

GAMBLE ON STEAMERS

Passengers Bet on Everything from a Prayer to a Day's Run.

Display Great Ingenuity in Finding Something to Make Bets On—Operations of Card Sharks on the Lines.

"It's a blessed thing for everybody concerned that committees of 'five,' 'fifteen,' or any other number, don't operate on the Atlantic," remarked the purser of one of the great trans-Atlantic liners a few days ago, as he finished reading a story about "John Doe" in one of the morning papers, says the New York Times.

"Of course, there are no roulette wheels or other professional paraphernalia aboard ship, but what's lost in equipment is more than made up in the ingenious ways, etc., that the male contingent generally think to win or lose a few dollars. As everyone knows the pool on the day's run is the greatest and most popular of all wagers. Every morning the sporting element will assemble in the smoking saloon. Soon someone will suggest the pool. The idea is immediately seconded from all parts of the apartment, and one of the number is selected to act as the auctioneer. Then the fun is on. If it is one of the faster boats the large numbers sell the highest. For instance, if the ship is one that will average 350 knots a day the figures near that sum bring the highest bids, unless the day is an unusually rough one, when a more moderate number is the favorite.

One man will bid in, say 300 knots at \$60; another will bid in a lesser number at a smaller figure, and so on down the scale until the pool is complete, and the end of the day awaited in order to ascertain who the bidder who has come nearest the logging total. The pool is about the most plausible of all the marine gambling devices, for in it it is impossible for the 'sharks' that sometimes cross over to get in any of their crooked work.

"These 'sharks,' who are, as a general rule, of the 'card' kind, are often encountered at sea, and some of them become so well known and so ostracized by the passengers that in the end they have to give up the Atlantic and continue their work on shore, where there are no smoking room stewards or pursers to recognize them and warn their intended victims. They will work all the lines, never crossing in the same boat twice, until all the more fashionable patronized liners have been worked, when they will begin all over again, taking the whole list, going over on one line and coming back on a vessel of one of its rivals. In recent years though we have been able to locate a great many of these people, and as a result they don't stay on board very long before they are discovered and their crookedness exposed.

"Although women are not allowed in the smoking saloon they can get some male friend to bid the numbers in for them, and I have known several of them to come into port much better off financially than they were when they sailed. Poker is another great game at sea, and here it is that the 'shark' gets his hand in. Not long ago on my ship there were two of these characters on board. The passengers had been warned, but one young fellow, more guileless than the others, evidently did not take the warning seriously, for during the concert the professionals got him in the smoking-room. When the concert ended he had just about enough money left to pay his cab hire. We can't reform the innocent, but we can experience, and one warning is all that is necessary to make the latter as stung with their 'long green' as a cat is with her kittens.

"Well, this is enough, isn't it?" at last said the purser, who, pulling out a box of cigars, asked all of his hearers to take one, and call again on his next arrival.

"Oh, I forgot," called the purser, as his friends started to leave his cabin, "to tell you about the fellow who bet another fellow that there would be some new customs rules in operation when we reached New York. Well, you needn't look so incredulous for no such bet was made. Good luck and good-by," he said, and he started to work getting things in shape for the next eastward passage.

The Waitress—"Oh! I ain't sayin' but what youse a good cook."

The Cook—"I reckon I'll! If I wanted ter get up with sich temptin' dishes dat folks 'd eat 'em if dey knowed dey wuz gwine ter git dyspepsy!"—Puck.

PEWS OF THE PRESIDENTS.

Seats in Washington Churches That Were Used by the Nation's Highest Officials.

At Christ church, Alexandria, where Gen. Washington was once a vestryman, one may see the very pew, No. 5, in which he sat, and note the plain but beautiful interior of the church, which has not been changed since his day. The New York Avenue Presbyterian church cherished Lincoln's pew. When some years ago the auditorium was re-seated with handsome oak pews, Lincoln's was left in place just as he used it. It is the seventh from the front, and can easily be distinguished, looking plain and old surrounded by its modern neighbors. Mrs. Radcliffe, the pastor's wife, sits in it now. Whenever Mrs. Cleveland attended the church she was shown into it. During the Pan- Presbyterian alliance, which was held in this church, all the delegates, home and foreign, wanted to see this pew.

Gen. Grant's church home was at the Metropolitan Methodist church, says a writer in the Congregationalist. It is near neighbor to the First Presbyterian, of which President and Mrs. Cleveland were members, where Dr. Sunderland was pastor for more than 40 years, and where Dr. Talmage had his recent pastorate. The spires of these churches point to the time when Four-and-a-half street was in the residence section. That was nearly 50 years ago, and the Metropolitan Methodist will soon celebrate its semi-centennial. It was built with contributions from all parts of the country, and was intended as a sort of national church home for Methodists called to New York on business or pleasure. Several of the pews are designated by the names of different states. Gen. U. S. Grant and Chief Justice Chase were upon the original board of trustees. The only chimes of the city are here, and one of the bells is inscribed: "Julia Dent Grant, Wife of U. S. Grant, President of the United States;" another: "Nellie Wade Colfax, Wife of Schuyler Colfax, Vice President of the United States of America." The gift of a Baltimore gentleman was a pew always to be set apart for the use of the president. It is the fourth from the front, on the left-hand side of the right-hand aisle. Another gentleman from the same city gave one for the vice president, and a third, for the chief justice, was the gift of some one in New York.

It is a matter of interest that Gen. Grant occupied his "eight years, Vice President Colfax used his for four years and Chief Justice Chase sat in his as long. This is the church that Gen. Logan attended, as a large tablet at the right of the pulpit indicates.

After a lapse of 20 years the president's pew was again occupied by the head of the nation, another soldier, but a man of peace as well—President McKinley.

Many other churches could be pointed out as the places where presidents, from Washington to McKinley, have worshipped. At least four have been regular attendants at historic St. John's Episcopal. Gen. Garfield was not only a member of the Christian church, but often spoke for the congregation when there was no preacher or regular pastor. A church edifice and a large hospital are his memorials here. Ex-President Harrison, on his occasional visits, sought his former place of worship at the Church of the Covenant.

BREAKING UP THE MESS.

Friendships Among Brother Officers of the Navy Last as Long as the Staff.

Lasting friendships are formed in the officers' mess aboard ship in our navy, but no effort is made to keep track of a mate when he is transferred. This strikes the landsman as a queer freak of nature, but the sailors accept it as a matter of course never to be questioned. Men get into pretty close communion with each other when they breakfast, dine and sup together for three years. As a rule, they learn each other's history to the minutest detail, unless a man chooses to be disagreeable and distant. Close attachments grow up, yet when the inexorable order arrives from Washington, sending the mess to the four winds of heaven, breaking up, as if were, the family, a warm hand shake ends it all. Each officer goes into a new mess, and the old is forgotten.

It was my good fortune to be introduced to as fine a mess as ever broke bread together over a man-of-war, says a writer in the New York Press. The devotion of the officers to one another was an inspiration. Finally the separation came. One went to some navy yard, another to China, another to Washington, etc. They were scattered all over the world. One day, meeting the lieutenant commander, who had gone up for promotion, I inquired when he had heard from Lieut. So-and-So. "Why, not in several months," he replied. "In fact, not since he was ordered to his new station. You know we fellows don't follow each other's movements after a mess is broken up. We form new associations, new friends and the old drop out of sight. We never think of writing to each other. It is more than likely we shall never see each other again as long as we live, and we haven't time or inclination to worry over each other's fate."

Parliamentary Records. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman holds one of the proudest records of the commons. He has held his seat without a break for almost a generation. Patrick O'Brien holds a distinction of another sort. He is the Tom Thumb of the house, standing four feet three inches in his shoes. O'Brien is one of his namesakes—J. F. X. O'Brien—who has distinguished himself by being sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered.—St. James Gazette.

GEMS IN THE ENGLISH CROWN.

Magnificent Jewels and Historic Stones to Excite the Envy of Despots.

According to usage in a full state ceremonial at the opening of parliament by the sovereign, the crown is carried on a cushion by a nobleman in the royal procession as it enters the house of peers. The crown was recently seen at the royal funeral by many thousands of spectators, who had little idea what it contained. The following description of it, taken from "Debrett's Peerage," may be of interest: The imperial state crown was made in the year 1838 with jewels taken from old crowns and others furnished by command of her majesty, Queen Victoria. It consisted of diamonds, pearls, rubies, sapphires and emeralds, set in silver and gold; it has a crimson velvet cap with ermine border, and is lined with white silk. Its gross weight is 39 ounces 5 pennyweights troy. The lower part of the band, above the ermine border, consists of a row of 120 pearls, and the upper part of the band a row of 112 pearls, between which, in front of the crown, is a large sapphire (partly drilled) purchased for the crown of King George IV. At the back is a sapphire of smaller size and six other sapphires (three on each side), between which are eight emeralds. Above and below the seven sapphires are 14 diamonds, and around the eight emeralds, 128 diamonds. Between the emeralds and the sapphires are 16 trefoil ornaments, containing 16 diamonds. Above the band are eight sapphires, surmounted by eight diamonds, between which are eight festoons consisting of 148 diamonds. In front of the crown, and in the center of a diamond Maltese cross is the famous ruby, said to have been given to Edward, prince of Wales, son of Edward III, called the black prince, by Don Pedro, king of Castile, after the battle of Najera, near Vittoria, A. D. 1367. This ruby was worn in the helmet of Henry V, at the battle of Agincourt, A. D. 1415.

It is pierced quite through after the eastern custom, the upper part of the piercing being filled up by a small ruby, says the London Globe. Around this ruby, in order to form the cross, are 75 brilliant diamonds. Three other Maltese crosses, forming the two sides and back of the crown, have emerald centers and contain, respectively, 132, 124 and 130 brilliant diamonds. Between the four Maltese crosses are four fleur-de-lis, with four rubies in the center, and surrounded by rose diamonds, containing, respectively, 85, 86 and 87 rose diamonds. From the Maltese crosses issue four imperial arches composed of oak leaves and acorns; the leaves contain 728 rose, table and brilliant diamonds, 32 pearls from the acorns, set in cups containing 54 rose diamonds and one table diamond. The total number of diamonds in the arches and acorns is 108 brilliants, 110 table and 559 rose diamonds. From the upper part of the arches are suspended four large pendant pear-shaped pearls, with rose diamond cups, containing 12 rose diamonds, and stems containing 24 very small rose diamonds. Above the arch stands the mound, containing in the lower hemisphere 204 brilliants, and in the upper 244 brilliants, the zone and are being composed of 33 rose diamonds. The cross on the summit has a rose-cut sapphire in the center, surrounded by four large brilliants and 103 smaller brilliants. Summary of jewels comprised in the crown: One large ruby, irregularly polished, 1 large broad-spread sapphire, 15 sapphires, 11 emeralds, 4 rubies, 1,363 brilliant diamonds, 1,273 rose diamonds, 147 table diamonds, 4 drop-shaped pearls and 373 pearls.

SINGSONG TONGUE OF CHINA.

Words Acquire Different Significations from the Varying Pitch of the Voice.

Mr. Elson, writing of Chinese vocal music in the Musical Record, says that the voice in China is trained to much flexibility by the exigencies of the language. The Chinese is in one sense the most musical of languages, as a word acquires half a dozen different significations according to the pitch or inflection with which it is pronounced. A spoken word in the Chinese language has different meaning according to the inflection with which it is pronounced. The number of words is small, the ideas that may be conveyed by them are many. Thus foreigners are led into endless complications and misunderstandings; for example, the word 'tau,' pronounced clearly with the vowel of medium length, means "master," but by extending the vowel a trifle it signifies "hog;" it also means "column" and "cookery."

The syllable "po" has 11 different meanings—"glass," "boil," "captive," "prepare," and so forth, each of which must be pronounced with a different pitch and inflection.

Among the original words are some which decidedly are taken from nature, such as "chung," "bell;" "miau," "cat;" but these are very few.

Some authors have endeavored to show from these facts that the Chinese is in all respects a musical language; but this can hardly be conceded, for the inflections spoken of are so slight as to escape the European ear, which surely would not be the case if they were really musical notes. It is well known that Father Periere, in the last century, was able to note down at first hearing and imitate any Chinese song.

Bears His Name Worthily. Jack (during their quarrel)—Now, let me explain. May—I want to say something first. "All right, I'm all ears." "I know it. No doubt that's why your parents called you 'Jack.'"—Philadelphia Press.

TRADE GUILDS OF TURKEY.

Special Privileges and Usages That Have Come Down from Past Centuries.

Many once wealthy and important crafts or guilds found their occupation gone—or at least considerably diminished—on the abandonment of the ancient oriental splendor of dress and equipment and the adoption of western military uniforms and weapons of warfare which have distinguished the nineteenth century, says Leisure Hour. Trade guilds are, however, still very numerous in south-eastern Europe, and especially in Constantinople, where representatives of all the various crafts and callings practiced in the empire are to be found, each having one or more lonjas lodges or clubs—in every quarter of the city and suburbs. Each craft is presided over by several officers called respectively, according to their rank, sheiks, naibs, oustas and kayas—or presidents, vice presidents, superintendents and inspectors—who are annually elected by the members from among its own master craftsmen, and these officers are recognized by the government, which holds them responsible for the good behavior of their fellow guildsmen.

A few crafts possess large revenues or enjoy peculiar privileges granted by various sultans in bygone centuries in return for services rendered at some important crisis. Among these are the shoemakers, who have special officers empowered to judge and punish all offenders belonging to their fraternity without the interposition of the legal authorities. This extraordinary privilege was, it appears, conferred upon them in the sixteenth century by Suleiman II, "The Magnificent." The sultan being on one occasion greatly incensed with the ever-turbulent Janissaries, who, in sign of revolt, had as usual overturned their camp kettles, swore that with the help of the shoemakers only he would break their rebellious spirit. The pasha's words spread with lightning-like rapidity through the streets of the bazar occupied by the shops of the Papoutchdjia, who rapidly assembling from every lonja in the city, presented themselves armed before the Serai, an army of 40,000 men, shouting the Moslem war cry: "Allah! Allah!" The sultan, gratified by their loyalty and zeal in his service, received their officers in audience, bade them name their own reward, and granted the four privileges they asked for, of which the above named was one. When the news of these events reached the barracks of the Janissaries, these insolent troops were so dismayed that, in the words of a seventeenth century chronicler, "they were ready to eat not only their soup, but their very trenchers."

FIRST SALUTE TO OLD GLORY.

Fired by French Flagship in Acknowledgment of the Presence of Paul Jones' Little Ship.

The little Ranger ran slowly between the frowning French frigates, looking as warlike as they; her men swarmed like bees into the rigging, and her colors ran up to salute the flag of his most Christian majesty of France, and she fired one by one her salute of 13 guns, says Sarah Orne Jewett, in Atlantic.

There was a moment of suspense, the wind was very light, now; the powder smoke drifted away, and the flapping sails sounded loud overhead. Would the admiral answer back, or would he treat this bold challenge like a handkerchief waved at him from a pleasure boat? Some of the officers on the Ranger looked incredulous, but Paul Jones still held his letter in his hand. There was a puff of white smoke, and the great guns of the French flagship began to shake the air—one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight—nine; and then were still, save for their echoes from the low hills about Carnac and the great droid Mount of St. Michael.

"Henry Gardner, you may tell the men that this was the salute of the king of France to our republic, and the first high honor to our flag," said the captain proudly to his steersman; but they were all huzzing now along the Ranger's decks, that little ship whose name shall never be forgotten while her country lives.

"We hardly know what this day means, gentlemen," he said soberly to his officers, who came about him. "I believe we are at the christening of the greatest nation that was ever born into the world. The day shall come when America, republic though she may be, will salute no foreign flag without receiving gun for gun!"

Published for Cause. Church—I understand the jury stood eleven to one in favor of acquittal at first? Gotham—That's right; we did.

"Well, how in the world did the 11 ever come around to think as the one man?" "Well, you see, the fellow who was alone for conviction knew the prisoner pretty well, and he told us that the fellow had a lot of interesting children, and he was forever telling stories about their marvelous sayings, so we thought it wouldn't hurt to lock him up for a few weeks."—Yonkers Statesman.

THE HAPPINESS OF THRIFT.

Land Purchases of an Aged Couple and Their Plans to Surprise Each Other.

"Let me tell you a story of human interest," said a real estate man to a reporter for the Washington Star. "A few months ago a man and his wife, people to whom nothing has come without much labor, came to my office and made the first payment on the house which they had long been occupying as tenants. They were very happy to be able to buy their home, and the way they laughed about it and talked of the sacrifices they had made to accomplish it stopped the work of every clerk in the office and somehow made us feel as though the sun were shining through the windows, although the day was dark outside.

"In a few days when we had about forgotten the transaction, we were surprised with a visit from the old wife. 'Do you know,' she said to me, after glancing about to see that we were alone, 'do you know, I've been thinking that I can save enough money from my allowance to buy that 50-foot lot adjoining ours on the south. It will make such a splendid playground for the children and I can have it about paid for when our house is needed to us clear. It will be so good for the children,' she continued, 'quietly, and then, after a pause, 'and it will surprise Henry, too.' Well, we closed the deal for the lot on the south and she went away happy. It was a beautiful scheme, we thought, and one in which, from business motives, we took much interest. But that isn't all. A few days ago the old man came in, his face wreathed with smiles. 'I've been figuring it all out,' he began, confidentially, 'I've 'held out' so much in the past that I'm going to keep up. I want to buy the 30 feet on the north side of our house. I can have it paid for by the time my wife and I have a deed to the house. I want to get playground for the children, God bless them, they've been a lot of trouble, but they're worth it; and it will be such a surprise to Martha.' While he had been talking I didn't know whether to laugh or to wipe my eyes. The girl clerks, too, who knew the story well by this time and had been listening intently, now found that something on the street demanded their attention and one was trying to rub some dust from her eyes. 'All right,' I said, 'you can have it.' Now, you may not believe it,' the real estate man concluded, solemnly, 'but it's a fact, I knocked off my commission on that sale. Such occurrences are so rare in real life that they should be encouraged. I should like to be present next summer when those two spring their surprises."

Humane Acts Performed Amidst the Hurry and Hustle of City Life. A sympathetic and wide-awake lover of human nature contributed to a New York newspaper not long ago the following observations: On a freezing winter day a ragged boy got onto a Broadway car, and stood shivering in front of a smartly gowned woman. She had evidently a heart as warm as her furs, for instantly she drew the shivering little figure close to her side and slipped his putty purple fingers into her muff, quite unconscious of the interested eyes upon her.

Little Deeds of Kindness. A man bent double with age trudged painfully up Fifth avenue. A well-groomed, strapping young fellow passed by, whipped out a coin and dropped it into the old man's hand. With it went a side-long, almost confidential smile down to the wrinkled face, as the gnarled fingers closed over the unlooked-for gift.

On the steps of a closed house one sweltering day last summer, a feeble old woman sat in the broiling sun. In one hand she gripped a stick, in the other held out shoe-strings to the passers-by. A stout woman, with a large basket of freshly laundered linen, halted and gave the forlorn one something out of a well-worn purse. In response to the mumbled thanks, the landlady, shouldering her burden, answered cheerfully: "It's nothing at all, at all. Sure, I'm getting out meself."

An Italian fruit peddler's cart was upset by a heavy truck, and fruits, nuts and candy were spilled on the ground. Half a dozen little ragamuffins, who had been playing in the street, came running up. Of course they lined their pockets with the fruits of the disaster? Not a bit of it. They worked busily collecting every apple, pear and plum, and when they had finished dumped them all back into the cart.

"Straws show which way the wind blows." On all sides, if one will look, one may see gracious little deeds of spontaneous generosity, all the sweeter because so fleeting.

Pure Milk in China. A notice board has been erected on shore near to the naval anchorage at Woo-Sung, China, with the following information: "We open at Woo-Sung, on the south of the telegraph company, for sale of foreign milk, the taste are sweet, the milk are pure, the price are just. We have not put any water in it. If examine out won't pay single cash. If you want to buy it you will know the foreign cow dairy."—London News.

Very Streaky. "Say, Pebbles, dis is fortune, sare. I leaned up agin a house an' get a streak of paint on me old coat. Den de lady come out an' gimme one of her husband's good coats."

Not an Expert. Miriam—Didn't I see Mr. Brassie kiss you on the links to-day? Millicent—No; he tried to, but he only foiled.—Puck.

KNIFE HELP HIS ORATORY.

Impressive Effect Produced by an Impassioned Speaker in a State Convention.

"The most impressive scene I ever witnessed occurred at a state convention," said G. G. Brady, of Spokane, Wash., recently to a reporter for the New York Tribune. "In 1889 a delegate from Spokane to the state convention owed to a member of the third house a large sum of money. As a security the lobbyist held a mortgage on the delegate's home. For certain reasons and to further certain ends the lobbyist desired to be present upon the floor of the convention, and requested the delegate to give up his seat to him. The delegate, knowing that by so doing he would not alone be false to his constituents, but that he would also enable the lobbyist to further certain corrupt schemes to the injury of the taxpayers, refused. Thereupon the lobbyist said to him: 'If you don't give me your seat in that convention I will foreclose the mortgage I have upon your home and throw your wife and children out upon the street.' The delegate, sorely depressed by the ruin that threatened him, appealed to a friend for assistance. The story spread like wildfire, and the most intense indignation ensued. So bitter was the feeling it engendered that had the lobbyist not escaped his life would unquestionably have been in danger. He left the state and never dared to return.

"This incident enabled Patrick Henry Winston, the silver-tongued, to make probably the most dramatic speech of his career. The night the story leaked out the caucus was held, and, taking this incident as his text, Winston made an impassioned speech. When he came to the peroration he walked down the central aisle of the convention, saying: 'Do you know what I would have done had that man made the proposition to me?' 'He then drew from his coat a clasped hunting-knife, and, springing open its seven-inch blade, he held it above his head in his right hand.

"Had he made the proposition to me," he went on, "I would have buried this dagger in his foul breast and have insulted my Deltly by offering on the altar of liberty the most putrid-hearted Shylock that ever disgraced this or any other country." For an instant there ensued a dead quiet, and then the convention rose to its feet with a wild yell. The instance itself had made a most painful impression, and this speech coming on top of it so wrought on those present that had the man who caused it been present no earthly power could have then saved his life."

LITTLE DEEDS OF KINDNESS.

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