

An American View Of the Code Duello

By JAMES D. WILLIAMSON

One traveling in Europe cannot but notice how far behind us in America they are in some things, while they are far ahead of us in others. That in which we are far in advance of them is in having cast off obsolete customs. For instance, there is not one man here who has been for nearly a century such a thing as the code duello in America. In France and Germany especially a man's honor must to this day be defended by the spilling of blood.

Evian Gwynne was an American through and through. He went abroad, while still in his teens, and he returned home with the "Roman do." In entering France with his family, including his wife and several little children, a custom house official made a seizure of his baby's milk bottle. Evian swung his powerful arm, and the man dropped. This caused the American great delay and trouble, but the next time any one interfered with him or those under his care he acted exactly in the same way. Refusing to pay the extortionate demands of a port, he followed a satchel. He measured his length on the floor and dropped the bag.

One day Evian took his wife out to Versailles on an omnibus. A man sat in front of the couple smoking a bad cigar. Evian asked him in a mixture of French and English not to pull tobacco smoke in Mrs. Gwynne's face. The man looked at him superciliously and continued to smoke. Evian reached forward, seized the cigar, pulled it from between the Frenchman's lips and threw it down into the street.

No greater insult could have been offered a European. The man glared at Evian, then pulled a card out of his pocket and handed it to him. Evian, not understanding that this was a challenge to mortal combat, whipped out his own card, wrote the name of his hotel on it and handed it to the outlandish smoker.

Mr. and Mrs. Gwynne enjoyed Versailles and returned to Paris, having forgotten the altercation. The next morning in the office of the hotel where a man with a waxed mustache and glasses stepped up to him and asked in English if he was M. Gwynne. He replied that he was.

"I have come," said the other, "to arrange the matter with M. de Fourche."

"Who is M. de Fourche?" asked Evian.

"Have you not his card? He said he gave it to you on the omnibus this morning."

"Oh, that fellow! Well, what about it?"

"He wishes to know the place of meeting and the weapons you select."

A ray of light began to permeate Evian's skull. He was challenged to fight a duel.

"Tell Mr. de Fourche," he said, "that our place of meeting will be wherever he happens to find me and the weapons are fists."

"But, monsieur," protested the other, "apparently much embarrassed at the American's ignorance of foreign customs, 'there must be a place—the Bois de Boulogne is customary—for our meeting, and there must be weapons—swords, or swords, or foils."

"That's the European custom. We use our fists entirely in America."

"So fast! It is brutal."

"Well, Mr. de Fourche doesn't want to fight if he doesn't want to, but that's the only way I'll do it. Do you suppose an American can be roped into one of these little absurdities you have over here? Not much. No thoughtful of blood for me. When I land my knuckles on a man's nose I bring out a pinch of claret at least."

"But, monsieur, consider. A gentleman can't fight like a pugilist."

"He doesn't have to fight at all if he doesn't want to."

"Come, come, monsieur; I demand a place of meeting and weapons."

"Well, you can just take it out in the Bois de Boulogne. You can tell Mr. de Fourche that I'll be in Paris for a few days yet, and if he wants to see me about anything he'll usually find me here up to 10 o'clock in the morning."

"Then you refuse to grant my friend satisfaction?"

"You tell him that if he wants satisfaction to come and take it."

"M. de Fourche will publish you as a coward."

"I wouldn't mind a little thing like that. I once ran for a political office at home and was called every name from a jackass to a fallbird."

"You have no pride? You care nothing about the world's opinion?"

"I reckon the world isn't troubling itself much about an ordinary individual like myself. Your world over here is running after nobles, princes and kings. They haven't time to think about any one else."

"I go to report to my friend that no Americans have no honor to defend. Zey are like so pig. He cannot get satisfaction from you without coming into this hotel to make a scene."

"I'll tell you what you do. Say to Mr. de Fourche that I'll be at the fountain in the garden of the Tuilleries at 5 o'clock tomorrow morning. There'll be no one about at that hour, and I'll give him the goldsmith's thrashing he ever had in his life. You tell him that, will you?"

The next morning Evian met the appointment but his enemy did not. The Frenchman was used to the "pick of steel," but there was something over-awing in an iron set backed by an angry man.

PROPOSITION NUMBER ONE.

STATE OF NEW YORK, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, Albany, July 23, 1912.—Pursuant to the provisions of section four of article thirteen of the Constitution of the State of New York, and section two hundred and ninety-five of the Election Law, and of section nine of chapter two hundred and ninety-eight of the laws of nineteen hundred and twelve, notice is hereby given that chapter two hundred and ninety-eight of the laws of nineteen hundred and twelve, of which the following is a copy, will be submitted to the people for the purpose of voting thereon at the next general election in this State, to be held on the fifth day of November, nineteen hundred and twelve. EDWARD LAZANSKY, Secretary of State.

CHAPTER 258.

AN ACT making provision for raising bonds to the amount of not to exceed fifty million dollars for the purpose of constructing and improving state and county highways, and providing for the submission of the same to the people to be voted upon at the general election to be held in the year nineteen hundred and twelve. Approved by the Governor. Passed, three-fifths being present.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows: Section 1. Bonds authorized. There shall be issued, in the manner and at the time hereinafter provided, bonds to the amount of not to exceed fifty million dollars, which bonds shall be sold by the state and the proceeds therefrom shall be used for the purpose of constructing and improving the state and county highways as defined in the highway law. Said bonds when issued shall be in the sum of one hundred dollars each, and shall be payable semi-annually in the city of New York. The proceeds of the sale of such bonds shall be used for the purpose of constructing and improving the state and county highways as defined in the highway law. Said bonds when issued shall be in the sum of one hundred dollars each, and shall be payable semi-annually in the city of New York. The proceeds of the sale of such bonds shall be used for the purpose of constructing and improving the state and county highways as defined in the highway law.

Section 2. The sum of not to exceed fifty million dollars of the bonds authorized by section one of this chapter shall be used for the purpose of constructing and improving the state and county highways as defined in the highway law. The sum of not to exceed fifty million dollars of the bonds authorized by section one of this chapter shall be used for the purpose of constructing and improving the state and county highways as defined in the highway law. The sum of not to exceed fifty million dollars of the bonds authorized by section one of this chapter shall be used for the purpose of constructing and improving the state and county highways as defined in the highway law.

Section 3. The sum of not to exceed fifty million dollars of the bonds authorized by section one of this chapter shall be used for the purpose of constructing and improving the state and county highways as defined in the highway law. The sum of not to exceed fifty million dollars of the bonds authorized by section one of this chapter shall be used for the purpose of constructing and improving the state and county highways as defined in the highway law. The sum of not to exceed fifty million dollars of the bonds authorized by section one of this chapter shall be used for the purpose of constructing and improving the state and county highways as defined in the highway law.

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EXPLANATION—MATTER IN ITALICS IS NEW.

STATE OF NEW YORK, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, Albany, July 23, 1912.—Pursuant to the provisions of section one of article fourteen of the Constitution of the State of New York, and section two hundred and ninety-five of the Election Law, notice is hereby given that the following proposed amendment to section seven of article seven of the Constitution of the State of New York is referred to the Legislature to be chosen at the next general election of senators in this State to be held on the fifth day of November, nineteen hundred and twelve. EDWARD LAZANSKY, Secretary of State.

AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE.

Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly. Proposing an amendment to section seven of article seven of the Constitution, in relation to the county courts, to read as follows: Section 1. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That section seven of article seven of the Constitution be amended to read as follows: § 7. When private property shall be taken for any public use, the compensation to be made therefor, when such compensation is not made by the state, shall be ascertained by a jury, or by the supreme court sitting in equity, or by the court of appeals sitting in equity, or by the court of sessions sitting in equity, or by the court of common pleas sitting in equity, or by the court of the city and county of New York sitting in equity, or by the court of the city and county of New York sitting in equity, or by the court of the city and county of New York sitting in equity.

Section 2. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That section seven of article seven of the Constitution be amended to read as follows: § 7. When private property shall be taken for any public use, the compensation to be made therefor, when such compensation is not made by the state, shall be ascertained by a jury, or by the supreme court sitting in equity, or by the court of appeals sitting in equity, or by the court of sessions sitting in equity, or by the court of common pleas sitting in equity, or by the court of the city and county of New York sitting in equity, or by the court of the city and county of New York sitting in equity, or by the court of the city and county of New York sitting in equity.

Section 3. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That section seven of article seven of the Constitution be amended to read as follows: § 7. When private property shall be taken for any public use, the compensation to be made therefor, when such compensation is not made by the state, shall be ascertained by a jury, or by the supreme court sitting in equity, or by the court of appeals sitting in equity, or by the court of sessions sitting in equity, or by the court of common pleas sitting in equity, or by the court of the city and county of New York sitting in equity, or by the court of the city and county of New York sitting in equity, or by the court of the city and county of New York sitting in equity.

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AMENDMENT NUMBER THREE.

Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly. Proposing an amendment to section seven of article seven of the Constitution, in relation to the county courts, to read as follows: Section 1. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That section seven of article seven of the Constitution be amended to read as follows: § 7. When private property shall be taken for any public use, the compensation to be made therefor, when such compensation is not made by the state, shall be ascertained by a jury, or by the supreme court sitting in equity, or by the court of appeals sitting in equity, or by the court of sessions sitting in equity, or by the court of common pleas sitting in equity, or by the court of the city and county of New York sitting in equity, or by the court of the city and county of New York sitting in equity, or by the court of the city and county of New York sitting in equity.

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STORIES OF THE STAGE.

A Splendid Accident Averted and an Actor Who Dined Too Well. Here is an incident that was related by the late Bram Stoker, for many years manager to Irving of the production of "Hamlet" at the Lyceum in London.

On the second night of the performance the Chinese ambassador and Sir Halliday Macartney came to see Irving in his dressing room, and presently the ambassador, who was wearing magnificent robes of mandarin yellow, wandered off in the direction of the stage. The ambassador was close to the edge of the arch at the back of the scene, where Ophelia had made her entrance and would make her exit. Mr. Stoker jumped for him and just succeeded in catching him before he had passed into the glare of the limelight. I could fancy the sudden amazement of the audience and the wild roar of laughter that would follow when in the midst of this most sad and pathetic of scenes would enter unheralded this gorgeous anachronism.

Mr. Stoker confessed that he was tempted to let the splendid accident occur. "It's unique grotesqueness would have insured a widespread publicity not to be acquired by ordinary means of advertisement." On another occasion a very different and very painful contretemps did occur. The actor who took the part of Polonius on entering gave his first look with so strange an intonation that leaving at once signed to the prompter, he fell the act dropped, came forward and apologized to the audience and relunged the play with a new Polonius.—London Graphic.

WOMEN AND CARD GAMES.

In Chile Such a Combination Would Create a Sensation.

A woman who is a native of Chile was talking recently about the difficulty she had in accomplishing her desire to card playing among women who she came to this country. She said: "In Chile card playing among women is undreamed of. Perhaps it is not too much to say that a Chilean woman would no more play cards than a New York woman would enter a Broadway saloon. It isn't that it is exactly unwomanly, but it is exactly unchic. It just isn't the thing to do. It is not conventional."

"When I came to New York I brought my daughter-in-law with me, a Chilean girl. She and I were both horribly shocked to receive an invitation to a bridge party in the daytime. It was too much for us, and we declined. Other similar invitations came and kept coming. Finally our curiosity got the best of us, and we went to one of these affairs. Even after you got over our sense of outraged convention the whole thing seemed delicious to us."

"The funniest sight of all was the women with little tags on them, as if marked by fast express, or running up to another woman with a little card to be 'punched.' Finally we were sufficiently accustomed to 'take hand' but even yet I never do it without a covert feeling that I am putting myself beyond the pale."—New York Post.

Handicapped.

"Ah tell yo," said the negro who was working on the man's shoes, "women is a peculiar thing. Yo gotta know jest how to handle hun or yo' girl. Be git the worst of it. Lots of times she git mad at yo' an' then yo' gotta talk to her. Talk to her—that's the way to mastab hub. She won't stand to be 'punched' or nothin' lak that. Talk to her. That's the way Ah handle my wife."

Another negro working next to him looked up. "Whah did yo' git that black eye yo' got, Rufe?" he asked.

"Well, ma wife talk to it, but"

"Wh'y didn't yo talk to it?"

"How could Ah?" came from the first. "She had me by the throat wif ma wind shot off."—New York Telegraph.

Cracks in the Floor.

There are several ways of stopping the cracks in a floor between boards that have shrunken apart. One is to tear newspapers into small bits and soak them in four parts, having the paste warm. Stir this until thick and fill the crack with it, using a broad knife to smooth the paste down into the cracks. Or sawdust and glue may be used with the same result. To a pound of glue allow a gallon of water, and when melted stir into it five say four parts until it is stiff paste. Fill the cracks with this, packing it as solid as possible, smoothing even with a broad knife.

A Crusher.

Cleveland once made a joke. An effusive politician burst in upon him and exclaimed loudly, "Mr. President, I love you an apology." "What for?" said Cleveland. "For not having called upon you earlier, sir."