

CUTTING THE JACK. A Quiet Little Transaction Between Two Gentlemen on the Cars in the West.

Philadelphia Times. "Playin' poker is mighty dang'rous business, boys," said old Jerry Greening the other night as he came into the Williamson house bar-room, at Lackawaxen.

Some of "the boys" were indulging in a little game of draw poker, with a limit, just to pass away the time. Judge Kidway, the champion sucker fisherman of this region, asked Jerry if he would take a hand. "No, thank you," said the veteran yarn spinner, as he helped himself to a chair of "Life Pelton's tobacco; 'I ain't takin' no stock in keerd playin' nowadays. Ef you fellers 'll lay down yer keards I'll chuck pennies to see who pays for the 'drinks, and then I'll tell you a little story 'bout recker playin'."

The cards were laid down, the coins were pitched, and "Si" Terwilliger was the unfortunate one. Reinforced with a tumbler of "gin and tansy," the old man took off his slouch hat and heavy throat muffler, and prepared to spin the promised yarn.

"Lem me see," started Jerry. "I guess 'twere nigh about 'leven year ago. I were goin' out West with a party of 'city folks to hunt on the prairie. We was a trav'lin' in powerful fine style in one of them palace keers when we see a real nice lookin' feller with a d'round buzzin pin came into the keer. He set down nigh me, an' bimbley he got the owner of the keer—which I remarked at the time were a nigger—to get a table for him. He got a playin' keards all 'lone by hisself, an' bimbley 'nother nice-lookin' feller came in, an' then two fellers got a playin' in 'Arka while the two city fellers that were a goin' out West with me took a han' into the game, an' fore we got 't Chicago my two fellers hadn't nough spondulix round them to buy a square drink of liker, let 'lone 'nough to get further West. 'Fin'ly one of my men—I allers calls 'em my men, because they were going west with me, ye know—said to the feller with th' d'round buzzin pin, 'Let's change the game. I've got just got \$2.00 cash in my grip-sack that belongs to the man in Chicago; let's play euchre for a change.' 'Now, I'll tell ye what I'll do," said th' buzzin-pin man; "I'll just bet ye even \$3,000 that I kin take them keards an' cut the jack 't hearts the very first time. 'By darn, I'll do it," sez my man. 'Wall, sez I, 'I'll hold th' stakes.' 'All right,' sez th' buzzin-pin man. 'Durin' this little conversation my an' mine a shufflin' up the keards kinder nervous like, so he laid 'em down an' tol' me to keep my eye on 'em while he got his cash. He came back with th' money an' handed it 't me. Mr. Buzzin-pin got out his cash, but with what he had won from my man an' what money he hed he were short just \$100. 'Wall, sez I, 'rather than see this here fun broke up I'll len' ye th' hundred. So I pulls out a hole steekin' I hed in my grip-sack an' got out five \$20 gold pieces. 'Thar, sez I, 'now get down 't bis'."

"Well, they got. Mr. Buzzin-pin took th' keards in his han', an' drawn a bowie knife outen his hip pocket, he cut them keards right in two quicker'n lightnin'. 'Thar, sez he, 'I cut th' jack 't hearts th' first time, mister, an' I reckon I'll freeze onto that thar cash. Fork her over, mister,' sez he to me. 'Just 'bout that time I see th' pint of the scheme, an' I luffed till I pulty nigh busted. I just got down onto th' floor an' luffed an' were close 't five minits fore I got cooled down agin. I were just ready 't pay 't buzzin-pin man th' \$3,000, an' his face were as smilin' as a man's is when he looks at his first baby, when all 't once my man sez, 'Mr. Greening, I reckon you'll pay that hull rite over 't me.' 'The greenment was that I were 't cut the jack th' first time,' sez Buzzin-pin, an' I done it, so I'll take the dough, if ye please. I cut, didn't I? 'Wall, no, sez my man, pullin' th' jack of hearts outen his left sleeve, 'I reckon not.' 'Wall, boys, ef you could a seen that fella's face drop you'd smiled a smole. The first thing he done were 't reach for his shootin' iron, but my man sez, 'Oh, don't do that, an' kinder raisin' the lapboard they were playin' on he showed Mr. Buzzin-pin a six-shooter pintin in the direction of his heart, an' 'twere full cocked, too. 'Wall, I'm done brown for once,' sez the buzzin-pin man, 'an', sez he, 'who be ye, anyway, stranger?' 'Wall, sez my man, 'I don't mind 'bliging ye with my cogomen. I'm Billy Birdsell, o' New York, an' I'm th' gentl'man that invented that little scheme o' cuttin' th' Jack, an' now, my friend, I'll give ye a little piece o' advice. I let ye win all 't cash so I could clean ye out. Ef I'd a tried 't clean ye at poker I could a done it, but you'd staid playin' fore ye got broke, so I laded for ye. After this when ye're goin' 't cut th' Jack, don't let anyone handle the keards fust. Mr. Greening 'll give ye \$50 outen th' stakes, an' I guess you'd better light out at Chicago, an' ye want 't keep yer eyes peeled, for ye know them Chicago people's noted for their big feet, and they aint anyway delicate about usin' 'em of they gets skinned by a sharper. Good evenin'!" Wall, I paid the buzzin-pin man his \$250, an' he got out at Chicago. Me an' then two fellers had a good laugh over the way we fixed him, and since I ain't played keards. Course I don't sepose any o' ye fellers 'll cheat at sepose, and I've no jecton to playin' with you though I did see Bill Birdsell aint a nace down in his lap to lay for a nace full.' Ye see now, boys, why I don't play no keards. Let's chuck agin for the drinks, an' then I guess I'll go hun, for I've got to try a case for 'ait an' batter 't-morrer mornin before 'Squire Dewitt.'"

Having "chucked" for and disposed of his drink, Jerry bade the crowd good night and started for home, and the game of poker was renewed.

The Drift of Immigration. New York Herald.

The notable fact in the increase of immigration from Europe in 1881 is of special interest and worthy of careful study. It involves the political and social future of the nation. Official statistics for eleven months of the year now closing show that we have received 419,120 immigrants, an increase of 112,804 over eleven months in the year 1880. It is estimated that these immigrants brought with them nine million dollars, and paid in addition to that twenty-five hundred thousand dollars for transportation over our railroads to various points in the west. It is estimated that the immigrants who have arrived and are expected to come before the close of the year will be about 440,000—the largest number since the Emigration Commissioners began their labors in 1847. We must attribute this extraordinary increase to the unsettled condition of affairs in Europe and unusual prosperity at home. It is curious to study the destination of our friends who come to make their homes in America. So many of our States are governed by political parties almost equally divided that the addition of a few thousand Germans or Irishmen or Englishmen must be considered as influencing their future and especially the policy of the government. The largest number of immigrants—143,132—remained in New York. The temptation to stay in the first city that welcomes an immigrant is natural when we consider the large foreign element in New York and the social and domestic influences which surround a German or an Irishman landing on our shores. Curiously enough the next state in importance is Illinois, which thus far receives 43,449 immigrants, mainly, we suppose, of German birth. The German and the Scandinavian have attractions in the west. Next to Illinois we have Pennsylvania, which has a fair share in 11,587. Massachusetts has a fair share in 11,587. A German correspondent, who writes with more than usual facilities for information, shows that from Bremen alone the emigration to the United States has been between 122,000 and 125,000. We have heard of special efforts on the part of the German authorities to arrest a movement that must in time denude and deman the German empire. Evidently the authorities have had indifferent success in their endeavors. Our correspondent learns that in the year 1882 the emigration from Germany alone will be twenty-five per cent greater than in 1881, and that more than 150,000 children of the Fatherland will make their homes with us before next Christmas. Much of this emigration comes from the desire of the Germans already here to have friends and relatives with them. Every immigrant who gains any measure of prosperity naturally thinks of loved ones at home, and that they should share something of the advantages which America offers with generous, royal hands to all mankind. This is shown, as our Bremen correspondent says, in the "vast number of prepaid tickets sent by friends of the emigrants in the United States." The discontent, the unrest, which may almost say the revolution, which swayed tumultuous Ireland must result in a large increase of emigration, more especially as the British government, anxious like the German, is anxious to encourage and assist Irishmen who are dissatisfied with home affairs to cross the seas. Our correspondent asks us to enforce upon Congress the necessity of a law that will "assume the expense of landing these intending citizens." Congress can do nothing that will tend more to strengthen the nation than to aid as far as possible the movement that brings these hundreds of thousands of bright, wholesome, industrious and eager young men and women who have the courage and the confidence to cross the ocean. It might be well also to consider other questions, such, for instance, as making vaccination compulsory, in dealing with our immigrants. In many respects they come as children, and should have all the aid, advice and discipline that can make easy their path to our Republic.

This immigration comes in natural channels. Artificial efforts to direct it, except, perhaps, in the case of the Mormons, have not been encouraging. The Rugby experiment in Tennessee is an instance. Some time ago we heard of a movement on the part of some of our rich Irish citizens to solve the Irish problem by bringing over a million or two of our Celtic friends and founding a new Ireland down in Texas. Nothing came of this, and perhaps it is just as well. We cannot import Europeans as we do Chinamen. They will come as free, independent men and women and go where they please. In considering the course of emigration we note that the western states are more favored than the east. We must consider this as determining the tendency of German emigration to the west, and as opening to the minds of our political thinkers the effect of the large addition of German people to the western states: Iowa takes 12,526; Michigan, 17,088; Minnesota, 15,698; Ohio, 19,107; Wisconsin, 15,704; Indiana, 5,524; Kansas, 3,881; Nebraska, 4,124. The only southern states, which receives an important addition in the way of immigration is Missouri, which, after all, is only half Southern, and takes in the aggregate 7,226. The fact that Missouri, with its vast territory and its resources in the way of agriculture and minerals, should only have this number, while Minnesota, which lies in the North and is not among the attractive settlements of the Union, takes 15,698 shows the tendency of emigration toward the North and the Northwest. This is confirmed by the figures showing the emigration to our southern states. Arkansas receives but 854; Alabama, 320; Georgia, with its unexampled attractions to new comers, 1,202; Kentucky, 1,779; Louisiana, 1,207; Mississippi, 909; North Carolina, 1,284; South Carolina, 1,225; and even Texas, so vast, so rich and so tempting, but 1,261. In spite of the special attempts to colonize Virginia it receives but 1,353, while West Virginia has 1,567.

A Judge's Charge With Variations Harper's Magazine.

The following comes from Georgia, and its accuracy is vouched for by the stenographer who took it down: Judge — was noted for the way he got mixed in his charges to the jury. On one occasion a case was tried before him on the points of which he has briefly stated thus: Smith brought suit against Jones upon a promissory note given for a horse. Jones's defense was failure of consideration, he averring that at the time of the purchase the horse had the glanders, of which he died, and that Smith knew it. Smith replied that the horse did not have the glanders, but the distemper, and that Jones knew it when he bought it.

The judge charged the jury: "Gentlemen of the jury, pay attention to the charge of the court. You have already made one mistake of the case, because you did not pay attention to the charge of the court, and I don't want you to do it again. I intend to make it so clear to you this time that you cannot possibly make any mistake. This suit is upon a note given for a promissory horse. I hope you understand that. Now, as you find that at the time of the sale Smith had the glanders, and Jones knew it, Jones cannot recover. That is clear, gentlemen. I will state it again. If you find that at the time of the sale Jones had the distemper, and Smith knew it, then Smith cannot possibly recover. But, gentlemen, I will state it a third time so that you cannot possibly make a mistake. If at the time of the sale Smith had the glanders, and Jones had the distemper, and Jones knew it, then neither Smith Jones nor the horse can recover. Let the record be given to the jury."

Free Passes for Legislators. Buffalo Express. The following documents are self-explanatory. Mr. Boyd is state senator-elect for the Fifth district in New York city: 1882. New York Central Sleeping Car Company. Not Transferable. Pass Hon. John G. Boyd, In Drawing Room or Sleeping Cars, Complimentary. Over N. Y. C. & Hudson R. R. until June 1st, unless otherwise ordered. W. WAGNER, President. Compliments of the season. W. WAGNER, New York, Dec. 28, 1881.

Hon. W. Wagner. Dear Sir:—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the enclosed pass, which I herewith return. Permit me to say that, while thanking you very kindly for the compliment, I do not think, as a senator-elect, I ought to accept favors of any kind from those who may be interested in matters of legislation upon which senators will be required to vote. I am, sir, very respectfully yours, JOHN G. BOYD.

Hints for a Damp Season. Food and Health. Baths are refreshing in such seasons. Clothes should be worn warm, but not heavy and thick. Light woollen are the best for wear, not too much fur. Silk is a good wear for these close seasons. As we have said before, be sure to have such layers of materials, that the moist atmosphere does not penetrate to the skin and that the outer one absorbs it. But nothing is more important in such a season than light food. Heavy, greasy dishes cannot be digested and the blood becomes feverish.

A moderate amount of meat is sufficient: much fish, poultry, game, where it can be afforded, plenty of vegetables and fruits. Soups are very good dishes in such weather, nourishing stews, stewed fruits, light puddings. Warm food is a necessity, for if in damp weather the system does not get warmed, chills follow and sickness also.

Tea is very welcome; it refreshes and stimulates the nervous, particularly in the afternoon. We never shall recommend it for the midday meal. Any kind of mild drink is better for that than tea. Be careful with your bread and hot cakes. Corn and buckwheat cakes can be sooner digested than wheat cakes; for them the quick cooking is not sufficient, and they lie in the stomach and give much work.

If you should have a desire to be blessed with malaria, or fever, or indigestion, or loss of appetite, just keep all your windows and doors shut; have heavy curtains at the windows and the room stuffed full of furniture; sit by the hot stove and rush out occasionally, live on rich, greasy dishes, drink heavy wines, and do not take your meals regularly. You will succeed.

Cemetery Outrages. From The New York Sun.

John Tregaskis spoke before the philosophical association in Williamsburgh yesterday, his subject being "Cremation the only refuge from thieves." The speaker thought that society nowadays was made up made up of a lot of thieves. There was a special class of thieves who took advantage of the bereavements of their fellow men to rob them. These are, the speaker said, the owner and trustees of cemeteries. The practices which prevail in these places are of the most shocking description. Every cemetery within fifty miles of New York he said, has been robbed of bodies entrusted to its keeping. Mr. Tregaskis declared that he knew whereof he spoke, and offered for the customary fee of \$10, to present any skeptic with that which would satisfy doubt; or, if there should be snow on the ground, the cost would be double. Stewart's body, he added, is hawked about until, and Vanderbilt's is only protected through the agency of paid guards. Mr. Tregaskis said that he advocated cremation as a refuge from the sacrilegious, thieving hands of cemetery trustees. He said that cemeteries are founded for the profits of

Speculators. He named gross abuses in cemeteries which he did not name but the situation of which he described. In one of them, he said, the bodies which were sent to it were not even put under the ground. They were piled up in the ladies' reception room, and then in the tool room, until these were filled. Some of the bodies had lain thus unburied for thirteen years. The trustees had said that the drainage was insufficient, and that it was not possible to dig graves. But the burial fees in all these cases had been paid.

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Reader, once there lived a student, Whom long sought for learning rare, And he met him on the sidewalk, And he falsely led him there. And he talked to him of TIGER SKINS, POTTERS' HOSES and SCHUMBERG'S HOSE; And I met him plodding homeward With a bundle to his door.

Gentle reader, I have warned.— Nightly I have walked the street, Linger on for you on the corner, And this happy hour we meet! Raise your eye to yonder window, Where our student, in the night, With a page of SCHUMBERG'S HISTORY, Rises up his pipe to light.

Reader, turn not to me coldly, The truth only have I told; I would save a thee from the book stores, Where the customers are sold. I would shield thee from an all danger, Shield thee from the plate glass snare;—Shun, O, shun the gilded centers, I have warned thee—now beware!

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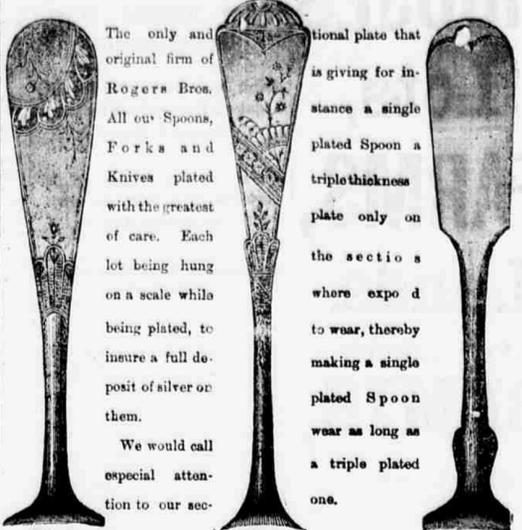
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