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Editorial.

A VERY CROOKED STICK.

 ABOUT three thousand years ago a very competent authority, Solomon, the wisest of men, asserted in a famous aphorism, (that which is crooked cannot be made straight), that there are sometimes found in society customs and institutions so deeply, radically, and thoroughly bad that all attempts to regulate, restrict or reform them is a foolish task always ending in disappointment and failure. Our own times are not unfamiliar with such crooked things, nor are the men of this generation strangers to the "vanity and vexation of spirit" that comes from thoughtlessly and persistently trying, to straighten that which is by nature crooked. Long ago Britain discovered that slavery was radically too crooked ever to be made straight, and, therefore, thanks to the men who bore the opprobrium of the task, she resolved to *destroy* what could not be reformed. The United States, listening to other counsellors, imagined she could straighten the crooked stick, and we all know how she came out of that foolish endeavor. The German States, in such places as Baden-Baden, strove for years to regulate and turn to profit the art of gambling, but that attempt led only to shame, misery, and failure, and now gambling is unlawful,—a forbidden and broken stick in every country in Europe, excepting one miserable spot on the Bay of Genoa. The blood of the Crimean war, the gold sunk in Turkish Bonds, the present unsettled state of East-