

PAT SHEEDY THE GAMBLER

Described as One of the Most Honorable of Men.

Known All Over the World as the "Gentleman Gambler"—His Word Good at All Times.

The return to its London owners of the famous Gainsborough portrait of the Duke of Devonshire, stolen in 1876, has set a good portion of the world talking of the man who made its recovery possible.

The man who was trusted by the detectives because he is honest and by the thieves because he is "square."

The professional gambler whose word is as good as a gold bond.

His name is Pat Sheedy.

He is an American by birth, but as well known in London, Paris, Cairo, as in New York. Known as "the gentleman gambler," "the square gambler," "the above-board gambler."

Always a gambler, but always with some adjectives implying the trust of men in him which has just received such a signal proof.

How did this man, whose life has been devoted to gambling, win such a reputation?

Why is his simple word held as good or better than the ordinary man's word and bond?

Because, say those who best know him, Pat Sheedy never did a dishonest thing in his life; he never owed a dollar he did not pay; he never forgot a friend or a promise.

Many anecdotes are told of this remarkable man which illustrate his traits.

Robert Pinkerton, whose knowledge of men gained in long years of experience as a detective is extensive and thorough, said a few days ago:

"I have known Pat Sheedy for twenty years, and I never met a man with keener sense of honor. If he owes a man a dollar or a hundred thousand dollars he'll pay it the first chance he gets. He will borrow when he is broke and give his simple word as security. When he gets in funds again—makes a winning—the first thing he will do is to pay his debts."

"If he is in Cairo or South America or anywhere in the world at the time, he will go to a cable office and cable the money to his creditors."

"He reminds me of Bret Harte's hero, John Oakhurst, gentleman and gambler. Bret Harte drew Sheedy when he portrayed that character."

Al Smith, a sporting man of the same type, said of Sheedy:

"He's a square man in every sense of the word. You can trust him with every dollar you own. He is a true friend. He has a big heart and he'll stick by a friend. His business is gambling, and he conducts his business in as open and honorable a way as any banker or merchant—more so than a good many of them. He's known as a 'gentleman gambler' because he has proved himself to be a gentleman at all times."

Sheedy is the best known gambler in the world. He has run gambling houses in New York, Saratoga, Cairo and other places, and has played all over the world. He is known in Paris, in Monte Carlo, in London, as well as in this country.

He loves high play and has the thoroughbred's contempt for "pikers," or petty gamblers.

"I've counted the real gamblers in New York," he said not long ago, "and there are just three of them. They are not doing any business now. The so-called gamblers who have been caught in these raids of late are all pikers, politicians, second-story men or door-mat thieves."

For years Sheedy ran a magnificent gambling house in Cairo, but he says he will not go back there, as the expenses were too heavy. He had to provide an orchestra to play every afternoon and evening, give a ball once a week and provide elaborate suppers and champagne free to all who visited his place. This was in addition to \$40,000 rent for the season.

He said the "protection" money was too high, and he gave up Cairo for good. Since then he's been traveling over the world to find a good place to open a great gambling house. If he has found it no one is the wiser as yet.

Sheedy is a tall, handsome, well-groomed man. His eyes have a twinkle which denotes a fine sense of humor, his mouth in repose is firm and that of a shrewd business man. When he smiles—as he does often—his whole face lights up and the hard lines disappear; then one understands how he makes friends.

While there isn't a sporting man in the United States who would refuse to stake Pat Sheedy to any game and ask no better security than his word, his reputation for probity doesn't end with his fellows. Some years ago Sheedy lost a great deal of money in Saratoga. He went to Boston, ran up against a faro game and lost his last dollar. He

didn't even have enough to pay his fare to New York.

He walked into a large bank and asked for the president.

"I came to borrow a thousand dollars from you," said Sheedy.

The banker thought his customer was some business man, and said:

"Certainly. What is your security?"

"Simply my word."

"That won't do in the banking business, my friend. Who are you?"

"I am Pat Sheedy, the gambler."

The banker president knew him by reputation. After a short talk he drew \$1000 from his personal account and handed it to Sheedy. Two days later Sheedy walked in again and paid the loan.

Sheedy counts among his friends and acquaintances some of the wealthiest men in this country. John W. Gates, the steel wire king and Wall street plunger, is his friend, and Sheedy admires Gates greatly. They have gambled together in Paris.

"The only Englishman I ever refused credit to was Sir Robert Peel," said Sheedy on his return from Europe last November. "I threw him out of my place. That ruffled his dignity. He said, when I refused him credit, 'Perhaps you don't know who I am, sir. I am Sir Robert Peel.'"

"Of course you are," I said, which is a guarantee the world over that you're a dead beat. You have an idea you're a gentleman, but that's because you're prejudiced. You've been a blackguard so long you wouldn't know a gentleman if you met one. Then I threw him out."

Sheedy met Mr. and Mrs. Howard Gould last summer in Paris. The meeting was by chance in the United States Publishers' building at the exposition. Pat didn't know the Goulds, nor they him, but they got into conversation, and soon Pat began telling some of his choice stories and had them roaring with laughter. Mrs. Gould being particularly amused.

Sheedy is kind to any one in distress, and much of his winnings has gone in charity, but he keeps such matters secret. He always advises young men to steer clear of gambling. He is sorry, he says, that he "got started wrong" and became a gambler, but he believes it is too late now to give it up. Here is his creed, as given by him a short time ago:

"Hold out a helping hand.

"Let a friend betray you now and let him do it again, but if you know he has a heart stick by him. Help him up."

"That is my religion; that is my hope."

"My heart is light, my mind is clear of any wrong-doing, and I believe I will find a resting place in the beyond just the same as yonder deacon."

"Love one another. That is what Pat Sheedy, the gambler, has done. And that is what Pat Sheedy, the gambler, will do."

Five years ago a story got about that Pat Sheedy and Al Smith had robbed Riley Grannan of \$40,000 in a faro game. The story was not true, and Sheedy, in writing a denial of it, said:

"I'm not so — honest. I'm a gambler, and I'm not too proud of that, but any man who says that I and Al Smith put up a game to rob Riley Grannan comes pretty near being a horse thief and a liar."

Sheedy and Billy Pinkerton have always been intimate friends. They went together to prizefights years ago and were close friends in Chicago. Sheedy ran a gambling house at No. 219 Dearborn street, in Chicago, twenty years ago, and was said to be the nerviest player ever in the Windy City.

"One night while he was running his house he went to John Dowling's place and began playing faro. He lost \$8000 in cash and then \$10,000 on credit, promising to pay before noon the following day. The money was paid before 10 o'clock."

It was in Sheedy's place in Chicago that Kirk Gunn, a famous Western gambler, played for nearly two days at a limit of \$500 to "doubles" and \$250 to "cases." Gunn at one time was \$30,000 loser and quit \$19,000 to the bad. Sheedy dealt the game.

Sheedy has a famous collection of Persian rugs. He paid \$6000 for one of them. It is over two hundred years old and has a large part of the Koran worked into it. For fifty years it was one of the principal art treasures of Cairo.

In speaking of France Sheedy said:

"Of course, they've got to live over there, but it would never suit a real man. There's too much make-believe about it. Ah, my boy, this is the country. This is where men and women live. If we do a thing over here it's browned all the way through. We fight, eat, drink, go to the theater and die like business men, not as if we were chockicks with varnish over them."—N. Y. World.

She Won't Give Up.

"Which sex is the more persistent, Mr. Simthers?"

"I thought every one knew that. Thirty years ago, when we married, my wife and I started in to make each other over. I gave up the job at the end of five weeks, and my wife is working at it yet."—Ex.

Seal of North Carolina, finest Virginia and Kentucky blended tobacco Turkish bath at Al man's, \$3.

Plague Spreading.

Bubonic plague is reported by R. M. S. Aorangi, which arrived from the South seas yesterday afternoon, to have made its appearance at Honolulu. One case is mentioned, the victim a Chinaman, succumbing to the terrible disease on the 31st of last month. In consequence the health authorities of that city have been greatly alarmed, and are taking every precaution to guard against the further outbreak of the disease, which has already got a considerable hold in places farther south.

Just before the Aorangi left Australia two definite cases of plague were reported, one being a painter and a man 23 years of age, in whose instance the disease has taken a septicemic form, and the other is a packer, who was employed in a crockery warehouse.

At Sydney three actual cases were being treated, and there were 100 confines on the quarantine ground. The rat-catching and health staff were on the qui vive, but the dominant feeling was one of repose, and satisfaction that neither plague nor smallpox would be able to get a footing as far as local readiness for emergencies was concerned. As to the prospects of either plague or smallpox spreading from its already confined area, the president of the Sydney board of health said that there was little likelihood of that happening. All the machinery for their arrest had been in order for some time, and their limits were apparently measurable.—Victoria Times, April 26.

Pope Leo's Will.

London, May 4.—Pope Leo, according to a dispatch to the Times from Rome, is understood to have made a will designating his successor, thus, to quote the correspondent, modifying the habitual mode of choosing a pope by a conclave.

The news of the pontiff's will first took shape in a diplomatic note from the Bavarian minister to his favorite. Its theory is simple—the papal power being absolute, involves the right of naming a successor.

Dealing with the rumors of Cardinal Rampolla's retirement from the office of secretary of state, the correspondent says that Rampolla is aiming for the tiara, and that if the pontiff should die today the struggle would be between Cardinals Rampolla and Vannutelli. The correspondent calculates that Cardinal Rampolla is sure of 33 votes, but needs 36. Concluding a two-column dispatch the correspondent says:

"There remains but one obstacle for Cardinal Rampolla to overcome—an obstacle that is immense in an affair where traditions are everything. It is contrary to custom for a secretary of state to succeed his master. This is why it is not improbable that Cardinal Rampolla will strive to appear to have been disgraced in order not to preserve responsibility for an authority in the throes of death. In quitting the office of secretary of state before the promulgation of the associations bill he would avoid quarreling with the French government and be sent to the propaganda. He would assure himself the sympathy of America, which has two cardinals; of England, which has two; and of Russia, which has none, but is powerful."

Grover Lacked Nerve.

Denver, May 4.—"If Grover Cleveland had possessed a little mining nerve," said an old Leadville miner today, "he would be an owner in one of the biggest gold producers in Colorado."

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"This claim is now one of the group owned by the New Monarch Company now paying \$50,000 a month in dividends and is in the center of the rich ore chute recently opened by Tim Goodwin, manager of the property."

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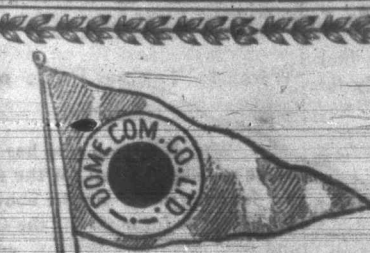
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