

VERITIES.

ONE-HALF the population of Mexico are full-blooded Indians.
 "G. D. Save the Queen" is sung in nearly twenty different languages.
 ONE out of every 180 inhabitants of the United States owns or rides a bicycle.
 SMOKELESS powder said to be superior to any yet in use has been invented by an American.
 THE barking of a dog on earth can be distinctly heard by balloonists at an elevation of four miles.
 TEN THOUSAND tons of salmon, 30,000,000 cans, were put up this season in the canneries on the Frazer River, British Columbia.
 GERMANY and Austria have about 150 cooking schools. A four years' course is necessary ere a diploma is granted. Most of the hotel chefs have diplomas from these schools.
 THE statistics show that the city having the greatest death-rate in the world is Rheims, France, the proportion being 28.62 per 1,000 in each year. Dublin follows with 27.05 and then New York with 25.27.
 THE wonderful Chinese encyclopedia comprises 5,020 volumes. A portion set—only one in Europe—is about to be placed in the library of the British Museum. The work is very rare, and even in China there are not more than five copies of this edition.

VAST ARMY OF BRIDGE BUILDERS

Striking Instance of Intelligence Among the Lower Animals.

The following story, told by an eye-witness, is entitled to a place among the instances of intelligence among the lower animals. A cook was much annoyed to find his pastry shelves attacked by ants. By careful watching it was discovered that they came out twice a day in search of food, at about 11 in the morning and 4 in the afternoon. How were the pies to be protected against the invaders?
 He did not have long to wait, for at 10 o'clock he noticed that off in the left-hand corner of the pantry was a line of ants slowly making their way in the direction of the pies. They seemed like a vast army coming forth to attack an enemy. In front was a leader who was larger than any of the others, and who always kept a little ahead of his troops. They were of the sort known as the medium-sized red ant, which is regarded as the most intelligent of its kind whose scientific name is *formica ruginosa*.
 About forty ants out of 500 stepped out and joined the leader. The general and his aids held a council and then proceeded to examine a circle of molasses. Certain portions of it seemed to be assigned to the different ants, and each selected unerringly its point in the section under his charge where the stream of molasses was narrowest. Then the leader made his tour of inspection. The order to march was given, and the ants all made their way to a hole in the wall, at which the plastering was loose. Here they broke ranks and set about carrying pieces of plaster to the place in the molasses which had been agreed upon as the narrowest. To and fro they went from the nail hole to the molasses, and at 11:30 o'clock they had thrown a bridge across. Then they formed themselves in line again and marched over, and by 11:45 every ant in the foraging expedition was contentedly eating pie.—*Rocky Mountain News.*

Quakers, Puritans, and Turks.

The first Quakers who came to New England were two unprotected women, the one, Ann Austin, about 60 years of age, the mother of five children, and the other, Mary Fisher, her maiden friend, over 30. They came from Barbados. Immediately upon their arrival they were taken from ship to jail, and for fear that any one would talk with them, and thereby spread their heresies, the window of the cell was boarded up.
 Four years afterward Mary Fisher went on a mission to the Orient, to bring her testimony to the Turks. The great Sultan Mohammed IV. was on the throne. He accorded her an audience, and received her with civility, and she was in nowise restrained while in his dominions. The circumstance of Mary Fisher's having been present and imprisoned both in Old and New England, and left free and unmolested in the dominions of the Sultan, has been variously explained so as not to be creditable to the "Grand Turk." The fact is, in Mohammedan lands the humane principle of toleration had been learned and practiced earlier than in Christian countries, as is evidenced by the Turkish concessions to Christians and other sects, which date back to the twelfth century. They were continued and renewed in the middle of the sixteenth century, when Constantinople was captured.—*Roger Williams, by Oscar S. Straus.*

Was the Companion of Lamartine.

There died recently in Paris a woman whose sweet companionship consoled and cheered the declining years of Lamartine. Mlle. de Cossia was one of the many women who are content to live for a few and who never seek notoriety. She was the niece of the poet, daughter of his sister, and some time after becoming a widow, when he was the prey of financial difficulties of the most trying kind, she took up her abode with him and remained to the last his most faithful adviser, companion and nurse. Of noble family on the paternal as well as the maternal side, she solicited and obtained the dignity of chanoinesse, which also confers the title of Comtesse, and it was as Comtesse de Lamartine that she ruled her household, acting the part of hostess to the numerous friends and admirers whom Lamartine was always pleased to gather around him. Many of those of a younger generation who were admitted to the privacy of the aged poet remember with gratitude the warm welcome they received from his niece.—*The Union.*

A Million-Dollar Carpet.

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 The following are the dates for 1894: January 19 and 20; February 16 and 17; March 13 and 14; April 20 and 21; May 18 and 19; June 15 and 16; None in July; August 17 and 18; September 21 and 22; October 19 and 20; November 16 and 17; December 21 and 22.
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