



The largest winged insect in the world is the Atlas moth of Central Brazil. Its wings extend 14 inches from tip to tip.

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A strange custom is followed by Mexican farmers. They use oxen of one color in the morning and another color in the afternoon. They do not know why, but they know that it must be the right thing to do, because their forefathers did it.

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The phonograph is used for the purpose of teaching languages. Already a complete course in French has been transferred to cylinders by a member of the Academie Francaise, and these cylinders will presently be obtainable by students who prefer to perfect themselves both in grammar and pronunciation by the aid of a phonograph.

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Prof. Bilsluk estimates that only 900 persons out of 1,000,000 die from old age, while 1200 succumb to gout, 18,400 to measles, 2700 to apoplexy, 7000 to erysipelas, 7500 to consumption, 48,000 to scarlet fever, 25,000 to whooping-cough, 30,000 to typhoid and typhus, and 7000 to rheumatism. The averages vary according to locality, but these are considered accurate as regards the population of the globe.

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If we place two clocks on the same shelf and adjust their pendulums to swing in exact unison, and set one of them to running, in the course of time the other will start up in sympathy. Each sound impulse caused by the vibration of the pendulum of the clock that is running is communicated to the other pendulum. Each successive impulse adds to the swing of the sympathetic pendulum, which begins in an exceedingly small way.

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For years after the death of Robert Burns his wife continued to live at Dumfries. Many strangers visited the place, and all, of course, desired to take away with them some souvenir of the departed bard. Apropos of this an amusing story is told by an English publication. A young Englishman one day called upon the widow, and after he had seen all that she had to show, the poet's bed-room, his original portrait by Nasmyth, and his family Bible, he entreated her to present him with some relic which he might carry away with him. "Indeed, sir," said Mrs. Burns, "I have given away so many relics that I have not one left." "Oh, you surely must have something," said the persevering,

Saxon. "Anything will do, anything you please." Some further talk took place, the lady reasserting that she had no relic to give, and he as repeatedly renewing his request. At length, fairly tired out with the man's importunities, Mrs. Burns said to him with a smile: "Dear sir, unless you take me, then I dinna see how you are to get what you want." Her suggestion had the desired effect, and the petition was at once withdrawn.

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Dr. Zamesky has invented a new kind of false teeth. They are made of gutta percha, porcelain, or metal, as the case may be. At the root of the false tooth holes are made. Holes are also made upward into the jaw. The tooth is then placed in the cavity. In a short time a soft granulated growth finds its way from the patient's jaw into the holes in the tooth. This growth gradually hardens and holds the tooth in position. Dr. Zamesky has tried them on dogs and men with success.

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Paper floors are enjoying a steadily increasing popularity. An important advantage consists in the absence of joints or seams, whereby an accumulation of dust, vermin, and fungi is done away with. These new paper floors are bad conductors of heat or sound, and have a soft feeling to the foot. The cost is considerably lower than that of hardwood floors; the paper mass is shipped in bags in powder form, with a small addition of cement as a binder. It is stirred to a stiff paste, spread on the floor, pressed down by means of rollers, and painted with oak-wood or mahogany color after drying.

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What is even regarded as a vile weed can, with a little stretch of imagination, be turned into an ornamental plant or delicious vegetable. This is especially the case with the common Burdock, Lappa major. Schoolboys all know it from gathering the burrs and compressing them into a ball, they being held together by the curved points of the floral involucre. This is all they know about it. It is difficult to see anything more to be despised in the Burdock leaf than in the leaf of the Rhubarb. It appears that it is largely used in China for food. But it is stated that, if the stalks be cut down before the flowers expand and then be boiled, the taste is relished equally with asparagus. The leaves when young, are boiled and eaten as we eat spinach. In Japan it is in universal use. Thousands of acres are devoted to its culture.

But in this case, the root is the object. It requires deep soil to get the roots to the best advantage.

The common name, in China, is Cobbo—a name, however, which need not replace our common one of Burdock.

# WESTERN INFORMATION

## Bureau and Exchange

*Is there anything you want? Have you property to sell? Do you wish to buy a home? Do you wish to go into business? Do you wish to exchange real estate or personal property?*

FRIENDS:—We have recently established a general Exchange and Information business in the thriving city of Silverton, and have for sale a number of town lots, vacant and improved, some well established business enterprises, some splendid farms near Silverton, and last but not least, all the lots in

### SECULAR HOME

a tract of land adjoining the Liberal University grounds, and beautifully situated for homes. Below is a partial list of the property we have for sale.

#### CITY PROPERTY.

**Half-Acre Lot** in West Silverton; beautiful location for residence. \$200.

**Corner Lot** near the Liberal University. \$100.

**Lots in Secular Home**, location to suit, at \$25, \$50 and \$75.

**4 acres** of land in Silverton, Oregon; two good houses, fruit trees, etc. Will trade for farm land.

**House and Lot** near the depot. \$750.

**House** and lot in center of town. \$375.

**House** and barn with 1 1/8 acres of land in Silverton. \$750.

#### FARM PROPERTY.

**2 3/4 acres**, well improved, fine house, barn and outbuildings, one mile from Silverton, \$4000. Will trade for larger farm of equal value not over twenty miles from Silverton.

**318 acres** of splendid fruit and farming land, well improved, good running water, three miles from Silverton, at \$27 per acre. Can divide if necessary to suit purchaser.

**160 acres** of fine timber, near a large sawmill, \$1000. Logs can be floated nearly all the way to mill.

Silverton is the home of Secularism, and families moving here will have the splendid advantage of schooling their children in the only Liberal University in the world. Silverton is beautifully situated in the great Willamette valley in the foothills of the Cascade mountains. A fine sparkling stream affords splendid water power and great advantages for drainage. Write to us for further information. Yours for business,

### INFORMATION BUREAU AND EXCHANGE.

WATER STREET,  
Opposite Liberal Hall.

Silverton, Oregon.

WHO DOES YOUR

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Bill Heads,  
Note or Letter Heads,  
Statements,  
Tickets, Programs,  
Invitations,  
Books or Pamphlets,  
Envelopes,**

Or any other Printing, you will serve your own interest and help support the Liberal University by sending your orders to us. We will execute them promptly, tastefully.

Cut This Out

Fill it up, and forward with \$1.00 to the

**Liberal University Co.,**  
Silverton, Oregon.

To the Publishers of the Torch of Reason:

Please send the TORCH OF REASON to my address for one year, for which I enclose \$1.00.

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