PLAYING CARDS FROM JAPAN.

The history of playing cards, their introduction into Europe from the East by the gypsies or by the home-returning Crusaders, the change and development they underwent while being adapted, are best known histories, although they are more distinctly original to our eyes, than are numbers of writers; but they are dwelt upon by some of them. The "Exchange" column is likewise open to all our correspondents. Additional information or seeking new positions. The name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, will be returned.

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HEMP CULTIVATION IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

The Manila hemp plant, which is very similar to the banana or plantain, thrives best in soil composed of decayed vegetable matter, the principal districts in the Philippine Islands in which it is cultivated being reclaimed forest land. The yield, according to Mr. Gollan, British consul at Manila, is more abundant on hilly land than on low lying flat ground, and the volcanic nature of the soil of the islands seems to be particularly adapted to the growth of the plant. The production is chiefly in the southern districts, where the rainfall is greater than in the vicinity of Manila. The "Exchange" column is likewise open to all our correspondents. Additional information or seeking new positions. The name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, will be returned.

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