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A COFFIN SIDEBOARD.

CHASTLY REVELELS IN A NEW YORK SALOON.

Like the Paris "Cafe of Death"-The Musty Cellar Where "Gnomes" and "Chickens" Make Merry Among the Skeletons and Skulls.



SCORE of rollicking, noisy fellows, young and old. gathered about a musty, worm-eaten bier deep down in a mustier old cellar, eating bread and beefsteaks: a coffin for a sideboard, holding foaming

of long-stemmed church warden pipes; tied beer is the favorite beverage, but all this walled in with tuns and hogsheads of wine, casks and barrels of something stronger has been indulged brandy and whisky, flasks of rare old in. A great many society people of cordials, and over all the dust of decades and gleaming skulls peering down from odd places through the usual time devoted to refreshments is dusk, which the flickering candle light fifteen minutes, as all are anxious to only served to make more ghastly, says | set at the cards again. the New York World.

This is not a picture from degenerate Paris, but an actual scene in old New York. It is one of the monthly meetings | fall short, which necessitates gathering of the Gnomes—a drinking club of old Ninth warders, and held in the sub- hands from it. There is a well-groundcellar of a famous-time drinking place at the corner of Fourth and Charles have been robbed of everything of val-

It is not a new institution—this valent to throwing the chips into a redgathering of sub-surface revelers, with hot stove. To in a measure meet these their ghoulish tastes. For upward of exigencies eleven and twelve spot cards fifty years the Ahrens, father and son, have kept a drinking place in the little old Dutch red brick building, and during that time it has been a favorite resort for the politicians and men-abouttown of the old Ninth ward and old Greenwich village.

This place is now kept by Henry Ahrens—"Handsome Harry" they call him. It consists of a large barroom, with a sitting-room in the rear. The barroom is itself unique. It is a lowceilinged room with oaken floor, which is kept as clean as scrubbingbrushes can make it. Half a dozen handsome rugs cover the floor. quaintly carved old English settee and three or four comfortable rockingchairs and a Turkish stool add to the unsaloon-like aspect of the place.

Two groups of life sized statuary-one a Faith, Hope and Charity, and the other a Venus-occupy prominent places in the room. They are surrounded by potted plants and tropical ever-

The inside room is a museum of curious, incongruous, yet artistic treasures, some of them rarely interesting. The chief interest in the place, however, lies in the old cobwebby cellar, or rather in the banquet room of the cellar. This is a little room, not more than fourteen feet square, walled in with barrels and casks grimy with dust and cobwebs. Thick, black webs hang from the weather-stained rafters, and where the spiders have failed to string their nets artificial webs have been made of pack thread to which papiermache spiders as big and ugly as horned toads cling and wink their glass bead eyes with looks of devilish ferocity. Two bats live in the cellar and occasionally stir up the dust with their

where. One thing that is always pointed out to a visitor is a cask of Madeira wine which it is claimed is forty years old. It is so old, or rather the cask is, that the hoops look as if they were falling off. The cask is never tapped except on the occasion of a marriage or birth in the family, and upon the oc-casion of the five-year unions which the old Reosters hold. Another old cask of liquor is Otard Dupuy brandy, which has been in stock since 1860. This is never touched except for medicinal purposes, and upon a physician's pre-

An enormous coffin, in which is a papier mache skeleton, and the wormeaten bier are the principal articles of furniture. The coffin is the sideboard

of the club. A similar apartment—but little more than a niche in the walls of barrels and casks and hogsheads, holds the ancient and rusty cook stove where the banquets of the midnight revelers are prepared. There are no chairs or stools. The guests sit around on beer kegs and rough planks. The first thing to meet the eye of the visitor, when his eyesight gets used to the dark, is a huge blackboard, reaching from ceiling to floor, upon which is a hideously drawn

No Danger of a War.

A French governor of the south was also an admiral of the navy, asrumors of an insurrection, and the admiral called before him a native chief who was faithful to the French cause and questioned him as to their truth. 'You may be sure," said the native, that there will be no war at present, because the yams are not yet ripe."
"The yams, you say?" "Yes. Our peocause baked yams go very well with the captives."

A Japanese Woman Politician. The most remarkable woman in politics in Japan is Mme. Hatoyanna. When her husband, a leader of the progressionist party, ran for parliament, she took the stump and made speeches in his interest—a very extraordinary thing for a Japanese lady to do. She is now a teacher in the academy of which her husband is principal.

An Inducement to Pay Taxes. People in Madison county, Kentucky, who have paid their taxes are entitled paper. to be married free by, the sheriff.

POKER IN BACK BAY. able Bostonians Have Gone Crasy

Over the Great American Gam-From the Boston Herald: Very few people outside certain circles of the Back Bay have any conception of the extent to which poker playing is carded in that section. The whole local-Ity is divided into "sets," and it is customary for each one to hold a session at his or her house nearly every night in the week. The usual hour for beginning to play is 8 o'clock, and it is customary for the ladies to dress for the occasion, while the gentlemen not infrequently array themselves in full evening costume. The standard limit is 10 cents, one reason for making it so small being that the conscientious shall not feel that they are gambling. Generally there are three hours of play, after which the hostess asks her guests to flagons and tobies a light repast, consisting of sardines, of ale; a great jar of tobacco and dozens | trackers, cheese and sweet meats. Botthere are instances on record where both sexes drink rum punch, lemonade dashed with whisky and plain gin. The

> It frequently happens that seven and eight players are present at a sitting, and when everybody "stays" the cards up the "dead wood" and filling out the ed superstition that these discards ue and that to draw from them is equihave been added, making the pack consist of sixty cards instead of fifty-two. Another innovation is the "ringdoo-

> dle." A ringdoodle is declared when a hand has been called and fours are shown. Then follows a round of jackpots, the holder of the winning hand starting them. Blue chips are put up to correspond with the number of players. Of course a round of jack pots would be equivalent to a ringdoodle, but it comes easier to some players to pay on the installment plan. Then a regular round of jacks is declared when a full hand is shown. Two are never allowed to play in the modern game, no matter how good their hands may be. A jack pot always follows. There are also buck jacks and jacks on the slightest provocation. It has now become the custom to make a discount of one red chip for every jack pot, When the time has crept on toward midnight the keeper of the kitty announces that a round of consolation jacks will be played. The chips are divided into a number of piles corresponding with the number of players, and the extras are placed in the center of the table with the individual contributions.

> > A DRINK FOR WOMAN.

Latest Acquisition to the Drug Store Fountain.

The latest acquisition to the row of long-necked bottles at the drug store fountain is marked "orange flower syrup." This is pure extract of orange plossoms and is about the most etherially delicious beverage when taken with three inches of cream and well charged. They call it "Hymen's wassail," the girls do, when the clerk of the fountain serves it with plenty of soda and ice shaved and piled light as snow. He recommended it as a good thing for nerves. and is always sincerely grateful when any of his patrons will give him a new recipe for some dainty drink. One of the nicest and latest of his combinations, and deservedly popular, too, is ordinary chocolate soda dashed with one teaspoonful of creme d'yvette. Everybody knows what this is, a cordial colored and flavored as if with violets, and another fashionable apothecary is earning a good name among the women by serving them, since the cold weather began, with minute cups of clear, hot, sugarless coffee, flavored with a drop or two of violet cream. He is the same man who is making himself famous by tutti-frutti ice cream soda. This is a glass of simple vanilla or chocolate cream, with a handful of small, spicy crystallized fruits thrown in before the soda is turned on-cherries, currants, shredded ginger, and the like. It costs only 5 cents more than the ordinary soda and is a favorite after-thetheater treat with the young man of modest means and simple tastes

The New Woman as She Should Be. Miss Richards, daughter of the governor of Wyoming, is an example of the new woman as she should be, in a secular field. She is her father's most efficient private secretary, and when he is called away from Cheyenne the Pacific colony of New Caledonia, who entire affairs of the executive are left in her hands. Such is the confidence sumed his authority while the natives of the governor in his 19-year-old were still cannibals. There had been daughter. She was educated at an eastdaughter. She was educated at an eastern college, understands all about housekeeping, and is equally well acquainted with the affairs of the office of the executive. Her father trusts her to prepare the most important state

Done Through Money.

The Venetians absorbed all commerce for five or six centuries, from the year 1000 until 1600; they had the Haneseatic league as rivals. The Dutch repablic, with its civil liberty, for two centuries transferred the trade of the world to Holland, but about the middle of the eighteenth century the energy and perseverance of the English supplanted the Dutch.

Only One Copy Disposed Of. A short time ago a publisher brought out a book entitled: "Advice to Plain Women." Only one copy has as yet been got rid of and that was taken by the office boy to his mother for carl



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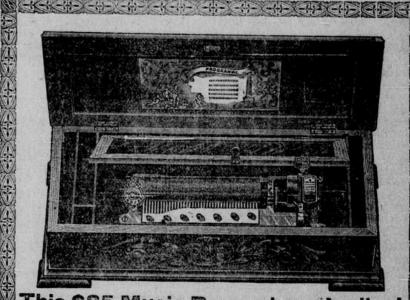
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