

# THE DEMOCRAT

W. H. ADAMS, Publisher.  
CAPT. GIRARDEAU. - MISSOURI

## THE GAME OF MONTE.

A Mode of Gambling Very Popular Among the Mexicans.

A characteristic of the Mexican people is their insatiable passion for gambling. From the richest merchant banker to the poorest "trabajador," it is, with surprisingly few exceptions, a nation of gamblers. I have seen beggars—ragged, shivering, and half-dead—men-crouch all day with appealing hands on the street corner, and at night seek the nearest monte bank, and losing the miserable pittance for which they had waited so patiently, hobble off in the darkness, unheeding to bed—God knows where.

Monte is the national game. In gilded palaces and grimy hovels in every Mexican city you may find the swarthy monte dealer sitting at a table with a pile of Mexican dollars in front of him. From a pack of cards in his left hand, he draws the two topmost, placing them side by side, face upward, on the table. Let them be a ten and an ace, you bet a dollar on the tray, and if a trey comes before a five, you have won a dollar. Vice versa, you lose. He may place other pairs on the board, and you may bet on either of the pairs with the same result. The percentage in the dealer's favor is so great that it is only a matter of time when he will have all of your money unless you are exceptionally lucky. It is said that he had better not depend on your luck at any other time.

The pack of cards and their denominations are the same as the ordinary pack, but the figures are different. The "spade" is represented by a two-headed eagle, the "club" by a rough bluebird, the "heart" by an earthen vase of Aztec pattern, and the "diamond" by a figure consisting of a series of concentric rings, which is supposed to be a conventional representation of the sun. The "jack" is a sedate courtier of the middle ages, the "queen" is a fantastic princess mounted on a prancing horse, and his majesty's full length figure is arrayed in a costume that has been borrowed from a Roman emperor of the eastern empire.

One night in the City of Mexico I wandered down to the principal plaza and walked into the greatest gambling hall in Mexico—the great monte bank sustained by the municipal government. Monte was no novelty to me, but this particular bank was in the hall a semicircle had described a curve of some eighty feet. Inside the center on a raised platform sat a man who dealt and called out his cards, and about fifty dealers played the monte game on either side of the table. Several hundred men could then be seen on the "blayouts."

As I stood idly watching this monster game, an old man came in whom I had noticed white-headed and contented with the rear of my hotel that morning. He watched the game steadily for a few minutes and placed fifty cents—his day's earnings, doubtless—on a card and won. He placed the dollar on another card and won that. He placed his present capital, two dollars, on two cards and won both. And there he stood for more than half an hour winning every bet. The dealer's pile of silver diminished as the players increased, until the latter had every "blayout." The dealer went back to the treasurer for more money, but by the time he had returned the time-covered white-headed had won another dealer to the vaults for the same purpose. By this time the interest of all in the house was centered on the lucky player. Those who were betting made their bets on the same card with him. In another hour at this rate the bank would have been ruined, and the superintendent angrily closed the remaining games.

The old white-headed counted out more than three thousand dollars in Mexican coin, and changed it into gold and notes. As I sauntered down the street I saw him turn aside into a money changer's den, anxious to see whether he would tempt fortune further, I followed him. He began playing again and lost as regularly as he had won before. Losses made him frantic and he began cursing and swearing. Within an hour I saw him turn wearily and sadly away, without even the pittance for which he had toiled all day under the burning tropic sun.

The passion for the game is not confined to the Mexicans alone. It is equally strong with the cowboys, herdsmen, teamsters and soldiers of western Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. I once saw nearly six thousand dollars paid to a camp of soldiers in Texas. Within three hours a dozen monte-dealers had nearly every dollar of it. Most of these men were larger, rougher, and more desperate than the men of the game. Laws prohibiting the game, providing severe penalties for their violation, are enacted without avail. The monte-dealer has had his share of frontiersman's losses his hard earned pay and turns cheerily to another month of hardship—Albert Sidney, in Detroit Free Press.

**A Sponge Case.**  
So many of us carry their own sponge with them when traveling, greatly preferring it to a wash-cloth, that a sponge case is a very useful and acceptable gift. A very pretty one is made as follows: Use a piece of solid silk, eighteen inches long and nine inches wide. Double it so as to form a bag with open ends, and paint on one side a little design of daisies and fine grasses, a glimpse of which will never else your individual taste may suggest. Next take a piece of pretty colored surah or China silk, ten inches wide and eight deep, and sew one inch edge to the top of the silk, and the other side of the silk. Then stitch across on each side just above the joining, so as to make a place in which the sponge may be run. With these ribbons the top is drawn up a little, and a pretty bow tied; or they may be used simply for hanging up the case.—American Agriculturist.

**The Final Rest.**  
Perhaps there are not many whose life has been so busy and so deep and so full, that they can think of no bed but the grave that is at all likely to give them that for which they languish—rest—quiet—peace—but there are many who are very weary—many who do not find much repose upon the earth, and who sometimes more than half wish they were already under it. Let all such persons wait with patience; let them bear on, as best they may, with the things that tire them; every step counts on in their journey. Turn on a little longer, friend, and your burden will fall and for you there will be no more labor and no more sorrow. You will not even have to make your own way, or to settle your own array, or to cross your own hands, or close your own eyes then. Others will do all these things for you when your hour of rest cometh.—N. Y. Ledger.

**Drawing Lines.**  
"Why, how Miss Weaver has changed in the years since I saw her! She looks as if she had seen hard times."  
"She has—she is just through a course of Browning"—Pook.

## THANKS, AWFLY!

Great declaration, I am glad  
Our fathers kept you in their trunk  
Until July 3. 'T would have been sad  
Had April showers wet our punks;  
Had May-time blossoms on the trees,  
Or roses sweet that June reveals,  
E'en burned by matches and favors,  
Or scorched by their spinning wheels;  
Had August's heat, September's cool,  
October's crisp, November's joy,  
E'en rained or enhanced by noise;  
Had January's blizzard blast  
Or February's sleet and snow  
A gloom on Independence day,  
Had winds in March, so piercing raw,  
E'er had the chance to break the woe,  
And eggs of discontent this hatch,  
By bringing up their fustian bows,  
Extinguishing both torch and match,  
Right well ye chose, ye sisters great,  
From east and west from south and north,  
Had ye preferred a me other date,  
We'd never have had our July Feast.  
—Harper's Bazar.

## HOW THEY CELEBRATED.

The Smith Family's Jolly Fourth of July.

Preparation "Fitted to the Day"—The Patriotic Procession—Wonderful Sight and "Doins"—Pretentious Pyrotechnics.

(Written for this Paper.)

HEY got up early. Directly after breakfast "Pa" and "Ma" Smith and their eight small but lively Smiths were arrayed as "mascots" for the day.

Ma bustled her and son Tom, who was in much excitement, to her brood room for an early start to the main street of Libertyville to see the "wonderful doins."

As soon as she got one little Smith pointed and down the street on one down hand in a chair to emphasize her instructions. Ma soon had her four girls dressed in their best lawn frocks, a wealth of long-drawn-out, stilly-starched "panties" rustling around their ankles, red, white and blue sashes and their "Sunday hats."

They then sat, each holding a penny flag stiffly in her hand, and four pairs of pantaloons legs stretched out rigidly in front of her.

They looked stiff and shining proof of the efficacy of mingled soap, starch and patriotism.

Next Ma tackled her four boys. "Thomas Jefferson Smith the oldest boy, seemed to have been made especially to satisfy the longings of his mother's patriotic soul.

His hair was fevered red. When he noticed white-headed and contented with the rear of my hotel that morning. He watched the game steadily for a few minutes and placed fifty cents—his day's earnings, doubtless—on a card and won. He placed the dollar on another card and won that. He placed his present capital, two dollars, on two cards and won both. And there he stood for more than half an hour winning every bet.

Next she moved briskly along the line, dexterously using the family pocket-handkerchief on each small Smith in turn, whether there seemed to be a pressing need for it or not.

## THE FARMING WORLD.

FOR HORTICULTURISTS.

How to prevent Fruit Trees from Splitting Where the Branches Join.

We see frequently in the journals of the day full directions given, sometimes illustrated with cuts, to prevent fruit trees from splitting down by storms and the weight of the fruit upon them, where the larger branches join the tree at an acute angle. As we had no danger of such accidents last year, in the absence of nearly all crops, some cul-



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tivators think the danger will therefore be greater the present season. The remedy commonly adopted by way of prevention is to prop up the branches as soon as the heavy crop threatens harm (Fig. 1). Where the thole tree

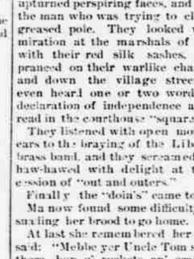


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consists of two parts with the acute fork between them, as in Fig. 2, a preferable remedy is to bolt the two parts together with a screw bolt. Others suggest that the branches be cut into two portions, the subsequent growth of which renders them strong



FIG. 3.

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increase in size given by thinning to the specimens. The tree itself, however, would be all the better, as a numerous loaded limb is more exhausted by the many specimens growing on it than by fewer and larger ones.

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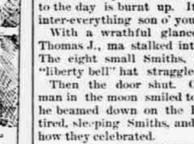


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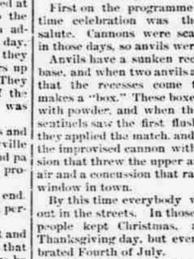


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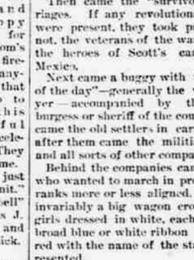


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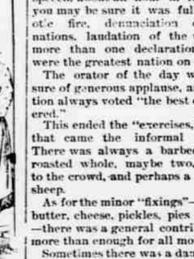


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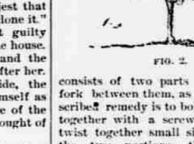


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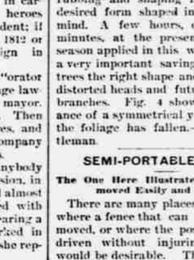


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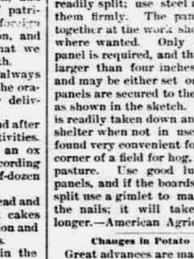


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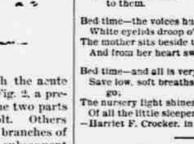


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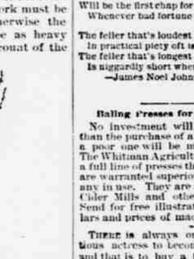


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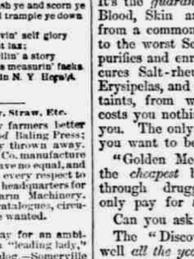


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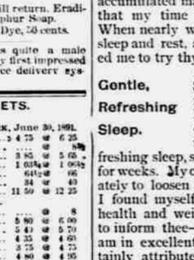


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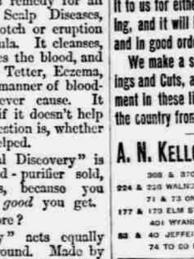


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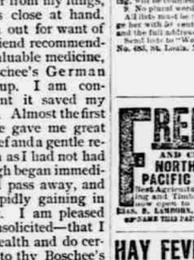


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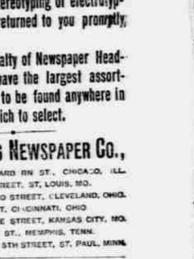


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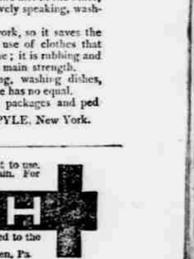


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**ONE ENJOYS**  
Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectually, dispels colds, head-aches and fevers, and cures habitual constipation. Syrup of Figs is the only remedy of its kind ever produced, pleasing to the taste and acceptable to the stomach, prompt in its action and truly beneficial in its effects, prepared only from the most healthy and agreeable substances, its use is recommended by all the most eminent medical authorities and commended to all and have made it the most popular remedy known.

Syrup of Figs is for sale in 50c and \$1 bottles by all leading druggists. Any reliable druggist who may not have it on hand will procure it promptly for you on any terms you wish to try it. Do not accept any substitute.

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**"German Syrup"**  
Asthma. "I have been a great sufferer from Asthma and severe Colds every Winter, and last Fall my friends as well as myself thought because of my feeble condition, and great distress from constant coughing, and inability to raise any of the accumulated matter from my lungs, that my time was close at hand. When nearly worn out for want of sleep and rest, a friend recommended me to try the valuable medicine, Boschee's German Syrup. I am confident it saved my life. Almost the first dose gave me great relief and a gentle refreshing sleep, such as I had not had for weeks. My cough began immediately to loosen and pass away, and I found myself rapidly gaining in health and weight. I am pleased to inform thee—unsolicited—that I am in excellent health and do certainly attribute it to thy Boschee's German Syrup. C. B. STICKNEY, Picton, Ontario."

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HAY FEVER CURED TO STAY CURED  
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It better than any soap; finer, more effective, saves of it for the money, and in the form of a powder, for your convenience. Take, as it were, the fabric in one hand, the dirt in the other, and lay them apart—comparatively speaking, washable with little work.

As it saves the worst of the work, so it saves the worst of the wear. It isn't the use of clothes that makes them old before their time; it is rubbing and straining, getting the dirt out by main strength. For scrubbing, house-cleaning, washing dishes, windows and glassware, Pearline has no equal. Beware of imitations, put packages and peddlers.

**PIROU'S REMEDY FOR CATARRH**  
CURED OF SICK HEADACHE. **OPIMUM** AND WHISKEY HABITS  
**Tutt's Pills**  
CURED OF SICK HEADACHE. **OPIMUM** AND WHISKEY HABITS

**THE SOAP that Cleans Most is Lenox.**  
Great advances are made all the time in the introduction of improved varieties of fruits and vegetables, and it is necessary to have a cleaner and richer land. Thirty or forty years ago we thought potatoes must have poor land or they would run all to vines. Now our improved varieties will stand a liberal dressing of superphosphate and nitrate of soda, and it is not easy to determine who exhibits the greater folly, the man who fertilizes his land and then plants poor varieties, or the man who plants the best and most improved varieties and then neglects to furnish them with a liberal supply of appropriate and available plant food.—Rural New Yorker