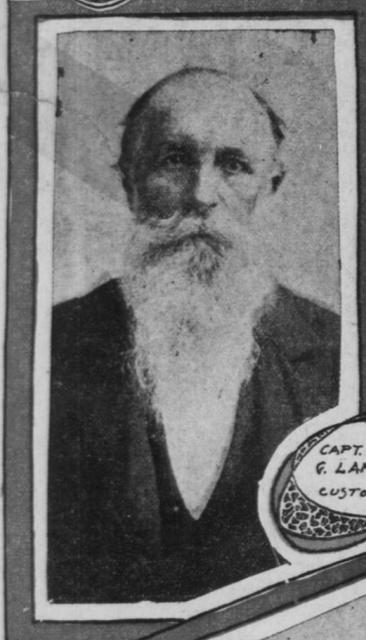


OLD MONTEREY CUSTOM HOUSE TO BE RESTORED



CAPT. THOS. G. LAMBERT
CUSTODIAN



poets attached to the court. These festivals are those of the New Year, the church and the chrysanthemum. The Empress is herself a poetess and has established a competition for Japanese poets, and for this competition she fixes the subject. But it is for her works of charity that the Empress is the most renowned, and she is at the head of all national efforts in this direction. The Red Cross Society claims a great deal of her time, and during the war with China she was very often found attending to the wounded Japanese.

Easy Lessons in Whist.

THIS is the first of a series of easy lessons in whist for both experts and beginners. Even if you are a clever player you will find this series full of useful hints and new plays. If you know nothing whatever about this fascinating game you can learn it here, after the most scientific methods.

The lessons are being written expressly for the Sunday Call by Mrs. E. P. Schell, who is a prominent member of the San Francisco Whist Club, where she gives scientific instructions to the lady members, and chairman of the whist section of the California Club. The success of the whist and euchre games at the Palace Hotel recently, with 800 players, was due to her efforts, therefore she is best qualified to present the rules of the game so that everybody can understand them.

SO much has been written by our local writers on the original opening of a whist hand that I shall take up second hand plays, covers, fourchettes and imperfect fourchettes, and shall endeavor to make clear the importance of covering certain cards. The rule most generally laid down is, if you hold high cards, from which you would lead a high card, you play a high card. For the same reason when a low card is led with a low-card combination second hand you should play a low card as a high card will only assist in establishing your opponents' suit more expeditiously.

For example, if you hold king, queen and two small and you play low on a low card led you are taking the same risk as if you were leading low from same combination.

Also when your holdings second hand consists of ace, queen and one or more small, and jack is led, you should cover with ace; it is seldom right to play otherwise. You should usually cover a card led late in hand to prevent underplay.

Another most important play is with king and two small on ten being led. You should hold off, as more than likely if originally led it is from ten, jack, queen and others. Even if it is from an irregular opening it would be wise to hold off in any case. If you put up the king and ace

THE DEAL

North	South
S-K 4, 2	S-8 7, 5, 3
H-9, 7, 5, 3	H-4, 2
C-2, 10, 8, 2	C-3, 8, 6
D-A, 3	D-K, 4

West	East
S-Q, 9, 3	S-8 7, 5
H-A, Q, J	H-4, 2
C-A, K, 10	C-3, 8, 6
D-Q, 9, 7, 5, 2	D-J, 10, 8, 6

South	North
S-A, J, 10, 6	S-8 7, 5
H-4, 2	H-9, 7, 5, 3
C-3, 8, 6	C-2, 10, 8, 2
D-K, 4	D-A, 3

Trey of spades trumps, north to lead.

Tks. N.	E.	S.
1. *Kc	2c	3c
2. 5d	8d	10d
3. 2d	*Ad	4d
4. *Ac	3c	5c
5. Qd	*2s	7c
6. 2s	Qc	7c
7. Ah	2h	8h
8. 2h	5h	4h
9. 9s	*Ka	5h
10. Qs	7s	6s
11. 7d	7s	8s
12. 9d	9h	8d
13. *Jh	10c	10h

Tricks 1 and 2-North and west open their respective long suits in the conventional way.

Trick 3-South leads through probable strength in west's hand up to declare weakness in east.

Trick 4-North avoids changing suits, there being no apparent reason for changing, and continues his clubs, which forces the ace.

Trick 5-West properly continues to lead his diamonds, which north trumps and south discards.

Trick 6-North now leads the command of his suit, which forces a trump from west and thereby unguards his queen.

Tricks 7 and 8-West does not want to continue his diamonds, as both opponents are void of the suit and he can lead heart would trump and the strong hand discard a losing card. He therefore properly opens his heart suit, which south wins on the second round.

Trick 9-South winds up the game by leading trumps and winning all tricks except the last, which fall to the best heart in west's hand. The score can be changed at the third trick and a loss of three points by south's failure to perceive the advantage of "leading through the strong," but unwisely opens trumps with no good suit and none indicated in his partner's hand. This resulted in two tricks, but left the queen in command with west. South then opens his long suit of hearts, which is won cheaply by west, who properly continues his diamond suit, which won by north, who, knowing that the ace of clubs is against him, returns his partner's set of hearts, which falls to the major ten-ace in the west. West now leads his commanding trump which takes them all out except the one in south's hand, which he forces with his queen of diamonds. This leaves him in command of the suits and he brings in his diamonds.

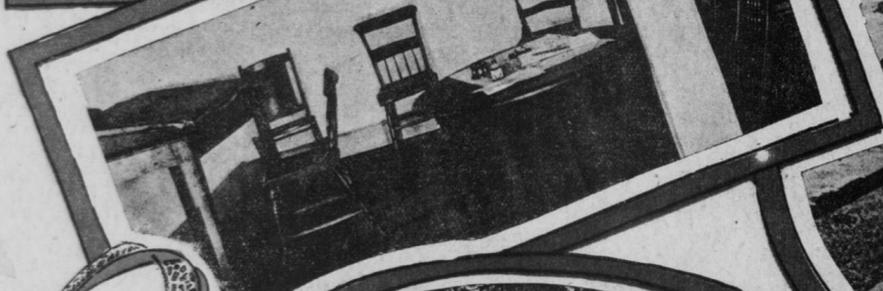
Monday evening, March 24, the top scores at the San Francisco Whist Club were made by Mr. Foster and Mrs. Adolph Meyer, N. and S., plus 8; Mrs. Henry Pavot and S. Meyer, E. and W., plus 4.

Wednesday evening, March 25, the top scores were made by Mr. Foster, N. and S., plus 10; Mrs. G. E. Bates and Oscar Samuels, E. and W., plus 12.

Thursday afternoon, March 27, at the ladies' game, Mrs. William Hardy and Mrs. Foster, N. and S., plus 3; Mrs. Hess and Mrs. Frank Weston, E. and W., plus 8.

Saturday evening, March 29, Mrs. W. E. Summerhayes and Judge Freeman, E. and W., plus 4; Mrs. Hess and Mr. Foster, N. and S., plus 8.

The Bates trophy was played for on Saturday afternoon, March 29, for teams entering the contest. The successful team



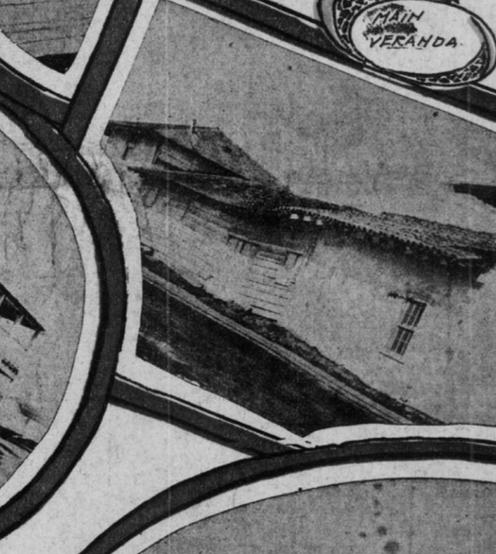
UPPER ROOM OF NORTH TOWER



MAIN VERANDA



WATERSIDE VIEW



LOOKING TOWARDS THE BAY

Native Sons of the Golden West Have in Hand a Work That Means Much in the State's History.

and the thick adobe walls have crumbled very little, although the house has stood for nearly a century, and the plans of the Commissioners will not be difficult to carry out if the work is done with care and judgment. The only portion of the restored structure not originally there will be the tiled roof, and as all except a very few of its own tiles have been carried off by relic hunters, or broken in various ways, the Commissioners will be obliged to find tiles from other less notable buildings of the neighborhood.

After the work of restoration is completed the building will be converted into a museum of California history, each room being devoted to some man of great prominence or to a particular period of the State's history. The work of collecting the exhibits has already been begun and a number of very interesting relics have been promised. Among these are the desk and pen used in drafting and signing the first State constitution and a certified copy of the signatures (the original document being in the State archives), two chairs used by General Fremont while in Monterey, a chair belonging to Governor Micheltorena and several relics of Rev. Walter Colton, the builder of Colton Hall. The plans of the commissioners also include beautifying the grounds surrounding the building and converting them into a public park. There are between two and three acres of land in the Custom-house reservation, extending along the shores of the bay, and no prettier site for a park could be found.

The Custom-house is, with the exception of some of the older missions, the oldest public building in the State, its foundations having been laid by the Spanish Government about 1816. The north tower was nearly completed when Mexico revolted against Spain and the work of construction was stopped till about 1824, when it was recommenced by the Mexican Government and continued with more or less vigor till the American occupation in 1846. The two towers were thus completed and the central portion was under way when the United States took possession and finished the building about 1850. It was used as a Custom-house and for other purposes connected with the administration of public affairs in the province under both Spain and Mexico, and after the American occupation it was the headquarters of the civil and military jurisdiction of California for some time, remaining at the same time, however, the place of business for the



CUSTOM HOUSE LOOKING SOUTH



MAIN CENTRAL HALL

Monterey customs district till 1861, when Monterey was merged into the San Francisco district. Since that time it has had no official status and has fallen gradually into its present dilapidated condition, despite all the efforts of the custodian to prevent it.

Unofficially this old house has seen many interesting and some thrilling events, and some brilliant social gatherings, the old chroniclers say, took place within its walls. One of the most magnificent of these was the ball given by the officers of the United States frigate Savannah shortly after the American occupation. This ball was held in the immense central hall of the Custom-house and was worthy of note for many reasons, chiefly, however, for the fact that attended as it was by all the prominent Mexican and Spanish families, as well as the few Americans who came to Monterey prior to 1846, it marked the breaking down of the natural hostility of conquered conquerors and the beginning of the kinder feeling between the two races that has existed in California ever since.

Strangely enough, the great old hall, in which the officers of Commodore Sloat's flagship gave this ball, is now used as a depot for the stones for the pedestal of the Sloat monument which the Mexican War Veterans are slowly building at the old fort on the neighboring hill. A number of these stones are shown in the photograph.

Another interesting room in the Custom-house is the upper room of the north tower, now used as the office of the restoration commission and for the past four years occupied as a studio by the talented San Francisco artist, Miss Evelyn McCormick. The room was the military headquarters for California when General Fremont was in command and it was here that Fremont found his wife when he arrived in Monterey after his long ride through the night and the storm from San Jose on December 20, 1846, to tell her the news of his election as the first United States Senator from the new State of California. Two objects of historic interest are now in this room and are shown in the photograph. They are the desk upon which the first California State constitution was drafted and signed and a chair used by Governor Micheltorena, next to the last Mexican Governor of Alta California. These relics form the nucleus of the collection that will be placed in the Custom-house historical museum.

The most important historical event in

which the Monterey Custom-house figured was that of July 7, 1846, when Commodore John D. Sloat landed 250 men from the United States warships Savannah, Cyane and Levant, under Captain William Mervine, to haul down the Mexican flag and replace it with the stars and stripes, thus taking formal possession of the territory in the name of the United States of America. A curious incident connected with this important event and one not generally known is that July 4, 1846, would have been the date of American occupation but for the cunning of the Mexican officials. They, knowing that the proper formalities of the occasion could not be complied with unless the Mexican flag was hauled down before that of America was hoisted, confiscated the Mexican standard and kept it securely hid for two days. The Americans, however, finally persuaded them that the Mexican flag must be produced and on the morning of the 7th it was run up over the Custom-house for the last time. The same old flagstaff remains in its original position and is still stout enough to carry proudly the big flag which the custodian, Captain Thomas G. Lambert, has bent to its halcyons on every national holiday and other important occasions in the thirty-three years of his guardianship of the Custom-house property.

V. A. L. JONES.

The Empress of Japan.

At the age of 50 years the Empress of Japan still considers that she is entitled to her family name of Haruka, the "spring," and no one will deny it to her. Her Majesty belongs to the favored class of women who never seem to grow old, and who in the autumn of life possess the charm of knowing how to preserve the smiling loveliness of their youth. She is a devoted friend of literature, and she is never so happy as when she can celebrate the three great festivals of the year, surrounded by the

lies third hand you have cleared your opponents' suit in one round. If you do not cover on second round more than likely third hand will have to play ace to unblock and clear his partner's suit. You will still retain the command of your opponents' suit, which is most generally acknowledged the best play.

A fourchette, as almost every whist player knows, is a combination of two cards immediately above and below the one led, such as king jack on a queen led, or a queen ten on a jack led.

An imperfect fourchette is the combination of the card immediately above its one led and the next but one below its one led on queen led. Suppose that the queen is led, and second hand holds king, ten and others. By covering the queen he not only prevents the third hand from finessing if he hold the ace, but he may make the jack good in fourth hand.

If the jack is in third hand with the ace, second hand still gains an advantage by covering, because the lead is then on his left and his guarded ten must be led up to, whereas if he passes the queen his king, ten will be led through a second guarded ace, queen, jack will all take tricks against him.

If the original leader holds the jack and the queen is passed, the second hand is in the same disadvantageous position, for he will be led through again with the jack. By putting on the king, even if he loses it, he remains with second best guarded in the suit.

A very instructive deal criticism by G. E. Coffin.

(a) Avoid changing suits.

(b) Lead through the strong up to the weak hand.

(c) If not strong enough in trumps to lead them, you are weak enough to force opponents.

Most of the old timbers are still stanch