

THE POKER.

Hardly Changed Since the Days of the

As the first fireplace was a circle of stones at the mouth of a cave, so the first poker was a piece of green stick. It was necessary to have something to knock the logs together with when they began to burn through the middie, and as primitive man did not wear boots he could not use them to kick the hot embers into place, as some of us do to this day. That was a refinement, if it can be so called, which came later. The green stick lasted until the age of iron and was then superseded by a handy piece of metal which possessed the advantage of being stronger and of not burning away. But since the days of the early workers in metal we have made no ad-

The poker has hardly, if at all, changed through the ages. It is, as it always has been, simple and severe of outline. It lends itself to no vagaries and to little ornamentation. It is one of the few things which no one has ever patented, because it may be said to have leaped from the first foundry perfect and complete in every respect. The only notable attempt at improvement has been to make the poker of brass with a twisted column, but even then the iron poker lurks at the side and is known as the curate, because it does all the rough work. The ornamental poker is not a poker at all, but sham, an upstart masquerading under an ancient and honored name and gaining credit for duties which it is unable to perform .- London Globe.

A GREAT BATTLE.

The One Known In History as the "Victory of Victories." The battle which is known in history as the "Victory of Victories" took place at Nehavend, in Echatana, and was fought between the new Moslem power in 637 and the empire of Persia, then one of the most powerful of the eastern monarchies. It was one of the most absolutely decisive battles in the history of war, and it was all the more amazing by reason of the fact that it was won by a people who twenty years before had been unknown barbarians, lost in the deserts Arabian historians place the Persian

loss in a single day at 100,000 men killed. This may be and probably is an exaggeration, but the fact remains that the Persian dynasty came to an end when the battle was over and that Zoroastrianism, which had been the religion of Persia for over a thousand years, was at once supplanted by Islam. Its modern representatives, as is well known, are now the Parsees of

The victory was so absolutely de cisive that it extended the Arabian dominions over the whole of the region lying between the Caspian sea and the Indian ocean. With the exception perhaps of the battle of Tours, no single fight ever made such a difference in the after history of the world.

She Knew the Reason. He was smoking and musing over the ways of the world. "Odd, isn't it,"

烲樕颕娦絾嫾嫾繎嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾嫾**娦**橁嫾嫾**橁**蔳**艻**

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