

Make Xmas Buying a Pleasure

Try This Store as a Shopping Place.

We have a line of goods that can't fail to interest you.

IN LEATHER

We have an endless variety of

Travelling Sets,
Hand and Wrist Bags,
Wallets and Card Cases,
Bill Books,
Military Brush Cases,
Letter Books,
Cigar Cases.

In Alligator, Seal,
Snake and Walrus.
Plain and Mounted.

IN BRISTLE

You'll find

Military Brushes,
Hair Brushes,
Hat Brushes,
Cloth Brushes.

HALL SETS

In Sterling Silver, Celluloid,
and every known variety of
Hard Wood.

IN PERFUMERY

we carry the best and choicest of

French,
English,
American and
Canadian makes,

in every size and style from the small
pretty package at 25c. to the rich
and elaborate one at 50c.

Come right in and let us show them
to you.

In Smokers' Goods

we are Sole Agents for the Cele-
brated "Rattray" Pipe of which we
carry an unusually large assort-
ment in gold and sterling mounts.

Cigars

we have special packages of 10 and
25 for the Christmas trade.

Also—

Cigar Holders, Cigarette Holders,
Tobacco Pouches, etc., etc.

AND DON'T FORGET

We are Sole Agents for "LOWNEY'S CHOCOLATES"

The Largest and Most Elegant Assortment ever shown in the town.

Edgar W. Mair, The Prescription Druggist.

Forgery of Typewriting.

It would hardly occur to any one who had not especially considered the matter that among the advantages of a typewritten document over one in manuscript might be numbered the difficulty with which a successful forgery of the former could be accomplished. As a matter of fact, the contrary view would probably be entertained by most people. It would seem the most easy task imaginable to simulate characters which are machine made. The everchanging peculiarities of handwriting would not have to be avoided. A machine would not appear to be possessed of the slightest individuality. And yet it is probable that typewriting is, of all kinds of writing or printing, the least susceptible of imitation. Let us suppose that we are attempting to forge a typewritten paper of any kind. We desire this paper to purport to have issued from the law office of Mr. Smith. The first thing we must do is to get hold of a machine of the same make as Mr. Smith's. The type of the Remington, the Caligraph, the Wellington, the Smith Premier, etc., bear little resemblance to each other. So, if Mr. Smith has a Remington, we must get a Remington. Then we must be sure to get a Remington of the same number as Mr. Smith's. The different numbers have different lengths of lines, and besides have different letters or characters, of which there are more than eighty. Mr. Smith's machine might have a dollar mark or a fraction, or some other unusual character, which, nevertheless, we might have to use. Then, we must also get a machine of precisely the same kind of type. There is large Roman type, small Roman type, large script type, small script type, correspondence type, etc., and any particular number of any kind of machine might have any one of these kinds of type. If, however, we succeed in getting a machine of the same make, of the same number, and of the same kind of type, our difficulties are by no means surmounted. There are at least two other requirements which it would be well-nigh impossible to satisfy. In the first place, our machine must be practically of the same age as Mr. Smith's; that is to say, it must have been used for about the same length of time. The type flattens with use, and often breaks, so that there may be certain letters exhibiting marked peculiarities. Then, the roller becomes dented in places with continual pounding, and as a consequence the writing is apt to be less clear in some lines than in others. Besides, new type is more apt to puncture

the paper than old, particularly in the case of marks of punctuation. In the second place, if Mr. Smith's machine is out of alignment our machine must also be out of alignment and in just the same manner. The letters often get slightly out of place, the imprint being made on the paper either a little above or a little below the base line, or to the right or left of the proper position. It is easy to see that if a "g" or an "s" has this fault, it will be manifest all through the writing, wherever those letters occur, and such writing could be easily distinguished from one made with type perfectly aligned. Now add to all this the necessity of securing paper of the same make, weight, and ruling as is used by Mr. Smith, and it is manifest that our attempt to forge Mr. Smith's typewriting is going to be next to impossible.

Let our readers, however, should declare that all the foregoing is fanciful and purely theoretical, we may say that at least one case of an attempt to forge typewriting has come before the courts. That case, reported as *Levy v. Rust*, 49 Atl. Rep. 1017, came up before the vice-chancellor of New Jersey some ten years ago, and is a remarkable illustration of the point we are trying to make. The question arose as to whether certain receipts, apparently signed by the defendant Rust, were genuine. Mr. Rust, who was an attorney, was in the habit of having receipts made out in typewriting, or ordinary typewriter paper, and then personally affixing his signature thereto. Several of these receipts were produced on the trial and Mr. Rust promptly repudiated them as forgeries. The signatures were carefully examined and compared with others concededly genuine, by the chancellor, by several other men accustomed to scrutinize writing, and by at least one expert witness. Not one of them could find a single conclusive indication of a forgery. Then it was necessary to turn to the typewritten part of the receipt. Here is what the chancellor says on this point: "An expert in typewriting is brought here, and that expert sat down by my side at the table here and explained his criticisms on this typewriting, and I went over it with him carefully with the glass, and while glancing hastily at his evidence, it appeared very clearly. It appeared very much more clearly to me when I followed his testimony and he gave it with the papers before us. He says these receipts running from February 2, 1891, to September 11, 1891, all contain certain defects in the mechanical work which are very clear to the eye of an expert. Now, this gentleman who is not a professional expert witness, but a

gentleman who is employed by the vendors of typewriting machines to go about the country and examine typewriting machines and see whether they are out of order, and in that way his eye becomes very acute and quick to discover things that will escape the vision of a casual observer; and I was very much struck by his evidence. He points out in the main, three matters. There are other things, but three that I recollect very distinctly. He says that in every one of these the period mark is too low; below what it should be, without exception; an examination of them bears him out. I examined them carefully at the time. I have examined them several times since. The period mark instead of having the under side of it on a line with the under side of the body of the letters has half its width below the line, and good typewriting does not have that. The next is the letter 's.' The letter 's' is 'off its feet,' and every one of them makes a bad mark, and every one of them marks exactly the same. There is not a period mark in one of these receipts and there is not a letter 's'—small 's'—in one of these receipts that has not the same characteristics. Then he says the letter 'u' is a little too far to the left. That is not so manifest unless you go into detail, and look at it in all its surroundings, because its being out of place will appear either more or less according to what kind of a letter is beside it. For instance, if there is a wide letter beside it, it will appear very clearly; if there is a narrow letter beside it, it will not appear so clearly. But it is there and I saw it clearly in every case where he pointed it out. There were some other things that he spoke of, but I will rely only on those three. Now, a large amount of typewriter work done in Mr. Rust's office was produced here. It had been produced in court already in agreements written at the same time, almost, with the dates of these receipts, and not one of them has any such characteristic. I have looked at them with great care, and did at the time. Now these things, to my mind, are a great deal better evidence than anything that has been produced here in the expert way of the fact that those receipts were not made out by Mr. Rust's typewriter machine. Now let us see about Mr. Rust's typewriter machine. He had but one, except for a week in the month of March 1891 when it was taken to New York to be repaired, and another machine was brought to the office to take its place, which was returned when the machine that Mr. Rust had was repaired. There was some other work done on another typewriter downstairs occasionally but that was only a long

job that was taken downstairs to be written out on another machine, and it would be incredible to believe that seven receipts, written at various times between February 2, 1891 were all taken out of the office and done on another machine, which continued during all that time to have those peculiarities in them. Now, I have looked at that in every aspect and I can't believe that those receipts were made in Mr. Rust's office. The mechanical work to my mind forbids it. Now, that almost decides this case. But it does not stop there. The paper on which the bills and receipts are written, with one exception, is a rough, cheap paper, and has vertical marginal rulings only on one side. Mr. Rust proves to my satisfaction by a very strong weight of evidence that he had so much paper in his office; that all his paper was ruled on both sides, and that the character of the paper is different. He brings his typewriters, and they all say that these seven bills and receipts were not their work, and that it was not done on the kind of paper they had in the office. It was suggested that they occasionally bought other paper temporarily than that which Mr. Rust was in the habit of keeping for use, and that this might have been slips from that. But there again you are supposing almost an impossibility. How came seven receipts, with the exception of one, and that is September 11th, ranging in date between February 2nd and August 2, 1891, to be all made on the same kind of paper which Mr. Rust was not in the habit of keeping in his office at all? That is almost impossible to believe."

We see then from this case that a paper, evidently a forgery, but which could not be proved to be such from the handwriting it contained, nevertheless was easily revealed in its true character by a study of the typewriting. What a handwriting expert could not discover a mere repairer of typewriting machines could and did discover. As compared with handwriting then, our conclusion must be that typewriting is not easily forged. And it may be added that in the case of wills, deeds, or legal papers of any kind, the possibility of safety from imitation and forgery is a matter of no small importance.

Reaching the Irishman's Heart.

A commercial traveler, who has been telling some of his experiences in Saturday Evening Post, gives this story of how he reached the heart of an old Irish storekeeper away back in Montana:

"When I used to work at the bench, years ago," said he, as we sat in the smoker, "evenings when I was free I studied music for relaxation. Our shop boys organized a brass band. I played the trombone, and

learned to do fairly well. I never thought then that my music would fatten my pocket-book; but since I have been on the road it has served me a good turn more than once—it has sold me many a bill. The first evening I ever went into Larry's store I hadn't been in a minute until he said to me: 'O'im all full up; O'ive got plenty iv it. I don't give a dom phwat ye're silling.'

"I paid no attention to him, as I had heard of him; instead of going out I bought a cigar and sat down by the stove. Although a man may not wish to buy anything from you, you know, he is always willing to sell something, even if it's only a cigar. I've caught many a merchant's ear by buying something of him. My specialty is bone collar-buttons—they come cheap. I'll bet that I bought a peck of them the first time I made a trip through this country.

"I had not been sitting by the stove long until I noticed, in a show case, a trombone. I asked Larry please to let me see it. 'O'il lit ye say the instrumint,' said he; 'but phwatt's the good of it? Ye can't play the throbboon, can ye?' O'im the only mon in this berg that can bloo that hairn. O'im a member of the brass band."

"I took the horn and, as I ran the scales a few times, Larry's eyes began to dance. He wouldn't wait on the customer who came in. The instrument was a good one. I made 'Praties and fishes are very fine dishes for Saint Patrick in the mairning' fairly ring. A big crowd came in. Larry let business drop entirely and danced a jig. He kept me playing for an hour, always something by special request—'Molly Dairlint,' 'Moggie Moorphy's Hoom,' and everything he could think of. Finally he asked me for 'Hairt Boode Doon.'

"As I played the 'Heart Bowed Down' tears came to the old Irishman's eyes. When I saw these I played yet better; this piece was one of my own favorites. I felt a little peculiar myself. This air had made a bond between us. When I finished the old man said to me: 'Thank ye, thank ye, sor, with all my hairt! That's enoof. Let me put hairn away. Go hoom now. But coom around in the mairnin' and O'il boy a bill of ye! I don't give a dom phwat's you're silling. If O'ive got your loine in my shore O'il boy a bill; if I haven't O'il boy a bill anyway and stait a new department. Good-night; give me yer hand, sor.'

"Not only did Larry give me a good order, but he went to two more merchants in the town and made them buy from me. He bought every dollar's worth of his goods in my line from me as long as he lived."