

They were brought to Budmouth, and inspection revealed them to be the missing pair. It was said that they had been found tightly locked in each other's arms; and their features were still wrapt in the same calm and dream-like repose which had been observed in their demeanor as they had glided along.

"Neither James nor Emily questioned the motives of the unfortunate man and woman in putting to sea. They were both above suspicion as to conduct, whatever their mutual feelings; underhand behavior was foreign to the nature of either. Conjecture pictured that they might have fallen into tender reverie while gazing each into a pair of eyes that had formerly flashed for him and her alone, and, unwilling to avow what their mutual sentiments were, they had continued thus, oblivious of time and space, till darkness suddenly overtook them far from land. But nothing was truly known. It had been their destiny to die thus. The two halves intended by nature to make the perfect whole had failed in that result during their lives, though in their death they were not divided. Their bodies were brought home, and buried on one day. I remember that on looking round the church-yard while reading the service I observed nearly all the parish at their funeral."

"It was so, sir," said the clerk.

"The remaining two," continued the curate (whose voice had grown husky

while relating the lovers' sad fate), "were a more thoughtful and far-seeing, though less romantic couple than the first. They were now mutually bereft of a companion; and found themselves by this accident in a position to fulfil their destiny according to nature's plan, and their own original and calmly formed intention. James Hardcome took Emily to wife in the course of a year and half; and the marriage proved in every respect a happy one. I solemnized the service, Hardcome having told me, when he came to give notice of the proposed wedding, the story of his first wife's loss, almost word for word as I have told it to you."

"And are they living in Longpuddle still?" asked the home-comer.

"Oh no, sir," interposed the clerk. "James has been dead these dozen years, and his mis'sess about six or seven. They had no children. William Privett used to be their odd man till he died."

"William dead too—dear me?" said the other. "All dead."

"Yes, sir. William was much older than I. He'd ha' been over eighty if he had lived till now."

"Ah! there was something very strange about William's death—very strange indeed," sighed a melancholy man in the back of the van. It was the seedsman's father, who had hitherto kept silence.

"And what might that have been?" asked Mr. Lackland.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

AMERICAN LEADS AT WHIST, AND THEIR HISTORY.

BY N. B. TRIST.

THE ever-growing interest manifested in everything pertaining to the scientific game of whist will, no doubt, make the history of American Leads acceptable to the whist players of this country. As those leads are based on certain well-recognized principles of the game, it will be expedient to trace them as evolved through years of experience and practice. In doing so I will not confine myself to the examination of those principles bearing more directly on American Leads, but propose to note also, in a cursory manner, and chiefly from a chronological point of view, the other main developments of the game which preceded and have fol-

lowed the introduction of American Leads. The great majority of players have rather confused ideas as to the time when some of its most important features were incorporated into the game. They are generally under the impression that all there is good in whist has been introduced in comparatively modern times. They will therefore be surprised to learn that a good many of the rules as laid down by Hoyle, nearly a century and a half ago, are now followed by them in their daily practice. I have, more than once, heard advanced players say to a beginner: "With king, queen, knave, and two or more small cards, the *modern* rule

is to lead the knave, and not the king, as you did"; little suspecting that Hoyle gave the same advice in the following words: "If you have a sequence of king, queen, knave, and two small ones, whether you are strong in trumps or not, it is the best play to begin with the knave, because by getting the ace out of any hand, you make room for the whole suit." Particular attention has been drawn to this lead for the reason that, on the principle which underlies it, is based one division of American Leads, as will be seen hereinafter. This and other still practised rules of play, given by Hoyle in his treatise published in 1742, doubtless came into existence some years anterior to that date; for it is safe to assume that, if not all, at least the greater part of his work is but a compilation of the principles and rules of play, as he found them understood and practised by Lord Folkestone and other fine players of his day. We are, therefore, now following some orders of play formulated at least one hundred and seventy years ago.

The next advance was the introduction of that important rule which directs that, in returning your partner's lead, you should play the higher card, having but two remaining; and the lowest, having three. It is not known when this rule was first introduced into the game, but it found its way into print about 1770, in the following words: "In returning your partner's lead, play the best you have when you hold but three originally" (Payne's *Maxims*). Mathews gives the rule, somewhat amplified, in his *Advice to the Young Whist Player*, published about 1805.

In the early part of this century short whist came into existence, by the points of the game being altered from ten to five, and the calling of honors abolished. Mr. Clay gives an account of how this occurred, in his delightful little work on whist, which should be in the hands of every earnest player.

The next important development was the call for trumps. It was first introduced, some fifty years ago, at Graham's, a great card club in London. Lord Henry Bentinck, a player of high repute, is credited with its invention. He is said to have afterward bitterly regretted his ingenuity, which had deprived him of much of the advantage which he derived from superior play, by making the game easier

for the moderate player. Although it is admitted that the call for trumps was evolved from certain correct principles of play, yet it is considered by the best authorities to be no improvement. One thing, however, is certain—it has added much interest to the game for the beginner.

We now come to an event in the history of whist, apparently insignificant, but which was fraught with the future welfare of the game, for it produced "*Cavendish*."

This event was the coming together of the "knot of young men" who played whist at Cambridge, and afterward in London, between 1850 and 1860, referred to by Dr. William Pole, in the introduction to his *Philosophy of Whist*.

The facts concerning this "Little Whist School," so far as I have been able to ascertain them, are that shortly after 1850, Mr. Daniel Jones, brother of "Cavendish," and others, some of whom are mentioned below, used to play whist at Cambridge in much the same way as other young men. It seems that, contrary to the general impression, Mr. Henry Jones, afterward so well known under the pseudonyme of "Cavendish," was not of the party, as he was then pursuing his medical studies at St. Bartholomew's College, in London. After these gentlemen had taken their degrees, they and "Cavendish" used to meet in London, about the year 1854. The regular players were Mr. Edward Wilson, J. P., Mr. W. Dundas Gardiner, Mr. Daniel Jones, and Mr. Henry Jones. Although others used to join in the play at times, the four named formed the backbone of the "Little School." When these four met, they used to play every hand through to the end, for the sake of science, and also for the purpose of making certain calculations. They, moreover, wrote down interesting hands, of which more anon. It was in the nature of things that these four whist enthusiasts, who were young men of "considerable ability," as Dr. Pole calls them, should argue, and that they should not always agree. They had the advantage over most beginners of being able to refer disputed points to the late James Clay, then the acknowledged authority on whist. The cases were written down and submitted to Mr. Clay through the medium of Mr. Henry Deriviche Jones, F.R.C.S., father of "Cav-

endish," who happened at that time to be chairman of the Portland Club, the headquarters of English whist, where he often met Mr. Clay.

About 1860 the "Little School" ceased to meet, owing to circumstances over which the members had no control. A number of manuscripts which had accumulated were thrown into a drawer, and there they would probably have remained to this day but for the following accident:

In *Macmillan's Magazine* of December, 1861, appeared an article, "Games at Cards for the Coming Winter." It was signed "W. P." In the course of the article the following passage occurred: "It would be a great boon if some good authority would publish a set of model games of whist, with explanatory remarks, such as are found so useful in chess, for example."

The future "Cavendish" having read this article, wrote to W. P. that he happened to have a number of whist hands in manuscript, and should be happy to lend them to him. He received a reply from no less a person than Dr. William Pole, F.R.S., etc., saying that he would like to see the hands.

Before forwarding, "Cavendish" thought he would just read the hands over. He found the "Little School" had taken so much for granted that the MSS. would probably be unintelligible to Dr. Pole. Thus, if A led from his strong suit, no remark was made about it; or if B, when returning his partner's lead, and holding the three and the two, returned the three in preference to the two, no reason was given for it. So "Cavendish" began to rewrite. In order to avoid repetition, he erected some of the instructions into principles, to which he referred as occasion required. He also added a few elementary reasons for each line of play. Dr. Pole examined the MS., and wrote to the effect that its contents were a revelation to him, and that Jones ought to publish; so, as "Cavendish," the name of his then club, he rushed into print, in 1862, with a modest 250 copies. The rest every whist player knows. "Cavendish" rushed into print again in 1889, with an eighteenth edition of 5000 copies. So much for an accident. But to return to the "Little School."

It was first so christened by a writer in the *Quarterly Review* of January, 1871.

Then a storm arose. The late Abraham Haywood wrote to the *Morning Post* to say that none of the most celebrated players of the day were aware of the existence of this school. That was not surprising, considering that the players named had no idea they formed a school until after the publication of the *Quarterly*, when they "awoke and found themselves famous." Haywood added, in the *Post*, "Did these young men originate or elaborate or compass anything, or did they merely arrange what was well known and procurable before?" To this "Cavendish" replied, "What I claim for the Little School is that in one book we gave for the first time the reasoning on which the principles of whist play are based, logically and completely." It does not appear that the "Little School" originated any alterations worthy of record. These came later, as we will see further on.

In consequence, doubtless, of the reputation achieved by him through his book, "Cavendish" was given charge of the card department of the London *Field* in December, 1862. This was a most fortunate occurrence, as it contributed not a little to the subsequent unity and stability of the game, by making the *Field* the medium through which all improvements or alterations are suggested, discussed, adopted, or rejected, as the case may be.

But to return to the progress of whist. The earliest of the cases elaborated, after the appearance of *Cavendish on Whist*, was the protective discard from strength. This was first noticed in the *Field* of November 30, 1867, and explained in the eighth edition, 1868. The kernel of this is contained in the advice given by Mathews: "If weak in trumps, keep guard on your adversary's suits; if strong, throw away from them."

The next advance was the penultimate lead from suits of more than five cards (*Field*, October 12 and 26 and November 2, 1872), followed by the echo of the call (same paper, July 25, 1874). These are duly noted in the tenth edition of *Cavendish on Whist*, dated June, 1874.

On September 11 and October 16, 1875, were published in the *Field* two articles by "Cavendish" on leads. They are, to my mind, so important as forerunners of the present system of American Leads, showing what was then "in the

air," as it has since been called, that I quote from them at length.

"Cavendish" says: "From ace, queen, knave, and two or more small ones, the proper lead is ace, then knave, instead of the usual ace, then queen; because, with five of the suit, you want partner, if he held king and two small ones originally, to put his king on second round." He also says: "The usual lead from ace, queen, knave, ten, is ace, then queen. This, however, is wrong, as it is not the game for partner to put king on queen led after ace, he having king and two small ones originally. He thereby blocks the suit on the third round. The proper lead from ace, queen, knave, ten, with or without small ones, is ace, then ten. . . . The partner of the player who leads ace, then ten, should put the king on the ten—in plain suits—if he had three originally, but not if he had four. Hence. . . . the third player's hand can be counted when he has the king."

"Cavendish" then proceeded to show that, by a parity of reasoning, the proper lead from the queen, knave, ten combination is queen, then knave, with four in suit; and queen, then ten, with more than four.

These leads were evidently so correct that they found immediate favor. They are introduced in the eleventh edition of *Cavendish on Whist*, 1876.

From the foregoing it would appear that a great whist advance was made between the years 1867 and 1876.

In 1879, Colonel, now General, A. W. Drayson, in his *Art of Practical Whist*, recommended the lead of the antepenultimate from a suit of six cards. He furthermore suggested, with ace and five others, to lead the ace, then the smallest but one—that is, the original *fifth*-best. This, to some extent, foreshadowed American Leads, although the object of the Drayson rules was solely to show number. In the *Field* of April 8, 1882, the same author suggested that, when the trumps were all out, the play of an unnecessarily high card would be a direction to change the suit. He argues that the call for trumps is, in reality, a command to "change the suit to trumps"; consequently, when the trumps being all out, you play an unnecessarily high card, you can only imply that you want the suit changed to another plain suit. This suggestion appears to be sound, and will no doubt be eventual-

ly adopted as a rule of play by advanced players.

In three articles, the first of which appeared in the *Field* of April 28, 1883, Dr. William Pole applied the laws of probabilities to the ever-vexed question of the play of the king and a small card, second hand, with the result of confirming the practice of playing the small card, as a general rule.

We now come to the epoch of American Leads.

Although American Leads are extensively played in this country, many players who follow them are ignorant of the principles on which they are based, probably because these leads were suggested, explained, discussed, and abused in an English paper—the *London Field*—which has but a limited circulation in America. This necessitates going over well-trodden ground for the many who play the leads without knowing the principles on which they are founded.

The rules for American Leads are as follows:

1. When you open a strong suit with a *low card*, lead the *fourth-best*.
2. When you open a strong suit with a *high card*, and next lead a *low card*, lead the *original fourth-best*, ignoring in the count any high card marked in your hand.
3. When you remain with two *high indifferent cards*, lead the higher, if you opened a *suit of four*; the lower, if you opened a *suit of more than four*.

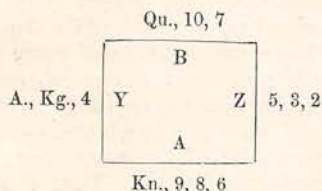
Rules 1 and 2 are component parts of that principle governing the original lead which demands that it should be from the longest suit, inasmuch as they provide a system which points out the card to be uniformly led from the long suit, under the contingencies mentioned in those rules. The selection of the particular card to be led is not purely arbitrary, but is founded on reason, as I will proceed to show.

A suit of four cards is considered to be numerically strong, because it contains a number of cards over the average due to each player. It is the long suit of minimum strength, and therefore is the one held the most frequently. It is, so to speak, the type of the long suit.

One of the results of opening a four-card suit from the bottom is, that the leader remains with three cards higher

than the one led. The information contained in this simple fact is very important, as it often enables the partner of the leader to place certain cards in his hands.

Suppose the cards to lie as follows:



A leads the six and the king; seven and two fall; when A again obtains the lead he plays the eight; Y, the ace; B now knows that A must hold the knave and nine, the only two unplayed cards which are higher than the six. He can therefore safely throw his queen on the ace, and thus, perhaps, enable A to gain a trick by unblocking the suit.

Now give to A another small card, say the two, and suppose he opens the suit with it; when it becomes B's turn to play on the second round, he will know nothing certain about the position of the knave and nine, and therefore cannot unblock, as he might lose a trick by so doing.

The opening of a four-card suit from the bottom affording incidentally, as we have seen, valuable information as to number, and often as to strength of certain cards remaining in leader's hand, the question arises, cannot this information be imparted in the opening of long suits containing more than four cards?

The solution of the question is simple: bring that class of cases under one system, and *treat every long suit opened with a low card as if it contained four cards only; therefore lead your fourth-best*, and the rest follows.

For instance:

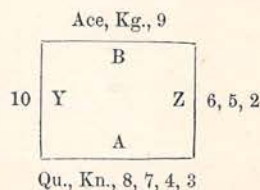
From Kg., Kn., 8	6	
" Kg., Kn., 8	6	5
" Kg., Kn., 8	6	5, 3
" Kg., Kn., 8	6	5, 3, 2

The six is the proper card to lead in each case, leaving, invariably, three cards higher than the one led in the leader's hand.

As will be perceived by an examination of the above example, "Cavendish's" penultimate and Drayton's antepenultimate

leads, introduced to show number, are fractions of the system, outlying islands discovered before the main-land.

Another incidental advantage of the system is that frequently some of the small cards which have not fallen to the first and second rounds are marked in leader's hand. If you will examine the following diagram, you will perceive that if A leads the seven (his fourth-best), B can place, in the first round, queen, knave, eight in his partner's hand, and on the second round the four also, leaving the position of only one card—the six—doubtful.



If A leads the three originally, his partner will know next to nothing about his suit.

The same system applies to suits of more than four cards which are opened with a high card, followed with a low one (Rule 2); that is, we also treat them as containing four cards only, and lead the *original fourth-best* after quitting the head of the suit. By adhering to system we preserve the advantage incidental to the play of a four-card suit similarly opened—of giving the information that the leader holds exactly two cards higher than the one led by him on the second round.

EXAMPLE.

	1st Lead.	2d Lead.
From	Ace	Kn., 8 6 5
"	Ace	Kn., 8 6 5, 3
"	Ace	Kn., 8 6 5, 3, 2

The king being no longer led from more than four cards, we may take suits headed by the ace as the type of the long suit opened from the top, because it is the one most frequently held. Now in dropping from the ace to the original fourth-best, there always remain in the leader's hand two cards intermediate in value between the ones led to the first and second rounds; therefore, in order to obtain analogous results in the opening of the king, queen, more than four suits, the queen should be followed with the original fourth-best, *ignoring the king* in the

count, because it is marked in leader's hand by the nature of the lead.

EXAMPLE.

Not Counted.	1st Lead.	2d Lead.
From Kg.	Qu. 8, 6	5
" Kg.	Qu. 8, 6	5 3
" Kg.	Qu. 8, 6	5 3, 2

Hence Rule 2 is herein formulated so as to be general in its application: heretofore it has been given without the last clause.

Here is an example from actual play of the working of Rule 2:

Qu., 8, 3

	B	
Kg., Kn.	Y	Z 6, 5
	A	

Ace, 10, 9, 7, 4, 2

A, after leading the ace, played the seven; when it became B's turn to play to the second round, he knew that A held the ten and nine, so he threw the queen to the king, thus unblocking A's suit, which enabled him to make four more tricks in it—a gain of three to the partnership.

The second branch of American Leads, which comes under Rule 3, relates to the lead of high indifferent cards, marked in the player's hand, and is based on the principle that with such cards, in opening suits of more than average numerical strength, the aim should be to get the master card out of partner's hand so as to free the suit.

This principle is at least as old as Hoyle, and he put it in practice, as we have seen above, by directing that, with king, queen, knave, and two small ones, you should begin with the knave, and giving the reasons for so doing. This was an isolated case, which stood "alone in its glory" until "Cavendish," carrying the principle one step further, introduced, in 1875, the modification of the three leads quoted above—that is, following the ace with the knave instead of queen, from ace, queen, knave, more than one small; following the ace with the ten instead of queen from ace, queen, knave, ten, with or without small ones; and following queen with the ten, instead of knave, from queen, knave, ten, with more than one small one.

It appears that this principle was susceptible of being carried still further. For instance, with a suit headed by ace, queen, knave, ten, you lead the ace, then the ten, to get partner's king out of the way. Suppose he holds the king and three small ones; his proper play is to throw a small card to each of the first two leads. Your suit consists of more than four cards; you want it cleared, so you follow the same tactics on the third round as you did on the second, and continue with the smaller of the remaining indifferent cards, the knave. Your partner, seeing that you want the king out of the way, concludes that you must have a suit of more than four cards. If you held but the four high cards mentioned, there would be no advantage in his unblocking, therefore you would lead the queen after the ten, which would inform him that you held but four cards of the suit.

Should your partner hold but two small cards along with the king, he will play the king on the ten; now, although the blocking card is gotten rid of, you should still extend the same principle to the play of the two high indifferent cards remaining in your hand, and lead the queen after the ten when you hold but four cards, and the knave when you hold more than four, because by this uniformity of play you are able to convey to your partner valuable information as to the length of your suit. This principle governs the lead in numerous cases, which are fully detailed in *Cavendish on Whist*.

Sometimes you are marked with two, and even three, high indifferent cards after the first round. Those cases afford the opportunity of increasing the information as to number in suit: for example, from king, queen, knave, two or more small ones, after the knave, you lead the king, with exactly five, and the queen, with more than five. Again, with ace, king, queen, knave, one or more small ones, you lead the knave, you follow with the ace, holding five exactly, with the king, holding six exactly, and with the queen, holding more than six; therefore when from the nature of the lead five cards at least are indicated, the lead of the higher of the indifferent cards shows five exactly, and the lead of the lower shows more than five. It was not thought necessary to embody this detail in rule No. 3, which is sufficiently broad, as stated, to cover the general principle.

The system of American Leads having thus been briefly explained, I will now proceed to give their history.

In July, 1883, I wrote to "Cavendish" as follows: "With a suit headed by king, knave, ten, the lead of the ten forcing out the queen, I always follow with king when I had originally four of the suit, and with knave when I had originally five or more. I have no book authority for this, but I find it gives my partner valuable information." My letter went on to explain the reasons for so leading, which were substantially the same as those which have been given above for the play of high indifferent cards. This letter was published in the *Field*, with a note by "Cavendish," from which I quote the following extracts: "We have submitted our correspondent's king, knave, ten, etc., 'notion' to several good players, and they are all of opinion that his system of leading is correct, and justifiable on general principles. We have stated over and over again in the *Field* that conventional rules of play are founded on extensions of principles, notwithstanding that the reason which led to the adoption of the original principle does not exist in the conventional cases. . . . As soon as the convention with regard to return leads was fully established, viz., to return the higher of two cards for the sole purpose of affording information, though this higher card were perchance only the three—the present extensions of a similar rule to leads were certain to follow after a time. In the case of this particular lead from king, knave, ten, no rule, so far as we know, has ever been previously laid down, and our valued correspondent is entitled to the credit of having applied the extension to an omitted case."

Although the germ of the system was contained in the above case, it was not until the beginning of the next year that it dawned upon me that this line of play was applicable to many other cases, and in March, 1884, I sent to the *Field* a short article, in which I suggested the adoption of the now generally accepted rule for the play of high indifferent cards, arguing that it was based on the extension of a recognized general principle, and giving a number of examples.

Mark how slowly the application of a whist principle seems to work itself into the human understanding. Hoyle gives

an isolated case—king, queen, knave lead—involving a principle. One hundred and thirty odd years elapse before "Cavendish" applies it to other leads; eight more years go by before the principle is extended to another isolated case—king, knave, ten example; and it takes another twelve months' mental incubation to bring forth the generalization of the principle. What appears to be specially worthy of note is the fact that the king, knave, ten example was before the best whist players of the world for several months, and not one of them seems to have perceived that it was but the application to one case of the extension of a well-established principle, and which was susceptible of being generalized so as to embrace numerous cognate cases.

During the interval between the publication of the two articles on the lead of high indifferent cards I furnished to the *Field* a letter on "the penultimate lead on the second round of the suit," in which the penultimate was recommended as the proper lead after quitting the head of the suit, in order to show number. In commenting on this suggested method of play, "Cavendish," in a *Field* article, after giving one favorable position and two unfavorable ones, concluded by saying: "If N. B. T. will class the cases after analysis in which a trick cannot be given away by his method, and can thence formulate a plain rule of play, I think his proposed method might be advantageously employed. Perhaps he will kindly try his hand at this, and send result to the *Field*. I think, however, he will find it more troublesome than he expects."

This elicited the suggested analysis published in the *Field* April 5, 1884, the result of which was the formulating of a rule of play which would leave a never-varying interval of two cards between the card first led and the one led to the second round; afterward put in a more concise way by directing the follow of the "original fourth-best."

The lead of the fourth-best when opening a suit with a low card was not advocated by me in print, but was settled between "Cavendish" and me by correspondence. What is not generally known—for Mr. Henry Jones has modestly kept it to himself—is that he independently suggested this rule of play in a letter which crossed one from me of the same import.

In his letter "Cavendish" said: "I call four the normal number in strong suits. It is the type; more than four is very strong. Treat every suit (except ace suits and king, queen, knight suits with five) as though you held only four, without the supernumerary small cards. The rest follows." I wrote: "Treat every long suit as if it were originally the ordinary long suit of four cards; consequently, lead the fourth from the top, or drop down to the fourth from the top, on quitting the head of the suit."

It seems from the above that our ideas on the subject ran parallel, and whatever credit may attach to the introduction of the fourth-best when a low card is led, "Cavendish" is certainly entitled to his share of it.

For some time after the publication of the articles in the *Field*, nothing more appeared in print on the subject. In the mean time it was evident from the letters of Mr. Jones that "American Leads," as he called them, were growing in his estimation. He wanted me to publish them in pamphlet form, but not being inclined to do so, I left it to him to champion the leads, and on the 9th of August, 1884, there appeared in the *Field* the first article on American Leads by "Cavendish," in the introduction to which he said, "Having satisfied ourselves that these leads are sound and in harmony with general principles of play, and that they are advantageous to those who practise them, there is evidently but one course open to us, viz., to give them our unqualified support." In this, and in two other articles which followed during the same month, he explained the whole system of American Leads in a clear and forcible manner, which must have carried conviction to any unbiassed mind.

That an unknown individual signing himself N. B. T. was suggesting some innovations to the game seemed to be a matter of perfect indifference to the conservatives, who paid not the slightest attention to his articles; but when "Cavendish" declared that he intended to give his "unqualified support" to American Leads, the mediæval division of players rose up in arms against the proposed improvements.

"Mogul," a whist celebrity, put on his war-paint, and made some savage attacks in the *Field* on American Leads and their authors, denouncing the leads as "abominable modern inventions." "Pembroke,"

the clever author of *Whist or Bumble-puppy*, rushed into print with *The Decline and Fall of Whist*, in which he gave vent to his pent-up feelings "of abhorrence of the recent proceedings of the new academy"; and several of the lesser whist lights also entered the lists against American Leads.

The denunciations of these parties did not in the least alter "Cavendish's" opinion, for he continued to champion American Leads in every possible manner. In February, 1885, he delivered a lecture on the subject to a large gathering of prominent whist players, in the drawing-room of the United Whist Club, in London, a summary of which appeared in the *New York Spirit of the Times*, March 14, 1885. In the following month he published, in the same paper, an article entitled "Mr. Barlow on American Leads at Whist," containing an instructive lesson under the guise of a clever travesty of the old-fashioned style of *Sandford and Merton*, and of the pompousness of Mr. Barlow, who did not forget to back up Harry and snub Tommy, as was his habit. In December of the same year he published an article on American Leads in *Baily's Magazine*, and finally, after the pros and cons had been pretty thoroughly threshed out in the *Field*, he incorporated the whole system of American Leads in the sixteenth edition of his *Laws and Principles of Whist*, 1886, the recognized textbook of the whist player. From that moment the future of those leads as a permanent feature of the game was assured.

The American Leads discussion in the *Field* was summed up by "Merry Andrew," one of the participants, in a pamphlet entitled "The American Lead Controversy." The title-page bore the motto: "*Vous savez les American Leads, jeune homme? Quelle TRIST(e) vieillesse vous vous préparez!*"—engrafting a pleasantry on a parody of Talleyrand's well-known prediction of a cheerless old age to the youth who was ignorant of the game.

During this period whist was advancing with rapid strides in other directions. Dr. Pole, applying his high mathematical and logical attainments to the solution of the question of second hand covering an honor with an honor, holding fewer than four in suit, published the results of his calculations in the *Field*, April 26, 1884, by which he demonstrated that the covering

was disadvantageous. Since that period this time-honored practice has been abandoned.

In the *Field* of October 11, 1884, appeared the first of nine articles on "The Play of Third Hand," a masterly and exhaustive piece of whist analysis, by which "Cavendish" reduced the unblocking play to a system, called by him the "Plain-suit echo." This consists in retaining the lowest card of your partner's long suit, when you hold four exactly, by which play you often clear his suit, and gain one or more tricks for the partnership. This, together with American Leads and the new play of not covering an honor (except, of course, with the ace), as recommended by Dr. Pole, was embodied by "Cavendish" in his well-known work, *Whist Developments*, published in 1885.

In 1885 the sub-echo, or showing three trumps, was suggested by me to our whist circle. It was pronounced to be sound in theory, being an instance of progressiveness of whist language, and after some months' trial was adopted as a useful device. It is merely echoing, after showing that you have not four trumps. There are several ways of sub-echoing; the simplest case is this: your partner leads a trump on which you play the two—you cannot therefore have four. A plain suit is opened, you echo, and you thus tell him you held three trumps originally. I am bound to say that "Cavendish" does not approve of the sub-echo, which was explained in a *Field* article, November 21, 1885.

As far back as February, 1884, "Cavendish" wrote to me as follows: "From king, queen, five in suit, might not queen be led? If queen wins, continue with small. This cannot be queen, knave, ten lead, or knave would be next lead; so it must be something else, viz., king, queen, more than four in suit. . . . This may also necessitate reconsideration of leads from ace, king, five in suit. If ace is first led, then king, leader has at least three small ones; this lead has often been proposed, but at present the best players I know think the immediate demonstration of ace, king more important than declaration of number." Although his conviction grew stronger every day that these leads were right, in fact, necessary, as adjuncts to the unblocking play, yet so great is his respect for British conservatism that four

years elapsed before "Cavendish" formally recommended them in print, which he did "in fear and quake" (as he afterward acknowledged), in three *Field* articles, the first appearing May 12, 1888. To his great surprise, however, his fears that these innovations would meet with violent opposition proved to be groundless. In the *Field* of December 28, 1889, he says: "I find that these leads are adopted all over the kingdom, not only by the minority, but by players to whom American Leads are a sealed book, and who never dream of unblocking."

In the analysis made of these leads the fact became evident that a suit of more than four cards headed by a quart or tierce major could be opened in a manner more advantageous than formerly; the result was, leads full of information, viz., the knave in the case of the quart major, and the queen in the case of the tierce major, instead of king in both instances; the remaining high indifferent cards being used to show number on the second round.

All of the above leads have been adopted by the advanced players of this country.

The latest whist novelty is the *eleven rule*, the object of which is to give a simple method by which the number of cards superior to the fourth-best led that are out against the leader may be quickly ascertained. This is accomplished by deducting the number of pips on the fourth-best card from eleven, the remainder being the number of the higher cards. This has been derisively called playing whist by arithmetic. The eleven rule was first worked out by Mr. R. T. Foster, of New York, who, however, did not divulge it, except to his pupils. It was afterward independently discovered by Mr. E. F. M. Benecke, of Oxford, England, and given to the public in the *Field* of January 4, 1890.

It is evident from the foregoing that whist has made great progress in the last two decades. The general tendency of improvement has been toward defining and generalizing the principles inherent to the game, with the result of systematizing the play, which, in turn, has assisted to further the interests of the combination of partnership hands, which Dr. Pole justly considers to be the broad fundamental principle on which the modern scientific game is based.