

Some General Information for Busy People

Beautiful Land of Alsace.
This land of Alsace is in many respects the most beautiful that I have ever seen. Strong along the horizon, like sentinels wrapped in mantles of green, the peaks of the Vosges loom against the sky. On the slopes of the ridges, massed in their black battalions, stand forests of spruce and pine. Through peaceful valleys, silver streams meander leisurely, and in the meadows which border their cattle stand knee deep amid the lush green grass. The villages, their tortuous, cobbled streets, lined on either side by dim arcades, and the old, old houses, with their turrets and balconies and steep pitched pottery roofs, give you the feeling that they are not real, but that they are scenery on a stage, and this illusion is heightened by the men in their jaunty berets and wooden sabots, and the women whose huge black silk headresses accentuate the freshness of their complexions. It is at once a region of ruggedness and majesty and grandeur, of quaintness and simplicity and charm.—F. Alexander Powell

Japan's Dragon Lamps.
Japan abounds with sacred places—Shintoist and Buddhist—formerly reputed for the appearance of the so-called "dragon's lamp." This is a mysterious light that comes out of a pond, lake or sea and alights on a certain tree, mostly on a certain night. It was held that the light was dedicated by a dragon dwelling in the water to a god whose shrine stood near the tree. For example, the famous Ryuto of the temple of Avakotosvara on Nagasa hill, province of Kii, made its annual ascent from the sea to a pine tree in the precincts every ninth night of the seventh moon. At the midnight of the 10th of every month a Ryuto came from the northeast offing to the so-called "dragon's lamp pine," near the shrine of Mandajuri at Kiredo, province of Tango, whereas on the same tree another light, named "Celestial Lamp," made its descent from the heavens every sixteenth night of the first, fifth and ninth months.—Exchange.

Best Chance.
"It is said," he remarked reflectively, "that women's hands are growing larger."
"Well?" she returned inquiringly.
"Yes," he asserted. "And the worst of it is that there is even likelihood that this tendency will continue."
"Yes," she said in the same inquiring tone.
"Yes," he repeated. "You see, driving and golf and tennis and other sports that women have recently taken up are responsible for it."
"In that case," she said, with a glance at her own dainty hands, "you'd better speak quick if you want a small one."
He realized that it was the opportunity of a lifetime, and he spoke promptly.

Leaping Treason.
King William III. of England was passionately fond of the chase and made it a point never to be outdoors in any leap, however perilous. A Mr. Cherry, who was devoted to the excited Sturts, took advantage of this to plan the most remarkable design which was ever formed against a king's life. He regularly joined the royal hounds, put himself foremost and took the most desperate leaps in the hope that William might break his neck in following him. One day, however, he accomplished one so imminent dangerous that the king when he came to the spot shook his head and drew back. It is said that Mr. Cherry at length broke his own neck and thereby relieved the king from further hazard.

Salt in Roumania.
Veritable mountains of salt are to be seen in some sections of Roumania, for the salt deposits cover an enormous area and have a thickness varying from 600 even to 800 feet. At Sarat there is a mountain of salt, and steam shovels can be used to load the waiting cars. In other cases the gallery system is employed, and electrically driven machines turn out blocks a cubic yard in size, like great pieces of granite.

Not Necessarily.
"You say this motorist took you to a hospital after he ran you down?"
"Yes."
"Nothing could be kinder."
"Maybe not, but he didn't have to run me down, did he, just to show me he had a kind heart?"

The Arabic Language.
The Arabic used in the Koran differs as much from the Arabic used in ordinary conversation and intercourse in the east as Latin differs from Italian. The Koran Arabic is that of the literary classes; colloquial Arabic is that of the common people.

A Helpful Wife.
"Now, hubby, I want to be helpful," said the bride.
"Bless my little wife!"
"So whenever you have any coupons to be clipped you may turn that work over to me."

Not Clear to Paw.
Little Lemuel—Say, paw, can any one see through glass? Paw—Certainly, son. Little Lemuel—Then why can't Uncle Joe see through his glass eye?—Exchange.

A Reason.
"Why do writers always talk of angry flames?"
"Because, if you notice, flames are usually put out."

Cromwell's Way.
In the days when Oliver Cromwell was lord protector of England there was no fine discrimination to favor members of an embassy. When such members committed crimes against the law of the land they were held to the same accountability as though they had been natives. So it was that on July 10, 1653, Don Pantaleon Sa, a Portuguese nobleman, brother of the ambassador from that country to England and a knight of Malta, was beheaded on Tower hill. He had killed an Englishman, mistaking him for another. The Portuguese took refuge with his brother, the ambassador, who claimed that by the law of nations his house was an inviolable sanctuary for all his countrymen. Cromwell sent a messenger to state that if the criminal was not given up to the civil authorities the soldiers would be withdrawn from guarding the embassy and the mob left to do as it pleased. Every effort was made by the Portuguese and other ambassadors to save Don Pantaleon's life, but without avail. Cromwell made no other reply than, "Blood has been shed, and justice must be satisfied."

Thackeray at Oxford.
An old story of Oxford and Thackeray is recalled by Thomas Pownman, who rouches in the Cornhill Magazine for the accuracy of his version. Thackeray had to apply to the vice chancellor for permission to lecture and found that gentlemen ignorant alike of his name and fame.
Still, he had a trump card left, which he had been accustomed to consider would carry all before it wherever the English language was spoken. So, with a quiet smile of supreme confidence, he simply ejaculated, "Vanity Fair, you know?" Then at last, to his relief, a look of awakened intelligence manifested itself upon the vice chancellor's countenance, and Thackeray awaited the effusive outburst which would make amends for all. It came in the words, "Yes, yes, I have heard of 'Vanity Fair,' of course; it is mentioned in the 'Pilgrim's Progress.'"—Westminster Gazette.

To Make Copper Oxide.
An excellent way to make copper oxide for use in batteries is as follows: Take a quantity of copper filings or fine copper shavings and heat them in a cast iron container or in a crucible till they are red hot. Stir them with an iron rod, and while still stirring sprinkle a little water over the filings until they become ocher red. You will then have a good quality of copper oxide.

Copper oxide plates may be made as follows: Mix the granulated or coarse copper oxide with 5 per cent or 10 per cent of magnesium chloride and heat the heavy mass in forms made of iron sheeting, the forms being of the size of the wanted plate. The more porous the plates will be. The coarser the copper oxide the better will be the results.—Popular Science Monthly and World's Advance.

The Dog Rose.
The "dog rose" has provoked as much ingenious explanation of its name as the "horse chestnut." One solution is that the "dog" is really "daga," a dagger, in allusion to the prickles, a drawback from which the Alexandra Day rose is free. Unfortunately for this explanation, the flower bears a similar name in countries where it will not apply. The Germans, for instance, have "Hundsrose," and Pliny tells how a Roman mother was moved in a dream to send some roots of the wild rose to her soldier son in Spain. They arrived just after he had been bitten by a mad dog. He took them and was preserved from hydrophobia, as were others who adopted the same treatment. And from that time the wild rose became the "dog rose."—London Chronicle.

Gates in Norway.
A curious feature to travelers in the highroads of Norway is the great number of gates—upward of 10,000 in the whole country—which have to be opened. These gates, which either mark the boundaries of the farms or separate the home fields from the waste lands, constitute a considerable inconvenience and delay to the traveler, who has to stop his vehicle and get down to open them.

Magnet the Thief of Time.
The magnet is responsible for a great deal of trouble with watches, as any jeweler will tell you. Never go near a dynamo with a watch in your pocket unless you are sure that it is made of nonmagnetic material. This applies especially to the hair spring.—Farm and Fireside.

A Blessed Barrier.
"How did you like that interior setting?" asked the realistic producer. "For a real room, except that it had only three walls, could you beat it?"
"Well," said the morose critic, "I'd have been more contented during the play if you had added the fourth wall."

Sure Sign.
Nellie—Do you think Paul cares for Mamie? Emma—Did you ever hear a young man refer to a red haired girl as having Auburn tresses unless he loved her?—Exchange.

The Traditional Nine.
Eloise—I have tried to kill that cat at least eighteen times. Fokna—Well, I suppose even a cat may lead a double life.

Very True.
Hazel—It's always to a man's credit when he stops drinking. Omar—Sometimes it is due to his lack of credit.—Indianapolis Star.

Two Sinners.
"It is very wrong to tell a falsehood," said his mother to little Jimmie, whom she had caught in one.
"Then we're both of us sinners, ain't we, ma?" queried Jimmie.
"Both? What do you mean?"
"Why, you told Mrs. Smith yesterday that you hoped she'd call again, an' after she was gone you said you wished she'd never come again."

Age of the Harp.
The harp, which was suggested by the lute, is ascribed to Jubal, 3575 B. C., and was King David's favorite instrument. The harp was used by the Welsh and Saxons and also by the ancient peoples of Ireland. One of the oldest harps in existence is in the Dublin college museum and originally belonged to Brian Borohme, king of Ireland.

Lost Letters of Wagner.
The first tenor who won Wagner's admiration, Tichatschek, left to his daughter when he died a number of letters written to him by the great composer, whose Rienzi he created. On her death the daughter bequeathed these letters to the Wagner museum at Eisenach, but on the way from Brussels the case containing them was opened, and the contents were stolen.

The Largest Domes.
Some of the largest domes in the world are: The Pantheon at Rome, 142 feet diameter, 143 high; baths of Caracalla, Rome, 112 feet diameter, 116 feet high; St. Sophia, Constantinople, 115 feet diameter, 201 feet high; St. Maria delle Fure, Florence, 139 diameter, 310 feet high; St. Peter's, Rome, 139 feet diameter, 330 high; St. Paul's, London, 112 feet diameter, 215 feet high.

Trying to Signal.
"What did you tell that man who asked you if he could marry his daughter?"
"I acted as grumpy as possible," replied Mr. Cumrox. "I couldn't tell him right out that Gladys has a sharp temper, but I thought I'd sort o' hint to him that she might have inherited one."

Nice Table Ornament.
When Sir George Trevelyan was chief secretary for Ireland, in troublous times, the police made him carry a pistol about with him. One night after dinner he took it out of his pocket and put it on the table, saying to his host, "Pray forgive me, but if you knew how tired I am of carrying this thing about!"—London Standard.

The Artichoke.
The artichoke has nothing to do with art or the choking of it. The artichoke is an innoxious vegetable known to the Arabians as the ardischauki, or earth thorn. The Jerusalem artichoke was never seen near Jerusalem. Its first name is a corruption of the Italian grasoile, which means turning to the sun. It is a species of sunflower, bearing a tuber like that of a potato.

Where to Begin.
"Look here," said the reforming husband, "We must have things arranged in this house so that we shall know just where everything is kept."
"With all my heart," sweetly answered his wife, "and let us begin with your late hours, my love. I should very much like to know where they are kept."

Putting it Gently.
Mr. Henpeck—I hear that young Jones and his wife are not getting along very well. Mrs. Henpeck (authoritatively)—Jones should never have married when he did. He was too young to realize the step he was taking. Mr. Henpeck—Yes, I know. But I like the boy. We have many things in common.

This Happened in Boston.
Teacher—Emerson, what is "spilling the beans?"
Emerson—Slang, ma'am, and vicious slang at that.
Teacher—I mean can you give me the definition of it?
Emerson—Yes, ma'am. "Spilling the beans" in its best colloquial sense is the unpremeditated extemporaneous promulgating of information concerning which one should have been much more reticently inclined.

Two Sentiments.
A young lady one day requested Moltke and Bismarck to write a few lines in her album. The marital took up the pen first and wrote: "Falseness passes away; truth remains."—Von Moltke, Field Marshal. After reading what Moltke had to say Bismarck took the pen and added the following: "I know very well that truth will prevail in the next world, but in the meantime a field marshal himself would be powerless against falseness in this world."—Von Bismarck, Chancellor of the Empire.

PROMPTNESS.
Avoid indecision. Promptness is a great leader, while procrastination lags behind. Today is master of the situation. Tomorrow is an impostor who is almost sure to bring failure with him.—James T. Fields.

Saved the Scene.
John Galsworthy, the English playwright, tells of the wit of an actor named Littledale, who in one play had to leap into a river to escape a wild beast.
"The stage was so arranged that the river was invisible. Littledale's leap usually ended on a soft mattress in the wings, while a rock was dropped into a tub of water to create a splash. Everything went on all right at rehearsal, and the night of actual performance came. When poor Littledale jumped he fell eight feet and landed on an unken-floer with a crash.
"The audience set up a titter. But the heroic Littledale was quite equal to the occasion. 'Heavens,' he shouted, 'the water's frozen!'"

Much the Simpler Plan.
Mr. Newdell—Well, we are beginning housekeeping, and I presume the simplest plan will be for me to give you a regular amount every week for expenses. Just figure up what it will cost.
Mrs. Newdell—I could never do that in the world—so many things to count; you know—but let me see. Oh, I have it! I have thought of a much simpler plan.
"All right, my angel! What is it?"
"You figure up what it will cost you for car fare and lunches and give me the rest."

Florence Nightingale.
There is a story that after the return to England of the troops from the Crimea Lord Stratford at a dinner suggested that those present should write on a piece of paper the name of the person whose Crimean reputation would endure longest. When the votes came to be examined it was found that not a single soldier had received a vote. Every paper bore the same two words—Florence Nightingale.

La Politesse.
The Fair One—Oh, I wished I had lived a hundred years ago. The Other One—But then you would be a long time dead and would not be sitting here happily by my side. The Fair One—True, true! So I couldn't! Forgive me, dearest!

The Greatest Financier.
"Who was the greatest financier ever known?"
"Noah, because he floated his stock when the whole world was in liquidation."

Accommodating.
Jinks—Have you got quarters for a dollar, old man? Winks—My vest pocket is rather crowded, but pass it over and I'll try to make room for it.

Hope.
When Thales was asked what is most universal he answered hope, for hope stays with those who have nothing else.—Epictetus.

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