

A Game of Cards



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THE FOLLOWING CURIOUS ARTICLE IS TAKEN FROM AN ENGLISH NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR, 1773 and is called the "*Perpetual Almanac of the Soldier's Prayer Book*", by Risand Dane a private soldier belonging to the 42nd Regiment, who was taken before the mayor of Glasgow for playing cards during divine service.

Being sternly reprimanded for this act, the soldier explained as follows, beginning with the ace: "It reminds me there, is but one God. When I see the duce, it reminds me of the Father and son. When I see the three it reminds me of Father, Son and Holy Ghost. The four-spot reminds me of the four evangelists: Matthew Mark, Luke and John. The Five reminds me of the five wise virgins who trimmed their lamps, there were ten, but five were foolish.

The six reminds me that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth. The seven reminds of the Sabbath on which I have to do no work. When I see the eight it reminds me of the eight righteous persons who were saved when God drowned the earth, viz., Noah and his wife, his three sons and

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their wives. The nine reminds me of the nine lepers who were cleansed by our Saviour there were ten, but nine never returned thanks. The ten reminds me of the Ten Commandments which God handed down to Moses on a table of stone. When I see the King, it reminds me of the great King of Heaven, who is God Almighty.

The Queen reminds me of the Queen of Sheba who went to hear the wisdom of Solomon for she was as wise a woman as he was a man. She brought 50 girls and 50 Boys all dressed in boy's apparel, for King Solomon to tell which were girls. The King sent for water in which they could wash themselves; the girls washed to their elbows and the boys only to their wrists, so King Solomon knew by this.

"Well said the mayor" You have given me a description of every Card in the deck but one. What is that? said the soldier. The Knave said the Mayor. "I will give your honour a description of that too, if you will not be too angry. I will not if you do not term me a Knave said the Mayor."Well, the greatest knave I know of is the constable who brought me here. Also when I count the number of spots in the deck I find 365, the number of days in the year. When I count the number of cards in the pack I find 52, the number of weeks in the year; and I find four suits, the number of weeks in a month. I also find that there are 12 picture cards representing the number of months in the year; and counting the tricks I find 13 the number of weeks in a quarter So, you see, Sir, the pack of cards serves for a Bible, almanac and Common Prayer Book to me.



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