ONE EYE MAKES PLAY TO AMAZE PLAYERS

Throws Down Four Aces, Knowing That a Straight Flush Must Be Out.

MR. BLAISDELL'S ANALYSIS

By DAVID A. CURTIS.

"How come he lay down?" demanded old man Greenlaw in a tone of voice that indicated astonishment mingled with incredulity.

"Oh, I don't know," said Mr. Pepper. "I reckon he knowed he was beat."

The question and answer followed the telling by Mr. Pepper of a most surprising story concerning a game of poker which he had seen played on a Mississippi River boat a night or two before, he being then on his way to Arkansas City. After his arrival he had lost no time in making his way to the old man's saloon, where he felt himself assured of a hearing for the story by a group of deeply interested hearers. In this he was not disappointed.

In brief, the story was this: A party of six, all of whom were accomplished poker players, were engaged in an unlimited game. One of the contestants was a one eyed man who was well known in Arkansas City and elsewhere as a resourceful and capable player, absolutely devoid of fear and strongly insistent on reaping every possible advantage that might come to him in the game. Another was Bill Mundy, a gamester of almost equal repute, who was known to be a sworn foe of the one eyed man, and therefore not to be suspected of playing in collusion with him, though they were both professionals and the other four were all amateurs.

The game was a fierce one, there being much money in sight and undoubtedly much more in reserve, no man having shown evidence of exhausted resources, though there had been big bets made and lost, and everybody at the table had been obliged to dig once or more before the climax of the story came.

That came after a jackpot containing $30 had been opened under the guns for the size of it by one of the non-professionals on One Eye's deal. The next man stayed and the next threw down. It was then Mundy's play and he trailed. The fourth amateur went along also, and One Eye boosted it $50.

The opener saw the raise, and the next player made it $50 more, smiling pleasantly. It was evident that he had a good hand and had refrained from raising on the first round lest he should drive away customers. That made $380 in the pot and forced Mundy to put up at least $100 or lay down his cards, though it was, of course, optional with him to raise again if he chose to do so. What he did was to put up his $100.

The next player dropped in the face of the double raise and One Eye made it another hundred to play. That was too strong for the opener, and he passed, retaining his hand so that he could prove after the showdown that he had opened properly, but the next player made good, though he looked anxious, as if doubtful of the correctness of his play. Mundy, however, trailed again with $100, thereby closing the pot, which now contained $830, three players remaining.

All this Mr. Pepper related with minute particularity, making the situation perfectly clear to his hearers, who all showed by their expression that they not only understood it but were greatly interested in it.

Then he told of the draw. The first man stood pat. Mundy took one card, and One Eye, after seeming to hesitate a moment, also stood pat, after which the final betting was in order.

The first player again showed doubt and threw a white chip in the pot, thus giving himself a chance for another play should he see fit to make it, but Mundy put up $500 without a trace of excitement. Then One Eye swore a little under his breath and threw his cards face upward on the table. He had held four aces and a trey.

Having reached this point in his narrative, Mr. Pepper paused and looked around him with keen enjoyment of the bewilderment he saw on the faces of the others.

Blank amazement was plainly visible on all of them, save one. They had not yet reached the seemingly inevitable conclusion that Mr. Pepper was lying to them, and for the moment they were trying to understand the play he had described, but they were all, with the one exception, entirely unable to do it. Then came the old man's question, "How come he lay down?" and Mr. Pepper's reply, "Oh, I don't know. I reckon he knowed he was beat."

On the face of it this seemed so preposterous that they paid little heed to it. That a man with four aces in his hand should surrender the pot without a contest seemed irreconcilable with reason, and that One Eye, above all other men, should do so appeared to be a monstrous stretch of imagination. Mr. Winterbottom was the first to perceive that it was incredible.

"I reckon they is mo' 'n less of a lie mixed up into it, some'res," he said, calmly.

"Must 'a' had a gun in sight," suggested Joe Bassett as a possible explanation, but the others rejected that.

"One Eye ain't no man to lay down fo' a gun," said the old man very positively. "Not 'thouten he didn't had no knife onto him, an' I reckon he'd be mo' liable fo' to leave his breeches to hum nor he would his knife." And they all knew that this was true.

"Mebbe the deal was crooked," said Sam Pearsall, but only a moment's thought was enough to show that this explained nothing, since One Eye was himself the dealer.

And though there was considerable more discussion, it was desultory, and the mystery deepened instead of disappearing until at length they began to show a feeling of exasperation at having it presented to them, and for a time it looked bad for Mr. Pepper.

Joe Bassett in particular seemed to favor the idea of k. ing him offhand and old man Gree aw reached for his bungstarter as if animated by a similar thought. Mr. Pepper was by no means unaware of the general tone of sentiment toward him and this manifestation of it was not lost on him, wherefore he hastily prepared himself to go away from there, taking a few steps toward the accomplishment of that purpose, and taking them in the direction of the door.

Just as he had his hand on the knob, however, Jim Blaisdell said:

"I reckon they ain't no call fo' yo' all to git out, Pepper. I'm willin' fo' to stand the drinks if the old man ain't. 'Pears like it's wuth a couple o' rounds fo' to hear a story like that. I ain't no friend o' One Eye, but I take my hat off to him right now. That thar sho' was the doggonedest, best play I ever heer'd on."

The immediate effect of this utterance was that the attention of the company was withdrawn from Mr. Pepper, and he, perceiving this, turned back from the door, joining the others in their unanimous show of astonishment at Mr. Blaisdell's remarks.

The old man, however, though he was not less surprised than any of the others, retained his presence of mind sufficiently to take instant advantage of a suggestion that involved a business profit, and he stepped briskly behind the bar, where he busied himself with glasses and a bottle.

After they had drunk he said: "Yo' all 'pears to have some idee o' somepin' what sho' is mo' 'r less int'restin', Jim. I hain't never saw yo' all lay down fo' aces. How come yo' say it's good play when One Eye does it?"

"I hain't never did it," admitted Blaisdell readily enough, "bein's I hain't never had 'em beat. But I would do it as quick's him if I knowed I was beat. Fo' aces ain't no better'n a seven high ag'n a straight flush."

"O' co'se 'tain't," said the old man impatiently, as one brushing aside a trivial and irrelevant truism, "but they ain't been nothin' said 'bout no straight flush. Th' ain't no evidence what Mundy held one 's fur 's I c'n see.

"They wa'n't nobody called him. Cordin' to what Pepper says he mought 'a' had anythin' f'm a busted straight to a king full, an' they wouldn't nothin' but a straight flush be no good ag'in One Eye's hand. One Eye couldn't 'a' knowed what he helt, not 'thouten the cyards was marked, an' if they was Mundy couldn't 'a' filled on One Eye's deal, not 'thouten One Eye is done lose his 'customed skill, he couldn't."

"That's all right," retorted Blaisdell with a tantalizing air of superiority for which the others would gladly have kicked him had not their curiosity been greater than their annoyance. "But," he continued, "he knowed it, just the same. Bill Mundy wouldn't 'a' had nothin' else but a straight flush, an' his play proved it, him bein' the kyind o' player he is.

"O' co'se One Eye wouldn't 'a' knowed it, plain as it were, if he hadn't 'a' been a expert like he sho' is. Likely it mought 'a' been somepin' else if Mundy hadn't 'a' been a expert his own self. Mought 'a' been playin' fo' a flush, or a full, an' he mought 'a' filled it, or he mought not. One Eye wouldn't 'a' knowed what he was a-doin' of, an' o' co'se he'd 'a' went his pile on fo' aces. But bein' the kyind o' players they both is, they couldn't be no mistake.

"Hell's bells!" exclaimed the old man with a trace of displeasure. "Yo' all 'pears to be talkin' c'nsid'able of a ways up in the air. S'posin' yo' comes down on airth an' says somepin' what human bein's can understand. How come One Eye knowed such a hellova lot?"

"'Tain't nec'ary fo' to know such a terrible heap," said Blaisdell, coolly. "All's needed is fo' a man to understand poker. If yo' all knowed the game, mebbe yo' c'd see it yo own self."

"I'm willin' to lay down," said Winterbottom. "I's done played some poker my own self, but I'm doggoned if I see it. Show yo' hand, Jim."

"Well," said Blaisdell, "first off Mundy had somepin' 'r else he wouldn't 'a' went in fo' $30 on the first round. Question was, what was it? Then he wouldn't 'a' stayed on the second round, a'ter it 'd done been rose twicet, if he hadn't 'a' had somepin' tol'able good, or the chanst o' makin' it with the draw, but 'twa'n't so terrible good, bein's he'd 'a' rose it his own self if he'd 'a' had fo's. He wouldn't 'a' put up $100 onto a fo' flush bein's the p'centage was agin him, an' a flush wouldn't be no hand to bet onto if he sh'd make it.

"Even if he'd 'a' had two pair he wouldn't 'a' stayed fo' no $100, 'count o' the p'centage, an' three of a kyind 'd 'a' been nigh 'bout as bad. Either he had a big hand or he was takin' a chanst on makin' somepin' onusual, an' One Eye knowed what they wa'n't but one hand what a reel expert 'd pay to draw to onder the circumstants. If yo' uns 'll study onto it a spell yo'll see it yo' own selfs. Remember, they wa'n't but $280 into the pot when he come in fo' $100."

He paused here, and one by one his hearers nodded understandingly.

"Even at that it was tol'able plain," he continued, "an' One Eye must 'a' seen it, but when Mundy put up $100 mo', ag'in' $730, closin' the pot, he knowed he was stayin' fo' a straight flush. C'nsid'rin' the p'centage, they wouldn't be no sense stayin' fo' anythin' short o' that ag'in' two sich hands as sho' must be out. A ornery player mought 'a' did it, but One Eye knowed Mundy wouldn't."

"Mebbe that's c'rect," said Sam Pearsall. "It listens tol'able straight, an' I ain't p'pared fo' to argy, but how come One Eye knowed he'd done filled a'ter he done took one cyard? The odds was 45 to 2 ag'in' him. 'Pears like fo' aces was good enough fo' to bet 'em ag'in' that."

"They was afo' Mundy done bet out," said Blaisdell, "but they didn't call fo' no big bet if it'd 'a' been One Eye's say, long o' they bein' a chanst how Mundy mought 'a' filled. If he hadn't he wouldn't 'a' called, an' if he had he'd 'a' win. But 'twere One Eye's say. Afo' it come to him Mundy'd done put up $500. Looked like he'd filled, didn't it?"

"Looked like it, yes," exclaimed the old man in a snort, "but he mought 'a' been bluffin' at that. The idee o' layin' fo' aces!"

"Yes, he mought 'a' been," said Blaisdell coolly. "That is, he mought if he'd 'a' been a av'rage player, but he wa'n't, an' One Eye knowed it. He knowed the game too well to chuck a bluff ag'in two players what had both stayed fo' $230 afo' the draw."

"Drinks is on the house," said the old man, cheerfully, but Bassett seemed unsatisfied.

"I'd 'a' took a chanst on fo' aces even ag'in that," he growled after he had swallowed his liquor.

"That's the diff'rence atween a tol'able good player an' a reel expert," said Blaisdell. "One Eye is a sho' 'nough expert, an' he wouldn't never throw $500 away just fo' to look at a hand when he knowed what 'twas."

POEMS WORTH READING.

The Heart Cry.

His little hands that snuggled in me breast,
His gropin' hands that stole me heart away,
His dimpled, dirthy hands thot wud not resht,
Do they be red this day?

His big blue eyes thot gave me shmile for shmile,
Thot run wid tears whin, vexed wid him, I'd schold,
His baby eyes that folla me bewhile,
Phwat do they now behold?

His feet, his dear fat sthumblin' blundherin' feet;
Me heart feels stheps a-thuddin' on the sod;
Me heart's a drhum, he's marchin' to its beat;
Oh, kape him for me, God!

OLIN L. LYMAN.

Winter Night in Bryant Park.

Frozen is the fountain
Where sparkling waters played
And sparrows at its brimming cup
A twittering music made.

The voices of the children
Are still that laughed at play
About the pleasant winding ways
At close of summer day.

The rows of empty benches
Are chill in the night air;
And in the shadows darkly
Old grassy ways lie bare.

From lone and eerie places
The cold winds shivering sweep
Among the leafless branches
Where sparrows huddled sleep.

So high above the small white stars
That pierce the winter sky,
Dost Thou still heed these little ones
That fall to earth and die?

M. E. BUHLER.

The Oppian Law.

(Enacted during the Punic Wars, declaring that no woman should possess more than half an ounce of gold or wear a garment of various colors.)

Solons, if the city's need
Is greater sustenance to draw,
If the anæmic wage must further bleed,
Then pass an Oppian law.

If budgets have a void to fill,
If you have eyes to see,
Why, cast an owl's glance, if you will,
On woman's finery.

You place a toll upon our sweat,
Thrice burdened lands and lives.
But dare not strike (it's safe to bet)
At the vanity of wives.

Shall no one in the Forum rise
And shout: "I vote for locks
On the glittering myriads that comprise
Pandora's party box"?

One siren glance foretells the fate
Of legislative vow,
Too many Raleighs rule the State.
Oh, for a Cato now!

C. T. GREEN.

The Force.

You are not on the plan
Of the rest of the crew.
But of little avail
Is the youness of you.

I am different, too,
In some place and degree,
But the world doesn't care
For the meness of me.

She is somehow unique.
It is safe to aver,
But a minor affair
Is the herness of her.

He is somewhere unlike
All the rest of the swim.
But of little account
Is the himness of him.

For it always will be
To the end of the play
That what governs the world
Is the theyness of they.

MCLANDBURGH WILSON.

Skirts, Then and Now.

From Browning's Magazine.

Whene'er we took our walks abroad
Not many moons ago
My love with mincing footsteps trod
And moved exceeding slow.

Had she perchance once toppled o'er
She could but feebly kick
Until somebody should restore
Her to her perpendic.

When she would board a trolley car
Without the help of me
She found the step was much too far
And hopped up like a flea.

When now her walks abroad she takes
In skirts no longer tight
Her strides are of the sort that makes
Me trot to keep in sight.

Should she capsize she'd quickly right
Like that self-righting thing
The clown who does for our delight
His flipflops in the ring.

And when the trolley car she halts
Her skirts are so aloof
One would not marvel should her vaults
Negotiate the roof.

"In the Augmented Silences."

From the Boston Transcript.

In the augmented silences of night,
With darkness bidding me forget the snow
That, by it hidden, winter's waste can show
No more until new day renews its white,
I close my eyes, yet miss not time's mute flight,
And feel, not hear, the human undertow
Beneath life's waves of surface rush and flow—
I feel, and need not sense of sound or sight.

It beats in on my heart; it stirs my blood
With mingled potencies of woe and mirth;
Despairs that die in giving hopes rebirth;
Hatreds, from which love shall new harvests reap;
Soul glooms, that dawn with vermeil blush shall flood
Ere, silver pale, her watch star falls asleep!

WILLIAM STRUTHERS.

If.

From Town Topics.

If you can wear your flannels when your neighbors
Are shedding theirs and poking fun at you;
If you can take precautions, though your labors
Are watched and criticised by quite a few;

If you can swallow sulphur and molasses,
And calmly wear red flannel round your throat;
And take bad doses from alternate glasses,
Until you feel your very heart's afloat;

If you can catch a cold and keep your temper,
While all your friends suggest a dozen cures;
If you have influenza and distemper,
Yet sympathize with cases "worse than yours";

If you hear "How is your cold?" and answer sweetly,
Or hear "I told you so," and not get cross;
If suddenly you lose your voice completely,
And never breathe a word about your loss;

If you can stick to rubbers and umbrella
When all the world is wearing summer suits,
And smile benignly at the other fellow
When he makes fun of you with jeers and hoots;

If you can grapple with that tired feeling,
And force yourself to work that must be done;
Then summer time your ills will soon be healing,
And probably you'll live till fall, my son.

The General.

Up in the nursery, stretched out on the floor,
With his curls all awry, and a torn pinafore,
Lies dear General Chubby-Cheeks, giving commands
To his squad of tin soldiers, as it motionless stands.
The rug is the field, and as a defence
From the enemy, he has set out the wee tents,
There all afternoon, till the sun sinks to rest,
The little man wages his battle with zest.
And just when he's resting, nod-nod goes his head,
And the General is carried by mother to bed!

MILDRED STEWART.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

A Jewish friend tells me that the Falashas are recognized by his people as kindred and are believed to be the descendants of the "lost tribes of Israel." Does their language resemble that used in the Hebrew religious services in this country?

What is the opinion of anthropologists regarding this Abyssinian tribe?

A. H. C.

Ethnologists have no interest whatever in the lost ten tribes, for their failure to return from Babylonian captivity is so recent a matter as to lie wholly within the field of history rather than of race development. They have, however, served as lure to missionaries in the foreign field and many good, but unlearned clergymen have identified the savages of their cure with these vanished children of Israel. The latest such identification connected them with the cannibal people of the New Hebrides, a theory which it took no great research in comparative linguistics to overthrow. The Falasha of Abyssinia are ethnically one of the Hamitic races, therefore no more Semitic than are the Caucasians. They profess the Jewish religion, but do not use the language for their versions of the Law and the Prophets is written in the Geez or Ethiopic tongue. Their sacred books consist of the canonical and apocryphal books of the Old Testament, a volume of extracts from the Pentateuch containing an interpretation by Moses of the law of Sinai, the laws of the Sabbath, the Ardit or book of secret revelation, but most commonly used in therapeutic magic, lives of Moses and the Patriarchs, and in the line of profane literature from the same source a translation of Josephus. Their acquisition of Judaism is of a wholly uncertain date, they propose two claims, one that they are the lost tribes, the other that they are the progeny of Menelek, the son of Solomon and of Bilkis, the Queen of Sheba.

Your answer to "D. B.," who asks who it was that said, "The more I see of men the better I like dogs," is wrong. You credit it either to Victor Hugo or George Sand. Here are the facts: In the "Memoirs and Correspondence of Madame Recamier," two volumes, it is stated that Mme. de Stael wrote and published a book bearing the title of "Germany." A copy of the book was laid before Emperor Napoleon, who was so displeased with its contents that he caused a decree to be issued exiling Mme. de Stael, the author, forty leagues from Paris. While bowing to the mandate of the Emperor, Mme. de Stael made the famous remark.

ANDREW SPANGENBERG.

To the question as to the source of the quotation, "The more I see of men the more I love dogs," an answer may probably be obtained in a passage to be found in a book entitled "D'Orsay, or the Complete Dandy," by W. Jeignmouth Shore, London, 1911. The passage occurs on page 293 of the volume, where Count D'Orsay, under date of April, 1850, writes as follows: "Lamartine me disait hier: Plus je vois de representants du peuple, plus j'aime mes chiens."

January 19. S. M. M.

The authorship of "The more I see of men the better I like dogs" can be traced to Diderot, if I am not mistaken. Kindly insert this. E. B.

I noted the request of A. W. Earle for information about the North River steamer Knickerbocker. I give you an extract of a letter written by me in 1861:

"New York, Dec. 2nd, 1861.

"On board the Knickerbocker.

"MY DEAR PARENTS:

"According to promise I am writing to you to inform you of my adventures and health. Here we are in New York harbor. We arrived at Albany night before last at 7 o'clock and went aboard this boat—started from Albany about 12 o'clock. We received orders to go to Fort Columbus in New York harbor, situated on Governor's Island," &c.

From this you may know that the Knickerbocker at that time was transporting at least 1,000 soldiers on a trip. My regiment, the Seventy-fifth N. Y. V., had at that time 1,080 officers and men and to my unaccustomed eyes she seemed to be a prominent figure in the Hudson River fleet of that day.

H. A. WILKINS.

Kindly inform me where the School of the Officers of the United States Marine Corps, corresponding to the Naval Academy at Annapolis, is; the head of the same, and designation. I would also like to know the length of the term before graduation and if the seniors graduate every year. G. A. R.

There is no training school for officers of the Marine Corps. These officers are appointed from civil life and then undergo barrack training to fit them for their duties. At present it is becoming the custom to fill vacancies with naval cadets in case of lack of vacancies in the grade of ensign in the navy. Appointments are made on nomination by the President and application through a Congressman will receive consideration.

Kindly inform me which is correct: The United States and its possessions or the United States and their possessions?

M. J. BARRE.

In general, the best usage of the present time is to treat United States in the singular. The caption of the Declaration of Independence shows that the fathers of the republic held a different idea, for it reads: "The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America." In the Constitution the plural use is clear in Article IX., "the United States in Congress assembled * * * value of coin struck by their own authority."

Was the body or mummy of Cleopatra ever found? E. G. R.

There is no evidence that the body was ever embalmed as a mummy. It is carried to the credit of Augustus that he permitted her to be buried in the monument which she had erected to Antony and herself. This monument was razed in some of the commotions of later Egypt and its site is no longer identified with certainty.

The poem sought by J. C. C. in the Sunday edition of THE SUN of the 10th ult. is from the pen of Danbury's gifted poetess, Mme. Elizabeth Reilly, and can be found in current number of the D. H. S. *Chronicle*. M. J. V.

SCHOOL FOR CARD PLAYERS.

Auction Bridge. E. M. says: It is the declarer's lead, as she won the last trick, but the player on her left leads a diamond. The declarer insists that the penalty is to call a suit, so instead of leading herself she asks the player on her left to lead a trump. Is this correct, and if not, what is the right penalty to demand?

If it is the declarer's lead to the trick she must lead, as the lead cannot be transferred to an opponent. If A, on the left, leads when it is not her lead nor her partner's, the declarer may either call the card exposed, to be left on the table subject to call, or may call a lead as soon as either A or her partner wins a trick. It is usual to leave the card on the table as a marker, but unless the declarer states that it is an exposed card it is assumed that she will call a lead.

T. J. K. says: The declaration is three hearts doubled, and it is clear that it will be made, as dummy is in the lead, when trumps are gone, with four good clubs. In his hurry to lead these the declarer fails to follow suit to one but drops a club on the next, after turning down a trick with only three cards in it. B claims a revoke. If it is a revoke the declarer cannot score anything but honors. Is this correct?

There is no revoke, because a revoke is not only failing to follow suit, but playing a card of a different suit. This the declarer did not do. His offence is playing to the next trick after failing to play to the one in question, and the opponents have the choice of calling the whole deal void or letting it stand and calling the declarer's superfluous card at the end as the one played to the imperfect trick. In this case they should call the deal void, as otherwise the dealer would score his contract at double value and win the game.

C. M. C. says: We have continual disputes as to the points to be added for a game won in duplicate and also as to whether the game must be won in one deal or in the batch of hands played at each table. Suppose there are nine tables, with three deals at each. A and B make 20 on the first deal and 16 on the next. What do they score?

The official laws of the game, issued by The Whist Club, assume that there may be contests of such magnitude that only one deal may be played at each table before changing partners, and state that there shall be no bonus except for 30 or more points made on a single deal. This bonus is 125. Some clubs add the 125 for a game won during the series of deals played against the same adversaries. This would give A and B, in the case cited, 125 bonus for their total of 20 and 16, provided their opponents did not win a game in between the making of those two scores.

G. H. B. asks what the rule is when a player takes fourteen or fifteen cards out of a tray, and another finds himself with only eleven or twelve, in duplicate.

The laws are very loose on this point. The official code says: "When the irregularity is discovered at the time the cards are taken up for overplay, but before such overplay has begun, the tray must be sent back to the table from which it came, and the error rectified there." That this is unfair to the players is clear. Suppose that B takes out his hand to sort it and finds he has five hearts to the ace king queen, but holds fifteen cards, and that the player on his right announces that he is two short, the others having their right number, and suppose further that after the tray has been sent to the table whence it came and the mistake has been rectified, B finds the ace and king of hearts are gone. He knows who has them, and this will greatly affect his bidding. There should be a penalty of at least 100 points charged to any player placing more or less than thirteen cards in a pocket, and a penalty of 100 against any player who lifts or looks at a hand of more or less than thirteen. Each should be compelled to count his cards face down, as at poker.

M. L. F. says: Playing three hand, does the winner score 100 for each game won, and ignore the rubber 250, or is it 100 for each of the two games, and 250 added, or is it 100 for the first game won and 250 for winning the rubber or second game?

The points added for winning a game are 125, not 100, and they are added for each game won and 250 for the rubber game. That is to say, the rubber is worth 500 to the winner, twice 125 and once 250.

Seven-up. J. A. F. says: Four playing as partners, A deals and turns the trump. Eldest hand stands and leads a card, whereupon B says: "Hold on! It was my deal." Does the deal stand or not?

After the trump is turned it is too late to object, as all players are equally at fault for permitting the error to pass so long without correcting it.

Cribbage. L. O. asks the best discard for the non-dealer if both scores are alike on second avenue, holding K Q 9 7 6 3.

Most players dislike to risk laying out close cards in such cases, and would probably lay out the king and trey. Nothing but a deuce or king would help that in the crib. There are ten cards that would or might help the K Q if both were laid out.

Cassino. G. T. A. says: Two playing, A builds a nine. Instead of taking it in, he builds a four. B bets he must take in the first build before he starts on another.

B is wrong.

Poker. N. H. C. says: A opens on three tens, he being the dealer. By mistake he lays off three cards for his own draw. When he goes to take them up, he sees his error and puts one back on the top of the pack, not having seen any of them. B objects and says A's hand is dead.

If A has not lifted or looked at any of the superfluous cards he has laid off, he may discard one of his tens and play his hand; but he must take three cards as his draw. If he has lifted or looked at them, his hand is foul, as it contains six cards.

S. L. says: A is the opener and bets a chip. B chips. C bets a dollar and the opener drops. B calls and C shows a full. Is B, who is not the opener, obliged to show his hand?

Yes, because he called, and all hands in the call must be shown to the board, whether they are good or not.

Pinochle. J. M. S. says: A bids 300. His meld is 280 and he lays away 20. This he contends makes good his bid. B bets that none of the count is worth anything until A wins a trick.

B is right.

NOVEL POINTS OF THE LAW.

The validity of lobbying contracts is discussed by the Supreme Court of Oregon in Hyland vs. Oregon Hassam Paving Company, in which the court holds that any person interested in any proposed legislation before any legislative body, including the Common Council or other lawmaking body of a municipal corporation, may legally employ an agent or an attorney to collect facts relating thereto, and to prepare a bill, and to explain the desired measure to the legislative body or any committee thereof fairly and openly, and have it introduced, and a contract to pay for such services, so rendered, is not a violation of law or of public policy.

The court also passes on an agreement by which defendant engaged to pay plaintiff 3 per cent. on all contracts for street improvement work entered into between it and a city, to be earned when the contracts should have been duly signed by the company and the city, such agreement providing that plaintiff should "at all times do everything in his power" to further the business of the company, it being contemplated that the plaintiff was to circulate petitions among property owners asking that streets be paved with the company's product and obtain signatures of 20 per cent. of the property owners, to present such petitions to the City Council, to answer remonstrances, and by bringing property owners before the street committee and the Council to procure the passage of ordinances and resolutions authorizing the paving of streets and assessing the expense on the adjacent lots. Such agreement was treated as in effect a selling or promoting proposition, and in view of the fact that the compensation was contingent and was broad enough to cover services of any kind, secret or open, honest or dishonest, and the exercise of personal and private influence upon the City Council, and of the further fact that such compensation was probably included in the company's contract price, the agreement was held invalid as against public policy.

The latest ruling on the admissibility of "dying declarations" in evidence in criminal cases is made by the Supreme Court of Georgia in Sewell vs. State, in which the court states in its syllabus:

"In a murder case it was error to charge the jury that 'when death is approaching, and the dying man has lost hope of life, and his mind feels the full consciousness of his condition, the solemnity of the scene gives to his statement the sanctity of truth, and such dying declaration, when made under such circumstances, may be given in evidence and submitted to the jury.' Such charge tended to unduly impress the minds of the jury with the weight of the evidence contained in dying declarations, as to which juries do not require any emphasis from the bench."

Concerning the brevity of a Scotch Judge the Dundee *Advertiser* says:

"If brevity is the soul of wit, Judge Taylor, K. C., has not many rivals among his judicial brethren. Summing up a case at Liverpool which lasted several hours, he said no more than this: 'Gentlemen, you have heard both sides. It is for you to say which you believe.' Often enough this is all that judicial summings up amount to, but few Judges have the courage to sum up so summarily. Even this does not represent Judge Taylor's best effort in the way of saving his breath. A few years ago he delivered himself of what is supposed to be the shortest summing up on record. He turned to the jury, raised his eyebrows inquiringly and remarked: 'Well, gentlemen?' The art of brevity could no further go."

An English ruling on a novel question involving the workmen's compensation act is reported in Nash vs. Rangatira. A sailor returning from shore leave to his ship at night in a drunken condition started to mount the gangway from the quay to the ship, and when part of the way up overbalanced, fell, and was killed. It was found on the evidence that the primary cause of the accident was the man's drunken condition, but that there were really two concurrent causes for the accident: first, the fact that he was mounting the gangway to return to his employment, and was thereby subjected to a special risk; and secondly, his drunken condition. It was held (Pickford, L. J., dissenting) that the accident, though happening within the ambit of the sailor's employment, was not one arising out of his employment within the meaning of the workmen's compensation act.

A law prescribing a minimum wage to school teachers was passed on in the Iowa case of Bopp vs. Clark, which holds that no constitutional right of liberty or property is interfered with or unconstitutional privilege or immunity granted by a statute making it a penal offence to pay less than a minimum wage to teachers.

One who delivers short weight for a full price is held guilty in the North Carolina case of State vs. Ice and Fuel Company, 81 S. E. 737, 52 L. R. A. (N. S.) 216, of obtaining property by false pretences, although the purchaser suspects that the seller gives short weight and makes the purchase to verify his suspicion, if he cannot determine the fact without weighing the commodity sold.

The first case involving regulations of crematories of human bodies seems to be Abbey Land and Improvement Company vs. San Mateo County, 167 Cal. 434, 139 Pac. 1068, 52 L. R. A. (N. S.) 408, which holds that an attempt by a county to forbid the maintenance of more than one crematory in any township is invalid as an unconstitutional interference with property rights, so far as it applies to the location of one in a cemetery which has been established in a locality devoted to cemeteries, with few dwellings in the immediate vicinity, and no buildings devoted to business except to that of burying the dead.

In Jones vs. State before the Supreme Court of Nebraska it appeared that in a prosecution for murder the defendant took the stand as a witness in his own behalf. For the purpose of impeaching his testimony the prosecuting attorney was permitted to cross-examine the accused as to the contents of an involuntary confession he made while in the custody of the officers making the arrest. The court held that this was error, because an involuntary confession of guilt is incompetent for any purpose.

The right of a defendant in a criminal trial to sit with his counsel so that he may be able to confer with counsel at any time was one of the points involved in an appeal in Commonwealth vs. Boyd, before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. It appeared that defendant was assigned to the usual place occupied by prisoners charged with felony, a dock about six feet away from the counsel table, which is the general custom in the criminal courts of Philadelphia. The court ruled that the denial of defendant's right to sit with counsel did not constitute reversible error in his case, because the uncontradicted evidence showed his guilt, but on the principle involved the court said:

"In every criminal trial the accused has a common law right to counsel, and this right may not be abridged by any rule or regulation which would operate to hinder and obstruct free consultation between the accused and his appointed counsel, especially at the critical moment when his alleged guilt is being made the subject of inquiry by the jury sworn to make a true deliverance. At such time the accused has a right to sit with his counsel, where he can have equal opportunity to hear the testimony of the witnesses, and absolute freedom to assist by suggestion and information in his own defence."

CHESS FOR PLAYER, LOVER AND STUDENT

Unprecedented Boom in Game Here Due to War or in Spite of It?

MARSHALL LIKED IN WEST

A perplexing problem presents itself to American chess players. They do not know whether the great popularity of the game this season is in spite of the war or is the direct outcome of it. It is most remarkable that never before in the history of American chess did the royal game flourish to such an extent in this country. Cities which used to boast of prosperous chess clubs a decade or so ago and had to go to the wall for some reason or other, were reenlisted recently, while everywhere, even in small cities, new clubs have been organized this season.

As a further evidence of prosperity, it can be cited that the American champion, Frank J. Marshall, never before in his career was so much sought for on a Western tour as on his present trip. The news that he had to fulfil five distinct engagements at Chicago was certainly a great surprise, for no travelling master before Marshall was kept busy in the Windy City to that extent. What applies to the middle West, applies equally to the cities further West right up to the coast, for his managers in this city receive daily letters and telegrams from cities on the coast asking for dates. As a net upshot of Marshall's tours in the western part of this State, New England and the middle West, four new clubs were established and wherever he made his appearance he found larger gatherings of enthusiastic devotees of the game than on his previous professional trips.

Taking into consideration that Edward Lasker, the champion of the City of London Chess Club, also fulfilled a number of engagements in a good number of towns visited by Marshall and that the young Cuban master, J. R. Capablanca, who will leave this city on a professional tour within a fortnight, has received quite a number of dates already, things look very prosperous. The young Cuban player is noted for being the foremost simultaneous player in the world and therefore it stands to reason to suppose that his intended tour would be as successful as that of the American champion. However, now that he has decided to stay in this city for some time to come, lovers of the game should not be slow in engaging the young master for private lessons, the more so since he has gained quite a reputation as tutor in Buenos Ayres and other cities abroad.

As was stated in THE SUN last Monday Capablanca will break the American record in simultaneous play next Thursday afternoon in the auditorium in the Brooklyn Eagle Building, when it is expected that he will be opposed on sixty-four boards to over 100 players. While a good many will play their games single handed on as many boards against Capablanca, a great number of consulting parties will be formed, so as to accommodate a great number of amateurs. In addition, there will be hundreds of spectators who will watch the progress of the games. The managers look forward to the greatest gathering of chess players ever held in this city.

All the metropolitan chess clubs, including several in New Jersey, and such other organizations with chess sections as the New York Athletic Club, Crescent Athletic Club, the colleges and high schools, will be in line—altogether, about forty of them. It is expected that the champion Columbia University team, as well as the Princeton quartet, which finished second in the last college league tournament, will be on hand. In fact, the Princeton team is expected to be in Brooklyn on the morning of Lincoln's Birthday to contest a match on four boards with the Brooklyn Chess Club. The participation of Columbia is the more interesting, on account of the fact that Capablanca himself was a member of the Columbia teams which won the intercollegiate championship with record breaking scores for the years of 1908 and 1909.

The management of this entertainment, unique in the annals of chess, requests that the clubs which desire to be represented file the names of the players delegated with representatives as early as possible with the *American Chess Bulletin*, 150 Nassau street, so that a complete list may be compiled the day before the exhibition. It is very desirable that all the players be in their places by 2.45 P. M., so that play may start promptly at 3 o'clock. Owing to the extreme difficulty of the task to be undertaken it will mean a good deal to Capablanca if the start is not delayed. In fact, the youthful Cuban promises to get through in time so that all participants will have a chance to get home in time for supper. The following is the list of patrons who are assisting in making this affair a success, making it possible to admit all interested in chess free of charge:

Aristides Martinez, president of Manhattan Chess Club; Herbert R. Limburg, vice-president Manhattan Chess Club; Felix E. Kahn, Walter Underhill, president Brooklyn Chess Club; Bayard S. Litchfield, president Brooklyn Institute Chess Club; H. J. Hall, Jr., Crescent Athletic Club; W. W. Young, Herman Behr, Dr. F. W. Wunderlich, Thomas Flint, Melvin Brown, Mrs. C. E. Nixdorff of the Woman's Chess Club of New York, the Hon. John W. Griggs, William M. de Visser, Julius Finn and Adrian Hegeman.

Among those who lost their lives in the European war is the well known Austrian chess master, Joseph Hrdina, who fell in battle in Poland. When a student twenty years of age, he won the championship tourneys of the Gras Chess Club in 1902 and 1903, winning all his games. He also participated in the Bavarian State tourneys at Munich and Kissingen in 1911 and 1913, winning the first prize in each of these contests. After playing in six rounds in the Haupt tourney at Mannheim, he was called to arms, being one of the first killed in battle. A specimen of his play is held over for next week.

After the completion of the first part of the Vienna Trebitsch tournament at Vienna, Carl Schlechter stood first, with 6 points out of a possible 7. Dr. Kaufmann stood second, with 5 points, and the veteran Adolf Albin, who resided in this city some time ago, was third, with 4½ points. Reti and Spielmann scored 4 points each, and Krejcik, Strobl and Schenkein, 1 each.

A lively little game played in the New South Wales championship tournament:

PETROFF.

A. A. K. O'Connor. White.	H. V. Crane. Black.	A. A. K. O'Connor. White.	H. V. Crane. Black.
1 P—K4	P—K4	10 Kt—B	B—Q3c
2 Kt—KB3	Kt—KB3	11 B—KKt5	QKt—Q2d
3 P—Q4	KtxP	12 Kt—K3	BxKte
4 B—Q3	P—Q4	13 QxB	Kt—K4
5 PxP	P—KB4a	14 Q—B5	KtxB
6 Ps P(ep)b	KtxP(B3)	15 QxQKtf	P—B3
7 Castles	B—K2	16 Kt—Kt4g	KtxKt
8 R—K	B—KKt5	17 P—KB4h	Q—Kt3 ch
9 QKt—Q2	Castles	Resigns	

The notes to both these games are by Amos Burn in the London Field.

(a) Not a good move, as the P at B4 blocks the action of the QB. Kt—B4 or B—K2 would have given an even game.

(b) This exchange relieves black's position. Castling, followed by P—QB4 would have been better, *e. g.*, 6. Castles, B—B4; 7. P—QB4, P—QB4; 8. Q—R4 ch, Kt-B3; 9. QxBP, B—Q5; 10. Kt—B3 with advantage for white.

(c) Kt—R4 threatening to double the KBP would have been more directly attacking.

(d) Too slow. He might have played P—KR3 followed by P—KKt4 and Kt—R4 if the rejoinder would have been B—R4.

(e) This exchange, which was practically forced, brings white's Q into powerful action and gives him the better game.

(f) PxKt, threatening BxKt, followed by QxP would have been much stronger, *e. g.*, 15. PxKt, P—B3; 16. Kt—Kt4 and black could not have replied with KtxKt, as in the actual game because of 17. Q—K6 ch. followed by BxQ.

(g) A mistake, which loses at once; but white, in any case, had [illegible] the inferior game. Instead of the text move [illegible]—B5 would have