DESERET EVENING NEWS.
Monday, ... May 25, 1868.

A GAMBLING SCENE.

In 1849, I was a passenger on the steamer *Star Spangled Banner*, from New Orleans to Louisville. She was crowded with people; and, an hour after leaving New Orleans, found perhaps twenty card tables drawn out, and three or four score of the passengers deeply absorbed in the mystery of the "old sledge," euchre, and poker. All that night and the next day the game went on. As fortune, however, soon singled out and made victims of the poorer and less skilled players, so the numbers gradually decreased until the fourth day out, when only one table was running. Old Bob Brasher, a negro trader, and two planters from La Fourche, still held on. Although they played almost incessantly for four days and nights, yet luck had favored neither party, and they were within a few dollars of even. The "bucking" had been principally between Brasher and Sanford, but heretofore they had kept themselves within the "gentleman's limit"—five hundred dollars. After leaving Memphis the game was renewed, and the bystanders observed, "that big play was on the tapis," as young Sanford was considerably under the influence of liquor, and when in that condition was known to be a heavy player. Late at night the two traders came together; both had "backing hands," and Louisiana and Kentucky bank notes soon covered almost the whole table. The margin of five hundred dollars had been forgotten, and one, two, three, five hundred dollars better passed between. At last Brasher leaned back from the table, unbuttoned his vest, and took from around his body a belt filled with gold pieces. Laying it down upon the bank notes, he exclaimed, "Three thousand better!" Sanford became speechless; his face turned deadly pale; he called for a glass of liquor, which he drank, never once taking his eyes from the belt of gold. He had exhausted his means in the former bets; all his money lay upon the table. At last a thought struck him.

"Ben! here, sir!" he exclaimed.

"Yes, massa," and Sandford's body servant, a fine athletic pure blood, came to his table.

"Get up on the table, sir."

Not daring to disobey—as he knew well in that moment of frenzy his young master would send a bullet through his brain did he refuse—the slave trembling, stepped on the table, crushing the banknotes beneath his feet.

"For the good Lord's sake, massa Ben, don't bet this nigger off! What will the old missus say when you go home? Oh, massa Ben, please don't!" groaned the boy; but in vain.

"Call you, sir?" shrieked Sanford, at the same time laying down four queens and an ace.

"An invincible, sir," said Brasher, with a sneer; "four kings and an ace!" and as Brasher reached for his belt of gold, young Sanford fell to the floor, the blood gushing from his mouth, nose, and ears. With one spring the slave started from the table, dashed through the thin folding doors of the "Social Hall," out on the boiler deck, and with a half uttered prayer for the "old missus," he threw himself headlong into the dark waters of the Mississippi, and was seen no more. Death prevented Brasher claiming his spoils. Sanford for weeks lingered on a sick bed, but at last recovered, and forever renounced the gaming table. He "made good," however, the *money worth* of the negro to his winner.

CONSUMPTION OF MEAT IN EUROPEAN CITIES.

Dr. Vacher, editor of the Paris *Gazette Medicale*, has recently published an enterprising pamphlet on the food supplies of the cities of Paris, London, Vienna, Berlin and Turin. It forms the appendix to an essay on the prevalent diseases of 1866 in those cities.

In 1866, the abattoirs of Paris yielded 129,904,877 kilogrammes of beef, veal and mutton, while 24,824,109 kilogrammes were brought into the city by railway in the form of *viandes depecees* or *viandes de la main*, as it is termed. Pork was consumed to the extent of 18,175,164 kilogrammes, of which half came as *viandes a la main*. This distinction is important, because in the one instance the meat is subject to a close inspection, in the other it passes to the consumer without any sort of guaranty that it is fit for food. Dr. Vacher has ascertained that a great deal of the dead meat sent to Paris comes from departments where malignant pustule, rot and spleen disease reign endemically; and that the cattle owners do not hesitate to admit that when a disease attacks their herds or flocks, they make haste to kill the sick or suspected animals and send the carcasses off to Paris.

The progress of hippophagy is shown in the statement that the first shop for the sale of horse flesh was opened in Paris on July 9, 1866, and already there are upward of seventeen such shops in different parts of the city. In twelve months 2,312 horses were slaughtered, yielding some 600,000 kilos. There were also killed in the same time 78 asses and some mules; is it possible the carcasses were for consumption? In Vienna 1,954 horses were slaughtered in 1853, yielding 341,950 kilos. of meat; at Berlin 1,507, and at Turin 73 were killed in 1865.

It is said that every horse destined for food is examined by an inspector, and to the enlightened zeal in this respect of M. Pierre, veterinary surgeon, Dr. Vacher attributes the success of hippophagy in Paris—a success which would be augmented if the butchers who sell the horse flesh were relieved from some of the heavy charges which now press upon them, and the authorities would cease to appear embarrassed, if as though ashamed of the legal patronage accorded to this new branch of industry.

The mean annual consumption of meat of all kinds (exclusive of game and poultry) amounts in Paris to about 78 kilos. per head of population; in Vienna, to about 87 kilos.; in Berlin, to 53 kilos.; in Turin, to 24 kilos.; and in London, "ou le biftek est un mets d'institution nationale," to 100 kilos. In addition, the Londoner consumes about five times as much fish as the Parisian or the citizen of Berlin or Vienna.

About 350,000 kilos. of fish, and 1,886,000 kilos. of poultry and game go to complete the aggregate quantity of $167,000,000 kilos., in round numbers, as the consumption of meat in Paris durin the year 1866, which would give 92 kilos. (about two hundred pounds avoirdupois) for every inhabitant.

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BUCK & WRIGHT AHEAD.

As may be seen by the following article, which we copy from the New Orleans *Times* of 15th inst., Buck & Wright have borne off the highest premium in the stove line at the New Orleans Fair. Six entries were made with Buck's "Brilliant," away ahead of the heap.

The great stove trial was resumed yesterday at 12 o'clock, before a largely increased crowd over the day preceding. The utmost good humor seemed to prevail, both among the exhibitors and spectators, all of whom seemed thoroughly imbued with the good old P. R. principle of "may the best stove win." Promptly to the time the committee appeared on the judges' stand, Saunders, particularly, glowing with excitement and responsibility. The entries were the same as at the previous trial, and the engineers had not been changed.

At ten minutes to one the drum tapped, and all lighted up. Norton's Furnace, run by Mr. K. Wood Perry, led off in smoke, amid the cheers of the crowd and loud cries of "Go it, old one." Charter Oak followed, and the rest gave vapor immediately after. In four minutes, just as they were (as we might say rounding the quarter stretch,) "Cotton Plant" popped in bread; all followed suit as quickly as steam here depended on the issue, but Buck's Brilliant had started fire with bread already in the stove. Then came the tug; the cooks' countenances glowed like the stoves, a perpetual snapping of opening and shutting doors resounded over the arena. Stoves were patted, coaxed and petted as though they were human beings. All seemed confident of winning, and the crowd enlivened the scene with numerous and encouraging comments from time to time. Mr. Perry's efforts seeming to be the greatest favored.

At twenty minutes past one "Cotton Plant" threw open its throttle valves and announced that it wanted no more fuel. All the others "shut up" and "keeping dark." As the time for the bread to be baked approached, excitement had increased to a blazing heat, both within and without the arena. At last Peerless turned out its bread in 42 minutes; Norton's Furnace followed suit, in 42.15; Cotton Plant next, in 43, then Charter Oak, in 43.30, then Good Samaritan, 44.20, and lastly Buck's Brilliant, in 47. The grand result of the trial was as follows:

Norton's Furnace, E. Wood Perry, bread weighed 7 lbs 3 oz; burned fuel 7¼ lbs.
Charter Oak, Rice, Bros. & Co., bread weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel 6¾ lbs.
Peerless, Campman & Co., bread weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel 6¾ lbs.
Good Samaritan, bread weighed 7 lbs 3 oz; burned fuel, 7½ pounds.
Cotton Plant, Loyd & Navra, bread weighed 7 lbs 1 oz; burned fuel, 7¼ lbs.
Buck's Brilliant, Buck & Wright, bread weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel, 3½ lbs.

At the conclusion of the trial the bread was taken charge of by the Awarding Committee and locked up for an hour, at the expiration of which it was all eaten by them, in accordance with their duty, and the gold medal awarded for best wood stoves to Buck & Wright, of St. Louis, honorable mention being made of the Peerless, Campman & Co.—New Orleans *Times*, Jan. 15.

d116 & s17-1m & w9-1

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1850. 1868.
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