

BOLD ROBBERY.

Residence of W. G. Dykeman Ransacked by a Sneak Thief.

PROMPT ACTION TAKEN BY THE POLICE.

Colored Girl Arrested and Pleads Guilty to the Crime.

HAS A BAD RECORD AND WILL LIKELY BE RAILROADED.

Annie May Watters, a nineteen year old colored girl, with a very bad reputation is in custody on a charge of robbing the residence of Mr. W. Gilbert Dykeman Saunders street, and if she does not soon become a resident of Dorchester, it will not be because she has not made a strenuous effort to get there. The robbery was committed on Saturday evening and in less than an hour afterwards the ducky Annie May was gazing out upon the world through the bars of a cell in the police station.

It seems that Mrs. Dykeman left her home about seven o'clock on Saturday evening to call upon a neighbor. She locked the house up securely when she left and was naturally somewhat taken aback upon her return in about half an hour afterwards, to find the front door standing open. Suspecting that all was not right, she hastened through the house to the kitchen and was more than surprised to find a box colored girl, coolly walking out of the back door, carrying two large pasteboard boxes. Mrs. Dykeman naturally demanded an explanation, and the ready response of the visitor was that she had purchased a fish at Mr. Dykeman's store, and he had sent her to his home to await its delivery. The story, although told with an air of injured innocence was altogether too fishy for Mrs. Dykeman to swallow and she frankly told the girl that she believed that she was on a thieving expedition.

As Mrs. Dykeman approached she noticed the girl toss one of the pasteboard boxes to one side, but she did not realize at that time that her house had been robbed. After the visitor had taken her departure this suddenly dawned upon her, and stepping outside of the door she found several toilet articles, which she recognized as her property, scattered about on the snow where they had been dropped by the thief in her flight. Mrs. Dykeman then made an investigation and found that nearly every room had been ransacked. The sum of \$2.75 in cash was missing from her chatelaine bag; a fur collar was gone, and also several sheets and night dresses, some handkerchiefs and perfumery and other articles too numerous to mention.

As soon as she had correctly sized up the situation, Mrs. Dykeman proceeded to the store of Dykeman & Vanwart, and informed her husband of what had occurred. The latter at once called in Policeman Rideout, who on hearing Mrs. Dykeman's story and getting a description of the colored visitor, concluded that the theft was the work of Annie May Watters, whom he has long looked upon as the champion female sneak thief of Fredericton.

In company with Mrs. Dykeman the officer proceeded straightway to the Watters girl's home in Whitechapel, and accused her of the robbery. Although positively identified by Mrs. Dykeman, the girl at first indignantly denied the mild impeachment. The policeman was not to be put off in that way, however, and made a search of her room, where he found nearly all of the missing articles. On realizing that the jig was up the girl broke down and confessed her guilt. The money and some of the stolen articles were still missing, and she offered to disclose their hiding place, on condition that she would be allowed her freedom. Upon being given to understand that her proposition could not be entertained, she led the policeman to the spot, where she had hidden \$2 in money and this were recovered by him. The girl was then taken to the police station and locked up.

The prisoner is well known to the police, having been in jail no less than five different times on charges of theft. When only nine years old she was arrested for a series of robberies committed at the post office. By means of some sharp instrument she succeeded in opening the boxes and managed to get away with a number of letters. One of the boxes she had access to belonged to the Bank of

Nova Scotia, which institution lost through her a number of drafts, and no trace was ever found for them. Several years afterwards she entered the residence of Mrs. J. E. Colter, and stole a quantity of jewelry, which was found in her possession by City Marshal Robb. The girl seems to be a natural born thief, and although in custody a number of times, she always managed to escape severe punishment. The indications are that she will not be so fortunate this time.

Pleads Guilty.

The prisoner was arraigned before Col. Marsh in the police court this morning on the charge of theft. She elected to be tried by the police magistrate and pleaded guilty to the charge. She was accordingly remanded to jail until Wednesday morning. It is quite likely that she will be sent to the penitentiary.

Mrs. Dykeman is positive that she locked the front door of her house when she left on Saturday evening and thinks the thief must have had a key to fit the front door. Mrs. Dykeman says that a short time ago she had a dozen eggs and a pig stolen from her pantry and she now has reason to believe that the Watters girl was the thief. On a previous occasion she heard somebody prowling about in the yard, and on peering out of the window, made the person out to be a colored woman. At that time she made an unsuccessful attempt to force the back door, but was frightened away soon afterwards.

The articles stolen from Mrs. Dykeman have nearly all been recovered by the police. The list shows the thief to be quite fastidious in her taste. It included towel, night shirt, fancy pillow shams, tooth powder, perfumery, toilet soap, ruffs, sheets, handkerchiefs, etc.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Movements of People in Whom Our Readers are Interested.

Miss Bessie Armstrong of St John is here, visiting her friend, Miss Florence Whitehead.

Miss Seely, daughter of Mr. Alfred Seely, is at Toronto on her way to Cleveland Ohio, where she will be married March 8th.

Mr. Trimble Donohoe who underwent an operation at the Victoria hospital on Thursday is rapidly regaining his health. Dr. Irvine performed the operation.

Mrs. Harry C McKay, who was operated on for inward trouble at Victoria Hospital some weeks ago is soon to leave that institution.

GOING TO QUEBEC.

Capt. F. A. Lister, assistant inspector of military signalling for Canada, has been transferred from this city to Quebec, and will be requested to make that city his headquarters for the future. The captain is, without a doubt, one of the most gentlemanly and popular officers ever connected with the Fredericton military depot, and his permanent removal from this city will be greatly regretted by all here. He will leave for Quebec on Wednesday and will be accompanied by Mrs. Lister.

THE MILITARY SHOW.

The 71st regiment has been ordered by Lieut. Col. White, D. O. C., to furnish the guard of honor and band for the opening of the Legislature on March ninth. A guard of honor should consist of one hundred rank and file, and the Fredericton garrison does not at present contain that number of men, hence the call to the 71st to step into the gap. A detachment of men from the Newcastle Field Battery will fire the customary salute of thirteen guns.

AN ABLE PREACHER.

Rev. J. L. Batty of Halifax, occupied the pulpit of the Methodist church yesterday, and preached very acceptably to a large and interested audience. In the evening he delivered the annual educational sermon. The reverend gentleman is to lecture in the Methodist vestry this evening on "John Bull and His Neighbors."

LADIES' HOCKEY.

The Young Ladies' Hockey Club of St. John, will arrive here Wednesday morning, and at 8 o'clock that evening will play a match game with the Fredericton girls' hockey team. A large crowd is expected to witness the first ladies' hockey ever played in this city.

KIRK SOCIAL.

The annual congregational social of St. Paul's church, will be held at the old Kirk on Thursday evening next, and all Presbyterians whether permanent or transitory residents of the city are invited to be present.

LOST A SISTER.

Mrs. Harriet Jones, sister of Rev. Dr. McLeod of this city, died at St. John Saturday, of cancer after a long illness, aged 64.

CZAR'S CONCESSION.

Preliminary Arrangements for Sitting of Labor Commission.

To Ascertain Cause of Dissatisfaction Among Workmen.

(Special to Daily Herald.)

St. Petersburg, Feb. 20.—Senator Shidlovski, president of the commission, who has been appointed by Emperor Nicholas to ascertain the cause of discontent among the working classes in St. Petersburg, in a note issued today, invites the employees and workmen to elect representatives to sit on the commission.

Factory owners and contractors employing not less than 100 men, are entitled to elect fifteen representatives of different industries, and workmen in the various establishments, are to choose electors March 3d to elect 45 delegates to serve on the commission. Each establishment employing from one hundred to three hundred persons are entitled to choose an elector and those employing from 500 to 1,000 persons, two electors. Concerns employing 1,000 persons are entitled to elect one for each 100 men.

Men and women are entitled to vote, but the delegates must be men who have worked at least a year in the respective factories, and must be freely elected by the workers themselves without interference on the part of employers.

The note issued by Senator Shidlovski, guarantees the personal safety of the delegates.

SATURDAY NIGHT'S BLAZE.

The firemen were called out at eleven thirty o'clock on Saturday evening for a blaze in the brick tenement house on Carleton Street, owned by the Stewart estate and occupied by Mr. John Anderson. The fire was caused by the sparks falling down into an old fire place and igniting the woodwork. The flames spread beneath the floor and made considerable headway before being discovered. Considerable damage was done by fire and water. The loss will amount to about fifty dollars and is covered by insurance.

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