

THE COCK FIGHT.

A practical joke was played near thirty years ago at a cocking main in Havana, by some sailors belonging to an American man-of-war. The sailors had been betting and losing, day after day, at the cock pit, which was the amusement that they most affected, until they were all left without a cent. In that plight the sailors were when the man-of-war was ordered off to San Francisco. A number of months afterwards the vessel returned to Havana and the Jack Tars had fully matured a scheme for vengeance. Drawing all of their pay and borrowing all the money they could in addition, at the first shore-leave they started for the cock pit, carrying with them their gold and a bag, about which they preserved a great deal of mystery. Some of the ship's officers surmising that something was in the wind, followed, but not even to them was the sailors' secret divulged. Scarcely had they reached the pit when an excited Spaniard sprang into the little arena, where a battle had just ended. Under his left arm he carried a magnificent game cock, in his right hand he flourished a bag of doubloons, and he yelled forth a challenge on behalf of his bird against anything that wore feathers.

No other challenger could have been half so welcome to the sailors, for during their former unhappy experience he had been their *bete noir*, raking in their gold pieces almost as fast as they could bet them. His verbose and grandiloquent defiance was staked, and the American shook their champion out of the mysterious bag. A nondescript creature it was, with a great, solid body, roughly covered with chicken feathers and tar, its wings and tail clipped, its head broad and adorned with a keen curved beak, with long, sharp talons at the ends of its toes, instead of gaffs upon its legs. Despite its strange half-disguise, the officers recognized it at once as an American eagle. But the Spaniards knew nothing about it, and the one who had made the match was furious, deeming himself insulted by the pitting of such a miserable-looking creature against his splendid fowl. The alcalde ordered, however, that the fight should take place, according to the terms of the challenge, and the Spaniard tossed his bird into the pit. It was ready to fight of course, for a game-cock of good blood would not hesitate to attack a bird as big as the fabled roc. So, the first notice the "American game chicken," as the sailors had christened their bird, received of the presence of an enemy was a fierce attack. He calmly looked down upon the game cock strutting threateningly before him. The sailors were not without anxiety lest the keen gaffs might settle their eagle before he got warmed up to his work, but fear was quickly dispelled. The game-cock dashed forward again. In less than a second the Spaniard's witness an astounding sight. The "American chicken" placidly stretched out one great claw, seized his antagonist by the head, drew him up, and, applying the other claw to his body, tore his head off with a single pull. Then he proceeded to eat him. A storm of imprecations and shouts of astonishment rent the air, but the sailors were too well armed and too numerous for the Spaniards, and so they got their money and returned aboard ship, laden with more gold than they ever before had, and carrying their champion in triumph.

The following paragraphs, intended to have been printed separately, were some blunder, so arranged that they read consecutively in a Parisian: "Dr.—has been appointed physician to the Hospital de la Charite." "Orders have been issued by the authorities for the immediate extension of the Cemetery of Mount Marianne; the works are being executed with the utmost dispatch."

"What gender is sugar?" asked a scholar of the grammar class. "What is of sugar?" asked a boy. "What is it?" repeated the teacher. "What does that do with it?" "Why, if it's the sugar it's feminine gender," said the boy. "Why feminine gender?" asked the teacher, with a puzzled face. "Because you can't tell its gender," promptly replied the boy.—*Daily News.*

"I understand you have accepted a situation as governess. Rather than that I would marry a widower with six children." "Yes, dear Sophy, so would I; but where is the lover?"

A happy Chicago maiden affirms that by placing a lover in the rays of a glass window he can be made to propose at one sitting. She has done so and proved it herself. A white-haired woman, who was told to keep hot coals upon the heads of her nieces, not having any hot coals and squinting a lot of pepper sauce in the eyes of her next-door neighbor.

A match has probably been spoiled by the schoolmaster who whipped the girl to whom he was engaged, who now sues him for breach of promise.

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The following is an extract from a description of Vineland, published in the New York Tribune, by the well-known Agriculturist, Sonon Robinson:

All the farmers were of the "well-to-do" sort, and some of them, who have turned their attention to fruits and market gardening, have grown rich. The soil is loam, varying from sandy to clayey, and surface gently undulating, intersected with small streams and occasional wet meadows. In which deposits of peat or muck are stored, sufficient to fertilize the whole upland surface, after it has been exhausted of its natural fertility.

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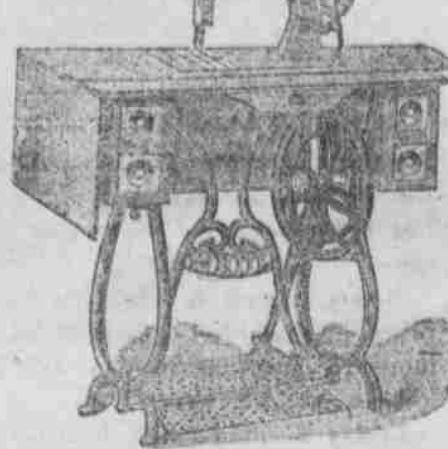
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