

THE FOXY GAMBLER.

By L. A. Miller.

Some play for gain; to pass the time, others play for nothing; both to play the fool, I say; Nor time nor coin I'll lose, or idly spend; Who gets by play, proves loser in the end. Heath's Claretella.

Somehow, there is a fascination about gambling that is perfectly irresistible to many. It becomes their ruling passion and usually ends in ruin. Drunkenness, rowdiness and general wickedness are associated with gambling, especially when cards, dice and similar devices are used. This is true in a measure, but does not apply to all phases of gambling, because professional gamblers, as a rule, are gentlemen in appearance, strictly sober, the soul of honor in personal matters, and unselfish. This may seem like giving very good characters to very bad men. If it does it is the fault of the facts, for it is well known that the head men in the profession as a rule do not drink and their words are as good as their notes.

These men make gambling their business, and do not want to be held responsible for the conduct of their patrons. They say that they take a man's money with his consent; after giving them a chance to take theirs. It is simply a game of chance, and if the people want to play it professional gamblers offer them the opportunity. They argue, and with a good deal of force, too, that their business is no less respectable than that of the saloon keeper. His patrons are, if in any degree different, worse than gamblers. He takes their money and gives them in return that which is worse than nothing, and offers them no opportunity to get even; yet the saloon-keeper occupies a higher plane in social life than the gambler.

It is probable that the saloon-keeper gets some of his respectability from the manufacturers and wholesale dealers in liquors, who are generally wealthy and influential, both in church and State. The gambler has no background of this kind to soften his odious features. Were all those who play in games of chance grouped under the general head, "gamblers," as all who handle intoxicating drinks are called "liquor dealers," there would be some show for the despised portion of the profession.

A man of passable appearance can get along almost anywhere as a "liquor dealer," but the lines of an elegant looking, amiable, cultivated man are narrowed almost to the minimum if he is known to be a gambler. This is another evidence that there is something in the name, and it also shows that the masses do not care to look into the merits of things before condemning or endorsing them. One sin is winked at, another endorsed and another tabooed, just as they happen to strike the public. It has been ever thus, and ever thus it probably will be.

It is not the intention to defend the gambler against the charge of being a nuisance and a curse to any community, but merely to call attention to the fact that he is no worse than others who enjoy the reputation of being more respectable and more trustworthy. It is true that he feeds and thrives upon the hard-earned or ill-gotten gains of the dissipated, reckless and immoral, but in that he does no more than many others. It is wrong, very wrong, for him to do so, but in point of fact no worse than for any other person to take them without giving a fair equivalent. That which encourages idleness tends to deprave the mind and impair the manliness in man is bad and ought to be fought down as though it were a pestilence. Pestilence it is, in fact. What can be more ruinous to a community than a disposition on the part of the young to be idle? What greater calamity could befall the morals of a community than wide-spread depravity and what could strike the State with more paralyzing effect than a general decadence in manliness?

There seems to be an inborn desire in man to get something for nothing. That this is wrong in principle is clearly shown in nature, as all of its laws, great or small, are based on the principle that there must be causes for all effects. This applies to all phases of life from the microbe to the elephant; man is not an exception, as some would like to believe. Even the sloth that so much loves to sleep, and so despises exertion or activity, is compelled to quit its quiet, cozy retreat and bestir itself in quest of food. Man alone, of all the animals, hopes to be able to live without work. He is continually on the alert for the chance to profit by the labor of some one else. Why should he be so disposed? There seems to be no other reason than that this is one of his depraved tastes. These were given him that he might have something upon which to exercise his will and show his ability as a free agent.

No Flies in Alaska.

Everybody knows that mosquitoes are a frightful pest in Alaska; but it is news to learn that houseflies do not exist there.

This interesting fact was definitely ascertained by Dr. J. M. Aldrich, of the United States National Museum, in the course of a recent expedition which he made for the purpose of studying Alaskan insects.

He found two entirely new species of mosquitoes. Horse flies were abundant everywhere. But there were no houseflies. In vain did he explore grocery stores, restaurants, canneries, garbage dumps and other likely places for them.

The fact is that the housefly is by origin a tropical insect. It cannot endure cold weather. In temperate latitudes a few houseflies manage to live over the winter in heated houses—enough of them, that is to say, to start a fresh crop in the following spring.

WHO DWELT HERE BEFORE THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS?

There is a widespread and generally accepted belief that grains of corn found in the prehistoric cliff-dwellings of the Southwest will sprout if planted.

Recently Dr. J. Walter Fewkes, chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology, thought he would try this out with some seed corn which he found in a cliff-house in Southern New Mexico. There was a lot of it, on the cob, in a stone-walled chamber which had evidently served the purpose of a granary. He planted seven hundred of the grains, but they refused to germinate. They were some centuries too old—presumably dating back to a period long before Columbus landed.

The Bureau of Ethnology, by the way, is most anxious to secure the preservation of the great Cahokia Mound, near St. Louis, which it regards as comparable to the Egyptian pyramids in archeological interest. It is the largest earthwork in the United States—100 feet high, 1080 feet long and 710 feet wide—and covers sixteen acres. Rising in the midst of a level plain, and rectangular in form (its sides facing the four cardinal points), it is wholly of artificial construction.

This earthwork, the greatest monument left behind by the prehistoric mound builders, was formerly surrounded by about seventy mounds, some of which were forty feet high. Some of them were rectangular and others circular. They have been mostly destroyed by the plow.

In earlier days there was near the city of St. Louis an ancient mound of oval shape, 319 feet long and 158 feet wide. The city crept over it, and in 1869 it was destroyed. Inside of it was found a burial chamber seventy feet long, originally built of logs, over which earth was thrown. The chamber contained human remains in the last stages of decay, together with vast quantities of shell beads and other articles.

The labor required in the building of these mounds must have been enormous, and it is manifest that anciently the neighborhood was the gathering place of a numerous people. But who were they? A lost and vanished race that preceded the Indians, or the ancestors of our present-day aborigines?

Such mounds are scattered by thousands all over the United States—though no group of them is comparable in importance to that of Cahokia and another presently to be mentioned, in Wisconsin.

In a group of mounds near Chillicothe, Ohio, hundreds of skeletons were found wearing copper masks. The Indians long before Columbus came knew how to obtain copper by building a fire about a piece of rock containing the metal and pouring water upon the hot stone, thus causing it to split in fragments.

Many of the mounds in the Wisconsin group, above mentioned, represent lizards, birds and other animals. Hundreds of them are in bluffs overlooking the Mississippi river, and there are hundreds more across the river in Iowa. They are supposed to be emblematic and to stand for the "totems" of different clans. Thus the bear clan built mounds in the shape of a bear, the snake clan chose the form of a serpent, and so on. Some of these mounds were sites for council-houses. The biggest and most celebrated snake mound is in Licking county, Ohio.

BOOKS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

What is your favorite book? "Little Women," Louisa May Alcott's story of childhood life in New England, heads the list of twenty-five "best books" for country school children in the first to eighth grades, as chosen by the American Library Association and the National Educational Association.

"Alice in Wonderland" comes second; "Robinson Crusoe," third; "Tom Sawyer," fourth, and "Treasure Island," was fifth.

The remainder of the list follows: Nicolay, "Boy's Life of Abraham Lincoln;" Kipling, "Jungle Book;" Andersen, "Fairy Tales;" "Aesop's Fables;" Pyle, "Merry Adventures of Robin Hood;" Lamb, "Tales from Shakespeare;" Malory, "Boy's King Arthur;" Van Loon, "Story of Mankind;" Wiggin, "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm;" Stevenson, "Bartley Edey;" "Home Book of Verse for Young Folks;" Dickens, "Christmas Carol;" Irving, "Rip Van Winkle;" "Mother Goose;" Doige, "Hans Brinker;" Hagedorn, "Boy's Life of Theodore Roosevelt;" Hawthorne, "Wonder Book;" Sexton, "Wild Animals I Have Known;" and the "Arabian Knights."

Senator Stanley quotes—he does not make himself responsible for the figures—the statement that 15,000,000 persons in this country are living on taxes. Two tax-payers support one tax eater. The figures may be high, but the number of persons supported by the Federal and local governments are enormous and the Senator is quite right in saying that it is due to the extension of the government in every direction. We are becoming a bureaucracy. We are governed by commissions. We are putting on the government a lot of duties that we should perform ourselves, or that ought not to be performed at all, and of course we have to pay roundly for it. President Harding and Governor Miller, of New York, have recently emphasized this.

Suitable Answer.

"Now, boys, I have a few questions to ask in regard to fractions," said a teacher. "Suppose I have a piece of beefsteak, and cut it into sixteen pieces, what would those pieces be called?"

"Sixteenths," answered one boy after meditating a moment.

"Very good. And when the sixteenths were cut in half, what would they be?" There was silence in the class; but presently a little boy at the bottom put up his hand. "Do you know, Johnny?" "Hash!" answered Johnny confidently.

STATE HEALTH INSPECTORS BUSY IN MINERS CAMPS.

Fifteen cases of typhoid fever have developed in miners camp No. 2, located near Palmer's mines, German township, Fayette county. State Health Department nurses have been sent to the camp and the county medical director, Dr. O. R. Altman, is giving these people medical attention.

124 people are living in this camp and at the time of the first inspection by sanitary engineers of the State Health Department, on July 28th, water and sewerage conditions were found to be bad. Water had to be carried from two springs in a nearby village, and as the springs had been condemned by the department engineers, the people were told to boil it. A follow-up inspection on August 1st found conditions better, yet a few days later typhoid was upon them and as most of the cases were walking about when the Health Department people got there, it is believed that before the outbreak can be stopped other cases will develop incident to infection dating back a week or more. The foreigner does not become "sick in bed" until he is no longer able to stand up.

Sanitary engineers of the department have inspected 70 camps occupied by families of 621 miners, totaling 3704 individuals. In 41 camps

the water supply was bad; in 50 the sewage disposal inadequate, and in 2 there were general unsanitary conditions. In every instance the labor leaders are helping to secure good water and proper sewage disposal. In addition to the organized camps there are single families here and there living in pitched tents, and miners who own their own homes take other families in, producing serious overcrowding. The State Health Commissioner says the people living in tents are better off. They, at least get plenty of fresh air and it is possible for sanitary officers to keep a close watch for the appearance of sickness.

Doctors Lead in Suicides.

Physicians head the list of suicides for 1921 in the United States, among all the professions, according to a table published in the current issue of the New York Medical Week. The number of doctors who committed suicide in 1921 is given as 86. Judges are second, with a total of 57, followed by 37 bank presidents. Twenty-one clergymen killed themselves, 10 editors, 7 mayors and 7 members of Legislatures. The writer considers these figures an indication that the occupational strain is greater in the medical profession than in any other.

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