

Gambler's Superstitions.
BETTING ONLY WHEN THE ODDS ARE GOOD-BANKING ON THE ADVICE OF A FORTUNE TELLER AND WINNING.
"No, I'm not betting to-day," was the reply of a sporting man in answer to an inquiry from another of his ilk whether he had bought any pools on the races.

"Busted?" was the laconic query.
"No but I laid one of my shoes up this morning. It's a bad sign. It'll let 'em alone to-day."
"Are you superstitious?"
"Frankly confess that I am," he replied, as he lit a cigar, "and I don't know of a sporting man or gambler that is not superstitious, and, furthermore, I do not believe there is a human being living who is not. Of course, some are more than others, but take gamblers and horsemen as a class, and you will find them on each one as his own peculiar pool. Now this morning I laid my shoe up wrong. If I had left it that way it would have been a lucky day for me, but I did not. I unlaced it, and I'll bet two to one if I bought a pool on a horse he would break his neck before he came under the string."

"That's quite interesting. Would you mind giving me some of your experiences? What do you consider a lucky omen?"
"You want to know what I call a lucky omen, eh? That's just as the luck strikes me. When I was in New York last summer I used to count white horses. Say I would be standing at the corner of Fulton street and Broadway. I would take out my watch-when I had one-and time myself and count the number of white horses that crossed from Broadway into Fulton street in five minutes' time. I sometimes would go on the odd numbers, and sometimes on the even. Like this: If I made up my mind on even horses and an even number went by during the five minutes, then I would be lucky and vice versa.

"I have heard of gamblers visiting fortune tellers for tips. Do you ever visit them?"
"Many a time, sir. Here's one instance: I am a red-hot Republican, and was backing Jim Blaine to shool and gone, when I went one day to see a fortune teller. He said 'You have been making foolish bets; go and bet the other way all that you have-all the money you can get or borrow.' I told her I was betting on Blaine, and she said 'Wait.' Then went into another room and came out in about a minute. 'Celestial will be elected an sure as you sit in that chair, but he will never serve his term out.' That was a paralyzer, but I took stock in it, for she never fooled me in her life. I hedged and bet on Grover, all on her account, and made \$2000 clear above my hedge and of Kelly the bookmaker.

"Here's another instance: From the same woman I had been playing in hard luck till I only had \$12 left. I went to her and told her how I was fixed, and that I wanted a tip on the races. She told me to read the names of the horses to her. I did so, and when I got through the list she said, 'Bliford is the only one I am sure of; bet your money on Tilford.' I went down to the track, and when the horses went to the post there were only four tickets on him. This was a bonanza, you know if he won. I bought one \$5 ticket. The track was a regular duck pond, although I am sure of it. Bliford came in last. Oh, I forgot; he was entered for two races that day. The next race he was in I heard that Mike Daly, who owned him, wanted to scratch him, but the judges wouldn't have it. That wasn't very encouraging, but I stuck to him and put my last five dollars on him. He didn't ever jump and brought him in a winner by two lengths. I got \$500 odd dollars for my \$5 ticket. So much for fortune-tellers' tips. Some fortune-tellers are snide, but take one educated, or that has it naturally born in them, and they get very accurate in their 'tips.' In ten gambles with cards do you?"

"Oh yes; I make my living as a sporting man."
"Does your superstition affect you in playing cards?"
"Indeed, if I am going to play cards for money I always hunt up a beggar and give him some money for luck. I have walked sometimes two miles to find a beggar, but I don't have to do it here. There is one on every corner. I know a gambler in New York who goes daily to an Italian on Greene street, who has these little fortunes who tell fortunes by pulling an envelope out of a pack. He always follows the advice of the bird, and I have actually seen him shed tears over some of the slips he got-not from grief, but from vexation-if it went against his grain."

"Have you ever been at any of the European gambling resorts?"
"O-h, yes. I was at Monaco."
"Who does the thing work there?"
"O-h, the same there as anywhere else. I suppose when you were a boy at school and chose sides for town ball you tossed up for innings by spitting on a stick and calling 'wet or dry?' for choice, haven't you?"
"Very much to-day."

"Ha, ha! Well one evening I did the same thing at Monaco. I threw up a stick and called 'dry' and dry it was. I went and played roulette. I quit 20,000 francs winner at midnight. I have had gamblers tell me that they acquired the habit of trying their luck in different ways, but I claim it's not a habit-it's nature, born in a man, and it never comes out. Why, I know dozens of people who laugh at superstition, that will have a regular case of the dumps if they see the new moon over their right shoulders for the first time. They think if they see it over their left shoulders and made a wish they will get their wish."

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An old sea Captain says he gets sick every time he crosses the ocean. It is inferred that although he may never have written anything for the Century, he contributed to the Atlantic, mouthily-Truth.

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ODD ITEMS.
He who waits to do a great deal of good at once will never do anything.

ODD ITEMS.
Mexican cigar dealers charge a higher rate by the box than for single cigars.

ODD ITEMS.
The wise clerk never runs counter to his employer's wishes.

ODD ITEMS.
A two-dollar clock is better ordered than a million-dollar corporation.

ODD ITEMS.
Fowlersville, Mich., has fifty widows and three widowers.

ODD ITEMS.
It is said that 100,000,000 oranges will be gathered from the groves of California this season.

ODD ITEMS.
Thirteen million sheep are said to have died in New South Wales within the last three years for want of water.

ODD ITEMS.
Seekers for glacial wonders must soon find them on this continent.

ODD ITEMS.
A Georgia man who recently died at ninety-seven could lift a barrel containing thirty gallons of whiskey and drink from the bugholes and handle a 45 pound bale of cotton as if it were a baby.

ODD ITEMS.
F. B. Walker, the richest man in Minnesota, taught school in Minneapolis 18 years ago for \$9 a month.

ODD ITEMS.
They have fog so dense in Pittsburgh that the citizens use them to stuff pillows and mattresses with.

ODD ITEMS.
It may seem paradoxical, but striking blacksmiths are among the most industrious of men.

ODD ITEMS.
An eminent chemist has discovered what fluid it is that most resembles the hair of a negro.

ODD ITEMS.
This is a good time to draw your money out of the bank.

ODD ITEMS.
One man wants whiskey in a drug store. Another wants soda in a drug store.

ODD ITEMS.
"I've run a piece of wood under my finger nail," said an old married man to his wife.

ODD ITEMS.
Under the head of "Business Maxims" an exchange says: "Don't cover too much ground."

ODD ITEMS.
A tramp who was driven from the house by an irate party with a club, remarked that such conduct was most ungentlemanly.

ODD ITEMS.
"I am surprised at the appearance of your friend B. He looks wretched. Do you know if he has been disappointed in love?"

ODD ITEMS.
"I wonder what makes these buttons burst off so?" Dora peevishly exclaimed.

ODD ITEMS.
A fashion item says sealskin jackets are rapidly going out of fashion.

ODD ITEMS.
A dilatory bride, who, upon arrival at the church, found that the bridegroom had been married to the first bridesmaid, remarked philosophically.

ODD ITEMS.
Washington is an excellent market for old mahogany furniture.

SYMPTOMS OF DYSPEPSIA.
Are loss of appetite, rising of food, heartburn, indigestion, etc.

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