

PARADISE OF GAMBLERS.

The Curious Little Independent State of Monaco.

INTERESTING TOWN OF MONTE CARLO.

A Lively and Beautiful Spot—History of Its Establishment as a Gambling Centre—How the Betting is Conducted.

(For the Times by Hon. A. M. Keller.)

Among the many restorations of the treaty of Paris of 1815, called to redress the Napoleonic subjugation of Europe, was the delivery to its prince of the tiny State of Monaco, on the beautiful Riviera, between France and Italy.

Its people, aroused by the contagion of the French revolution, had demanded of Honoré III, certain reforms, and on his refusal to grant them, had sent him packing to join the numerous monarchs "out of a job" with which Europe then was full.

When the Allies met at Paris was generally supposed that Monaco would be ceded to Savoy, but it happened that Talleyrand had once had a famous flirtation with one of the Princesses, Grimaldi, of the reigning house of Monaco.

And so it happened that Prince Honoré IV, to whom his brother Honoré III, in great disgust with the cares of a crown, had ceded his claims, started out in the winter of 1814-15 from Paris to resume the throne.

On the morning of the 21st of March, 1815, he was quietly sleeping in his carriage near Nice and within twenty miles of his destination, when a couple of gendarmes halted him and begged him to dismount, as the one was very anxious to interview him at head quarters.

It is a trifle uncomfortable, even for people who are not prone to encounter an unfriendly halt so near their journey's end, but muskets have to be respected and Honoré IV, followed his captives.

Four men, one said a satirist, but smiling gentlemen in whose presence he had himself, and he made haste to answer, prefixing his response with "Sire," for there was Napoleon, who had landed the day before from Elba.

The emperor begged him to take a place in his carriage, as he was about to start for Paris, and even promised to make him Prefect of Monaco, which I should have said had been previously annexed to France—but the prince replied that he had just traveled over that road and was not enamored of it, and the emperor started again, saying "Tudieu, hundred days" followed and Waterloo and St. Helena, and a second time, in the Congress of Vienna, Talleyrand saved the independence of Monaco.

CURIOUS LITTLE STATE.

It is a curious little State, for the most part perched upon a long, rocky promontory, jutting out about ten miles east of Monaco, a quarter of a mile into the Mediterranean.

But the most curious feature of its history is that it is the only State in the world whose people pay no taxes. Its government, its police, its standing army of less than a hundred men, its municipal expenses, and all its expenses are paid for it—and all paid by the gambling club of Monte Carlo.

MONTE CARLO.

Monte Carlo is the portion of the State of Monaco which is situated on the mainland. It is not half the size of Richmond, but its sun shines on no lovelier spot in all the course of day or year. A mountain road, the "Chemin de la Haute," a Corniche—sweeps around from the shore of the Mediterranean at the east, to the same shore on the west, encircling in its arms a spot where every flower and tree of Europe, sheltered from every cold wind that can blow, thrives in tropical luxuriance.

And then the promontory of Monaco intervenes on the southwest, completely cutting off the mistral, the only wind that is ever dangerous coming from the south, while near at hand a beautiful cove for which Monaco forms a perfect breakwater furnishes a secure spot for boating and bathing, and beyond the matchless waters of the Mediterranean spread their blue billows for far off Africa. No spot on the Riviera is so sheltered, and if it was not the greatest gambling place it would be the greatest health resort on the earth.

OPENING OF THE GAMBLING HOUSE.

In 1856 a number of European gentlemen, with a capital of half a million of francs, obtained from the reigning Prince permission to open a gambling house there, and the Prince, who is now on the throne, then a mere youth, a couple of years later laid the corner stone of the edifice, which was to be named the Elysee Albert. About this time it became apparent that the directors of the house, and Bachelin-Baldon were going to close the gambling houses at those places. On a morning in March, 1860, Baron Bache, the proprietor of the largest gambling establishment in Hamburg, arrived at Monte Carlo, and called on the directors of the Elysee Albert, saying, "Gentlemen, I have in my pocket-book 700,000 francs, which I offer you for your concession. I am going to my breakfast and will return in an hour for your decision, then, as I am going back to my room this evening, when he returned his proposal was accepted, and on the 21st of March, 1860, the contract was signed, giving him the concession for thirty years.

A SUMPTUOUS ESTABLISHMENT.

These are the most famous and sumptuous gambling houses ever seen. It consists in part of two immense halls, decorated with a taste and prodigality without parallel, and adorned with paintings and sculptures by the most renowned living masters—a theatre in the famous architect of the Grand Opera-house of Paris, and a park which for the variety and beauty of its flowers and trees has no match in like space on earth. Temperatures seem to have been multiplied here. Nowhere have I ever seen such perfect joints in the product of the tropics, nowhere such fine and pine, the product of the Alps. And this matches coast—the paradise of flowers—has by reason of its exceptional position blossomed out here into a floral wealth which surely has no competitor on the globe. During the winter a band of sixty performers, numbering some of the first soloists of Europe, plays twice a day, and the stars of drama never fail during the season to give the most representative of the theatre. Reading-rooms where the standard journals of all the earth are found; sumptuous smoking-rooms, writing-rooms, all free to every visitor, are provided; an army of servants in livery meets you everywhere, and answer every wish in a word, everything that money can buy, or taste suggest, or luxury inspire meets in this consummate temple of the Goddess of Fortune.

THE ROULETTE TABLE.

On entering the outer hall a clerk asks you for your visiting card and then demands your occupation and the name of the hotel at which you are stopping, all of which he enters in a book. This preliminary inquiry is necessary because of an arrangement with the Prince of Monaco that no one of his subjects can ever be admitted to the Casino, and the managers will not, in addition, permit the entrance of any one under twenty-one years of age, either male or female.

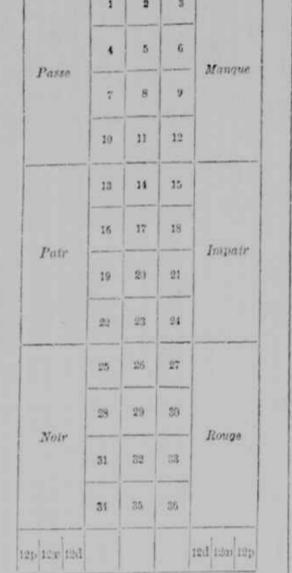
The questions having been answered and the description entered, a card is handed you, one of which I enclosed. On entering the gaming hall proper you notice a large number of long tables, all crowded with players, but only two games are played. At the other, larger number, "Roulette," at the other, "Trente et Quarante." As roulette is the more popular game I describe it first—its greater popularity depending partly on the fact that the stakes here may be as low as five francs, while at the other nothing under a Napoleon (20 francs) can be made, and partly on the fact that at Roulette a great variety of bets is permissible.

THE ROULETTE TABLE.

The roulette table is about twenty feet long. In the centre is a wheel divided into thirty-seven little stalls, of which thirty-six are numbered from one to thirty-six, and the remaining one is marked zero (0). With the exception of the zero stall all are painted either red or black, and are equal in area. This wheel is a circular chamber, sloping towards the wheel, around which a mar-

ble can be rapidly propelled, gradually falling as its momentum decreases to the surface of the wheel, where it ultimately finds its rest on some one of the stalls. On each side of the wheel, and therefore at the centre of the table, sit two croupiers, who alternately set the ball in motion. Behind them on high chairs sit two men, who act as judges to decide any dispute, and at each end sits another employe, whose business it is to watch the betting, to place the stakes if betters ask it and to see that the winners get what is due.

Only a diagram can explain the betting. So drawing the wheel in section, I give below a smattering of one end of the table, the other being a duplicate.



GENTLEMEN, MAKE YOUR PLAYS.

One of the croupiers commences the game by saying: "Messieurs, faites vos jeux." "Gentlemen, make your bets." and having waited until the bets are made, he gives the ball a rapid turn in one direction and makes the wheel revolve in the opposite, and you may continue to have your stakes until he says "Bien ne vous pressez pas," which he does as the ball commences to descend towards the wheel, when all betting must immediately cease.

METHODS OF BETTING.

The methods of betting are numerous, but are divided into two categories. There are six "simple chances," as they are called—these are rouge and noir, odd and even, and passe and manque. This is the only bet that the stall into which the ball falls will be red or black one, an odd or an even one, or above (passe) or below (manque) the middle of the thirty-six numbers.

Then there are seven multiple chances: 1. You may bet on any number coming out, and if you win will be paid thirty-five times your bet. 2. You may bet on two adjacent numbers, which is called betting a cheval, straddling, and will be paid seventeen times your bet if either comes out.

3. Or you may take one of the transverse lines of three numbers, as 1, 2, 3, and will be paid eleven times your bet if either comes out. 4. Or you may bet on a square of four numbers adjacent, as 14, 15, 16, 17, and will receive eight times your bet in case of either of those coming out.

5. Or on a group of six adjacent numbers forming two transverse lines, when you are paid five times your bet if either comes out. 6. Or you may bet on blocks of a dozen numbers, when you put your bet on one of the squares marked 12, 13, 14, and 15, that is, first 12, middle 12, and last 12, and if the number comes out the dozen you have chosen you are paid double your stake.

7. Or, finally, you may bet on columns, that is, that the coming number will be in one of the three vertical columns, and are paid double your stake if successful.

When the ball rests in one of the stalls the croupier immediately calls out a number, its color, whether odd or even, and above or below the medial line. Suppose it is eighteen and the eighteen square is red, he says: "Dix huit rouge pair et manque."

The advantage of the bank is in zero chiefly. When zero comes the croupier calls simply "zero" and all stakes are forfeited to the bank except those on rouge or noir, or pair or impair, and on passe or manque, which remain until the next turn of the wheel.

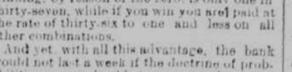
The advantage of zero does not rest here, in fact, that is not its main advantage. It lies in the circumstance that, your choice throughout is only one in thirty-seven, while the bank's is one in thirty-six. That is, when you bet on a number your chance of winning by reason of the zero is only one in thirty-seven, while if you win you get paid at the rate of thirty-six to one and less on all other combinations.

And yet with all this advantage, the bank would not lack a wealth if the doctrine of probability was applied in a restricted number of cases, for the player has this great advantage, he can bet as he pleases and the bank must accept his bet.

When, for instance, black numbers have come out three or four times in succession, mathematics would say lay a bet on a red number coming, and yet I saw a young man who was last at Monte Carlo lay down a 500-franc note on the black nine times in succession and win every time. At the tenth he lost and then quit.

TRENTE ET QUARANTE.

The other table is called the Trente (30) et Quarante (40) table, and the game there is much more restricted as to chances, for there are only two, Rouge et Noir, Couleur et Inverse. Here is a diagram of one end of this table:



The dealer begins this game by taking six new packs of cards, counting them as he lays them in suits before him. If he finds the 312 cards he mixes them thoroughly up and asks any of the players to cut them. He then places the card pack before him and takes from the top twenty or thirty cards and says, "Messieurs, faites vos jeux."

The bets are either on "Rouge et Noir," or on "Couleur" or "Inverse"; there are no others. He then begins from the part of the pack in hand to make two rows of cards, fancy them. The cards count as the points on them—some counts 1, deuce 2 and all face cards 10. The upper row is called the black row, the lower the red.

The dealer places the cards side by side on the first row until the numbers of pip on the cards so placed exceeds 30, when he commences the second row and continues also until the cards in this row have pip exceeding 30. The point nearest to 30 gains.

The first card determines whether red or black wins, according as that first card is red or black. The question of "couleur" or "inverse" is a trifle more complicated. "Couleur" wins when the color of the first card drawn is the same as the color artificially assigned to the row which gains.

Thus I have said that the upper row is the black, the lower the red row. Now if the first card drawn is of the same color as the row which gains, "color" wins if of a different color, "couleur" loses. For example, The first card drawn is red, and rouge wins; the number of pips in the first or black row is 33, that in the second or red row is 32, then the second or red row gains since 32 is nearer 30 than 33 is, and "color" wins, since the first card is of the color as the row which has won.

The first card is black and pips in the upper or black row are 36, in the red row 35. Then the second or color gains, because the first card is of like color with the row which has won.

The dealer never names either "Noir" or "Inverse." He always says Rouge loses or vice versa, and in both rows the bank takes half the bet, and this is the sole advantage of the bank at these tables. Such in brief are the two games.

THE HOUSE DECORATION.

Much the most striking thing about the establishment is the extreme decorum of the whole procedure. I have seen an angry exclamation, even a remonstrance indignantly expressed when some one claims another's winnings, are never heard. Perhaps the next most striking thing is the absolute republican equality which prevails. A college professor or a crayoned grandnotioner will spend hours seated between the queens of the Paris demi-monde, whose paint and diamonds may suggest their character, but whose conduct there is as scrupulously correct as that of any lady anywhere.

Liveried servants are moving about who answer your questions in the most subdued tones. Every one is on his best behavior, and if you lose all your money and can satisfy the administration of your good faith they will give you money enough always to carry you home and a little over.

The capital of the company, whose corporate name is the "Sea Fishing Association," is \$3,000,000, and their dividends are only surpassed by Colonel North's nitrate companies. Such is Monte Carlo, where every sensation that can tempt the senses or appeal to the imagination is combined to make attractive the vice which has the earliest, the widest and the most enduring grasp of the heart of man.

FOLK MILLER ON THE NIGGER.

Some True Darkey Stories Which Came Under His Personal Observation. One of the most original impersonations of negro dialect in the South is our well-known and popular townsman, Mr. Folk Miller.

He furnishes the following batch of true negro stories which came under his personal observation, and it is a rich treat to hear him recite them:

A young man of this city, formerly from the country, was hunting in the vicinity of his old home. He chanced to meet up with an old darkey who owned a small strip of land which once belonged to his old master, the father of our subject, male John hadn't seen the young man since he was a small boy, and was delighted to meet him. He said he was "de very best of his pa." On being asked if there were any birds about there, the old man said "Yes, sir. You never seed de like of 'em. If you'll go right down dar beyan de pea patch, you'll find 'em or 'o' gauder, 'em. Go down dar, sir, an' hep yo' self to 'em 'cause I can't do nutthin' wid 'em no how. But Mars' Gus, dar is one reque' I wants to make of you—you kill no ole hays, but a one kind of game, an' a nigger for call." "All right, Uncle John, I'll leave de ole hares for you." While hunting the scattered birds the young man started a hare, and being accustomed to blazing away whenever one came in sight he fired and killed it. He felt mean de pea patch, and he had no more to say, and continued the bird hunt. In a short while Uncle John thought he would go down and see how Mars' Gus was coming on after birds. As he approached he inquired how he was, getting on and was told he was in a nigger pocket and where he had said he would. "I t'ole you dey was down here, sir. I bin seein' of 'em every day since haterin' time." As Mr. B. turned around and around trying to find the scattered birds the old negro espied his game pocket, which had grown very plump and fat, and passed the house. He cried out, "Hi! Look a here, Mars' Gus, dat pocket of yours done fill up mighty quick. You sholly ain't filled it wid birds; it's my p'ison you done shot ole hays." "Well, look of you, you done shot ole hays." "All right, Uncle John, I'll leave de ole hares for you." "I t'ole you dey was down here, sir. I bin seein' of 'em every day since haterin' time." 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