

THE RETIRED BURGLAR.

One of the Most Remarkable of His Many Singular Experiences.

'In the hall of a house that I had visited one night,' said the retired burglar. 'I found in the umbrella can an umbrella that was the biggest one I ever saw designed for private use. It was a silk umbrella, and a moderately tight roller, too, and evidently made for somebody to carry; but it was as big as those umbrellas you see opened out over the driver's seat on wagons and trucks. And in the same can was a cane, or what I supposed was a cane, that was as big as a drum major's baton; I thought first maybe that's what it was; but that wouldn't account for the umbrella; a drum major wouldn't want any bigger umbrella than anybody else would.'

'But I was still more surprised when I turned away from this cane and started through a door from the hall into the parlor; I had come up into hall from the cellar. This door into the parlor I should think was nine feet high—eight and a half feet square, sure. I'd never seen any such doors in my life, anywhere; they went almost plumb up to the ceiling; and there was the same kind of a door from the parlor into the dining-room back of it. And in that dining room, among the chairs standing around that dining table there was one, an arm chair, at one end that was the biggest chair I ever saw at all; it seemed as though it must have been made for some great giant. I pulled it out from the table and sat down in it. When I worked myself back in the seat it raised my feet clean off the floor, and when I put my arms up on the arms of this chair I had to put 'em up like a chicken does its wings when it's half walking and half sort of flying running along the ground. Why, say, it made me feel like a big baby sitting up there, and I laughed when I slipped down. Then I shoved the chair back in place—I think I'm a stickler for order, for I do hate to see things lying around—and took a look into the drawers of the sideboard.'

'It seemed to me that there was more carving knives there without forks than I'd ever seen before, but I discovered in a moment that these were not carving knives, but table knives of very unusual size. I discovered a moment later forks to go with them. I never saw any forks like 'em for size, and silver they were too; you could see that at a glance; and there were spoons there to correspond; some of 'em, I should think, four times as big as an ordinary table spoon. They made me laugh when I looked at 'em, same as the chair had, they were so different from the ordinary run of things. I suppose I must have been stupid not to realize by this time what it all meant, but I didn't at all.'

'I didn't put away that silver in my bag. I thought I'd wait till I saw what I got upstairs. I didn't know but what I'd get a bag full of watches and diamonds and I don't know what not up there, and I thought if I needed any ballast after I got that cargo in, I'd put in some of these spoons and forks; or, if I didn't get a full load upstairs, or anything of value, why I knew where these things were. But as I turned away from the sideboard my light glinted along the handle of one of the big spoons, and I picked that up and put it in my pocket. I don't know, it sort of attracted my eye, and I picked it up kind of half involuntarily. Then I went on upstairs.'

'There was no room opening off that upstairs hall that had a door the same height as the ones I'd seen downstairs, eight and a half feet at the least; and when I sort of worked my lamp round inside that room I struck a bed that looked to me, under those circumstances, to be twelve feet long—I suppose it was really about ten—and lying on that bed was a man that made me think of the shapes you see around in different parts of the country on the tops of hills and mountains that the people of the neighborhood call 'the man of the mountain,' or 'the sleeping giant.' I never saw anybody like him anywhere, and I suppose I must have been kind of thoughtless and tucked my lamp against the door as I looked at him. He was lying on his left side with his back toward me. He must have been awake or else he was a very light sleeper, for that tick woke him up and he just rolled over as he lay on to his right side, facing me, and, all in the same movement, he swung his legs out of bed and dropped 'em to the floor, while he raised his body at the same time, and almost before I realized it he was sitting up on the edge of the bed.'

'And what do you suppose I did then?' I dug out. The fact is, I think it kind of upset me a little. I'm not accustomed to losing my head or my nerve, but this was something very different from anything I'd ever struck, and spite of what I'd seen downstairs the giant struck me all of a sudden when I did see him, and I don't believe he ever looked so big to a living soul when he showed in the circus—I suppose he must have been a retired giant who was living here in comfort—as he did to me sitting there on the edge of that twelve-



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foot bed. And if he was as quick and strong as he was big, why, gracious me! I wouldn't have been in it at all with him, and I just simply got out as quickly as I could.

'Taking off my coat when I got home something sagged against my leg, and reaching down I pulled that big spoon out of my outside coat pocket; instead of balling my bag with those big spoons and forks, it there was room for them, this one spoon was the one thing I brought away from the whole house. But I was glad I got that. It was a queer sort of a relic of a odd experience, and we made it useful, too. I bent the handle up at a suitable angle and we've used it ever since for a soup ladle.'

CHILDREN'S PLAYHOUSES.

Little Houses That Can Be Set up on the Lawn Without Trouble.

There are made nowadays children's portable playhouses that can be put up on the lawn of a house in the country. One house of this sort is 6 feet 4 inches wide, 9 feet 6 inches long and 8 feet 9 inches tall from the floor to the point of the gable. This house has one door and one window. The window is divided vertically in the middle, the two halves opening back on hinges at the side edges. The door has a glazed sash in its upper part, and it has also a lock and key.

These houses are built in sections and they can be put up in different ways, that is they can be set up with the door in the front and the window in one end of the house, or they can be set up with both the door and the window in front; the sections are interchangeable. There is provided for use with the house a veranda roof, which is made in sections of the same width as the sections of the house itself, so that these veranda sections can be put up together, making a continuous veranda along one side of the house, or they can be put up one over a door and one over a window. They are made also, for use with these playhouses, if desired outside blinds and screens for doors and windows. The gable ends of this house, under the roof, are shingled; the side walls are of matched pine, as is also the floor, which is made in two sections. This house can be put up and taken down in a few minutes.

A portable playhouse of this size costs \$73. There are made also, children's portable playhouses with two rooms, the second room being a kitchen extension; and portable playhouses are made with three rooms, the added rooms in this case being a kitchen and a bedroom. A three room playhouse cost about \$225.

All sorts of furniture in suitable small sizes can be bought for the furnishing of these houses, including chairs and tables and settees and various other articles in wood and in wickerwork, handsome little desks, and everything needed for parlor or library or diningroom, and there can be bought for kitchen and other uses the most complete outfit, including stoves of the most modern description and equipped with every sort of cooking utensils, and there can be had also little washing machines and ironing boards and so on.

The play house, in fact, whether it be of one room or more, can be furnished as completely as a house of ordinary size.

FISHING IN THE SNOWBANKS.

A Most Unusual Sort of a Snow-slide Among Norwegian Mountains.

A snow avalanche with very unusual results is reported from Norway. It gave the people of Christiania something to talk about for a week. The unique phenomenon occurred among the low mountains back of the capital on March 13. There had been an extraordinary fall of snow, and there came a big thaw, which melted a great deal of the ice in the little Lilledal River. A very large number of fish had their home in this stream, and what happened to them is the unusual feature of this avalanche.

In the night a large mass of snow on the hills on one side of the stream slipped from the slopes and glided with great velocity down into the river. The face of the avalanche was about a mile in length and for that distance it slid into the river, not sharing the river bed with the water, but

violently ejecting the stream and the fish living in it.

The force of that concussion must have been very great for the water and fish were hurled hundreds of feet. Next morning the people were very much surprised to find, high on the slopes of the hills bordering the other side of the valley, a great number of fish scattered over the snow. For some days there was most unusual sort of fishing in progress. Men women and children were floundering about in the snow gathering the fish in baskets, and the people living along the valley had all the fish they could eat without baiting a hook.

Accommodating the Babies.

'As usual,' said a lady whose fondness for the infant population has led her to establish creches and nursing homes, 'as usual, the Americans are ahead of us.'

'I mean they are introducing an idea that I shall hope soon to be adopted here—the establishment of what are called 'baby rooms' at the large shops and stores.'

'When the system is in full working order the American woman who takes her infant with her on a shopping expedition will be able to deposit it in a special department presided over by trained nurses and well supplied with toys.'

Here the cherub will remain in comfort while the mother is conducting her shopping in the trading departments.

That the system will be a boon to both mothers and infants there is little doubt. The mothers will be able to explore the bargain counters more freely, while the children will be saved the tedium and discomfort of waiting under frequently depressing conditions, to say nothing of draughts and unsympathetic shop assistants. 'The only doubt is whether the average mother will care to deposit her infant as she would an umbrella or parcel, in exchange for a check—for this is how the plan is to be worked.'—Tit Bits.

Provided With a Plan.

The leniency and forbearance with which tramps, street singers and others of like proclivities are treated varies in many cases according to the parish which they are for the time being 'working.' In some places street-singers are not allowed at all, and where a taboed parish is joined by others that are free, the street performer must look out to his bearings, particularly as the forbidden portions are usually the most well to do.

The diagram reproduced shows a portion of the street cadger's Ordnance Survey, and indicates exactly how far it is known to be possible to in safety approach the boundary.

Taking the five streets marked with crosses, we see that it is advisable to turn back on reaching respectively the pillar-box, No. 25, No. 34, the lamp-post, and the gate of 'The Hawthorns.' The names of the more important roads are filled in, churches marked, and attention called to places where constables are on 'point' duty. Such a map will be invaluable to a man coming into a new locality. But it has to be paid for.

The Trade Winds.

Blow strong since Nervilline is in the market. Nervilline is the great nerve pain cure. Its penetrating and pain subduing power is such that relief is almost instantaneous. Try it and be convinced.

Both are Disliked.

'Last 'turn' and first 'turn' are never popular, the former being disliked by artists even more than the latter, a gentleman connected with the variety stage told the writer. 'Going on in either position on the bill you find the house half empty; though, taking first 'turn,' you, at least, have the rest of the evening to yourself.'

'There is all the difference in the world, too, in the manner in which the two are played. A first 'turn' is made to occupy as much time as possible, for, you see, the longer you can keep on the stage the more people will you be playing to.'

'On the other hand, I once ventured to mention to a young lady doing last 'turn' that she took the work at too great a pace. 'And no wonder!' retorted she. 'If I don't hurry up all the confounded people are gone!'

FLASHES OF FUN.

'A prudent man,' says a witty Frenchman, 'is like a pin. His head prevents him from going too far.'

'I notice,' remarked Rivers, 'that submarine boat Holland appears to have a fondness for low dives.'

The following appeared lately in the agony column of a daily paper:—
'Dear Tom,—Come immediately, if you see this. If not, come on Saturday.'

Father: 'I wonder what makes that dog afraid of me! He always behaves as if he thought I was going to kill him.'

Son: 'I expect he's seen you whipping me.'

Mike: 'Halloo, Pat, how much did you pay for your new hat?'

Pat: 'Faith, and I don't know; there was no one in the shop when I bought it.'

'And what did you think of the Pyramids, Lord?'

'Hoot, I just thought them a great waste of good building material.'

'Henry, why do you smoke continually from morning until night?'

'It's the only time I get. I sleep from night till morning.'

'What a perfect idiot I am,' wailed Slumper.

And for the purpose of consoling him his wife absent-mindedly remarked:—
'No one is perfect, William.'

Snooks: 'I am celebrating my golden wedding to-morrow.'

Chooks: 'Golden wedding! Why, you've only been married two years.'

Snooks: 'Yes; but seemed like fifty.'

Prisoner at the bar (to magistrate): 'Your worship, would you mind hurrying up my case a little? It's almost twelve o'clock, and if I'm to go to gaol, I'd like to get there in time for dinner.'

Fortune-Teller: 'Your future husband will be tall, have dark complexion, and be very wealthy.'

The Caller: 'Now tell me another thing. How can I get rid of my present husband?'

Statistics: 'Did you know that we Britisheers smoke about five billion cigars a year?'

Doesticks: 'Haven't one of them to spare, have you?'

Mistress (greatly scandalized)—is it possible, Hunch, you are making bread without washing your hands? New Kitchen Girl—'Lot what's the difference, mam? Its brown bread.'

Pullen: 'I worked hard trying to get a government clerkship, but I'm going to take a good rest now.'

Pusch: 'You've given up trying, have you?'

Pullen: 'Oh, no; I secured the place.'

A paper advertises for a 'boy to open oysters with a reference.' Now, we don't believe a boy could open fifty oysters a day with 'a reference.' An oyster knife is the best thing yet discovered for that purpose; though, of course, there is no harm in experimenting with other things.

Customer (severely)—Do you sell diseased meat here? Butcher (blandly)—Worse than that. Customer (excitedly)—Mercy on us! How can that be possible? Butcher (confidently)—The meat I sell is dead—absolutely dead, sir. Customer (sheepishly)—Oh!

Mrs. Skim: 'Do your boarders pay promptly?'

Mrs. Syre: 'They did at first.'

Mrs. Skim: 'Why don't they now?'

Mrs. Syre: 'They've got so fat they can't get their hands in their pockets.'

Brag: 'What'll you take for the dog, Mr. Jumbo? I'll give you a crown for him. Mr. Jumbo: 'A crown? No, sah! Dat dog saved my life from gettin' drowned. Tink I'll sell him for a five shillin's? No, sah! I want six six shillin's, sah!'

What can equal the warmth of a true woman's love? asked the Dearest Girl. 'Her temper replied the savage Bach.'

Mark Twain comforts 'all hands' thus: 'Let us be thankful for the fools. But for them the rest of us couldn't succeed.'

A former Lord Mayor of London, Sir William Curtis, was extremely fond of the expressions 'This here' and 'That there,' which prompted a way to suggest this epitaph for him:—
Here lies William Curtis, our worthy Lord Mayor, Who has left this here world and gone to that there

'Which would you rather, Johnny,' asked the fond mother, 'have the measles and stay at home or be well and go to school?'

Rather have the measles and stay at home; but then I'd like to go to school too; said Johnny.

But why, darling? urged his mother. So I could give all the other fellows the measles.'

Irish Barrister (addressing the Bench): 'Your honor, I shall first absolutely prove to the jury that the prisoner could not have committed the crime with which he is charged. If that does not convince the jury, I shall show that he was insane when he committed it. If that fails, I shall prove an alibi.'

A Yarmouth captain who had a small coasting schooner lying in port decided to give a lesson to painters in general, by himself painting the vessel's name on her bows. He could not reach high enough from the float, and did not care to put out a swinging stage, so he reached down over the side to do the lettering. After finishing the job on one bow, he went ashore to view his handiwork, and this is what met his gaze:—YIGSWW.

Mrs. Tuppenny (as they pass the grocer's): 'Look how deliciously red those strawberries are!'

Mr. Tuppenny (untouched): 'Yes, they're blushing that such a price should be asked for them!'

Chemist: 'Bad to take! Not at all. It has a very agreeable taste. The children, sir, will cry for it.'

Customer (father of nine—hastily): 'Then give me some other preparation, please.'

Indignant Tourist (to the hotel manager, who had just presented his bill): 'See here, you have charged me for writing paper, and you know very well that you have not furnished me a scrap!'

'But, monsieur, it is for the paper on which your bill is made out.'

Poet: 'I hope you have received the volume of poems I ventured to send you?'

Baroness: 'Oh, yes I have—it is charming! I wonder where I have put it.'

Little Karl: 'Under the leg of the table, mamma, to make it steady.'

Mistress (to cook): 'Your name, Mary, and my daughter's being the same makes matters somewhat confusing. Now, how do you like, say, the name of Bridget?'

Cook: 'Shure, mum, its not me that's particular. I'm willing to call the young lady anything you like.'

Bilkins was seated in an easy-chair enjoying his paper, while his wife was busy with fancy work. Bobby, the four year old son of the household, on the floor, was fighting a battle with tin soldiers. Presently the little fellow tired of his play, and exclaimed, 'Mamma, won't you, please, tell me a fairy story?'

'I don't feel like it to night, Bobby,' said Mrs. Bilkins. 'Go and get your papa to tell you what detained him down town so late last night. That will be a fairy story.'

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Permanent Cure of Cancer.

Some twelve years ago Mrs. Elizabeth Gilhula, wife of the postmaster of Buxton, Ont., was taken ill with an obscure stomach trouble which her physicians pronounced cancer of the stomach and informed her that her lease of life would be short.

MRS. GILHULA. On the advice of friends she commenced taking Burdock Blood Bitters. The results that followed were little short of marvellous. Her strength and vigor returned and in a short time she was completely cured. Mrs. Gilhula is to-day in the full enjoyment of good health, and in all these years there has not been the slightest return of the trouble.

Here is the letter Mrs. Gilhula wrote at the time of her cure:

'About four years ago I was taken sick with stomach trouble and consulted several of the leading physicians here, all of whom pronounced the disease to be cancer of the stomach of an incurable nature, and told me that it was hardly to be expected that I could live long. Afterward the two doctors who were attending me gave me up to die. "By the advice of some of my friends, who knew of the virtues of Burdock Blood Bitters, I was induced to try it, and I am now happy to say that after using part of the first bottle I felt so much better I was able to get up. I am thankful to state that I am completely cured of the disease by the use of B.B.B., although it had baffled the doctors for a long time. I am firmly convinced that Burdock Blood Bitters saved my life."

Here is the letter received from her a short time ago:

'I am still in good health. I thank Burdock Blood Bitters for saving my life twelve years ago, and highly recommend it to other sufferers from stomach troubles of any kind.' ELIZABETH GILHULA.

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