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MISCELLANEOUS.

Ocean steamers of the first-class each consume from 190 to 220 tons of coal a day.

The different countries of the world now use 13,400 different kinds of postage stamps.

At the Bombay Zoological Gardens the skin of a serpent sixty-four feet in length is on exhibition.

The division of time into months and weeks is so old, that its origin cannot possibly be ascertained.

In ancient times bones were collected from the battlefields, ground to powder and used to fertilize the land.

It is said that Gen. Lew Wallace, author of "Ben Hur," receives higher pay for his writing than any other living American author.

An editor of a western paper recently printed this rather ambiguous announcement: "On account of lack of space a number of deaths have been postponed."

"Now, Johnny, do you understand thoroughly why I am going to whip you?" "Yes'm. You're in bad humor this mornin', an' you've got to lick some one before you'll feel satisfied."

Massage treatment in Japan is administered almost entirely by blind persons. The reason is because in the blind the sense of touch is more delicate than in persons blessed with sight.

"You keep your lawn in lovely condition, Mrs. Trimmer." "Yes, the Blinkers have a new lawn mower; the one they used to lend us last summer was a disgrace to the neighborhood."

Since the beginning of this century no fewer than fifty-two volcanic islands have risen out of the sea; nineteen disappeared, being submerged; the others remain, and ten are now inhabited.

Tomato plants have recently been grafted on potato plants, giving a crop of tomatoes above ground and of potatoes below. Potatoes grafted on tomatoes have produced flowers and tomatoes and a few tubers.

A little girl in the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago has made a valuable contribution to the New Woman Literature. *The Interior* says that she told her mother the story of Adam and Eve. "Dod, he made Adam, and he put him in a big garden, an' Adam he was so, so lonesome; 'n then he putted him to sleep, he did; 'n then he took out his brains and made a woman of the brains, 'n then Adam, he wasn't lonesome no more."

The discovery is announced of another very early manuscript of the gospels. It was found at a village named Sarum-sahly, about fifty miles north of Caesarea. It has been purchased by the Russian Government for about \$4,500. The manuscript is said to be a very beautiful one, on the finest of thin vellum of a deep red purple color, the letters being in silver with abbreviations of the sacred name in gold. It is written in double columns and with uncial letters. It may be as early as the fifth century, but the details necessary to determine its date, and the character of the text, have not yet come to hand.

Every indication of increased concern for guarding the sanctity of the Sabbath is to be welcomed. We notice with pleasure that at the Montreal Conference of the Methodist Church, a memorial on Sabbath Observance was presented to that body by the W. C. T. U., and another on the same subject from the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa of our own Church. If the Churches and Christian women of the land determine that the observance of the Sabbath as we now have it is to be continued, we can have it. There is no power in the country that can ultimately triumph over such a combination.

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Gibbon devoted over twenty years of his life to the labor of reading for and writing the "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." It is one of the most stupendous literary feats ever accomplished by the labor of one man.

Borrowal (happening in)—"That's a fine machine of yours, Ferguson. Some day I'll come around and take it out for a little spin. By the way, what kind of a bicycle would you advise me to ride?" Ferguson—"I'd advise you to ride one of your own."

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Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, in telling of her struggles to achieve fame and fortune, says: "Do not write, if you can earn a fair living at teaching or dressmaking, at electricity or hod carrying. Make shoes, weed cabbages, survey land, keep house, make ice cream, sell cake, climb a telephone pole. Nay, be a lightning-rod peddler or a book agent before you set your heart upon it that you shall write for a living. Do anything honest, but do not write, unless God calls you and publishers want you, and people read you, and editors claim you. Editors do not care a drop of ink for influence. An editor will pass by an old writer any day for an unknown and gifted new one, with power to say a good thing in a fresh way. Do not flirt with your pen."