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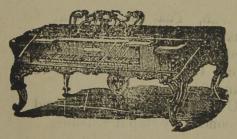
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This life of ours is a wreck. What a deplorable state we are in! The world with its millions is drifting upon the shores of doom. And so many do not know it, nor care. They are making themselves believe that all is well, when all is not well. They are wasting their years in folly and pleasure. They go strutting about, showing off their importance, displaying their fineries, fluttering their feathers, clinking their money, thinking how grand they are. But there will come a day when the one question will be with everybody: "What must I do to be saved?" O what a hurry-skurry that day with worldly men! What concern! what haste! what fear! what woe! It ought to be that tonight, this solemn hour, but alas! it is not.

And yet, more than we know men are escaping. They are even now leaping into the surf, breasting and battling the waves, clinging to one another, taking hold of all serts of things, some of them very insufficient things, if by any means

worldling, with your gold; and for you, O sinner, whatever your sin. Over the voice cries: "Be of good cheer! It is I; be not afraid!"

But if we are to escape, we must look alive, for everything is at stake, and doom comes fast. Some of you say: "Let us not get excited; let us not lose our heads, and make fools of ourselves." But there is no such fool as the man who is indifferent, unexcited, untroubled, in the hour of danger. What would you think of him who would stand leaning over the taffrail, smoking a cigar, and making silly remarks, when men in earnest are leaping into the waves, and struggling ashore? You would pity the poor brainless wretch. You would want to take him in your arms, and toss him headlong into the boiling surg. Better there, even though he be drowned, than where he is. In the surf, among the waves, he has at least the chance of safety. But he has none where he is, and as he is.

Oh! I want to say in sober earnestness tonignt, it is about time that as a people we were waking up and getting excited. If we are on a wreck; if our souls are in danger; if it be do or die with us; if our sons and daughters, our friends, all we love more than we love ourselves, are ready to go down forever; then indeed, it is full time we were in terrible earnestness and very much excited. It is all wrong if we are not excited.

There is an excitement, I grant, that does no good, that not only does no good but is in the way of good. We want no such excitement as that. But we want vigorous united energetic effort. We want men and women to wake up to the grandeur of what salvation is to themselves and others. Oh! are we to sit here and perish ourselves, and thus help others to perish with us? No; let us make good our escape from this wreck we are on.

And Christ is so near with safety for us. He comes to where we are in our sin and danger, and, reaching out His strong loving arms to us as we hesitate, not knowing what to do, where to flee, He says: "Trust me; let yourself fail into my arms." And we do it, do it because it is all we can do, and we are saved, saved as only He can save us.

And He can save us all. I suppose there are 276 here tonight, perhaps nearly twice that, and if we would all, all at once, throw ourselves at the feet of the mighty Jesus, He would so easily save us. There is no need why any perish, no need of any souls being lost, for great is His mercy, great is forgiveness, great is salvation. Oh let it be said of us as a people: "And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to

Custom is a violent and treacherous schoolmistress. She by little and little, slyly and unperceived, slips in the foot of her authority; but having by this gentle and humble beginning, with the benefit of time, fixed and established it, she then unmasks a furious and tyrannic countenance, against which we have no more the courage or the power so much as to lift up our eyes.

Every question asked by a child's mind is a reaching out towards the soul of things, and every question rightly answered, and every law understood, stimulates the growth of the child's mind towards the world that lies around

On all sides of us we see life blighted and ruined by human passions, which sweep over the earth like flame over a dry heath, and leave it black and scarred behind them.

It is another's fault if he is ungrateful; but it is mine if I do not give. To find one thankful man, I will oblige many that are not so.

The only true zeal is that which is guided by a good light in the head, and that which consists of good and innocent affections in the heart.

MEN WHO NEVER SLEEP.

an American Detective. How French, English and American Thief-Takers Hunt Their Game-Shadowing

Dishonest Clerks-A Few Cases Illustrating the Methods.

One of the best-known detectives in the United States, after repeated solicitations by a reporter for the Denver (Col.) Times, consented to talk about the business.

"There is all the difference in the world," he said, "between the methods used by the secret service agents of different countries. People who read French novels have an idea that the disguises spoken of in them as being worn by the Lecoqs of the different stories as something utterly untrue. Strange as it may seem, however, it is true.

"A French detective who can not so disguise himself that his superior can not recognize him could not find employment in any detective bureau. The disguises are wonderful, too, and even the strong light of day shows no imperfection in them.

There are two sorts of detectives in France-State detectives and the municipal or city force. Among the former no one knows who his fellow detectives are, and as they never work in pairs, the necessity for knowing each other is not so great. The workings of the French bureau is very thorough and more like the American method than the English.

"The latter never think of disguising themselves, and go to work openly. If a bank is robbed in France a new assistant teller or clerk appears in the bank a day or so afterward. He is a detective, of course, and where in England the detective would be called in in front of all the employes and ask them all manner of questions, the French would say nothing, and nothing more would probably be heard of the robbery until the

thief was caught.

"The English have a great system of stool-pigeons. Among the vicious of all classes, male and female, are always those to be found who, for the sake of being protected in a certain way, carry all the news of the crooked work done among the swell mobsmen, as high class thieves are called, to Scotland Yard, where is situated the Criminal Investigation Bureau. If 'Harry, the Swell,' is flashing a great deal of money about the fact is at once reported to the police, and if any large forgery or robbery has recently occurred, 'Harry, the Swell, is liable to prove an alibi. Inside the great portico of Scotland Yard is a large case containing the photographs of all the detectives employed by the bureau, and the crooks or thieves can have free access at any time to study the faces of those who are liable to be after them at some future time. This stool-pigeon system is not used much in America, as the police do not put much faith in it.

"In France or England, if the employe of a big banking house is suspected of irregularities his habits are watched and the facts ascertained, while in America a man will be set on the track of the supposed thief, make his acquaintance and ingratiate himself into the suspected man's confidence. He will spend as much or more money than the suspect, and will go into any dissipation with him. In the event of irregularities in any large concern, the American detective becomes an employe of the corporationwhether as a porter or a director of a bank. The clew and the working up of it is made much more of by an American than by any one else. He will jump at conclusions from a faint something, and frequently hit the mark; where the stolid Britisher would be stumbling in the dark.

possessed of courage, brains and coolness. There is no mystery, however impenetrable the right methods are employed. There was a case I remember in Chicago.

"A well-known business man was found murdered one morning in his office. The crime had evidently been committed the night before, for the body had been cold a long time, and the man's family had waited for him to come to his home the evening previous. His valuables had been taken, the safe had been rifled, and beyond the ghastly bullet-hole in the man's head, there was nothing to indicate with what the crime had been committed. No pistol was found.

"I was put on the case and reasoned that as the robbery was evidently committed for gain the murderer must be in poor circumstances. I visited all the pawn shops in the city, and found that five revolvers had been pawned between six o'clock the previous evening and the morning. Three were 45caliber, the size evidently used to kill the man. Two of the men were well-dressed and the other wasn't. The latter was described to me, and I took the pawnbroker down to the different railway depots where trains were leaving. We went through three trains, and finally located the man in a smoking-car. I arrested him, and much of the dead man's property was found in his possession. It's not much of a story-if the man hadn't pawned the pistol he would certainly have got off, but it shows how much little things amount to, and will give you an idea of how a detective will go to work.

"The life of a detective is startling enough, but it gets tiresome and monotonous, and I expect soon to retire. I remember one case that happened in New York. A very swell reception was given by one of the leaders of society. One of the guests had laid a valuable solitaire in the ladies' dressing-room on the wash-stand, and forgetting it, had left it. On her return to find it, it had, of course, disappeared. Nobody knew where it was. The trunks of all the servants were searched, but no trace could be found of the jewel, which was | Hads a tank as m noisoldxa and to vroant and worth \$4,000. I finally found it where it had been pawned for \$500 in a pawnshop by a French woman. I took the visiting list of the hostess, and finally, after a week's search, found that one of the guests, a rich woman, had a French maid, and that she had gone to Europe shortly after the re-

"I had to wait for her return, made the acquaintance of the maid and took her to the pawnbroker's, where he identified her. She confessed and her mistress redeemed the diamond and paid all the expenses. I

"You see also that pawnbrokers are important factors in our business, and that they are frequently of service in detecting crime. Still, pawnbrokers encourage robbers, for if there were no shops the temptation to steal would not be so great.

"It's a singular business in every way," concluded the thief-taker. "Fascinating in many ways, but like every thing else, one gets tired of it."

A FLOATING ISLAND

One of the Wonders of the Main Rocky Thrilling Incidents in the Life of Mountain Divide.

Situated high up in the main Rocky mountain divide, in the eastern part of Idaho, just south of the boundary line of that Territory and Montana, and a few miles west of the Yellowstone National Park, is Henry lake, a beautiful sheet of crystal water, having an area of about forty square miles. The contour of the lake is oval, and the wooded banks bear a luxuriant growth of mountain grass. On a casual examination, observes a writer in the West Shore, there appears to be no outlet to this lake, but closer observation reveals a small creek issuing from the southwestern side, which is the beginning of the north fork of that mighty artery of the Northwest, Snake river. On this lake, sometimes on the north side and sometimes to the southward, or wherever the breezes chance to bear it, is a curious floating sland. It is about three hundred feet in diameter, and has for its basis a mass of roots so dense as to support large trees and a heavy thicket of undergrowth. Decayed vegetation adds to the thickness of the mat, and forms a mold several feet in thickness. On the edge of the floating forest, in summer time, may be seen a luxuriant growth of bluejoint grass, the roots of which form so compact a mass as to support the weight of a horse. Any number of men have no difficulty in walking about on it. Farther back among the trees one might build a large house and make a garden and do whatever he pleases. He would be just as solid and safe as though there were not one hundred or two hundred feet of water beneath. There is a willow thicket near the center of the island, and scattered among these willows and contiguous to them are a number of aspens and dwarf pines. These catch the breezes which float over the island and act like sails on a boat, and move the nearly two acres of land hither and thither over the forty square miles of water. This shows why one may one day see the island on one side and the next day on the other side of the lake. Henry lake is exceedangly picturesque. Around it rise snowcapped peaks, among which are some of the highest of the continent's backbone, partly covered with a verdure of forest and grass, and showing here and there formations of granite and unique basaltic columns. During the hunting season the waters swarm with wild fowl. There are beaver, too, and plenty of large game may be had in the adjoining mountains.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION.

One of the Most Serious Catastrophes of the Civil War.

One of the great explosions which occurred during the civil war took place at Vicksburg a few days after its surrender to General Grant, writes M. W. Quan in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. I was quartered on the hospital boat City of Nashville, on which were about three hundred sick and wounded soldiers, and the next boat to her was the City of Madison, not over forty yards from us, which was then, and had been, taking in ammunition for nearly a week. The supplies she was taking aboard consisted principally of shot and shell, and the authorities were so cautious in her loading that a cordon of sentinels on the levee prevented any person from going near her. Nearly every morning five or six of the soldiers on our boat used to fish from the stern of the boat and, of course, we always had something to say respecting the ammunition boat, for we sat facing her thirty or forty yards away. We knew she

orying of "Hank!" after that latter out of danger. There was no more "To be a good detective a man must be strang bulled the train in a hurry and pulled the on their tormentors when the conductor about to board the cars and take vengeance nt may appear, but what can be solved if sew photo off. Ish sid div man reper tried hard to reach the head of the newsthe meaning of the whole business, and been called. One very big farmer guessed window, and wanted to know why they had Several of the "Hanks" came up to the car Hank!" when the cars came to a standstill The jokers were still shouting "Hank for some reason or other, stopped the train. the usual evolutions, when the engineer, ing the 'Hanks" in the crowd go through They were leaving a small town, and makthen the laugh went over to the other side. several stations with the same results, and They repeated this mild practical joke at into their seats, laughing immoderately. as they did so the jocose travelers fell back Nearly all the men sprang forward, and

over again: "Hank! Hullo, Hank!" intense eagerness, shouted loudly over and windows, and, leaning out with an air of travelers in search of fun raised the car out. As the train was moving out the two assembled to see the train come in and go there was the usual crowd of gawky rustics At the next station the train stopped at An idea struck the newspaper man first.

bottle they desired something to shatter the had a good many broad smiles in a quart weariness lay before them, and though they about three hours of accommodation-train road. He and his companion knew that toward Cleveland over the Lake Shore railloss for a hearty laugh while traveling ing himself in eccentric ways was once at a A newspaper man who is given to amus-

burgh Dispatch according to the Topical Talker of the Pittsrather, christened Henry and called Hank, or ten men you meet are called Henry, or, In the Western Reserve about eight out

But They Were Muscular Fellows and Didn't Mean to Be Guyed.

THEY WERE ALL HANKS.

tropped into the hold accidentally. blocks up town. He lived about an hour. of the boat, who was blown about three lived to tell the tale was one of the officers ing was to be seen, and the only man who lay. When the smoke cleared away noththem falling into the water where the boat boat fly straight in the air. I also watched saw the upper works and timbers of the Iy remember I looked up in the sky, and I prostrate, completely paralyzed. I distinctintently watching the boat were knocked together. The five or six of us who were when heaven and earth seemed to come fishing and were watching the boat, seven men. We partially suspended our ascertained, about two hundred and ninetyaboard her, comprising, as we afterward three companies of infantry marched About ten o'clock in the forenoon about out, for she was loaded down to her guards. perceived smoke coming out of her chimneys. We concluded that she was going morning, was getting up steam, for we The City of Madison, as we noticed one fine who was about to attack Port Hudson. was leading supplies for General Banks,