

Terms—\$1.50 Per Annum.

Millheim on the L. C. & S. C. R. R., has a population of 600.

THE FATAL CARD.

Some years ago the Mississippi river was noted for its "floating palaces," as the large steamers plying between New Orleans and the ports above were called.

"Well, gentlemen," he said, in an unsteady tone, "you seem to be terrible dull. Who wants to play for \$20 ante?"

There was no reply. All present seemed to know the man, and no one cared to volunteer to place himself in his clutches.

"Umph!" he exclaimed with an expression of contempt, "afraid to try your luck against Dun Sturdivant, eh? Or maybe you want a little coaxing."

"Nevertheless," said the stranger, "I want an answer—yes or no."

"Well, then," said the gambler angrily, "I am. What of it?"

"Simply this," replied the stranger, "I have heard it said that you claim to be the best card player in the Southwest. I have come two hundred miles to prove you a liar."

Sturdivant strove forward a step or two and thrust his hand into his breast as if to grasp a weapon.

"Stop," said the stranger, "if you shoot me, you will simply prove yourself afraid of me."

"But how do I know you have money enough for such sport?" persisted Sturdivant. "You look seedy enough, my fine fellow."

That ace of hearts is an unlucky card for you, Daniel Sturdivant," he said coolly.

"Gentlemen," said the stranger, rising to his feet, as we stood paralyzed with horror at the dreadful scene, "that man ruined my wife and tried to murder me. I have been hunting for him ten years."

I never learned the history of the mysterious affair, for the gambler was beyond human questioning, and I never saw the stranger again; but I shall not soon forget the impression it made upon me at that time.

A ship some time ago arrived at Bristol, after a successful whaling voyage. Time was when thousands of vessels tracked the great sea monsters in search of oil.

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"But how do I know you have money enough for such sport?" persisted Sturdivant. "You look seedy enough, my fine fellow."

"That was well done," said the stranger. "You are an expert at cheating. But go on, I can beat you whether you play openly or dishonestly."

Sturdivant said nothing but fidgeted the cards again. The hand was played, and Sturdivant was about to seize the stakes when the stranger laid down a card and checked him.

Some people have a habit of dropping their friends of many years upon the least provocation, as if they were of little value or were regarded rather as encumbrances.

This is a great mistake, the penalty of which is generally paid in after years. The following, which we take from an exchange, is worthy of being carefully pondered by every man, woman and child.

People who have warm friends are healthier and happier than those who have none. A single friend is a treasure worth more than gold or precious stones.

It is rumored that at one of the hotels in the northern sections of Berks county the proprietor is in the habit of blowing a tin horn to bring together the people of the neighborhood whenever candidates for county offices visit him.

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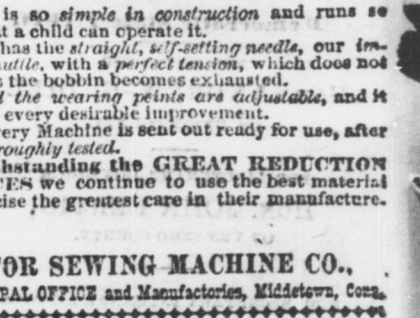
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