

# A BIG TREASURY THEFT.

## An Elaborate and Successful Scheme.

How a Package of 2,000 Ten-Dollar Notes Disappeared.

Referring to the completion of a new silver vault at the United States treasury department, a Washington correspondent tells this story: The system of guarding the enormous sums of money which are daily handled by the department is so thorough and complete that only once in the last fifty years have the repeated efforts of cracksmen and confidence men been successful in defeating it. The particular incident referred to occurred in 1870, when Spinner was treasurer. The amount stolen was a package of 2,000 ten-dollar notes. The objective point of the thieves (two in number) was the division issue, the bureau to which the freshly-engraved notes are delivered, to be counted and turned into the treasury.

Subsequent inquiry revealed the fact that the scheme for the robbery had been planned and matured several months previous, waiting meanwhile with the most commendable patience for a favorable opportunity to accomplish it. One day the wife of a prominent resident of Washington, in company with another lady and her husband, were passing the upper door of the room where the money packages were piled on a table to be counted. The first-named lady and the chief of division were well acquainted. As she came to the open door they recognized and saluted each other. She with her friends advancing into the room. While in the act of doing so one of the thieves forced himself between the lady and her friends. He immediately entered into conversation with Mr. Root, the chief of the division, making inquiry as to the manufacture, receipt and counting of the notes. Root supposed him to belong to his friend's party, and was thus thrown entirely off his guard. The lady, in turn, supposed him to be an acquaintance of Root's.

A moment later the two ladies, with their gentleman escort, sauntered carelessly to the further extremity of the room. The principal thief whose observations were clever and pertinent, soon absorbed Root's whole attention. His conversation showed him to be a man of fine mind and cultivated manners. While chatting thus his accomplice hastily entered and approaching the messenger whose duty it was to watch the money packages, made some casual inquiries about a clerk who had long since been dead. The woman turned about to answer his inquiries. At this juncture thief No. 1 suddenly exclaimed:

"Ah! I see my friends are leaving. I must join them."

Root looked in the direction indicated. Sure enough, the party were moving towards the door. His eyes were taken off the stranger for only an instant, but in that time he had managed to secret the package within the crown of his wide Panama hat, which he negligently swung in his left hand.

The amazing coolness and audacity of the man was then shown by his polite invitation to Root to go out and "have something." The latter, however, declined with thanks, and the thief made his exit on the pretense of rejoining his friends. The money was missed within the hour that it was taken, but there was no suspicion that it had been stolen. On the supposition that it had not been received from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, twenty-four hours were allowed to elapse. When the fact of the theft was fully established, the aid of the telegraph and Secret Service detectives was freely employed. The effort was futile. The thieves escaped with their booty, and have never to this day been apprehended. The most singular feature of the affair is that the stolen package was the only one of probable a score which contained notes of that denomination. The contents of the others were mainly \$50 and \$100 bills.

### How Clay Took Defeat.

The following interesting incident was related many years ago by Mrs. Robert Todd, of Kentucky, the stepmother of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, and has never before been printed, according to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat:

The Todds and Clays were always on intimate terms, and in 1844 were living near each other in Lexington, Ky. Henry Clay and James K. Polk were then rival candidates for the Presidency, the chances, as were generally supposed, being strongly in favor of the great Whig leader. As it turned out, however, the contest was much closer than had been anticipated, and finally decided by the vote of New York. There was no telegraph in those days, and news had to come by the slow course of mails. The New York mail was due in Lexington about 10 o'clock

in the evening of a certain day, and it was known that it would tell the story of a victory or a defeat. As it happened, a young lady relative of Mr. Clay was to be married on the same evening, and insisted upon his presence, though under the circumstances he would much rather have remained at home. Mr. and Mrs. Todd attended this memorable wedding party, which was not large, and composed almost exclusively of the family connections and intimate friends—all ardent Whigs, and of course deeply interested in the pending political event.

As the hour for the arrival of the mail approached, Mrs. Todd saw two or three gentlemen quietly leave the room, and knowing their errand watched eagerly for their return. When they came in she knew by the expression of each countenance that New York had gone Democratic. The bearers of the bad tidings consulted together a moment in a corner, and then one of them advanced to Mr. Clay, who was standing in the center of a group, and handed him a paper. Mrs. Todd aware of what it contained, fastened her eyes upon him. He opened the paper, and as he read the paragraph which sounded the death knell of his political hopes and lifelong ambition, she saw a distinct blue shade begin at the roots of his hair, pass slowly over his face like a cloud, and then disappear. Without saying a word upon the subject which must have monopolized all his thoughts, he laid down the paper, and turning to a table, filled a glass with wine, and raising it to his lips with a pleasant smile, said: "I drink to the health and happiness of all assembled here." Setting down the glass, he resumed the conversation as if nothing had occurred and was, as usual, the life and light of the company. But Mrs. Todd said that as soon as the contents of the paper were known "a wet blanket fell upon everybody," and in half an hour all the guests had departed with heavy hearts—feeling that the "Harry of the West" had fought the last Presidential battle and lost the prize forever.

### PICKING.

It is asserted that about a third of the banking done in the world is done in the British Empire.

The feat of transmitting two telegraph messages along a wire at one time was first accomplished by Dr. Gintl, an Austrian, in 1853.

Ratskin fur and ratskin slippers are a late London freak. Only the skin about the haunches is used, the remainder being too thin. Four rats are required for a slipper and sixty for a neck piece.

The largest dam in the world has been projected by a French engineer in Brazil. It will be 940 feet long and 58 feet high. It will back the water over 1500 acres, and irrigate 2000 acres of bottom land.

Among the things which the Mexicans do to irritate the bulls at their bull fights is setting life-size pith images loaded with lead before the animal. As fast as these figures are knocked down they spring erect, and infuriate the animal almost to madness.

A clock made of hardened bread is on exhibition in Milan. It is the work of a Peruvian, who, being too poor to buy any material for the work, saved his bread, eating the crust and using the soft part, which he hardened in a mineral solution for his clock.

The first use of a locomotive in this country was in 1829. The first iron bridge was unfurled on Jan. 1 1776, over the camp at Cambridge, Mass. It had thirteen stripes of white and blue and retained the English cross in the corner. The first daily newspaper appeared in 1702.

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### Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad Time Table.

LEAVE WESTWARD.				LEAVE EASTWARD.			
A. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.
Montandon.....	7:05	9:40	2:05	6:50	7:55		
Lewisburg.....	7:10	9:45	2:10	7:00			
Fair Ground.....	7:20	10:15	2:20				
Bell.....	7:30	10:27	2:30				
Vietsburg.....	7:40	10:35	2:40				
Millinburg.....	8:00	11:00	2:55				
Millmont.....	8:22		3:15				
Laurelton.....	8:23		3:40				
Wiker Run.....	8:27		4:06				
Cherry Run.....	8:28		4:25				
Fowler.....	8:35		4:47				
Coburn.....	8:48		5:06				
Spring Mill.....	9:10		5:30				

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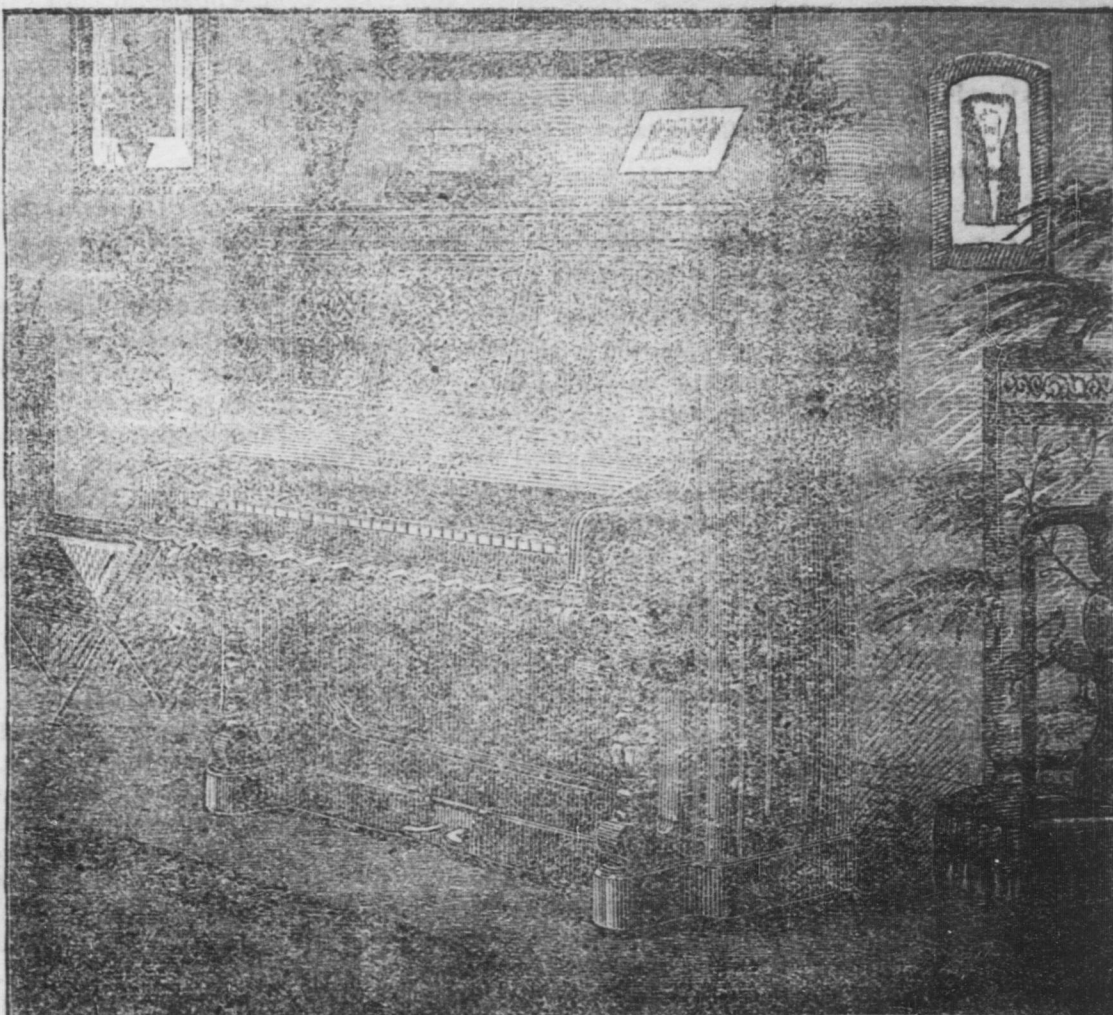
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