

A SOCIETY OF "SQUARE CROOKS" They Have Their Ramifications and Agents in Canada.

From The Ohio State Journal.

"I have no doubt that people have wondered when some crook caught in the act and without friends in the place in which he came to grief could give bond," said Frank G. Miller, an ex-convict, to a Journal reporter with whom he had previously become acquainted.

"There is nothing strange about 1'," con tinued Miller, for we have an organization for mutual protection, and this has representa tives in every large city and in some of the smaller ones in the United States and Canada Usually in the smaller places there are lawyers, and if the crook is 'pinched' in a place where he has no friends he knows whom to send for.

"Should the case be an aggravated one and the crook in good standing with the organization the amount of bond required is learned and the society is notified to send enough to square a couple of bondsmen. The crock disappears, the bondsmen settle and tell how they would like to bring the fellow to justice, while all the time they are wishing for another job of the same sort, for they are well looking after our business than any ordinary killed of all the Zebra's crew that day. practice pays."

Miller went on to say that the organization had its regular officers, who are better paid than those of legitimate societies, and that almost all of them are well respected in the communities in which they live. Miller stated that the amount paid for membership and yearly dues was large and that only "square" crooks were allowed to become members.

When asked if they were not afraid that their officers would emulate their employers and rob the treasury, he replied that such a thing had never occurred but once. That man was afterwards tound on the streets of Constantinople with a knife sticking under his fifth rib, and no one had seen fit to follow his example.

"Why," said Miller, "they know that if they should try to 'do' us they would have a thousand men keener than any detectives on their trail, and that when caught no earthly power could save them."

The crooks, according to Miller, have their clubrooms in Chicago, New York, New Orleans, San Francisco and several other cities, and he declared that these clubrooms, or houses, are fitted up regardless of expense. To be able to use them, however, one must belong to the crook aristocracy and must also pay extra dues that would make the clubman of the cities blink.

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His Fate Found Him.

Capt. Robert Faulknor, a commander in the British navy in 1794, was a man of unusual courage. During an encounter close under the walls of Fort Royal he noticed that the pilot did not seem to be himself. The man, he thought, seemed to hesitate when he gave his orders. In "Famous Fighters of the Fleet," Mr. Fraser gives the story:

Captain Faulknor turned aside to one of his officers.

"I think Mr. Dash seems confused, as if he doesn't know what he is about. Has he been in action?"

"Many times, sir," was the reply. "He has been twenty-four years in the service." But Faulknor was not satisfied. He eyed the pilot closely, and then stepping up to

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him, asked him a trifling question. The pilot's agitation was such as to render him incapable of a reply. Recovering himself to some extent a moment later, the wretched man, keeping his eyes on the deck, in a low voice addressed Faulknor, who was bending over him, with this startling admission:

"I see your honor knows me. I am unfit to guide her. I don't know what is come over me. I dreamt last night I should be killed, and I am so afraid I don't know what I am about. I never in all my life felt afraid before."

Without for an instant losing his presence of mind, Captain Faulknor replied to the man in a still lower tone:

"The fate of this expedition depends on he man at the helm. Give it to me, and go and hide your head in whatever you fancy the safest part of the ship. But mind, fears are catching. If I hear you tell yours to one of your messmates, your life shall answer for it to morrow."

The poor fellow, panic stricken, went away and overcome with shame, sat down upon the arm chest, while Captain Faulknor seized the helm, and with his own hand laid the Zebra close to the fort; but before he could land at the head of his gallant followers, a campon-ball struck the arm-chest and blew paid, and the lawyers get better fees for the pilot to atoms. He was the only man

Old Answer, New Rejoinder.

There has been some trouble over a line fence, and one of the participants was on trial for assault with a deadly weapon. The defendant, when the case seemed to be going against him, introduced as a witness a man of somewhat shady reputation, who swore that the plaintiff had provoked the fight and began it by striking the defendant first.

The prosecuting attorney proceeded to

"Now, sir," he said, "you swore that you saw this fight from your house. Is that

"Yes, sir."

"I will ask you how far it is from your house to the spot where the fight took place." "It's fifty yards and about two feet."

"Oh, you've measured it, have you?"

"What did you do that for?"

"Well, I thought some fool lawyer would ask me the question, and I wanted to have it just right."

The attorney waited till the subdued laughter in the court room had subsided, and then

"Your honor," he said to the judge, "I thought the witness would indulge in that time-honored bit of repartee, and I have been fool enough to find six reputable and competent witnesses who will testify that this man's house is nearly one hundred yards from the scene of the trouble, and is round a corner, where it would have been impossible for him to have seen what was going on. I ask that these three men be

Better Luck Than He Thought.

A young man who had received the privilege of shooting over the land of a farmer got rather close once or twice to the home and the ground adjacent to it. Later in the day, the Country Gentleman says, he met

"You've had pretty good luck," said the

"Well, no," said the young man hesitating, "I haven't had any luck at all,"

"Yes, you have," repeated the farmer. "This morning you just missed my best shorthorn."

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WOODSTOCK, N. B., APRIL 19, 1905.

THE LAND OF STORY BOOKS.

At evening, when the lamp is lit, Around the fire my parents sit, They sit at home, and talk and sing, And do not play at any thing.

Now, with my little gun, I crawl All in the dark along the wall, And follow round the forest track Away behind the sofa back.

There, in the night, where none can spy, All in my hunter's camp I lie, And play at books that I have read Till it is time to go to bed.

These are the hills, these are the woods, These are my starry solitudes, And there the river, by whose brink The roaring lions come to drink.

I see the others far away, As if in firelit camp they lay, And I, like to an Indian scout, Around their party prowl about.

So, when my nurse comes in for me, Home I return across the sea, And go to bed with backward looks At my dear Land of Story Books. ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

The "Servant" Problem."

Edward Everett Hale and certain of his friends in Washington were discussing the vexatious "servant problem," when some one referred to the alleged tendency of domestics toward unbearable impertinence.

"No doubt American servants are reprehensible in that respect," said the doctor, "but if the incident I shall relate is true, then our servants fall far beneath the standard set by their French colleagues.

"An American lady of my acquaintance, now living in Paris, tells me that a friend of hers once had occasion to reprimand a parlor maid for shameful neglect of duty.

" 'Marie,' said she, 'there's a month's dust on the table!'

"At this observation the maid gave a toss of the head, saying: 'Surely, madam cannot censure me for that, seeing that I have been in madam's employ but two weeks!""

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Dangerous.

From The Columbus Dispatch.

After King Solomon had gained so much wisdom it was suggested that he become a college professor, so that others might profit from his store of knowledge. But Solomon shook his head.

"Not for mine,' he replied. "When a man becomes a college professor he can't open his mouth without being ridiculed all over the country.

More of the Strenuous. From the New York Tribune.

There is another vanishing industry. . The Birmingham jewsharp industry is stated to be in a bad way, owing to the collapse of the demand among savage peoples. The advance of civilization has been so thoro that nowadays in Central Africa nothing short of Wagner will satisfy the native souls.



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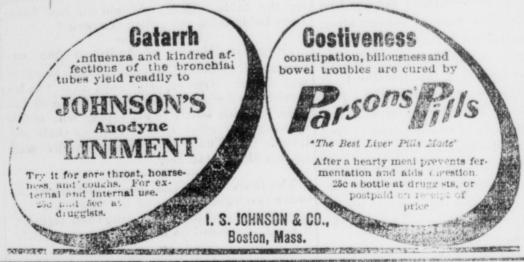
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Reflections of a Bachelor.

From The New York Press.

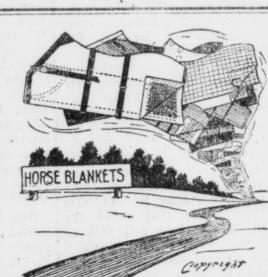
The only time to speculate is when you haven't any money.

When you tell a girl how beautiful she looks it is a sign she believes you. There is something excruciatingly funny

about the way a woman plays whist unless you are her partner. It is very hard for a woman to make her-

self believe that her boy's school teacher isn't jealous of his brains.

When the racing season comes around lots men begin to tell their friends how much they love a day in the country.



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