

THE GAMBLER'S PARADISE.

The course of the Prussian Government in putting an end to public gambling at Baden-Baden, Wiesbaden and Homburg has proved a big card for the little principality of Monaco, in Italy. The Cincinnati Times prints an article descriptive of the new gambling paradise, which we summarize: Monaco thrusts its groves of oranges and lemons out into the Mediterranean. If a new Garden of Eden were to be established upon earth, Monaco would undoubtedly be the place that a special committee of angels would favor in their report. A motionless blue sea nearly surrounding it, and ever blue sky lying above; perpetual sunshine splintered into lanes of light by a never-failing breeze; the constant perfume of orange and lemon, of cactus, aloes, and hedges of geranium; the ceaseless murmur of the waving palm trees, and the verdure and bloom of fairy-like gardens and terraces, are features in one of the loveliest landscapes that Nature ever set her hand to. Art, too, has lent her ablest effort to further the exquisite beauty of the scene. Monsieur Blanc, fitting thither an exile from his beautiful Baden, has even eclipsed the glories of the Kursaal by the Poos. Unrivaled orchestras, opera twice a week, the best of hotels, a Casino with gardens and terraces that rival those of "Gul" in their bloom, and the most dazzling fetes and balls that the "administration" can secure with lavish outlay, are some of the baits thrown out to heighten the excitement which finally leads the votary of pleasure into the mysteries of roulette and trente-et-quarante.

And hither, to the five gambling tables, kept incessantly going from 11:30 in the morning to 11:40 at night, have flocked, in the past summer, all the gamblers, gentle and simple, that used to frequent the various Kursaals of Germany. You note the famous Princess Sorrow, the beautiful Pole that has gambled away her millions, that has enslaved more hearts than the Queen of Love herself, and on whose conscience, if she have one, rests the burden of a hundred lost reputations, and a score of desperate suicides. La Comtesse de Galve, La Princesse Corsokoff, Lea Lilly's famous sister (Mlle. Delval), and a score of other gambling celebrities, add to the glitter of the scene. The crowd at the tables is said to be immense. People who cannot obtain a front place throw their glittering contribution over others' heads, trusting to the watchful care of the croupiers for its handling. It reminds one of the Western bummer who was unable to get into a faro room because of the crowd, and slipped his pocket-book under the door, remarking sadly, "You better take the darned thing—you'd have had it anyway." And Monsieur Blanc garners his golden harvest. Sometimes the run against a particular bank is very heavy, but it is more than balanced by the gains of the others. They credit him with a very good *bon mot* on this subject. A gambler had lamented at the trente-et-quarante table that he had backed rouge against a big run on noir, and wishing that he had bet the other way. "It makes little difference, Messieurs," said the suave Prince of Gamblers, whether you bet on rouge or noir—Blanc always wins.

But the bank is generous. Suicides are to their detriment; and, if you have played boldly and lost all you had, a polite croupier conducts you to an apartment on the lower floor of the Casino, and gives you a "riatique," as they call it—that is, from three to five hundred francs to get away with. He takes your acknowledgment, and never must you show your face again at Monte Carlo until the loan is repaid. And, strange to say, there are very few instances where the bank is not repaid. The pigeons gather new provender and return to be plucked once more. And so the ball of chance runs on at Monaco.

CROPS AND BUSINESS IN THE WEST.

The New York Evening Post says that a member of one of the oldest banking houses in that city has just returned from a tour of 4,000 miles through New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota, undertaken for the express purpose of learning the conditions of the country by personal observation, for which he had special facilities.

As the result of his travels and investigation, he reports that present indications promise the largest crops ever raised in the West. This applies not only to grain, but to all other staple products. The farmers who secured a good crop last year, and obtained the cash for it, are now, he says, generally free from debt and in a most satisfactory condition. Stimulated by their success last season, they have planted a much larger area than ever before, and their labors have been seconded by unusually favorable weather. The crops are now so vigorous and far advanced that it is thought no subsequent change of weather can seriously affect the harvest.

He reports business in the Western cities as generally dull, but not nearly so dull as in New York. Both merchants and customers have, as a rule, been very cautious in their purchases, and the

country is bare of goods. The country trade is growing very active, however, and the largest jobbing house in Chicago is doing a heavier business than ever before. Its members say that their collections in the country were never so good, and that their trade this year will probably amount to \$20,000,000. A large firm of pork packers and grain commission merchants, having houses both in Illinois and Indiana, expressed similar views, saying that in twenty years' experience they had never known such favorable prospects for the crops throughout the West. The prospects for the railroads and for business generally are said to be correspondingly favorable.

THE SEA OF SPACE.

The August number of the Popular Science Monthly has an interesting and valuable article on the "Extent of the Universe." We summarize a few of its main paragraphs: Since the beginning of this century our idea of the universe has undergone a complete metamorphosis, though but few persons appear to recognize this fact. Less than a century ago, the savants who admitted the earth's motion (some rejected it) pictured to themselves the system of the universe as being bounded by the frontier of Saturn's orbit, at a distance from the central sun equal to 100,000 times the diameter of the earth, or about 860,000,000 miles. The stars were fixed, spherically distributed, at a distance but little greater than that of Saturn. Beyond this limit a vacant space was supposed to surround the universe. The discovery of Uranus, in 1783, did away at once with this belt, consisting of Saturn's orbit, and the frontier of solar domination was pushed out to a distance of 1,900,000,000 miles from the center of the system, that is to say, beyond the space which was vaguely supposed to be occupied by the stars. The discovery of Neptune, in 1846, again removed these limits to a distance that would have appalled our fathers; the orbit described by this planet being 2,862,000,000 miles from the sun.

But the attractive force of the sun extends farther still. Beyond the orbit of Uranus, beyond the dark route slowly traversed by Neptune, the frigid wastes of space are traveled over by the comets in their erratic courses. Of these, some, being controlled by the sun, do not leap from system to system, but move in closed curves, though at distances far greater than those of Uranus and Neptune. Thus Halley's comet recedes to a distance of over 2,300,000,000 miles from the sun; the comet of 1811, 36,000,000,000; and that of 1680, 75,000,000,000. The period of the last named comet is 8,800 years.

THE PRINCE OF WALES' DEBTS.

A London letter to the New York Tribune states that Parliament will probably be called upon at the next session to pay the debts of the Prince of Wales, which now amount to £640,000, or nearly three and a half millions of dollars. This is about four times as much as the nation was called on to pay in 1787, to wipe out the debts of the Prince who afterwards became George the Fourth. If the story is true, and Parliament at its next session is asked to vote this amount to place the future King of England square with the world, there will be decided opposition. The Radicals and advanced Liberals have of late years made every communication from the Queen asking annuities for her numerous children as their tame of age, the text of arguments, very reasonable from a republican point of view, denouncing the already vast sums devoted to the support of the royal family, while the lower classes of the kingdom are actually suffering from want. They will find a much more vulnerable mark, and will be much more strongly sustained by the masses of the English people, in opposing this proposition to pay more than three million dollars to liquidate the debts of a prince who has, since his majority, received \$200,000 a year from the nation, beside the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall, which amount to \$500,000 a year more. There is little doubt, however, that whatever the Conservative Ministry ask for the Prince of Wales will be voted by the House of Commons. The Conservative party will support the appropriation in a body, together with a large number of the Liberals, who are personally friendly to the Prince, or who dislike to be classed with the Radicals.

A DANGEROUS CLIMB.

A tricolor flag on the summit of Metz Cathedral, which has been a constant eyesore to the Germans, has just been removed, a reward of 100 thalers having been offered for the feat, which was attended with considerable danger, as after the top of the Gothic tower was reached, two balls had to be scaled to reach the flagstaff. Demange, a house-painter at Metz, accomplished the feat. He had provided himself with two planks for scaling the balls, and on surmounting the first he staggered, and everybody expected to see him fall but he recovered himself, reached the flagstaff, lowered the French tricolor, and substituted a German flag of black, white and red. Previously, seven Germans had failed in the task, two of whom lost their lives.

AMERICAN HUMORISTS.

The living American humorists, who seem to hold the most prominent place in the world's regard, are Mark Twain, Bret Harte, Orpheus C. Kerr, P. V. Nasby, Josh Billings, the Danbury News man, Nym Crinkle, John Hay, and Eli Perkins. Mark Twain (Mr. Clemens) is well known through "The Jumping Frog," "The Innocents Abroad," "Roughing It," and his last, but decided failure, "The Gilded Age." His humor is dry, his character shrewd, and his physique lank and wiry. His home is in Hartford, Conn. Bret Harte, a New Yorker by birth, a Californian by adoption, but now returned to his first estate, has scarcely borne out the great reputation which he carried while connected with the *Overland Monthly*. Orpheus C. Kerr (Mr. Newell) is one of the editors of the New York *World*. His sketches during the war, written for the *Sunday Mercury*, were very humorous. Nasby (Mr. Locke) is editor of the Toledo *Blade*. His letters for a long time were the rage. Josh Billings is the son of a Poughkeepsie farmer. He sends his ill-spelt fancies to the New York *Weekly*. His name is Shaw, and like a true humorist, is a very grave and sober man. Mr. Bailey, of the Danbury *News*, has made his pile, and he doesn't care now whether the world laughs or cries at his jokes. Nym Crinkle (Mr. Wheeler) is also connected with the *World*. He is a spicy, graphic, and attractive writer. John Hay was the Private Secretary of President Lincoln. He is now connected with the New York *Tribune*. Like "Mark Twain," the most humorous thing he has done, so far as his own personal fortunes are concerned, was to marry a rich wife. "Eli Perkins" (M. Langdon), of New York, is chiefly known by his gossip letters. Humor in America is a paying business. Nearly all of these men are rich. You do not find the needy author jesting through his rags. We have no Sheridans haranguing their creditors from the roofs of houses, nor Goldsmiths selling the works of immortality to pay a lodging-house keeper. Our Hoods, our Lambs, our Sidney Smiths know a trick worth two of "cultivating literature on a little oat-meal."

THE WORLD'S POPULATION.

A report from the United States Bureau of Statistics at Washington, just issued, contains an interesting table of the population of the earth, taken chiefly from the work on that subject issued this year at Gotha by Drs. Behm and Wagner, and founded on the most recent authorities. By this statement the aggregate population of the earth is given at 1,391,032,000, Asia being the most populous section, and containing 798,000,000, while Europe has 300,500,000; Africa, 203,000,000; America, 84,500,000; and Australia and Polynesia, 4,500,000. In Europe the leading nations are credited with the following numbers: Russia, 71,000,000; the German Empire, 41,000,000; France, 36,000,000; Austro-Hungary, 36,000,000; Great Britain and Ireland, 32,000,000; Italy, nearly 27,000,000; Spain, 16,500,000; and Turkey, nearly 16,000,000. The other countries do not exceed 5,000,000 each. In Asia, China, which is by far the most populous nation of the earth, is credited with 425,000,000; Hindostan, with 240,000,000; Japan, 33,000,000; the East India Islands, 30,500,000; Burmah, Siam and farther India, nearly 26,000,000; Turkey, 13,500,000; and Russia, nearly 11,000,000. The Australian population is given at 1,674,500, and the Polynesian Islands at 2,763,500, New Guinea and New Zealand being included in the latter. In Africa the chief divisions are West Sudan and the Central African region, with 89,000,000; the Central Sudan region, 39,000,000; South Africa, 20,250,000; the Galia country and the region east of the White Nile, 15,000,000; Samauli, 8,000,000; Egypt, 8,500,000; and Morocco, 6,000,000. In America two-thirds of the population are north of the isthmus, where the United States has nearly 39,000,000; Mexico over 9,000,000, and the British Provinces 4,000,000. The total population of North America is given at nearly 52,000,000, and of South America 25,500,000, of which Brazil contains 10,000,000. The West India Islands have over 4,000,000, and the Central American States not quite 3,500,000.

The present year has shown a most wonderful falling off in the number of persons coming to this country to settle. During the first seven months of the year, 78,353 immigrants were entered at the port of New York, making a falling off of 105,559 persons compared with the corresponding months of last year. A combination of circumstances has caused this change. The decline of American securities abroad has made people distrust our purposes. Labor strikes and the closing of manufacturing establishments have caused such letters to be written to the old country. Again times have changed for the better in the lands across the seas. The labors of Joseph Arch in Great Britain have resulted in higher wages, thereby keeping men at home. At no time during ten years have so many European workmen returned to their old homes as during the present year. This is partly the result of the circumstances

above mentioned, and is partly due to the fact that the ocean steamers have carried steerage passengers at unusually low rates.

THE GERMAN AND LATIN RACES.

Thus far, says a Berlin correspondent of the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, Bismarck has been very successful in his policy of uniting the German and dividing the Latin races. There are about 50,000,000 of Germans, of whom 40,000,000 are now swayed by Prussia. About 10,000 are still out of both the North and South German Confederations, being connected with the Austrian Empire. The Latin race is much more numerous, and can count, in France, Spain, Italy and Portugal, as many as 85,000,000 of people. Were there a complete union of all these people, Germany might consider herself in danger. The Latins are nearly all Catholics. The Germans are divided, as between Catholics and Protestants, the latter having the majority. Despite this fact, the councils of the Latin race appear to be more divided than the Germans. Religion, which divides the Germans, does not divide the Latins. The Catholic powers appear to be as great enemies of the temporal supremacy of the Pope as the Protestant nations. The tendency among the Latins to political dissensions is much greater than it is among the Germans, and here is their great element of weakness. While all France cannot be united against a foreign foe, all Germany can. In the late war there were many in France who actually preferred German victories unless they could be successful under their political theories. There is a remarkable similarity in the numbers of several of the great creative heads of civilization. The Latins, we see, are 85,000,000. The Anglo-Saxons are in the neighborhood of 70,000,000, and the Slavonians of 70,000,000. It is worthy of note, as showing an even division of political power, that the North German Confederation, France, Austria, the United States and Great Britain have each and all between 30,000,000 and 40,000,000 people. The Latin race and countries are mostly stationary in population, while the Anglo-Saxons and the Slavonians are increasing with immense rapidity. The Anglo-Saxon is the great race of the future.

A BIG CISTERN.

The foundation is now being laid at the new Palace Hotel for the biggest cistern in the world. There are upward of a hundred men engaged in laying the brick—more than a million in number. The foundation is laid in cement, and the engineer in charge says it will be one of the finest pieces of engineering on the continent. "How much water will it hold?" asked a *Chronicle* reporter yesterday of Warren Leland, whom he saw watching the men at their work. "Lemme see," said Warren, taking a short stub of a pencil and a pink envelope out of his pocket, "sixty times 90,000; ought from ought you can't, twice ought is oughty ought, and divide it by nine; four from seven is three, and add that to six, and then we'll have it—6,300,000. That's it, I guess. Yes, 6,300,000 gallons. Big cistern, ain't it?" and Leland returned the stub of the pencil to his capacious pocket.—*San Francisco Chronicle*.

A STUDY OF SOUND.

Professor Whitney of Yale College has examined a passage of 1,000 sounds from each of ten standard English writers, in order to ascertain the relative frequency of sounds in the language. He finds that the sound of "r" is the most frequent, occurring 744 times in 10,000 sounds; "n" follows, with 676, and "l" with 592. The short sound of "i" is the most common vowel sound, having 590 occurrences. The least common vowel sound is that of short "o," eight times in 10,000; the least common consonant sound is that of "zh," two times in 10,000. In all, he found 6,271 consonant sounds, and 3,729 vowel sounds.

BONNER is not much of a horseman, after all. His fastest specimen of equine fleetness, Dexter, is now surpassed in trotting record by a half dozen animals. Goldsmith Maid, with her mile in 2:14; the American Girl, with time but a little slower; Red Cloud, who has just circled the track in 2:17, and Lulu, who has spun around the course in 2:16, are all so many pangs of envy in the soul of Bonner. The day has dawned in which any one man could hope to secure for his private stable the best trotting stock of the country. It has been a red-letter season in the history of American racing. Horses of known swiftness have eclipsed their previous records, while animals hitherto obscure, as in the case of Lulu and Lucille Goldust, have dashed down the most astonishing of figures. "A two-forty gait," once the symbol of supreme fleetness, has become a mere turtle pace.

A VERIFICATION of the old joke has already been attempted with much success: The pilgrim o'er the desert would should ne'er let want confound him, for he, at any time, can eat the sand which is around him. It might seem odd that he could find such palatable fare, did we not know the sons of Ham were bred and mustered there.

GEN. PUTNAM'S WOLF'S DEN.

A correspondent of the Boston *Advertiser* writes as follows: "It was my fortune while making a trip recently in the pleasant town of Pomfret, Conn., to visit, in company with a jolly picnic party, the famous 'Wolf Den' where Gen. Putnam, when a young man, in 1739, attacked and killed a she wolf, whose depredations upon the sheep and goats of the neighborhood had raised the whole country against her. Gen. Humphreys, in his life of Putnam, published in 1788, has given a very minute account of this adventure, and in his description of the den he says:

"The aperture of the den, on the southeast of a very high ledge of rocks, is two feet square; from thence it descends obliquely fifteen feet, then running horizontally about ten feet more it descends gradually sixteen feet toward its termination. The sides of this subterranean cavity are composed of smooth and solid rocks, which seem to have been divided from each other by some former earthquake. The top and bottom are also of stone, and the entrance in winter being covered with ice, is exceedingly slippery. It is in no place high enough for a man to raise himself upright, nor in any part more than three feet in width."

"I was curious to investigate this historical den for myself, and, though the place was far from inviting, I stripped off my coat and crawled in. I had provided myself with a stout stick, about four feet in length, to feel my way ahead, as the passage was entirely closed by my entrance, and I could see nothing as I proceeded. After working myself along on my elbows with considerable difficulty, I at length reached the end of the cave, and found myself in a chamber, very low, indeed, but some wider than the entrance to it.

"As Humphreys says, the entrance is two feet square, but as to there being an oblique descent and an ascent toward the termination, he is utterly at fault. As I crawled in I did not notice the least depression in any part of the way, and when I reached the end of the cave, where I found a little more room, a few rays of light from the entrance struck the rocky wall opposite, which could not have taken place if the passage had not been level. Furthermore, the passage is entirely straight from the opening to the end, and not oblique, while the distance, which I carefully measured, is not over twenty-five feet. Humphreys' account makes it over forty feet. I effected my retreat from this hole by the only possible method—that of backing out—and was thankful not to have encountered any of those reptiles (snakes) which, according to tradition, infest the place.

"Notwithstanding the dramatic way in which Humphreys tells his story, besides making the passage from which his hero was drawn out by his leg a crooked one and nearly double its true length, still 'Old Pat's' achievement is entitled to the admiration of all boys, of small or larger growth."

TYPE WORK OF A NEWSPAPER.

The *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, in an article on "how mistakes happen in newspapers," figures up the number of type used in a paper the size of the *Eagle* at 600,000, i. e. the actual number of bits of metal arranged or rearranged, every day, in preparing a newspaper of that size for the press. We suppose few persons think of the printing trade as one of the most exact and particular of all the handicrafts, but it is. In making type, variations that might be allowed in the finest machinery would render the type useless. It is very rarely that type furnished by two separate foundries can be used together without a great deal of trouble, though they try to make them after the same standard. We read once in a while of a wonderful piece of cabinet work, or mosaic work, containing ten, twenty, or fifty thousand pieces, the maker of which has spent months, or even years, of labor in producing it, and people go to see it as a great curiosity; but the most elaborate and carefully fitted piece of work of this kind ever made does not compare with that which the printer does, every day, for minuteness of detail and accuracy of fitting. The man who does the first is looked upon as an artist—a marvel of skill, and if a hundred of his pieces are put in wrong side up or turned the wrong way, it is not observed in the general effect—but if the printer, in fitting ten times as many pieces together in a single day, puts one where another should be, or turns one the wrong way, everybody sees it, and is amazed at "the stupid carelessness of those printers."

A WAY TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM HARD DRINKING.

Whisky is the devil that makes the mischief wherever it is tolerated, whether in America, England, Ireland, or Scotland. There are 200,000,000 of people in Europe outside of Great Britain and Russia who drink nothing stronger than wine or beer, and among all that vast mass, outnumbering the population of the United States five times, there is less drunkenness, and fewer arrests on charges of "drunk and disorderly," than in the single city of Chicago, which contains not one five-hundredth of their population. This is

an absolute fact—a naked truth—which it would be well for both liquor advocates and prohibitionists to turn over in their minds, digest well, and draw rational conclusions therefrom. A crusade against whisky as a beverage would be a legitimate and beneficent war, which, if crowned with success by the extirpation of the accursed fluid from the entire Union, would be a most inestimable public blessing. As a temperance measure, the tax on whisky should be quadrupled, while that on light wine should be reduced to one-tenth of the existing imposts.—*Joseph Medill's Letter in the Chicago Tribune*.

HOT AIR AND COOL ROOMS.

Because, when the air of the streets marks 30 or 40 degrees in the Fahrenheit scale a room over-warmed by a fire can be cooled by opening the windows; the average British householder adopts the ready conclusion that whenever a room feels hot the way to cool it is to let in the external air. Accordingly in these piping times he, and still more often she, opens the sunny side of the house, and lets in air at a temperature carrying from 100 to 120 degrees or so. Then, because in a very short time the room, naturally enough, becomes much hotter than it was, it is considered that the windows are not opened widely enough, and the supposed error being remedied, a still larger quantity of hot air is let in. And so we find motherfamilias sitting with a very light muslin upon her frame, and a great deal of perspiration upon her upper lip, her face the color of an Orleans plum, and her condition of mind to the last degree dejected, simply because she persists in disregarding the most elementary principles of natural philosophy. We tell her that if she will open the windows on the shady side of the house only, and keep the others closely shut, her dwelling will be at least not hotter than the shady side of the street, whereas by her arrangement it acquires the heat of the sunny side. We tell her, also, that if her house be large and the inmates few, she may live in a delightful state of coolness by only opening the windows at night and keeping them closed during the day. Her house will then be some 10 or 15 degrees lower in temperature than the streets, and convey very much the refreshing effects of a cool bath upon entering it. We tell her all this, and she is very much interested. At our next visit we find every window open and the house full of red-hot air. "It stands to reason," she says triumphantly, "that you cannot possibly cool a house without plenty of ventilation."—*Lancet*.

THE BRITISH NATIONAL DEBT.

The blue book recently issued by the British Government contains some information concerning the national debt since 1848. On the 1st of April of that year, according to this exhibit, the funded debt, with stock held on account of unclaimed dividends and capital value of terminable annuities, stood £839,519,326. Since then the total has steadily contracted until it now amounts to £785,761,761, being a reduction of £53,757,565 per annum for twenty-six years. But the whole of this decrease is not due to actual payment, about £8,000,000 being on account of diminished capital value of terminable annuities. Including the amount paid off on the 1st of April, 1857, the debt has been redeemed to the extent of £81,262,570. Against this gross must be set the stock created for purchase of telegraphs, fortifications, and army localization, as well as certain creations of unfunded debt. Altogether these charges amount to £21,026,489, which, deducted from the gross total, gives £60,236,081 as the real decrease of the national debt during the time specified, including the amount paid off in the year ending the 1st of April, 1857. During the same term £34,334,523 taxes were remitted in the aggregate each year, except four, showing reductions. Continuous national prosperity and development of trade have enabled England to pay off a large amount of debt, while the burden of taxation has been immensely lightened.

A GENTLEMAN who has been recently traveling in the lower counties tells us the following amusing story: He was stopping over night at a house where the partition walls were particularly thin. The adjoining room was occupied by a mother and her daughter. After retiring the mother began to rebuke the daughter for an alleged partiality to somebody named John, which soft impeachment the daughter denied vigorously.

"But," said the mother, "I saw him kissing you at the cow-pen yesterday morning, Amanda."

"No, ma, he wasn't kissing me at all."

"Why, did you have your head so close up to his for, you deceivin' critter?"

"Well, you see, ma, I had been eating pitillas (the fruit of a species of cactus), and you see, ma, I got some of the prickles in my lips—and—"

"And what, you wicked, wicked critter?"

"And I couldn't get them out myself, you know, and John pulled them out with his teeth—but he didn't kiss me nary time."