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Voting Made Easy.

Much has been said of late about a "machine" alleged to be in use by political agents for the purpose of increasing or decreasing the votes cast in the polling booth, according to the will of the operator. We have heard also of a voting machine of an electric character, which enables the voter to record his vote by merely pressing a button. Such devices, ingenious enough in their way, seem clumsy compared with the plan adopted at a place in British Columbia. The "free and independent" electors all met to engage in a game at cards, known as "freeze out," something after the style of "progressive euchre" now so fashionable. It was agreed that whoever won should cast the entire vote of the constituency for his candidate.

It was a game, in fact, of which the stakes were not chips, but forty-five votes for a parliamentary candidate. The idea is a brilliant one; it sheds lustre on the closing days of the nineteenth century; it is a triumph of modern genius over old-time notions as to the sacredness of the ballot, and the glorious privilege of the voting power. Men are known to have staked their fortunes, their estates, their family heirlooms, on the cast of a dice, but in British Columbia the votes of one entire constituency were risked on the turn of a card. The plan has great attractions. If adopted, it would save all the expenses of an election. There need be no meetings, no speeches, no addresses, no literature of the campaign order—if such vamped up material as goes by that name is "literature," which, we doubt. The scheme might be developed in this way, the old members on the eve of an election might select half a score card-players to engage in a game, the winner of which would be entitled to a renewal of his seat, or be empowered to name his successor. See how this would mollify

politics! There would be no slanderous stump speeches, nor violent editorials in the party papers. The whole business of electing a House of Commons would be transacted by a friendly game at cards. Verily, the twentieth century opens with every promise of a greater revolution in the machinery of voting, than commenced with the first Reform Bill.

Venus Flirting.

If the prince of electricians is serious, in a recent utterance, it is evident that the brilliant luminary, that shines, as the nursery rhyme says:

"Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky,"

was happily named Venus. That goddess, who was the wife of the celestial blacksmith, was a great flirt, and her reputation is like some others, not as pure and bright as her appearance indicates. Mr. Tesla says, Venus is trying to get the attention of the Earth by electric vibrations, just as she got the attention of Adonis in olden days. Probably this is feminine jealousy, for it is well-known that the Sun, Moon and Earth constitute a select clique, which are only very slightly affected by the planets which are not in their "set," as it were. Venus seems to be trying to get into society by her electrical energies, and who shall say, that ere long, we may not be having telephonic communication with that luminary! That we receive light direct from Venus is a common place fact, why not an electric message, as Mr. Tesla declares there is evidence of?

One difficulty is the distance of Venus which, when smallest, is 124 millions of miles. But electricity may even bridge over that chasm.