

Items of Interest.



Shoes were worn in Egypt 2,200 years before Christ.

Glasgow has penny trolley cars. They are double-decked.

The Bible is being translated into ten Philippine island dialects.

Paul of Russia was insane during the greater portion of his life.

Tea made from cabbage leaves is popular in Siberia in hard times.

London is said to be the healthiest of the world's great capitals.

Manchester, N. H., claims to have the largest shingle mill in the world.

The hat factories of the United States give employment to 125,000 people.

The newest and largest school in St. Louis has been named after Eugene Field.

The estate of the late Marquis of Bute has been officially valued at \$25,101,883.

A cubic yard of oak weighs 1,100 pounds. A cubic yard of coal weighs 3,504 pounds.

California lemons yield 50 per cent more citric acid than the famed Mediterranean lemon.

Last year the railways of the world carried two billion passengers and 950,000,000 tons of freight.

When the Bank of France cashes a check it compels the customer to take 20 per cent of the amount in gold.

The harbor of Cherbourg, finished by Napoleon, cost \$15,000,000. It is the most expensive harbor in the world.

Sixteen solicitors of London had their names removed from the rolls in one day because of dishonest practices.

Zircon is the heaviest precious stone, its weight being four and one-half times greater than an equal quantity of water.

Fifty years ago 1,000,000 people in Wales could talk no other language than Welsh. Now only 500,000 speak the language.

Natick, Mass., was founded by John Elliott 250 years ago. On July 4 next the citizens of the old town will celebrate the anniversary.

It is not surprising that the United States leads the world. It grants 25,000 patents a year, or more than all other countries combined.

W. Robertson is 78 years old, but is serving as a private soldier in the ranks of the British army in South Africa. He is a veteran of the Crimean war.

Twelve hundred acres of canteloupes have been planted in the Pecos Valley, New Mexico. It is estimated that the melons will yield a carload to the acre.

The state flower of Louisiana is the magnolia, of Missouri the goldenrod, of Arkansas the apple blossom. Nebraska's state flower should be the alfalfa blossom.

The average age of man has been increased seven years and six months in the last hundred years. This is due to increased sanitation and advancement in medicine and surgery.

A pine tree bough swept in the face of a baby is considered an emblem of good luck in Spain. In this country a hickory switch swept on the other side is considered an emblem of good luck.

Scientists are excited over the discovery of a well defined human footprint in a vein of coal near Joliet, Ill. It has always been contended that man did not exist during the carboniferous age.

John and Mary Burkett of Kokomo, Ind., have been married four times and divorced three times. They are now living happily together and say they have no further use for the divorce courts.

Tea was introduced into England about the middle of the seventeenth century. At first it was sold only in public houses, as beer is now sold.

A policeman in New Orleans owns 100 acres of land in the Beaumont oil region. He has refused an offer of \$1,000,000 for the property and continues to patrol his beat while waiting for a better offer.

Thomas A. Edison has taken out 744 patents in the United States. His nearest competitor is Professor Elihu Thomson, who has taken out 444. Thirty-eight inventors have taken out over 100 patents each.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Low of Fayette county, Pa., were born on the same day. They were married thirty years ago and were never separated a day during their married life. They died on the same day last month.

Atheism is running riot in Japan. A majority of university students deny the existence of God. But Japan is young yet. All young men pass through a season of doubt, and the doubt is strong in proportion to their idea of their own importance.

New York city annually drinks more "imported French champagne" than is bottled in France. Where the French champagne that the rest of the country drinks comes from is not known, but California wine sellers could probably tell.

The human body is said to be shorter in the evening than in the morning, due to the fact that during the day the cartilages between the joints are compressed. The average man is three-quarters of an inch taller in the morning than he is in the evening.

Professor Crook, the Northwestern University instructor who won fame because he was reported to have said that he had never kissed a woman, bears the Christian name of "Alja." This name is a combination of the initial letters in the name of Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Jackson. Professor Crook's father was a great admirer of Lincoln and Jackson, and he bestowed upon his child this strange name by way of tribute to his patron saints.

The president has pardoned Joseph N. Wolfson. Wolfson was sentenced to eight years in the penitentiary for participating in the wrecking of a bank at New Orleans. He was charged with overdrawing his account to the extent of \$35,000; also with collusion. Pending an appeal to the United States supreme court, Wolfson enlisted in the army, making a good record in Cuba and the Philippines. Upon the recommendation of Attorney General Knox, the president granted Wolfson a full pardon on account of his distinguished services as a soldier.

An interesting story is told by the New York World as follows: "There never was a prouder rooster than that of Phineas Robinson, of East Patchogue, L. I., when one of his wives came off the nest a week ago with a brood of twelve beautiful chicks. There never was a sadder one when, two days later, the mother hen sickened and died. He brooded in grief half the day, then roused himself to duty as the nearest surviving relative. Giving his best imitation of a clucking hen, he led the brood out for food. He scratched like a prodigy, he worked like a Trojan, he fairly stuffed the chicks with fat worms. At night he led his downy babes to the coop, stretched his wings over them and put them to sleep. This he has done ever since. There is no prouder father in East Patchogue."

The Chicago Tribune of April 24 contains the following interesting statement: George S. Dobbins, who has been blind for eighteen years, was given a degree by the Chicago Homeopathic Medical college yesterday at the graduating exercises held in the Studebaker theatre. To secure his degree Dr. Dobbins took the four-year course in medicine, supplying his lack of sight with a wonderful memory. He is now about to begin a post-

graduate course in his work, and at the conclusion of that he will enter upon the practice of medicine. His highly developed sense of touch and smell worked with his memory to enable him to complete his studies. Dr. Dobbins was born in Peoria, his father, T. S. Dobbins, being president of the Chicago and Pacific railroad company, in whose service Dr. Dobbins formerly was an expert telegraph operator. He lives at 81 Park avenue.

Richard Doyle McCarthy, the theatrical manager, died recently in England. McCarthy was eminently successful in his line, and was the business representative of W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, the famous writers of comic opera. The twelve operas on which the fame of Gilbert and Sullivan principally rests were produced under his management at the Opera Comique and Savoy Theatres. The twelve operas and the year of their production are: "The Sorcerer," 1877; "Pinafore," 1878; "The Pirates of Penzance," 1880; "Patience," 1881, at the Opera Comique; and "Iolanthe," 1882; "Princess Ida," 1884; "The Mikado," 1885; "Rudyard," 1887; "The Yeoman of the Guard," 1888; "The Gondoliers," 1889; "Utopia Limited," 1893, and "The Grand Duke," 1896, at the Savoy. "Pinafore" was the corner stone of the foundation of Gilbert and Sullivan's fame, but when it was first brought out in London it did not have D'Oyly Carte's stronger indorsement, and failed to gain that extraordinary success which it obtained in this country.

The "American Grocer" has compiled statistics showing an increased demand for spirituous and malt liquors, and a small gain in the use of non-alcoholic beverages and a decrease in the consumption of coffee. The Grocer says: Out of \$1,228,674,925 spent for beverages, about 86 per cent is spent for alcoholic stimulants, of which 50 per cent is for beer, 30 per cent for whisky, 4 per cent for wines. More coffee (gallons) was consumed last year than any other sort of drink, amounting to 1,257,985,296 gallons, as against 1,221,500,160 gallons of beer, its greatest competitor. The United States consumed in 1900 alcoholic and non-alcoholic stimulants to the value of \$1,228,674,925, as follows: Alcoholic drinks, \$1,059,563,787; non-alcoholic stimulants, coffee, \$125,798,530; tea, \$37,312,608; cocoa, \$6,000,000. Total, 1900, \$1,228,674,925; 1899, \$1,146,897,822; 1898, \$1,177,661,366. The above represents a yearly per capita expenditure for beverages of \$16.17 for the 76,304,799 inhabitants of the United States, or little less than 4½ cents per day.

The Philadelphia North American relates an interesting story of a suit for damages recently brought against a Philadelphia trolley company. A little boy, Johnnie Fiehl by name, was struck by a trolley car. His parents brought suit in the sum of \$5,000. The defense placed one of the lad's playmates on the stand and brought out the fact that after the accident, Johnnie Fiehl ate pie. The North American gives the examination and testimony on this point as follows: "Could he eat a whole pie?" was asked of Willie. "Why, yes; he ate five within a few minutes, last week," the boy replied. The three lawyers who represented Johnny were on their feet in an instant, demanding of the court to know what mince pie had to do with Johnny Fiehl being injured by a trolley car. They wanted this portion of the testimony stricken out. "Well," declared counsel for the trolley company, "any boy who can eat five mince pies at one sitting is not much of an invalid." The court admitted the mince pie testimony. Having gotten into the case, the pies remained to a finish. Counsel for the plaintiff wanted to bring witnesses to prove the pies were small five-cent ones. They were willing to send for a pie to show the jury. The railway company's lawyers conceded that the pies were small, but contended that even so no invalid could eat five of them." On this testimony the judge took the case from the jury and a verdict for the trolley company was the result.