

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

Thirty-two thousand varieties of goods are made from wool.

It is computed that 1,000 cattle give 67 tons of beef, and 1,000 sheep 12½ tons of mutton.

It is estimated that one of the largest stones in the Pyramids weighs fully eighty-eight tons.

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

The largest library in the world is the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris. It contains 1,400,000 volumes.

In the Encyclopedia Britannica there are 10,000 words that have never been entered and defined in any dictionary.

The amount of gold in actual circulation in the world is estimated by the Bank of England officials to be about 865 tons.

The little Republic of Uruguay has more newspapers in proportion to its population than any other country in the world.

Alaskans often have eating matches, in which great numbers of the villagers compete. The one who eats the most is considered the best man.

The estimated population of Mecca is about 60,000, while the number of pilgrims massed together there last year from all parts of the Moslem was variously estimated at from 200,000 to 300,000.

Every day the Thames scoops out of its banks 1,500 tons of matter, or half a million tons a year. All the rivers of the world are doing a similar work; the Mississippi at the rate of 360,000,000 tons a year.

Easter Sunday this year will be the 25th of March, as it was in 1883, and only three Easter Sundays in the nineteenth century have been at an earlier date; March 22 in 1818, and March 23 in 1845 and 1856. The latest day of any Easter Sunday in this century was April 25, 1886.

The highest broad gauge railroad in the United States is the Denver and Rio Grande, and its highest point is at Marshall Pass, where it climbs to a height of 10,855 feet above the sea. There are some narrow gauge roads that go a little higher, but this is the highest point attained by a through route.

The Tartars are supposed to have as a nation, the most powerful voices in the world. The Germans possess the lowest voices of any civilized people. The voices of both Japanese and Chinese are of a very low order and feeble compass, and are probably weaker than any other nation. Taken as a whole, Europeans have stronger, clearer and better voices than the inhabitants of the other continents.

Hot milk is good for dyspepsia. It should be well boiled and then drunk as hot as one can swallow it. It is best in its effect when drunk the last thing at night, just before going to bed. It is very easily digested, and somehow has an exceedingly soothing effect on the digestive apparatus, so that after a few doses one becomes thoroughly accustomed to it, and after drinking it will go to sleep as quickly and quietly as a child.

Anybody can make his own fire grenades at a very trifling cost. An excellent extinguishing fluid is made of common chloride of calcium 28 parts, common salt 6 parts and 75 parts of water. Dissolve the salt and chloride of calcium in the water and pour the mixture into very thin bottles. One of these thrown into a fire will put it out even when it has attained considerable proportions; it is far cheaper and quite as effective as many of the high priced compounds now in use.

The early Roman ovens were just like those in use at the present time. A well-preserved specimen was discovered some years ago during the excavations at Pompeii; it contained several charred loaves, on which the baker's name could be plainly seen, showing of what flour they had been made. The loaves of Pompeii weighed about two pounds; they were round and indented, to admit of breaking them into eight equal parts. Similar loaves are made even now in Calabria and Sicily.

According to official reports just issued in Paris, no fewer than 19,000 microbes have been discovered in two bank notes, which had only been in use for five years. Among the bacilli, whose presence was determined by analysis, were those of tuberculosis, diphtheria, as well as the streptococcus of erysipelas. In view of the fact that in many countries, notably in Spain and Cuba, the lower classes are accustomed to carry bank notes in their mouths, this discovery is not without its value.

The Talmud is of a very complicated composition, inasmuch as it has eight meanings. In brief, however, it is a collection of notes, decisions of rabbis and doctors on the books of the Jewish law. There are two Talmuds, the Babylonian and Palestinian; between them they contain vast stores of religious learning, of historical references, or geographical hints, or archaeology, numismatics and other sciences. The Babylonian Talmud dates from the sixth century of our era, the Palestinian from the fifth.

Statistics are said to show that young men do not, on the average, attain full physical maturity, until they arrive at the age of 28 years. Prof. Scheller of Harvard asserts, as the result of his observations, that young men do not attain the full measure of their mental faculties before 25 years of age. A shrewd observer has said that "most men are boys until they are thirty, and little boys until they are 25;" and this accords with the standard of manhood, which was fixed at thirty among the ancient Hebrews and other races.

Of all the coal mined in the world, from the beginning of this century to the present time, Great Britain has produced one half. In 1891 she mined 36 per cent of the world's product, while the United States produced 33 per cent. The United States is increasing its output of coal at the rate of 10 per cent per annum, while the increase in Great Britain is less than two per cent. The cost of coal is increasing in Great Britain and decreasing in the United States. England exports 31 per cent of her total product of coal, while the United States exports less than 1 per cent.

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Commor Error.
Chocolate & Cocoa are by many supposed to be one and the same, only that one is a powder, (hence more easily cooked), and the other is not.

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TAKE the Yolk from the Egg,
TAKE the Oil from the Olive,
What is left?
A Residue. So with COCOA.

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THEY ARE SLAVES TO IT.

How the Opium Habit Has Made Its Roads in San Francisco.

It is a little over 100 years since the Chinese learned to smoke opium. The pernicious habit has spread with alarming rapidity, until now the whole nation has become enslaved to an insidious drug that is responsible for the physical, mental and moral ruin of millions of human beings every year.

Opium is becoming a terrible curse in San Francisco. One cannot walk a half dozen yards in Chinatown without being conscious of its presence. Its sickly fumes come pouring forth from basement and cellar, as through the cloths of Gehenna. In factory, store and office, in the homes of the rich and the squalid shanties of the poor, the air is yellow with the smoke of "devil's dirt." Much of the smoking that goes on is in private houses and stores, but there are, on Spofford alley, Waverly place, Bartlett and Washington alleys and other places scores of public dens where opium is smoked night and day.

Probably the majority of the Chinese are more or less addicted to its use. Some Chinese assert that 30 per cent, of confirmed sots have what they call the Chinese call yui, or the craving. When men get that they are considered hopelessly enthralled. Home is deserted, family neglected, business forgotten, and the man is an utter wreck.

The most serious phase of the opium habit is that it has secured a hold upon the lower and more depraved classes of whites in this city. It is no uncommon thing to see young men and women stealing into Chinatown at night, entering an opium shop and procuring half a dollar's worth of the lethal drug. No one can look at their bent shoulders and discolored faces without seeing how opium is stamping upon them its indelible mark.

It is when the opium habit becomes fixed and the craving intense that the greatest injury occurs to the system. At regular times during the day there come gripping pains, which become indescribable agony if the victim is unable to get his pipe. These pains subside with the first whiff of opium and are followed by the most delightful sensations. When a man reaches this stage it is almost impossible to cure him. It is exceedingly doubtful whether there is any known remedy to cure an opium sots. The Chinese have medicines in abundance. One cannot walk down a block without seeing a score of advertisements of pretended infallible cures. The usual opium cure is a course of pills which contain more or less opium and which are taken in gradually decreased doses till, it is claimed, the taste of the drug has gone. In the majority of cases the patient is only changed from an opium smoker to an opium eater.—[San Francisco Chronicle.

Human Resemblance to Animals.

There is a very curious point connected with the more pronounced animal faces—namely, those in charge of animals grow to be like them. Thus, a hostler in charge of tramway horses has himself a fine Roman-nosed horse type of head, growing day by day more like a horse. Men in charge of cattle on the farm become more essentially bovine, and in Shropshire it has often been remarked that the sheep breeders resemble their own rams. I cannot explain these singularities, which, however, are wholly or partly true. The sheep type of man is not indicative of great intelligence and it is usually found in remote agricultural districts. The bulldog characters in man denote courage without refinement, but in the case of a lady—like her favorite pug dog—with no restraints, the refinement is not wanting. The Eskimos or Lapps in the water are so like seals that a man has been shot in error, the wistful expression of countenance being common in both, as the head only appears at the surface of the water. I have seen a comfortable looking bear man in the train and a wise-looking old woman once in Brittany.—[Pall Mall Gazette.

Desirous of Avoiding Errors.

Under ordinary conditions he was a man of prominence—but as he ascended the steps of his residence, very early in the morning, it was evident that he desired to be as much otherwise as possible. The cabby was lingering near to see that his charge was safely disposed of for the night. The door opened before the man on the steps could get his key to work, and he was met with the question:—"John, where have you been?" (Silence)
"John, where have you been?" He turned to descend the steps.
"Are you going to answer my question?"
"Yes, my dear, I am. From my personal knowledge I can't give you the answer, 'n' I'm going to ask the man that drives the back."

Dower Chests of Olden Days.

In Holland the dower chest once formed a part of every bride's equipment. Less portable, but more slightly than the "Saratoga" trunk, it fulfilled its purpose with grace and dignity, passing down to an heirloom from generation to generation. The modern chest is an easy thing to secure, but these the up-to-date girl holds in disdain; her chest must be really antique, of carved oak, of English or Flemish make, or elaborately inlaid with marqueterie of colored woods and dated or initialed with figures and characters eloquent of other times and manners. There are very few of the genuine old-fashioned "dower chests" to be seen on this side of the Atlantic. One of them in this city is a very massive affair, weighing several hundred pounds.

Some Sick Room "Don't's."

Never wash cups, plates or knives used in the sick room with those of the family: scarlet fever and other infectious diseases have been spread in this way. Do not eat in the sick person's room, or partake of anything that has been left there.

For a Nerve Tonic.

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Mrs. Gladstone has just passed her eighty-first birthday, and her vitality is as wonderful as that of her husband.

Mr. Gladstone completed his translation of Horace's odes into English verse on the day when his resignation went into effect.

Baroness James de Rothschild is a lover of art, and contributed some Venetian scenes to the recent water-color exhibition in Paris.

The Countess of Aberdeen has made arrangements to continue the sale of the goods exhibited and sold at the Irish village last summer.

To the list of notable collectors of curiosities must be added Lord Randolph Churchill, who has a partiality for collecting teeth of animals; the Duke of Argyll, who, on his Loch Fyne estate, has a grove of trees, each tree having been planted by a celebrity; and Mme. Nilsson, who collects fans.

The German Emperor, while hunting on the estates of Count Zichnowski, a little time back, used four guns and two thousand cartridges, and killed seven hundred and thirty pheasants. After the dinner which closed the day's entertainment, the emperor took the baton of the leader of the band which furnished the music, and conducted.

The Queen of England has reigned longer than any living ruler in the world, having ascended the throne in 1837. Next to her in point of time are Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, Grand Duke Peter of Oldenburg, and Frederick, the Grand Duke of Baden. The monarchs who have reigned the shortest time are Prince Frederick of Waldeck, and Duke Alfred of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.

Empress Eugenie seems to be playing the role of the fairy godmother, but it is to be feared that she cannot hold out very long at the present high rate of generosity. She has given a marriage portion of £40,000 to the Princess Eugenie, the second daughter of Prince Charles Bonaparte, the fiancée of Prince De Fabrica Massimo, and now she has given another £40,000 to Princess Eugenie's sister, Princess Marie, the wife of M. Henri Gotta.

Maxwell Gray, the author of "The Silence of Dean Maitland," etc., is the nom de plume of Mary Gledhill Tuttle. She is the daughter of a physician who lives in Newport on the Isle of Wight, where she was born. Her desire for knowledge was remarkable, and her love of study impaired her health so seriously that in recent years she has been a great invalid. It is reported that she is improving, however, and will doubtless be able to resume her literary labors.

Lady Butler, who is better known in this country as Elizabeth Thompson, the painter of the famous "Roll Call," is living at Aldershot with her husband, Gen. Sir William Butler, and their five children. Lady Butler is painting a picture for the Royal Academy, the subject being Waterloo. It would be rather interesting to have her views on the woman question, for not even a husband, five children, and immense success can keep Lady Butler from her art, and anyone of the three is considered unfavorable to real progress.

Lord Rosebery is rarely at the Foreign Office before noon; but his secretaries are in attendance upon him at his town house, in Berkeley Square, the first thing in the morning, and much work is done before the drive to Whitehall is taken. As the Foreign Minister himself has said, the office which he holds compels him almost to live a monastic life, so continuous and pressing are the calls upon his time. Frequently Lord Rosebery finds it necessary to remain in his room at the Foreign Office until nine o'clock at night.

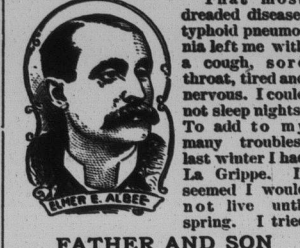
In order to paint his much-admired pictures of Scriptural subjects, Holman Hunt has travelled a great deal in the Holy Land. Before painting Christ working as a carpenter, the artist went to Bethlehem, studying the types of faces to be found there, and making sketches of the interiors of carpenter's shops. Even now Mr. Hunt is engaged upon a picture for which he made studies many years ago. In obtaining "models" while in Jerusalem he has sometimes met with considerable difficulty, owing to an erroneous impression that he was visiting Palestine as an agent of the Society for the Conversion of the Jews.

Alexandre Dumas thinks that there is in this world much unappreciated genius. That it might at least have a chance of making itself heard he adopted a novel design. He sent anonymously a type-written manuscript to a Paris theatre—which one nobody knows. There he publicly offered to present the play to the man who discovered it. By such means he hoped that it would be carefully read. But M. Dumas must have used some other way of disguising his work. No one has heard of it being found, nor has there come up any new writer as a result of this dredging of the ground.

The following are, it is said, some of the characteristic gestures of European royalties when engaged in conversation: The Prince of Wales, if annoyed or nervous, winks his left eye rapidly; the Emperor of Germany pulls furiously at his moustache; King Humbert of Italy, whose moustache is longer and more silky, caresses it affectionately; the Emperor of Austria puffs out his cheeks; the Czar runs his fingers through his hair or lays his hand flat on the top of his head; the Khedive taps impatiently with his left foot; the Archduchess Marie Theres of Austria never becomes interested in what she is saying without pulling at a lock of hair over her right temple.

The biography of Bret Harte has been squeezed into this small compass: Bret Harte has just passed his fifty-fourth year. He was born at Albany, New York, went to California in 1854, and was successively a miner, school teacher, express messenger, printer, and, finally, editor of a newspaper. In 1864 he was appointed secretary of the United States Branch Mint, at San Francisco, holding the office until 1870. In 1868 he became editor of the Overland Monthly, and in the following year, published "The Heathen Chinee," which made him popular. From 1880 to 1885 he was United States Consul at Glasgow, and has since resided in London. He has published some thirty volumes, and generally writes two books a year.

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