

### What a Spanish Lady Brought to England.

WHEN the unfortunate Katherine of Aragon, who was the wife of the brother of Henry VIII., and afterwards the wife of Henry VIII. himself, first came to England, she brought with her from Spain, an article that was quite unfamiliar to the British eyes. This small but necessary article had been manufactured in France, and was sent from that country to Spain as a part of the elegant outfit prepared for the bride of the King of England. Walking down Broadway you might pick up a thousand, perhaps, and a goodly number on the common road-side, but in the days of Henry VIII, it was an expensive luxury. And what do you suppose it was? Only a pin!

Previous to that time the fastenings, in general use consisted of clasps, ribbons, strings, loop-holes, skewers of bone, silver, gold, brass, or wood, and crudely formed hooks and eyes, but the simple pin, with its solid head and sharp point was unknown.

France claims that all new ideas which came into the world came through her, however well they may be developed and perfected by other nations. In the evolution of the pin France deserves the credit. She made the best pins long before they could be made in other countries, and it was a Frenchman, Fournier by name, who went to Nuremburg and taught the wire drawers and makers of that city how to improve their machines, and thus draw the wire finer for the manufacture of pins with solid heads. This improvement was a much-needed one, for an act had been passed in

England prohibiting the sale of pins unless they had solid or double heads which did not come off. For a long time pins in England belonged to the list of imported articles, but in 1626 a manufactory was started in Gloucestershire, by a man named John Tilsby, who operated so successfully that he employed as many as fifteen hundred people.

### Facts in Few Words.

AN Aroostook, Me., farmer travels in great comfort through the long reaches of snow and in the face of the bitterest north winds in a one-horse sleigh, hooded over like a prairie schooner, and with a stove inside, the funnel sticking through the top. It is a rig of his own invention, and, while not architecturally beautiful in appearance, is mighty comfortable in use.

The following is a characteristic extract from the manuscript diary of King James II, which is preserved in the imperial library at Paris: "I did not retire from the battle of the Boyne from a sense of fear but that I might preserve to the world a life that I felt was destined to future greatness!"

Engineers on the first locomotives were equipped with tin horns, with which they warned people from the tracks.

The apple has a larger proportion of phosphorus than any other fruit, and is therefore, an excellent brain food.

A Boston business man displays a sign on his office door which reads: "Office hours 10 to 1 every other Tuesday."

It is a point of honor that Moorish women never know their own ages. They have no birthday celebrations.

The huge guns of modern navies can only be fired about seventy-five times before they are worn out.

The aged and sick in parts of Siberia are assisted in committing suicide.

Foot ball was a crime in England during the reign of Henry VIII.

Application was made at the New York postoffice the other day for mourning stamps, and the applicant expressed great disappointment when he was told that the government did not keep any in stock.

Lemons were looked upon in ancient Greece as poisonous.

Ancient Egyptians worshiped the onion.

At the Washington Mint it is estimated the gold production of the world for 1893 was \$150,000,000, as against \$138,861,000 in 1892. The United States, Russia and South Africa have furnished the increase, with small gains in China and Japan. The output for 1894 is expected to show an increase over all former yields.

Men of earnest thought and contemplation exercise a wonderful influence over men of action.

Duty is carrying on promptly and faithfully the affairs now before you. It is to fulfil the claims of to-day.

