

Golf, in spite of the charms ascribed to it, will not affect the future of cricket, although it may deservedly take a firm hold among us.

It is very difficult to tell how cricket will be played at the end of the next century. When we reflect on the trifling changes that have taken place in the last 50 years, it appears probable, that although some alterations may be made in the laws, they will not be such as to materially affect the game. I firmly believe that in 1991 cricket will be played as it is to-day, and that it will for ever retain the title of our national game.

#### HOW "LOP-SHOULDERED BILL" MADE A MISTAKE AND LOST THREE FINGERS.

Now and then you will find a man who will bully and fight at the same time. Such a chap was "Lop-Shouldered Bill," as we called him in Montana. He was ugly, quarrelsome and a braggart, but he would have fought ten men as soon as one. For two years he had a revolver where he could drop his hand on to it in a second, and the half dozen chaps who were looking to get the drop on him had to keep on waiting. One day, however, Bill's shooter got out of repair and he gave it to a miner to be fixed. Instead of waiting for it he wandered down to a saloon where the hard 'uns congregated, and it wasn't a quarter of an hour before he set out to pick a fuss with a new arrival. He just ached to kill somebody, and when he nettled the stranger into "talking back," he reached for his gun to pop him. His gun wasn't there. When Bill realized it he turned as white as snow, thinking his time had come. The stranger had drawn on him, you see, and he carried a wicked look in his eyes.

"Well?" he asked, as Bill raised his hands.

"I haven't any gun."

"I see. Leave it somewhere?"

"Yes."

"Very careless of you. I've got the call."

"You hev."

"You are a bad man, and I ought to shoot you through the head, but I don't like this cold-blooded business. Hold up your right hand and spread out the fingers."

"Stranger don't do it."

"Either that or I'll put six bullets into your heart! Spread!"

Bill held up his right hand, and three reports followed each other like the ticking of a clock. Each finger was shot off at the first joint.

"That'll do," said the man as he lowered the weapon. "You can't pull trigger with nothing on that hand, and before you can learn to shoot left-handed some one will bury you."

He went out and away, and Bill sent for a doctor and sat there and cried like a boy. Next day he left without a word to any of us, and we always believe he jumped off Horse Cliff into the creek, which was then on a flood.—*New York Sun.*

#### ISRAELYSIAN.

Said the Prince to the Baron, "I once had a dream,  
Of the Heav'n of the Jews, and, though strange it may seem,  
'Twas the squalidest place that I ever was in,  
Full of dirty old fellows all smelling of gin."

Said the Baron, "Your Highness, that is, no doubt, strange,  
But I, too, had a vision one day upon 'Change,  
Of the Heav'n of the Christians, but before I begin it,  
I may say that, though clean, there was nobody in it."

In spite of the fact that Dr. Koch's discovery hasn't been exactly a paralysing success, the inoculating business is on the increase. The boy of the future is going to have a lively time; and it will be a sad day for the scientists when, after they have had every kind of lymph in the market pumped into him to keep him fresh, they hear that he has been knocked into eternity with a cricket stump.

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