

son and Beebe had drawn one card each. Could you beat that for poker? And other fellows saw Dickerson perform miracles just as wonderful as that.

Another thing that happened along about the time that Dickerson was getting toward the bottom of the Beebe and Peterson pile set me to thinking hard. I went out hunting jack rabbits one morning, and coming to one of those big stone buttes which help to make that part of the country the loneliest on the Lord's earth, I heard voices on the other side.

One of them said: "I tell you, you ain't careful enough about your spac-in'! Your 'e's' and 'r's' and 'o's' keep me guessin' all night."

"All right," said the other, "give me a hundred and I'll do better."

"That's easy," said the first voice cheerfully.

Then I walked careless-like around the corner of the butte and saw—Wall Dickerson and "Silent" Smith! Dickerson was handing him a roll of bills.

Dickerson, when he saw me, looked up and smiled, his way, like ice, but he didn't say anything. Smith didn't say anything, of course. I didn't say anything myself, there or thereafter. I never was a sanctified man, but I believe in being honourable about some things.

Well, there you have the whole story up to a couple of weeks ago when I went to New York. The second night I was there one of my business friends took me to his club.

No, it wasn't the Union League, and it wasn't one of those clubs that are organized to protect a poker game or a poolroom. Kind of betwixt and between. A good enough club, but one where the investigating committee doesn't go too far back, I judge, in examining the candidates for membership.

It was a dull night at the club, and my friend and some of the others got to discussing what they called telepathy—where you think of something and the other man tells you what it is. Most of us didn't believe in it.

Finally a man they called Oglethorpe sauntered over and took part in the talk. He sided with the fellows that believed in the new-fangled science and the discussion grew so warm that he offered at last to prove by an actual test that he was right—said he could tell just what any man in the room was thinking about.

Oglethorpe, in some way, despite his fifty years, seemed to remind me of somebody that I had seen in my earlier days, and when he began trying his experiments in mind-reading the memory grew clearer and clearer. He did do some amazing feats—told my business friend the name of his grandmother, which he was thinking of, and things like that.

Yes, Oglethorpe proved his case, but when all the rest were satisfied, and so declared. I said that, if he would be kind enough, I should like to try just one small experiment with him to satisfy myself personally, you know. He readily consented, and I took his hand firmly in mine and he closed his eyes.

I watched him while I thought the thought that I wanted him to read. It wasn't half a minute before I felt his hand tremble in my grasp and saw the colour flush his face, which had been remarkably pale before. Twice or three times he attempted to speak, but failed, and finally with a great effort he dropped my hand, stammered out something about my being a poor subject and hurriedly left the room.

They tell me that he hasn't been to the club since, and they are worried about it some, because, they say, he has been one of their richest and most generous members.

Anyway, the next day after the tests I wrote to Professor Godkin. You know Professor Godkin—the thought sharp—F. R. G. D. V. S., or words to that effect (most of his initials coming after his name), and put the whole case before him. Here is what he writes. Listen:

"I have been extremely interested in your letter, and I am inclined to the opinion that your theory regarding the game of chance at Cheyenne in 1875 is correct. It is quite within the realms of psychological and scientific possibility that one player, by reading the minds of the others, may have discovered the exact character of the hands they held, or the dishonest tricks they were performing, and by means of telegraphic signals, employed as you suggest by the tapping of pencil or finger on the

table, communicated his knowledge of those facts to his confederate.

"It must be obvious to the most casual observer that the tense application of the mind of the player to the character and value of his hand, or to the use of any cheating device employed by him, in a game of chance where large sums of money are at stake, creates an almost ideal condition for the successful operation of what is commonly known as mind-reading.

"I shall conduct experiments on this line myself in the near future. In the light of the facts revealed in your letter, it seems to me quite astonishing that mind-reading has not been extensively employed by dishonest gamblers under such circumstances as you describe."

You ask what was the thought I thought the night of the test with Oglethorpe? I made a picture in my mind of a scene in Cheyenne in 1875—of the low, dim back room in "Jim" Bishop's saloon—of the rough-looking players at the table—of Dickerson winning pot after pot—of the pale, dreamful man sitting in half a doze and tapping, tapping with his pencil or his finger—and over and over again as I watched the nervousness of Oglethorpe I thought this sentence—

"You are Wall Dickerson's confederate—'Silent' Smith!"



They'll both tell you that

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