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[For the Democrat.]

TWILIGHT THOUGHTS.

BY E. J. DAVY.

There's a pure enshrin'd palace within th' deep soul,
Where the waves of aggression never may roll;
Where the sweet thrill of passion finds in relief,
A rapt, kindred music, e'en pleasant in grief.

In the still hush of even when the dewy mist falls,
And zephyrs play soft 'round lone castle walls,
When the young flowers shedding its sweet to the gales,
And the shy fawn sports through the deep woody vales.

Oh, then do I linger through love's magic hour,
And call thy fair image to the vine-clad bower;
And then those dear voices of days that are gone,
Steal back and yet whisper with the same deep tone.

I list, for their cadence comes soft to my soul,
Like the sweet touch of music, its zephyr-like roll;
And naught can allay the fond rapture then felt,
Or check the rapt sigh when its touches are felt.

I will not, nor can I, erase the sweet spell,
While mem'ry yet lingers still there will dwell
That fair little sibyl enshrined at the place,
Ne'er losing its beauty, ne'er lacking its space.

(From "Green's Gambling Unmasked.")

EVILS OF GAMING.

SOCIAL CARD PARTIES.

I have ever looked upon social card parties as the most dangerous places which a young man can visit, and the use of cards as the most dangerous pastime in which they can be engaged. The evil results which are continually growing out of such pursuits ought certainly to alarm all who lend them any countenance; yet few, very few, look upon this practice as having the evil character which we contend it has. Could I but unfold one crime in a hundred, which is connected directly or indirectly with the social party for card-playing, it would be enough to check the current of this fashionable vice, and would teach parents that while they think their children are merely passing away the time, they are cherishing a passion which shall result in their becoming what they may now despise—abandoned gamblers.

Social card-playing, in its mildest aspect, is GAMBLING, however other wise it may be viewed. To become a card-player for amusement is of itself an acknowledgment of readiness for dishonesty. It is consenting to implant a love of gambling in some heart, and every game played by the novice has a tendency towards becoming a dishonest or gambling character.

This idea may be scouted by nine-tenths of those who form these parties; indeed we expect nothing better from them, although they are men, perhaps, who possess a high sense of honor upon every other subject; but, with no ill will, we can testify, from a sad experience of twelve years and a deep conviction of the evil of it, that we should greatly err, may, commit almost an unpardonable sin, to place social card-playing or small gaming under any other head than petty gambling. The press, which is, or ought to be, the guardian of public morals, very rarely alludes to this most abominable practice:—the ministers of religion have become so accustomed to regard it as a thing generally practiced, or to be tolerated, that they seem to have lost most of that just abhorrence with which it should always be viewed, and seldom speak of it from the pulpit; and the consequence is, that it is left to work its evil effect, without an effort to reform the old, or restrain the young. Yet we can see and feel the difficulty in the latter case; for we see in some of our churches, some of these very social gamesters, or card-players on the one hand, and on the other good men, who yet can see only what is apprehended by their eyes, and consequently they discover no evil where it is not at once apparent.—These persons see no necessity of dragging to the light of day those things which are done in secret, or condemning that which is not expressly named in Scripture. We should be glad could we bring these two classes to see the usefulness of such preaching, as laid open by the sinfulness of such practices.

To show the evil effect of such practices, I will recall the memory of a case of suicide which took place in one of our principal hotels, in Cincinnati. I was intimately acquainted with the unhappy subject of it for six years immediately preceding the unhappy catastrophe. The sufferings endured by him were such could the half be known to the readers of this article, it would be sufficient to make every virtuous person discard every implement of gaming from his social parties. This horrid deed was committed by a foreigner of high parentage, a gentleman of noble feelings, bred in the lap of luxury, and sustaining, till within two or three years of his death, an unblemished reputation. On the morning before his death, he related to me his history. I shall never forget that visit. It was the Sabbath. I had made my arrangements during the previous week to visit a race-course in Kentucky, and was waiting for a hack to convey me and my baggage to the boat, when my unfortunate acquaintance entered the room. I met him as usual, and took him by the hand, when I discovered him to be exceedingly feverish, and so much agitated that it affected his whole frame.

"How do you do?" said I.

"I am not very well," he answered.

"What appears to be your complaint?" I inquired.

"One which is incurable," he replied.

"Why so?" I asked; "you do not look as if you were very dangerously ill."

"Do I not?" said he, with a look so wild that I cannot describe it.—"Green," continued he, "I am a very miserable man. I am exceedingly unhappy, and I have come to tell you my misfortunes. Will you hear me?"

"I am about to leave directly for Kentucky," said I, "and shall have no time at present." He answered, "I will be very brief, and detain you but a few minutes."

With this assurance I allowed him to proceed, and he began as follows:

"I am, as you know, a foreigner by birth. I came to America about eight years ago. I landed in New York city, with money to the amount of seventy thousand dollars. Thirty thousand of that belonged to two daughters, whose mother I had buried but a few months before I left England. The money which belonged to them was a legacy left them by their grandmother, and placed in my hands as their guardian. It was my intention to find some place in which to fix my residence, when I came to this country, and then return for my children. I had been a professor of religion for fifteen years—and here is the letter which I bro't with me when I came away."

This he showed me, which stated that he was a member in good standing.

"I arrived in New York on Saturday, and went to meeting the following day. On Monday I called on several of my former acquaintances, whom I knew to be pious men in the old country. I was invited by one of them to dine with him. I accepted the invitation, and was happy to meet two or three others who had resided in the same village with myself for more than twenty years; and, when I knew them at home, were strictly religious and temperate men. A blessing was asked by our host, after which two or three kinds of wine were introduced, which was something new to me. My friend remarked that I must not be surprised, because they had conformed to the manners and customs of the city; and, to justify himself, related the manner of life followed by our merchants. 'We attend to our business,' said he, 'from nine o'clock till three in the afternoon, when we dine, at which time it is customary to invite some of our customers, who would take it as an insult did we not set wine on the table.' His apology appeared quite reasonable, and we dined without further remark. I sipped my wine with the rest, little thinking of the consequences which were to follow. I remained several weeks with my friend, making his house my home; and daily used the wine he so freely gave. The evil consequences did not appear until the fourth Sunday after my arrival, when, the cork being drawn earlier than usual, we drank the contents of the bottle, and sallied forth at the usual hour to visit the house of God. But, in place of this, my friend proposed that we should visit Staten Island. I consented; and in place of my usual custom of spending God's holy day in worship, we spend it at that place of dissipation; and, having dined there, we indulged so freely in the wine bottle, that when evening came we were too much intoxicated to return home, and concluded to make a night of it. In the morning I paid the penalty of my night's debauch, by being deadly sick; but my friend being more accustomed to it, did not seem to mind it in the least. I felt the truth of the scripture in reference to them that 'sit long at the wine.' I knew that I had transgressed the principles of my profession, and had no further right to the privileges of the church; and being condemned in my own mind, I never presented my letter of recommendation. My next step in the downward course was social card-playing. Spending the evening with a large party, cards were introduced as the amusement to pass away the time. A young lady, the daughter of one of my best friends, induced me to become a partner in a game of whist. The evening passed cheerfully, and being of a temperament which could not easily withstand temptation, I passed several others in a similar way. The cup, too, added its deadening influence to obliterate the very remembrance of the vows which were upon me as a christian. Thus a bold step was taken towards what you now see. I still had no idea of becoming either a gambler or a drunkard; but joined others in doing what my conscience condemned, because I had not the firmness to appear singular. I soon came to the West; and after leaving Pittsburg, was invited to join a party of young persons on board the steamboat in a game of euchre. Wine was soon introduced, but I objected to the use of it.—Through the influence of a female at the table, I took a glass, and the effect was, that I became a perfect madman, and remained so till I arrived in this city. When capable of doing so, I looked over my money, and found over two thousand dollars missing. Upon inquiry I learned, to my great mortification, that, during the insanity caused by the wine I had taken, I had gambled heavily, and, as might be expected, was a loser. But what was my surprise, when I learned that it had been won by the female who induced me to play the first game of eucre. Her husband was a gambler and my partner, and between them I was relieved of my money. The thought was horrible to me, that I should be robbed in this way by one I had tho't a lady, and who joined the game simply to pass away the time, which would otherwise hang heavily on our hands. My reflections were of the most unpleasant description; but I soon gave it up and hastened to a gentleman to whom I had a letter of introduction. This man I knew to have been a Christian in the old country, and I unfolded to him my unfortunate adventure. He told me he was not at all surprised at my experience, as he had known a great many to suffer under similar circumstances. He told me not to despair at losing my money, but be more cautious in future; that I was in a strange land, and that it would not be known. I told him I did not care so much for the loss of the money, as for the injury my reputation had suffered. I made him acquainted with my relation to the church, at which he seemed greatly affected, and implored me, by all means, to return to the paths of virtue, and never to touch the cup, whose influence over me was likely to be of such a fatal character, and never to cherish the hope of turning to good account the hours spent at the social card-table.

"I left him with the promise, that, on the following Sabbath morning, I would call upon him and go with him to church. When Sunday morning came, my heart failed me, and I could not bear the thought of going as I had promised. I concluded, however, that a glass of wine would give me the courage I wanted; but its influence was felt in making me forget my promise and all my good resolutions. I disappointed my friend, and, instead of following his wise counsel, became so intoxicated that it was necessary to conduct me to my room. The next morning I left the city for Louisville; and although I remained there several months, I did not form a single acquaintance. Finally, however, I called upon a gentleman to whom I had a letter of introduction. He invited me to dine with him, and at the appointed hour several merchants came, to whom I was introduced as a foreigner. Everything passed off very agreeably until the wine was brought in. It was passed to each of the guests, and I drank with the rest; but feeling its influence, and knowing my weakness, I begged to be excused and arose from the table. They insisted upon my sitting a few minutes longer, to which I consented, and drank another glass of wine. The table was soon cleared, and cards being introduced, it was proposed to amuse ovrselves with a social game of whist. The betting was low, but before we arose I found myself the winner of some forty dollars. The party broke up in great glee, and we went to the theatre, a place which I had never before entered. I soon became so disgusted, however, that I left it and returned to my hotel, but with feelings too painful to describe. I frequently met my acquaintances after this, and we often amused ourselves by a game of cards, till I began to think myself quite an adept. My self complacency was also helped by flattery of men whom I considered my friends, until I found my money wasting away, and in different hands, from which there seemed but little prospect of recovering it. There were several persons, who had been introduced to me as safe men, to whom I had lent large sums, when under the influence of wine, and I loooked to them for the return of that which I had intrusted to them; but when I called upon them, they declared themselves unable to assist me. I then thought I would invest something in steamboat stock. I purchased one boat, and had an interest in two others; but my steamboat stock lost me some money, and growing more fond of my cups, I closed up my concerns and resolved to pay a visit to Texas. During my voyage, I was made drunk, and, while in that state, was robbed of every dollar I had in the world, including every cent of the property which belonged to my poor children.

Here he dropped his head upon his breast and wept profusely. I told him to cheer up, that I had not been the occasion of his ruin.

"No," said he, "I am well aware you had no hand in my ruin, but others had, and I am here a ruined man, with scarce a friend this side of the Atlantic. I came to this city for the purpose of finding a man to assist me; but he who was once my friend, now looks upon me as a gambler and a drunkard, and will do nothing for me; but if I am a drunkard, those who take a social glass have made me so; and if I am a gambler, the social card party was what made me one, and to it I owe my dishonor. I wish you, Green, to lend me some money, for I must leave the city, and I wish to do so honorably but I do not know that I shall ever be able to repay you."

He had now detained me till I was too late for the boat. I told him I would loan him money enough to pay his bill, or at least become responsible for it, as I feared he would lose it if I gave it to him. He plead earnestly for the money, and I gave him sixty-five dollars. He thanked me—returned to his hotel, and paid his bill—leaving him about forty dollars. With this he went to a noted gambling house, which was kept near the foot of Sycamore street, on the west side, where the black-leg fraternity soon fleeced him of every cent. He left this den of infamy, and returned to his hotel, where he wrote a very affectionate letter to a dear friend in Louisville, in which he apologized for the crime he was about to commit, begging forgiveness, assuring her that he was neither a gambler nor a drunkard from choice, but had been ruined by indulging in social drinking and card playing. He said he had lost his money and his reputation, and nothing remained for him this side the grave. He then put a pistol to his head and blew out his brains. The suicide was noticed in the usual way; but the event and its cause being but a poor recommendation for a public house, which dealt out intoxicating liquors, the thing was soon hushed up and forgotten.

Thus ended the earthly career of one who, but for the influence of the social glass and the social card party, might have been an ornament to society, a friend and protector to his children, and a blessing to the world. But instead of this, by the influence of the former, he robbed the latter of their property, which it was his duty to keep for them with the utmost care. He left them without a friend, and rushed unbidden to the bar of God, with the crime of murder upon his soul! All this may seem of little consequence to the party spending their evenings at the card-table, as they have no idea of doing any thing more than pass a few hours in social amusement. But while it may leave some of them as it found them, others, and especially the young, will become allured to their ruin. The habit of card playing is much like that of drinking—easily formed, and of tremendous power when formed. The man who indulges in either,—before he may be aware of the extent of its power,—may by it be reduced to a state of perfect slavery. I would say to every person, in reference to both, "touch not, handle not," lest you be entangled in its toils. Total abstinence from both is safe,—indulgence in either, is not. There are ways in which a company of intellectual beings can pass an evening, without throwing themselves within the charmed circle of the gambler or the drunkard.

Mr. Crittenden's Amendments to the Constitution.

Whereas, the Union is in danger, and it is difficult, if not impossible for Congress to concur by the requisite majority, so as to enable it to take such measures, to recommend to the States such amendments to the constitution, as are necessary to avert the danger.

Whereas, in so great an emergency the opinion and judgment of the people ought to be heard, Therefore

Resolved, That provision be made by law without delay for taking the sense of the people and submitting to them the following resolution:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States of America in Congress assembled, two-thirds of both houses concurring, That the following articles be, and are hereby, proposed and submitted as amendments to the constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of said constitution, when ratified by convention of three-fourths of the several States:

Art. 1. In all the territory of the United States now held or hereafter acquired, situate North of latitude thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes, slavery or involuntary servitude except as a punishment for crime, is prohibited, while such territory shall remain under Territorial government. In all the territory south of said line of latitude slavery of the African race is hereby recognized as existing, and shall not be interfered with by Congress; but shall be protected as property by all the departments of the Territorial government during its continuance; and when any Territory north or south of said line, within such boundaries as Congress may prescribe, shall contain the population requisite for a member of Congress, according to the then federal ratio of represention of the people of the United States, it shall, if its form of government be republican, be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, with or without slavery, as the constitution of such new State may provide.

Art. 2. Congress shall have no power to abolish slavery in places under its exclusive jurisdiction, and situate within the limits of States that permit the holding of slaves.

Art. 3. Congress shall have no power to abolish slavery within the District of Columbia, so long as it exists in the adjoining States of Virginia and Maryland, or either, nor without the consent of the inhabitants, nor without just compensation first made to such owners of slaves as do not consent to such abolishment. Nor shall Congress at any time prohibit officers of the federal government or members of Congress, whose duties require them to be in said District, from bringing with them their slaves and holding them as such, during the time their duties may require them to remain there, and afterwards taking them from the District.

Art. 4. Congress shall have no power to prohibit or hinder the transportation of slaves from one State to another, or to a Territory in which slaves are by law permitted to be held, whether that transportation be by land, navigable rivers, or by the sea.

Art. 5. That, in addition to the provisions of third paragraph of the second section of the fourth article of the constitution of the U. States, Congress shall have power to provide by law, and it shall be its duty so to provide, that the United States shall pay to the owner who shall apply for it, the full value of his fugitive slave, in all cases, when the Marshall, or other officer, whose duty it was to arrest said fugitive, was prevented from so doing by violence or intimidation, or when, after arrest, said fugitive was rescued by force, and the owner thereby prevented and obstructed in the pursuit of his remedy for the recovery of his fugitive slave, under the said clause of the constitution and the laws made in pursuance thereof. And in all such cases, when the United States shall pay for such fugitive, they shall have the right in their own name, to sue the county in which said violence, intimidation or rescue was committed, and to recover from it, with interest and damages, the amount paid by them for said fugitive slave. And the said county, after it has paid said amount to the United States, may, for its indemnity, sue and recover from the wrong doers, or rescuers, by whom the owner was prevented from the recovery of his fugitive slave, in like manner as the owner himself might have sued and recovered.

Art. 6. No future amendment of the constitution shall affect the five preceding articles, nor the third paragraph of the second section of the first article of the constitution, nor the third paragraph of the second section of the fourth article of said constitution, and no amendment shall be made to the constitution which will authorize or give to Congress any power to abolish or interfere with slavery in any of the States by whose laws it is or may be allowed or permitted.

And whereas, also, besides those causes of dissension embraced in the foregoing amendments proposed to the constitution of the United States, there are others which come within the jurisdiction of Congress, and may be remedied by its legislative power; and whereas, it is the desire of Congress, as far as its power will extend, to remove all just cause for the popular discontent and agitation which now disturb the peace of the country, and threaten the stability of its institutions; therefore,

1. Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States of America in Congress assembled, That the laws now in force for the recovery of fugitive slaves are in strict pursuance of the plain and mandatory provisions of the constitution, and have been sanctioned as valid and constitutional by the judgment of the Supreme Court of the United States; that the slave-holding States are entitled to the faithful observance and execution of those laws, and that they ought not to be repealed or so modified or changed as to impair their efficiency; and that laws ought to be made for the punishment of those who attempt, by rescue of the slave or other illegal means, to hinder or defeat the due execution of said laws.

2. That all state laws which conflict with the Fugivive Slave acts, or any other constitutional acts of Congress, or which in their operation impede, hinder, or delay the free course and due execution of any of said acts, are null and void by the plain provisions of the constitution of the United States. Yet those State laws, void as they are, have given color to practices and led to consequences which have obstructed the administration and execution of acts of Congress, and especially the acts for the delivery of fugitive slaves and have thereby contributed much to the discord and commotion now prevailing. Congress, therefore, in the present perilous juncture, does not deem it improper respectfully and earnestly to recommend the repeal of those laws to the several States which have enacted them, or such legislative corrections or explanations of them as may prevent their being used or perverted to such mischievous purposes.

3. That the act of the eighteenth of September, eighteen hundred and fifty, commonly called the Fugitive Slave law, ought to be so amended as to make the fee of the commissioner, mentioned in the eighth section of the act, equal in amount, in the cases decided by him, whether his decision be in favor or against the claimant. And to avoid misconstruction, the last clause of the fifth section of said act, which authorizes the person holding a warrant for the arrest or detention of a fugitive slave to summon to his aid the posse comitatus, and which declares it to be the duty of all good citizens to assist him in its execution, ought to be so amended as to expressly limit the authority and duty in cases in which there shall be resistance or rescue.

4. That the laws for the suppression of the African slave trade, and especially those prohibiting the importance of slaves into the United States, ought to be made effectual, and ought to be thoroughly executed, and all further enactments necessary to those ends ought to be promptly made.

SHARP FINANCIER.—A German, who had $300, in gold, deposited in one of our city banks, stepped up to the counter yesterday presented his certificate, and demanded his gold. He was paid, when he said to the banker, "Vot you gif for gold now, eh?"—"Five per cent," was the response. "Oh, yaw, dat fair goot. I sell you dese for good paper monish." "All right" was the reply, $315 in currency was handed the ex-depositor, who took $15, from the roll of notes, and handed back $300, saying, "I deposits dat mit you. You're goot, I sees." And taking his new certificate, departed with his $15 premium.—*Illinois State Register.*

WISE ADVICE.—Coventry Patmore, in his new poem, gives the following advice:

So let no man, in desperate mood,
Wed a dull girl because she's good.

To which one might add:

And let no woman, in her plight,
Wed a bad man because he's bright.
—*N. Y. Sunday Press.*

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