

# The Daily Astorian.

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No. 24.

## THE GIVE-AWAY GAME.

### How Easily an American Crowd Can Be Duped.

"Do you know," said a man who was selling jewelry from a dry goods box to a reporter of the Astoria Constitution, "that the Americans are the easiest humbugged of any in the world? It is true and I have helped to humbug them about as much as the average man." Somebody had just been reading an account of the Louisville lottery drawing, which brought forth this speech.

"Can't you tell me some of your experience in that line?" asked a man near.

"Well, you would laugh to know what fools people make of themselves sometimes. About two years ago I was down in Brunswick, where I saw a fellow running a perfectly square game, but which was the most out and out steal I ever heard of. His plan was simple, and hundreds of the very best people of the town flocked to give him a trial. He rented a store and put a show-case across the counter in the center. In the show-case he had, I know, my hat full of ten and twenty-dollar gold coins, piled in a heap in one corner, and the same about the same sized pile of silver dollars. A dice box and six dice completed the outfit. By paying half a dollar a man had one throw with the dice. If he threw six sixes he took the entire pile of gold; if he threw six aces he was entitled to all the silver. Of course, no one ever threw all the sixes, neither was it possible to get the aces to come all in a bunch. A man might as well expect to get struck by lightning from a cloudless sky at noon-day as to throw six aces; it is almost an impossibility, that's all. Well, the fellow made several hundred dollars and left."

"Did you ever hear of how easy it is to fool a man with soap?" continued the talker. "We street men know that as an old story, of course. I was down to Troy, Ala., several months ago, when a fellow came along almost strapped. He went to a grocery store, bought a few bars of this transparent soap, cut it into small pieces about the size of one's thumb, wrapped it in a colored tissue paper very neatly, and then covered the package with tin foil, sprinkled the whole with a bottle of cologne to give it a good smell. Well, sir, that fellow got on a box and soon gathered a crowd by some nice talk, and proposed to take out all the grease from hats, coats, etc., that could be brought in. The first case presented was the city marshal, who walked up with a great spot in his coat which he wanted taken out. The fellow carried a sponge well saturated with benzine and amica, which of itself will take out almost anything, and by using a bit of the soap, soon had the marshal's coat entirely free from grease. That started the soap sales, and in two or three hours it being Saturday and a crowd in town, the soap man had sold \$36 worth, nearly all of which was clear profit."

Stopping to draw a long breath the jewelry man continued his interesting story. "I tell you you can humbug anybody. I am not unlike the rest of the world. I believe I would bite at my own tricks if I could only get in the crowd."

"The way to do it is this: Get a lot of fine gold rings which cost about a dollar a dozen and profess to be advertising some big gold concern in New York. I called mine the great braided gold of San Francisco, stated that I would

show the crowd a thing or two, and soon got them interested. First, I made a speech in which I stated my business; then I commenced to offer for sale the rings from two cents up, telling them that they could not be bought for less than four dollars apiece at a jeweler's. I let out about twenty rings at two cents, and then asked everybody who had bought rings to hold them up. Every ring was in the air. 'Now,' said I, addressing the crowd, 'this is your money, is it?' 'Yes,' said a dozen. 'And you gave it up freely for the rings?' 'Yes,' came again in chorus. 'Very well, here's twenty cents for you, sir,' and twenty cents for you, sir, and so on around the crowd. They commenced to wonder what in the world I meant; said I was crazy and a lot of other things, but I only told them I was advertising goods for my house and had plenty more things to give away. Next I took up some of my handsome diamond studs which I explained were Lake George diamonds, equal to any on earth, etc., and that I was going to sell them for twenty-five cents up, the more paid the better it would be, of course, for him. Twenty studs were soon out and the same speech made. Then I made the crowd hold up the diamonds, and each man got fifty cents back who had bought.

"This thing got to be very interesting, and the crowd numbered 300 or 400. Then I got out some beautiful gold plated sleeve buttons, which I explained could not be bought for less than \$12. These I proposed to sell for fifty cents each, giving to all who bought a dollar additional as before, each time doubling the money gift. The buttons soon went off, as had the other things, and I was ready for the final "bite" at the crowd. The twenty pair of sleeve buttons had been sold for half a dollar, and I had given back twenty silver dollars. That fellow's a darned fool, I heard all around me, but I replied to this by saying that last week, in Macon, I had given away \$1500, and was ready to do it again.

"The crowd was perfectly crazy to see what came next. It was watch chains. The chains I was to sell at any price from \$2.50 to anything above that one wanted to give, I telling them the while that the other they paid the better it would be for them. I hinted that the watches would come next, and this let them off like a lot of madmen. The trick now was to sell as many chains as possible at \$2.50. I had a devil of a lot of chains, and so I sent them out right and left. The dollars came rushing blindly at me, and I raked them in like chaff. Then I got out of chains.

Previously I had prepared two big silk handkerchiefs, exactly alike, and as soon as the chains were all sold I took the money, and, in the presence of the crowd, tied it all up together, and after making a speech, proposed to throw the bundle in the crowd for the best man to take. While talking I purposely dropped the bundle into my little box by my side, in which I had my other handkerchief. In this was ten dollars in silver and some paper to make it stand out and look like the one I had dropped. All this had been arranged beforehand, of course. With a whoop, I swung around my head after stooping to pick it up where I first dropped it, and up it went into the air. Great heavens! you should have seen the mob! I never saw anything like it. They fought like tigers over the handkerchief, while I took

occasion to leave the spot. I had also arranged to bring the thing to a climax about the time the Albany train left, so I was driven at once to the depot. But I got very weak in the knees while waiting at the depot. I was a little too soon, and about a dozen young men run up, raising the very mischief of a noise, which I thought was for me, and it proved to be true. They saw me and came around me laughing and knocking each other like crazy men. I didn't know what on earth was the matter, until they told me it was the best joke that had ever been played on Brunswick, and, although they had been victimized, they wanted to assure me it was all right.

"I had sold the chains to nearly all the best men in Brunswick, some of them paying me as high as \$5 for them. I was satisfied to leave, and had my revenge. You may put it down for a fact that any average American crowd can be humbugged the same way every day in the year."—Chicago Herald.

## Thanksgiving Proclamation.

In conformity with a custom, the annual observance of which is justly held in honor by this people, I, Chester A. Arthur, president of the United States, do hereby set apart Thursday, the 23d day of November next, as a day of public thanksgiving.

The blessings demanding our gratitude are numerous and varied: for the peace and amity which subsist between this republic and all the nations of the world; for freedom from internal discord and violence; for increasing friendship between the different sections of the land of liberty, justice and constitutional government; for the devotion of the people to our free institutions and their cheerful obedience to the mild laws; for the constantly increasing strength of the republic, while extending its privileges to fellow men who come to us; for improved means of internal communication; for increased facilities of intercourse with other nations; for the general prevailing health of the year; for the prosperity of all our industries, a liberal return for the mechanic's toil, affording markets for the abundant harvests of the husbandman; for the preservation of the national faith and credit; for the wise and generous provisions to effect the intellectual and moral education of our youth; for the influence upon the conscience of restraining and transforming religion, and for the joys of home. For these and for many other blessings we should give thanks.

Wherefore I do recommend that the day above destined be observed throughout the country as a day of national thanksgiving and prayer, and that people, ceasing from their daily labor and meeting in accordance with their several forms of worship, draw near to the throne of almighty God, offering to him praises and gratitude for the manifold good which he has vouchsafed to us, and praying that his blessings and mercies may continue.

And I do further recommend that the day thus appointed may be made a special occasion for deeds of kindness and charity to the suffering and needy, so that all who dwell within the land may rejoice and be glad in this season of national thanksgiving.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington this twenty-fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-

two, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and seventh.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR,  
By the president:  
FREDERICK T. FREELINGHUYSEN,  
Secretary of state.

Otis Hathaway, Esq., 13 Rock street, Fall River, Mass., had a very bad attack of rheumatism, which racked him sorely. Finally he could scarcely move. St. Jacobs Oil was tried, and proved to be the only remedy that did any good. Two weeks' use of it rendered him as chipper and active as ever.

The man who worships the fortune he has made is no more intelligent than the heathen who prays to the little wooden god he has whittled into shape.

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TRADE MARK

**THE GREAT GERMAN REMEDY**  
FOR  
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Neuralgia, Sciatica, Lumbago, Backache, Soreness of the Chest, Gout, Quinsy, Sore Throat, Swellings and Sprains, Burns and Scalds, General Bodily Pains, Tooth, Ear and Headache, Frosted Feet and Ears, and all other Pains and Aches.

**A. VOGELER & CO.,**  
Baltimore, Md., U. S. A.

Cats are not mentioned in the Bible. They were all so poor and kept so many dogs in those days that cats had to keep in the swamps.

The London Rothschilds' present to the British troops composing the expedition to Egypt was 15,000 pounds of tobacco and 20,000 wooden pipes.

**SYMPTOMS OF WORMS.**  
The countenance is pale and leaden-colored, with occasional flushes of a circumscribed spot on one or both cheeks; the eyes become dull; the pupils dilate; an azure semicircle runs along the lower eyelid; the nose is irritated, swells, and sometimes bleeds; a swelling of the upper lip; occasional headache, with humming or throbbing of the ears; an unusual secretion of saliva; slimy or furred tongue; breath very foul, particularly in the morning; appetite variable, sometimes voracious, with a gnawing sensation of the stomach; at others, entirely gone; fleeting pains in the stomach; occasional nausea and vomiting; violent pains throughout the abdomen; bowels irregular, at times constive; stools slimy, not infrequently tinged with blood; belly swollen and hard; urine turbid; respiration occasionally difficult and accompanied by hiccough; cough sometimes dry and convulsive; uneasy and disturbed sleep, with grinding of the teeth; temper variable, but generally irritable. Whenever the above symptoms are found to exist,

**DR. C. McLANE'S VERMIFUGE** will certainly effect a cure.

In buying Vermifuge be sure you get the genuine **DR. C. McLANE'S VERMIFUGE**, manufactured by Fleming Bros., 23 Wood Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. The market is full of counterfeits. You will be right if it has the signature of Fleming Bros. and C. McLane.

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Astoria, Oct. 3, 1882.

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