The Alarm.

"Burglars !" cried Mr. Jones.

"Burglars !" screamed Mrs. Jones. "Burglars!" screamed the Misses Jones. "Burglars !" screamed Master Jones, as one after the other lights flashed in the upper rooms, and hastily draped forms appeared at the bed room doors like the signal figures of a barometer.

Jones and son followed each other down stairs, one with a poker and the other with a croquet mallet, and the street door was found open, and a silk umbrella and two hats had yanished from the rack. Jones senior believed that he saw two heels vanishing around the corner and yelled "police," but only the echoes answered him; and, after a careful search of the house and lamentations over the hats and umbrella, the Jones family returned to their piliows, though each one declared next morning that he or she had not closed

"And the worst of it is," said Mrs. Jones, "they'll be here again. When burglars determine to enter a house they always do it."

"I know a fellow, who has a splendid dog that he'll sell," said Master Jones. "The fiercest fellow; bite a piece out of you as soon as he looks at you. I'll get him if you like, and we can turn him iuto the hall at nights."

"Thank you," said Mrs. Jones. "I'd as soon have my throat cut by burglars as to be torn to pieces by a savage dog." "But he'd know us all in a few days," said young Jones. "Pa, don't you think it's the best plan ?-the big-

gest fellow; you ought to hear him

"A dog is impossible in a city house with four feet of garden ground," said Mr. Jones, "but I'll buy an alarm and a pistol and keep it loaded under my

"Then I shall sleep elsewhere," said Mr. Jones. "No, I'll sit up all night, every night, uatil I die, before that

shall be done. "All women are idiots," said Mr.

"Allemen are crazy," said Mrs. Jones. "But you shall have your way and shoot your family if you like. That always comes of having firearms about.'

"Let them come in and murder us, then," said Mr. Jones. "I suppese you object to the alarm, too."

But finally the alarm was decided upon and purchased and attached to all the doors and windows on the lower floor; and two days after this was done Mr. Jones being obliged to leave home on business, congratulated himself upon his promptitude of action.

"With this alarm you are quite safe, my dear," he said as he took his departure. "The minute you hear it, open the windows and scream for the policeman."

Mr. Jones then stepped into the carriage, which whirled him to a train which conveyed him to a distant city. There he became very much occupied with certain important affairs, and when he had been absent a month for-got all about the burglars as well as all about the alarm.

The letters from home did not mention it, and so it passed entirely from his memory; and, as at last he found himself on his homeward way upon a night train which he had taken quite unexpectedly-for he had written the day before that he should not be back for a week-it occurred to him that his arrival would be a delightful surprise for the family. He had his latchkey with him, and he quite chuckled over the thought of letting himself in and being found snug in bed next morning.

"Won't there be a time!" he said to himself. "Ma'll scream. The girls-I can hear 'em laugh. And Sam, will pretend not to be astonished—ha,ha,

So, with his portmanteau in his hand, Mr. Jones, having reached his home, ascended the steps of his domicile and deliberately but softly proceeded to open his front door.

As he did so the alarm was sprung, a racket and jingle filled the house, and simultaneously Mrs. Jones, the Misses Jones, Master Jones, the cook, the chambermaid and the waiter thrust their heads out of the windows and screamed "Police !"

Almost as they did so two clubs struck the pavement and two giants in uniform seized Mr. Jones by the arms. "Ah, got you this time," cried one of them. "We've been looking for you

for some time, too." "Let me go," said M1. Jones. "I live here. It's'a mistake."

"Yes, I've no doubt of it it's a mistake," said the policeman.

"But tell them-tell them; let me offer proof," pleaded Mr. Jones. "They all know me; tell them it's Mr. Jones." "He says it's Mr. Jones," cried the policeman to a nightcap and shawl at

the window. "My husband is in Chicago," said Mrs. Jones.

But she peeped out nervously. However, she did not recognize her husband. Mr. Jones had left home in a tall hat and overcoat; but during his absence he had unfortunately purchased a trayelling ulster that touched his heels, and a cap. He wore both, as was natural upon a midnight journey.

"No,I never saw that object before," said Mrs. Jones. "Do take him away." "You'll appear to-morrow?" said the policeman. "You'll appear against him, ma'am ?"

"Decidedly. I shall consider it my duty," said the lady and shut the win-

Then Jones remonstrated with the policemen, and begged to have Mr. Smith next door called, and was told to

ed over; he attacked the policeman with his umbrella bravely and was totally defeated. He arrived at the station house with a black eye and a bruise on his forehead, and frothing at the mouth with rage; and was locked upafter having been recognized by several experts as "Tommy the Tapper," a noted burglar, for whose arrest a large reward was offered. His valise was taken from him, also his watch and pocketbook. He was shut up in a cell with an intoxicated tramp who had arrived at the stage of delerium tremens of which snakes are the favorite delusion, and who took Mr. Jones for one or several of them, and insisted on treading on

In argument and single combat with this gentleman Mr. Jones passed the hours until morning, when he was taken from his highly-perfumed sequestration and dragged through the black streets to a court of justice, where he attempted to explain matters once more, and was still explaining them without producing the slightest effect upon any one when his wife and son arrived.

Even then the ulster, the cap and the black eye deceived poor Mrs. Jones for a few moments, and but for Sam there is no knowing what might have become of the unhappy gentleman. However, Sam came to his rescue and the three went home together in a cab, Mrs. Jones moaning and wringing her hands all the way, and Mr. Jones threatening to sue for a divorce.

He forgave his wife at last, however, but he never forgave the alarm, which he demolished forthwith.

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'Son,' said a very economical old man to his fifteen year old boy, you have arrived at that age in which you will find snares set on all sides of you to entrap you into sin.'

'I must believe you, father.'

'Now, in order that you may be sure to avoid such snares and come out of half a dozen years of danger victorious and happy, I will offer you, besides love and affection, extra inducements. If you will be a good and obedient son, avoiding all bad company until you arrive at the age of twenty-one. I will then present you with a nice Waterbury watch and

"Father," said the grateful boy, "I

And then he got up and took his hat and went down to a saloen and borrowed a quarter to play pool with.

'Mamma, why is papa bald ?' 'I am his fourth wife, darling.'

'Nervous girl' wants to know how to cure a tickling sensation about the face. Get him to shave off his moustache!

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The 'thought reader'placed his hands on the man's head, withdrew it, and struck him a fearful blow on the nose. When the man got out from under the chair and asked the reader what he had hit him for, he replied: 'Just as I placed my hand on your head you thought I was a d-d fool, and I don't allow any man to think that, no matter if he's as big as a Coney Island hotel.'

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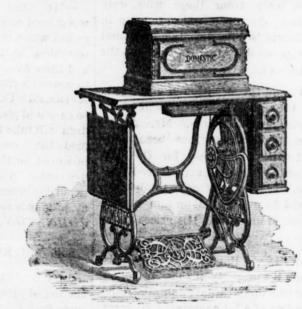
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