

GAMBLING RAGE SEEMS INBORN

Women in All Ages Have Been Noted for Their Passion for Play.

ANCIENT AND MODERN MANNERS

Lovely Woman Was Less Discreet in Former Days, but the Spirit of Speculation is Still Strong Among Eve's Daughters—Noble Cheats, and Celebrated Beauties Who Thought Nothing of Favoring the Fickle Goddess with Their Devotions.

For the Saturday Tribune.

Gambling by women at the horse races is the more modern form in which the gambling instinct of the sex finds expression. Every now and then a little whirl of scandal at gaming and of play for high stakes in high life is blown to us across the ocean. In these cases the women are much concerned as the men. Indeed the love of play is as strong in women as in men. It was only the other day that a woman who had lost heavily at the races tried to commit suicide by jumping into the river.

In Monte Carlo the feminine clients frequent the Casino with an avidity quite equal to that of the men and linger at this spot of fascination till they lose sums that astound even the millionaire on the west. Here may be seen in most democratic relation aristocratic old dowagers from England answering to the description of "The Queen's Lady" in German courtesses, French marquises, Russian princesses, Italian ladies of quality and gay dressed women that one sees on the boulevards of Paris, each eagerly staking gold on the red or black, anxiously watching the croupier, and sometimes appropriating in their voracious excitement another player's chips.

Besides the women gamblers in this country and in England there are professional women bookmakers and poolroom keepers. Their customers are exclusively women. In society there are scores of women who play poker for money, and many other women who would like to play, but lack the courage. Another favorite form of gambling by women is stock speculation.

The most noted woman gambler among the royal set was Queen Isabella of Spain. She has often lost and won large sums. History proves that she was a woman of notable personage who has taken pleasure in this pursuit. In ancient Greece and Rome the dice were in great favor, and the Italians of the middle ages were great



MME. DE MONTESPAN.

gamblers. In England and France it was not until the sixteenth century that the gambling mania attacked the women with any severity. Henry IV would play with any one he happened to meet with, and as the king and his courtiers played every day the ladies, whom he could never bear out of his sight, took part in these games likewise, and the queen herself, during her various illnesses, used to invite the Marshal de Bassompierre into her apartments to play at hazard for money to pass away the tedious hours of convalescence.

Marie de Medici was an encourager of gaming, and during her regency after the death of Henry IV the rage for gambling became more violent, and ladies of high rank were not ashamed to open gambling houses, and even to cheat when they could not win otherwise. One French countess was discovered by a friend cheating her tradesmen and women whom she had invited to play with her. She replied, on being questioned, "Why, I only cheat them of what they are always cheating me."

In the first years of Louis XIV wives robbed their husbands and daughters plucked the pockets of their parents to gratify the propensity to the game of "hoca," and when many families were ruined by this means the king forbade the game in Paris on pain of death. It was allowed at Versailles, however, and one morning the queen lost 20,000 crowns.

The frenzied play of Mme. de Montespan has become proverbial in France as "La Jeu de la Montespan." At her house she was known to risk 1,000,000 francs (\$200,000) on one hand alone. When no one dared to cover her high stakes, she grumbled, and the king shared her annoyance. One Christmas evening she lost 700,000 crowns, and on three cards won back 150,000 crowns (\$30,000). One night three months later she lost 400,000 pistoles (\$800,000), and then luckily won them back again.

Louis XV was cooling in his affections for her about this time and abolished hoca, the favorite game of the famous Montespan, but she found other ways of depleting his purse, and her high play continued until 1682, when she lost sums amounting to more than \$1,000,000 at "hoca."

Louis XV indulged his favorites as his predecessor had done. In the next reign female gamblers, though perhaps not more extravagant than before, yet caused more scandal. Faro was played in the queen's apartments at very high stakes. Both she and the Comte d'Artois lost enormous sums, and many of the courtiers were entirely ruined. At last no one would play at court for fear of being ruined, and to find partners and opponents the queen was soon led to admit the worst society.

In England things had been nearly as bad. Elizabeth was no gambler, but when the Stuarts succeeded the throne play ran high. Henrietta Maria, the wife of Charles I, inherited the gambling tastes of her father.

In 1797 Lady Buckinghamshire, a very notorious gambler, got into trouble with the city authorities, being convicted with the lady Luttrell and Mrs. Sturt at the police court and fined \$500 for playing at faro. Henry Martindale was also fined \$200 for keeping the faro table at Lady Buckinghamshire's, and the same lady slept with a blunderbuss and a pair of pistols at her side every night in order to protect her faro bank. Enough has been said to show that when a woman once acquires a fondness for gaming it soon amounts to a mania.

Never Heard of Delaware.

Chief of Police William J. Blackburn, of Wilmington, Del., relates an incident of a visit to Detroit during the Grand Army encampment. He ran over to a Canadian

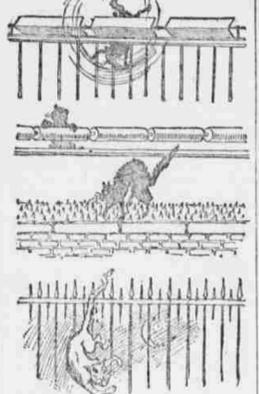
town of 10,000 inhabitants. "I walked into the police headquarters there," he says, "presented my card to the chief and signed a greeting in return. The chief looked at the card, examined it on both sides and said, 'Delaware, eh?' I nodded in the affirmative. 'That's a new state, ain't it?' he asked innocently. 'No,' I said, 'Delaware was the first state to sign the constitution.' 'Is that so?' he returned again; 'we never heard of it out here.'"—Philadelphia Ledger.

ANTI-CAT CONTRIVANCES

Inventions Designed to Discourage Nocturnal Feline Conventions on Back Fences.

One of the greatest trials of city life, particularly in hot weather, is the nightly conventions of musical cats on backyard fences, and sundry inventive geniuses have displayed no little ingenuity in devising schemes to abate the nuisance. One contrivance which has been erected on a back fence consists of a system of revolving paddles, which, turning in the wind, offer absolutely no foothold to the cat's paws. Each wheel, or paddle, is two feet long and has three flukes. As soon as a cat steps on one arm or fluke it recedes from under him, and the next one coming around strikes a blow which deposits him on the outside of the fence.

Another man has a system of rollers, such as are used in window curtains. The principle is much the same as in the fore-



CONCENTRATION OF ANTI-CAT CONTRIVANCES

going, offering no resistance to the cat's feet in mounting the fence. The trouble with this, however, is that the more knowing cats learn that by mounting at the point where the roller ends touch each other a footing may be found between the uprights in which the rollers revolve.

An electrician has alluded to the fence top two long strips of copper. Between them he has placed a long strip of wood in such a manner that the cat will be forced to tread on both strips of metal. To these is attached an electric battery. Then the electrician waits at his window—and it is said he is losing sleep through his diabolical machine—until the cats mount the fence. At the proper moment he presses the button, and it is then hard to tell which makes the most noise—the laughter of the man or the howling of the cats.

Various kinds of cat teasers are manufactured in a regular way. One style, which is made of tin, is designed to be laid on the fence top. It has numerous rows of sharp points sticking from it, and they offer a sharp barrier to feline footsteps. Another and more old-fashioned device is to place a row of sharp spikes along the fence top.

HEROISM IN WHALES

Numerous Instances Where Whales Have Died For Love.

Heroic affection is about the last quality the average landlubber would look for in a whale, and yet Captain Scoresby has witnessed numbers of incidents where it was conspicuously displayed. He relates how one of his harpooners, having struck a young whale in order to secure the mother, saw her instantly rise, wrap her flippers round her young one and descend, dragging about 600 feet of line out of the boat, with marvelous force and velocity. Again she rose to the surface, darted furiously to and fro, frequently stopped short or suddenly changed her direction, giving every possible intimation of agony. The boat continued to pursue her closely for a length of time, while she, poor creature, seemed utterly regardless of the dangers which surrounded her. At last one of the boats approached so near that a harpoon was thrown at her, then a second harpoon, and a third. Still she did not attempt to escape, but allowed the other boats to approach, so that more harpoons were attached, till in the course of an hour the poor animal was killed. Though there was something painful in the deliberate destruction of a creature evincing such heroic affection for her offspring, yet this feeling of compassion quickly gave way to the object of the adventure, the value of the prize and the exciting joy of the capture.

The fidelity of the male and female whale to each other exceeds that of most animals. Anderson, in his "History of Greenland," mentions that some fishermen having struck one of two whales, a male and female that were in company together, the wounded creature made a long and terrible resistance. With a single blow of his tail it upset a boat containing three men, by which they all went to the bottom. When another boat came up, the other whale still remained by its companion and lent every assistance, till at last the wounded victim sank under the number and severity of its wounds, while its faithful partner, unable to survive his loss, stretched herself upon the dead body of her mate and calmly shared its fate.



WITH A BLOW OF ITS TAIL.

How a Bird Gets Light. The baby bird of India spends his nights catching fireflies, with which he plasters his nest. The bird does not kill the fly, but simply attaches it to his nest by means of a piece of moist clay. On a dark night a baby's nest has the appearance of an electric street lamp.—St. Louis Republic.

Who He Liked Best.

The other day a conversation took place between two little children, a girl of seven and a boy of five. Girl (wishing to show her superior knowledge)—Which do you like best, Queen Victoria or Washington? Boy (simply)—I love mamma.—Cor. Bailyhood.

Simple Cure for Ringworms. For the removal of ringworms there is a remedy that is infallible. It is the milk from the stem of a fresh fig. The milk of a lettuce stalk is also said to be good for ringworms and discolorations of the skin.

REAL ROMANCE IN SUNNY SPAIN

It Concerns Buranda, the Celebrated Sevillian Matador, and Maid Machado.

ONE RESULT OF A BULL FIGHT

The Fickle Maiden Clings to the Matador in Adversity, and Defeat in the Arena Emphasizes Victory in Love—An Elopement to the New World Which Partakes of a Yellow Backed Novel.

For the Saturday Tribune.

Buranda, the matador! Make your profoundest salamm. Shade your eyes, for he comes as gallantly dressed as the gold pheasant of the Himalayas. He carries a long, two edged sword, the blade of which, with a salute, he will bury to its hilt between the shoulders of the charging bovine and retire, wiping the sweat fastidiously with silken stuffs from China. A proud, imperious cock, this matador, Buranda. The mayor has toasted his bravery, and he remembers the fact.

Such had been the glories of his career that he might have retired from the ring financially secure for life and with hundreds to sell. But no! There was one, a dusky creature with cheeks like the sunny side of a nectarine, with fire in her eyes bulged for burning the soul of the vaunted Buranda or any other matador in Spain. She was the daughter of Machado, who, with a mazy family tree, swore by a Castilian descent that his tender slip, his "alma mia," should never devote herself to a bullfighter.

But the little Machado, who, since her babyhood, had toddled, crept, walked and glided to a perfect bud of a woman without the care of a mother, had different views of the great hidden love that she loved him, but that she was designed for him. So ran the logic of her dissenting brain, and, moreover, she should eventually be with him at any cost.

Now for the amphitheater. Ah, there they come! The chullillos, with their red cloths, flying gaily as girls around a May pole. Another wave of applause spreads over the sea of faces and dashes down the high board wall of the ring. The pleaders ride. They center up to the box of his mayors and have their spears adusted.

Another door is opened, and a huge black bull, whose hide hides the polished steel, makes his debut at the stall entrance to the arena.

Before the chullillos can attract his attention his head is thrown down, and he charges madly at the mount nearest him. "Envol!" shout the crowd, for his horns are hurled lightly in the animal's breast, and an instant later horse and rider, in spite of repeated spearing, go over the bull's back and roll in the dust, the former never to rise again, and the latter to roll over and over unharmed. Before the bull can charge upon the fallen man, he sees another enemy—a horse—and makes for him. Corral! He repeats the dose elegantly. The crowd grows furious. Not a handclap with its bawled point has as yet been sunk in this bull's neck. Another, still another, and not until eight horses are mangled to death in the dust does our Andalusian stop for breath. The crowd is rising to a man with waving hands. Into the middle of the pit goes the bull, and with his head high as well as his tail, stands at bay surveying the field with the defiance of a gladiator.



ALFREDO BURANDA.

The gaudy Buranda has stepped out of his retreat and is making his regular perfunctory speech to the mayor. It has been answered by his excellency, and the hero of 100 bull fights faces his foe. The bandoliers flourish for once, but are disposed of. Lifting his sword lightly from his sheath he advances toward the bull, shaking a crimson cloth in his left hand. The gauntlet has been thrown down. An instant of thrilling suspense, and the bull has taken it up. With a bellows his horns are lowered, and he comes like an avalanche at his combatant.

On comes the bull, but the matador steps quickly to one side and drives his weapon at the vital spot between his shoulders. For some reason the face of the little Machado is hot with anger and shame. Her hands clutch madly, and her blood red lips are convulsively drawn. What can have happened? The great mass of people are hissing. They are pouring down upon upon the head of Buranda! Not until this minute did she love him, and she reverts the insults.

"Vive le toro!" shout the people. They are surging about in a maelstrom of excitement. "Vive le toro!" shout they—long live the bull!

The stab had been ill starred and neither combatant was hurt. Buranda withdraws. The demand has been acceded to, and a bovine of tame oxen walk in and persuade the triumphant bull to go back to his stall. Buranda, a wiser man, walks gloomily away. No sooner has he gained his severance than a slight form is near him. They sit in the dusk among the magnolias and plight their troth. She agrees to meet him in Cuba.

He stopped for a season in Havana and was disappointed. The little Machado does not come. Desperately he sailed for Vera Cruz and immediately went into the ring.

Two years after a circus visited that city. Buranda stood before a cage of lions, with one hand on his heart and one on his dirk. He trembled and staggered like a drunken man. Looking into the cage you might see a pretty, little, dark skinned lion tamer—a woman. As Buranda looked it is the Machado! They were married and lived like doves in the old Mexican city until they quarreled. With her little girl the wife left the Vera Cruz matador and went to New York, where she taught music for a livelihood.

The daughter married after her mother's death and now lives in Cincinnati, according to The Engineer of that city. Buranda is still living in Vera Cruz and is still in the arena.

When a Chinaman wants to be revenged on an enemy, he goes and hangs himself on the door of the enemy's house, believing it will bring him bad luck.

BUTCHERY DONE IN LAW'S NAME

Some of the Atrocities of the Chinese System of Punishment.

DECAPITATION BY WHOLESALE

Here is a View of the Chinese Character Which Indicates That the Subjects of the Son of Heaven Cannot So Easily Be Disposed of by Their Japanese Adversaries—A Revolting Scene at Canton—Pictures in a Thrilling Manner by a White-Faced Correspondent.

For the Saturday Tribune.

I am inclined to think that nobody can claim to have an adequate and accurate appreciation of Chinese character who has not witnessed a Chinese execution, writes a Canton correspondent. This is not difficult to do at Canton, for the river swarms with pirates, and when these gentry are caught they generally get a short shrift.

A few floggings to begin with, then several months in prison, and it is not necessary to explain that a Chinese prison is, with little to eat and a stiff course of torture, and then one fine morning a "short, sharp shock" at the execution ground.

The execution is fixed for 4:30, so at 4 the guide comes for us at Shampan, the foreign quarter of Canton, and our chairs carry us rapidly through the noisy alleys of the native city. The execution ground is a bare space, 50 yards long by a dozen wide, between two houses, whose blank walls hound it on three sides. There is no platform, no roped off space, nothing but this bare bit of dirty ground, so crowded with Chinese, that we are forced into the middle, not more than four feet from whatever is to take place. It is no use to try to get farther off—here we are, and here we must stop.

Suddenly the gates are thrown open, and, welcomed by a howl of delight from the crowd, a strange and ghastly procession comes tramping. First a few ragged, mud-soaked soldiers, making a fine pretense of clearing the way. Then a file of coolies carrying the victims in small, shallow baskets slung to bamboo poles. As soon as each pair reaches the middle of the space



THE AUTOMATIC HANGING MACHINE.

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