

THE WATERDOWN REVIEW

Issued Every Thursday morning from the office, Dundas Street, Waterdown

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THE IRISH JAUNTING CAR.

It is Described as the Jolliest Conveyance in the Universe.

A long line of vehicles, outside cars and cabs, some of them battered and shabby, others sufficiently well looking, was gathered on two sides of the green, says Kate Douglas Wiggin in The Atlantic. Dublin, you know, is "the car drivingest city in the world." Francesca and I had our first experience yesterday. It is easy to tell the stranger, stiff, decorous, terrified, clutching the rail with one or both hands, but we took for our model a pretty Irish girl, who looked like nothing so much as a bird on a swaying bough.

It is no longer called the "jaunting," but the outside car, and there is another charming word lost to the world. There was formerly an inside car, too, but it is almost unknown in Dublin, though still found in some of the smaller towns. An outside car has its wheels practically inside the body of the vehicle, but an inside car carries its wheels outside. This definition was given us by an Irish driver, but inside definition is not perhaps an Irishman's strong point.

It is clearer to say that the passenger sits outside of the wheels on the one, inside on the other. There are seats for two persons over each of the two wheels and a "slickey" for the driver in front, should he need to use it. Ordinarily he sits on one side, driving, while you perch on the other, and thus you jog along, each seeing your own side of the road and discussing the topics of the day across the "well," as the covered in center of the car is called. There are those who do not agree with its champions who call it "Cupid's own conveyance." They find the seat too small for two and yet feel it a bit unsociable when the companion occupies the opposite side.

To me a modern Dublin car with rubber tires and a good Irish horse is the jolliest conveyance in the universe. There are a liveliness, an irresponsible gaiety in the spring and sway of it, an ease in the half lurching position against the cushions, a unique charm in "traveling edgewise" with your feet planted on the step. You must not be afraid of a car if you want to enjoy it. Hold the rail if you must, at first, though it's just as bad form as clinging to your horse's mane while riding on the row. Your driver will take all the chances that a crowded thoroughfare gives him. He would scorn to leave more than an inch between your feet and a Guinness' beer tray; he will shake your fannies and furbelows in the very windows of the passing trams, but he is beloved by the gods, and nothing ever happens to him.

SPEAKING OF LUCK.

A Sporting Man Declares That It Exists Only in Real Life.

"The old saying that 'the odds are against the guesser' is firmly believed in by nearly all gamblers," said a turfman who prides himself upon having reduced betting to a mathematical formula.

"The axiom is a good deal deeper than most people suppose. Taken literally in games of chance, it is false; applied to human nature, it is true. Suppose, for example, that two men pitch pennies. The chances for heads and tails are perfectly even, and it can make no difference which of the players does the guessing. Where the guesser appears to have greatly the worst of it is in such a game as faro or roulette. The effort to forecast each turn is apt to unsettle his nerves. He gets irritated and demoralized, makes reckless bets, presses bad luck and winds up broke. In fact, the chief advantage of a 'system' for gambling is that it saves nerve force. The bets are placed according to rule, and the player and the game are on the same cold, mechanical basis. In playing the races the odds are seemingly 'against the guessers,' for the reason that they are influenced by all sorts of hints, tips and pronouncements, mostly wrong. It isn't really a case of guessing, but a case of misplaced confidence."

"Do you believe in luck?" asked one of the listeners to the foregoing.

"That depends upon whether you mean theoretically or practically," replied the scientific turfman.

"Luck is something that doesn't exist except in real life. The late Professor Proctor once delivered a lecture in Philadelphia on the 'Mathematics of Chance' and proved conclusively there was no such thing as luck. Afterward he took a dice box and attempted to demonstrate the fact to some skeptical sports and went broke in eight minutes by the watch. There is absolutely no reason why people should have streaks of good or bad luck. I can demonstrate to you on paper that the thing is impossible, and you can demonstrate to me by ocular evidence that it happens every day. So there you are."

"It's a funny fact, by the way, that the two principal 'systems' at Monte Carlo are based on diametrically opposite theories of luck. One is called the 'maturity of chance.' To illustrate: Suppose red turns up three times in succession. According to the system, the chance of it appearing again is greatly diminished and grows less with each repetition. Consequently the player bets on black. The other is the 'system of runs.' Its votaries hold that a color which has once 'repeated' is apt to keep on, at least five or six times in succession. Each brand of cranks proves its case by the daily record kept year in and year out at the Casino. 'You pay your money, and you take your choice.'"

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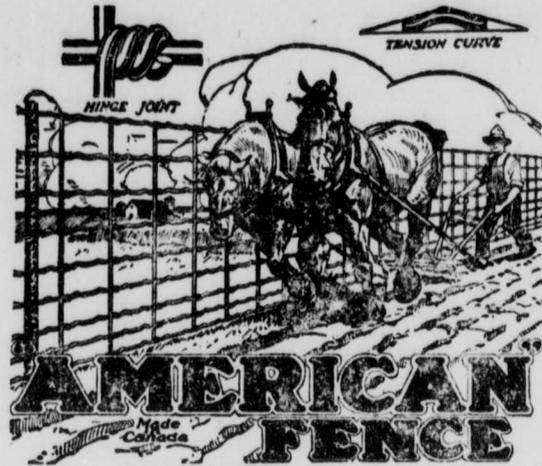
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