

Sharp Card Sharper.

A gentleman was witness, a few days ago, to a sharp trick at cards on a passenger train on one of our Western railroads noted for the favor in which three-card monte men and other card-sharps hold it. A well-dressed, clerical-looking gentleman had attracted a crowd of gaping passengers around him by a number of ingenious and skillfully executed tricks with a pack of playing cards, and, at last, shuffling the cards several times and slapping them down on his knee, he said: "I'll bet any man in the crowd that I can cut the jack of diamonds at the first attempt." Every one hung back suspiciously, until a green, gawky-looking individual, with hay-need in his hair, pushed forward. "Mister," he questioned, "may I take a squint at them keards?" "Certainly," replied the professional, as he handed them over. The man inspected them suspiciously, and then, apparently satisfied, returned them, but did not take the bet. "The cards are all right, aren't they?" the professional asked. "Ya'as, I guess they'd suit me," the other said hesitatingly. "Why don't you take my bet then?" "Waal, I don't know; I ain't much of a bettin' man." The professional saw that the man was more than half inclined to take him up, and to make sure of his game he said: "Come, I'll bet \$10 to \$5, \$15 to \$20 to \$25!" "Blamed if I don't take ye!" exclaimed the man, after a moment's hesitation, and, diving into his pocket he drew out a strip of calico (apparently a sample to show his girl), some confectionery, a plug of tobacco, several horseshoe nails, and, lastly, a dyspeptic-looking leather wallet, from which he extracted a greasy looking five dollar greenback, which he placed in the hands of a bystander. The professional speedily covered the deposit with a twenty fresh from Uncle Sam's printing bureau, and then thoroughly shuffling the cards as a prelude, he grasped the pack firmly in one hand, and producing a sharp pocket knife he actually cut every card in the pack in two. "There," he exclaimed, triumphantly, "haven't I cut the jack of diamonds?" "I'll be eternally swallowed if you have!" replied the other man, producing the veritable card from his sleeve, whither he had dextrously conveyed it while pretending to examine the cards. The man quietly pocketed the stakes and the professional slunk off into another car.

A female Justice of the Peace in Wyoming Territory was obliged to hear a case of a scandalous character, in which her husband filled the very unenviable position of defendant. She sentenced him to be hanged by the neck until dead, and was anxious to have the sentence carried into effect at once, until the attorneys explained to her that she was sitting simply as an examining court. She then held him in bonds of \$18,000,000, to await the action of the Grand Jury, and she said she would shoot the first man full of holes that attempted to raise the surties.

The theatrical critic of the San Francisco Call, speaking of Soldene's leave taking of her friends on board the Australian Steamer, said: "She wore a smile on her face to the whole of which no single mortal could lay claim," and A. G. Bierce, of the Argonaut, added: "It is believed that had her friends entirely encompassed her, the lady's head would have come off." Happily, the interposition of the mainmast preserved a slender isthmus of skin about the cervical vertebrae."

When a woman slips at the head of the stairs and falls over herself, and finally fetches up at the bottom, the first hard work she does is to reach for her back hair; but a man under the same circumstances reaches for the place where the backbone leaves off, and delivers a few remarks upon the sublimity of the occasion that we wouldn't print for \$14, unless he would send his name along as a guarantee of good faith.

Lampasas Springs, Texas, is the popular watering place of the Lone Star State, and it is a nice place to rest. A lot of horsemen rushed in there the other day, giving the Comanche war-whoop, and when they left three dead men ornamented the street. As a Summer resort Lampasas has few equals.

The Virginia Gazette, discussing the political situation, cries: "Set aside the small merchant and self-appointed leaders. Give us a giant!" Gentleman, some of you hold our coat. Now, then, what do you want done first?—Hawk-Eye.

A woman in Rome, Oneida county, who was not invited to the wedding of a neighbor, stole the wedding cake through the pantry window, and distributed it freely among the crowd which had assembled in front of the house.

Young man, beauty fades as the years go by. Don't fall in love with a woman simply because she's got a pretty face. Remember that a wealthy father-in-law is better than the richest damsel in seven States.

Alexis has been presented with a sword for his bravery. The full list of the battles in which he has engaged will be engraved on the point of the weapon.

The young gentleman who flew into passion has had his wings clipped.

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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, Solon 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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