

Ballefonte, Pa., November 1, 1907. Tricky or Brutal and Vicious, According to Their Class.

METHODS OF THE "GUN MOB"

The False Arm Game and the Use of the Pocketless Overcoat-The Pipe and Red Pepper Trick-How a Gang Will Pluck a Victim In a Crowd.

"Gun mob" is simply English thieves slang for a pickpocket and his gang of confederates-"gentlemen" who reap an annual harvest of anything they can lay their hands upon in a crowd. Summer time, when race courses, athletic grounds and seaside places are crowded, is the pickpocket's favorite and most profitable season, and when an event occurs like a royal garden party at Windsor the light fingered gentry positively chuckle.

Twenty plain clothes detectives attended the last garden party to protect his majesty's guests from the tricks of the pickpockets, but the latter left Windsor richer by hundreds of pounds in spite of Scotland Yard and carried away with them the gold hunter watches of several of the titled guests.

At one time the modern detective was apt to despise the pickpocket somewhat, characterizing him as a low and not particularly clever thief. His ingenuity, daring and coolness today, however, "compel our admiration," to quote one of the cleverest detectives, "and we feel pleased when we lay one of them by the heels."

The British pickpocket's tricks are many and various, and he is adding to their number every day. The false arm game is one of the cleverest and is calculated to deceive a detective, even although he may have his eyes on the operator. A coat is thrown loosely over a false arm, which is held naturally. Apparently both of the pickpocket's hands are in view, while in reality the skillful fingers of one hand are going through the pockets of the man beside him.

The use of the pocketless overcoat, or the cape coat, which makes an entire cover for the hands, is an old dodge, which nevertheless is still popular with the pickpocket. He often prefers, however, to use a novel invention known as the sash method. The sash consists of a piece of black silk or alpaca two yards long and threequarters wide. It is folded the same as a neck scarf and crossed centrally beneath the coat and vest, both ends being brought under the arms and placed in the hip pockets of the trousers. When ready for action the "tool," as the man is called who actually enables him to conceal his purpose as he "fronts" a man to rob him of his watch or money if the latter is in his trousers pocket.

"tool." however, has other means of covering his hands without resorting to the aid of coat or sash. A newspaper or theater programme is often used. Beware of looking over a stranger's shoulder to glance at a newspaper or programme-a little action we are often guilty of when it only necessitates a turn of the head. You may be risking nothing, but, on the other hand, you may be seated or standing by the side of a professional pickpocket, who has only to hold the paper at a certain angle while you are engrossed in some item to cover his movements as he relieves you of your

The black silk handkerchief and hat are employed in the same manner as the paper, only the former is sometimes used in the "sling method" to carry a supposedly crippled arm. The manner in which that arm would rest against your face, as if raised to avoid some one striking it, while the other would excite compassion from the victim himself.

The pickpocket's most dastardly trick -but one, be it noted, which is only used by the man who is too clumsy to perform that sleight of hand upon which the clever thief prides himselfis that of blinding the victim with pepper blown through a pipe. The bowl of the latter is filled with a false bottom and second tube, the cavity below the false bottom being filled with cayenne pepper, while tobacco is placed above it. Approaching a gentleman in a light for his pipe, and while the victim feels for his matches he is suddenly blinded by a discharge of cayenne pepper, which the scoundrel blows the given name.-Los Angeles Times. through the hole in the bottom of the pipe into his eyes. Maddened with the terrible pain, the victim presses his bands to his eyes, and the robber snatches his watch and chain and decamps, to repeat his exploit on some other unsuspecting pedestrian.

It is not very often, however, that the pickpocket works alone, although women who belong to the light fingered fraternity-and who, by the way, are often more successful than menusually prefer to do so. Men thieves like to work in "mobs," for the simple reason that they can transfer the "boodle" from one to the other in a crowd. Consequently if recognized by a detective and arrested on suspicion there is nothing in their possession on which they can be convicted.

ens the risk of detection.

termini in busy thoroughfares are by Charles F. Peters, in Bohemian.

places where the pickpocket is always ooking for plunder, and a "mob" of four will often word together in such a crowd. A prosperous looking victim s selected, and as he attempts to board the car the four quickly sur-

round him, with the "artist" behind. The confederate in front uses every subterfuge to block the progress of the victim until the coup has been brought off, and while the men on each side hem him in and distract his attention with their bustling the man behind helps himself from his pockets. It is a trick which rarely fails with cool, expert thieves, although amateurs at the game are often caught through lack of nerve and quickness.

The "stall" or confederate will not allow any one who has been chosen for a victim to change his position until a peculiar cluck tells him the trick has been accomplished or unless there has been an alarm from an outside source. When more than one "stall" is used the other men devote part of their attention to watching any of the passengers who may be inclined to suspect mischief, and with their boot toe in close proximity to that of the "tool" they can convey a danger signal without fear of attracting the least atten-When such a signal reaches the "tool" he will desist in his attempt at plunder, and, though he has never turned his head to see who prevented larceny, he will completely luil the suspicions of the same individual by

his manner thereafter. Generally speaking, the profits of pickpocketing are not worth the risk. Occasionally thieves make a good haul, as in the case of the king's garden party already alluded to, but often great risk is run to secure a man's pocketbook, for instance, only to find that it is simply filled with cards and

memoranda. Hard cash is what the pickpocket likes to secure. For jewelry he can only get about one-half of what it is worth from the fence, while for watches he rarely gets more than one-fourth. Consequently the professional pickpocket must be industrious to earn a livelihood.-St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Dandyism Which We Admire. One is sorry for the dandies of our day, because, though their clothes fit ever so well and are ever so fresh, custom prescribes a dark or subfusk hue, with no lace, no velvet (above all, not on coat collars), no slashes, puffs and vandykings, no pearls and gold, no gules and azure. The common trousers are shapeless things, and for perfection you need two pairs every day. Genius is stunted, display is checked, and, though you may wear brilliant hose with knickerbockers in the country. glorious waistcoats are rarely seen except in the windows of tailors' shops at Oxford and Cambridge. The dandy can only cultivate immaculate neatness and perfection of fit. Our officers at Ladysmith when the place was relieved looked like skeletons, but were picks the pocket, places his hands be- as spruce and neat, I have been told. hind the folds of this device, and it as ever they showed in the park. They the celebrated novelist, who was said to have been the only man that shaved every day in the dreadful winter retreat from Moscow. This is the dandy ism which we admire, the perfection of personal self respect exhibited in Julius Caesar, Claverhouse, and Montrose, combing his lovelocks, like the Three hundred of Thermopylae, on the morning of his shameful death. He went to the gibbet "like a bridegroom his bride." History, and "the human heart by which we live," have an immortal tenderness for the great, the wise, the brave, who have died dandies as they lived, gallant hearts and stately gentlemen.-Andrew Lang in Century.

The Baby In the Sieve. Among the fellahin of Egypt, mystic land of pyramid and mummy, no man, not even Philip my king's own daddy, may look upon the new little arrival until the seventh day. Upon that morning the baby is placed in a sieve and carried through the house in a procession twinkling with smiles hand took your scarfpin and watch and lighted tapers, the wicked spirits whose curiosity may have been excited by his lordship's advent pushed into the background of life by discreet graft of grain and salt scattered along the triumphant route. Twice the procession pauses in solemn purpose, first to shake the sieve, thus insuring-with lusty wails no doubt-that the wee rider shall prove a fearless man, and, second, to hold the blinking cherub up to the sun to sharpen his eyes. After this he makes his first bow to the paternal presence. He is christened by the cadi sucking a stick of sugar canan ill lighted street, the thief asks for dy and allowing the drawn out sweetness to trickle from his mouth into the open sesame of the surprised youngster, after which the cadi pronounces

How the Artists' Model "Happens." Most of our models are not made: they just happen. Girls, in most cases of breeding and intelligence, want to make a little money for some special occasion. Some acquaintance recognizes that they have distinction and style and gives them the address of an illustrator who happens to need just such a person. They pose once in this way, more or less from necessity, find they can make an independent living in a congenial manner, and so come again. In consequence the women who pose for a livelihood in New York are exceedingly nice as a class. The prevalent idea that the words "artists" model" necessarily mean a highly paid, greatly petted and utterly de-Besides, confederates—or "stalls," as praved individual is ridiculous in the they are called in the vernacular of the extreme. A first class artists' model "profession"—are necessary to do that in New York city receives \$3 a day for little bit of hustling which makes the six hours' hard work. A photographic "tool's" task so much easier and less- model has of course a different proposition. She has shorter hours and Many are doubtless aware that tram higher rates.-From "Being a Model,"

THE GARTER.

insignia of the Most Coveted of All English Orders.

Although the most coveted of English orders, the origin of the Garter is really a mystery.

Conflicting authorities assign foundation of the order either to the 23d of April, St. George's day, 1344, or to the same festival five years later, while the popular anecdote associated with it is that at a court ceremony a lady-either the queen, the Countess of Salisbury or the Countess of Kenthappened to drop her garter, which was picked up by King Edward III., among the bystanders, exclaimed in his royal displeasure, "Honi soit qui mal y pense" (disgraced be he who thinks ill of it).

The reigning monarch is, of course, ex officio the sovereign of the Order of

the Garter. At first the garter was made of light blue silk, but that which is now given is made of dark blue velvet. It is worn on the left leg a little below the

The Order of the Garter as an order of chivalry has a very deep religious significance. It is, or should be, attended by religious ceremonies of a very precise and ornate character, and it was reported in Victoria's reign that a certain nobleman hesitated as to accepting the honor on account of its having been conferred on an oriental potentate.-Philadelphia North Ameri-

Return of the Prodigal With Money

CAME TO STAY.

and a Large Check. Old home week had come, and the returned sons and grandsons were gathered together. One after another they rose and told with pardonable pride their achievements in the great world, impressing their importance on the stay at homes. At length Mr. Jameson spoke:

"I went away from here twenty years ago a poor young man, with only one solitary dollar in my pocket. I walked the four miles from my father's farm to the station, and there I begged a ride to Boston on a freight car. Last night I drove into town behind a spirited pair of horses, and my purse-guess how much my purse holds in money today, besides a large check," and Mr. Jameson looked about him with a smile.

"Fifty dollars!"

"Seventy-five!" "A hundred!" shouted the boys, filled

with admiration. "No," said Mr. Jameson, drawing a large, flat purse from his pocket when the clamor had subsided, "none of you has guessed right. When I had paid the 25 cents to Ozzy Boggs for my refreshing drive in the coach I had, be sides my trunk check (which I retained for financial reasons), exactly 4 cents. I have come back, my friends, and splitting will be gratefully received."-Woman's Home Companion.

At an early period, and indeed well toward the beginning of modern history, proper names told something as to paternity, occupation and habitation. Today they are quite colorless. A new Ulysses would no longer be Laertides. No Peter indicates that he is the son of Paul. A Carpenter or a Weaver is likely to be a lily fingered stockbroker. Even the place names, complains the Nation, have pretty much disappeared, except in the case of nobility, and since the average gen tle family has not for years lived or its titular estates or perhaps has had none at all our new Gastons de Foix give us a name as sapless as John

A Knockdown Argument. A suburban school just opening for and country children. The teacher se lected eight boys to debate the subject "Which Is Preferable, Country or City Life?"

Jones.-London Chronicle.

After they had read many arguments with much enthusiasm Country Hugh iaid down his paper and said: "Mr. President, they don't know what they're talkin' about. The city boy knows nothin' about 'going to town,' and that beats anything I know."-Ladies' Home Journal.

The Old Romans.

Do you know that the Roman mortar was harder than the stones which it held together? It is a remarkable thing that we do not know how to make mortar like that now. And what an eye those old Romans had for position! It is a pity that some historical writer doesn't write a romance with Julius Caesar as the central figure. Shakespeare seems to be the only author who has done anything of that sort really well.-London Captain.

Cold Comfort. "I have no money," the man com

plained. "You have been given." responded Jupiter, "a sense of humor instead." "To what end?" "That you may enjoy watching those

who have."-Editor.

Miss Blondlock-How dare you tell people my hair is bleached? You know it is false? Miss Ravenwing-Yes. dear; I know it is. I told them it was bleached before you got it.-London Telegraph.

His Version. Sunday School Teacher-Freddy, do you remember the precept about sparing the rod? Small Freddy-Yes, ma'am. Spare the rod and lose the fish .- New York Globe.

AN ALL DAY CIGAR.

The Kind Smoked by a Tribe of South American Indians.

Cigars a foot and a half long, which are made for one day's smoking, are rattler rarely gives its characteristic shown in the American Museum of Natural History. With them is a hold-er which looks like a tuning fork and its terminal appendage is probably deis large enough to be used for pitch- signed more to assist this very sluging hay.

Far up the Rio Nigra, a tributary of the Amazon, two explorers made a col- first place, serpents possess but the lection of articles for the museum. The Indians there made cigars eighteen inches long and as big around as a child's arm. One of these cigars is who, observing a disposition to laugh too much for any ease loving man to clasp, so the Indians put the fragrant roll between the tines of a fork two and a half feet long, stick the sharp end of the handle into the ground at a convenient distance from their hammocks and take a puff from time to and forward.

There are many other picturesque articles in the collection, which was from the coast. The material is of the German museum.-New York Herald.

STEAMSHIP NAMES.

The Way They Are Shortened In the Companies' Offices.

pronunciation may be the name of a mura, Japan, all the male inhabitants steamer, the passenger agents and above the age of fifteen years were asclerks of the various steamship lines sembled in front of the local Shinto make an effort to be correct in using it shrine at the call of the village chief. when selling tickets to customers. Oc- A thief had been making depredations casionally they make a slip of the in the local tobacco plantations, and tongue and call the steamer by the the chief sought to discover him. Outnickname used in the office when pas- lines of the feet of all the villagers sengers are not around. The steamers of the Atlantic Transport line, the Min- then these were compared with the neapolis, the Minnetonka and the Min- tracks left by the thief in the tobacco nehaha, are referred to generally as fields. Nothing resulted from this exthe "Minnies." Individually the Min- periment. The next day the inhabitnetonka is called the "Tonk" and the ants were called together again. A Mesaba the "Mes." The Red line Va- great hole was dug in the ground, and derland is called "Father," the Finland a raging charcoal fire was built in it. the "Fin" and the Kroonland and the All persons present were ordered to Zeeland the "Kroon" and the "Zee." respectively. The prefix St. is dropped when reference is made to the St. be burned except the guilty one. All Paul; the St. Louis is called "Looie" advanced to undergo the ordeal except and the Philadelphia is called the one, Shukichi Shibata, a man of evil "Phillie." The North German Lloyd reputation. He declined to trust his liner Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse in the feet to the redhot coals. Accordingly parlance of the office force is the "Big he was arrested and soon confessed Bill" and the Kaiser Wilhelm II. is his guilt. "Billy Two."-New York Tribune.

THE MUSSULMANS.

They Are Not Easily Disturbed While Saying Their Prayers.

When saying his prayers the true Mussulman is not easily disturbed. Hans Doering, in his account of his travels in Chinese Turkestan, writes: "It is an interesting sight to see a Mussulman perform his devotions. Through the piece of glass in my pacultivated self respect, like Stendhal, to stay. Any little jobs of sawing per window I saw the interpreter spread his carpet in front of his house just opposite the one in which I was living. His wife and child sat quite close to him talking loudly with some visitors, but this did not in the least disturb the old man at his devotions.

"In spite of the noise" the melodious chanting of the Koran was quite audible. The worshiper kotowed several times and cried 'Allah, Allah, Allah!" then for awhile stood reverentially clasping his hands crosswise upon his breast, after which he joined in the conversation.

"His wife then went through the same performance, doing exactly the same as her husband. This they do every morning and evening whether there are friends with them or not."

Blindness of Conceit.

"Ever notice the density of a conceited person?" asked a business man. "To me that's the most striking thing about such an individual. Maybe he the season was composed of both city! has some qualities that justify his good opinion of himself, and maybe not. He's dense just the same, and the proof of it is that he doesn't realize how he impresses his associates unpleasantly. If the average conceited man had the least idea of the handicap under which he is laboring he'd shed it mighty quick. But he hasn't, and it's impossible to drill it into him. He's the modern human ostrich, with his head stuck into the sand, so far as any recognition of his disagreeable trait is concerned."-New York Press.

Half Understood.

"What are you reading, Marian?" asked mamma of a little girl with her head bent down under a heavy volume in her lap. "'The Wide Awake World,' mam-

"Gracious, child?" interrupted a big sister. "You can't understand more

than half of that book." Marian looked at the speaker with dignity. "I read it for the half I do understand," she said .- St. Louis Republic.

Trust.

"Here you went and told me you would trust Beasley with your life, and on the strength of that I loaned him \$10 that now you tell me I'll never get."

"Well, what of it? I said I'd trust him with my life, and I would. Beasley may be a beat, but he is no assassin."-Cincinnati Enquirer.

Preserving Her Bridges. Mrs. Gossip-Mrs. Richleigh nas so much embonpoint, hasn't she? Mrs. that jib sheet. Unenthusiastic Land-Someup (ludicrously)-Well, now, she lubber (who has been decoyed into actmight have if she wasn't so fat.-Bal- ing crew)-I'm not touching the beasttimore American.

The best portraits are those in which there is a slight mixture of caricature. -Macaulay.

THE RATTLER.

It Rarely Sounds Its Note of Warning Until Attacked

Contrary to the general belief, the note of warning until actually attackgish serpent to obtain its food than to sound defiance or warning. In the most rudimentary traces of auditory apparatus and are practically deaf, the deficiency in the sense of hearing being compensated for by an extreme sensitiveness of feeling which makes them aware of the approach of moving objects by the vibration of the ground.

Hunters, treading cautiously upon a soft carpet of moss or leaves to avoid alarming game, will often step close to or over a rattler without disturbing time as they sway lazily backward it or receiving warning, and while many snakes are seen and killed by them it is probable that a far greater number are passed by unnoticed. All made during a three months' journey snakes are timid and would rather run than fight, and the rattler is not invithighest value, and nothing like it has ing certain destruction by advertising been seen except a few articles in a its whereabouts in the brush .-- Francis Metcalfe in Outing Magazine.

CAUGHT THE THIEF.

An Incident Which Illustrates Japanese

Detective Methods. No matter how long or difficult of Recently in the village of Taharawere taken on sheets of paper, and walk through the fire barefooted, it being declared that no person would

FICTION AND FACT.

The Message In the Story Book and In Real Life.

In a magazine. "I don't like you any more." Harold Hoplite looked up at the quaint figure-a boy of six, with a mouth smeared with huckleberry pie.

Harold was glum. "I don't like you any more."

"Why?" "'Cause you made sister cry.' "Ethel cry! I didn't-I couldn'tmake her cry.'

"Well, she's crying now when you said nothing when you walked away. Why didn't you say by-by and kiss her when you're going away? I always do.'

"I will! Right now!" And Harold hastened back to make up the lovers' quarrel.

In real life: "Say, sister gave me a piece of pie to come down and see if you'd gone and if you hadn't to try to get you back past where she was sitting on the porch getting ready to be crying." "Oh!"-New York American.

The Spleen as Food. In France and Italy many persons eat the spleen, what we call in French "ratte." I have eaten it myself. Generally from a pig it weighs about eight ounces, and it is situated on the right side of the pig, touching the liver. A spleen from a cow or bull weighs about two pounds, but is a little more spongy than the pig's spleen, which is the best. If some one should start the fashion we would after awhile pay 75 cents a portion in first class restaurants, especially if some person of mark should start the habit .-- Chef Va-

The Modern Turkish Woman. The modern Turkish woman receives a far better education than many of her western sisters. When the latter is busy visiting, going to concerts or even indulging in sports the oriental within the barred windows of her harem follows these movements in spirit. With a knowledge of seven languages, three oriental and four European, foreign governesses and as many books as she requires little escapes her

lere Braguehais in Letter to New York

Lightning as She Saw It. While little Gertrude was looking out of a window during a thunderstorm she saw a flash of lightning play along a telegraph wire.
"Oh, mamma," she exclaimed. "I

attention.-London Strand.

just saw a piece of the sun fall down from the sky!"-New York Press.

Matrimony's Small Change. In olden times it took a broken sixpence to plight the troth of two fond hearts in proper style. These days it's the lover who is broke. But he is much the same old sixpence.-Puck.

Enthusiastic Amateur Sailor-Let go ly thing!-Punch.

The average elevation of North America is 1.350 feet and of South America 1,200 feet.

STATE PAWNSHOPS.

French Rate Is 7 Per Cent-Sometimes No Interest Is Charged.

With none of the timidity or hesitation or the shamefaced aspect of our user of pawnshops does the Parisian perform his journey to the money lender. Far from feeling, after the door has closed behind him, that he is in the country of the enemy, the Frenchman can have his patriotic ardor at its highest, for over the pawnshop flies the tricolor of France instead of the gilded balls, and the guard at the door is a helmeted, white gloved republican guard. The customary whispering as the borrower exchanges goods for cash is unknown. Borrowing is a business

transaction with the government. It is not out of appreciation of these conditions, of course, that 7,000 people daily visit the municipal pawnshops. but their business trip includes a knowledge of the fact that whatever profits will accrue to the establishments will finally go back to the peo-

There is no haggling, says a writer in the Philadelphia Record. On jewelry four-fifths of the value of the object can be secured; on the other articles two-thirds. The interest is 7 per cent per annum. Should a borrower be in the unfortunate position of having paid interest for many years without being able to release the article the authorities will return it. When interest has not been paid the object in question goes to the auction, and then the righteousness of Paris pawnbroking is decidedly in evidence, for after the sale has been consummated and the original loan and interest are deducted from the money secured by the sale the surplus goes to the borrower. Should the money remain unclaimed it is turned over to the Paris hospitals, and, curlously enough, these hospitals profit to the extent of 100,-000 francs a year.

When one has made a study of French pawnbroking laws it is easily seen that the first object served by these laws is to protect people who want immediate money advantages. France (and we may say France, for municipal pawnbroking is to be found in every corner of the country) cares little that many transactions are carried on at a loss. In one year of some 2,000,000 pawned articles in Paris 1,000,000 were effected at a loss, since no auction will bring a complete return on small objects. Of course this is offset by the return frem loans on the other million articles, but should there be a deficiency the municipality has no hesitation in going down in its pockets and thus has an indirect mode of taxing the well to do to support the needy. Since no country has raised a cry against charity, this, as one form of it, can be passed without criticism. The fact is, money is lost on all loans

under 20 francs. The capital of the pawnshops consists of legacies, gifts and subventions of the state, department or the commune. Occasionally, as at Grenoble and Montpellier, the establishments are so well endowed that no interest is charged. Paris, for no unfathomable reasons, does the largest pawnbroking business on the continent, +34,000,000 francs being the average vearly pledges and 30,000,000 francs redeem-

ed. The total revenue is 4,000,000 francs, the expense of management 1,500,000 francs, the interest on capital about 1,500,000 francs and the net profits 150,000 francs.

A Resourceful Legislator. "It will be impossible for us to transact any public business tonight," said the president of the city council, "because of the lack of a quorum."

"Mr. Chairman," said the new member, arising quickly, "I have been elected on a pledge to my constituency that I shall work untiringly and unceasingly for the upbuilding and uplifting of our city, and I now and here move that a committee be appointed to consider the immediate purchase of as good a quorum as the market affords and that the committee be instructed to secure the quorum and have it properly installed by the next meeting night. And furthermore." he said, with a fine patriotic touch, "let us obtain a good American quorum and not one of those ancient Roman things!"-Success Magazine.

In the Swim.

A serious accident happened at the supper table. Somebody-it's always 'somebody" who is to blame-upset a pitcher of water over the cloth. There was a general scampering and a calling for somebody to remedy the mischief.

"How could you be so careless, Tom?" cried Freddie indignantly. "Never mind, my boy," replied Tom, in his airy way. "It's all right. We're all in the swim now."-St. Louis Republic

Tommy-I did wash my face. Mother-How dare you tell me that? Why, it's just as dirty as ever. Tommy-Well, I washed it, but maybe it didn't take. You know my vaccination didn't the first time.-Philadelphia Press.

Maybe It Didn't.

A Case of Disbelief. Bill-You look bad, Jim. Been laid up? Jim-Today's the first time out

of doors for three months. Bill-What was the matter with you? Jim-Nothin', but the magistrate would not believe it.-London Telegraph. The Easy Part.

"The doctor says you must stop eating meat and drinking whisky." "Well," replied the major, "meat never did agree with me."-Atlanta Constitution.

The best farming lands in Siberia ere those nearest to China.