

WHAT ARE WE COMING TO?

Progressive Eucbri Played with a Ton of Anthracite as the Prize for the Winner.

In the good old player days in the canyon gulches of the Sierras and the Rockies, bearded men were wont to gather around a convenient stump and play their level best for the "pile" in the center.

Minor poker was popular then, and sometimes the disguised "shark" from the city found it profitable, as the "pile" frequently represented everything that had been "panned" by the entire camp for a month.

Members of the Lincoln club, whose excited, feverish faces might have been seen bending over the cards last Thursday night, as right and left boucers were dealt to them, were not all bearded.

There have been periods in this country when the gambling fever has seemed to reach its absolute climax—periods when it seemed as though excess at the gaming table had gone to its uttermost limit.

We have wondered if anything could exceed the recklessness that culminated in Black Friday.

Well, says the man who thinks sober thoughts concerning the future of his country: "What are we coming to? Will this puff-puff, stiff-necked generation gamble next for kindling wood?"

ALASKA DEFENDED.

It Is Not "Wild and Woolly," as It Is Often Charged with Being.

It has been a matter of misfortune for the frontier that the residents of thickly settled districts become so intensely provincial and self-righteous.

They conceive that all the virtues center in their own communities, and that depravity reigns with a graded and increasing intensity that is measured principally by its distance from their horizon.

It should not, therefore, be a matter of surprise that eastern people, even though in congress, should now have their conception of Alaska upon the question of buying the country from Russia.

What becomes of Milwaukee's adult population? If the last census be a fair criterion, Milwaukee should be much larger than she is, or else she suffers a large drain from her numbers.

Animals and Poisons. Certain substances which are deadly to their effects upon men can be taken by the brute creation with impunity.

Cooking-School Failures. Parker: Can your daughters make pancakes and cakes?

A High-Priced Howl. "Old Gentleman: 'I'll give you a penny to stop crying."

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

Dinwit: "Say, our backbones are like serial stories, aren't they?" Think-wit: "Prove it."

Naggaby: "What is a problem novel?" Waggy: "It is one in which the motive of the author and the judgment of the publisher are equally puzzling to the reader."

Teacher: "Can any little girl tell me who was Columbus?" Sadie (frantically snapping her fingers): "I know."

Miss Withers: "I presume Mr. Flipp made his usual weekly call on you last night?" Miss Callow: "Yes, and I must say that he made a fool of himself."

"I hear you want to sell your dog, Pat. They tell me he has a pedigree."

"What bothers me," said the new prisoner, "is the thought of a long trial, and weary months in jail!"

"I'll take my chances," was the curt reply. He met his Waterloo at a little way station where the accommodation train was transformed into an express for a hundred-mile run.

Full of Water: "Yes, sir," said the bank clerk. "We can rent you a box in our vaults."

Guaranteed watertight: "The box? you needn't be afraid of any water getting into it."

TALE OF TWO CITIES. Odd and Interesting Features of Growth of Milwaukee and Detroit.

An interesting feature of the census returns is the constantly maintained equality of growth in Detroit and Milwaukee.

There are not many people who know the origin of the word "grog," and there is a lesser number who know that grog, as grog, contains a very small percentage of liquor.

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During their progress they have each caught up with and surpassed such progressive centers as Louisville, Newark and Jersey City.

There are no other two cities in America which exhibit such a parallelism of growth.

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TOOK ONE CHANCE TOO MANY.

English Actor Who Had a Liking for Running for Trains Got a Lesson.

From St. Louis comes the story of a young Englishman in one of Charles Frohman's road companies who had been making a great deal of fun of American railroads.

He was a good runner, an all-around athlete, and he backed up his criticisms by jumping off the train occasionally when it was rolling up a steep grade.

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THEY SEE NO GHOSTS.

Men Who Work in Cemeteries Are Not Superstitious Regarding the Dead.

There is little or no superstition among the grave diggers in Chicago cemeteries.

Down in the country, where one man has for many years the sole charge of a graveyard, the loneliness and solitude of his position often breeds, after a few years, strange notions and beliefs.

Down in Smoky Valley, Ky., lives a veteran who evidently regards the receipt of an official letter from Washington as a mark of distinction and importance.

Dear Sir: I haven't got nothing especial to write about but just that I would congratulate you on the efficacy of your work in general and your standing as a high and ornamental individual.

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QUEER PENSION APPEALS.

Some of the Quaint Communications That Relieve the Monotony of the Department.

The average tale that is told in the official papers that drift into the government archives at Washington by the thousands daily is what has come to be known as a "human interest story."

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THE NEW SPRING HATS.

Some of the Advance Styles Reported by a Journal of the Millinery Trade.

To suit the new hats the hair will have to be dressed fuller in front, this is a point which milliners must impress on their customers.

A large capeline in fancy Tuscan of a natural deep yellow tone, is rolled back in front and folded over behind the ears.

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