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### THE FRANKLIN TIMES

J. A. THOMAS, Editor and Proprietor. E. F. YARBOROUGH, Associate Ed.

ONE YEAR, -SIX MONTHS,

FRIDAY, FRBRUARY, 28. - - - 1896

"TOP AND BOTTOM."

There are people imbued with a certain love of adventure, and there are other people abnormally curious. I belong to the latter class, and my curiosity often gets the better of me.

My friend Wilson, who is a member of the secret service on the police force, the night before had been relating to me some rather interesting reminiserate enough to arouse my curiosity.

"Curio," he said (that is my nickinvestigate all phases of humanity may lead you into trouble one of these days, but if you have a mind to try the experiment and will follow my instructions I think I can provide you with enough several weeks."

I couldn't stand the pressure and

jumped at the chance. "You have all the natural requirements," said Wilson. "You look very green and unsophisticated, and you will at once become an object of interyou will play is a simple one. All you have got to do is to make the opportunity and the 'steerer' will do the rest. Remember one thing-under no circumstances bet or loan mone to anyone you chance to meet."

Then Wilson gave me my lesson. A suitable wardrobe was arranged for me to impersonate a green country youth, and bright and early the next morning I alighted from a train at the Northwestern depot. I was looking for a confidence man, and though Wilson assured me I would not meet with any serious injury or serious trouble so long as I kept my eyes open, still I must confess I felt a certain sense of nervous uncertainty which in a timid man might be attributed to fear.

My instructions were limited. When reached the depot in the garb of a country youth, all that was required was to conduct myself as a stranger naturally would; stand around the waiting-room for a few moments, and if no one approached me to go to the street and gaze up and down as if uncertain which way to proceed.

I first waited in the depot until the passengers had all left, but as no one approached me I decided to try the street. Here I met with no danger signals other than a lot of cab drivers, who tried to persuade me they knew more of my business than I did myself, and insisted that I wanted to take a ride. But I was looking for a confidence man, and I gave these fellows to understand that I was a very positive-minded coun-

Between Erie and Huron streets on Wells there is a small dry goods store with rather an odd display in the window, and as I came along there were several people standing in front inspecting the wares. As I always want to see everything that anybody else considers worth looking at I stopped also. Among the spectators was a man who looked to me to be a Swedish emigrant, and as his curiosity was apparently as abnormal as mine we were both standing there when the rest had

As I was about to move on the Swed-

broken English said: "Meester, yo can tell me var Ay fint State street?"

It would have been just as easy for me to tell the truth, and there was no apparent reason why I should do otherwise, but it was my mission that morning to appear in the light of a stranger, so I answered that I was a stranger in the city myself and could not tell him where to find State street. There seems to be an affinity of soul between strangers in a strange land, and the Swede warmed towards me. Ordinarily the Swedish emigrant is not my choice of companion, but I had been disappointed in my morning escapade, and when he asked me which way I came from and where I was going I allowed myself to gradually drift into conversation. I informed him I had just come in Irom Dakota, where I had been working on

a farm, and was on my way to my home "Det so? Ay ben yust from Noo York, var Ay ben vid mae uncle six mont since Ay come from Ole Country.

know det place?" No, I did not know much about Minnesota, only having passed through the state on my way to Dakota.

The conversation drifted from one thing to another as we walked along Wells street, until, passing by one of those institutions calculated to cheer the inner man, my new acquaintance asked me to have something warm. I am not a drinking man, but the weather was cool, and I decided a stimulant would not be bad, so I accepted his

invitation. As we were about to order something a well-dressed, genteel-looking man came in and spoke to us.

"Going to have a drink?" I answered that we were.

"Well, I thought I'd have something myself. Won't you join me?". "Ve can't do det," said the Swede.

Why not? "Vel, dar ben two of us und yust but von of yo; yo drink vid us."

"No, but I'll shake you the dice to see who pays the bill." The Swede consented, but said he only knew how to shake one kind of dice. He explained his way of shaking.

and the slick-looking man agreed that it would save time, so we proceeded. truises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fave, sores, triter, charted hards, children box, containing three dice, apside down, corts, and allskin eruptions, and possitively cures piles or no ray. It is guaranteed to give satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Thomas & and the one farthest from the mark was and the one farthest from the mark was One of the party was to turn the dice box, containing three dice, dpside down, and we were all to make a guess at the and the one farthest from the mark was to pay for the drinks. Our slick friend guessed 17. I guessed 23, and the Swede 20. We turned the box over, counted the tops and bottoms, added them together,

ested and wanted to try it again, but the Swede said I had paid for one drink and he would pay for the next. No, the stranger wouldn't have that, so my Swedish friend said he would play if we would allow him to pay for the drinks in case he failed to call the exact number. We both demurred, but the Swede

The new gentleman became inter-

insisted and chose 21. Sure enough, that was the number again. The slicklooking friend became more interested at this, and volunteered that the Swede could not do it again, and that he would bet any amount of money that he couldn't. I said nothing, and the Swede said he never gambled, but was sure he could guess the correct num-

Our friend excused himself for a moment to run across to the drug store, but asked us to wait for him. Now this fellow looked to me thoroughly like cences of his experience with a certain a sharper, and when the Swede exelement of society known to us as plained the dice trick to me during his "confidence men," and he was inconsid- absence I could scarcely contain my-

"Ay don't vanten vin his money from rame among the boys), "your desire to him," said the Swede, "but I can do det ever time. Ay learn det in Noo York. Har been de vay to doot."

You see one side of the dice added to the one just opposite will always make seven, and the three added together will amusement to-morrow to last you for always make 21. Much as I have shaken dice this never occurred to me.

When our friend returned and offered to wager \$20 that the Swede could not guess the number again I was forced to turn my head to conceal my laughter. Car load of Flour, The Swede said he was sure he could, and did not want to win the man's est to the confidence 'steerer.' The part money, whereupon the stranger became a trifle sarcastic and made a few remarks about people's nerve that were decidedly distasteful to me. That Swede called me to one side and asked my advice. Now I may be wrong, but have no sympathy with what are known as "fresh" people. The Swede had only \$10, and I just made up my

It was decided to let the bartender count the dice, to make sure of no mistake. Poor fellow, I really began to feel sorry for the man of polish, and half made up my mind to return my ten dollars of the winnings, accompanied with a little good advice not to go and do it again.

The Swede turned the dice box upside down and guessed 21; the bartender lifted it off, displaying a four, one and six on the top side, making a total of 11. The dice were turned over, and -you have probably at some time had that peculiar feeling, wondering how it happened-there was a three, five and one, making nine. The total, you see, was 20. No one said anything for a moment, and the bartender quietly gave the slick-looking man the money He courteously bought the cigars, and bid us good morning.

The poor Swede, his heart was broken. He had lost all the money he had in the world and had a long journey before him. He said he had a railroad ticket, but not even money to provide himself with a meal. Although he caused me to lose ten dollars, I really felt sorry for him and gave him another dollar to get something to eat. That seemed to cheer him up a little. He gave me his name and the place where he was going to work, saying he would send me the money, and I then bade him bood-by.

Last night Wilson called to see me. "Well, Curio, how did the experiment work? Did you succeed in being

"Not much. I never even saw a confidence man. Guess you were trying to play a practical joke on me."

"No, I was not. Did you follow my ish emigrant turned to me and in instructions?"

"That's strange. You must try it again. So your venture was fruit-

"Well, no, it was not altogether fruitless. A rather peculiar circumstance happened," and I explained all that had taken place from the time I left the depot. When I had finished Wilson looked at me in blank amazement for a moment and then lapsed into a con-

vulsive fit of laughter. Now I don't like being ridiculed and never did, and as I could not see where the joke came in insisted upon an ex-

"Curio, my boy," said Wilson, "you are an object of pity." That made me mad, but I kept quiet. "How it is possible for a man of your apparent intelligence to know so little I can't con-

I muttered something about people who were not fond of my style not being compelled to cultivate me, but Wilson only laughed.

"I suppose you have been wendering ever since how it happened." Ay go now to Meenesota to vork. Yo To be perfectly honest I had, but I

wouldn't tell him so. "You see, Curio, you ran up against the little game known to confidence men as 'T and B' (top and bottom). You are not the first victim. Your Swedish friend is one of the best-known confidence 'steerers' in Chicago, and the slick man is his confederate. And now, dear boy, the next time you go out looking for confidence men leave your money at home."

"That sounds well, but you haven't told me yet how it happened."

"Well, you see, while you were turned away frying to conceal your laughter from the slick man your Swedish friend was substituting dice made to order, on which the top and bottom added

together will not make seven." Perhaps Wilson was right, but tomorrow I'm going to see if I can't find a confidence man that I'll recognize as soon as I meet him.—Chicago Tribune.

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