

WONDERS OF ALASKA.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCENERY OF THE INLAND PASSAGE.

Magnificent Appearance of the Coast Line—Visiting the Indian Cabins—A Race for Placers—The Wonderful Fair Glacier—Fall of Icebergs.

How shall any one describe the glories of the inland passage, with snow-capped mountains on the main and islands on the opposite side, rising often to the snow line, slaying the mighty Pacific from its rocky coast...

The race of the passengers to visit the "caches" or street of Indian cabins in each village where we land, and to purchase the wildest carvings or pictures of the archipelago and mainland that in Alaska alone our country has 15,000 miles of sea coast...

A PLACE FOR FRONTIERS.

Were 50,000 of our ambitious frontiers in the Empire city to start for Alaska with their wives, by either the Northern or Union Pacific railroad, and keep their eyes and ears open on the way, about 10,000 of them would reach here and make fortunes, and the rest would find openings in their talents and energies and create wealth for themselves...

At Port Chester, on Annette Island, Alaska is in process of receiving a thousand Christian industrious Indians from Metlakatla, in British Columbia, a settlement organized and instructed by William Duncan during an administration of twenty-six years...

The greatest natural wonder of this trip is Muir glacier, a glacier bay. This glacier is about sixty miles long, and five miles from the bay it is about twenty-five miles wide. In its course it is fed by nine principal and eleven lesser glaciers.

FALL OF THE ICEBERGS. At its projection into the sea the glacier travels at the rate of forty feet a day, availing icebergs into the bay with the sounds of thunder and earthquake. These retain the splendid blue tints of the parent glacier, when floating around in great masses...

Long Summer Days in England. The extreme brevity of the English summer nights always interests the stranger. It is not fully dark until nearly 11 o'clock, and reading is possible on a clear night up to nearly 12. The gray dawn begins to glimmer about 4 in the morning, and by 5 it is quite light again.

A Lesson from Japan. A lesson against the slaughter of birds comes from Japan. In that country insect pests have become so numerous that it is a custom to pluck the fruit for the market before it is ripe to prevent its destruction by insects.—Boston Budget.

A LITTLE BOY JOCKEY.

Too Late at the Starting Pole—Pluck, Energy and Skill Win at Last.

One of the most interesting features of the day was the contest of a pretty little boy who appeared as a jockey. He was gaily dressed and his seat was evidently new. His name, as recorded on the jockey's card, looked like Oscar. He had a mount in the second race, and did little figuring in trying to secure a start.

Not a spectator laughed. Those who had bet on him swore a little, but the child's grief was too genuine to excite anything but pity. He had another mount in the fourth race, and many were the expressions of sympathy as he entered by the grand stand in a carriage, and he was called to the post.

Stride by stride the animal pushed her nose to the fore, and when they were a pace behind, Oscar was ahead of the race, and he was not pressed, and as he went flying past the grand stand on the first round his teeth were still set closely together, and his face had an anxious look.

Crooks Station in Society.

Three or four years spent in the convent, and made a crook of her. Perhaps before making her debut she studied under masters of music, languages, literature, and dancing for a year or more. Then she is permitted a formal entrance into society; she has crossed the dusty borders of girlhood, and has developed into a lovely young woman.

The Top of Washington Monument. The construction of a suitable apex called for much discussion and a number of plans. It was first suggested to roof over the structure with a framework of iron and steel, but it was thought that the chemical action of the weather on the metal would discolor the face of the shaft.

The Most Favored Mortal. Of all classes of musicians the singer is the most favored, and the mortal who is gifted with a fine voice is a happier individual than the one who possesses the highest faculties of intelligence. The composer who has labored for months, perhaps years, to complete an opera is not paid as much for his whole work as the prima donna who sings the principal role during a single representation.

Our College Presidents. An eminent writer, showing what an excellent thing is a college education, cites the fact that there have been seven presidents of the United States, and eleven of the seven were college men, sixty-five per cent. Well, that's so. But let's weigh these presidents on the balances as long as we're going into statistics. Who were the presidents who never went to college at all, and precious little to any school? Washington, Jackson, Lincoln and Grant, the college men; the other four, not.

Frank D. Sherman's August Cherries. Frank D. Sherman has a poem on "August" in St. Nicholas, in which appear the lines: August, month when sleepy cows seek the shade of spreading hedges, while the robin quires his head, contemplating cherries red.

DECADENCE OF THE DIAMOND.

Why It Grows More Marked—A Badge of Vulgarities—No Longer Unique.

The decadence of the diamond daily grows more marked. It has long been a badge of vulgarity, and the vulgarities which it has brought into disrepute with women who are really fastidious. With anything else except an object which confers distinction on its possessor, the greater its popularity, the greater its triumph, but the diamond—once the chief of jewels, and the chief of ornaments, which was almost the unique privilege of royalty—has lost its ascendancy through its very popularity as an article of adornment.

The love of the gem itself, although savored of childhood and of the barbarous tastes which still survive in civilized humanity, is one thing; the love of displaying the diamond as a badge of wealth, and the man, and man, too, who have a mania for diamonds almost like that of the miser for gold. They love the glitter and sparkle and delight to fast their sight and touch on the precious lances. But these are not the people who hunt their treasures in the gaze of the public. It is the better half of the lucky speculator, the matrimonially promoted shop girl, the gambler's "sissy" and the obese wife of the retired pawnbroker, who never feel entirely clothed unless somewhere on their person scintillates the ever present diamond.

Soup in a Public Restaurant.

One day some years ago I tried to tip a waiter. I failed. He declined to accept the tip with an air so courteous and so dignified that I feared I had unintentionally succeeded in offending the waiter. He was not at all surprised when I told him a few weeks later that he was about to leave the restaurant forever, as he had received some money from abroad. One day last week I again met my old friend. Of course I remembered him. No one could forget the face of a waiter who would not stoop to a few cents, and he had the look of a man who knows, and never out of step in his country, he said, and was now in this country on a visit. Beyond that he vouchsafed no information concerning himself, but in the course of our talk he did say something which was only a little startling.

Didn't Object at All. But there's an old man in Mexico who very gently deprecates the decadence of the age in matters generally considered reprehensible. He is 100 years old, he says. This is probably a lie, but he is old enough to be excused for lying about his age. He speaks of the good old times of his youth, and relates with lively satisfaction his part in several exciting adventures, for which it does not seem to occur to him he ought to have been hung. But the adventure he is fond of relating is how he obtained his wife. He may, perhaps, be believed when he states that the mother of the sonnets he loved objected to him as a son-in-law, but he is not to be believed when he says that he married himself very truly stated. She absolutely forbade the marriage.

Very simply. She was taking a steeple on her way to the market, and she dropped a big rock on her head, and she never objected at all. "I should say not. She was too late to object, I suppose." "Ah, it was fun. We had the wedding and the funeral on the same day." And the husband, old man chuckled. The story was confirmed by her neighbor, too.—San Francisco Chronicle—Undertones.

Of all classes of musicians the singer is the most favored, and the mortal who is gifted with a fine voice is a happier individual than the one who possesses the highest faculties of intelligence. The composer who has labored for months, perhaps years, to complete an opera is not paid as much for his whole work as the prima donna who sings the principal role during a single representation. Rossini, for example, received only \$1,200 for the opera of the "Barber of Seville," while the prima donna who sings the principal role for a single night receives often fabulous sums for singing it once.—Music and Drama.

An Old City, Pa., man claims the prize for sunflowers, having one in his garden that measures fifty-four inches in circumference. All that was bid for a lion and four lionesses at a sale in Lexington was \$200. The show business is poor.

CANNOT BE BEATEN.

EXPERIENCE WITH A NOTED AND SUCCESSFUL GAMBLER.

A Talk About "Straight" Games and "Crooked"—Robbing a Countryman, Wonderful Manipulation of Cards—A Faro Box for "Skins" Gambling.

I had an extraordinary experience a few days ago with one of the most noted and successful gamblers in America. We occupied adjoining chairs coming from Philadelphia, and we talked about gambling in New York on the way. "I have heard a good many stories," I said, "of high playing up town within the past two weeks. Is it really so?" "I have been in New York twenty-five years," said the gambler quietly, "and I have never known them to roll as high as they are rolling now. There is a combination of four Jews who are playing faro in a fashion that would make the old Mississippi gamblers hold their breath. Every bet is four figures, and they have crippled a man's back to the tune of \$20,000 in three nights. It is a curious thing, by the way, that nearly all Hebrews will bet recklessly on cards, though they are so cautious in business matters. They are in some respects the best gamblers I ever played against. If a Jew sees a chance of getting back a dollar by taking a risk, he will take the risk every time."

"Are most games straight now in New York?" "I don't know a crooked game in the whole city. The fact is that gamblers have learned at last that it is just as easy to run straight as crooked. The percentage in favor of the house is enormous, and they are such as he sticks to the game. It is exactly like any other business. A merchant who is straight will succeed, and a merchant who is crooked will fail in the long run. There are a lot of flash mushroom establishments along Broadway which show up in great shape for a year or two and then go under. They can't stand the competition. The straight houses come out ahead."

I mentioned the name a few moments later of a well known actor, who has a predilection for high play, and the gambler said, with a chuckle: "That particular actor made \$1,000 in the course of an hour a few nights ago."

"How?" "A friend of his, a gambler in very hard luck, went to the actor and said he had a friend from out of town who was anxious to play against the bank, and he suggested that the actor and the gambler should play in a room on Sixth avenue and get him to open a faro bank with stacked cards, and about 11 o'clock at night the actor and the countryman came in together. They had agreed to pool their issues, and the actor put up \$1,000 against a similar amount by the countryman. They then took the cards and the actor agreed to do the playing. Within half an hour the money was all gone, the lights were turned out, and the countryman was sent on his way. Then the gambler went up to the actor to get his half of the money, but he got nothing. The actor took the \$1,000, gave the dealer \$20 for his trouble, and left the actor following day \$750 ahead. The hustled sport who engineered the whole thing, lost his revenge by telling everybody about it."

If I were to give the name of the actor who indulged in this transaction it would cause an immense amount of astonishment, as his newspaper interviews are read by thousands of people, and he has not yet been able to get out of the prevalence of gambling in America. It occurred to me a little later that it was a good opportunity to introduce a man who had a system for beating games of chance to the gambler. I told him about my friend, and he said that no system was ever invented that could play the cards better than the dealer. "Well," said I, "the man whom I have in view has been sending me letters and telegrams about his particular discovery, and I would like to have you look at it."

"I will examine it with great pleasure," said the gambler, heartily, "if you will both come around to my hotel this afternoon, but I tell you beforehand that you will go away convinced that no system can play against a game in which chance figures as an important factor. I have been in this business a great many years, and I have made and lost many fortunes, so that I speak by the card."

"Do you think Herrmann, Goldberg or Keller knew anything about cards? Because if you do I will prove to you that they are shoe-makers." He then asked me to select a package of cards and shuffle them. I did so. "Now," he said, "name any card you please and you will find it between my left and right hands." "Any one of the fifty-two cards?" "Any one." "The eight of spades." He shuffled the pack twice and then asked me to look on the chair. I did so and took the eight of spades from beneath his leg. He had found it and abstracted it from the pack without my being able to detect him. He then amused and astonished us by forcing four kings or four aces to come to the top of the pack whenever he wanted them, although he shuffled the cards, and later he did what I consider the most extraordinary trick that can be performed in this world. He would take a fresh pack of cards and deal them rapidly in the regular way, except that he would deal us three hands precisely as we called for them. To do this he was obliged to read the backs of the cards and extract them from different places in the pack with such marvelous quickness that the eyes could not follow him. After he had thus proved that no man could play with a professional gambler who had any desire to be crooked, he took his faro lay out and began to knock the gambler's system to splinters. Before he had operated five minutes the colored gambler's face was as white as a sheet, and he said emphatically: "I have seen enough to make me decide right here that I will never play another game of faro as long as I live."

The gambler could be all by touching certain springs in his box for all low cards or high cards to come up in turn, and, in fact, had as much command over the box as though that little silver device was his will. Every card he called for came at his will, and men betting against him were entirely and utterly at his mercy. And yet the whole thing was so thoroughly innocent looking that it defied detection. I could not help wondering afterward whether there was more than one man in the emphasis he laid on the statement that all the gambling nowadays in New York is strictly honest and straight.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

CHEAP BOOTS & SHOES

The same quality of goods 10 percent cheaper than any house west of the Mississippi. Will never be undersold. Call and be convinced.

ALSO REPAIRING PETER MERGES.

THE FURNITURE EMPORIUM!



FOR ALL CLASSES OF FURNITURE

Parlors, Bedrooms, Dining-rooms, Kitchens, Hallways and Offices.

HENRY BOECK'S

Where a magnificent stock of Goods and Fair Prices abound.

UNDERTAKING AND EMBALMING A SPECIALTY.

CORNER MAIN AND SIXTH PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA

F. G. FRICKE & Co.,

Drugs and Medicines, Pain Oils, Wall Paper and a Full Line of DRUGGIST'S SUNDRS.

PURE LIQUORS.

E. G. Dovey & Son. E. G. Dovey & Son.

Fall and Winter Goods.

We take pleasure in saying that we have the Pulles and Hand-somest line of

Fall and Winter Goods

Ever brought to this Market, and shall be pleased to show you a

Superb Line

OF Wool Dress Goods, and Trimmings,

Hoisery and Underwear, Blankets and Comforters.

A splendid assortment of Ladies' Misses' and Childrens CLOAKS, WRAPS AND JERSEYS.

We have also added to our line of carpets some new patterns, Floor Oil Cloths, Mats and Rugs.

In men's heavy and fine boots and shoes, also in Ladies', Misses and Childrens Footgear, we have a complete line to which we INVITE your inspection. All departments Full and Complete.

E. G. Dovey & Son.