AT MONTE CARLO.

HAS OTHER ATTRACTIONS THAN GAMBLING.

It Is Well-Governed, Modern and Healthy —Living Is Very Cheap in the Little Principality—The Governor and the Government.

"All the world comes to Monte Carlo," is the saying that passes in the principality when acquaintances from distant parts of the globe stand side by side. The great magnet is undoubtedly the famous gambling tables, but aside from that attraction the place is of unique interest. Numbers of people, content to watch the passing show, go there from year to year, without ever laying a sou on the tables. They go rather for the sunshine, the beauty, and the good government that is to be found there.

The principality is but six miles square, and has a population of between 8,000 and 9,000. It lies especially within the sun's good graces, while the peculiar cliff formation tempers the high winds that sweep along the Riviera. As a health resort it is one of the best in Europe.

No strangers and few of its inhabitants remain at Monte Carlo during the summer, as it is too warm; the time is therefore used to renovate and prepare for the winter season. Early in June the grass is turned up and allowed to remain so until the first of October, when the seed is sown. In two weeks' time the gardens are like the softest velvet. The tropical plants grow vigorously, and it is unusual to see the leaves spotted or discolored. Nothing is ever allowed to decay in Monte Carlo; old buildings are modernized and the parks, drainage and streets are kept in a state of perfection.

In fact, it is estimated that of the £1,000,000 revenue derived from the tables, £400,000 is paid back annually in improvements. This year the concert stage has been enlarged, and a new cafe de Paris built. At present an electric tramway is being laid in Monte Carlo by an American company, and the expense of this enterprise is to be borne by one man, a wealthy Monegasque, a philosopher, although he can neither read nor write.

Monte Carlo is par excellence a place in which to own property, as there are no taxes of any kind; everything is paid by the Casino. Almost every spot is now built upon, and considering the demand there is during the season rents are astonishingly low. There a beautiful little suite of rooms can be had for the same price that one would pay for a fourth story hall bed room in New York, $20 per month. But provisions are very high, owing to the necessary duties. As an example, sugar sells for twelve cents a pound, potatoes four cents, and ham and bacon forty cents a pound. Fruit is high, and milk and cream are about the same as in America. Chickens are the only things not sold by weight, and they range in price from forty cents upward. A woman in Monte Carlo is glad to do housework for six cents an hour, without board; but no one suffers from poverty there, as they have learned the true art of economy.

Monte Carlo is governed by the prince of Monaco, and is under the protection of France. The latter friendly relations can be instanced in the matter of postage, as a letter can be sent to any part of France from Monte Carlo for the same rate that is necessary to carry it in France, while to any other country a five cent stamp instead of a three must be used. The Credit Lyonnaise, which stands on the border of France, can be seen from the shoulders and reply that Monte Carlo often walk into France for the purpose of posting their letters. When reminded that it is simpler to drop them in the box at the Casino, they shrug their shoulders and repl ythat Monte Carlo has a world wide reputation for wickedness and it is best for anxious friends at home to see the postmark of France.

When in Monte Carlo, Prince Albert and his family live in the palace,which is still, although modernized, a fine specimen of the Renaissance. He has one son by his first wife, who is in the army. The princess also has two children by her first husband, the Duke of Richelieu. The prince, however, is fond of science and spends most of his time on board the yacht Alice, named after his wife, pursuing his studies in ocean-ography. They are never in Monte Carlo until the 1st of January, when the true season for gaiety begins. The English people do not leave their homes until after Christmas, and the French remain for New Year's.

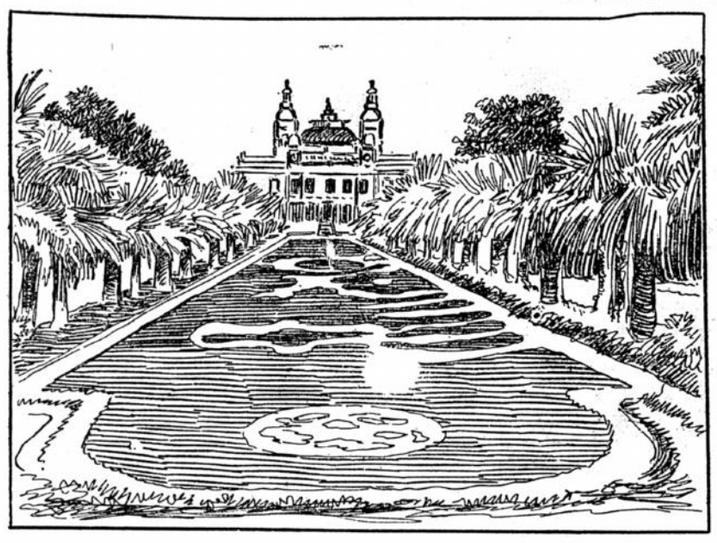
The place is admirably governed, and its inhabitants soon learn that there are certain things they must not do. The registration is very strict. No stranger is allowed to stop there even as a guest longer than two weeks without permission of the principality. Good behavior is also essential, and if a complaint is ever lodged against one he is promptly requested to leave the place, and may never return. He can pass through on the trains, but must not stop over. For these reasons many women whom circumstances have placed so that they must live alone make their homes in Monte Carlo. And perhaps nowhere else can they enjoy the same feeling of freedom and safety.

The town is well policed and lighted, and a woman can walk about at 11 o'clock at night as unhesitatingly as in the early morning. During the last five years the Monte Carlo papers have not mentioned one suicide or that anything exciting has taken place at the Casino; yet to read the papers in America, or Africa, one would suppose the poor Monegasques had a particular penchant in that direction.

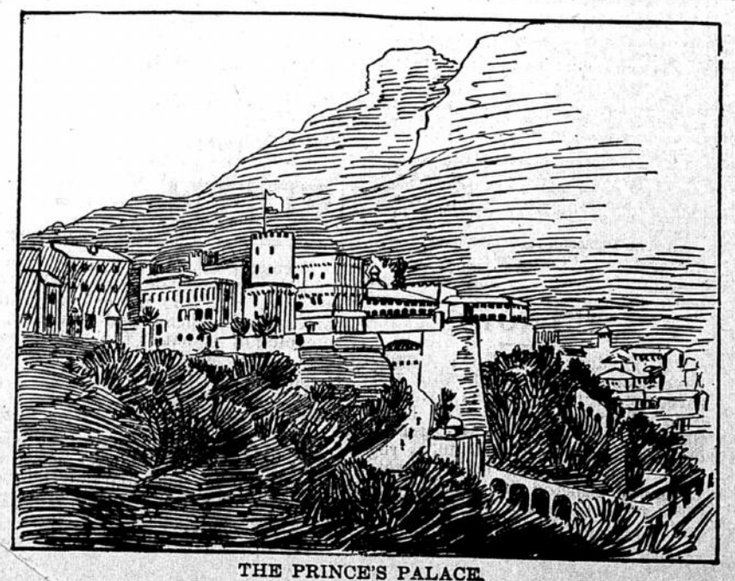
The present casino of Monte Carlo was started by Francois Blanc of Hombourg about 1863, under the reign of Charles III of Monaco. It is exclusively for strangers. The Monegasques, or, in fact, any one that earns his livelihood in Monaco, is not allowed to go to the Casino but one day in the year, November 15, the fete of Prince Albert. On this day the trades people may enter the playrooms; it is also the only day in the year that the Casino closes at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The bank spares no expense in illuminations and fireworks to make the prince's birthday the gayest fete of the year, and it is greeted with joy by every true Monegasque. Sometimes a tradesman that has the passion for play will enter the rooms on that day with his entire savings of the year, that he may try his luck at the temple of fortune.

Strangers are given cards of admission to the Casino with the simple request that they may be renewed at the expiration of a certain time. They have access to the concerts, the reading rooms and the play rooms. When neither the opera nor theater are at Monte Carlo, for which one must pay from 10 francs up, according to the talent, there are generally two free concerts a day. In fact, there are 125 musicians employed by the Casino. The reading rooms are lighted by electricity and oil lamps. There are sixteen writing desks abundantly supplied with the Casino stationary, and the tables are covered with the daily newspapers in all the languages of Europe, besides the magazines and weekly papers of all nations.

In the play rooms the saying is that one never knows how much the rest of the world gambles until he goes to Monte Carlo, and no other place where gambling is sanctioned is so well conducted. No smoking, eating or drinking is allowed, and for the slightest disturbance one would have his card of admission taken away. The bank is a stock company with a capital of £15,000,000. The stock sells quite high. It is a common error to think when the bank is spoken of as being broken that the whole company has come to grief, while in reality it is simply one table that has run out of funds and must suspend payment until it has sent for more money. A little black flag is raised by the table when the bank is broken.



THE CASINO AT MONTE CARLO.



THE PRINCE'S PALACE.

"The man who trusts another educates him," says a writer. If he keeps right on trusting he will also add to his own stock of knowledge.

MR. WEBSTER'S CLEVER STORY

Apt Little Comparison Handed Down from Early Days.

Recently I had occasion to recall some of the incidents in the life of Daniel Webster, whose 116th birthday occurred a short time ago, and whom I heard in the United States senate for the first time sixty-two years ago and of whose speeches and orations from my student days I had been a diligent reader and enthusiastic admirer, says a writer in the Boston Transcript. It was during the campaign which resulted in the election of Gen. Taylor that the incidents which I am about to relate occurred. A great mass meeting had been called in Worcester, where I happened to be, and Mr. Webster had been prevailed upon to make a speech in behalf of the whig candidate, Martin Van Buren, who had been successor to Gen. Jackson in the presidency and a democrat all his days, had been nominated by the free-soil party. Those who had known him as an arch-politician made no little sport when it was announced that Van Buren had joined the abolitionists. His friends alleged that a great change had come over him and that he had been suddenly converted to the anti-slavery ideas. When Mr. Webster came to pay his respects to the free-soil candidate he said: "I met a few days ago a gentleman who said: 'Mr. Webster, you have no idea of the change which has come over Mr. Van Buren,' and went on extolling the new convert. Now," said Mr. Webster, "I am reminded of an incident which occurred when Dr. Kirkland was president of Harvard college. A minister from one of the rural districts called upon the president of Harvard and said: 'I have called upon you, Brother Kirkland, to get your advice about a matter which is giving some of us a great deal of anxiety. The fact is, some of our church members are getting loose notions concerning one of the important articles of faith; that is, the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints, and I called to get your advice as to the best method of arresting the heresy.' 'Ah, my brother,' said Dr. Kirkland, 'in this region we have far more serious heresy to deal with, and that is, the perseverance of the sinners.' And now," said Mr. Webster, "that is just my trouble with Mr. Van Buren. I have known him for many years and touching this question of slavery I fear he will persevere unto the end the same incorrigible sinner." At this keen stroke of wit the hall rang with roars of laughter. General Taylor was elected the twelfth president of the United States, and Martin Van Buren was defeated.

A Yankee Romance.

Hawthorne found romance on the shores of old New England, and there is a good deal of it unmined in the modern life of the Yankees. The following story of love and marriage, strange as it may seem, is known to the writer to be true:

Years ago a summer boarder, at a cottage on a point of land which formed the protecting arm of the harbor of a fishing town in Massachusetts, was shown a girl baby only a few months old. He looked at the babe and admired; then said to the mother:

"Will you give me that babe for my wife?"

The mother had known the young man for several summers; she liked him, and therefore answered promptly, "Yes."

"Will you promise never to tell her that you have selected me as her husband?"

"Yes."

The conditions of the singular betrothal were observed. The girl-baby grew up; and summer after summer the young man courted her. When she was 18 he married her, and not till then did she know that she had been betrothed to her husband while in her cradle. Can old romance be more romantic than this story of a New England fishing town?

Royal Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

Members of the royal family have frequently been lords lieutenant of Ireland, under various titles. In vol. 215 state papers, Ireland, James I., 1603, there is a list of ten members of the royal family who had filled this place, beginning with John, early of Morton, afterwards King John. Since 1603 no member of the royal family has been lord lieutenant of Ireland.

A Thrilling Moment.

First Tomcat—How did you feel when the brick struck you? Second Tomcat—My past eight lives rose up before me in a second!—London Graphic.

DEADLY BOOMERANG.

A NEW YORKER WHO MAKES AND THROWS IT.

He Learned the Secret from Natives of Australia—How the Antipodean Savages Use This Strange Weapon—They Are Difficult to Make.

Civilized people, especially of the English-speaking races, pride themselves upon their discoveries in electricity with which they now operate the guns of the great ships of war, and they point with fear and trembling as well as satisfaction to the perfection of all sorts of dynamite bombs and explosives which they may, on occasion, use to kill people by the hundreds; but with all their cleverness they have never learned to make what a naked savage can fashion out of a crooked stick. It has been stated that there is nothing made of wood which a Yankee boy cannot copy with the aid of his jack-knife, but the man who said that had probably never heard of a boomerang. Horace Baker, who spent several years in Australia, and went "boomerang crazy," is said to be the first white man who ever made boomerangs that would "go," and he learned to make them by almost living with the savages and watching them as they sat whittling away at a piece of wood with their crude stone hatchets and sharp shells. He makes them now, when he has a little leisure from his regular occupation of wood engraving, but ordinarily he sits in his little New York studio working over a microscope as quietly as if he had never whirled a kangaroo into eternity with one of those bewitched pieces of deformed wood. Besides those which he has made himself, Mr. Baker has the largest collection of real Australian black man's boomerangs in this country. There are almost a hundred of them, and a queer lot they are! Some of them are haggled as if the savage had used his teeth to make them, yet as true to the boomerang principle as the perfectly carved specimens which decorate his walls. He keeps them hung up in clusters as some men have their guns and pistols arranged with a view to proud display before their friends. A few of these date away back to the time when Capt. Cook landed on the coast of Australia and took possession in the name of King George, for the savages hand these things down as heirlooms just as our Revolutionary heroes left us their muskets and military coats by which to prove a military family tree.

BAKER, BOOMERANG THROWER.

"Why is it so difficult to make a boomerang?" said this connoisseur of the crooked stick. "Well, because it is so delicately balanced that the least divergence from the proper angle will alter its course in the air and prevent the perfect revolution which is necessary to its flight. When correctly made, a boomerang should balance exactly on a knife blade at its center. If it doesn't balance, some more whittling must be done on the heavy end. That seems easy enough—to whittle a piece of curved wood into a flat shape so that the ends balance exactly—and if that were all there is to it, any boy could make one. The hard part of it is to cut the edges in such a way that they will strike the air at a certain angle in one part of the curve and at another in another part, and so on until every line of both edges contributes to the perfect revolution of the weapon. Then, when it is whirled, it has two motions, the rotary one, which is a result of its shape, and the forward one, given it in the throwing. It's a pity that the baseball players cannot 'get onto' those black fellows' 'curves.' A pitcher who could do it would make his fortune.

"The quality of wood used has a great deal to do with the excellence of a boomerang. The Australian brave will tramp miles to find a branch of the right shape and a wood of the proper density. Gnarled trees are at a premium there, and the heaviest wood is the best. Our lignum vitae corresponds the nearest to the tree they like best. The piece for the boomerang is usually cut where a branch curves out from the tree trunk, for this is the most natural crook in the tree's formation. As the branch is bent, so is the boomerang inclined, for its curve must follow the grain of the wood. One never sees any cross-grains on any of these weapons."

BAGPIPE BOOM IN LONDON.

Players Who Learn the Art for the Money in It.

"The bagpipe boom has again reached London. It takes two pipers to do the thing properly," remarked Miller Outcalt to his guests at his 57th birthday dinner recently, says the Cincinnati Enquirer. "One of these marches up and down, you know, playing the instrument, while another accompanies him, handling a sheathed sword. The bearing of both performers is proud and martial and Scotch. Anybody could tell they were Scotch—even a Saxon infant in arms. An old gentleman was recently so pleased by the aspect of one of these bagpipe couples that he gave them each a shilling, saying: 'Eh, man, do ye prefer playing the music o' the bonny hame land in musty Lunnon streets to marching across the heather wi' the wind in your teeth?' The first Scotchman looked at him in surprise. The second said, disgustedly: 'Watcher talkin' abart, guv'nor? Me an' my mite buyed this 'ere arm argin' down in Shoreditch when the bagpipe boom came on. It's a lot better'n shovin' a bloomin' barrer tryin' to sell oranges. Oh, the business ain't so bad, 'cept for the chiblines we gets on our bloomin' knees. Me an' my mite do wish, though, when people give us coin they wouldn't go jawin' of us in a furrin' langwidge.' 'But how did you learn?' asked the astonished Scotchman. ''Ow? Easy enough. Yer just squeezes the old balloon an' lets 'er squeal 'erself sick and the sicker she squeals 'erself the more the people seem to loike it. But, blimey, give us another bob and we'll play "Annie Lorrie."'"

Thick-Skinned Animals.

The whale, which belongs to the mammalia, has a skin nowhere less than seven inches, and in many places fully two feet in thickness. The skin of the whale is the substance usually known as blubber, and in a large specimen will weigh altogether more than thirty tons. The distinction of being the thickest-skinned quadruped belongs to the Indian rhinoceros, whose hide has a knotty or granulated surface, and is so impenetrable as to resist the claws of the lion or tiger, the sword, or the balls of the old-fashioned musket. So stiff and hard is this skin, that were it not divided by creases or folds the animal imprisoned in its armor could scarcely move. It is manufactured into leather of great strength and durability, and targets and shields are made of it that are absolutely proof against darts or sword-strokes. The skin of the hippopotamus runs that of the rhinoceros very closely as regards thickness. When dried it is also used for shields, which are highly prized by the natives of Africa.

Cork Legs Not of Cork.

The peculiarity of a cork leg is that apart from the name there isn't a vestige of cork about it. The origin of the term comes, it is said, from the fact that nearly all the great manufacturers of such articles live on Cork street, Piccadilly, in London.

FROZEN WITH LIQUID AIR.

Compressing Everyday Atmosphere Results in Peculiar Phenomena.

Perhaps the most striking exhibition of liquefied air and its properties which has yet been made was given by Prof. Barker in his laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania, Jan. 27. A report was given in the Philadelphia Ledger of the following day. The air was liquefied in New York, two and a half gallons of it being conveyed to Philadelphia in a milk can thickly covered with felt. In the process employed for liquefying the air it is compressed by a pressure of 2,000 pounds and cooled by passing through a copper coil to normal temperature. It is discharged through a very minute opening when it expands and its temperature falls, and, coming in contact with a second coil, cools that and its contained air at 2,000 pounds' pressure. This cooled air is discharged also upon a third coil, also containing air at the high pressure, and in this coil the cold produced is so intense that the air runs out in a liquid stream a quarter of an inch or so in diameter. The liquid air remains liquid, just as water does, until its temperature rises to the boiling point, and then, as the operation of evaporation requires heat for its maintenance the evaporation proceeds slowly or rapidly, according to the rate of heat supply. The intensely low temperature must, of course, not be forgotten. Ice dropped into the liquid causes it to boil until the ice is cooled. The boiling point at ordinary atmospheric pressure is—191 degrees centigrade or—320 degrees Fahrenheit. As the boiling point of nitrogen is more than ten degrees below that of oxygen, it is found that it boils out first, and by a careful control of the evaporation the liquid oxygen may be retained separate; this process, therefore, affords a means of obtaining oxygen for the many purposes for which it is required in the arts. The refrigerative phenomena exhibited were numerous and interesting. An egg placed in a tumbler of the liquid caused it to boil furiously. When the egg was finally "cooked," or cooled to the temperature of the air it was taken out and struck with a hammer, flying into the finest fragments! Tin became as brittle as glass, while copper and platinum were not affected in this way. Mercury was frozen so that it was used to drive a nail in a board. Cotton saturated with the liquid oxygen exploded and burned brilliantly.

CRAMP'S OPINION OF WILHELM.

Most Progressive Monarch Who Has Reigned Since Peter the Great.

Charles H. Cramp, the great ship builder, in commenting on the enterprise of foreign countries, is quoted in the Philadelphia Inquirer as saying this about Germany: "The magnificent enterprise of Germany at the present time—covering almost every branch of industry—is an example for the whole world to gaze on with admiration. Her manufactures, her commmerce, her merchant marine and her navy are alike receiving an attention and encouragement that are developing them rapidly into the most stupendous monuments of industrial enterprise and back of it all is the young German emperor, who is regarded as crazy by half the people of the world. He may be crazy, erratic or anything else they like to call him, but I tell you that the manner in which the Kaiser William has stiffened the backbone of Germany since his accession to the throne proclaims him to be the most progressive monarch who has reigned in Europe since Peter the Great. One of his loftiest ideas is to make Germany paramount on the seas, the result of which is the shipyards in Germany were never so busy as they are today. Germany is not only building vessels for her own navy and merchant marine, but she is making every effort to control the ship-building industry of the world. This she can never do, but her pluck and enterprise are extraordinary in this particular. She has her agents in every country energetically seeking to obtain contracts for war vessels, and in her overtures to Turkey she not only offers to build it a new navy but to take its old navy and put it through repair by overhauling and modernizing every vessel."

A Singular Luminous Animal.

A most remarkable creature is the jelly-like luminous animal known as the pyrosoma, or "fire-body." It resembles a cylinder, open at one end, from six inches to four or five feet in length, and is in reality a community of animals, better known as an ascidian. A ship once sailed through a sea of these creatures, with a result that was awe-inspiring. The water had a milky appearance, and looked upon examination, as though it were filled with red hot cylinders. The sea, when it broke, gave a spectral glare to everything, so that the sails and rigging cast dark shadows on the deck.

Picture 'Way Off.

"Why, papa," said Frances, who was looking at the family album, "surely this isn't a picture of you?" "Yes," replied papa, "that is a picture of me, taken when I was quite young." "Well," commented the little girl, "it doesn't look as much like you as you look now."—London Figaro.

Noncommittal.

Carrie—Did John come up very close to you when he proposed? May—Well, I hope you don't think he went across the street and shouted his love over to me.