

FAMOUS WOMEN GAMBLERS.

France Has Furnished the Greater Number.

Liverpool Mercury.

The pages of history tell over and over again the story of great women gamblers. France has furnished the greater number of these, but England has put forth many whose fame has become international.

There seems to be something in the blood of French women that makes them gamblers of high order. Mme de Montespan won so much at basett her favorite game, that Louis XIV was delighted and borrowed some of her winnings. But she lost a great deal at times and her play grew so furious that in 1683 Louis abolished the game.

It was recorded of Madame that she one night, while the king looked on at the play, risked a sum equal to £40,000 on a single card, and that the king grumbled when no one could be found to cover the bet. But Madame also lost one New Year's night 700,000 crowns at hocal and on another night almost £200,000 at the same game.

Mme. de Barry was the most famous woman gambler of the time of Louis XV., but with her it was only a pastime. But that other favorite, Mme. de Pompadour, went in with the sole object of winning, if she could. It is recorded that her winnings were enormous and that in a single night she eased the pockets of the king of 25,000 louis d'or.

Queen Marie Antoinette, according to history, was a gambler who liked to be surrounded by gamblers. Faro was the popular game, but the stakes got to be so great that many a nobleman had his entire estates wiped out in a single night. Scandal rose high and the game was forbidden. Nevertheless, in a short time it was being carried on again, not only in the apartments of the queen, but at the house of the Princess de Lamballe.

At first the queen and those who desired to play with her went to the apartments of Mme de Buene, whose house is credited with having been the scene of the highest continued play of any in France. But matters got so bad before the end came that noblemen would no longer play with the queen, and she admitted to her table many common gamblers. Then the scandal broke in full force, for some were caught cheating, and one was arrested for picking a pocket.

Possibly the most famous woman gambler of English history was Nell Gwynne, the actress, who was so great a favorite with Charles II. In that reign the manners were much the same as they were at the French court. Nell Gwynne lost £5000 to her rival, the Duchess of Cleveland, and in one year lost upward of £60,000, which the king paid. There had never been known so much gambling among women as was carried on in that reign. After the Duchess of Mazarin, niece of the cardinal, had lost £1,000,000, she died in absolute want. The acknowledged queen of the American women gamblers was Lonna Paquita, who was born in Texas fifty years ago, but early went into Mexico to rule over outlaws and cowboys. The little Lonna was scarcely 12 years of age when she fell in with an old-time gambler named Qualeto, who taught her every trick known to the gambler's art. She made her first appearance in Paso del Norte. She was only a child and the rough gamblers laughed at her.

But they soon found that they were no match for her, and then even her teacher, Qualeto, was a tenderfoot compared with the child. With the passing years Lonna Paquita grew to be a beautiful woman. Her hair was as black as night, and she had eyes that confounded those of the gamblers who played with her and a voice as sweet and silvery as a bell. She was as handsome a woman as one could wish to see, but with a heart of ice and nervous of iron. Her small white hands could manipulate the cards with a skill that defied the watchfulness of the keenest gambler.

There were many people who thought it was merely luck that followed her but the luck kept up too long, and the gamblers who knew a few tricks themselves understood that it was art. Still, no one was ever known to catch her cheating. Before she was 20 Lonna Paquita was in New Mexico leading a gang of the worst characters of the southwest.

Her death occurred in 1875, and was tragic. Some lawless acts had been committed by a body of greasers and search was made for them. Lonna Paquita was found to be their leader, and was caught. She only laughed when she was taken and proposed that a game of cards be played to see whether she would go free or kill herself. This was agreed to, and one of the party, a gambler known to the country around, was selected. The woman lost. Those who looked on had scarcely time to understand this when Lonna Paquita drew a knife from her belt and plunged it into her heart.

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Lord Lister's Kindness.

Some interesting anecdotes of Lord Lister are told in The Cornhill by Roden Shields, who when a boy of seven, was a fellow-patient of W. E. Henley's in Edinburgh Infirmary in 1873. Lord Lister was at that time a surgeon at the infirmary, and "long before her late Majesty made him a peer he had secured his lasting fame in the hearts of poor, grateful sufferers as much for the noble qualities of his character as for his rare skill." One incident is thus described:

My mother, who had travelled from Glasgow to visit me, was battling along Princes street one day against wind and rain on her way to the infirmary. Lister happened to be passing in his carriage and recognized her. He instantly stopped, picked up the poor, bedraggled woman in the most fashionable thoroughfare in Scotland and conveyed her to their common destination.

Again, in another little room close to the writer's lay a poor woman suffering from a tumor or abscess deemed incurable. Lister maintained her there at his own charges for over three years and restored her to her husband and family healed.

Facts About the Mikado.

The yearly allowance of the mikado, which is at the same time that of the whole imperial family, is now \$1,500,000. Besides he has the yearly incomes of \$500,000 from the interest on the \$10,000,000 which was given to him from the war indemnity received from China ten years ago, of \$250,000 from his private estates, which amounts to \$5,000,000 or more; of \$500,000 from the forests, covering an area of 5,124,873 acres and valued at \$512,487,300, at \$100 an acre; in all, \$1,250,000. Thus, his yearly net income amounts, to \$2,750,000.

There are in all sixty members in the imperial family, inclusive of eleven married and four widowed princesses, who are members of the family by marriage, not by birth. Of the rest there are eleven married and sixteen unmarried princes, inclusive of the mikado and eighteen unmarried princesses.

The mikado is industrious. He rises early in the morning and performs his official duties all day for many hours.

The mikado is an intelligent man, well educated. It is said he is erudite enough for a degree of Ph. D.

The mikado is six feet tall. He is one of the tallest men in his court. He is stout, broad shouldered and weighs 200 pounds. His countenance has an expression of an athlete, which is not represented in his photographs that are made public.

The Empress Haruko is 56 years old and is two years senior of her husband. She is one of the most beautiful woman in Japan. As she is older than the Mikado she has been able to give her motherly care to the Mikado during all these years of Meiji. The couple love each other dearly, although they do not usually go together when they go out. It is publicly denied that she is jealous of her rival, although it is a fact that the Crown Prince Harunomiya is not her majesty's son, but his majesty's.—Jihei Hashiguchi in The Independent.

A temperance lecturer, who wished to prove to his audience the deadly power of whisky, caused a drop of water to be magnified and thrown upon a magic-lantern screen.

The picture was a terrible one. Worms bigger than pythons, crabs bigger than elephants, spiders the size of a ship, fought together in the drop of water like fiends in the infernal regions. The lecturer now caused a drop of whisky to be added to the water. The effect was marvelous. The liquor killed all those ferocious horrors instantly. Their vast claws and tentacles and feelers stiffened. All became peaceful and still. An old lady in the front row whispered hoarsely in her husband's ear: "Wall, Jabez, that settles me. I'll never drink water again 'thout puttin' some whisky in it."

Conductor's Mistake.

Many ladies resent the easy familiarity practised by some conductors on the street cars in bolstering them against a jerk of the car, in preventing their alighting from a car or in requesting them to "stop up lively," etc. Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania tells of a lady of this class, who was rather morbid on the subject. One day when the motorman was putting on brakes and slowing up she arose, and the conductor shouted: "Wait, leddy, until the car stops." "Don't address me, sir, as lady," she indignantly replied. "Beg your pardon, ma'am," replied the conductor; "but all of us is liable to make mistakes."

Apple Shortcake.

Make a dough of a pint of flour sifted with two teaspoonfuls of baking powder and a little salt; rub a tablespoonful of butter thoroughly into the flour, and add a teacupful of sweet milk, or enough to make a soft dough; divide into three equal parts and roll, handing as little as possible; lay one in a greased pan, lightly grease the top of dough with butter; lay on the second sheet, grease, and add the last sheet of dough; bake in a hot oven till done. Separate the sheets and spread between them warm apple sauce seasoned with sugar, butter and a pinch of salt. Serve warm with cold cream or rich milk.

Piles

To prove to you that Dr. Chase's Ointment is a certain and absolute cure for each and every form of itching, bleeding and protruding piles, the manufacturers have guaranteed it. See testimonials in the daily press and ask your neighbors what they think of it. You can use it and get your money back if not cured. Get a box, at all dealers or EDMANSON, BATES & Co., Toronto, Dr. Chase's Ointment

Helping Her Out.

The most impressive part of the marriage ceremony had arrived. Big Tom Briggs had, in reply to the fatal question, answered, "O! will," in a tone which showed there was no doubt about it at all, so far as he was concerned.

But although the minister was pleased to note the evident heartiness of the bridegroom, he was a trifle disconcerted when, on putting a like question to the lady. Tom once more thundered, "O! will."

The clergyman took it that there was a slight misunderstanding, and repeated the question.

"O! will," again said Tom. "Pardon me," said the minister gently, "the lady must reply."

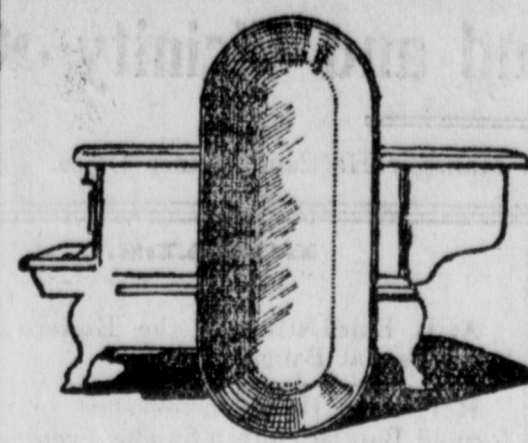
"Oh, that be all right, master," grinned the groom. "Er be stone deaf, so O! be answering for she."

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McClary's Pandora Range

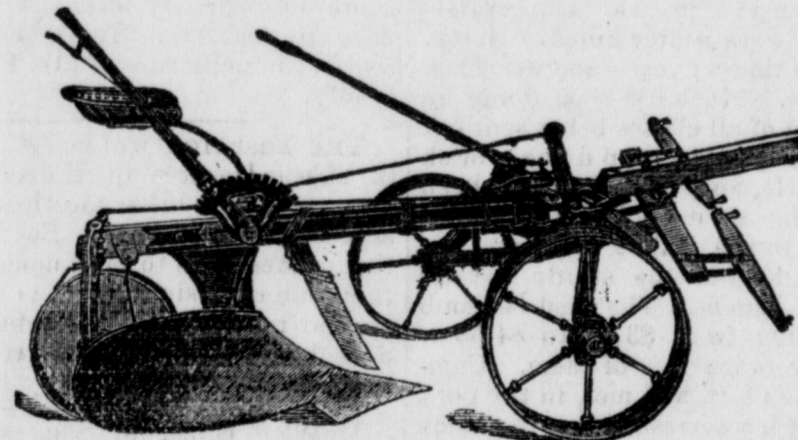
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An increase over 1903 of \$645,935.
Insurance in Force.....\$35,630,188
An increase of \$8,005,095.
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William Barclay Parsons, the engineering expert, was talking about the various food adulterations that from time to time crop up in the most unexpected places.

"Before long," he said, laughing, "it will be necessary to take literally the butter story that used to pass as a joke.

There was a man in a restaurant who called a waiter to him and said: 'Waiter, look here. Isn't this a cow's hair in my butter?' The waiter took up the butter, examined the hair and then replaced the plate before his patron with a nod of satisfaction.

"Yes, sir," he said, "that's a genuine cow's hair. We always serve them with our butter to show that it is not oleomargarine."

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