

# BREAKING BANK SAFES.

METHODS ADOPTED TO OUTWIT THE CRAFTY BURGLAR.

The Banks of England and of France Do Not Take Any Chances—Some Extraordinary and Daring Robberies that are Recorded in Recent Years.

In one of his sensational detective stories, M. Du Boisgobey, the French novelist, hatches an intricate plot which turns on an attempt to break into a banker's safe in Paris. One of the burglars was a lady, who, on touching a piece of the machinery securing the safe, caused it to operate and hold her in its vice-like grasp. Her comrade in crime cut off her hand rather than let her be caught in the act of robbery; and so the tale takes its name from the main point of interest, and is known as "La Main Coupée" (The Severed Hand).

It is a long way off from the complex and powerful mechanism of the modern safes, which are constructed to defy alike burglars and fire, to the times when man could not trust his fellow man, but must needs hide his possessions for safety in secret places. There is no surer test of civilization than the measure of pecuniary confidence which members of a community repose in one another. With half-civilized peoples like the Hindus gold is either buried or worked into ornaments.

The Emperor of Annam has hit on a peculiar device for keeping the royal reserve secure against burglars, and even against himself. This is the plan of the uncivilized potentate: His causes his treasure to be placed in hollowed out trunks of trees, which are thrown into a pool of water within his palace walls. In the water are kept a number of absolutely incorruptible guardians in the shape of crocodiles, which will eat alive any person who attempts to meddle with the submerged treasure. When it becomes indispensable to draw on this novel style of bank, the crocodiles have to be killed; but this can only be done with the Emperor's permission, and after the matter has been duly approved by the Minister of Finance.

In past days in Scotland, when the "Old Bank" as it was termed, was located in Courlay's House, Old Bank Close, Edinburgh, precautions were evidently adopted to secure the safety of the cash in the bank's strong chest. When the Old Bank house was taken down in the first quarter of the century, it was found that all the shutters communicated by wire with a row of bells in an attic, which was assumed to be a plan put in practice long ago of sounding an alarm in the event of burglary. This bank also had a guard armed with flintlocks and bayonets as an outside protection. The Bank of England is watched nightly by a guard of about fifty men from the Household troops, under the command of an officer, who usually march from Wellington to St. George's barracks. They patrol the spacious quadrangles of the bank and do sentry duty over allotted spaces till the morning, when they are relieved on the arrival of some members of the bank's staff. The officer in command is allowed dinner for himself and a friend, including the provision of a bottle of the bank's special old port. The men are also supplied with the needful refreshment. Besides this military guard, two clerks remain on duty all night at the bank, as well as all day on Sunday, and these "watch clerks" must not go to sleep. Their duty is to move about from building to building inspecting the various rooms, to see that all goes well. Several of the higher officials also sleep on the premises, ready to be summoned at a moment's notice.

The Bank of France is also guarded by soldiers, who do sentry duty outside the bank, a watch being likewise kept within its precincts. A former practice of protecting this bank was to get masons to wall up the doors of the vaults in the cellar with hydraulic mortar so soon as the money was deposited each day in these receptacles. The water was then turned on, and kept running until the cellar was flooded. A burglar would thus be obliged to work in a diving suit, and break down a cement wall before he could even begin to plunder the vaults. When the bank officers arrived each morning, the water was drawn off, the masonry torn down, and the vaults opened.

The Bank of Germany, like most other German public buildings, has a military guard to protect it. In a very strongly fortified military fortress at Spandau is kept the great war treasure of the Imperial Government, part of the French indemnity, amounting to several million pounds.

By far the most ingenious and daring class of burglaries is that which has been accomplished by means of tunneling or mining. This operation implies long sustained and arduous toil, not to speak of danger, while the scientific qualities displayed are really admirable and worthy of a better use. There is a spice of romance in safe breaking by tunneling, and we may therefore narrate one unsuccessful and two successful instances of this kind of robbery.

A few years ago a cashier in one of the national banks of the United States, in New Mexico, was busy at work one evening in the office when his quick ear detected some curious sounds. They seemed to proceed from a subterranean region; and he was not long in concluding that robbers must be tunnelling from an adjoining building to the vault in the bank. Guards were immediately posted in and around the building. Those within observed the masonry of the bank to be giving way. Meantime, the robbers appeared to be hard at work, and quite unaware that they were being watched. At 1 in the morning, a Mexican volunteered to descend into the bank cellar so as to discover the actual situation. Scarcely had he gone a few paces down the stairs when he met some one coming up. The Mexican fired without saying a word, and shot the man dead. It was observed that it was one of the masons who had built the bank, and therefore was acquainted with its vulnerable points. The report of firearms alarmed his accomplices, for they fled and escaped. The tunnel gave evidence of long and patient work on the part of the robbers. It was 60 feet in length, constructed on scientific principles, contained provisions, water and a full outfit of mining tools, and must have been three months in making. The robbery appeared to be planned for the time of the month when the bank received large remittances of currency and coin.

An extraordinary and daring robbery was that which took place at the Central Bank of Western India, Hong Kong, in 1865, when the thieves succeeded in getting clear off with gold and specie to the extent of nearly fifteen thousand pounds. The robbers must have been at work for some weeks before they entered the bank's treasury. Their principal labor was in constructing a tunnel of 60 feet from an adjacent drain to a spot exactly below the floor of the bank's treasury vault. A perpendicular shaft of 10 feet of sufficient diameter was then made to permit of the passage of one man to reach the granite boulders on which the floor of the vault rested. These gave way through being undermined and a flag being forced up, entrance to the vault was at once obtained. Two boxes were removed containing gold bars or ingots marked with the bank's stamp, as well as all the paper money, some bags of dollars, and a box of 10-cent pieces. No fewer than between twenty and thirty men were arrested on suspicion. One of them had \$6,000 in his possession and two bars of gold bearing the bank's mark. The robbery was effected between a Saturday and Sunday; and the first thing that roused suspicion was the fact of a little boy trying to sell a bar of gold to a hawker in one of the bazaars in Hong Kong. A gentleman who was passing asked where he got the gold, and the boy replied that it had been found at a certain place. He gave the youth what he asked for it—namely, a dollar—and then informed the police.

Some years ago an equally daring robbery took place at the late Cape of Good Hope Bank, Kimberly. One Sunday morning the manager of this bank opened his cash safe to get a parcel of diamonds which were under his custody, when he found several loose bags of money lying about the safe floor. This rather puzzled him; but on looking around he spied an opening in the wall of the safe, and came to the conclusion that a burglar had been at work. The police were applied to, and they found that the opening in the wall communicated with a large street drain in the vicinity. The total sum abstracted from the bank was about \$200,000, but on the drain being explored, about fifteen bags of silver, of the value of \$5,000 each, were recovered.

Naturally interested in everything affecting not only the fabrication of bank safes but also burglarious breaking into them, Messrs. Chubb of London sent a representative to Kimberley to gather up any details of the robbery which would be of service to science in coping with crime. This gentleman reported that the strong-room in question was composed of masonry, and that it was considered one of the strongest in South Africa. The walls of the room were three feet thick, and to get to these walls the burglars had first to penetrate through an outer wall four feet thick, and through three foundation walls each two feet thick, all these walls being constructed of solid cement and brickwork. There was about twenty feet of earth to tunnel through, and the hole could not be made in a direct line, but had to be constructed with various turns, so as to enable the burglars with miners tools to get through the softest places. The large drain through which the burglars approached their task opened out into the street so that the thieves were provided with a convenient outlet. It was believed that a large retriever dog helped in the robbery, as it was seen to run out of the culvert with something hanging round its neck, but after being followed for some distance all trace of it was lost.

The conviction was forced on one that as wooden vessels have given place to iron or steel plated armor ships, so, in the construction of bank safes, stone walls, however thick, must now yield to those of steel. No masonry, be it ever so good, is proof against undermining or assault, and true security consists in having a safe that will withstand all the attempts of the burglar from whatever quarter they arise. In a recent attempt on a bank safe in Paris there were observed in front of the safe door and flag ends of numerous cigarettes and the remains of a feast, several empty wine bottles, chicken bones, etc., all testifying to the delicacy of the French burglar's palate and his love of good cheer. They also evidenced that the burglars had been many hours engaged in their attempt, but had been foiled because the safe door and safe lock which they assailed was of good, solid English make.

**Catholic Church Statistics.**  
The "Catholic Directory" for 1894, just issued, gives the following facts concerning the Catholic church in the United States: It places the number of adherents at 8,902,033 but Catholic authorities claimed last year that there are at least 12,000,000. The country is divided into fourteen ecclesiastical provinces, each of which has one archbishop and several dioceses. These latter number seventy-two. There are sixteen archbishops, including Cardinal Gibbons, and seventy-one bishops in all. There are 9,717 priests, 7,231 of whom are secular clergymen and 2,486 regular clergymen. These priests preside over 8,729 churches and 5,704 chapels and stations. There are eight universities and twenty-five secular seminaries, in which 2,076 young men are studying for the priesthood.

**That is all Venus Wears.**  
In the magnificent statuary gallery of Chatsworth House there is a figure of Venus—nude—which wears on the left arm just above the wrist a gold bracelet inscribed "Rena, 1824." The story told is that the then Duke of Devonshire was conducting a lady visitor through the gallery and was bewailing the fracture which the statue had sustained on the journey from Venice. "Oh," said the fair one, "I will soon heal that wound." She forthwith slipped over the hand of the marble goddess her own bracelet, which hides the flaw, and there it has remained ever since.

**It Was Self Registering.**  
Anxious Mother—I wish, Mary, that when you give baby a bath you would use the thermometer so as to ascertain whether the water is at the proper temperature. Mary—Oh, don't you worry about that, ma'am; I don't need no 'mometers. If the little one turns red, the water's too hot; if it turns blue, its too cold; that's all there is about it.

**Fitted the Description.**  
She—I'll never marry a man whose fortune hasn't at least five ciphers in it. He (exultingly)—Oh, darling, mine's all ciphers.

## IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS.

Dominic Emerson and His Transactions in Rum and Cider.

Our contemporary, the North Adams Democrat, prints a lot of extracts from a diary that was kept in the years 1799 and 1800 by the Rev. Mr. Emerson, at that time the minister of the town of Conway, Mass. If the whole diary is as instructive as the parts of it that are given, it ought to be brought out as a volume by some publisher. We copy a few of the entries:

Jan. 1, 1800.—Had much company. In the evening married a couple. Fee, \$1.25. Had a cheese given me; value about \$1. Deacon Ware a present of beef; value about 20 cents.

Jan. 4.—Attended to study. Bottle rum, 50 cents.

Jan. 23.—Married three couples. Fee, \$6.25.

Feb. 4.—Paid a woman tailor for one day, 25 cents.

July 5.—Bottle rum at Bardwell's store, 50 cents.

Aug. 1 and 2.—Two quarts rum William's store, \$1.50. Paid for killing hog, 17 cents.

Oct. 20.—Put in the cellar for winter use thirty-eight barrels of cider. Value, \$32.

Dec. 29.—Lord's day. Preached from Samuel 1, 27: "How are the mighty fallen."

The minister was a man of humility. In one entry he says: "By profession I am a Christian minister, but O, how, how unworthy this honor, and how inconsistent has my deportment been with that high and sacred character." In another entry: "Attend a marriage. Fee, \$1.25." In another: "Some means must be devised to suppress infidelity."

The entries in the Rev. Mr. Emerson's diary which must be of especial interest in modern times are those which give the price of rum and of cider in the year 1800: "Bottle rum \$.50; bot. rum \$.50." There has truly been a rise in the rum market within the past ninety-three years, if we may judge by the quotations which are printed from time to time. We presume that the Conway minister quailed the old-fashioned kind of New England rum, though the real old genuine Jamaica rum was not then unknown in Massachusetts.

He paid only 84 cents a barrel for his cider and it may have been hard cider at the price.

Mr. Emerson must have found some consolation while fighting the infidels, the Baptists and the openly wicked. He preached for fifty-seven years.

## WHAT WAS HIS WHISKEY.

The Experience of a Man Who Says He Saw Nine Rattlesnakes.

I had an experience years ago while prospecting in New Mexico that even now makes the cold chills run down my back. I had been working a claim out there that was paying me fairly well, and had built a little hut early to sleep in. One night I was awakened from a sound slumber by a consciousness of something unusual occurring inside the cabin. I was not long left in doubt as to what had disturbed me, as a hiss or two told me only too plainly the character of the intruders. My eyes soon grew accustomed to the semi-darkness and I counted between my bunk and the door no less than nine large rattlesnakes. A few coals were still burning in the fireplace, and it was the warmth of the fire that had attracted them from the rocks behind the cabin. You can bet that I did not feel very comfortable. I did not dare to move for fear of betraying my presence, so I lay there as still as a corpse, watching them. Some of the reptiles were coiled up before the fire apparently asleep, while the others glided about as though taking survey of their surroundings. Every minute seemed like an hour to me, a cold perspiration broke out over my entire body, and I racked my brain in vain trying to devise some plan to rid myself of my unwelcome guests. Finally, after lying there for several hours, the fire went out, morning began to dawn, and the snakes one by one crawled away. My nerves were so unstrung that I could hardly rise, but when I did manage to get on my feet you may be sure that it did not take me long to shake the dust of that locality from my feet forever.

## The Use of Pain.

The eye may be selected as an obvious example, being the most sensitive organ and most noticeable as an illustration of the law of natural warning. Pain is a quick message to the senses that something is wrong at the point that suffers, and we all know how quickly the eyelashes fall when danger threatens the pupil or a speck touches it. Instead of "winkers," the eyes of birds and certain other creatures are provided with a folded membrane in the corners, which it rushes out and sweeps the surface of the ball when an irritant object touches it.

Destruction of the eye in these animals would be a common occurrence if it were not for this muscular arrangement, and pain is the excitant; it is, as it were, the finger which pulls the trigger, and so the

machinery already provided and prepared is set in action thereby.

In man, the suffering caused by a foreign body in the eye calls his attention to the part and leads to its removal. If it were not for the pain so produced, irremediable mischief would often be permitted to go on unchecked, because unnoticed.

Not only does pain so defend the eyes from the injurious effects of foreign bodies, but it also serves to protect the delicate organ from overwork; and where pain is so produced rest is given to the part, and recovery is instituted. Especially is this seen where the eyes are not an absolute pair, and long perusal of a page strains them. Proper spectacles making the eyes a pair give prompt and permanent relief. The grave diseases of the eye are those which are painless, where incipient disease is aggravated by persistent action, all of which would be avoided if pain were a consequence of the malady.

## All Snakes Do Not Hiss.

The popular idea that all snakes hiss is incorrect when anacondas are in question, if we may believe a close observer of the serpent family. The sound they make is more like a growl than a hiss and has been well described by a recent traveler as a "low, roaring noise." Their powers of deglutition are sufficiently wonderful to make exaggeration unnecessary, credible witnesses testifying to the fact that one has been known to swallow a horse, while bullocks are not infrequently attacked also. Few non-scientific readers, by the way, are aware that not only do the jaw hinges of the boa tribe become dislocated in the act of swallowing a large animal, subsequently resuming their proper position by means of the elastic connecting tendons, but that the skull bones separate centrally, so that the whole constitutes a sort of quadrangular orifice with apparently indefinite powers of expansion.

## Walking as an Exercise.

A celebrated physician, on being asked: "What is the exercise most conducive to physical beauty in women?" replied, very decidedly: "Walking." Tennis he declared to be too violent, and too much of it is likely to lengthen the arms and make the height of the shoulders uneven. Cycling renders women awkward in their walk; they gradually come to move with a plunging kind of motion the reverse of graceful, and frequently cultivate weakness of the back, which makes them hold themselves badly. Riding is one-sided, and women who have habitually ridden for years generally have one hip higher than the other.

Croquet really does not give exercise, and after a survey of all the ways he knew in which women take physical exercise, he considered none so conducive to health and beauty of form as walking. It ought to be persevered in all but the worst weather, and particularly in winter.

## They Rewarded the Captain.

When after Salamis, says The Westminster Review, Xerxes was in full flight for Asia, and the overcrowded vessel, so the story ran, was laboring in the storm, Xerxes getting frightened, asked the captain whether there was any chance of safety. "None," said the captain, "unless the ship is lightened of some of its passengers." Whereupon Xerxes, turning to the Persians exclaimed: Now is your time to show your loyalty to your King, for on you my safety depends." And, without a word, the well-trained courtiers made obeisance and leaped into the sea. Thus unburdened, the ship arrived at the land, whereupon Xerxes presented the captain with a golden crown for having saved the King's life and then ordered his head off for having caused the death of so many noble Persians.

## Tales of Travelers.

Chinese Hostess—And what do you think of that country called America?

Chinese Traveler—The halt has not been told. They are more barbarous than even the wisest priests of Buddha had supposed. The American husbands compel their wives to wear a deadly harness of steel and whalebone, the fiendish contrivance being laid so tight that the poor victims can hardly breathe. In the course of years the vitals are pressed so closely together that the sufferer dies in great agony.

Hostess—But what is this for?

Traveler—So the brutal husband can go off and get a younger wife, of course.

## His High Sense of Honor.

Teacher (pointing to caricature of himself on blackboard)—Hollerback, you are the best of my pupils. Say, who drew that horrid face on the board?

Scholar—Please, sir, my sense of honor forbids my acting the part of informer unless you assure the perpetrator immunity from punishment.

Teacher—Ah, well, for your sake we will let it pass this time. Now, who was it?

Scholar—I did it myself.

There are two reasons why some people don't mind their own business. One is that they haven't any mind; the other, that they haven't any business.

# SICK HEADACHE!

The Bane of Millions of Lives

## ITS CAUSE!



Sick Headache is a malady which makes its appearance most frequently in women. The attack often begins in the morning, upon awakening, after a night of restlessness or heavy sleep; though it is especially wont to occur in connection with emotional disturbances, such as excitement, fright or mental strain. The pain is usually localized, being in one or the other, more frequently the left side of the head. It is generally accompanied by great disturbance of the stomach, when light pains the eyes; noises otherwise unnoticed inflict punishment; odors excite nausea. From the fact that people with strong nerves are never troubled with Sick Headache, it is generally conceded by the most eminent physicians that it is dependent upon weak nerves or nervous debility, and can only be permanently cured by strengthening the nervous system.

The Great South American Nerve Tonic is the only remedy manufactured which is prepared especially and expressly for the nerves. It acts directly on the nerve centres at the base of the brain, correcting any derangement there may be, greatly increasing the supply of nervous energy or nerve force, giving great tone to the whole body, and thereby enabling a system subject to Sick Headache to withstand future attacks. It gives relief in one day and speedily effects a permanent cure.

Mrs. Isabella S. Graham, of Friendwood, Indiana, writes: "For a number of years I have suffered intensely with Nervous and Sick Headache; had hot flashes, was sleepless and became despondent. Dr. Farris, of Bloomington, Indiana, spoke so highly of South American Nerve Tonic that I was induced to buy a bottle. That purchase led to a few others, and now I sleep soundly, feel buoyant, strong and vigorous. I would not be back in the condition I was in when I began taking this medicine for any sum you could name."

Mrs. J. H. Prouty, of La Grange, Indiana, writes: "Your South American Nerve Tonic worked a marvellous cure with me last year. I began taking it last April about the 20th. The first week I made a gain of 16 lbs. and from that time on I made a steady gain until I reached my normal weight, making in all a total gain of 80 lbs. After taking it three or four months I found myself a new woman."

For sale by Chas. McGregor, 37 Charlotte St.; Chas. P. Clarke, 100 King St.; R. E. Coupe, 578 Main St.; E. J. Mahoney, 38 Main St.; A. C. Smith & Co., 41 Charlotte St.

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