

Items of Interest.



In walking a mile a man uses 17½ tons of foot energy.

Englishmen spend over a million dollars a year for silk hats.

The Netherlands now possesses nearly 1,000 miles of sea dikes.

The combined navies of the world contain over 1,500,000 men.

Twenty-six million dolls are manufactured in Europe every year.

In every 100 conscripts in the Italian army there are 36 illiterates.

The skeleton measures one inch less than the height of the living man.

A cubic foot of cork weighs 15 pounds. A cubic foot of gold weighs 1,155 pounds.

The year in Mercury is 88 days long. Venus' year is 225 days, and Mars' 687 days.

The total value of the coffee imported into the United States last year was \$60,000,000.

Forty-five per cent of the cotton crop in 1899 was grown west of the Mississippi river.

New South Wales has in use 15,000 miles of wire netting as protection against the rabbit pest.

France consumes more wine than Germany, the United States and the United Kingdom combined.

The German love of music is indicated by the fact that the German army contains 10,000 musicians.

The largest pawnshop in the world is in Paris. It is said that it receives in pawn an average of 1,000 watches a day.

The first trans-Atlantic steamer started from Savannah for Liverpool on the day of Queen Victoria's birth, May 24, 1819.

France has coined 2,300 tons of gold in the last forty years. Great Britain has coined 1,400 tons of gold during the same time.

Ice melts at 32 degrees; water boils at 212 degrees; lead melts at 594 degrees, and the heat of a common coal fire is 1,140 degrees.

Helium is the costliest substance known. In its natural state it costs about \$1,000 a cubic foot, or a million times as much as coal gas.

By the cyanide process it is possible to treat at a profit gold ores carrying values less than \$5 a ton where they exist in large quantities.

The Salvation Army is working in forty-seven different countries. The organization prints seventy-five periodicals in twenty-one languages.

A monument to Ole Bull, the great violinist, designed by the Swedish sculptor, Stephen Sinding, has recently been unveiled at Bergen, Norway.

The school children of the country responded to the appeal from Calveston for funds to rehabilitate the public schools by contributing \$54,270.45.

A Chicago beggar was offered work in the country and declined, saying he could live comfortably on 90 cents a week in the city, and beg the 90 cents.

Cardinal Martinelli speaks English with a decided Irish accent and explains it by saying that he had been taught English by a County Galway monk in Rome.

It is reported that the head waiter of a leading New York hotel has recently invested \$100,000 in the stock of the hostelry, every dollar of the amount being saved from tips he received from guests.

Three hundred organ grinders leave Italy for London at the beginning of June and return to Italy in October. In four months they make enough to live comfortably during the remaining eight months of the year.

The South African war is now costing Great Britain \$7,500,000 a week. Great Britain has 250,000 men in the field against the Boers, and 14,000 more in hospitals.

The longest sentence ever imposed upon a criminal was imposed upon a forger in Naples. He was convicted of sixty-four separate forgeries and was sentenced to 1,088 years of solitary confinement.

In 1831 the largest steamer afloat was the City of Berlin, 520 feet long and a displacement of 8,000 tons. The City of Berlin is now the United States transport Meade. In 1891 the largest steamer afloat was the City of Paris, 560 feet long and a displacement of 16,000 tons.

A florist says that the natural color may be preserved in pressed flowers by submitting them to pressure for a day or two, then laying them in papers heated in the sun, repeating until the drying is complete. This plan is followed in the New York botanical gardens.

A man who asserts that he has made careful investigation says the average business walk in New York city is a mile in twenty minutes, the average church walk a mile in twenty-five minutes, and fastest average walk that of the homeward bound Brooklynites—a mile in eighteen minutes.

In the American Tongue.

To the traveler in a strange land, the sound of his mother tongue is like the upwelling of a fountain in the desert. Memories of the distant home fill the heart with hope, and gladden the eyes with the mist of tears. And, assuredly, American patriots of the old school have every reason to know that they are in "a far country," now that the outworn creeds of the Old World are in process of restatement at the hands of our supreme tribunal. As a matter of fact, the deliverances of the majority of the supreme court in the "insular cases" are well calculated to bring a contemptuous smile to the lips of laymen who have fondly believed common law to be synonymous with common sense. Mr. Justice Brown and Mr. Justice White reach a like conclusion, and unite in laying down the doctrine that territory may be foreign at one moment and domestic at another, according to the whim of the legislative branch of the government; but each of the juriconsults in question declares that his brother's premises and reasoning are utterly wrong. This is a new thing in logic. As well might a physiologist declare that a man may be both white and black, at one and the same moment of time.

In such circumstances, it is a consolation to know that liberty still has its dauntless champions in the foremost forum of all the world. The average American may make bold to stand up for his inherited or reasoned convictions when he hears that the latest charter of despotism was formulated by a majority of a single vote. Moreover, one's courage is immensely strengthened by the knowledge that the historic view of the controversy has been taken by a judge who, by his antecedents and his mature convictions, is a republican of republicans. John M. Harlan is a Kentuckian, and his robustness of belief is precisely that of the Vermont democrat who has never in all his life gone to the poll with the slightest hope of controlling his state. Such men never "palter in a double sense." To them truth is the one thing needful, and they are willing to follow wherever she may lead.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

A Dog and a Wreck.

Many a life has been saved by a Newfoundland dog, but dog never did braver deed than one brought to remembrance by a story in Our Dumb Animals. The incident occurred some years ago. A vessel was driven on the beach of Lydd, in

Kent, England. The sea was very high. Eight men clung to the wreck, which was every moment in danger of going to pieces. No boat could be got off through the storm to help the despairing sailors, and it looked as if they would drown before the eyes of the watchers upon the land.

Presently a gentleman came along the beach accompanied by his Newfoundland dog. The gentleman directed the animal's attention to the vessel and then put a short stick in his mouth. The dog at once comprehended his master's meaning, and plunged into the sea.

Bravely he fought his way through the angry waves, but he could not get close enough to the vessel to deliver that with which he had been charged. The crew, however, understood what was wanted, and making fast a rope to another piece of wood, they threw the wood toward the dog.

The intelligent animal at once dropped his own piece of wood and seized that which had been thrown to him. Then he started for the shore. Again and again he was lost under the waves, but with almost incredible determination he held on to the stick and dragged the rope through the surf till he delivered it to his master. A line of communication was thus made with the vessel, and every man on board was saved.—Youth's Companion.

London and Paris.

The contrasts presented by Paris and London are rather amusingly put by Felix Pejat, in the *Matin*, of the former city. He says:

"Paris does most things with the right hand or at the right side; London follows the left.

"Parisian coachmen keep to the right, those of London to the left.

"Paris grows by absorption, London by expansion.

"Paris is built of stone, London of brick.

"Paris has high houses and narrow streets, London's buildings are low and its streets wide.

"The windows of Paris open like doors, those of London a la guillotine.

"Paris is collectivistic, it dwells in houses which are really caravansaries; London is individualistic, each family having its own house.

"Paris has its portier, London its night-key.

"Paris gets up early from its bed which is against the wall; London arises late from its bed, which is in the center of the room.

"Paris dines, London eats.

"London, said Voltaire, has one hundred religions and but one sauce; Paris has one hundred sauces and no religion at all.

"Paris is gay, London sad.

"London has too few soldiers, Paris too many. The soldiers in Paris wear a blue tunic and red pantaloons, while the London man-of-war is clad in a red coat and blue trousers.

"In Paris priests perform the marriage rites; in London they marry themselves.

"In Paris the married women are free; in London when a woman marries she ceases to be.

"Paris has more suicides, London more homicides.

"Paris works, London traffics.

"In Paris the street crowds fight by kicks, in London by blows of the fist.

"The proletariat of Paris refers to the pawnshop as 'My aunt,' while in London they say 'My uncle.'"—Translation made for the *Literary Digest*.

• Origin of a Celebrated Jest

When Mr. Evarts, who was my near relative and a man with whom I could take a liberty, came into the senate, I said to him that we should have to amend the rules so that a motion to adjourn would be in order in the middle of a sentence, to which he replied that he knew of nobody in this country who objected to long sentences except the criminal classes.—Senator Hoar, in *Scribner's*.

"Bibulous says he's a college graduate."
"Yes; I suppose he is. I believe the place where he took the gold cure was called a college."
—Philadelphia Record.