

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

There are no heathens now to be found in the group of Fijian Islands.

It used to be a superstition that coral became pale when those who wore it were ill.

Professor Max Muller estimates the number of Buddhists in the world to be 450,000.

The population of India is believed to have increased in ten years from 255,000,000 to 285,000,000.

Two hundred thousand families, it has been calculated, are living in London on £1 a week.

Napoleon in his will left a handsome legacy to a wretch named Chatillon, who had attempted to assassinate Wellington.

The loss of life on board British vessels at sea or in rivers or harbors in 1889-90 amounted to 4,207, of whom nearly one-third were drowned.

"An it please the pigs" is, with a small change, the old Roman Catholic ejaculation. "An it please the pig" which is the box in which the Host was carried.

The shortest space of time noted by the turkman's watch is a quarter of a second—an interval so brief that the eye can hardly observe, the mind can hardly appreciate it.

According to Linnaeus, the progeny of three female flesh flies (each gives birth to 20,000 young, and a third generation is produced in a few days) would devour the carcass of a horse with greater speed than a lion could.

Oats originated in North Africa, onions in Egypt, parsley in Persia, peas in Egypt, potatoes in America, rye in Siberia, spinach in Arabia, sun-flower in Peru, tobacco in America, and Walnut in Persia.

The duel is the survival of the trial by ordeal. Rowland Yorke supposed to have brought it to England in 1287, but earlier than that it was not unusual to see a glove hung over the altar in church as a challenge to anyone who would take it down.

As everyone knows a billion is a million millions. Allowing that so many as 200, which is an outside number, could be counted in a minute, it would, excluding the 360th day in leap year, take one person 9,512 years before the task of counting a billion would be completed.

In the third century the Macedonians employed artificial flies in the capture of fish with hooks, and Hesiod, Cicero, and others among the ancient poets sounded the praises of fish. Strabo, Virgil, and even the early christian fathers make many references to the fish living in the seas in their times.

When first hatched, says an authority, the larva of the silk worm moth weighs 1-100th of a grain, but before it passes, in the course of the comparatively short season, into the pupa or second stage of insect, it attains, by eating, a weight of 95 grains, which is an increase of 9500 over its original weight.

If parents are tall, the children tend to be tall, but the offspring of parents of unequal height most frequently follow the shorter. Excessive tallness is very rarely perpetuated; even if both the parents are above the average, the height of the offspring is usually only a third of the excess reached by the parents.

From Mars the earth appears much the same as Venus does to us, but on Venus she shines with a lustre exceeding the most brilliant of the stars. But, like Venus—which is to us a morning and evening star—the earth is to Venus a night star, and shines upon her with a brilliancy much greater than that of Venus at the period of its greatest luminosity.

The title kaiser is a corruption of the name Caesar. Caesar was the family name of the first five Roman emperors, and was afterwards adopted as a title by their successors. It was also used, by way of distinction, for the intended or presumptive heir of the empire. The title under the corrupted form of kaiser is borne by the emperors of Germany, Austria, and as czar by the sovereigns of Russia.

Superstition has it that a mole on the left side of a man denotes danger and struggling; on a woman, sorrow. A mole on the upper lip shows happiness in marriage. A mole on the breast shows affection, loyalty, strength and courage, and will gain the party to be much beloved, and will come into great fortune. A mole on the left shoulder, sorrow and labor. A mole on the forehead of a man or woman denotes they shall grow rich, being beloved of their friends and neighbors. A mole on the eyebrows of a man denotes inconstancy; but if on a woman it shows she will have a good husband. A mole on the neck shows a man to be prudent in his actions; but if on a woman it betokens weak judgment, apt to believe the worst of her husband.

It is said that insanity is one of the scourges of Newfoundland, where intermarriage obtains.

One-fourth of the street railways of the United States are being operated wholly or in part by electricity.

If the actual strand-line of Norway was measured, the coast-line would probably measure upwards of 3000 miles long.

It is said that one in every five of the population of London dies sick or is destined to die in an hospital, workhouse, or a pauper lunatic asylum.

With a registered tonnage of over a million and a quarter, and a seafaring population of over 47,000 men, Canada ranks fourth among the maritime nations of the world.

It is not definitely known who brought the first wheat seed to America. When this continent was discovered the only cereal that grew here was maize. Wheat was introduced into Britain by the Romans, and it can be traced back for nearly 4,000 years.

The returns of the British army for the year 1890 show that the effective strength of the regular army at the end of the year was 210,860. The total enrolled in the auxiliary and reserve forces was—army reserve, 60,233; militia, 113,162; yeomanry, 10,697; volunteers, 221,048.

The origin of "windfall" in the sense of "good luck" dates from the time of William the Conqueror. It was then a criminal offence to cut timber in the forests. Only such could be gathered as the wind had blown down; hence a heavy wind-storm was hailed by the peasants as so much good luck, and from this comes the modern application of the expression.

The usual English spelling of the title of the Emperor of Russia is *Czar*, probably to show its connection with the Latin *Cesar*. A much better transliteration of the Russian word is *Tsar*. According to the scheme of transliteration adopted at the Natural History museum, and by the Botanical, Linnean, and Zoological societies, the word would be written *Tsar*.

FRENCH AFRAID OF WATER.

It's no Joke, but Absolutely Hard Work to Get the Liquid to Drink.

Much has been said in a facetious way about the difficulty travelers have in France getting a simple drink of water, and some personal experience of the kind is one of the stock anecdotes of every tourist. And yet, as a matter of fact, this difficulty can hardly be exaggerated.

In Normandy and Brittany Normandy cider, with a taste like poor Rhine wine but a complexion a shade darker, is the exclusive beverage of the people; wine is a luxury, as it is not made so far north; tea, to end the list, would never be thought of in this connection.

We stopped at a fine copious spring by the roadside, and a native passing by hesitated in curiosity and surprise and hastened to warn us that water was injurious and that it would make us sick; and every time we inquired for water at a wayside cottage madame would refuse to give it to us and would respond with the inevitable *cider*.

We had been about two days on our road to Paris when we began to get desperate at this treatment, for we had forgotten how water tasted, and as we passed a well and saw a woman appear at a door with a

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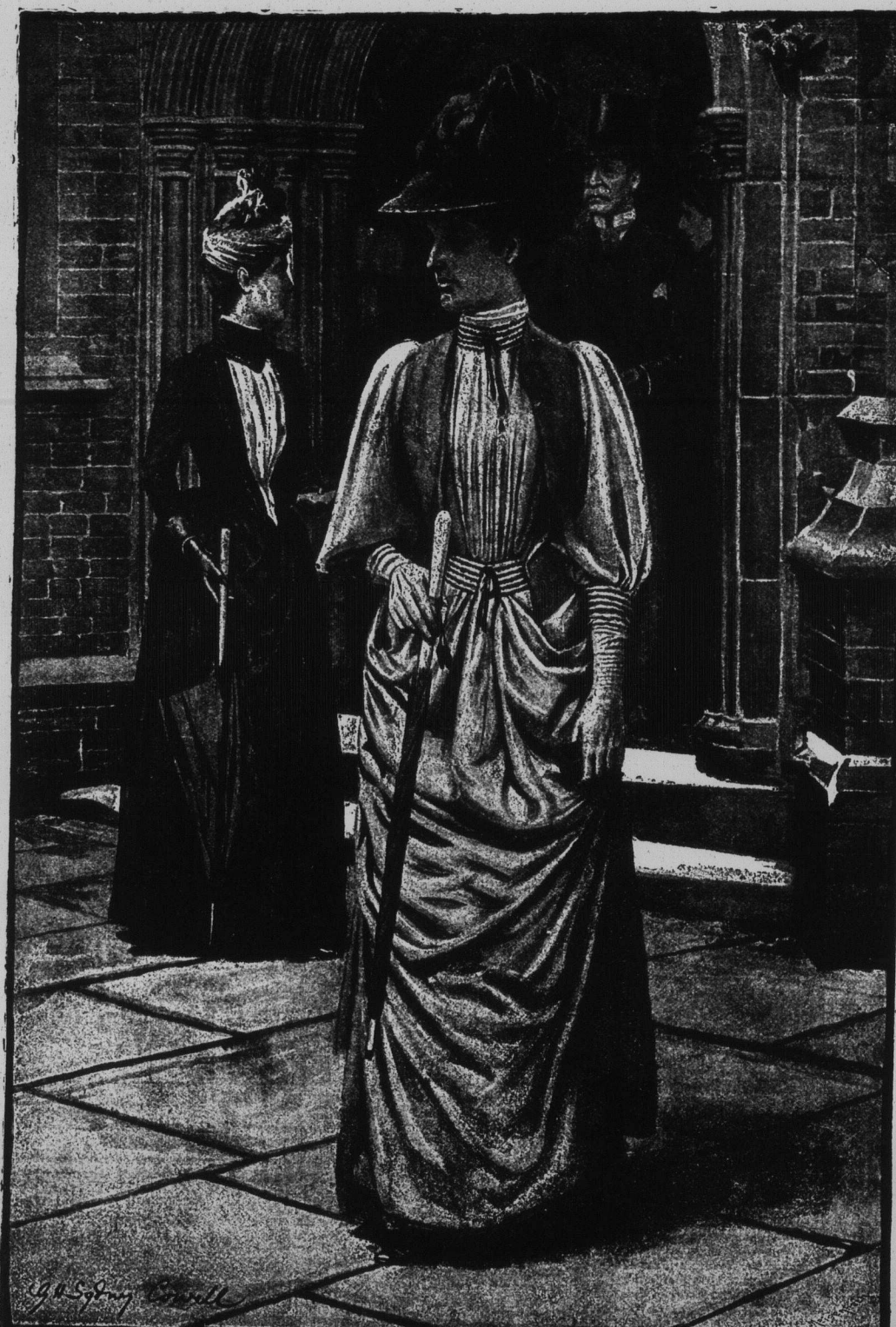
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SUNDAY MORNING.

We have over 500 muscles, each nourished by almost innumerable blood vessels, and regulated by nerves. One of our muscles, the heart, beats over 30,000,000 times in a year, and if it once stops all is over.

Married people live longer than the unmarried and civilized nations longer than uncivilized. Tall persons enjoy a greater longevity than small ones. Women have a more favorable chance of life before reaching their 50th year than men, but a less favorable one after that period. The proportion of married persons to single ones is as 75 to 1,000.

Many estimates have been made of the rate at which the Niagara Falls are wearing back the precipice over which the river tumbles. The latest is a report made by Mr. Bogart, state engineer of New York. He comes to the conclusion, after comparing the survey made in 1842 and the results arrived at in 1890, that the annual recession of the American Fall had been 7-68 in., and at the Canadian or Horseshoe Fall 2 feet 6 in. During this period the crestline of the American fall has sunk from 1080 to 1060 feet, and that of the Canadian has risen from 2280 to 3010 feet, while the area of rock which has been carried away during these 48 years is 32,900 square feet at the American and 275,400 at the Canadian fall.

Persons born in spring have a more robust constitution than those born at other seasons. Births and deaths occur more frequently at night than in the day-time.

North America is estimated to possess 187,425 miles of railway, or 21.54 miles per 10,000 inhabitants; South America to have 10,000 miles, or 5 miles per 10,000 inhabitants; while Europe has 141,000 miles, being at the rate of 4.06 per 10,000, Asia having 20,000 miles, or only a ratio of 1/4 mile per 10,000; Africa, with 6,000 miles of railroad, averaging 3.10 of a mile per 10,000 inhabitants; and Australia ranking nearly with Europe and South America, with 13,000 miles of railroad and a ratio of 3.42 miles per 10,000 inhabitants.

A coat of arms in mediæval times was a coat bearing armorial insignia worn over the armor by warriors, so that they might be distinguished by their soldiers. The "coat of arms" as now understood is a complete and distinctive heraldic composition. This art took its use about the time of William the Conqueror, and originated in the customs of the knights of the middle ages adopting a distinctive badge or color when they were engaged in warfare. After the crusades the knights who had distinguished themselves by their prowess adopted the badge which they had worn during the war.

bucket one of us rushed upon her and unconsciously seized it, and in another minute we were drinking defiantly of the interdicted liquid. The woman was still standing in her tracks dazed and dumb-founded as we returned her bucket full to the brim, and in her absence of mind she refused the sours we offered her—the first case on record.—*Paris Letter.*

Curiosities About Gold.
Gold is so very tenacious that a piece of it drawn into wire one-twentieth of an inch in diameter will sustain a weight of 500 pounds without breaking. Its malleability is so great that a single grain may be divided into 2,000,000 parts and a cubic inch into 9,523,809,523 parts, each of which may be distinctly seen by the naked eye. A grain and a half of gold may be beaten into leaves of one inch in square, which, if intersected by parallel lines drawn at right angles to each other and distances only the one-hundredth part of an inch, will produce 25,000,000 little squares, each of which may be distinctly seen without the aid of a glass!

The surface of any given quantity of gold, according to the best authorities, may be extended by the hammer 310,814 times. The thickness of the metal thus extended appears to be no more than the 566,020th part of an inch. Eight ounces of this wonderful metal would gild a silver wire of sufficient length to extend around the globe!

MEN AND WOMEN.

M. Pasteur has now, Emperor of Austria, been decorated of the Iron Crown.

Queen Victoria now has of 307,000,000—a great people than ever acknowledged of any one other person or modern times.

A son of Ole Bull, the Norwegian violinist, has in his father's genius, and debut in Paris as a soloist, has done the honors of the ranks of the jockey.

Prince Henry, of Orleans, the fact that the chances to the "throne" of France, small, has done the honors of the ranks of the jockey.

Alexandre Dumas is a handed philanthropist in part of the large income of his books and plays is in many a poor and obdurate him a debt of gratitude wholly repaid.

John D. Rockefeller, est annual income of any has spent the summer on farm, just as if he was a doing quite as much as his hired men. He has suit of health.

John Whitman, the pounds with his teeth, weighing 30,000 pounds North street, Baltimore, presence of about 300 have required the united ordinary men to move them.

Until recently the royal has been lighted only by the father and the grand Emperor William and is now arranging for George Keenan, the meller, says the czar is a but his judgment is bad, rowed by his advisers. divinely appointed to pe for having crucified the he is only fulfilling the scriptures by so doing.

The Duke of Cambridge best known old boys in is hardly a soldier, police in town who is not ac rosy-gilled and white-man, who has never been the officers of the army persist in being a fussy pers.

Fifteen keen and cour form the czar's body guard the czar almost every in uniform; and they h watch in the imperial kit ally act as cooks. Th never be convinced that been drugged, and they ing" fresh bottles three day.

A Zulu prince, the yo Cetoswa Totowa, is an in the streets of St. Louis. stalwart young man, wei with a face of rich copp red hair. He is one of dren, his father possessi forty wives. He is ba baptist ministers for m Africa.

Queen Victoria has co fifty-five years, there bei sovereigns who have exci respect—Henry III., wh years, and George III. She is also third with rel having been 72 years Those who have exce respect were George II. he was nearly 77, and died at 81 years.

The first time the Em ever donned a frock coat in 1867, when he went to exhibition as Napoleon I pleasure did he take in the he has never worn the li he left Paris. At home always in uniform, excep shooting, and then he costume, with green we legs bare at the knees fashion.

The young King of S to his nurse, Max, is time ago. For five year was with his youthful night. The little fellow attached to her that it w aration would endanger make the party easier rid the day the cour Sebastian. She is to re pension on the royal siderable sum of money the woman's husband, w

A compactly built yo Frank Talmage, son of a lyn preacher. He has n his father, although in r resembles him. He h ruddy complexion, a fir that seem to penetrate the person he is talki form tokens abundant. He is a good hand at a play ball, fence, swim, his father, he practices door exercise, and he l like the sons of many gaggard. He will soo Union Theological Sem studies he goes at divi unlike many other son does not try to make his name. He was elect minister of the gospel, a summer has had charg Hudson. He is notea studiousness and the ab subject he takes up in us as instructive way. He lectures, and has b \$100 for one night's ser like his father, in a qu way, and seems to pos powers. After he gra married to Miss Gertru Sing, N. Y., a cultu young woman of 20.