ought to make him take back that word 'inspired.'

Professor Eradicate.—Can anyone in the audience tell me how many species of snakes there are? Keelied—Yes, sir. Three million. Professor Eradicate.—Correct, sir. But how do you know? Keelied—I have seen them all.

"Here is something I can recommend," said the salesman. "You see the wheels of this little wagon are pneumatic tired, so it is practically noiseless." "I am not buying a wagon for the neighbors," answered the woman. "I want it for my little boy."

"This tree seems to be loaded with apples," remarks the stranger. "Yes, sir," replies the rural miss. "Pop says this is a good apple year." "I am glad to hear that. Are all your trees as full of apples as this one?" "Oh, no. Only the apple trees."—Rare-Bits.

How dark it is to-night," she said, "and what a secluded place this is in which we're standing. Nobody can see us." "Think you not?" "I'm sure of it." "Well, you never can't always tell, you know. You never can be sure that you are unobserved, no matter how dark the night or how secluded the place."

Cholly—Most of the jokes in these—aw—comic papas are meat twash. I've a great mind to sit down and write some myself. Bright—You don't phrase it right. Cholly. C.—Why not? B.—You should not say "I've a great mind to write some," but, "If I had a mind I could write some." Nothing like being correct.—N. Y. Press.

Papa Primus—You have abused my hospitality, sir, and I shall hold you to account for kissing my new typewriter against her will, last night. Young Secundus—So she is my accuser, is she? Papa Primus—Yes. What have you to say for yourself? Young Secundus—Only this. It was in the dark, and she mistook me for you at the time.

Miss Mandie (to instructor in languages)—Professor, with our knowledge of French, do you think sister and I could safely venture on a trip through France? Instructor—With perfect safety, my dear young lady. You and Miss Mabel could go anywhere in France and speak your minds with entire freedom—in French—without giving the slightest offence.

Mrs. Mannerly (to her daughter, who has just returned from tea with friends)—"I hope you said, 'no thank you,' oftener than you did, 'yes, thank you.'" Mabel—"Yes, I did. I hadn't been eating more'n half an hour before they began saying, 'don't you think you've eaten enough?' Aren't you afraid you'll make yourself sick?" And I said "no thank you" every time."

## MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

The Duke of Westminster receives over two hundred begging letters a day.

The Comte de Paris, says an eminent French genealogist, is a direct descendant of the infamous Lucrezia Borgia.

Sigurd Ibsen, the only son of Ibsen himself, has married Froken Belfor. Bjornsen Sigurd lives on a very rich father.

Lady Somerset has established a paper in England, called the White Ribbon, devoted to temperance, labor questions, and the advancement of women.

The Pope has made a liberal contribution to the proposed Dante museum at Ravenna. He is himself the author of many poems and still finds pleasure in versifying.

Richard Francis Burton was one of the busy men of modern times. He wrote 50 books, made a literal translation of the Arabian Nights, with notes, and had command of 29 languages.

The Duke of Buccleuch possesses landed estates, perhaps the most considerable in the United Kingdom in point of value. He owns between four and five hundred thousand acres, worth some £225,000 a year.

The new General of the Trappists is Padre Sebastiano, abbot of Septimus, born a Frenchman and before entering the Trappist order an officer in the Papal army who had distinguished himself in battle.

A visitor to Marshal MacMahon says that the Marshal is still a great sportsman. He sports out with his gun at six in the morning and walks twelve or fifteen miles a day. His hand is firm and his aim is sure.

Signor Crispi, the Italian statesman, is one of the most hot-tempered public men on the Continent. Absolute, irascible, and intolerant of opposition, even old age has not softened the fire in his character.

Rosa Bonheur is still a busy worker, notwithstanding her advanced age. She has just completed three small pictures, studies of animals, as usual, not lacking in the vigor and strength which characterize her earlier work.

The salary of the Prince of Wales is \$200,000 per year; Duke of Connaught, \$125,000; Duke of Edinburgh, \$123,000, and the Duke of Cambridge, the Queen's cousin, \$60,000. The royal family costs British taxpayers \$10,000 a week.

Prince Ferdinand, of Bulgaria, is little known for anything save his huge collection of dressing gowns. He has a perfect mania for this kind of useful garment, and has paid as much as 100 guineas for an embroidered robe made for him in Paris.

Mrs. Whipple, the wife of the famous Californian millionaire, is said to be the most extravagant woman in the world. She has a dog whose collar is studded with brilliant, emeralds, and pearls, and the animal is provided with a special man-servant.

Miss Patterson of Ireland is one of the few women to win the degree of Doctor of Music, and the only one in Great Britain except the Princess of Wales, whose title is complimentary. Miss Wilson has received also, the degrees of Bachelor of Arts from the Irish universities.

The Rev. S. Baring-Gould, the well-known novelist, is 58 years of age. He belongs to an old Devonshire family, and is rector of Lew-Trenchard. Strangely enough he wrote something like 30 or 40 books on religious subjects and folk lore before he won celebrity as a novelist.

According to the French papers the young Crown Prince of Germany is in the habit of using as a target for his pistol practice an image of a French infantryman, and it is said that he recently asked his father if he would not be permitted after his promotion to a lieutenantancy to fire at a Russian officer.

The little adopted son of Mrs. Palmer will press the button that is to send the electric thrill through the great machinery of the Exposition. The little fellow is a Castilian by birth and the son of an officer in the Spanish army. He was christened Murillo Castelar Palmer by the great orator and poet, Emilio Castelar.

Queen Victoria is now 74 an age which very few of her predecessors reached. Looking down the list, Queen Elizabeth is the first to reach threescore years and ten, she dying at that age. George II. was 77 when he died; William IV. was 72, and George III. alone among English kings or queens has passed fourscore years, dying at 82 years of age.

When the two sons of the Prince of Wales were visiting South America, at a ball in Rio, Prince George was having a right good time, dancing with any of the pretty girls who took his fancy, irrespective of their social position, and neglecting the bigwigs. His elder brother remonstrated with him. "You go and sit down and whistle God save your grandmother and let me alone," said Prince George, and went on enjoying himself after his own fashion.

The Queen of Roumania, known in literature as "Carmen Sylva," writes to a friend: "My health is improving. \* \* \* During my walks I often think of how your mother and I used to walk together, dreaming fair dreams and talking about the beautiful, romantic Germany of former times, so different from the Germany of today. Alas! your mother is dead. I am still here, ill and bereft of all illusions, although the doctors seem very hopeful about me. Life is, indeed, very short, and the Apostle's words, 'here we have no abiding city,' are very true."

A remarkable memory for faces is one of the exceedingly useful gifts of the Prince of Wales. His Royal Highness, moreover, never fails to say the right word at the right moment to the person whom he addresses. When Lord Napier of Magdala was buried in St. Paul's the military funeral drew to the cathedral an imposing host of veterans. Many of these generals, now on the retired list, were brought into close contact with the Prince of Wales in the great west porch of St. Paul's. It was interesting to observe with what tact the Prince spoke to each distinguished officer, never at a loss to recollect his name or rank in the natural excitement of the moment, for the scene was an altogether unusual one, and to some spectators was brilliantly bewildering.

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