

BITS OF INFORMATION.

One sailor in 256 is lost at sea.

The average life of a ship is 26 years.

In the production of the human voice 44 muscles are exercised.

Tame snakes are used in Morocco to clear houses of rats.

More than 80 per cent of the ships of the world are built in the British isles.

Small nostrils are said by physiologists to indicate small and weak lungs.

At banquets during Elizabeth's time every guest came with his spoon in his pocket.

France has kept 200,000 tons of coal stored at Toulon since 1893 to be ready in case war should break out.

It is stated that there are more than forty thousand mud-cabins in Ireland which contain only a single room.

Certain qualities of wine are so cheap in Spain that they are used instead of water in mixing shoe blacking.

More than 12,000,000 acres of the Sahara Desert have been made useful for raising crops with the aid of artesian wells.

A quart of oysters contains, on the average, about the same quantity of nutritive substance as a quart of milk or a pound of lean beef.

The tomb of Sir Humphrey Davy in Geneva is in a most dilapidated and neglected condition and steps are being taken to repair it.

The tensile strength of a wet rope is only one-third the strength of the rope when dry, while a rope saturated with greese or soap is weaker still.

One of the most beautiful sights in the world is the annual migration of butterflies across the Isthmus of Panama. Toward the end of June a few scattered specimens are discovered flitting out to sea, and as the days go by the number increases, until about July 15 the sky is occasionally almost obscured by myriads of these frail insects.

It is said that the amended penal code for Japan does not contain any reference to the death penalty, which means that capital punishment is to be abolished at the same time as exterritoriality.

A fly so minute as to be almost invisible ran three inches in half a second.

less than 540 steps in the time a healthy man would breath once. A man with proportionate agility could run twenty-four miles in a minute.

The otter is the fastest swimming quadruped known. In the water it exhibits an astonishing agility, swimming in a nearly horizontal position with the greatest ease, diving and darting along beneath the surface with a speed equal if not superior to that of many fishes.

What is called tortoiseshell is not the bony covering or shield of the turtle, but only the scales which cover it. These are thirteen in number, eight of them are flat and five a little curved. A large turtle affords about eight pounds of them, the plates varying from an inch in thickness.

In the Sandwich Islands there is a spot called the Rock of Refuge. If the criminal reaches this rock before capture he is safe so long as he remains there. Usually his family supply him with food until he is able to make his escape, but he is never allowed to return to his own tribe.

A Western inventor has patented a wagon which will turn around in a small space, the reach being double and X-shape, with the ends attached to the axles by hinges, so that when one end of the forward axle is pulled ahead it draws the opposite end of the rear axle with it, until they are at an angle of 90 degrees or over.

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