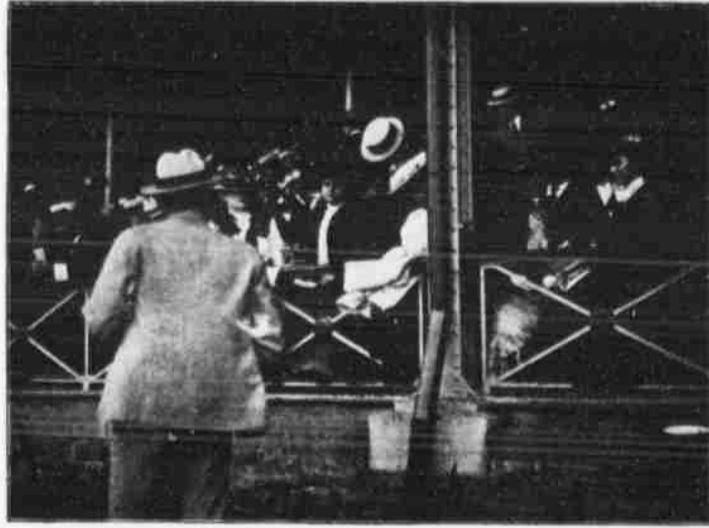


Eastern Women Who Bet on Horse Races



CHILDREN, TOO, HAVE THEIR BETS TO PLACE.



BETTING COMMISSIONERS HARD AT WORK.



WATCHING A CLOSE FINISH.

NOW let me see, dear. Don't you think Teakettle would be a good horse to play?"

"He's the favorite; you'd get a little more of a run for your money, though, on Jim Dandy."

"Oh, give me Jim Dandy, then, by all means."

The first speaker was a dear old woman, and he who advised Jim Dandy looked suspiciously like her son. With her was another old woman, just as sweet as she. They were delightful persons, who knew exactly what to do with any baby when it woke up in the night with a pain in its little tummy, but there they were, betting away at the races and having the time of their lives.

Is it true that, given an opportunity, women are more reckless gamblers than men? Really, a visit to the race track would seem to show some truth in the assertion.

There is rather an impression that the women who care, financially, which horse is first at the post, who turn pale when they see a yellow and black blouse jostle one of purple and blue from the inside position, are necessarily of the "loud" variety, with hair that even Charity herself must admit to be at least suspicious. Such is not the case. At a great race in this country, as in those across the water, all sorts and conditions of women are to be found. Some are of aggressive personality, truly, but the majority are ordinary, "nice" women out for a holiday. But the things that they do when fortune favors them or disaster overtakes their sporting ventures, are not always ordinary!

There are women who "play the races" with the persistency of the "sportiest" man, who are born and by custom gamblers. These haunt the track at all races. They go alone; they do not put on their finery, and they show little or no emotion, one way or the other. With them business is business. The more interesting portion of the spectators is that made up of women who follow the sporting columns of the newspapers with more or less interest and see the track two or three times a season. Their emotions are not blunted; their enthusiasm has not evaporated with habit. They can, and do, make a great deal of noise.

The types of a racetrack! It is the place of all places for the student of human nature. Every grade of society is represented. Up aloft are the rich and great, in boxes which have the advantage over those of the theater in that one can see from them; but this disadvantage, that one's gowns cannot be on exhibition. Below, on the benches of the grandstand, sit the women who did not come in parties or who do not expect to be rich until after the race of the day has been run. The huge grandstand stretches away beyond the winning post on each side, but all can see well enough, and even if one couldn't the scraps of conversation which float around the seats are almost as interesting as the spectacle on the track.

Down near the front of the grandstand one finds the enthusiasts who came early to secure the best seats. Over the railing are spread sheets and sheets of newspapers which give the "past performances" of the runners. A woman of this type has a pencil and glances continually from her racing card to the papers as she makes notes. She works hard—she has come there to make money, and is not going to bet merely on the horse with the prettiest name. From the direction of the betting ring comes her escort; she leans over in excitement and consults with him for a few minutes. Then she hands over to him a pile of greenbacks, and he disappears to place her money. For women, even the sportiest, are forbidden the charmed precincts of the betting ring. (Wait, though, till we have woman suffrage!) Then, if one is interested in such types, one watches the girl as the race is called. She stands up and fixes her field glasses. Her face changes its expression on an average of once a second. She shouts encouragement to the horse of her choice, dances about wildly as he presses hard on the one in the lead, and collapses limp in her seat when the rival orange and green dashes in first. But she is a good loser; most women at the racetrack have that virtue. She even smiles at the winning jockey—faintly, but with the real sporting spirit—when he takes his seat in the floral horse-

shoe of the victor and is carried on men's shoulders to receive the applause of the grandstand.

In fact, women are rather better losers than winners, so far as their expression of emotion goes. Up in the boxes one good soul, who is obviously out with the intention of enjoying every minute of the race, has won on the orange and green. Long after the clapping of the crowd has begun to die down one hears her palms working vigorously up above. More than that, her laughter rings from one end of the stand to the other. The girl below, who has lost, clances up and smiles with recovered cheerfulness. Then they both set to work, the one to recoup her fallen fortunes and the other, probably, to lose all her winnings in an attempt to double them. But oh, the excitement she will have before she goes home as poor as when she left or a good deal poorer! For your true philosopher with the sporting spirit goes to the races with just so much as he or she can afford to lose. If fortune favors, well and good, but, anyway, there is a glorious run for the money.

As the races follow one after the other the women grow more and more enthusiastic. Among them circles the betting commissioner. Since many women go down to the track without an escort of man, merely taking along another woman as a companion, these men who circulate through the crowded seats are their only way of communicating with the betting ring. The commissioners are fairly mobbed as time passes and the race is sure to be called in a very few minutes.

"Gracious! I didn't realize there was so much money in the world!" groaned one as he escaped from the mob one particularly crowded day.

In the wide space between the grandstand and the track a crowd is surging and fro all the afternoon. These people are too eager to bet to go up and sit peacefully on the seats. Among them are a goodly number of women, and, what is surprising to the novice, of children. Down near the judge's stand are a dozen or twenty little ones, from 8 to 14 years old. Every



COLORED WOMEN ARE AMONG THE MOST EARNEST STUDENTS.

one has his or her racing card and pencil. They pore over these documents and make notes in exact imitation of their elders. They stand on tiptoe when the race is being run and shout and wave their hands as excitedly as did the good woman of the box. Are they only "making believe?" Not always, by any means. They are the children, probably, of sporting men, and they live in the atmosphere of the track. They are familiar with the horses' names, and they not infrequently have money of their own to bet, perhaps on father's riding or father's horse. And bet they do. And likewise, quite often. They are about as good judges of a horse as most of the bettors!

Here and there one sees many colored women, dressed in the height of style, and betting vigorously. They are a feature of the track. All the world knows the sympathy that exists between the negro and the horse. What self-respecting colored man does not think he can manage a horse better than his white neighbor? And he can, too, as a rule. Colored men are always to be found "playing the race," and their wives or sweethearts come along and vie with their white sisters in ridding themselves of their money.

It might shock some people, this scene. It would not shock many, for the prevailing note is good humor and enjoyment, but a distrust of the unearned increment and of all who take delight therein is profoundly rooted in the breasts of a portion of the community. Still, such sport teaches women many a good lesson. To bear losses quietly, holding one's tongue and smiling pleasantly at the success of someone else is to achieve, if not greatness, something which is highly desirable. To reach a decision quickly when necessary, and take the consequences, is another lesson which is of considerable value in the affairs of life. A good many people think that women are all the better for having their sporting instincts strengthened; and they may be quite right. Anyway, one is wise to think so when one goes to the races, and then it is possible to come away in a fine glow of morality!

\$16,200 AND FOUR PIANOS FREE

TWO BIG WINNERS



Won \$1250.00

Rogersville,
Feb. 20, 1902
Dear Friend—
Your letter just received and I acknowledge the receipt of check for \$1,250.00, for which I feel very grateful to your journal. It was through your kind and liberal offer that I sent my five guesses, among which the lucky number was, for which I thank you many times. I shall call it a very nice birthday present, as I received notice of my being a winner on the 5th anniversary of my birth.

I have it safely deposited in the bank, and I hope it will do me much good in our declining years, as my husband and myself are going that way. I shall always have a good word for the promptness and fairness of your magazine. Again thanking you for your congratulations, I am very truly yours,
MRS. A. O. NOBLE.

Won \$800.00



Fairgrove,
Feb. 20, 1902.
Gentlemen—
I received your check for \$800.00 and was never more surprised than when I was notified of my good luck. I have tried many times in different contests, but have never before won. I must acknowledge the way in which the contest was conducted in every way honest and fair. I think I can safely say I am the first person to win any such amount as the above in this part of the country. I send you under separate cover my photograph. Respectfully yours,
G. F. BILLES.

THESE are two sample letters of scores which we have received from our patrons acknowledging the receipt of big cash prizes won in some of the big cash contests which we have advertised in the past. During the last three years the total amount of cash in the distribution of which the patrons of this house have shared, has been nearly ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00). The amounts paid to individuals have run from \$1.00 up to \$15,000.00. Have you been one of the fortunate ones? If not, we offer you one more chance to win a fortune, which you should take at once.

We now offer you an opportunity to share in the distribution of \$16,200

AEHYS | FLGRDAIE | LLNDCVAEE | RRSNHIAO | TNGRA

Can you arrange these five different groups of letters into the names of five (5) former presidents of the United States? If so you can share in this distribution. We will give away \$16,200.00 in cash and Four Genuine Grand Upright Pianos among those who enter this contest and comply with one very simple condition which need not take a half hour of your time. Many, in fact, have accomplished it in less than ten minutes. READ CAREFULLY. REMEMBER we do not want one cent of your money when you answer this contest. In making the five names the letters can only be used in their own groups, and as many times as they appear in each individual group, and no letters can be used which does not appear in its own group. After you have arranged the five groups and formed the five correct names, write them out plainly and send to us and you will receive our reply by return mail. TRY AND WIN. If you make the five correct names and send them to us at once, who knows but you may get a big cash prize and also A GENUINE GRAND UPRIGHT PIANO. We hope you will, and anyhow IT COSTS YOU NOTHING TO TRY.

In addition to the prizes just named, we will give you absolutely FREE an opportunity to win without any further expense or labor any one of 1,000 Grand Cash Prizes amounting to \$15,000.00 more divided as follows:

FIRST PRIZE \$5,000.00 IN CASH
Second Prize \$2000.00; Third Prize \$1000.00; Fourth Prize \$500.00; Fifth Prize \$300.00; Sixth Prize \$200.00; Seventh Prize \$100.00; and 993 OTHER PRIZES, ALL IN CASH and COSTING YOU NOTHING

All these prizes will positively be paid in cash, and let us urge you not to lose this golden opportunity to win. Others have won in previous distributions. This is your turn. Try it! These 1,000 prizes amounting to Fifteen Thousand Dollars will positively be paid to those who send in the correct or nearest correct answers. It costs you nothing, there is nothing for you to do beyond sending in your answer. Just this will you, for a minute, what the winning of this big prize of \$5,000.00 in ready cash would mean to you and then remember that some one will surely win it, and it might be you as well as some one else. Why, it would start you in business or build you a fine home! It would pay all your debts or give you a good income for life! Properly invested it means from one to two dollars a day as long as you live and then you could will the entire sum to any pet or good cause you wish. The possibilities of such a sum are almost limitless and the same can be said of the 993 other prizes of from two thousand dollars down.

Now, dear friend, we are putting all this within your reach. Will you just stretch out your hand to take it? We can't force you to, if you won't, but who would be so foolish as to let a chance like this slip when they know that we will do just as we say and that the money will surely be paid as agreed? This is a bona fide offer of cash that is made in good faith, and we are sure that you are one of the enterprising friends who will seize the opportunity to win. Even if you have tried in other contests and failed do not let that keep you out of this one, for who knows but this will be the very time when you will succeed? It is surely worth this one more trial, at least when you think how many different prizes we offer you, so many in fact that it seems as if you could not help winning some one of the large sized ones.

Others have won large four figure cash prizes in previous contests in which our patrons have participated! You may be the next. Don't be discouraged.

This is positively the chance of a lifetime to get rich at one favorable stroke of fortune. Don't neglect and regret it forever afterward. If you would like a nice home of your own just think what this \$5,000.00 would do for you! If you are in debt or would like to start in business, think what you could do with \$5,000.00! If you are working hard for a living, think what a blessing it would be to receive at the end of the contest a certified cashier's check for \$5,000.00 which you could turn into that much cash at any bank in the land. All this is as possible for you as for any one. Write us at once. Do not delay, or you will regret it when this contest for these 1,000 prizes closes. Address your letter and send it at once to

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