A Nomerous Family.

There are some good-sized families in Maine to-day, but probably none so large as one mentioned in the histories of old colonial days. It is told on the authority of Cotton Mather that the first royal Governor of Boston was one of a family of twenty-six children, and was born in the woods of Maine near the mouth of the Kennebec in 1651. His mother was left a widow when he was a child, and is said to have had all she could do to provide for the wants of her family. It is hoped that when the Governor got $100,000, a knighthood and a goblet valued at $5,000 as a reward for finding a Spanish treasure-ship that had gone to the bottom half a century before, he remembered his mother and made her last days easier than her earlier ones had been.

A Curious Calculation.

Justice, a London paper, has been giving the results of some curious calculations, which, if correct, will make a fellow a little cautious about guessing on the size of a crowd and offering to bet his last dollar that he is right. According to the calculator on the staff of Justice, all the people in the world, about 1,400,000,000, could stand in a field ten miles square, and, by the aid of telephones, could be addressed by a single speaker.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS.

Gamblers Who Have Reformed After Strange Exhibitions of Nerve.

A reporter of the Athens (Ga.) Banner, while resting from his labors on the doorstep of a prominent harness maker in our city, was soon surrounded by several who in their younger days were considered adepts in the management of the paste board abomination.

Said one who is now a bright light in the church:

"I was playing draw poker and fixed up the cards to give my opponent a queen full, while I would hold four fives.

"The draw came, and my opponent drew three cards to a queen and a nine, thus giving him four queens, while I," said the gentleman who sits over in the amen corner, "drew four cards to a five and got three more fives. Thinking my opponent had a queen full and me with four fives, I went for him, and we never quit betting until a show was called for on account of no more money.

"I laid down my four fives," said the Christian gentleman, "while my opponent covered them with four queens, beating me out of all the money I had except 125.

"This was an awful mistake in fixing up the hand, and the only way I had to get even was to play him three up at $20 a game, and I beat him seventeen straights and redeemed my fallen fortune on the poker game. This was a big piece of luck. But those days are over, and now I would not play a game if I knew I could win a million."

This proposition was considered doubtful for a few moments by the reporter, as a chance to win a million is very rare and would be grabbed by any one.

Another old gentleman, who is now in the sere and yellow leaf and who has seen the ups and downs of city life, informed the reporter that he had bucked against the tiger on more than one occasion, and had piled up his chips to the limit every time. "I was once playing against the famous 'Bill Moon,'" said this old gentleman, who now sits in the amen corner of the church, "and was playing for big stakes. In the middle of the deal I asked Bill what he would pay if I called the next time. Bill quickly remarked: 'I will pay you $100 for one.' I called it with five chips five six and it came just as I called it, and I pocketed a good round sum on the call. I have piled them up in my days very lively, but this is all in the past. I have quit the business and am now working to make a living without it."

There were several others of minor importance who gave their experiences, and the general opinion is that those days of gambling are in the past.

Remarkable Sand Drifts.

Dry, loose sand, wherever it occurs, is constantly being shifted by the wind, and often buries cultivated lands, buildings and forests. On the shores of Lake Michigan are drifts 100 feet deep, and those of Cornwall will reach 300 feet in depth, while the drifts of the Gobi desert are 40 miles long and 900 feet high in places. On the shores of the Bay of Biscay the drifting sand travels inland 16 feet a year, in parts of Denmark 24 feet and in Southern India 17 yards. In some places walls and barriers of vegetation have been created to stop the destroying drifts. Fine sand is taken up to a great height in the air and deposited many miles away. In 1882 Iceland was visited by a remarkable sand storm, lasting two weeks, which hid the sun and objects a few yards off like a dense fog, and caused the death of thousands of sheep and horses.

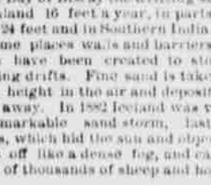
An Unjustifiable Expense.

Judge Walton, of the Maine Supreme Court, was one day at work in his office, drawing up an opinion in a knotty and important case, when a brother lawyer walked in. The visitor was a man for whom the judge entertained a pretty decided dislike. "Well, Brother Lightweight," he said, curtly, "what can I do for you this morning?" "Oh, nothing," answered the caller; "I merely dropped in for a few minutes." A disagreeable silence ensued. Then the judge looked up and asked: "Brother Lightweight, why don't you get married?" "Because I can't afford it. How much do you suppose it costs me to live now?" The judge declared that he could not guess. "Well, it costs me all of six thousand dollars a year just for my own living." "Dear! dear! said the judge, in a tone of astonishment; "why, Lightweight, I wouldn't pay it. It isn't worth it!"

When Girls Should Be Silent.

Would a well-bred girl, possessed of any feeling whatever, possessed of the slightest sensibility or sense, divulge the fact that she had been proposed to by a man, and that she had refused him? I have asked this question of several girls, and also of several married women, and while their answers were varying I am confident, from what I know of their characters, that the well-bred girl of honor and sensibility would never, upon the weightiest pretext, disclose what had passed between herself and a man upon so delicate a subject. The unsuccessful suitor is a man who receives very little sympathy, and usually there is some more deserving of it than he.

A. HUPPRICH,



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AN EGREGIOUS CHUMP.

How a Young Legal Luminary Killed His Father's Uncles Cat.

Being told that in one of the Russian law courts there is a case which has been on the docket for more than four hundred years, says the Washington Post, we are reminded of the humiliating fact that our own beloved country is very young. Still we are proud to say that in the brief time of our Nation's existence we have succeeded in accumulating a large and choice assortment of cases which may noisily show our excellent intentions but give evidence that in time we will have the most elaborate and costly collection of antique law cases in the civilized world. We believe we have no such chumpish lawyers as the one on whom the story is told in London. When he was a young man his father retired from practice, leaving the business to him. Within a week the young lawyer came home and proudly proclaimed:

"Well, father, I have done in three days what you couldn't do in all the years of your practice."

"What is that, my son?"

"I have settled that Nea estate case."

"Settled it, my son? Settled it, did you say?"

"Yes, father, I settled it in three days, and I could have done it in one if the judge had been at home."

"Young man," said the astonished parent, "you are an ass, a consummate ass. Why, six four generations of your ancestors have lived on that case and grown rich, and you and your children's children might have done the same if you had not been an egregious ass."

Russia's First Newspaper.

For a time the first Russian newspaper was edited and managed by Peter the Great.

Have You Ever Tried It?

Very few people know how many different ways there are of changing a quarter of a dollar. According to a Philadelphia man who had more leisure than business on his hands, there are 363 ways of changing that piece of money. The pieces said are the 25-cent piece, 10-cent piece, 5-cent piece, 3-cent piece, 2-cent piece and the 1-cent piece. To make all the changes without using the same coin twice would require 1,253 1-cent pieces, 614 twos, 328 threes, 164 fives, 50 tens and 9 twenties, making 2,324 pieces, worth $23.15.

A Case for Sympathy.

There is no such animal as a skunk in Japan, nor is there such a word in their vocabulary. The meanest thing a Japanese can say about his fellow man when mad all the way through is to call him a sawyer fox. An American couldn't live in that country on such a state of affairs.

Green-Haired Men in Nevada.

There is a curious effect wrought on the hair and beard of men engaged in the Martin White mine at Ward. The ore is roasted, but no disagreeable perfumes arise from the heating process, yet there is some unknown substance that changes the hair, beard, and eyebrows as green as grass. The hair is not injured, but retains its softness and gloss. It is probable that fumes of the green tint of copper contained in the ore change the hair to that color.

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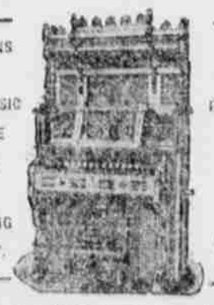

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