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WILES OF GEM THIEVES

GENIUS AND RESOURCE NOW MARK THEIR CALLING

The Day of the Clumsy Window-Breaking Jewelry Robber Has Passed Because Merchants Have Adopted All Sorts of Safety Contrivances—The Criminal Has Now Set His Wits Against the Inventor.

The "crook" of to-day who makes a specialty of jewel robberies possesses nerve and ingenuity which, applied to more legitimate pursuits, would assuredly earn for him a fortune. Of course, there is the clumsy thief with very limited brain, who smashes the jeweler's window with half a brick hoping to be able to decamp with a handful of jewels ere passers-by and the jeweler's assistants have recovered from their surprise.

And then there is the equally clumsy thief who enters a jeweler's shop, ostensibly to purchase jewels, and endeavors to bolt with a number, which he snatches off the counter, quite forgetting that there are such things as automatic closing doors, and that, while one assistant is serving there are usually one or two others seemingly deeply engaged in various work connected with the shop, but in reality standing in close proximity to the door, and ready to circumvent any such trickery.

The clever jewelry thief, however, adopts quite different tactics. Take for instance, the man who a short time ago, became known as a regular, if not a very wealthy, customer at a West End London jeweler's. He frequently made small purchases, and admired at the same time the most costly jewels displayed in the cases on the counter. One day he asked to look more closely at a certain diamond necklace which he had previously admired, and the obliging jeweler took it out of the case to show him.

After duly praising it, the customer handed it back and the jeweler would have taken no further note of the incident had he not happened to notice that the necklace had attached to it a tag of buff color. All goods in the shop bore white tags and he immediately surmised that something was wrong. The man was detained and search revealed that he had the original necklace while the other handed back to the jeweler was an imitation.

It appeared that during the several visits paid by the customer he had made a close study of the necklace as it lay in the case taking in the minutest details and from memory had an imitation made from paste diamonds, correct enough in every particular to deceive almost anyone; and this he had changed for the real necklace while admiring it. Had the customer made the small mistake of attaching to it a wrong-colored tag the jeweler might still be bemoaning the loss of a \$2,500 necklace.

This palming of real jewels and handing back imitations is a favorite game with jewelry thieves, and only by the greatest care can loss at their hands be prevented. An elaboration of this trick has, by the way, been tried very successfully both in London and in New York. A smartly-dressed woman with a pretty child—usually a girl—dressed up to a fashionable jeweler's and asks to inspect a selection of stones. Naturally the child displays a certain curiosity, which is apparently checked by the lady, who frequently admonishes the youngster with words: "No, darling; you must not touch these things. Keep your hands away."

The child seems so innocent of wrongdoing that the jeweler suspects nothing, and perhaps engages the child in conversation, and it is while so doing that he offers the lady an opportunity for substituting some paste stones for the real. Or, if a chance occurs, the lady will distract the jeweler's attention from the child for a moment and allow the precocious youngster, who, of course, has been trained for the part, to effect a substitution of the imitation for the real. And then there is the old dodge, still worked very successfully, of affixing a piece of cobbler's wax in the hollow heel of a boot, accidentally knocking off a ring or so from the counter, trading on it, and after submitting to a search by the suspicious jeweler and threatening all sorts of legal proceedings for indignity, walking out with the spoils, worth perhaps \$200 or \$300.

The half-eaten apple scheme is also an old one, but even now is worked successfully. The operator enters a store munching an apple, and while examining uncut stones, presses one into the apple, casually saunters to the door, and throws it out. Then he returns and buys a little something. His confederate on the outside gets the apple and the stone.

The umbrella-carrying thief is also another one to look out for. It is easy to sweep goods off the counter into the folds, and the alert salesman always keeps his eyes open to the stranger who handles a handkerchief while looking over goods but apparently does not put that article to natural use.

Perhaps Ignorance Was Bliss. Mabel—I have at last experienced the great, the wonderful event of my life. Yesterday, when the sudden failure of the electric light at the Blank's reception plunged the company into darkness, he kissed me passionately. Julia—Who? Mabel—Who? That's just what I should like to know!

There's much more to this resolve business than to simply resolve. Make hay while the sun shines; make love when the moon shines. By action we do many things that would shame us to place in words.

HOW TO RENOVATE PARASOLS.

Dainty Touches That Simple Needle-edges Work Will Effect.

If your last summer parasols are too dilapidated to use get them out and study their possibilities. Some whose covering is only soiled, not faded, may be cleaned and freshened by embroidery or a covering of net or chiffon; others may need at home by a skilled needlewoman, but if distrustful of one's ability do the embroidery first and take the frame and covering to a professional to be mounted.

Remember that the distance between spokes may vary, so in removing the cover mark a certain spoke with a thread and number the sections from that. In this way it will be easy to get the new cover in its right position. Cut each section from the old one, allowing a trifle more for seams if the edges have been torn. Baste carefully, fit to the frame, then sew the seams firmly, and the cover is ready for its embroidery or further decoration. This may be done before mounting or after the cover is firmly tacked to the frame. When a design is detached each section can be worked before the panels are basted together. For braiding it is easier to mount the cover than work with both hands, as on a standard frame.

A plain white linen parasol may be given a decided air by working in the panels sprays of flowers in eyelet embroidery or in solid embroidery. An effective parasol of white pongee has bunches of wild carrot worked in the panels. Two sizes of sprays are used, a bold one in every alternate panel, with a single flower on the others. The flower panicles are worked in French knot in heavy Roman floss, the foliage done in slanting satin stitch.

A parasol of pale gray linen was given a fine inch border of deep rose sewed on the outside of the parasol. The joining was concealed by a line of pink with pale yellow centres and green stems.

Any linen or silk parasol could be changed by adding a similar border in a deeper tone of its own shade or in a contrasting color. Harmonize the two sections by a conventional design worked in self tones. A violet linen cover could have a deep purple border and vines of clematis worked in purple shades.

Wanted Silk Hats Abolished. Some years ago an attempt was made by certain members of the municipal council of Courteuil, France, to make the wearing of a top hat illegal, the grounds set forth for the measure being that the sight of a silk hat is a humiliation to those who cannot afford to wear one, that it is both unbecoming and unnecessary as an article of attire and also, chiefly, because it is worn mostly by aristocrats who live by the sweat of the poor and militate against equality among citizens of the republic. A fine of 5 francs was the proposed penalty for wearing the condemned headgear, but the "topper" found friends at court, and the measure was rejected.

The Waiter Understood. They were lurching together, and the talk turned to superstition. "When you made that boast just now," said one of the party, "you should have knocked on wood to drive away the evil spirits that are envious of human happiness." "Is that what it's for?" "Yes. It's an old German custom. You rap on wood three times. Say, that waiter of ours looks like a German. Rap three times and see if he doesn't understand it." The other man rapped. The waiter understood it. He brought three beers.

An Old Banking House. Child's Bank is one of the oldest private banks in London. No. 1 Fleet street was once a goldsmith's shop, and he said it had been changed into a bank in the time of Sir Francis Child, once Lord Mayor of London. Even now the custom exists of calling the front of the bank "the shop," and the back, where the ledgers are kept, the "counting house." Another old custom kept up is that of three junior partners and two sharied partners sleeping on the premises in rotation. Thus one of the partners is always on hand if needed.

Consoling. Elderly Wooster—I hope you are not impressed by the silly sentimentalities who hold that because you've married once you ought not to marry again? "Pretty Widow—Don't let that worry you, dear. I've no such prejudice. My own dear mother was married three times, and I only hope that in all things I may follow her example.

What She Lacked. A superintendent of a Sunday school relates the following incident: The title of the lesson was "The Rich Young Man" and the golden text "One thing thou lackest." A lady teacher in the primary class asked a little tot to repeat the two, and, looking earnestly in the teacher's face, the child unblushingly told her, "One thing thou lackest— a rich young man."

She Surrendered. "Do you know," he said, "that every time I look at you I have thoughts of revenge?" "Why?" she asked. "Because," he answered, "revenge is sweet." Then she told him she thought tomorrow would be a good time to see papa.—London Telegraph.

A Slur. "See, I am familiar with your music," remarked the amateur at the musicale the other evening. "It seems so," replied the popular composer. "You are taking liberties with it."

Fast friends are all right, but be slow to trust those who are too fast. If they were all perfect June days, a lot of us would find fault with the weather.

SEEING WITHOUT EYES.

The Sense That Enables the Amoeba to Locate Its Prey.

Is it possible to see without eyes? Seeing is supposed to be due to the action of light on the retina of the eye, which sets up a disturbance. This is carried to the brain by means of the optic nerves. Let the idea of seeing be changed to becoming aware. An amoeba is at the bottom of the scale of living things. It is a very minute creature—a "bag of water," an expressive if homely description. A very thin membrane incloses a minute quantity of water which holds a dot, called the nucleus. The contents are liquid or semi-liquid, like white of an egg, and is protoplasm.

The amoeba has no eyes, ears, brain, nerves or any sense organ that can be detected in the new high power or ultra violet microscope, yet it becomes aware of the existence of food in the adjacent water at quite a distance. Suppose a man should be shipwrecked on an island and be the only human there. Let the island be five miles wide. In a year let another man be cast up by the sea on the opposite side. Then let the first man become suddenly aware that the other was on the island. This phenomenon would be comparable to the sensitiveness of an amoeba.

Suppose the food is an animal and seeks to escape the amoeba. It will find the job to be extremely difficult. No sooner does the amoeba become conscious of the presence of the other creature than it at once gives chase. Let the fleeing animal suddenly change its course precisely as does a rabbit pursued by a dog; then the amoeba "cuts across" exactly as does the dog, overtakes its prey and swallows it—i.e., wraps itself, its substance, around the creature, which is soon digested. Can this be called seeing in the literal meaning of the word? Whatever is the true explanation, it is now unknown to science.

Real Gems Made by Science. There recently appeared in Paris some diamonds having all the earmarks of the genuine article, and they were offered to a number of dealers at very attractive prices. Certain rigid tests were applied by experts engaged in the trade, with the result that they were proved to be slightly different from natural stones. The diamonds were believed to be manufactured by a synthetic process, but by the experts who examined them they were claimed to be genuine. From this, it seems, the secret of making diamonds is rapidly being solved, and it will not be long until this new product of the electric furnace will take its place with synthetic rubies, sapphires and other manufactured gems which are now sold in the open market.

The Spider Cheat. Many species of spiders are interesting on account of their physical construction or their habits, but the most curious specimens are probably to be found in the woods of Sumatra, and these naturalists call, not without reason, "spider cheats." This insect, in order to trap the flies, etc., on which it feeds, hides on a leaf and spins a web of neutral color, making an illusion so perfect that the prey not only does not fly, but seems attracted by the peculiar termination of the web on the edge of the leaf. This is a perfect knot in appearance and gives the trap the general shape of a miniature palm leaf fan with indented handle.

Guides In Japan. Once a person has visited Japan and engaged the services of a Japanese guide he exists forever in the good book and graces of the guide. Always at Christmas and frequently two or three other times during the year he receives some little gift. Japan is the only country in the world where the Government takes sufficient interest in tourists to take under its supervision the guide fraternity. So strict is the regulation that it is a rare thing for any guide to receive an unfavorable report.

Workman's Fortune. A fortune of \$400,000 was left by a Sheffield workman, John Smith, who died recently at the age of seventy-seven after forty-five years of active work which had never brought him more than \$80 a year. The foundation of his fortune was the sum of \$1,000, painfully saved in pennies and invested in stock of his employer's concern, which rose to a value of \$75,000 in fifteen years.

Very Young. A new member of the harbor board in a New Zealand town was attending a meeting for the first time, and the board was discussing a proposal to place two buoys at the entrance to the harbor. "I beg to propose an amendment," said the new member, "that one man should be placed there instead of two boys, as the latter are young for such a responsible position!"

A Dangerous Precedent. "I know a girl who made a two dollar graduation gown and captured a husband on the strength of it." "There's a good argument for two dollar gowns."

"The trouble is she caught a two dollar husband. He has expected her to dress on that precedent ever since."

London's Skyscraper. London's new county hall, the foundation stone of which was laid by the King March 9, will be nine stories in height, 750 feet long and 325 feet wide. This will make it the nearest approach to a "skyscraper" that London possesses.

A Wise Policeman. An Epping policeman is declared to have established the ownership of a stolen fowl by tying a piece of string to its leg. He followed it, and it went straight to the prosecutor's farm.

A hearty laugh will sometimes act as a discourager of wrath. Many times reformation is built upon a foundation of regrets. The tailor-made young man may be poorly made in other respects.

BREAKING THE RULES.

It's the Wise Man Who Knows When to Jump the Track.

"You trumped my ace," said the engineer accusingly when the game was finished and the postmortems were on. "Well, what of it?" tranquilly demanded the oracle. "Didn't we win?" "Yes, but according to all the rules of which?"

"We didn't break any of the rules regulating what you can and can't do. We broke only one regulating what you should do. There's a difference." "Nevertheless, according to all the rules of the best authorities?"

"According to the rules of the best authorities," the oracle declared, "we didn't have the ghost of a show to win that hand. It was my trumping your ace that made it possible—our winning. I broke the rules, if you know when to bust the rules, if you wish, but I played fair, and we won."

"In life it's exactly the same as in cards. Stick to the rules and you'll stick in one place. It's the wise man who knows when to break them. I don't mean breaking the rules of fairness and honesty. I mean the rules set up by the so-called authorities. I'll bet you when Alexander conquered the world all the old wisacres shook their heads and remarked that he wasn't observing the time-honored rules of warfare. We know what they said about Napoleon when he fought in winter, and we also know how vexed Braddock's men were with the red men who wouldn't stand up and be shot in the open, but insisted on getting behind trees."

"When you stick by the rules you're like everybody else and you'll never get your name in the papers. When you know when to bust the rules you begin to climb. There never was a successful writer or adventurer or soldier or lawyer who didn't leave whole wastes of broken rules behind him in his progress. And when the conventional old wisacres got a new set made to fit the new situation somebody else came along and spoiled them all over again."

"Suppose you have a job, where you don't need to think. Tradition has made it a rule that a man in that place shouldn't think. By and by you rise. If you'd stuck to that rule you'd stick in the do noughting job. The man who does the impossible, the man who gives us light and gas and printing presses and trolley cars and phonographs and such like things, are all rule breakers. They broke the rule of precedent, of tradition, of doubt, of fear. They wouldn't be stopped by what others had decided were limitations. They went ahead, and if the rules didn't fit the thing they were seeking to accomplish the rules went by the board."

A Good Storyteller. Lord Coventry is a celebrated storyteller, and recounts the episode of a conversation which a friend had with a Scoteman, who prided himself upon his ability as a weather prophet. "We're gann to have rain for seventy-two days, sir," said the prophet. "Oh, no," replied the other. "It only took 40 days to flood the world entirely." "Aye, aye," answered the man, "but the world was no' see weel drained as it is now."

Another of his stories is: Revision sessions were proceeding, when from an adjoining cathedral the bells announced the wedding of a prominent Unionist. The barrister (after listening for a time) asked: "What is the meaning of all this ringing?" and the reply furnished was: "It is only in honor of two Unionists embracing Home Rule."

The Great Ice Age. It has been known during a long time that in western Europe man existed during the glacial epoch. We now know that the great ice age consisted of different glacial times separated by interglacial times. In glacial times the snow line dropped 3,000 feet or 4,000 feet below its present level in the Alps, whereas in interglacial periods it lay about 1,000 feet higher than at present. Thus the temperature seems to have been higher in the interglacial periods than it is now.

Burnt Almonds. Burnt almonds are a confection of purely French origin, owing their inception to the gluttony of a French merchant. One day, tradition has it, Marshal Duplessis-Pralin sent for Lasagne, the inventor of many toothsome dainties, and bade him concoct a new bonbon. Lasagne searched, reflected, combined, until he finally hit upon the confection of burnt almonds, which were baptised with the name of the old gourmet, the French for burnt almonds.

Cause Enough. "When I was shipwrecked in South America," said Captain Bowsprit, "I came across a tribe of wild women who had no tongues."

"Mercy!" cried one of his listeners of the fair sex. "How could they talk?" "They couldn't!" snapped the old salt. "That's what made 'em wild."

Borneo Brides. In Borneo the bride and groom sit on metal logs before the priest, who gives them cigars and betel while he blesses them. He waves above them two fowls bound together. The bridegroom then places the betel in his bride's mouth and a cigar between her lips. They are married.

Gilded Eggs. In Persia it is the custom to make present of eggs richly gilded and painted. The Persians give presents of eggs on the first day of the new year, "because the egg marks the beginning of things."

The Answer Was Easy. Old Roxleigh—You must be less extravagant. How do you expect to get along when you are my age? His Son—Well, father, I suppose by that time I shall have your money to get along with.

It is a somewhat delicate business to deal out praise judiciously. After it is over there is not much sense in saying "I told you so." We would be in hot water if all the trouble we looked for materialized.

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