

## TALK OF THE TOWN.

In speaking of the death of Luke Short, the noted gambler and "killer," a gentleman from Liberty, Mo., who formerly resided at Excelsior Springs, yesterday said: "It was during the winter of 1883-4, I think, that Luke spent several weeks at Excelsior Springs. He stopped at the old Excelsior hotel, and, while he registered as 'L. Short,' I do not think anyone else than the landlord and myself knew who he was. It was his desire that his identity should remain unknown, owing to the eyeing and attention he would naturally attract. He was a very mild-mannered man, and a stranger would never have guessed him to be the 'noted killer.' He could repeat poems of Byron and other bards hour after hour.

"One afternoon I was going down to Missouri City to take the train. Luke was going, also, and he invited me to ride down with him in a sleigh. I did so. We went to the hotel to get our supper. A smiling-faced, mischievous-looking little girl came into the dining-room, where we were seated, with a cup of coffee. In the rear of Luke's chair she stopped suddenly, as if an idea had struck her, and set the cup of steaming hot coffee on top of Luke's head. He could do nothing but 'grin and bear it,' for if he moved the hot coffee was liable to stream down his back. She soon removed the cup, however, and no one laughed over the matter more heartily than did Luke. The little girl, perhaps, never learned who the man was."