

Birds Which Rise Early.
The greenfinch is the earliest riser among the bird family. It begins to pipe about 1 o'clock in the morning. The blackcap begins at 2:30. It is nearly 4 o'clock before the blackbird appears. It is heard half an hour before the thrush, and the chirp of the robin begins about the same length of time before that of the wren. The house sparrow and the tom tit take the last stage of the list.

Commands Polar Expedition.
Emperor William appointed Professor Erich Drygalski to command the German south polar expedition. The objective point of the expedition is Kerguelen and thence southward. In case the south polar land is discovered a scientific station is to be erected and maintained for at least one year. The expedition must return in the spring of 1904 at the latest.

Binding an Agreement in China.
When you engage a servant or make a bargain in China, it is not considered binding until "the fastening penny" has been paid. Although his bad faith is notorious in some matters, yet, to do him justice, when once this coin has been paid by you the Chinaman, coolie or shopman will generally stick to his bargain, even if the result to him be loss.

Wives of Henry VIII.
Three of the six wives of Henry VIII of England bore the name of Catharine, viz.: Catharine of Aragon, his first wife; Catharine Howard, his fifth, and Catharine Parr, his sixth and last, who survived him several years. The others were Ann Boleyn, his second; Jane Seymour, the third; and Anne of Cleves, the fourth.

Serving Fruit Raw.
Three points must be observed in serving the raw fruit; first, it must be ripe; second, free from any indications of decay or fermentation, and last, but not least, to enhance the enjoyment of this delightful gift of nature it must be served ice cold. A suggestion of green adds greatly to the enjoyment of the fruit.

An Enormous Diamond.
The largest cut diamond belongs to the Rajah of Mattan (Borneo), its weight being 376 carats and its value about \$25,000,000. The second largest cut diamond is the Star of the South, found by a poor negro in Brazil. It weighs 254 carats and was once known as the Dudley diamond.

A Burning Coal Mine.
The "burning mountain" of Montet, in Aveyron, France, which is often mistaken for an active volcano, because a pillar of cloud rises from it by day and a pillar of fire by night, is in reality a coal mine which has been burning for several years.

Test for Diamonds.
For diamonds a good test is that of hardness. A genuine diamond cannot be scratched by a file or by quartz, and a ruby should stand a similar test; but emerald is not much harder than quartz and cracks easily.

Do Not Gratify Weakness.
If thou wouldst conquer thy weakness, thou must never gratify it. No man is compelled to evil; his consent only makes it his. It is no sin to be tempted, but to be overcome.—William Penn.

Placer Miner Is a Girl.
In the Mojave desert mining camp of Burstown, Cal., Miss Short, 16 years old, has located one of the best claims. She works all the dirt with a dry washer and is said to average \$6 a day.

Paul Du Chaillet's Explorations.
Perhaps the only living explorer who is equally familiar with the dark places of equatorial Africa and the "land of the midnight sun" is Paul Du Chaillet. The mysterious fascination of the "dark continent" lured him from an east African counting-house when he was quite a young man, and he was away four years, returning with a live gorilla as a trophy. Then he went far north, and his fascination of manner and kindness of heart won him hundreds of friends.

The Disease Beri Beri.
Dr Charles Hose, of Sarawak, after many experiments, has formed the theory that the disease beri beri arises in tropical regions from the consumption of moldy rice. Dr. Strange says Pigg of Cambridge has expounded the theory in England.

NOTICE OF EXPIRATION.
To Harris Eggleston and unknown owners:
You are hereby notified, that the following described real estate, situated in Polk County, Iowa, to-wit: Lot 4 Block D, Des Moines Company's Addition to Polk City, Iowa, was sold for the taxes of 1895, 1896 and 1897 on the Fifth day of December, 1898 to J. L. Sands, and that the right of redemption will expire, and a Treasurer's Deed for said land will be made unless redemption from such sale be made within ninety days from the date of completed service of this notice. You will govern yourself accordingly.
Dated Seventh day of November, A. D., 1901.
J. L. SANDS,
Owner of certificate.

COLD INDEED.
Some of the Odd Tricks of Liquid Air.
Liquid air is, perhaps, the coldest thing in the world. It is so cold that a cake of ice is like a fierce fire as compared with it, for a kettle of liquid air placed on a cake of ice will boil just as water boils over a hot fire. It freezes mercury so hard that one can drive nails in it. The story is told that Mr. Charles E. Tripler, the experimenter in liquid air, recently took a quart can of the remarkable substance with him on a visit to a friend. On the way he stopped in a restaurant to eat a beefsteak. The waiter brought in a hot broiled steak and placed it in front of Mr. Tripler. As soon as the waiter's back was turned Mr. Tripler hastily opened the can and exposed the meat to the liquid air. Instantly the steak was frozen hard as a rock. When the waiter came back his customer complained that the steak was frozen. So the waiter called the head waiter, and the head waiter blamed it all on the cook and the cook was at a loss to explain, and the result was that the frozen steak was taken back into the kitchen as a mysterious curiosity. A new steak was broiled for Mr. Tripler and this one he ate with much relief.

He Collects Antique Statuary.
Stanford White is one of the largest collectors of antique statuary in America. Not only is his house in Gramercy park, New York, a veritable museum of Greek and Roman art, but the lawn is now filled to overflowing with other examples.

Odd Names in Virginia.
One county of West Virginia has among its political subdivisions the Slab Fork, the Marsh Fork, the Shady Spring, the Clear Fork and the Trap Hill districts. Another has the Pipe Stem and the Jumping Branch districts.

Queer Japanese Custom.
At the birth of a Japanese baby a tree is planted that must remain untouched until the marriage of the child. When the nuptial hour arrives the tree is cut down and the wood is transformed into furniture.

AS TRUE AS GOSPEL.
There is always compensation. Our angels go out that our archangels may come in.
Unhappy is the man for whom his own mother has not made all other mothers venerable.
It is poor wit who lives by borrowing the words, decisions, mein, inventions and actions of others.
What an absurd thing it is to pass over the valuable parts of a man, and fix our attentions on his infirmities.
Virtue will catch as well as vice by contact; and the public stock of honest, manly principle will daily accumulate.
A greater value should be set on having received instructive and useful lessons than on possessing great store of wealth; for the latter is transitory good, the former is durable.
There is scarcely a generalization for one sex which does not apply equally to the other, so perfectly alike in nature are men and women. The differences are only in circumstances.

Russell Sage as a Farmer.
A handsome but simple frame house at Lawrence, Long Island, surrounded by some five acres of land, is the quiet retreat where the tired Wall street magnate, Russell Sage, has enjoyed his summers for many years. Here he is a typical Long Island farmer in old clothes and straw hat. Many a man farming for a bare living could gain information in his own business from Russell Sage. He has no use for orchards, and costly fads, but he watches the development of every field within a radius of many miles about his country home. In the stable are half a dozen horses, raised and broken to harness by the great financier, and he shows the delight of a boy in hitching them up and driving over the country roads. There are a goodly number of domestic pets. It may be said that there are two Russell Sages, one the financier familiar to New York, the other the man of leisure in his country home.

The Fastening Penny.
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Sullivan's Instruments Sold Well.
Sixteen of the violins and violoncellos owned by the late Sir Arthur Sullivan were recently sold for \$1,800. The greatest prize realized for any one of the instruments was \$350, which was paid for a violoncello by Joseph Guarnerius.

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CAUSES SURPRISE.
Connecticut Man Declares His Assessment Is Much Too Low.
Robert M. Bruce, one of the millionaires of Greenwich, Conn., a former cotton broker and a friend of E. C. Benedict, has caused surprise by appearing before the board of assessors of the town and asking them to have his assessment raised 50 per cent, says the New York Sun. He said that he had never paid any attention to the making out of his list of taxable property, leaving it with the assessors. He had looked the matter up recently and had decided that he was not paying all that he should into the town treasury and he asked for the raise. The assessors promised to comply with his wishes and it is understood that they will raise the taxes of all other millionaires there to some extent. Mr. Bruce's example is the subject of much comment. For many years past Greenwich has raised \$90,000 by taxation, and has spent \$30,000 more than it raised. The debt has rolled up to nearly \$400,000. The town appointed an investigating committee and the members reported that more money must be raised by taxation. Fixing up the taxes last fall was put over until next spring. The assessors figured up the amount of taxable property and an increase of the tax rate seemed probable. Persons who have looked up the matter say that there appears to be one law for the poor man and another for the rich man. The law says that each property owner must put in a true list of the real value of all property, real and personal, but the general rule among persons of moderate means has been to pay on 60 per cent of the value. The millionaires in some instances have not paid on 10 per cent of the property.

What a Girl Did.
A girl named Ackerman, aged 14, daughter of an English laborer, has just completed her education. She has never missed being present since the school was opened, and in completing her 3,451 attendances is said to have walked 6,000 miles. She has passed every standard successfully and in the three subjects on first grade drawing obtained "excellent" prizes in free-hand and model, as also in the three stages of the specific subjects, literature, domestic economy and animal physiology, and in one stage in physical geography. She has also obtained 26 other prizes for good attendance, sculpture, knitting, etc.

Dairies of New York.
Outside of the business of supplying New York with city milk, the farmers of New York state have an investment of \$43,450,000 in cows, and a corresponding amount in dairy farms and fixtures—an amount not less than \$150,000,000.

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