THE EDUCATION OF A POKER PLAYER.

Pete Granger, Though Ornery in His Youth, Became Rich and Respected.

"There was them that knowed Pete Granger when he were on'y a boy, 't said he wouldn't never be nothin' more'n a great big stuff 's long 's he lived," said old man Greenhut, when Granger's name was mentioned by somebody in the saloon. "An' I will say that there 'peared to be reason in what they said.

"He were about as ornery a specimen when he were a boy as you'd find in six counties, an' there wa'n't nothin' about him but his size as 'd call for anybody to look twicet at him.

"First off, he were a po' white, an' round Abilene, whar he come from, the po' white sure was trash, like the niggers called 'em. Them days there was three kinds o' people, not countin' dogs an' mules, reckoned among the population o' Mississippi.

"There was white folks, an' niggers, an' the po' whites. Nobody reckoned the last wuth nothin', even when they wa'n't so all fired ornery as Granger was. They didn't have nothin' an' they couldn't do nothin', an' they didn't know nothin', an' they didn't care, nor nobody else didn't, neither. 'Peared strange like 't they sh'd live.

"Well, Granger was wuss'n that. There was some on 'em 't did have fathers an' mothers an' names, but Pete, he just growed up 'thout none on 'em. If he had a father, nobody knowed who he was, an' his mother died when he were risin' ten, an' bein' as she wasn't knowed in the township nobody knowed what her name was.

"She just happened along with her boy Pete an' dropped into one o' Col. Granger's ol' tumbledown nigger cabins what 'd got too leaky for a nigger to live into, an' she stayed there for a few days an' took sick an' died.

"There was some talk o' sendin' the boy to the orphan asylum up State, but he kind o' dogged out o' the way when they went a'ter him once or twict, an' there wan't no great interest took, so he just stayed on alone in the cabin, livin' the Lord knows how, an' keepin' to hisself. He hadn't no name but Pete, an' he took the other because he lived on Granger's land. Rather 'twas give to him. I don't reckon he cared enough about it to take it.

"He was big. That was all't you c'd say about him. That kind o' p'tected him for a spell when he'd go prowlin' 'round.

"The other boys seen he was big an' just naturally they reckoned he c'd lick 'em, but one day a cocky little bantam about half his size pitched on him an' licked him, an' after that the on'y thing Pete was knowed to do was to run. He sure could run fast.

"He's younger 'n I be, an' I came to know consid'able about him when I was just growin' up over in them parts, but I hadn't never saw him more'n four or five times when the war broke out. Then I lost sight of him for two or three years, for I 'listed an' was sent to the front. 'Peared like he wouldn't do even for powder food.

"There ain't no tellin', though, what onlikely instruments Providence is goin' to select when it comes to makin' a great moral lesson clear to a heedless an' onregenerate public. There were a necessity for people to recolleck that book larnin' ain't all that's wanted, nor the kind o' religion that comes at campmeetin' ain't the on'y requirement for to make a man respected in this world.

"The war were a destructive thing for the country, there ain't no question o' that, but it did one good thing that ain't wore out yet. It made the people of the different parts o' the South better acquainted with the different sorts o' poker that was bein' played in different parts, an' tended to make the game more homogenerous, so to speak. The fellers in a Arkansas regiment would stack up ag'in a lot o' South Car'lina men, for example, an' they'd each learn a heap.

"Then there was opportunities for high play such as there hain't been since, an' there ain't likely to be ag'in. Toward the close o' the war Confederate money got so plenty 't you c'd ha' bought it for a dollar a bushel in gold, if you c'd ha' got the gold, an' it were the on'y money there was to get paid off in or to play poker with.

"Just naturally that give a man with a good nerve a chanst for to make a hell-roarin' big bluff if so be he was disposed to bluff, an' also it give a man courage to call when he reckoned the other feller was tryin' to bluff. It were the means of a great development, an' the country has benefited by it ever since.

"An' among the chosen instruments that Providence used in bringin' about this great reform was Pete Granger. Just as I said, he were too young to go into the army first off, but when they begin to draft boys an' old men they got a hold o' him an' it wa'nt no use for him to say he were on'y fourteen years old, which was the truth, for he were so all-fired big 't he looked like a man o' twenty.

"So they took him in, an' knowin' how handy he was about runnin' away f'm any kind of a fight, they told him he'd get shot the minute he turned 'round if the enemy was anywhere's in sight.

"I ain't a sayin' that made a man of him, but it skeered him out o' playin' the coward, an' they said he fit as well as the next one, knowin' it didn't make no difference which way he went, so fur as the consequences went. But it wa'n't as a fighter 't Pete was destined to shine.

"There was more illustrious things ahead o' him. He got sort o' hardened to settin' under fire, an' 'tain't recorded 't he ever weakened when the other feller got the drop on him across the table. Naturally that were a great help to him, but what give him his first start was handlin' big money afore he knowed how much 'twa'n't worth.

"Just naturally he had a sort of a notion o' what draw poker was afore he ever played it, an' when he got into the army the first thing he 'peared to pick up was how to handle the cards. Then, when he'd been in the service a few months, we got paid off. I were in the same company with him, an' we set in at the same old game that was played all through the army.

"Each squad 'd play poker till one man had all the money there was in the squad. Then all the players in the company 'd get together an' play a freeze-out. That'd leave about nine or ten men that'd each have a stake, an' they'd play till some one feller'd have all the paymaster'd brung fer us.

"If he was a real sport, he'd hang onto his wad til he had a chance to get into the division game, when he'd mebbe be a real winner. If he wa'n't no sport, he'd likely buy a half a dozen plugs o' tobacco an' lay back, broke, till we'd be paid off ag'in.

"Well, nobody thought nothin' about Pete's chances. It didn't 'pear to be likely as he were goin' to last through the squad game, but 'long toward midnight, a'ter we'd set in, that settin' was finished up, an' Pete had his first wad.

"'Peared he'd called a seven hundred dollar bluff when he hadn't on'y a pair o' sixes in his hand—a thing 't no feller'd be liable to do if he know'd anything o' the value o' money, but Pete hadn't never had no money in his hands afore, an' he didn't know whether seven hundred dollars was a house an' lot, or a piece o' pie.

"Nobody thought nothin' special o' that, but the next night there were a company game an' Pete set in with the money o' his squad in his pocket. 'Twan't as much as you might think, sayin' it quick, but there was mebbe three thousand dollars in it. I'd won out in my squad an' I set in, too, with about the same stake, so I had a chanst o' seein' how this new man played.

"First off there didn't 'pear to be no life into him. I seen him throw down aces up, oncet, for he wa'n't nigh so keerful about handlin' his cards as he come to be later, an' I says to myself there wa'n't much to be said of a man't wouldn't call on that hand, there bein' not over a thousand dollars in the pot, an' nothin' but a three card draw, an' a one card draw out ag'n him.

"When it come to the show down on that hand, though, the three card man had made threes an' the one card man had filled his flush, so I seen's Pete had been lucky to drop. That is, I reckoned it was luck. A'ter a time I begin to think mebbe 'twas more.

"'Peared like he knowed a heap about what anybody else held round the table, an' there wa'n't no use tryin' to get him to bet ag'in nobody 't had better cards 'n he had, but then ag'in, if he had the best hand, 'twa'n't no use to bluff agin him.

"I found that last thing out mighty sudden all to myself when I drawed for a flush an' didn't fill it, agin his three card draw. There wa'n't eight hundred in the pot, an' I p'tended to get excited an' slammed in two thousand that was all I had left. It sure were a strong bluff, but he called it on a pair o' jacks an' took the money.

"Well, he won out at the company game, an' then he won out at the big game o' the regiment, an' we looked to see if he'd blow his money, but he said he didn't reckon he car'd about no more tobacco 'n was comin' to him in rations when we got 'em, an' he kind o' reckoned on holdin' on to what he had till he got another chance o' playin' poker.

"By this time he'd got a name for knowin' consid'able about the cards, but we didn't get no new decks very often them days, an' there was others c'd read the backs tolable well a'ter they'd been used a spell. We didn't give Pete credit—not then—for bein' able to tell 'em almost as well by the backs a'ter he'd shuffled 'em twice, as he could by the face.

"But that was just what he c'd do, an' little by little he come to be knowed as the best poker player in Mississippi. Them things we'd reckoned on as countin' agin him was reely his great natural advantages, an' bein' as ignorant as he was o' most other things he give his whole talent to draw poker.

"A'ter the surrender he sort o' drifted over onto the river, an' got to travellin' up an' down on the boats for his health, payin' his expenses at draw poker, an' layin' up a little money now an' again when he'd strike a bigger win than usual. Never tried to do nothin' else, likely because there wa'n't nothin' else 't he c'd do, but he stuck to that an' now in his old age he's rich an' respected an' retired."

THE BIG CATHOLIC CONGRESS.

Something About the Great Gathering Here This Week.

The central idea of the Roman Catholic Church is in the Eucharist—the living presence of Christ in the bread and wine on the altar. The Eucharist is one of the seven sacraments of the Church, and the most important. Out of it have grown the ritual, music, architecture of the Church, and many peculiarities of Christian social life among Catholics.

The Eucharistic League among the laity is the stepping stone to the Eucharistic congress of the clergy. These leagues are formed in nearly every Roman Catholic church in the world, banding together the faithful of the parish in an organization whose object is to venerate God in the Eucharist. They go to confession and communion the first Friday in each month; an office of the Sacred Heart is read in public and a sermon is preached.

These leagues of the Eucharist began in the middle of the last century. Their object and that of the congresses in which they meet is to systematize public and private devotions. Pius IX. was the champion of the movement in his time, and Leo XIII. gave the Eucharistic League of Rome his personal attention.

The present Pontiff, Pius X., is expected to send a special blessing to the third Eucharistic congress in the United States, to be held at the Cathedral here this week, because it is the first gathering of the kind since he ascended the throne of Peter. Bishop Maes of Covington, Ky., has already been appointed by the Pope to act as president of the congress. He has been the most active worker for the success of the Eucharistic League in the Central States.

He is eloquent, of fine appearance, a great organizer, and is earnest and sincere. He is to-day the youngest and most powerful leader of the German element in the Catholic Church and is the close friend and adviser of the aged Archbishop Elder of Cincinnati, his superior in that province.

Bishop Stang, the first Bishop of Fall River, Mass., who will preach at Thursday's pontifical high mass, is the second youngest Bishop in America, being just past 35 years of age. Since his consecration he has attended every Catholic convention held in this country, and is fast becoming a leader in the Church as well as the ruler of his own diocese.

Bishop Colton of Buffalo, formerly of New York, has repeated there the record as an able administrator that he made while Chancellor of this diocese. He preaches on Wednesday.

The Rev. Richard Neagle of Malden, Mass., who is to speak on "Attendance at Mass," was formerly chancellor of the Boston diocese, and recently had the honor of having his name sent to Rome as a choice for Coadjutor Bishop of Boston. He is a profound scholar and is greatly beloved by his fellow priests.

The Rev. John J. Frawley, the Redemptorist, who is to speak on "Daily Visits to the Church," is the most eloquent preacher of his order, has travelled extensively, has charming manners and a distinguished presence.

The Rev. H. J. Heuser, the subject of whose address is to be "Eucharistic Liturgy: Proper Care of Churches and Sacristies," is the founder and editor of the *Ecclesiastical Review*.

The Right Rev. Mgr. John O'Reilly of Schenectady is the youngest looking churchman in the archdiocese. He is 55, but looks only 35. He has just completed the most peculiar church in this country. Its architecture is Gothic, but the body of the church is arranged like a modern theatr auditorium. He is to read a paper at the congress on "The Preparation of Souls for the First Holy Communion."

The Very Rev. James F. Driscoll of St. Joseph's Seminary, who will speak on the "Inculcation of Eucharistic Devotion in Seminaries," is an Oriental scholar, the head of the seminary at Dunwoodie, and a member of the Sulpician Order, the richest in America. This order practically owns the city of Montreal, Canada, the land having been granted to them by the French Government when the Dominion was owned by France.

The Very Rev. Joseph H. Conroy, Vicar General of Ogdensburg, will talk upon "Preparation and Thanksgiving for Holy Communion." He is noted as a good story teller and bears a striking resemblance to the late Edwin Booth, for whom he has been mistaken many times.

Other papers will be read by well known New Yorkers. Archbishop Farley will deliver an address of welcome after the pontifical mass on Tuesday, and Mgr. Mooney will preach at this mass. The Rev. William O'Brien Pardow of the Jesuits will speak on "The Relation of Devotion to the Sacred Heart and to the Blessed Sacrament." The Rev. Henry A. Brann, pastor of St. Agnes's Church, in East Forty-third street, the Rev. Edward McSweeney and the Right Rev. Mgr. McGean of St. Peter's, in Barclay street, will also speak.

There will be a solemn pontifical mass at 9 o'clock every morning while the congress is in session. It will meet at 10 o'clock and again at 3, and there will be evening devotions at 8 o'clock in every Catholic church in the city.

The visiting clergy will be entertained by the New York priests and Catholic laymen. There will be private dinner parties and excursions and sight-seeing all week. Many of the clergy are already here enjoying this part of the congress.

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THIS WEEK AT THE THEATRES

Continued from Fourth Page.

festivity at Terrace Garden in celebration of "Deutscher Tag." In the afternoon two large orchestras and a brass band will play in turn, and the United German Singers, nearly a thousand strong, will join in songs of the Rhine. In the evening the singing will be continued, and Herr Rottemeyer's orchestra will present a special programme.

"The Sleeping Beauty and the Beast" will stay at the Grand Opera House this week. The spectacle has been so successful that Manager Springer is negotiating for annual engagements of the Drury Lane shows after they leave Broadway.

"When Johnny Comes Marching Home," the stirring comic opera of Stange & Edwardes, the authors of "Dolly Varden," is to be given at the West End Theatre this week. It is a noteworthy show in many ways, not the least picturesque feature of it being the enormous hoopskirts worn by the women.

William Collier, in "The Dictator," has moved to the Harlem Opera House for this week, giving an opportunity to the folks far uptown to enjoy one of the most amusing comedies presented on Broadway in a long time.

"Ninety and Nine," one of the most elaborate scenic productions put on the stage in recent years, is presented at Proctor's Fifty-eighth Street Theatre. It can be given properly only on large stages, but Proctor's is especially well equipped for such productions. One of the features of the play is a scene showing a locomotive running at full speed through a blazing forest.

At the Metropolis Theatre this week the attraction is Henri Gressitt's production of "Capt. Barrington." The star of the excellent company is William Bramwell, who has played only in this city for the last three years. Gallant deeds, a picturesque love story and plenty of comedy all help to make this an interesting play.

"New York Day by Day" is to be presented at the Third Avenue Theatre this week. The production is a large and expensive one.

The Vanity Fair Burlesquers and a large company, with much gorgeous scenery, are at home at the Gotham this week.

At the Dewey Theatre Harry Bryant's extravaganza company holds forth. The organization includes a large and good looking chorus and several of the bright lights of burlesque.

An excellent vaudeville bill is given every week in the theatre of Huber's Museum, and the museum has in addition its special group of freaks. Among these this week are the Original Skeleton Dude, a wonderful snake charmer and the man on whose back lightning burned a crucifix.

New films for the cinematograph have just been received and are being shown at the Eden Musée. Among the most interesting views is one of Sir Hiram Maxim's flying machines in operation. The apparatus is shown in the air over Earl's Court, the famous London resort. Potent attractions at the Musée are the afternoon and evening concerts and the famous "World in Wax."

The Brooklyn Theatres.

The second performance in Brooklyn of "The Crisis" and the first appearance anywhere of Miss Nannette Comstock as a star are both to take place this week at the Majestic Theatre. Miss Comstock is well known among the younger generation of actresses, and the play has made its own name on Broadway. The production is to include everything that a New York success should command.

The usual excellent vaudeville bill is presented at the Orpheum Theatre this week. The list of performers is a long one and includes all types from monologists to acrobats and budding prima donnas to comic knockabout artists.

"The Prince of Pilsen," one of the most tuneful and entertaining comic operas that has been seen in Manhattan, comes to the Broadway Theatre in Williamsburg this year. Col. Savage has expended a great deal of care on this production, and money has not been spared in arranging it so that it will be up to the usual standard of the attractions at this theatre.

At the Montauk this week "The Earl of Pawtucket," with Lawrence D'Orsay in his original part, is to be given.

The Spooner Stock Company presents "The Deacon's Daughter" this week, with Miss Cecil Spooner in the title rôle.

"A Prisoner of War" is the week's play at the Grand Opera House. It includes a stirring scene in which the Russian battleship Retvizan is destroyed by a mine.

At the Folly the melodrama "The Female Detective" is to be presented, with the Russell Brothers, famous in vaudeville, making the fun in it.

"Rachel Goldstein," a melodrama of life in New York, is the week's play at the Park Theatre.

The Columbia will have the stirring melodrama "Rupert of Hentzau," based on Anthony Hope's famous novel.

The burlesque at Watson's Theatre is called "Barbara Fidgetty." There is to be a vaudeville bill in addition.

New York's Greatest Sale of Reliable Notions Begins Monday at the Big Store.

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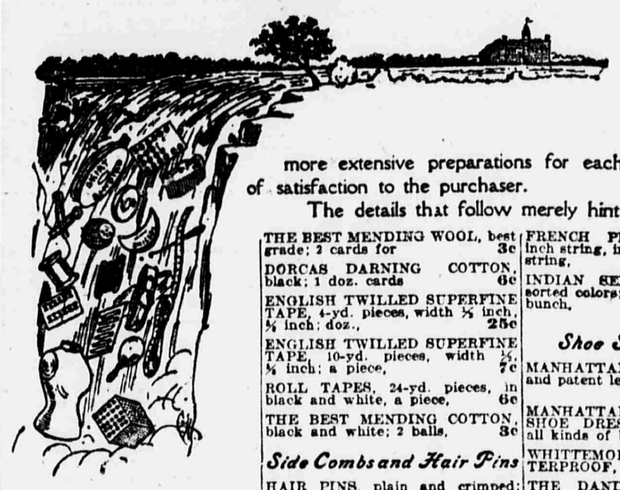

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This fact will be apparent to every one who comes to this sale. And thousands will unquestionably flock to this interesting sale. As many as 65,000 people attended one of our earlier sales, and this has led us to make more extensive preparations for each succeeding sale. Everything is of the best, and that signifies a world of satisfaction to the purchaser.

The details that follow merely hint of the extraordinary scope of the sale.

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SATIN PAD HOSE SUPPORTERS, with heavy silk finished plain 1¼ inch elastic; beautifully finished; assorted colors, pair, 35c
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More People Than Ever Now Enjoying the Conveniences of Travel.

"I observed," said an infrequent traveller, "that more people than ever before, many more, now travel in parlor cars. There are plenty of people who ten or twenty years ago would never have thought of riding in any but a sit-up car who now take, on a day journey, seats in a parlor car, and this not for its exclusiveness, but for its greater comfort.

"It is by no means the person of wealth alone who now travels in parlor cars. The man of moderate means, and in fact the man of very moderate means as well, lives now at home in greater comfort than ever before, and when he goes abroad he likes to travel in like or better manner. And if he is going on a journey of any distance by day he takes a seat in a parlor car and he takes to it very kindly and naturally and unostentatiously.

"And still the modern train of luxury is a wonder, and familiar as it may be we must admire it all the same, and most of all must we admire the train that combines within itself all the many modern features of luxury in travel; the train which, drawn by a tremendous engine that could, it would seem, haul a range of mountains if it could be placed on wheels, has ponderous sleeping cars, in which one may go to bed in comfort in one State to wake up hundreds of miles away in another; parlor cars from which one may look through broad-framed windows, as through a great picture frame, upon a great gallery of marvellous pictures constantly changing; a dining car in which one may dine as luxuriously as he would, while the train flies at fifty miles an hour past towns and villages and over streams and across the open country, and an observation car, whence one may see the earth itself shoot out behind him.

"Truly one of the wonders of the day is this train, a train that the trackmen on the road still stop to gaze at, with pride and admiration, as it thunders by; a train that one may enjoy though his purse be not so very fat, but one whose luxuries could not have been commanded at any price a scant fifty years ago, when such trains were quite unknown, when everybody rode in sit-ups."

NOTE FOR DEPARTMENT STORES.

There's a Queer Little Tawny Beast That May Be the Girl Clerk's Good Friend.

"The other day," said a Jersey woman, "I was in the basement of a Newark department store looking at housefurnishing goods. All at once an odd little beastie, with tawny fur, scurried past me and ran behind the counter. Of course, I jumped, but the girl clerk laughed reassuringly and remarked:

"'It's only the ferret.'

"'The ferret!' I exclaimed. 'Does he belong here?'

"'He seems to think he does,' the clerk answered, 'and I don't know myself how we could get along without him now. At first we girls were scared to death of him, and he was just as afraid of us. But he's been here so long he's got used to us, and we've come to think that he's just about the best friend we could ask for down here.

"'You see, he's death to the rats and mice that come from the grocery department, right next us, so without the ferret—well, I don't know how we'd stand it, for we're not allowed to climb on the counters.'"

Last Chance—

The sale of Richardson Pianos ends with this week—so be quick to take advantage of this most

Profitable Piano Investment.

You will save $150 if you secure one of these pianos, besides getting one of the best pianos manufactured.

Greatest of All Piano Offers.

We place the possession of a piano within everybody's means.

Pianos, $1 A Week.

Richardson Piano For $185.
Wilson Piano, $175.
Harmony Piano, $195.
Walters Piano, $195.
Weigner Piano, $210.
Bellord Piano, $235.
Including Stool and Cover, Delivered on payment of $5.

Pianos Guaranteed for 10 Years

and no interest charged for time taken in making payments.

Upon request we will send a representative who will give you full particulars.

All Cars Transfer To Bloomingdale's
LEX. To 3rd AVE. 59th To 60th St.

BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENTS. | BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENTS.

B. G. LATIMER & SONS CO.

We have a rare assortment of distinctive Furniture and Carpetings. Tasteful designs, superior quality and moderate prices are the notable features of our warerooms. We are offering scores of special effects, in every good grade, in both lines, that have been surprisingly marked down in selling prices. Probably the strongest Carpet attraction ever shown in Brooklyn is our display of

GENUINE BIGELOW AXMINSTERS At $1.10 a Yard. Former Price $1.75.

In other standard grades of Carpetings we show many handsome patterns at following reductions.

Best Tapestries, 65c. a yard; were $1.
Substantial Velvets at 85c. a yard; were $1.10.
Best Inlaid Linoleums at $1.10 a yard; were $1.50.
High-Grade Body Brussels at $1.00 a yard; were $1.35.
Superior Axminsters at $1.00 a a yard; were $1.35.
Wilton Rugs, 9x12, at $26.50; were $35.00.

Special Furniture Prices.

Solid oak box seat Dining Chairs at $1.65, $2.50 and $3.50, were $2.00, $3.50 and $5.00.
Well made Bureaus in all woods at $22.50, were $30.00.
Quartered oak Sideboards at $20.00, $30.00 and $40.00, were $26.50, $41.50 and $55.00.
Iron Beds at $4.50, $7.00 and $9.50, were $6.50, $9.75 and $12.50.
Brass Beds at $20.00, $26.50 and $35.00, were $25.00, $32.50 and $45.00.
Quartered oak Dining Tables at $12.50, $20.00 and $30.00, were $16.50, $25.00 and $40.00.
Mahogany Bookcases at $25.00, $35.00 and $50.00, were $36.50, $51.50 and $70.00.
Handsome Parlor Suites at $50.00, $70.00 and $90.00, were $68.50, $95.00 and $120.00.

B. G. LATIMER & SONS CO.

Fulton Street and Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn.

IRVING PLACE'S OPENING.

Set for Oct. 6—Three New Stars in the First Comedy.

The season at the Irving Place Theatre will begin on Thursday, Oct. 6. The opening has been delayed by the impossibility of completing the new decorations of the house earlier. The first attraction will be a new three act comedy by Gebhard Schatzler-Perasini, entitled "Sein Prinzesschen" ("His Little Princess"), in which three new members of Mr. Conried's company will make their début. They are Margareta Russ, an ingénue, and Frita Kleincke, from the Lessing Theatre in Berlin, and Heinrich Marlow, from the Hof Theater in Hanover.