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READY READING.

Buddhism is represented by about a dozen newspapers.

The population of the islands of Japan numbers 41,000,000.

Zoologists say that all known species of wild animals are gradually diminishing in size.

The painting of the catacombs of Thebes is so well done that after a lapse of 4,000 years the colors are as bright as when first laid on.

Roman swords, recovered from tombs, weigh six to ten pounds and battle axes weighed twenty, showing the great strength of Roman soldiers.

Shaving the beard and hair as a sign of mourning was common among almost all nations, and is even now practiced in several parts of the world.

The steam whistle, or rather its parent, the steam trumpet, was first devised in Leicestershire, and first made by a local musical instrument maker.

A man presented himself to a Chicago coroner, and asked what the chances were for securing a job as a juror. He said he had tried everything else and failed.

The bodies of Greeks, when not burned, were placed in earthenware coffins and buried in tombs along the highways. An occasional exception was made in favor of distinguished men, who were sometimes buried in the forums of the towns.

David Walker, the last survivor of the Shawnee Indians, who died recently at Southampton, L. I., was at one time officer on a Massachusetts whaler and lost one of his legs by getting mixed up with a rope that was attached to a wounded whale.

When James Freeman Clarke and Dr. Holmes were in college together once they were talking of metaphysics, when Holmes exclaimed: "I tell you, James, what I think metaphysics is like. It is like a man splitting a log. When it is done he has two to split."

There are, all told, men and women, about 400 missionary workers connected with sixteen missionary societies on the continent of South America, with its population of 37,000,000. This includes ordained and unordained men, missionaries' wives, men and women teachers and lady helpers.

**QUIZ AND QUERY.**

Lady—Pray, sir, keep your seat. I—Stranger—I'd like to, miss, just to please you, but I'll have to walk back a block if I don't get off at this street.

"What did the critics think of your play?" inquired one author of another. "Think about it! They did not think about it at all. They merely wrote about it."

Doctor—The pellets I left were to produce sleep. Did they have that effect? Patient—Yes, indeed; the nurse never awakened once during the night.

Professor, returning home at night, hears noise—Is some one there? Burglar, under the bed—No. Professor—That's strange! I was positive some one was under my bed.

Neighbor—You hov a large family to support, Mr. Finnigan. Mr. Finnigan—I hov that, mum; an' if they didn't all earn their own livin' I couldn't do it at all, at all.

First Student—How did it happen that you failed again? Second Student—Why, that wretched examiner asked me the same questions. I couldn't answer last year.

Father, impressively—Suppose I should be taken away suddenly, what would become of you, my boy? Irreverent Son—I'd stay here. The question is, what would become of you?

Mrs. Sweet—I hear your son is engaged. Mrs. Sharp—Well, he has brought back the engagement ring. Mrs. Sweet—What was the matter? Didn't it suit? Mrs. Sharp—Yes; but he didn't.

"What do you think of this portrait of me, my dear?" asked Witherup. "It is very smiling and pleasant," said Mrs. Witherup. Then she added, wistfully, "I wish you'd look like it once in a while, John."

"I make it an invariable practice to advise people to sleep with their bedroom window open all the year round." "Ha, ha!" laughed the other; "I perceive that you are a doctor!" "Not at all," was the confidential reply. "To tell you the truth, strictly between ourselves, I am—a bungler!"

Subscribe for the Kentuckian.

**Devoted Mother.**  
A correspondent sends to The Auk a pleasing story of motherly devotion on the part of a least flycatcher. This bird, one of the smaller members of the numerous flycatcher family, is common in apple orchards, and from its cry is sometimes known as Chebec.

A least flycatcher built its nest in a half-dead apple-tree in our dooryard. When the young ones were only a few days old there came a very hot day, and having no leaves to shelter them, they suffered greatly from the heat, so that their heads hung over the rim of the nest.

The mother took a position just above them, and with outstretched wings did her best to shield them from the sun. For more than two hours she kept her place, not leaving it even to bring them food.

When we noticed that she, too, was panting with the heat we thought it time to go to her rescue. With a rake we hoisted a grain bag over the nest to serve as an awning.

The male bird appeared at once, and the mother, finding the nest shaded, joined him in catching insects for the little ones, who quickly revived.

**Loved Twenty-Five Years.**  
F-- twenty-five years Mrs. Louise F. Tilly, of Atlanta, loved her husband through thick and thin. Though she was wealthy when he married her, she worked in the field like a common laborer, and when he went to keeping hotel she was clerk, cook, chambermaid and laundress. It was not, as she affirms, till he had got nearly all her property and began to treat her coldly that she rebelled, and not only sued for divorce but asked to have him return part of her realty.

**Silver Bedsteads.**  
Bronze bedsteads are no longer the most fashionable variety. They have grown too common for the ultra-exclusive taste, and silver and white metal and plain silver now to a great extent supersede them. The new bedsteads are canopied with pale blue or pink, and the same other furnishings. Silver curtain poles and andirons and draperies to match the bed canopies are the correct thing.

**Queer Bodily Proportions.**  
In the man of average stature the height of the body is ten times the length of the face; the face from the chin to the hair is as long as the hand; the arm is four times the length of the face, the sole of the foot is one-sixth the length of the body, and six times the thickness of the hand in the thickest place equals the thickness of the body.

**MRS. GRUNDY SAYS**  
That many a modern coat-of-arms requires several reference books.  
That chinichilla on sealskin is akin to pouring oil on a Welsh rarebit.  
That too many society people think it bad form to be polite in public.  
That envy and jealousy continue to make women do unheard-of things.  
That eulogies over departed sinners is one of the customs that hurts religion.  
That when the devil exhibits symptoms of piety it is time to stand from under.  
That ten-cent roses that sell at fairs for a dollar ought not to be cultivated.  
That tailless cats from the Isle of Man are a new fad imported by actresses.  
That new wine in old bottles is suggested by Americans in European castles.  
That magazine illustrations of today have reached a high point of perfection.  
That a fashionable fad is affected indifference to everything of current interest.  
That it is more apparent than ever that great wealth does not guarantee happiness.  
Telephone in Courts.  
An interesting experiment is being tried in London in the use of the telephone. The lord chief justice has given permission for the placing of a transmitter in the royal courts of justice in such a position as to catch every sound within the apartment. It is proposed in this way to enable solicitors and others interested in cases tried in the court to listen to what is going on while at a distance. The test is at present confined to the lord chief justice's own court, but if it proves successful, telephones will shortly be introduced into other courts for the same purpose.

**Sized His Pile.**  
Judge Saunders of North Carolina (afterward minister to Spain), had had occasion to try a Pollard-Breckinridge case at Harnett county superior court. He had clear opinions on the merits of the case, and thus charged the jury: "Gentlemen, I tried a case like this in Rockingham county last week, and the jury sized the defendant's pile—sized his pile, gentlemen. It is for you to say whether female virtue is prized as highly in Harnett as it is in Rockingham. Take the case."

**No Dress-makers Needed.**  
A well-dressed Hindoo woman wears but one piece of cloth; this is six or eight yards in length and a yard and a quarter wide. It is wrapped in graceful folds about her waist, shoulders and body, allowing it to hang loosely in some directions, and tucks it in here and there to keep it in place; all this accomplished, our East Indian sister is neatly and becomingly dressed without use of pin, button, hook or string.

The African ostrich has but two toes on each foot, and one of them has no claw.



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