

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1901.

## Bold Women

### Robbers.

'The public may not appreciate the state of affairs,' said the proprietor of an American hotel, 'but I believe that it is a fact that thousands of men are robbed every month in New York and few of the robbers are punished. There is not a night that I do hear of at least ten robberies in the district between Fourteenth and Forty-second street, west of Madison avenue. The majority of the persons robbed are merchants from out of town who come to New York to purchase goods. Once in while the merchant may be bold enough to go to the police and report that he was robbed, but in 90 per cent. of the cases the man robbed fears publicity and keep away from the police station.'

'This is due to the fact that all these robberies are the work of well dressed women, who may be seen any night walking on upper Broadway. These women try to flirt with the stranger as he goes from his hotel after supper to see a show or to enjoy a walk. In many cases the women have for accomplices men who are employed in doing odd jobs about hotels. These men report the arrival of guests who may be made victims and in some cases point out the guest to the woman who is to do the robbing. When the merchant strolls up Broadway the tipster points him out and tells all he has been able to learn about the man. Then like the bunco men, the female thieves swoop down upon their prey armed with facts and figures relating to the man's home, occupation and business. The girl thus informed walks up to the merchant and says in her sweetest tones.

'Why Mr. So-and-so, what are you doing in New York? How is everybody in such and such a place?' naming the town in which the merchant lives.

'She may follow this up by saying that she was once employed in a dry goods store in the merchant's native town or she may say she is the divorced wife of some of the men living there. She may say that she is the daughter of a prominent citizen or any other thing that she thinks will aid her in her scheme. Then she explains that she is in New York on a visit to a friend a schoolmate who is married and living here. Generally she pretends to be in a jolly mood, because as she explains her lady friend had her out all afternoon drinking cocktails while on a shopping tour. Incidentally she says that her friend's husband has gone to Chicago, so they have the house all to themselves.

'If you wish, you might call on me before you go back home,' she adds.

'As a rule the merchant invites her to a theatre or to supper. Then they have some drinks and if she finds that he has a great deal of money in his pockets she suggests that they drop in at some out-of-the-way place where no one will notice them. She generally says 'I wouldn't have anyone see me with you for the world, because the story might reach your wife and then there would be trouble.'

'The merchant permits himself to be jollied and coaxed until the young woman makes an excuse to leave him for a few minutes. When she fails to return he goes to pay for the last round of drinks he has ordered and then finds that all his money is gone. Of course he explains matters and is promptly told that the girl who had been in his company is a thief and that she would not have been served in the place had it not been for the fact that the manager believed she was an old time acquaintance of the merchant, having heard the merchant, discussing family affairs and gossip from his native town.

'Then for the first time the merchant realizes that he has been fooled and robbed. After thinking over the matter he comes to the conclusion that the girl is a native of his town and that it would be indiscreet on his part to try to cause her arrest. Cases of this sort are so common that I would be willing to make a wager of a thousand dollars to one that at least \$10,000 is stolen in this way every night. That's a large amount of money to be stolen in one night, but if you make inquiries of men about town they will tell you that the amount averages \$10,000. It is at least that sum, although the figures might startle the New

Yorker who has only heard of gambling houses and poolrooms.

'I know of one case in which a prominent United States official was robbed by a girl of \$500 the other night and I know of a case on that same night in which another woman got \$800 from a Massachusetts manufacturer. There were many smaller cases reported to the police, but the big cases are seldom reported.

'Just ask my hotel clerk about it if you want some information that would startle you. They will tell you that hundreds of men—remember I said hundreds—are robbed in the Tenderloin every night. Some of the robberies occur in hotels of the medium class and others occur in doorways, hallways, back rooms of saloons and cabs. It is an easy matter for one of these female robbers to rob a man after she has got him in a cab. Sometimes if the merchant is not tipsy enough for her game she drags him. Then she can leave him on the sidewalk of any dark street, for the cabman is ready to help her in the game. I don't include all Tenderloin cabs when I say this, but a big percentage.

'In conclusion, let me say that there never were so many women thieves in the Tenderloin district before as they are today. Saloon keepers, bartenders and the police know better than any one else that this is a fact. They don't bother stealing anything so small as a ten dollar note, but they look for bigger amounts. They believe it is easier to get away with \$1,000 than \$10. Men who are robbed of a few dollars can't afford to lose the money, as a rule, so they equal and in many cases get their money back. Then they do not care to make a complaint and the girl who did the job gets away. But if a man is robbed of a few hundred dollars he will not, as a rule report the matter. There are two reasons for this. Men who carry so much money in their pockets are men who can afford to lose it. Then, again, the majority of the men who are robbed in the Tenderloin are married and cannot afford to go into a court room and admit that they have been around town treating a woman whom they have never met before. The result of this is that the women thieves become bolder and often grab a roll of bills out of a man's hand, pretending they are joking and run away with it.

'The woman who makes a big haul in the Tenderloin tonight will be found in another part of the city tomorrow night. She may go up to the neighborhood of Fifty-ninth street and Eighth avenue tomorrow night, and on the following night she may go further uptown to the vicinity of Little Coney Island. On the next night she may be found in the vicinity of Fourteenth street, and the night after in Harlem. At any rate, she will make a tour of the town. This gives her a chance to remain away from the neighborhood in which she became acquainted with the man who was robbed. Sometimes she will go out of New York, to Boston or Philadelphia or Washington, and remain away for a couple of weeks. But as a rule she will not leave New York unless the amount of money she stole is very large. In some cases the amount of money is as high as \$5,000. I believe there were more than a score of such cases during the past year.

'When Pickett was captain of the Tenderloin he was in the habit of going through his precinct every night looking for female thieves, and when he found any of these women, it he could not get a complainant to appear against them in court, he had them taken to the West Thirtieth street police station and there he lectured them and told them that he would see that they were sent to Blackwell's Island if they did not keep away from this precinct.

Capt. Price did the same thing. But the old thieves have returned. They have taught other women that they can get money quicker by stealing than in any other way. These thieves frequent the smoking parlors and other dens in the Tenderloin and they are frequently met at the entrances to the big hotels. No one would believe that they were thieves unless he caught them in the act of stealing. They are all good looking, of ages ranging

from 19 to 35. They dress stylishly and they wear big diamonds and other costly jewels. As most of them are women of education they have little trouble in getting their victims interested. When they start off this way they generally throw the victim off his guard and then they have an easy road to travel to his pocketbook.'

#### Unexpected Interview.

The author of the book of Antarctic explorations, entitled "Through the First Antarctic Night," says that once, in those frozen waters, a leopard interviewed the ship's meteorologist, Arctowski. It was at night, and the scientist was established on an ice-floe, absorbed in his investigations.

The sea-leopard sprang suddenly on the ice-floe through a newly made crack, and then, without a sign of his intentions, crept rapidly over the snow, to examine Arctowski and his delicate instruments.

The explorer had no weapon at hand, and he confesses that he felt little liking for the teeth of the leopard, as it advanced and separated its jaws with a bear-like snort.

The man walked about the floe, the leopard after him. After making two rounds, the animal plunged into the water, swam round the floe, and then raised its head to get one more glimpse of this remarkable human being.

Arctowski made warlike gestures and uttered anathemas in Polish; but the leopard only raised its head higher and higher out of the water and displayed its teeth menacingly. Now and then its lips moved with a weird noise, which seemed to indicate a willingness to meet the new acquaintance somewhere down in the blue water underneath the floe, where they could talk over the matter without interruption. Finally the creature disappeared, and Arctowski breathed again.

#### The Parson Who Was Sheriff.

'Say, Weary, up in Maine they've gone and elected a parson to office. They've made him a sheriff.'

'Eh! Sheriff? Well, that makes me remember that I once boarded with a sheriff that had been a parson. He was a cute one, too. Used to hold services an' pass 'round the plate every mornin'. If a feller didn't chip in willingly the sheriff'd have him searched on suspicion. D'ye remember old Jim Slobington, the reformed burglar I wuz telling you 'bout? Yes? He reformed more times than you could count. Well, Jim wuz so much moved by th' sheriff's services that he reformed again an' give the sheriff his note for one hundred dollars, with two forged endorsements on it, to help the cause along. Jim had a good heart it wuz so derned tricky.'

#### Well Under Way by that Time.

Counsel (examining witness)—'You say you saw the shots fired?'

Witness—'Yes, sir.'

'How near were you to the scene of the affray?'

'When the first shot was fired I was about ten feet from the shooter.'

'Ten feet. Well, now, tell the court where you were when the second shot was fired?'

'I didn't measure the distance.'

'Speaking approximately, how far should you say?'

'Well, I should think that it would be about half a mile.'

#### Voice of Experience.

Sweet Young Thing—'I am to have my coming out party next week, you know. Tell me some of the things I must do.'

Miss Flynpe—(who came out several seasons ago)—'It won't make any difference, child. Your friends will all say you carried yourself like an angel, and the envious ones will say you were pert and disgusting, or that you didn't know what to do with your hands and feet.'

#### A Rise in Life.

'Since th' Hoolibaas got rich, I sh'pose they're 'rowin' on all koinds av shtoile.'

Murphy—'I sh'd say so! They've changed th' goat's name t' Nannette, b'gob!'

Easy—'Jinks has no faculty for keeping money!'

'Let's it go to whoever asks him for it, I believe!'

'Why, I am told that even his wife can get money from him, if he has it!'

Mrs Noorock—'That Miss Voicy talked splendidly loud in the box last night. We never had to listen to the play. Where did she learn the gift?'

Mrs Knowit—'She used to be a member of a church choir.'

## Evils Foretold

### for the Year.

At the beginning of each year prophets and astrologers and all sorts of folks with long distance vision start in to lay bare the future with so much confidence as the rhyme-makers turn out poetry in the first flush of spring. One of the most persistent of these prophets is a person in London known as 'Old Moore.' For many years he has issued in the latter part of December a publication called "Old Moore's Almanac." Just now old Moore is does not appear, but he has been in the business of making almanacs and prophecies for so many years that Londoners have come to look forward to the appearance of his almanac and its prophecies with something of the same interest they manifest toward the holiday season.

As a guesser of what is going to happen 'Old Moore' has been more successful than the majority of those in the same business. Indeed, many Londoners, practical men and women at that, have become firmly convinced that 'Old Moore' can see visions and dream dreams and that they will come true. His almanac for 1900 contained, among other things, the statement that one, and only one, European monarch would be assassinated during the year; that there would be more than one great war, and that India would be visited by a terrible famine. A man in the prophesying business can predict a famine in India in almost any old year and be pretty certain to have the prophecy come true. India rather runs to famines and a person with only short distance sight might venture on a prediction of that kind. It is rather a different matter, however, to guess that just one European sovereign will be assassinated in any one year, as was the case in 1900. Because of these prophecies and others which came true, Londoners have been looking forward with rather unusual interest to 'Old Moore's' almanac for 1901.

The almanac was issued about two weeks ago and, among other predictions, its author made the following:

'In January, there will be a formidable agitation in France and a severe attack will be made upon the Republic.'

'In February and March, most notable events will take place in the extreme east, and India will threaten to rise up against British domination.'

'April will be a comparatively quiet month, although there will be trouble in various quarters during the entire year.'

'In May, Ireland will follow the example of India and rebel against England.'

'In June, the Anarchists will again come to the front and will give the world much to talk about. During the same month the young King of Spain will be in danger from his political enemies and he is cautioned to guard against them.'

'July will be a month of catastrophes the whole world being threatened at this time with misfortunes of various kinds. Those who are planning to take a journey during this month will do well to remain at home.'

'August will be comparatively quiet.'

'During September India will again suffer terribly from famine.'

'During October, the Dervishes will start an agitation which may attain formidable proportions.'

'In November, the kingdom of Holland will attract attention by its dangerous and novel diplomatic policy and the statesmen in the various foreign offices will have to exercise all their skill if they would avoid a conflict.'

'In December here will be insurrections, revolts and strikes in various quarters of the globe. As a rule, they may not be of great importance, yet they will occur at this time and they will be striking features of the month.'

To the lay mind it might appear to be a somewhat hazardous undertaking to fix coming events with the definiteness that 'Old Moore' does. In his almanac this year he has located certain events in certain specific months, and if his prophecy in relation to January doesn't pan out, he is likely to find his reputation as a prophet seriously impaired. It will be seen that the almanac maker reverts to India again and another famine is to trouble that country. Since the Irish have always been

uneasy under British domination, it was comparatively safe for 'Old Moore' to predict that Ireland would rebel against England. Men familiar with the Indian situation, who make no pretensions as prophets, who have no clearer sight than officers in the British Army, have been talking for some time about the possibility of an Indian revolt, so that 'Old Moore' cannot pretend that this prediction is altogether original with him.

The prophecy about the diplomacy of Holland is, perhaps, as interesting as any of 'Old Moore's' prognostications, and the reports from London are that Englishmen are not a little interested in that statement. It is easy to imagine that Holland's sympathy with the Boers might be the first cause of diplomatic complications, but there is nothing to indicate at present that the policy of Wilhelmina will result in getting her disliked at the other courts of Europe.

'Old Moore's' prophecy of insurrections, revolts, and strikes in various quarters of the globe was anticipated as early as Dec. 31, 1899, by a New York woman named Evangeline Adams. At that time Miss Adams, for a consideration, cast the horoscope of Greater New York. She wishes it to be distinctly understood that she is no prophet, nor is she the daughter of a prophet. She's just a plain scientific person and she reads the answers to her questions of the future in the stars. A year ago the stars told her that in 1901 'the passions of men will be stirred and there will be uprisings and riots in which blood will be shed.' Miss Adams also said that 1901 would be famous for exposures of municipal fraud in New York, and would be noted for the scourge of disease which would affect the citizens of that city.

It isn't often one gets a chance to square a latter-day prophet's predictions with the events as they actually happen. It is possible, however, to do this in the case of Miss Adams. She put herself on record and the record has been preserved. For instance, she said that in June and July of last year there would be an epidemic of summer diseases greater than had ever prevailed in New York before. She added that a scourge of sickness would pass over the country and that death would be frequent and terrible.

As a matter of fact, it is pleasant to remember that New York wasn't visited by an epidemic of summer disease in last June and July and the scourge of sickness, followed by 'deaths frequent and terrible,' didn't pass over the country. She prophesied that October, November, and December of last year would be marked by 'many strange and appalling events,' which would stir up the minds of the people and cause a feeling of unrest and uncertainty as to what the morrow would bring forth. Except with a few persons whose digestion was bad, or who had lingered too long over late suppers, there was no special feeling of uncertainty about the morrow during any of the months mentioned.

Miss Adams made a particularly bad guess when she read in the stars that the close of last year would be marked by a great celestial phenomenon. She said that, on the morning of Dec. 2, just before sunrise all the planets, but one, would be in the sign Sagittarius, forming a grand planetary conjunction, a thing which had not occurred before in thousands of years. It is quite possible that all the planets but one were in the sign Sagittarius on the morning of Dec. 2. But the fact didn't disturb anybody and the phenomenon didn't attract any particular attention. Whether or not the conjunction of the planets presaged a war in which all Europe will become involved, as Miss Adams stated, remains to be seen. From the present outlook, however, Miss Adams' deduction from her star reading, that great municipal frauds will be unearthed this year in this town, stands a chance of being borne out by the facts. With all the purifiers at work, something of a sort ought to happen.

Trick-Trigger Sam—'Yes, we had a Christmas tree.'

What did you hang on it?

Trick-Trigger Sam—'Wall-Eyed Pete th' boss thief.'