

CREDITED TO CONSCIENCE.

QUEER PAYMENTS TO CITY AND NATIONAL TREASURIES.

ANONYMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS OF MONEY ILLEGALLY WITHHELD—REMOVER FOR WHICH THERE WAS NO OCCASION—RICH PLUMS RECEIVED BY CONTROLLER FITCH.

The "conscience fund" contribution of \$2,930 sterling received by the United States Treasury a short while ago is a remarkably large sum to be sent thus anonymously. It was in the form of a bill of exchange drawn on a New-York bank in favor of the Secretary of the Treasury, and was forwarded by the Rev. Prebendary Barff, vicar of the Church of St. Giles, Cripple Gate, England. The Rev. Mr. Barff merely wrote that the money was from a man who did not wish to disclose his identity. It is seldom that a man's conscience troubles him to the extent of nearly \$3,000. In fact, most sums received under such circumstances are of moderate amounts. Still, this whole subject of "conscience money" is not without interest. It has long been the custom of the Secretary of the Treasury at Washington, the Assistant United States Treasurer in New-York, the State Controller and State Treasurer at Albany, the Controller of this city, and many of the banks of New-York and other moneyed institutions to keep a record of these sums, which are entered up in the books under the head of "Conscience Fund."

THINGS ONE DOESN'T NOTICE.

CAN YOU DRAW A TRUE REPRESENTATION OF YOUR WATCH DIAL?

The observing man, whose close and microscopic methods of observation have caused him to note the carelessness of his fellow-men, and who always sees things which no other man sees, or seeing cares about, was holding forth. He was expatiating on the lack of development of the bump of observation in the average man.

"Now, to illustrate," he said, "if you should find your desk in another kind of disorder than the one in which you usually leave it; if anything should be on top instead of on the bottom; if your good-natured friend should scowl or your more formal guest you with a frown; if you should find the pictures in your rooms changed about, or if you found a new face at your favorite restaurant, you would notice it and remark the change, and pat yourself on the back and think, 'What a close observer I am.' But how many of you can tell me," he continued, "what words are printed on an elevated railway ticket?"

"No one knew, although the party was large. 'It isn't a fair test,' said one. 'One buys a ticket, rushes away with it, throws it in the box and steps lively to get a place in the car. He is glad to rid of the piece of paper. Not one man in twenty keeps a ticket long enough to look at it closely, and not a fair test.'"

"Possibly not," said the observing man, "but how about a watch? No man carries a watch without looking at it. He knows the name of the watch, how many men know how the dial of their watches are marked?"

"Why, everybody does," said one, and then the observing man smiled. With the aid of a coin and a pencil, eight men each made a clock and a piece of paper, and then, with excuses for bad drawing, made what each thought was a copy of his watch dial. Some made Roman and others made Arabic characters. Some had the fourth figure 4, some IV and some IIII. Seven were wrong. One drawing on which the space was blank saved the party from the sneers of the observing man.

Investigation showed that of the sixteen watches in the party, only three had been had no six, and that two had a part of the Roman six where the characters were not entirely obliterated by the second dial.

RECOVERY OF THE CZAREVITCH.

HOW HE IS PROTECTED AGAINST DUST—A REMARKABLE HOLD ON LIFE.

So desperate was the condition of Grand-duc George of Russia when he arrived in the South of France that it is quite refreshing to hear of the physical improvement in his condition. He has gained something like twenty pounds in weight since his stay, and divides his time between sailing and bicycling, spending sometimes as many as three hours at a stretch on his wheel. So promising is his present health that his mother, who had made all her arrangements to proceed to the Riviera in order to attend his deathbed, has now definitely postponed her journey, and does not expect to see this, her favorite son, again until he returns to Russia in time for the coronation of his brother.

He has kept as much as possible in the open air, is subjected to the most rigorous discipline for the prevention of particles of wood dust from irritating his throat. There is neither bathing nor sunbathing in the villa Turin, which is his residence. The bedcovers are quilted and of eiderdown. Every kind of knitted wrap is excluded, and the floors are waxed daily, and the rooms in which he sits and sleeps are daily subjected to a strong draught of air from the stove.

As long as there is any life left there is hope. Six months before his father died he was condemned by his physicians, and it was confidently asserted that his death could not be delayed for more than a few weeks at the longest. Yet still he lingered. He has witnessed the death of his gigantic father, who seemed to possess the physique of a Hercules. He has followed to the grave his morganatic wife and the children of both of whom died at an interval at his residence, Abbas-Taman, in the Caucasus, about six weeks after the death of his father, and yet he stands as a young man who has bed one hour of his woe-ful health and strength in an astonishing degree.

HIS CURIOSITY AROUSED.

From The Washington Post. Edison George Thompson, proprietor and publisher of the "New York Herald," was at the capital yesterday. He will doubtless be one of the delegates-at-large from Minnesota to the St. Louis Convention, and will cast his vote for Senator Davis, who is travelling through England and Ireland on foot with a knapsack on my back and in company with the famous and famous Mr. Morley. Mr. Thompson observed Mr. Thompson in the course of a social conversation that touched on a miscellaneous subject, and he said to him, "I have seen a picture of you in the paper, and I was late at night, but by the bright moonlight I was enabled to see that you were a man who had bed one hour of his woe-ful health and strength in an astonishing degree."

A SUPERSENSITIVE CONSCIENCE.

"Now," continued Mr. Jenkins, "you will find that this is about the average manner in which the items are run along so that the amount in total is comparatively insignificant. I remember rather a comical incident in connection with this. A Swede out in Minneapolis sent a letter to the Collector containing \$175. He said that when he came to this country a short time before he had some articles which he did not declare, and that his conscience would not let him rest until he had made a contribution to the fund. Well, we looked the matter up and found that the articles he thought so much of were not dutiable under any circumstances. The money was returned to him by Mr. Northrop. He replied, and I have that reply." Thereupon he brought out his letter-book and this was the letter the Swede had written. He had evidently had a severe struggle with his conscience, for he addressed it to T. Armstrong. Such an aspersion upon the clearness of his handwriting Mr. Northrop meets with the utmost good nature:

Dear Sir: Your letter of December 2, with \$175 inclosed, was duly received. I have read it with great joy. I hope you understood that most of those articles were new. May God bless you for

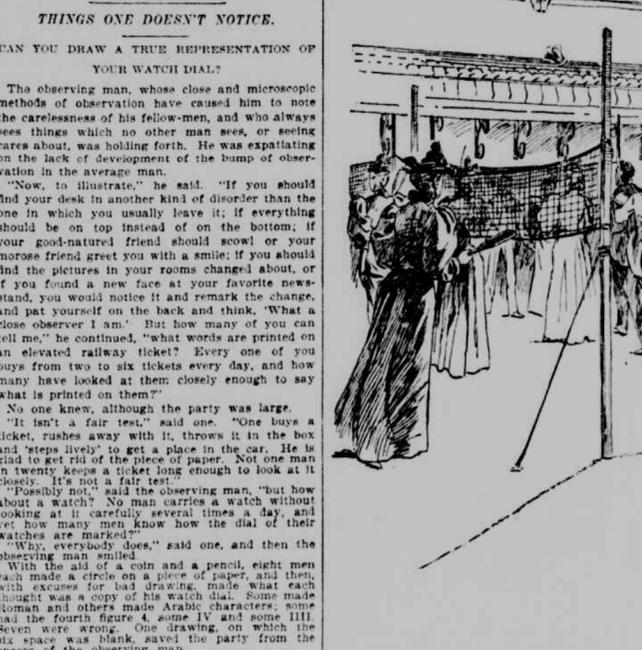
PLAYED ONLY IN LENT.

AN OLD GAME BROUGHT UP TO DATE.

BATTLEDORE AND SHUTTLECOCK IS NOW BADMINTON, AND A FINE SPORT IT IS, SAY THE ENTHUSIASTS—WHEREIN LIE THE ATTRIBUTES.

Exactly what peculiarity there is in the game of badminton which demands that it shall be played in Lent and at no other time in the year it might be difficult to say. Perhaps the long and persistent practice necessary to insure anything like accuracy in hitting the shuttlecock is considered a wholesome spiritual discipline for the penitent. Or, on the other hand, it may be that Lenten is so thoroughly jolly a game that its influence is needed as a kind of antidote to the sober Lenten routine of extra church services, abstinence, lectures, cooking classes and similar improving institutions. Whatever the reason, the fact remains old and indisputable.

If the beans and bolles of a century ago could drop in upon a meeting of the Badminton Club some Saturday afternoon at the Berkeley Army lawn tennis, which, in its modern form is said to have been developed from the simpler game, yet there are a few important differences. In badminton, the shuttlecock is used instead of the ball, and the court is smaller. The game is played on a court which is four feet above the floor. It is held out by guy ropes attached to posts at the ends and in the middle. The nets of the Badminton Club are only 11 feet 6 inches long, and the lines of the court are consequently narrowed toward the centre to that width. The space between the net and the middle of the ground is divided about midway, as is shown in the diagram. The corners of the inner court are marked off with curved lines and the spots where the servers stand are marked with a cross.



A BADMINTON TOURNAMENT AT THE BERKELEY ARMOY.

shuttlecock. They would see the random tossing back and forth to which they were accustomed systematized into a game, and courts marked out with nets in the middle, as if for tennis. They would doubtless be surprised at the unassuming equipment shown for the sport by the gay throng of young men and women who are darting over the floor in every direction in determined pursuit of the lively and irresponsible little bunch of feathers and cork. If they happened to come on a tournament day they would find the scene still more brilliant. Dozens of spectators are then present, and though these are discreetly relegated to the benches in the corners, out of reach of the flying shuttlecocks, this banishment cannot subdue their sympathy with the contestants, whom they encourage with inspiring calls and handclappings. The pretty afternoon toils of the women and the red and gold colors of the club, waving as pennants from the posts which support the nets, make the appearance of the large army bright and picturesque.

THEY BELIEVE IN BADMINTON.

In its seventeen years of existence in New-York the Badminton Club has furnished the younger members of society with a more interesting and less restricted game than any other indoor athletic sport which is intended to be played by both men and women, and they advance various reasons for their opinion.

NOT SO DANGEROUS AS IT LOOKS.

"How those eight people, flourishing their racquets in an open hall, are so completely safe, I can't understand," exclaimed a woman who was watching a tournament. "It makes me fairly hold my breath when two or three of them rush for the net."

"That's one of the mysteries of badminton, you know," observed an old player who "don't deal each other many a hard knock, but the fact remains that it is a thing which sends the women who play prefer to keep their hats on. It would naturally be supposed that the most comfortable of the many of them are obliged to devote part of their attention to the safety of their hats, and the climate conditions from falling away in the air and giving it a sharp knock toward the back of the court. If he is quick enough he will often catch the receiver's partners off their guard and score points."

DIMENSIONS OF THE USUAL BADMINTON COURT.

same time it requires great skill and quickness to play it well. You might call it a milder form of tennis. Another great advantage—Good return, Miss L—; they can't get that kind over the net again—is that badminton doesn't take up a quadruple amount of room as tennis does. Now here we have seven courts, while there would be room for only one of the regulation tennis size. The member paused at the sound of his name, and before he could say another word was abruptly dragged off to complete a set, without so much as being consulted in the matter.

INSULTING THE EMPEROR.

From The Fortnightly Review. Never, perhaps, was there a monarch whose speeches more loudly challenged the attention of his subjects than that of the Emperor of Germany. It is not common that he should be so much insulted as he is by the press. The Emperor's speech at the opening of the Reichstag in October last, in which he raised even a suspicion of disapproval is sufficient to consign the writer or speaker to jail for at least three months, more probably six, possibly twelve. Now, astounding as it may appear, it is none the less a fact that the Emperor's speech in the Reichstag in October last, in which he raised even a suspicion of disapproval is sufficient to consign the writer or speaker to jail for at least three months, more probably six, possibly twelve. 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