

### Some High-Priced Autographs.

At an autograph sale in Paris in December, 1890, the signature of Christopher Columbus (which is, probably, one of the most fantastic sign manuals ever used, and which has been fully described in Notes for the Curious), brought 4,000 francs. The only existing piece of manuscript in Titian's handwriting was knocked down at 3,000 francs, and one with Cromwell's signature attached brought in exactly half that sum. Alfred Morrison, a great English collector of autographs, was present at the sale and paid a sum equal to 4,000 francs for the only letter written by Corneille that has ever been on the market. The last letter written by Napoleon to Empress Marie Louise was disposed of at the same sale, bringing 4,000 francs, and several signatures of Louis XIV. and Henry IV. fetched 1,000 francs each.

### Where the Sun Gains a Day,

Chatham island, lying off the coast of New Zealand, in the South Pacific ocean, is one of the few habitable points of the globe where the day changes, it being situated exactly on the line of demarcation between dates. At that place "high 12" Sunday, or Sunday noon, ceases at the striking of the clock, and instantly thereafter it is Monday noon, or, more exactly, a few seconds after noon. On that peculiarly situated island it is possible for a person to begin his midday meal at 11:45 a. m. Sunday, and eat continuously until 12:15 Monday without consuming more than a half-hour's time or making a glutton of himself.

### Japanese Soldier Gymnasts.

Every Japanese barrack has a gymnasium, and the Japanese soldiers rank among the best gymnasts in the world. In half a minute they can scale a fourteen-foot wall by simply bounding on each other's shoulders, one man supporting two or three others.

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