

A FAMOUS GAMESTER.

Amazing Skill of Captain John Scott at Whist.

HIS RAPID ROAD TO WEALTH.

The Winnings of the "Gentleman Gambler" at White's, in London, in the Eighteenth Century Exceeded \$5,000,000—Fox's Reckless Play.

All the gentlemen gamblers at the close of the eighteenth century in England a single one is noted for his industry and the regularity of his winnings. This was John Scott, who, beginning as a penniless captain, wound up his career as a millionaire general. On the subject of the campaigns he conducted history is silent, but contemporary London was full of talk of his marvelous luck with dice and cards, and the marvellous fortunes of his later life gave more material for the gossips.

Writing to Richard Bentley from Arlington street on Feb. 25, 1755, Horace Walpole says:

"The great event is the catastrophe of Sir John Bland, who has flitted away his whole fortune at hazard. He ought to have been in the habit of playing an immense sum to a Captain Scott, who at present has nothing but a few debts and his commission."

Sir John Bland, to conclude here the history of that luckless dicer, shot himself dead, after losing the last of his fortune, in the year 1755.

Captain John Scott was of that branch of the numerous Scott family of which Sir Walter was a member, and his ancestor in the thirteenth century was that famous chemist, Michael Scott, who won the name of wizard. A later Scott distinguished himself in the time of Charles II. by marrying, when he was himself only fourteen years old, a lady who was three years his junior. The bride was Mary, countess of Buccleuch, in her own right the richest heiress in Scotland. Her marriage was a source of grief to none of the friends and few of her family were informed of it until the day after. The youthful bridegroom did not profit greatly by this match, for his bride died at thirteen. Her sister Anne, who succeeded to her estate, entered into a marriage with the pet son of Charles II., Monmouth, and had a numerous family.

It was sixty years later, or about 1750, that young Scott, son of the laird of Scott's Torvet, entered King George's army. Two years later he was in London and in the list of the most successful set of spendthrifts, rakes and gamblers that English society has ever known. Sir John Bland was only one of a thousand rich young Englishmen who threw away fortunes over the gaming table at White's. The one historic loser of this class was the Duke of Devonshire, who, in the year 1750, gambled away his fortune at White's. Fox gambled away, all told, no less than \$5,000,000. Scott was the very antipodes of Fox. When he died, at a ripe old age, he left a fortune as great as that with which Fox had begun, and every penny of it had been won at hazard. Fox was a ripe scholar. Scott was almost illiterate. Fox said that losing was the next greatest pleasure to winning. Scott never lost or so rarely that it did not affect the serenity of his career as a winner. Fox would go home in the morning after a great amount and he had gambled away £10,000 or £20,000 and immediately lose himself in a study of Sophocles or Æschylus. Scott, like the sensible fellow he was, would button his coat over the portmanteau in which he carried away winnings of an equal or even greater amount and immediately go to bed so as to be fresh for play in the evening.

When Scott found himself in London and amid the wild young men of his era, he determined that gaming was to be his chief occupation. He was not a man of great money. When he engaged himself to throw a series of mains with Sir John Bland, he had, as Horace Walpole puts it, nothing "but a few debts and his commission." His shrewdness taught him that there was nothing in dining, at which a stupor of the senses and a chance as a bright one, and so he speedily gave up hazard and applied himself to whist, at which game fortune fights on the side of the skillful player. Never in the history of play did men gamble for such high stakes as Scott and his victims did at White's between 1753 and 1750. Scott's system was an exceedingly simple one. He gave himself the best of it in every possible way. He never went to the gaming table unless his head and his stomach were in the very best order. He never lost his composure or his good nature for an instant. He played a perfectly fair and honorable game, and at first he made it a rule never to play for more than a fixed sum, which he could afford to lose. He won so steadily that it was not long before he was prepared to risk any sum which even the wealthiest or the most reckless of his adversaries would venture to propose.

A story which illustrates capitally Scott's patience in the face of hard luck has been preserved. One night while he was at the card table news was brought to him that his wife, the first Mrs. Scott, had given birth to a girl.

"Ah," he said, "I shall have to do my best to make a fortune for this young lady."

But in a few hours he was £8,000 to the bad. Retaining his invincible serenity, he said he was sure of his luck returning, and at 7 a. m. he went home the winner of £15,000. That's the sort of play that went on at White's night after night during the years that John Scott was winning the largest fortune ever accumulated by a gentleman gambler.

She Didn't Sleep Well.
A woman who was invited to a town, while going to a convention in distant city, spent one night of the journey on board a steamboat. It was the first time she had ever traveled by water. She reached her friend's end extremely fatigued. To a friend who remarked that she looked tired, she replied: "Yes, I'm tired to death. I don't know that I care to travel by water again. I read the card in my state-room about how to put the life preserver on, and I thought I understood it. But I guess I didn't. Somehow I couldn't go to sleep with the thing on."—Ladies' Home Journal.

Consistently Henry's serenity that time he crossed the water must have touched his head a bit.

"Why so?"

"Well, here he wrote his diary: 'June 14.—Most everybody seeks, including myself. Saw two spoutin' whales.'"

"Don't see anything very lousy about that."

"Why, Abner Dobbs? Do you mean to tell me that you believe that any of them passengers had ever swallowed a whale?"—Life.

BETTING SYSTEMS.

Their Opponent Says He Can't Fight Human Nature.

No backer is deterred by the knowledge that the odds offered are mathematically unfair. His faith in the correctness of his judgment is a set-off against the restriction of his winnings. Against a horse he bets a man from risking a sovereign on a "good thing." Some twenty years ago I wrote in a journal now defunct an elaborate refutation of the notion that money can be made by systematic gambling. I gave an analysis of every known "system" and proved to the satisfaction of every mathematically trained intellect that systems were absurd. The paper—rather a serious organ—was in consequence bought largely by betting people, and hundreds tested the systems I had exposed. A compositor in the office of the paper actually made some \$350 or \$400 by following one of the systems and gave to his colleagues for the course. He was back long before the season finished.

The only cure for gambling is a persistent run of ill luck, resulting in the loss of capital. Even then the doctrine of chances suggests that "the turn must come." That is what lures the man with the gambling instinct. Some one must win. Why not I? It is his unanswerable objection to all arguments. It is curious, too, how the very arguments employed to prove the futility of betting have a knack of falling when put to the test of one or two experimental trials. I once by way of an object lesson, laid the mathematical odds against heads turning up five times consecutively. They ran nine times. It is true that I should have won scores of times if my opponent continued tossing, but he was satisfied that my mathematical illustration had failed, and argued if it failed once why not twice? I have decided not to publish the very elaborate manuscript I prepared on "The Folly of Systems" so long as human nature remains as it is.—Douglas Blackburn in London Review.

IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

What Happens When Two or More Peers Want to Speak at Once.

There are no more than a dozen peers or the entire peerage for that matter, rising and addressing the lord chancellor at the same time. The lord chancellor has no power to select the peer who shall speak. A lord chancellor's leg may be pulled, we imagine, but his cap cannot be caught. For all he can do two peers wishing to address the house and refusing to give way one to the other could stay on their feet until one of them dropped from exhaustion.

This is no exaggeration. Within living memory two peers engaged in an altercation which at first threatened to develop into a tiring down contest after the manner of Goldsmith's dancers. It happened in 1884 on a warm July day and was very entertaining while it lasted.

The two were Earl Granville and Lord Cairns. Both rose simultaneously to speak. The two peers stood facing each other at the table, and each tried to speak, while their partners kept shouting "Granville" and "Cairns" in an aristocratic manner. It must have sounded a little like a cup of tea, but Cairns was heard, and Lord Cairns, in a similar tone, moved that Lord Granville be heard.

A vote was taken, and Lord Granville won by a majority of one in a house of fifty-three excited peers. If the lord chancellor at any time finds himself confronted by two peers, but subordinate orators there is a precedent to fall back upon which may be found useful.—London News.

WALT WHITMAN.

Ways of the Poet Who Was Loved by All Who Knew Him.

This is the Walt Whitman who was known and loved by those who met him daily.

"After some conversation Whitman proposed a walk across to Philadelphia. Putting on his gray slouch hat, he sallied forth with evident leisure and, taking my arm as a support, walked slowly the best part of a mile to the ferry. Crossing the ferry was always a great pleasure to him. The life of the street and of the people was so near, so dear. The men on the ferry steamer were evidently old friends, and when we landed on the Philadelphia side we were before long surrounded by the man or woman selling fish at the corner of the street, the tramway conductor, the loafers on the pavement—a word of recognition from Walt or as often from the other first; presently a cheery shout from the top of a dray, and before we had gone many yards farther the driver was down and standing in front of us, his horses given to the care of some bystander. He was an old Broadway 'stager,' had not seen Walt for three or four years, and tears were in his eyes as he held his hand. We were now brought to a standstill, and others gathered round. George was ill, and Walt must go and see him. There was a message for the children, and in his pocket the poet discovered one or two packets for absent little ones. But for the moment he was in his own world. It was the others who spoke and apparently without reserve."

—Whitman as Carpenter Saw Him in Craftsman.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A Member May Drink There, but Is Not Allowed to Eat.

The British house of commons has its own code in regard to the partaking of liquid and solid refreshments. A member making a long speech may take a drink, and the house is liberal enough not to care whether the contents of the contents of the glass is white or brown or black, whether, in fact, the glass holds water or whisky or beer. Mr. Gladstone's egg flip, which his wife carefully compounded for him and he brought to the house in a bottle, are classic.

But when beside the man who scorns drink and must have meat. Contemporary recollection only recalls one member rash enough to disregard this rule. It was a number of years ago, in the stormy time of the home rule debates, that an Irish member, in the small hours of the morning, produced from his pocket a paper bag and drew out a bun, which he proceeded calmly to eat. The house was instantly in an uproar. There were loud cries of "Order! Order!" and that bun was never finished.

No member may read a newspaper. If he had the temerity to smoke, the sergeant at arms would quickly place him under lock and key. —Appleton's Magazine.

ANTIQUITY OF BEER.

This Beverage Was First Brewed by the Egyptians.

Beer is of great antiquity. It was manufactured first by the Egyptians and ancient Gauls. Beer was mentioned by the following ancient writers: Tacitus, Pliny, Xenophon and others. The Romans are supposed to have introduced the brewing of beer or ale, as it was then called, to the Britons, at the time of the latter's conquest by the former. The Britons continued the brewing of barley malt, calling it *calid*, until about 1524, when the Germans introduced the brewing of hops with the barley malt, calling it *beer*, or, in English, *beer*.

The history of the New England colonies shows that the Puritans were great beer drinkers and that for a long time every innkeeper made his own beer. In those years beer was the general and popular drink. In the colony of Massachusetts its retail price was fixed by law at a penny a quart. Its sale to Indians was not forbidden. A law of 1649 ordered that every village should have a public house, and that ways be provided with good wholesome beer for the entertainment of strangers.

The laws of the colony always favored the manufacture of beer, and even as late as ten years after Massachusetts had become a state its own beer passed entitled, "An act to encourage the manufacture and consumption of beer, ale and other malt liquors."

The act freed beer from all taxation, but it came too late after a series of fiscal trials for revenue purposes to make beer dear and led to the importation of cheap rum from Jamaica.—Kansas City Independent.

CUTTLE BONE AND SEPIA.

Where They Come From and What They Are Used For.

Cuttle bone was once made use of as a medicine, but it is now used by goldsmiths as a polish and by bird fanciers as food for caged birds.

This cuttle bone, so called, is no bone at all, but a very wonderful structure consisting almost entirely of pure chalk and having been at one time loosely imbedded in the substance of some vegetable outgrowth. It is an oval bone, white and hard on the outside, but soft and friable within, and is inclosed by a membranous sack within the body of the cuttle.

The cuttle is living this structure runs through the entire length of the abdomen and occupies about one-third of its breadth. In weight cuttle bone is extremely light, and if it be cut across and examined through a lens the cause of the lightness will be apparent. It is not a solid substance, but is formed of a succession of exceedingly thin floors of chalk, each connected with each by hundreds of the smallest imaginable chalky pillars.

Many persons attribute sepia, or Chinese ink, to the cuttlebone. They are, however, in error, for sepia is a manufacture of soot and fine gums. The error may be due to the fact that the cuttlefish has an internal sac under the throat, near the liver, that contains a very dark natural ink. When pursued by enemies the cuttle ejects this ink, and thereby forms a cloud of darkened water all about it and hides in this water until out of danger.

Snow and Hail of Queer Colors.

Snow in which red, yellow and orange colored snows fell were recorded as long ago as the sixteenth century. Humboldt mentions a hailstorm which once occurred in Palermo in which every hailstone was as red as a globe of frozen blood. On March 14, 1813, there was a hailstorm in Tuscany in which the individual stones were each of a bright yellow color. In 1808 at Carniola, Germany, they had a fall of crimson snow which was nearly five feet in depth. Snow of a brick red fell in Italy in 1816 and in the Tyrol in 1847. In some sections of Iceland snow seldom falls to any considerable depth without being composed of alternate layers of frozen crystals of different colors. There are arctic banks of red snow which are so well known to explorers that they are called the "red snow cliffs."

POINTS OF ETIQUETTE.

Finger bowls are not put on the table until after the dessert is removed.

It is the worst possible form for a man to take a woman's arm, by day or night.

When leaving a car a man should precede the woman, so as to assist her if necessary.

In addressing a newly married couple at a wedding reception it is usual to congratulate the groom and to wish the bride great happiness.

It is not looked upon as good form to announce a meal by the ringing of a bell, as the custom does very well at a railroad station, but is now seldom used in private houses.

When taking a lady in to dinner or at any indoor entertainment a man offers his left arm, but in the street he must always take the outside, no matter which arm he has to offer.

The expenses incident to a wedding are, with few exceptions, borne by the family of the bride. The groom's expenses, with the exception of flowers and souvenirs for the bridesmaids and ushers, begin with the fee to the clergyman.

Servants in Germany.
A girl engaged in America is by no means a girl secured, as regards either domestic service or matrimony. In Germany, on the other hand, the mistress of a prospective cook and the fiancée of a prospective bride may feel reasonably secure when once a standing has been reached. "Well, I will engage you, Hedwig," says the hausfrau at the close of the interview, and as a pledge of good faith three marks (75 cents) are given and received.

By acceptance of this sum, Hedwig binds herself to appear at the time and place agreed upon, and if she fails in fulfillment of the contract, after allowing twenty-four hours to elapse without having returned the money, she renders herself liable to criminal prosecution. Needless to say, breach of contract under such conditions is rare.—Harper's Bazar.

Her Plunge.

A West Philadelphia family was at supper one night, talking about the engagement of one of the daughters, whose wedding was soon to be. The negro servant, who acted as waitress, laundress, etc., had just brought into the dining room the dessert, when one of the girls asked, "Virginia, have you seen Edith's fiancée?" "Laws! I don't know, honey," she replied. "It ain't been in de wash yet."

His Cramp.

"I have been suffering much of late," he said, "with writer's cramp." And smiling wryly, he tightened his belt, two holes.

"Here is where it usually takes me," he explained, patting his concave stomach.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

PINEAPPLES.

The Juice of This Fruit Is a Great Aid to Digestion.

The word enzyme does not appear to have any connection with pineapple, yet it is the name of the chemical that gives to the luscious fruit the remarkably digestible property which it possesses. The prevailing notion that pineapple juice is excellent for the digestion is supported by medical testimony. Eat a slice of the fruit after dinner, say the doctors, and you will not suffer from dyspepsia.

If you want to see what pineapple can accomplish in the way of digestion, you can easily test it on a piece of raw steak. The action of pineapple juice on meat is to transform it into jelly and then dissolve it when in the human stomach.

Place a slice of the fruit on the raw meat as it lies on a plate, and the upper part of the steak, where the fruit touches it will soon become gelatinous. Ezyme, the active principle of the juice, can be obtained by throwing salt into the juice, thus producing a precipitate.

A glass sized pineapple contains two plants of juice, a fact that is an idea of what a slice of the fruit will do for digestion. If cooked, the pineapple loses its virtue in this respect. It may be asked whether the consumption of the somewhat woody fruit itself is beneficial or not, for that can scarcely be easily digested.

Without doubt it is the juice which does the good, not the flesh of the pineapple, but the property of the juice is so effective that the eating of the fruit itself can do no harm and may even be beneficial, inasmuch as it takes some of the strength of the juice to dissolve it, and the stomach is relieved suffering from the too violent effects of the juice.

THE SEISMOGRAPH.

How the Earthquake Indicator Registers the Tremors.

In its simplest form an earthquake indicator might be a tray with notched edges so filled with mercury that a shaking of the earth would cause an overflow in the direction of the movement. In the instrument used by scientists the pendulum is a vertical rod, fixed by some Italians, horizontal by the Japanese, English, most European and American observers. A movement of the earth affects everything but the pendulum, which is so freely hung as to remain stationary. A recording device makes the result visible. Of old a heavy weight which earth shock does not reach. In the Milne seismograph a platinum sheet attached to this weight has a slit intersecting at right angles to the pendulum. A clockwork mechanism makes the result visible. Of old a horizontal pendulum turns on a vertical axis and carries at its extremity a heavy weight which earth shock does not reach. In the Milne seismograph a platinum sheet attached to this weight has a slit intersecting at right angles to the pendulum. 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