

IMPLEMENTS OF GAMING.

Curious Origin of Playing Cards, Dice and Dominoes.

India and China the Source of These Peculiar Playthings. Some of the Games Played by the Mongolians.

Who would suppose that playing cards were originally derived from the knuckle bones of sheep? Yet such is the fact. If you do not believe it, ask Stewart Culin, ethnologist, attached to the University of Pennsylvania, who, according to the Washington Star, has made the study of games, from the scientific point of view, his specialty.

It will be observed that the sum of any two opposite numbers is always seven. This may have something to do with the fact that seven used to be regarded as a magical number. Of the respect accorded to it there is evidence in many passages of the bible. The most ancient cubical die known dates back to 600 B. C.—that is, twenty-five hundred years ago. It was found at Naucratis, a Greek colony in Egypt.

There are twenty-one possible throws with two dice, so twenty-one dominoes may be regarded as natural dominoes. However the Chinese have doubled up some of the numbers so as to make a full set for playing thirty-two in all.

In China cosmical names are given to the numbers on the dice. Six is the throw of heaven, ace is the throw of earth, four is the throw of man, while one and three are chosen to represent the harmony that unites heaven, earth and man. The throw of double five is called the "plum flower," five and six is "tiger's head," four and six is "red-head ten," one and six is "long-legged seven," and one and five is "red mallet six." These terms remind one of those given by negroes to various throws at the game of "craps." On Chinese dice the "one" and "four" are always red, while the dots on the other faces are black. Mr. Culin cannot assign any reason for this with certainty.

Take an ordinary domino of bone or wood, enlarge it, make it of paper, and it becomes a playing card. Mr. Culin's study of the subject has led him to the conclusion that this is the way in which the playing card was originally evolved. The evolution began with the knuckle bone, which became a cubical die; the latter was transformed into a domino, and the domino, in its turn, was metamorphosed into a card. A domino with two "fives" on it represents the "ten-spot" of the pack. The origin of "king," "queen" and "jack" is unknown. Possibly a little light may be thrown upon the mystery by the fact that the four sides of the knuckle bone are called in Arabic the "shah," "vizier," "peasant" and "slave." The same names are given to the numbers on the cubical die, the six being the "shah," One of the games played with dominoes in China is apparently the prototype of whist. Nobody knows when dominoes and cards were introduced into Europe. We, in America, get all our games from Europe; we invent no games. Poker is an old English game modified. Mr. Culin says that there are no new games; those brought out from year to year are merely modifications of old ones. Games are originated in primitive stages of social development.

One would naturally suppose that the spinning die, called the "teetotum," must be derived from the same original source as the cubical die. Apparently such is not the case. Mr. Culin has traced the teetotum to Corea, where it seems to have had its beginning.

ANTS AGAINST SNAKE.

Numbers Won in a Long and Exciting Battle.

"While camping in Alabama during the late war," said Col. H. C. Crossman of Dayton, O., according to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, "I witnessed an attack of a band of black ants upon a striped snake."

"One evening, while I was trying to go to sleep, after a long day's march, I felt something move under my head. I lifted one corner of the blanket and found a snake between three and four feet in length. I quickly hit it with a small stick, but the reptile seemed hardly stunned by the blow, so I picked it up on the end of the stick and threw it about fifteen feet away. The snake landed on a large ant hill. Almost instantly the ants poured forth from their nest, which was underneath, and began a vigorous attack upon the intruder, who was soon covered by scores of his assailants, biting him fearfully. The battle raged with fury, the snake writhing about in torture."

"The contest at first seemed an unequal one, for the snake was rapidly hinning out his persecutors, but on the other hand the ants were numerous and quick in their aggressive movements. The snake with one blow of his tail would kill or wound a long line of ants, but the active little creatures were soon reinforced by fresh troops and fought with a desperation wonderful to behold. I was astonished beyond measure to see the tactics of the ants. When they saw their numbers were being lessened they dispatched couriers for fresh relays of soldiers, who appeared on the scene in due time to replace the killed or wounded."

"The moon after a time lit up the scene, but as there appeared no near termination of the struggle I gave up watching it and, stretching myself again on my blanket, went to sleep. Before striking tents the next morning I went to look at the battle ground. The slain insects were scattered in every direction, but there were six or seven watchful ants upon the back of the snake, which lay stretched out dead near the ant hill."

HEALTH IN CORN BREAD.

This Accounts for the Good Condition of the Southern Laborer.

"Behold the average colored laborer on a southern plantation," said Hon. P. R. Winston, of Minnesota and Virginia, recently. How fat and sleek he looks; how his shining eyes and smooth, ebony skin reveal the robust physical man. He is a type of perfect health, and to what does he owe his superb condition? I'll tell you in two words—corn bread. There is the greatest food product in the world, and all honor to the noble American who is trying to teach the old world people the various delicious uses of corn bread and the many palatable ways it can be prepared for the table."

Some Cardinal Points of Difference Between the Races.

Women always show by their actions that they enjoy going to church; men are less demonstrative. When a woman becomes hurried she feels for a fan; when a man becomes hurried he feels for a cigar. Women jump at conclusions and generally hit, says the New York Advertiser; men reason things out logically and generally miss the truth. Some women can't pass a millinery shop without looking in; some men can't pass a public house without going in. A woman never sees a baby without wanting to run to it; a man never sees a baby without wanting to run away from it. Women love admiration, approbation, self-inflation on the part of others; are often weak, vain and frivolous. Ditto men. A woman always carries her purse in her hand, so that other women will see it; a man carries his in his inside pocket, so that his wife won't see it. A woman can sit in a theater for three hours without getting all cramped up, catching the toothache or becoming faint for want of fresh air; a man can't. A woman, from her sex and character, has a claim to many things besides her shelter, food and clothing. She is not less a woman for being wedded; and the man who is fit to be trusted with a good wife recollects all which this implies, and shows himself at all times chivalrous, sweet-spoken, considerate and deferential."

MEN AND WOMEN.

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Lilliputian Cattle.

The Samoan Islands are the natural habitat of the most diminutive species of variety of the genus bos now known to the naturalist. The average weight of the males of these lilliputian cattle seldom exceed two hundred pounds, the average being not greater than one hundred and fifty pounds. The females usually average about one hundred pounds larger, are very "stocky built," seldom being taller than a merino sheep." These dwarf cattle are nearly all of the same color—reddish mouse color marked with white. They have very large heads as compared with their bodies and their horns are of exceptional length."

One in Four.

One person in four has a weak or diseased heart, and in this connection it is worth remembering that a single case of heart trouble is never so simple as it appears. When the trouble first commences, "Oh, well, it doesn't matter much," and you let it go, let the disease insidiously get the mastery of you. You lose all courage; the slightest exertion, such as walking, causes you to gasp; you cannot lie on your left side. Finally, you become so bad that you cannot lie down without snoring, and are compelled to get what sleep you can in a chair. You are urged to avoid this."

He is Agent for the Eastern Oregon Land Company, and can sell you Grazing, or Unimproved Agricultural Lands in any quantity desired, and will send a Pamphlet describing these lands to anyone applying to him for it.

Notice is hereby given that John F. Root has duly conveyed to the undersigned, by proper property, for the benefit of all of his creditors, all persons having claims against said John F. Root are hereby notified to present the same, properly verified, to the office of Dufur & Mcintosh, in Dalles City, Oregon, within ninety (90) days from the date of this notice.

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Assignee's Notice.

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Receives Goods on Storage, and Forwards same to their destination.

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PACKERS OF

Pork and Beef.

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Owing to the hard times, I will sell for the next three months, my pigs for \$20 each, or \$35 per pair. Will box and deliver at nearest station free. Come and see them or write. No business done on Sundays.

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K. N. STAHR, of BAKE OVEN, has got some splendid Farms and good paying Town Property in the Willa-ette Valley for sale very cheap and on easy terms. Some of the farms to exchange for Eastern Oregon property. Write for list and terms.

FOR SALE OR TRADE

A FINE IMPORTED French Percheron Stallion,

Weight in good flesh 1,200 pounds, and Sure Footed. Will sell for cash or note with approved security, or will trade for horses or cattle.

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IF YOU WANT Government, State, or Dalles Military Road Lands.

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Successor to Thornbury & Hudson, 83 Washington St. THE DALLES, OR.

If you want information concerning Government lands, or the laws relating thereto, you can consult him free of charge. He has made a specialty of this business, and has practiced before the United States Land Office for over ten years.

He is Agent for the Eastern Oregon Land Company, and can sell you Grazing, or Unimproved Agricultural Lands in any quantity desired, and will send a Pamphlet describing these lands to anyone applying to him for it.

He is Agent for sale of lots in TACOMA'S addition to The Dalles. This addition is laid off in acre lots, and destined to be the principal residence part of the city. Only 25 minutes walk from Courthouse; 10 minutes from R. R. Depot.

Settlers Located on Government Lands. If you want to Borrow Money, on Long or Short Time, he can accommodate you. Writes Fire, Life, and Accident Insurance. If you cannot call, write, and your letters will be promptly answered.

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175 Second Street, - The Dalles, Oregon. A full line of all the Standard Patent Medicines, Drugs, Chemicals, Etc.

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REPAIRING PROMPTLY and NEATLY DONE. Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Harness, Bridles, Whips, Horse Blankets, Etc.

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