

Worn thin?

No! Washed thin! That's so when common soap is used.

SUNLIGHT SOAP

REDUCES EXPENSE

Ask for the Octagon Bar.

Little Mrs. Blank

By CARL JOHNSON

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If the ordinary household is upset by a theft you can realize how much worse things may be in an English house where from twelve to twenty guests are being entertained and where it would be rank insult to suspect any of them. The only way out in most cases is to lay it on to the servants and to send one or two of them packing, with twenty pound notes in their pocket alongside of a rather ambiguous certificate of character. But that doesn't bring entire satisfaction. There is the loss of the money or jewels, the humiliation of the host and the public scandal.

When the hunting season was about to open on a certain year Sir James wrote to Abraham Croft to pay him a business visit. It was not Croft's first. As a private inquiry agent he had been made use of on various occasions, and he was known to be up in his profession.

"I shall have ten gentlemen and twelve ladies in my house for two weeks, beginning on the 3d," said Sir James as he sat in the library with Croft. "Here is the list."

"Good people," commented Croft as he glanced at the names.

"None better, but I don't want anything to happen."

"I see."

"Lady Sparrow, for instance, will be sure to bring her £15,000 worth of diamonds and wear them every evening at dinner. She's proverbially careless of her jewels."

"Not a doubt of it."

"I think the rest may look out for themselves, but you must act as a guardian in a way for Lady Sparrow. You will be assistant butler for the time being."

"At your service, Sir James."

"I'll bank on my own servants, but you watch the gentlemen's valets and the ladies' maids, particularly Lady Sparrow's maid. That's all."

Among the guests was Mrs. Major Blank, whose husband was in the

ness. Sometimes Sir James teased her into letting him lock up the jewels for the night, but they were often left to the care of the maid or to no care at all.

"Bound to be picked up sooner or later," mused Croft, "and I shall keep an eye on the maid. She seems demure, but I believe she knows a thing or two."

On the twelfth day of her stay Lady Sparrow got out her diamonds at mid-afternoon and saw her maid brush them up a bit. They were then left lying in their box on the table while the owner lay down for a nap before dinner. When she awoke the box was gone.

"Queer case," said Croft to Sir James three hours later. "I laid it to the maid at first, but have found that she can prove a perfect alibi. She wasn't even in the house at the time the box was taken, nor can I find that any servant was within fifty feet of Lady Sparrow's room. No one could have entered by her windows, and of course the thief is inside the house. We are going to have trouble to locate him or her, however. I've questioned every servant, and I can't say that I suspect any of them."

"But you can't suspect any of the guests!" exclaimed Sir James in consternation.

"Not in the slightest. It's a rum go, and I've got my work cut out for me."

Two days later he had still nothing to report. The servants had been questioned and cross questioned, and valets and maids had been given the "third degree," and at length Croft was satisfied of the innocence of all the underlings.

"Then it was some slick thief who got in despite your vigilance," reproachfully observed Sir James.

"I should rather say it was one of your twenty-two guests," doggedly replied the agent.

"But think of it, man!"

"Aye, I'm thinking, Sir James."

"Who among them can you possibly suspect? Why, sir, it's simply monstrous. I'd sooner pay for the jewels twice over than to hint that one of my guests is under suspicion. No, no, Croft. It's a queer case, and the thief was too much for you, and I'll pay the loss and hush up the talk."

"But I want to remain here for a week or ten days," said the agent. "I confess to being puzzled now, but my reputation is at stake, and I must try and solve the mystery."

He was told to remain and do his best, and that night as he lay in his bed he whispered in his own ears:

"It's dollars to cents that the jewels were taken by a guest. Now, who would be the soonest suspected and who the last? Let's say that Lady Sparrow stole her own diamonds, she being a seeker after notoriety. That charge won't hold, however, as she turned her whole baggage out for inspection and her fainting away when she discovered her loss was the genuine thing. Now, who is last? Why, little Mrs. Blank, of course. I'll stake all on her innocence, but I'm going to watch her. Her room is five doors away, and she says she was out on the lawn from 4 to 5 on the afternoon of the robbery, but let us see what can be turned up."

Detective Croft did something in doing nothing. He wouldn't tell Sir James or any of the guests his thoughts, and to have tried to watch the little woman as she flitted about would have been ridiculous. He therefore passed most of his time in the conservatory wondering where he could take hold of the case. On his first day he saw little Mrs. Blank enter the place twice and wander about and sing to herself. On the second day she was in and out three times. On the third day she slyly took from her pocket a letter which she read with considerable agitation and, woman-like, dropped it on the floor as she went out. She returned for it in five minutes, but Croft had possessed himself of the contents.

"Well?" briskly demanded Sir James as the agent asked for an interview that evening.

"I think I have found the jewels," was the reply.

"You think, but don't you know?"

"Not exactly. I have saved the pleasure for you. Let us go into the conservatory and look the door."

"Well?" again queried Sir James in impatient tones.

"You have several artificial plants in tubs, your honor, and this one in particular is so light that even a woman could lift it. Will you please have it out?"

Sir James looked at the agent in a puzzled way, but seized the plant and lifted it from the tub and then held up his hands in amazement. At the bottom of the tub was the missing jewel box with contents intact.

"You see," said Croft, "in three or four days more the box would have gone home with one of your guests."

"Croft," said Sir James as he laid his hand on the man's shoulder, "you must know the thief?"

"I do, Sir James."

"But don't tell me his name. I'll send him off with £50 in his pocket and not even read him a moral lecture."

"Right you are, Sir James," replied Croft as the ghost of a smile stole over his face, and he winked at himself.

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Chas. H. Fletcher

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Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is Pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. It relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. It assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

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The Harm Noise Does.

Noise is an undoubted factor in impairing the tone of the nerve centres. Whether we are conscious of it or not, it hurts the brain and has a deafening, dazing, bewildering effect on the mental processes. It tires the brain and tends to produce cerebral hyperaemia. To live in a noisy atmosphere is to shorten one's days. Irritability, neurasthenia, insomnia, are common effects. The tympanum or drum membrane of the ear is injured, the circulation of the cerebro spinal fluid is disturbed and the nerve cells themselves suffer as though subjected to mechanical violence.

Twelve Miles an Hour.

At the beginning of the last century the royal college of Bavarian physicians sought to forbid steam railway travel because it would induce delirium furiosum among the passengers and drive the spectators crazy, while an English quarterly said that it would as soon expect the people to suffer themselves to be tied to one of Congreve's rockets as to trust themselves to the mercy of a locomotive going at the prodigious rate of twelve miles an hour.

The Vivacious One.

"The word 'vivacious,'" said the cynical codger, "is the polite social term for 'gabby.'"

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TO BUILDERS.

Sealed tenders, marked

"TENDER FOR GYMNASIUM,"

will be received by the undersigned up to noon of

SATURDAY, July 16th

For Carpenters and Masons, separately or together, and for Wood Burning Furnace separately, for a Brick Gymnasium Building for the University of New Brunswick at Fredericton.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Plans and specification may be seen at the office of G. Ernest Fairweather, Architect, St. John, and in Fredericton at the office of Havelock Coy, Registrar of the University.

HAVELOCK COY, Registrar.

July 6—4eod31

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

TENDER FOR CRIBWORK.

Sealed tenders, addressed to the undersigned, and marked on the outside "Tender for Cribwork, Point Tupper," will be received up to and including

TUESDAY, THE 19TH DAY OF JULY, 1904.

For the construction of a CRIBWORK PROTECTION PIER at POINT TUPPER, N.S. Plans and specification may be seen at the Station Master's office, Point Tupper, N.S., and at the office of the Chief Engineer, Moncton, N.B., where forms of tender may be obtained.

All the conditions of the specification must be complied with.

D. POTTINGER, General Manager.

Railway Office, Moncton, N.B., 28th June, 1904. July 6—4101

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

TENDER FOR BUILDINGS.

Separate sealed tenders, addressed to the undersigned, and marked on the outside "Tender for Station, Stellarton," or "Tender for Baggage Room, Stellarton," as the case may be, will be received up to and including

WEDNESDAY, THE 20TH DAY OF JULY, 1904.

For the construction and completion of a BRICK STATION and a WOODEN BUILDING for Baggage Room at Stellarton, N.S.

Plans and specifications may be seen at the Office of the Station Master, Stellarton, N.S., and at the Chief Engineer's Office, Moncton, N.B., where forms of tender may be obtained.

All the conditions of the specifications must be complied with.

D. POTTINGER, General Manager.

Railway Office, Moncton, N.B., 28th June, 1904. July 6—4101

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Tender for Engine House and Office

Sealed tenders, addressed to the undersigned, and marked on the outside "Tender for ENGINE HOUSE and OFFICE, Pirate Harbour, N.S.," will be received up to and including

THURSDAY, THE 21ST DAY OF JULY, 1904.

For the construction of an ENGINE HOUSE and OFFICE at Pirate Harbour, near Mulgrave, N.S. Plans and specifications may be seen at the Station Master's Office, Moncton, N.B., where forms of tender may be obtained.

All the conditions of the specifications must be complied with.

D. POTTINGER, General Manager.

Railway Office, Moncton, N.B., 28th June, 1904. July 6—4111

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The greatest blood purifier and Spring Medicine for enervating and lassitude.

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INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

On and after Sunday, June 12th, 1904, trains will run daily (Sundays excepted), as follows:

TRAINS WILL LEAVE ST. JOHN

No. 6 Mixed for Moncton	6.25
No. 2 Express for Halifax, the Sydneys and Campbellton	7.50
No. 4 Express for Point du Chene	11.00
No. 26 Express for Point du Chene, Halifax and Pictou	11.45
No. 8 Express for Sussex	17.15
No. 134 Express for Quebec and Montreal	19.00
No. 10 Express for Halifax and Sydney	23.25

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN

No. 9 Express from Halifax and Sydney	6.25
No. 7 Express from Sussex	9.00
No. 133 Express from Montreal and Quebec	12.5
No. 5 Mixed from Moncton	15.10
No. 3 Mixed from Point du Chene	17.30
No. 25 Express from Halifax, Pictou and Moncton	17.15
No. 1 Express from Halifax	19.15
No. 81 Express from Moncton, (Sunday only)	1.35

All trains are run by Atlantic Standard Time. Twenty-four o'clock is midnight.

Moncton, June 9, 1904.

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(And Special Practitioner's Certificate from Chicago College of Dental Surgery).

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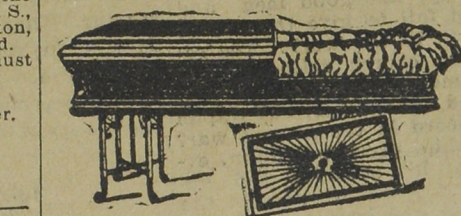
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The Point

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Use Big G for unnatural discharges, inflammations, irritations or ulcerations of mucous membranes. Painless, and not astringent or poisonous.

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SIR JAMES HELD UP HIS HANDS IN AMAZEMENT.

Fourteenth. She was handsome, petite and versatile, and she was generally spoken of as little Mrs. Blank. In a way she was not in the aristocratic set—in a money way. In another way she was popular, and it was the thing to invite her. Every hostess found her a valuable coadjutor in entertaining, and it the major never showed up and she flirted a bit with other men there was no one to speak ill of her. She was so mildly wicked, if wicked at all, that it didn't count. Of the twenty-two guests on the list she was the least known to Croft, and he was, therefore, prepared to watch her the closest. He had no sooner got sight of her, however, than he whispered to himself:

"I am wry off there. She's got the innocence of a baby, and it would be time thrown away to watch her."

Lady Sparrow brought her diamonds, and she brought a new maid, and she sustained her reputation for carelessness.