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THE FATAL CARD.

Some years ago the Mississippi river was noted for its 'floating palaces,' as the proached. All made way for him. large steamers plying between New Ors leans and the ports above were called. Now the railways have driven nearly all the fine boats of the river, and left the te?" field to the freight-boats, whose accomodations for the passengers are by no means palatial. The former class of steamers were in many respects delights ful, but they never ceased to be objects of dread to timid people, for if the racing which was reduced to a system, did not result in the loss of the boat. there was sure to be one or more encounters between the lawless portions of the travelers, in which pistel bullets would fly rather too thick for the comfort of steady going people. The cause of such disturbances was generally a quarrel over the gambling table. The regulations of amusements should be conducted in a salpon provided for that purpose in the 'texas, or officers' cabin,' situated on the hurricane deck; but the sporting gentry were by no means careful to obey this rule, and the gaming was most commonly carried on on the dinning tables in the main saloon of the steamer, to the great annoyance of two-thirds of those on

Many professional gamblers used to make these boats their home traveling back and forth with them, and fleecing all who were verdant or foolish enough to fall into their clutches. So well, indeed, was this system managed that the various members of the 'craft' seemed to have their steamers marked out for them by common consent, so that no one would trespass upon the domain of the others. Of course these men were warm friends of the officers of the boat, who were either too sincere in their friendship to put a stop to the practice, or too much atraid of the gamblers to care to provoke a quarret with them, for in those days it was a common affair for such men to resent any fancied affront with a pistol

One of the most remarkable men of their class was named Damel Stardivant, a Frenchman, the son of a broken down scion of nobility who had settled in New Orleans before the transfer of Louisiana to the United States Sturdivant had been raised as a 'gentleman' by his aristoeratic father, but upon becoming of der the mangemen of Mrs. R. S. Hunter, age, and finding his fortunes very bad, had taken to cards as a means of bettering them. His success in this field was so great that he was induced to continue in it until at the time I write, and he was one of the most notorious gambl rs between St. Louis and New Orleans. He was forty five years old. but had kept himself so well that he seemed much younger. He was a man of fine persons al appearance and of great physical serength. He was also noted for his personal courage. As a gambler he most expert and successful.

There were dark stories of deeds which he had committed while under the infinence of play and liquor, and it was said by some that he had killed half a dozen men in his life time. Yet no one cared to speak these stories openly, for no one cared to bring upon himself the anger of such a man. There were few who knew him who really cared to play against him, but they feared a refusal to do so might involve them in a quarrel with him, and rarely declined his invitations.

About fifteen years ago, the time of which I write, he had attached himself to one of the magnificient steamers plying between New Orleans and Vicksburg, and had publicly announced his determination to shoot any man who attempted to encroach upon the scene of his operations. Of course this lett him in undisputed possession of the field, and he reaped a golden harvest from it during the briefycar that he conducted his operations there.

It was my lot at that time to be com-pelled to make frequent trips between New Orleans and Vicksburg, being heavily engaged in cotton speculations. I preferred the steamer of which Stardivant had taken possession, inasmuch as it was not only the most comfortable, but also the swiftest, and time was of lunportance to me. It was known that I carried large sums of money with me, and I was always apprehensive lest Sturdivant should ask me to play. I had fully made up my mind to refuse him, and it he attempted to to draw me into a quarrel to shoot him without mercy, as I knew the only chance for my life lay in getting the advantage of him. Strange to say, he did not make any such propo-sition to me, and I give him no chance to

'Well, gentleman,' he said, in an un- his breast. steady tone, 'you seem to be terrible

ed to know the man, and no one cared to you for that play is returned.' volunteer to place himself in his clutches.

such treatment. Come, let's see who it hiding the fatal card from sight.

ger to me, and was dressed in a plain years.' the decided expression of his well shaps woods. ed face I read an unusual firmness and intensity of purpose.

bler?' he asked in a calm tone, without

Sturdivant flushed darkly and gave the stranger a fierce glance.

'Some persons call me so, behind my back,' he said insolently . 'but no one would dare apply that term before my

'Nevertheless,' said the stranger, 'I want an answer-yes or no.'

'Well, then,' said the gambler, angrily, I am. What of it?

'Simply this,' replied the stranger, 'I have heard it said that you claim to be the best card-plaper in the Southwest. I have come two hundred miles to prove you a liar.

Sturdivant strode forward a step or two and thrust his hand into his breast as if to grasp a weapon.

'Stop,' stranger, 'If you shoot me, you will simply prove yourself afraid of me Take your seat at the table, and I will make my word good,'

There was something in the calm, stern manner of the stranger, that seemed to render the gambler powerless. He hesis tated for a moment, and then said bullyingly:

I never play with a man whose face I can not see.'

'Never mind my face,' said the stranger. 'It you are not afraid of losing it you shall see it when I am done with

But how do I know you have money enough for shelr sport?' persisted Sturdivant. You look seedy enough, my

'There,' said the stranger, producing a large pocket book, 'I have \$10,000 there; it you can win it you shall do so.?

With an oath Stifrdivant placed hims self at the table and bade has challenger do likewise. Those of us who had listened to this singular dialogue, now gathered around the table expecting to see a scene of more than usual interest. The stranger had not yet raised his hatbrim and none of us had seen his face, but we all felt from his general air and manner that Daniel Sturdivant had at last met his match. It did not take long to show that the stranger was an unusually good player. For an boar or more the playing went on in silence. The stakes were high and the contests marked with rare skill. Sturdivant exerted himselt as he had never done before but in spite of his efforts he lost steadily By the expiration of the time indicated above he had lost \$2,000. I noticed the flush upon his face deepen and a strange light come into his cyes. At last with an exclamation of triumph, he drew toward him the heap of notes.

openly or dishonestly."

Sturdivant said nothing, but dealt the card and checked him. The hand was played, and Sturdivant was about to seize stakes when the stranger laid down a card and checked him. The gambler interest a sharp cry and sat motionless, with his eyes fixed on the card, a worn and saded ace. Sturdivant's face worked and raded ace. Structuant's race worked covulsively as he gazed at it, and the spectators gatherd more closely around the two, wondering at the strange scene? 'In God's name who are you?' gasped Sturdivant, his eyes still fixed on the

'Look at me,' said the stranger quiet-

As if powerless to resist Sturdivant alsed his eves to the speaker. The tranger had raised his hat and sat looking at the trembling man with eves that arrive blazed with lary, Sturdivant thered a groun, and sank back in the

around the stove. He had been drinking chair with his face white and rigid. The and was smoking a fine cigar as he aps stranger with one sweep gathered up the money from the table and thrust it into

'That ace of hearts is an unlucky card dull. Who wants to play for a \$20 ans for you, Daniel Standivant, he said coldly. 'You played it once when you thought There was no reply. All present seem- it to your advantage. Now. God help

As he spoke, he raised a pistol which 'Umph!' he exclaimed, with an ex- we had not seen, and before we could pression of contempt, 'afraid to try your stop him, aimed it deliberately at the luck against Dan Sturdiyant, eh? Or trembling man and fired. The gambler maybe you want a little coaxing. Some fell heavily upon the table, a corpse, of you must play with me. I can't stand and the bright blood streamed over it

'Gentleman,' said the stranger rising He glanced around the crowd as if to to his feet, as we stood paralyzed with select his victim. For the first time I horror at the dreadful scene that man noticed the gaze of one of the group fix ruined my wife and tried to murder me. ed steadily upon him .- He was a strang I have been hunting for him ten

tially concealed by a wide-brimmed som stairs to the lower deck. Just then the brero which was drawn over it. He was steamer touched at a landing and he a small, but powerful made man, and in sprang ashore and vanished in the dark

I never learned the history of the mysterious affair, for the dead gambler 'Are you Daniel Sturdivant the gam- was beyond human questioning, and I never saw the stranger again; but I shall not soon forget the impression it made upon me at the time.

UNPRETENTIOUS DEROISM.

[New York Star.]

The Roman sentinel at Herculaneum who stood firm at his post until engulfed by the lava-torrent, has had the story of his splended fidelity perpetuated in books and bronze, as the act certainly deserved vet his heroic obedience to military discipline in no way surpasses the thousand instances of self sacrifice which almost escape observation amid the agony and disorganization of the Southern ple, could exceed the stern sense of duty which animated "Bill" Redding, the gecorrespondent at Grenada? Through the of sympathy flowed profusely. whole sickening ordeal, when men around him were dying by scores and fleeing by the hundreds, he remained steadfast at his post, sending out appeals for aid and chronicling the daily ravages of the pestilence. One day his dispatches came with an apology at the foo!, saying he feared that he could not write coherently, as the room in which he, wrote contained four persons down with the disease, and one corpse. "The "four pernot yet extinct.

OUT AT NIGHT.

boys when the shadows of night have them. He didn't understand Christ, gathered around you! Where are they yet believed in him much more than then! Are they at home at the pleasant most of as do; had seen him do miracles, social fireside, or are they running the thought he was quite strong enough to streets? Are they gaining a street educa- do for himselt, and he, Judas, might as tion? It so take care; the chances of their well make his own little by-perquisies rain are many. There is scareely any- out of the affair. Christ would come thing so destructive to their morals as out of it well enough, and he have running abroad at night. Under the cov-er of the darkness, they acquire the edu-seeker's idea, all over the world. He cation of crime; they learn to be rows doesn't hate Christ, but can't noderstand dyish, if not absolutely vicious they catch him—he doesn't care for him—sees no up loose talk, they hear sinful thoughts, good in that benevolent business; makes and they see obscene things, and they be- in sown little job out of it, at all events, come reckless and riotous. If you would come what will, And thus, out of every save them from ruin, see to it that night mass of men-your 'free first' men, finds them at home. More than one whose main object is to make money. young man has told the chaplain of the And they do make it-make it in all State prison that here was the beginning sorts of unfor ways, chiefly by the of his downward course that finally weight and force of mousy, or what is brought him to a felon's call.—Let parents solemnly ponder this matter, and do the power which money, once obtained, 'That was well done,' said the stranger all they can to make home attractive to has over the labor of the poor, so that 'You are an expert at cheating. But go all the children, so attractive that the the capitalist can take all it produce on. I can beat you whether you play boys will prefer it to running in the to himself except the laborer's food. streets.—There is no place like home, in more senses than one—certainly no place like home for boys in the evening.

That is the modern Jadas's way of carrying the bag' and 'bearing what is put therein.'

> RATHER OVERDOIXG IT.-A mother was trying to break her five-year old boy of a habit of lying by telling him hat all liars went to hell. She gave him a noving account of the terrors of the place, whereupon he exclaimed: "Why, mother, I couldn't stand it." "But you would be made to stand it," said she, "Oh, well," said the youngster, "if I ould stan' it I don't care."

PROLIFIC .- Mrs. Sarah Thompson, of Mover Grove, N. C., has borne to her husband, a delicate man of 120 pounds weight, twenty consecutive children in

ANAFFECTING SCENE,

[New North State.] One of the most affecting scenes we

ever witnesse occurred in the court house yesterday, Catharine Bolling was called to answer an indictment for concealing a bastard child. Having no counsel. Judge Kerr assigned Col. Unffin and Mr. James W. Reid to defend her Being informed that the father of the girl is a man of property, well able to detend his daughter and present in court, Judge Kerr called him up and requested bim to secure counsel. The father admitted his ability but declined to employ counsel. Col. Ruffin and Mr. Reid said that the girl should have their services gratuitously. Judge Kerr then administered to the father a most withering rebuke which was well deserved. The poor girl sobbed and cried most pitethe boat usually required that all such suit of homespun, and his face was paramusements should be conducted in a musement should be conducted in a plant years.

He walked slowly by us down the tally concealed by a wide-brimmed some states to the law at pros. He stated that the girl had been seduced under a promise of marriage. She couldn't win a race with a wire and after a discovery of her pregnancy her seducer fled the country. Then the cruel and inhuman treatment of her father drove her mad and she tried to conceal the birth of her child which was born dead. In her insanity she tried to cut her own throat. Under the circum-Mr. Strudwick said he did not think she ought to be held responsible for the act which she stood charged.

Judge Kerr said he thought the Solicitor should dismiss the case; and that as the father loved his gold and silver more than his offspring, and the daughter was deserted by her parents, it was proper time for some minister of the gospel to provide for her a home and show her the way to the Cross.

Catherine is quite prepossessing in appearance, has a very good face and is evidently deserving of sympathy. She plague-infected cities. What, for exame is about 19 years old. During the scene there were few dry eyes in the court room. On the bench-in the bar-in the nial telegraph operator and newspaper jury box, and in the audience the tears

RUSKINON JUDAS,

John Ruskin in the 'Crown of Wild Olives, characterizes in his trenchant style those who like to make money as imitrators of Judas: 'We do great injustice to Iscariot in

thinking him wicked above all common

wickekness. He was only a common

money lover, and like all money lover, didn't understand Christ; couldn't make sons" were his own wife, his mother, out the worth or meaning of him. He and two sisters; the corpse was that of did not want him to be killed. He was his child. A few days later the brave horror struck when he found that Christ correspondent himself had gone to join would be killed, threw his money away his kindred in a bappier land, and anoth- instantly, and hanged himself. How er gallant stepped into the deadly breach. many of our present money seekers, Truly the race of heroes and martyrs is think you, would have grace to hang themselves, whoever they killed? But Judas was a common, selfish, muddle-Judas was a common, selfish, muddle-beaded plfering fellow; his hand always in the bag of the poor, not caring for the cause of her illness in time to expose pokont for your in the bag of the poor, not caring for

> The growth of the nails on the left hand requires eighty two days more than those of the right, is more rapid in childrep than adults, and goes on faster in summer than in winter. It requires 132

on the arm of an elegant and we young man and leading her little de cried "Oh, na, ma, 160k there that gentleman that's passing, you know hint" "Neno, my o

Gleanings,

A duighter of Brigham Young has become an actress under the name of Cecile Grey.

"Guilty or not?" asked a Dutch justice. "Not guilty." "Den what you want here? Go about your business."

A recent issue of the Detroit Free Press centained an advertisement of "For sale - a piano by a lady with mod-

A man who is fond of pets was recently blessed with a litter of kittens. He took Kearney's advice and "pooled all

Ben Butler says he has been nominated oy the intelligence and culture of Massachusetts. This is modesty for you. He nominated himself.

Mollie McCarty the "California crack" has turned out to be a Pacific slope fraud. grass ox cart.

The tempérance baronet, Sir Wiltred Lawson, lately urged at a public meeting that the sale of "the devil in tion" should be within the control of the ratepayers.

The river Rhine, as is well known, Washes the city of Cologne. But tell us, nymph, what power divine Will henceforth wash the river Rhine?

Eiiza Pinkston has been heard from again. She says that John Sherman's disomlute conduct with that yer Jinks woman has done broke" her heart.-Warh. Post.

A Meriden watchmaker has made a steam engine weighing only fifteen grains. The works are silver, and three grains. The works are silver, and three drops of water are enough to keep them in motion twenty minutes.

A Chicago hosier claims great skill in adapting his wares to his customers. For thin legs he recommends ringed stockings, for plump ones stripes, and for thick ankles combined with lean calves he advises rings above and stripes

Base ball has been a dangerous game since the introduction of "dead," or hard balls, and this practice of extreme swift pitching. A few days ago James Barry, the catcher of a club in Boomville, N. Y., was hit in the stomach and instantly killed.

Ben Butler illustrater Bible times and modern days thus: "The tax gatherer would go around in those times, and take every tenth pig for taxes. Now he comes around and takes every third pig, and casts a longing eye on the old sow."

Maggie Reed of Lawrence, Mass, aged 17, wished to die because of the perfidy of her lover; but she did not like to have the suicide known. So she reit, but could not save her life.

John Davis was incurably ill in Montgomery county, Ind. His aweetheart, to whom he was soon to have been mur-ried, went to work in a mill to earn money for his support, her well-to-do parents refusing to give her money for the pose. Davis committed suicide in a not to be a burden on the girl.

Goldsboro Messenger: The extreme length of North Carolina from east to west is 485 miles, the greatest width 188 miles, its area 50,700 square miles, which is a little more than that of Rugland, or one thousandth part of the land surface of the globe. Its extreme length from east to west is considerably greater than from its northern boundary to Canada."

FAILURE OF AN ADVERTISING DODGE. -The San Francisco Poet says: An ingenious tailor of this city got a lot of empty pop bottles, put one of his basiness cards in each, then wrapped up ev-ery botcle seperately in a poisoned ten-derloin steak and threw them into the by from the ferryboats, one by one. He naturally supposed that the meat would be swallowed by sharks, that the poison would kill the latter, that the fish would dont ashore, be cut open and the bottles liscovered, the fact be reported by the days for the renewal of the nails in cold weather, and but 116 when the weather is warm.

Crucaso Larz.—The lady was leaning on the arm of an elegant and wealthy young man and leading her little dangle. d-will be published at our re vertising rates, if so dire