

### RAINDROPS.

The raindrops fell—each drop a living soul;  
Joyfully they left their cloud home,  
Rushing downward, through the unknown.

And some fell on the parched ground,  
And gave new life to the grass;  
And some into stately, grand-souled  
rivers, and were one with them;  
And some into laughing streams, leapt  
and danced their lives through;  
And some into the deep, wild ocean;  
And some into stagnant pools—the  
quick-souled raindrops.

And when they were tired the wind  
stooped down and carried the  
raindrops home.

—Margaret Crowell, in Lippincott's.

### Gentleman Jim's Last Job

BY HENRY RAVENCOFT.

For years I have been a professional roger, living by the exercise of my wits, whenever I saw an opportunity to transfer the property of some unsuspecting individual to my own possession.

My pals know me as "Gentleman Jim," because I have always dressed in fashionable garb and tried to appear, in actions and speech, a cultured gentleman.

It is not necessary for the purpose of my narrative that I should name the exact locality where my last adventure took place. If you know, you don't need to be told; if you don't know, the information would do you no good; and therefore it will be sufficient for me to say that it was in a thriving town in Hampshire County, Massachusetts.

In traveling about the country, on a prospective tour, I came to the busy town in question, and found, among other things, that it contained a flourishing bank, built of stone, a story and a half in height, standing on a small plot of ground, entirely detached from any other structure.

Some casual remarks and inquiries, judiciously made, revealed the fact that it contained a burglar-proof safe in a stone vault, and that it usually contained deposits ranging in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million of dollars.

It was regarded as a place in every way so secure against intruders as not even to need the services of a night-watchman; and this belief in its impregnability pleased me very much, because of the increased safety we should have in "working the plant."

"Well," I said to myself, "I am going to find my way into that safe, and if I succeed in getting off clear I shall have money enough to maintain me in a life of luxurious ease for a long time."

The first thing, after having settled in my mind that that treasure-vault was to be penetrated, was to devise the means to accomplish this purpose.

In the first place, it was absolutely necessary that we should work under cover—and under cover for a long time—for it was no slight undertaking to penetrate a hard, cemented stone wall of several feet in thickness, with immense casings of iron and steel to be cut out and removed, before we could reach the treasure; and this all to be done by men unseen and unknown in the community, in the dead hours of night, while honest citizens were peacefully resting from the toils of the day.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, according to the light in which the matter is viewed, the nearest building to the bank was a dry goods store kept by a man who had not been over-prosperous in his business, and who was willing to sell out the same at a reasonable figure.

But I did not go to him and offer to purchase. I had a better scheme than that, for I did not wish to be further known in that community; and so I put on the airs of a rich gentleman, having more money than I could reasonably spend, and after a week or two of this kind of pastime I settled my hotel bill with a great flourish and went away, deeply regretted by all who had been so fortunate as to make my distinguished acquaintance, and more especially by those who had profited by my lavish expenditure.

I had a very faithful, shrewd and industrious pal, and I immediately sought him and gave him full instructions.

In the course of the next two weeks the dry goods store I speak of had changed owners, and Robert Carpenter, a quiet, honest, thrifty-looking individual had put out his sign, and became a staid, sober, church-going citizen of the thriving town, ready and anxious to sell anything, from a silk dress down to a yard of tape or a paper of pins.

You may possibly think that a dry goods store, open all the week days to all kinds of customers, from early in the morning till nine o'clock at night, was not exactly the place for working burglars to visit and remain in for weeks together; but it was just because nobody, not even the lynx-eyed police, had the least suspicion of anything of the kind being concealed there that this particular establishment became one of the most perfect "blinds" we could have chosen.

Where so many came and went, a stranger, even if seen, was not liable to attract attention and set gossips to whispering of something unduly strange.

But great care was taken that strangers should not be seen there.

Our confederates, disguised as farmers, mechanics, train hands or or-

dinary laborers, my worthy self among the number, dropped in singly, at different times, and were then cared for inside, and kept concealed in apartments arranged especially for our use.

All our tools were brought to the place in cases of merchandise, and, therefore, attracted no suspicious notice.

The distance from our starting point, the cellar of our store, to the outside of the bank was only a little over sixty feet; but to tunnel this out in the night, entirely underground, arch it, and wall it with boards, and make it secure—to smuggle in the things we needed, and get rid of the dirt and rubbish—was a slow and discouraging undertaking, which required a good deal of patience, nerve and pluck, and the incentive of a fortune to be reached in the end, to keep our confederates down to the laborious work.

And then, when this was all done, after the nicest engineering calculation and weeks of toil, we were only fairly ready to begin the task of piercing a safe which was deemed impregnable by its makers, and which had been constructed with all the solidity, care and skill of the best mechanism which money could procure.

We had forced an entrance, which had exposed the rear of the safe, and made several attempts to make a breach in its formidable wall, but for hours and hours the stout steel resisted all our efforts.

After various experiments and many consultations, it was suggested that we should try the softening process of heat, and a blow-pipe was used to direct and concentrate the most powerful heat upon a given point.

After being kept up for a long time, we found we could make some slight impression with our best tools—a mere scarring, so to speak—and though this was tediously slow, we felt encouraged to proceed.

"Continual dropping will wear away a stone," is a maxim as old as the hills; constant heat, chafing, grinding and rubbing gradually thinned a portion of the plate, till at last we began to feel that we were masters of the situation.

It was finally announced that the plate had reached that condition when a violent blow with a heavy hammer would burst through, and then we paused in our work to prepare for making good our escape as soon as the great design should be effected.

Our storekeeper, the only party known in the place, and who was forthwith told to decamp, to secretly leave the town, and an innocent clerk, who was a resident of the place, was left in charge of the establishment—it being given out that the owner had gone to Boston to purchase new goods.

Next we had a covered wagon arranged for carrying off the specie to the cellar of a certain church near the outskirts of the town, there to be concealed until such time as it might be removed with safety. Then we all agreed to separate, and by different routes, each was to make his way to New York, and meet at a certain rendezvous in East Houston street.

These details having been arranged, we fixed upon the following Saturday night for the grand consummation of our hopes, thus having Sunday to intervene between the time of robbery and discovery, and over thirty hours in which to make good our flight.

Well, the long-looked-for night came at last—a night favorable to our purpose, being dark and stormy—and, though we were men used to controlling our nerves, they were now strung up to that degree of excitement as we stood before the thin, frail barrier which only divided us from a fortune, that we trembled, blanched and shook like so many frightened culprits.

At length the hammer was raised, the signal was given, the blow was struck and crash through the thin plate of steel the iron was sent, crumbling the cemented layer on the other side of it, shattering the inner casing, and permitting our bull's-eye lantern to flash through into the great treasure vault.

So excited were we that it was difficult for any one to resist the shout that involuntarily pressed to our lips for utterance.

In a few minutes a space was made large enough for one of us to crawl through, and, then was exposed our haven of treasure. We found that in greenbacks, national bank notes, gold, silver and negotiable bonds we were richer by nearly \$210,000.

I ought to have been contented with this, and might have got off free, as my companions did, but what will not a greedy man do?

There was a smaller safe, which we could only open with powder, and, being an expert at that business, I determined, against the advice of my companions, to see the inside of it.

I accordingly prepared for the work, while they were busy in removing the treasures already secured.

It chanced that I was alone in the bank when I set off the fuse, expecting only a slight concussion; but the report was louder than I anticipated, and the effect was terrible.

The safe door was blown open, and I was left unharmed; but the report of the explosion was heard by a private watchman in the vicinity, who immediately gave an alarm, which brought crowds of people about the bank.

The rest is soon told. My companions succeeded in escaping with their booty, but, after a desperate resistance, I was arrested. A speedy trial followed, and, of course, I was convicted. That bank robbery was Gentleman Jim's last job. I am in prison, and not until ten years hence, if I live, shall I once more be at liberty.—New York Weekly.

### A MARYLAND BOAR HUNT.

#### Wild Hogs on Spesutia Island to Be exterminated Shortly.

On the farm of Mr. John Donnell Smith, on Spesutia Island, there is a herd of 100 or more wild boars. They are wild and vicious and have their lairs in the cover of the marshes, which they rove at will. Spesutia Island is about six miles south of this city and contains some 1,500 acres of very fertile land, but, in addition to this, there are vast marshes between it and the mainland. The island is divided into three farms of about equal portions, the Smith farm being on the lower extremity. Several years ago some of the hogs on the farm were neglected and allowed to inhabit the marshes. They breed there and now they are unapproachable. Notwithstanding the great loss of their property by drowning in high tides, the herd has increased.

At first little attention was paid to the animals, but with the increase in their numbers and fierceness, Mr. Smith has concluded to exterminate them, particularly as their depredations upon the crops are doing great damage. To prevent nocturnal visits to the farm, Mr. Smith had water fences constructed, reaching a considerable distance from shore, but he found that it was only amusement for them to swim around these fences, even in a heavy sea. It is generally believed that a hog can swim but a short distance until the contact of the front hoofs cuts the throat, but these boars can swim a mile with comfort.

Mr. Smith proposes to start a crusade against these boars in a few days and expects to get much sport from the hunt. A pack of dogs will be required to start the beasts from their lairs and bring them to the open, where they may be shot. This means the sacrifice of many of the dogs, as when cornered one of these boars will make short work of his antagonist. Some of the boars are very large and have great tusks, which would rip open a hound. The intention is to employ eight or ten men who are familiar with the marshes and haunts of the hogs. With these Mr. Smith and some of his friends, all armed with rifles and shot-guns, will await the appearance of the hogs in the thoroughfares and shoot them down. To complete their extermination will require a week or more, as they are roaming over hundreds of acres of marsh and thicket.—Baltimore Sun.

### Chief Justice and the Law.

Here is a little anecdote about the late Lord Russell, of Killowen. He was very often at Prince's Restaurant with his daughters, and one night supped there after a visit to the play. The restaurant is obliged by law to close at midnight, and, as a sort of hint to visitors, the management turns out the little electric lights on the tables about ten minutes before the hour. They did so on this occasion, whereupon the Lord Chief Justice asked, "What's that for?" and was told, "Light them up again at once," said he, in his hasty way. The light was turned on, but the midnight struck, the men turned them out again. Lord Russell, however, had not finished. He sent for the manager and asked what on earth he meant by again turning out the lights. "Because it is against the law for us to keep open after 12," was the reply. "Hang the law!" said the Lord Chief Justice, and calmly went on eating his supper. The restaurant had to keep open some ten minutes while he finished. The fun of it was that several other parties, seeing the Lord Chief Justice disregarding the law, took the opportunity of finishing their meal in a leisurely fashion.—London Truth.

### Wise Heads on Young Shoulders.

Some children have wise heads set on their diminutive little shoulders. Here's an example that is really true: Three little girls were given fifteen cents each, by their fond mammas and allowed to go to a church lawn party recently. The next day they were heard discussing the event in much the same strain that their older sisters would do. Said one little curly head: "I think those ladies were real stingy with their cake. They only gave us one little bit of a piece."

"Why, we could buy a whole loaf of cake at the bakery for five cents," chimed in another little tot. "And did you see that lady give her own little boy three pieces?" volunteered the third. "But then we had a real nice time and got nice large dishes of ice-cream," continued the first speaker in turn.

"Yes, and my big sister says we mustn't expect as much for our money at a church so-called, 'cause it's to help them," added another of the trio. That last remark settled it with the three little maids.—Worcester Spy.

### Finland's Unofficial Stamp.

Finland stamps are no longer officially allowed for foreign correspondence. Russian stamps having been substituted therefor. As a protest the Finnish people have adopted an unofficial stamp, and this they are using instead of the Russian stamp. Of course, it is not recognized as postage, but its use calls attention to the downtrodden people mourning for the loss of their national privileges. For many years past (since its connection with Russia) the Grand Duchy of Finland—of which the Czar is Grand Duke—has enjoyed its own coinage and postage. The postage has now been practically taken away, and the coinage may soon follow suit.

### FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

#### ITEMS OF INTEREST ON AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

#### Hogs Fattened on Corn—The Grinding of Feed Pays—Witch Grass Experience—Odors in the Hen House—Bread and Skimilk—Etc., Etc.

#### Hogs Fattened on Corn.

The production of lean meat does not imply loss of weight. By judicious selection of foods the hogs will weigh even more than when fattened on corn. Usually the pigs are fattened on clover and given a mess of bran and milk morning and night, allowing apples, vegetables or any succulent food. When sufficiently grown they are penned up and given ground oats, bran, milk, carrots and grass or clover hay, the hay being finely cut and scalded. The meat will be interspersed with fat and lean and will bring more per pound in market than very fat hogs that have been fed on corn.

#### The Grinding of Feed Pays.

In the majority of experiments, and in numerous private trials by farmers, it has been proven that it pays well to crush and grind the feed given to animals. To the one who takes the trouble to look into the matter, it can readily be seen that the manure would have a higher value, the food would go further, and it ought to be easier for the animals to get the many different elements in the food, which would insure better results. Grind the feed when possible.

#### Witch Grass Experience.

A piece of old land was badly infested with witch grass in 1899. I plowed it early, and harrowed it often well enough to keep the grass from growing. I plowed again the middle of June and set to tomatoes. The plants were hoed once. No grass was in sight in the fall; all completely killed.

By this method of preparation, I've grown as good squash, late cabbage and potatoes as could have been grown on a clover sod and with no more hand-hoeing, but with the extermination of the grass every time. A disk harrow drawn at the rate of five miles an hour, is the best kind of an implement to keep the grass down on land that is not stony. To dig up the roots and cart them to the dump, as some advocate, is very extravagant.—A. L. Williams in New England Homestead.

#### Odors in the Hen House.

The shell of an egg is so porous when first laid, and the germ is so sensitive to the effects of the air that enters through the shell, that we think many of the eggs which are called infertile are really those which have had the germ killed by the odors in the house or laying room. When kerosene is used about the nest boxes to kill lice it should be given time to evaporate before the hens use them again, and the same when carbolic acid is used. We have entered henhouses where there was an amount of ammonia in the air that we thought nearly strong enough to choke the old hens, and it might well have killed the germ in the egg if it was long subjected to such fumes, and more especially when nest boxes were placed almost directly over heaps of hen manure and wood ashes. If an egg after having been incubated for a week or ten days shows cloudy but with no living germ in it, we may be sure that the eggs were fertile, but the germ has been killed in some way, perhaps by foul air or by chilling or other cause.

#### Bread and Skim Milk.

The Maine Experiment Station has been doing some excellent work in investigating the digestibility and nutritive value of bread and the value of skim milk for cooking purposes. At the dairy meeting of the Maine Board of Agriculture in 1907, a paper was read setting forth the value of skim milk as food. The admission is made that taken by itself it is rather thin and does not "stay by," but this is accounted for by the fact of its being so readily assimilated as not to satisfy the sense of hunger. When eaten, however, with bread, or used in cooking, it has a value not at all appreciated by the farmer. Five pints of skim milk contain about the same amount of nutrition as a pound of round steak, and a quart of skim milk is more nutritious than a quart ofysters. The paper goes on to enumerate a large number of dishes that can be prepared with skim milk, stating that as a general rule, for all cooking purposes, it is practically as valuable as whole milk.

Owing to a belief in this value of skim milk, and especially in bread making, some interesting experiments have since been conducted at the Maine station along this line. Loaves of water bread and skim milk were baked by a practical bread maker, being mixed in the early evening and baked the next morning. On each occasion the skim milk bread rose slowly, requiring two or three hours more than the water bread. The water bread gave a whiter and lighter loaf, but the analyses showed the greater nutritive value of the milk bread. The difference in the carbohydrates, or fat-forming constituents of the bread, was slight, but in the protein, or muscle constituents, the milk bread showed a decided advantage. The average of the three experiments showed for the water bread 14.75 per cent of protein and 16.01 per cent for the skim milk bread. Bread or cake made with skim milk dries out less rapidly than when water is used in mixing the dough.

#### Double Purpose Animals.

There are cases where the farmer makes his animals serve a two fold purpose and thus obtain a profit from them where they might be kept at a loss if there were only the one source of income from them. One of these is in the too often despised ox team. If a farmer will raise or buy them so as to have a good yoke of three-year-old steers every spring, and use them for both spring and fall plowing, drawing in hay and other work in the summer, feeding liberally all the time, and after the fall work is over put them up and stall feed them until about Christmas, he can sell them for beef at a much higher price than they were worth in the spring, and sometimes for more than their cost and the cost of all the grain given them. We have done so and thus we had our work team from March until November, practically without any cost but a little hay given at work. If one raises them himself he can have a three-year-old ox team that will walk with plow or drag as quickly as the average horse, and we have seen such a team work on the mowing machine. The bull can be made to serve a double purpose by running in a tread-mill or by working in a crooked yoke, doing much of the work on plow or cultivator or harrow or in cart that is now done by a single horse. Another dual-purpose animal, more common in the Western States and in Europe than in New England, is the brood mare. Some manage to raise a good colt every year and scarcely lose a month's service of the mare in the year by taking care to make her work a little lighter than usual for a few months. See if your animals are earning their keeping, and if they cannot be made to earn more by finding use for them in more than one way.—American Cultivator.

#### Short and Useful Hints.

Some kicking cows are the result of kicked cows.

Too much corn meal is injurious to young chickens.

The early maturing animals bring in the early returns.

Vegetables when kept in cellars should be kept cool.

Many pumpkins are lost during the Winter season by being kept too damp.

Keeping the nests dark will sometimes keep the hens from eating their eggs.

No matter what crop you take from the soil it always consumes some of the fertility.

Dairying, like true love, "never runs smooth," because the conditions are so varying and numerous.

Feed cannot change the breed, but it will improve it, and the same thing may be said of the breed.

Give the growing pullets a change in the ration. It is a variety that will make them take to the nest while young.

There is no need of the farmer buying food of any sort for the hens. The farm ought to supply all that the hens require.

Very nearly all the varieties of small fruits, as well as the young trees, will be the better if they are supplied with a mulch during the Winter season.

Here is an English idea of farming tersely expressed: "No grass, no cattle, no grass, no manure, no manure, no grass." It is one continual round. The business of growing fruit is one that requires constant attention, and only those who are willing to give it such can hope to make a success of fruit culture.

The American Wool Grower, speaking of feeding sheep, says: "Give mixed feed, and always remember that oats should constitute a part of the food of the 'golden hoof,' with a mixture of equal parts of corn meal, ground oats and wheat bran."

There is no profit in the early maturity for the dairy as for beef. Feed the heifer calf from which you hope to make the dairy cow, for her best development; breed early, and have her come into the dairy at twenty-six or twenty-eight months of age.

#### Rules For Pruning.

1. The knife or saw should never be used on a fruit or ornamental tree unless there is positively good reason for so doing.
2. Train all trees while young with a central leader or main shoot, and never allow two main branches to grow in such a way as to have the weight of the tree come upon a fork of the main trunk.
3. When branches cross so as to be injured by rubbing together the weaker of the two should be cut out.
4. When one branch rests on another under it the weaker of the two should be cut out.
5. Suckers or water sprouts should be thinned out before they have made much growth, but if the main branches are bare, or if the head is open in places, suckers should be allowed to grow where they will cover this condition. If parts of the tree are weak in growth, this weak wood may be cut out and some of the suckers be allowed to grow in its place. The cause of these sprouts is that the sap becomes impeded by the bending down of the branches with weight of fruit, or by the hot sun striking the branches, or perhaps by some injury to the bark in pruning or gathering the fruit, and nature makes this effort to repair the injury. The removal of all of these suckers will soon result in the death of the tree, while allowing some of them to grow where needed will renew the vigor of the tree.
6. If large branches are to be removed, make the cut in the middle of the enlarged part where it joins the main branch or trunk, and not quite in line with the face of the main branch or trunk.
7. Paint all wounds above one-half inch in diameter with linseed oil paint, gas tar or grafting wax.
8. Never cut away the main branches of a tree if it can be avoided, but thin out the head, when it becomes crowded, from the outside. This can be quickly done with the pruning hook on a long pole, and little or no injury will result, while if the large branches are cut from the trunk the tree is weakened and soon dies or is broken down.
9. Cut off dead branches as soon as discovered and cover the wound with paint to prevent further decay.
10. In training young trees, start the branches low; the trees will grow better, the thinning and gathering of the fruit will be more easily done, and the cultivation can be as well and cheaply done with the modern acme or spring-tooth harrow and weeder as if the head were higher, while the trunk of the tree and the ground under it will be so protected that growth will be better than if more exposed.

#### Controlling The Hessian Fly.

The great loss of winter wheat in Indiana, Illinois and Ohio the past winter makes it apparent that farmers in those states must either find some means of combating this pest or go out of the winter wheat business. Various means have been suggested, but none will prove effectual unless all the farmers in the neighborhood adopt the same plan. The most important is thorough preparation and fertilization of the land so as to provide the most favorable conditions for strong and rapid growth. Early fall plowing, repeated harrowing and dragging until the seed-bed is thoroughly pulverized will do more to counteract the effects of insect pests than all other means combined.

Another important item is sowing late, after the first of the middle of October. If sown early, the adult fly, which resembles the mosquito, lays its eggs in the sheath of the blade near the base. The pupa develops and reaches the flaxseed stage late in the fall. During all this time it is absorbing the juices of the plant. In April or May another brood appears and this process is repeated, the flaxseed stage of this string brood being reached just before harvest when straw falling results. If the seedling is drawn until

October, many of the flies will have deposited their eggs in the volunteer grain where they will do but little damage. An additional help is to sow strips of wheat early, say the last week of August. The eggs will be deposited in this which can then be turned under. Volunteer grain serves the same purpose, provided it is turned under and the ground harrowed and rolled.

If it were not for the Hessian fly, late seeding would not be advisable, for as a general rule, early seeded fields yield best. It is necessary, however, in much of the winter wheat growing territory to sow as late as possible in order to get a crop at all.—American Agriculturist.

#### Black Sea Depths.

The explorations of the depths of the Black Sea during the last ten years has brought to light a unique condition. The greatest depth found is 1,200 fathoms. A freshwater surface current flows outward through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles into the Mediterranean, while a salt undercurrent is steadily flowing inward. The density of the salt water of this undercurrent prevents vertical circulation. The greater depths are constantly quite stagnant, and they are so impregnated with sulphureted hydrogen that no life is possible beyond 100 fathoms. Water from a depth of 300 fathoms smells like rotten eggs. Thus the bottom deposits, unlike those of the open oceans, are barren of life, and they show the further extraordinary difference, unknown elsewhere, of an abundant chemical precipitate of carbonate of lime.

#### A Falling Off in Chinese Gods.

One result of the Chinese outbreak, so far as Birmingham is concerned, says Tit-Bits, is that the manufacture of Chinese deities is falling off. These manufacturers turn out gods of all sorts and sizes. Some are gods of war, judging by their stern looks and murderous swords; another, with a bland look, is a god of peace; others bear hideous faces. All are thoroughly Chinese in character and expression.