CURIO COLLECTORS WHO STEAL RARE WORKS OF ART.

A Queer Old Man with a Passion for Quaint Things-Romance of a Rembrandt-Thieves in the Libraries-Stu-

"We have to keep our eyes open to prevent our stock being carried off," said a Broadway brica-brac dealer the other day. "You have no idea what really respectable men and women are tempted to steal a valuable piece of porcelaia or a curo or a rarecoin when it is put so conveniently before them as the things are in this store. We display everything very freely, but there is always one of the employes alling around in an unconcerned sort of way who looks out for our interests." "Are your customers ever tempted to pocket your wares?" he was asked.

"Weil, now and then we have a case of that kind, but of course nothing can be done, and unless the article taken has some special artistic value we say nothing about it, for we should lose a good deal of custom if we did not overlook the eccentricities of the kleptomaniaes. The collectors are the worse kind we have to deal with. You see that old man over there," pointing in the direction of a very respectable old gentleman with white hair and a queerdried up face and clothed in a long and seedy ulster. He was sluffling along from one shelf to another, examining everything furtively with his sharp, little, ferret

"That man," said the dealer, "has one of the finest porceiain collections in this city. He used to be rich, but now & guess he has to hustle to get his three meals a day properly. When we was well off I thought notherly. When we was well on a thought notaring of selling him \$1,000 werth of goods exyears, and I have to watch the old chap half the time to see that he doesn't walk off with my best things, for there isn't a better judge of the value of a work of art than hein

At the Astor and Mercantile libraries senmerous tricks and devices are used byunscrupulous collectors of prints to get possession of some rare picture or edition. They either cut the desired illustration out of the book. thus raising it forever, or take the work away with them when they go, substituting another volume already prepared in its place. Since print collecting has come to be so popular some elegant works belonging to the New York libraries have been ruthlessly destroyed and very often stolen. The only way to put a stop to these depredations is to keep a constant watch, and even then so trickware the thieves and so fertile of device that they carry on their practices beneath the very eyes of the librarians.

It was only a few weeks ago that a magnificent quarto was destroyed in a library by one of these vandak, armed with a sharp knife and a strong artistic desire to capture a rare-print at the expense of his principles of honer. Artistic thieves are sometimes of very respectable families, which the fellowing incident, well knewn to most New York artists and Bohemians, will illustrate:

A gentleman living in West Forty-second street owned among other paintings a real Rembrandt which he had purchased in Europe at a good round price, and which was a very fair specimen of that artist's work. The other pictures were all light works by American painters, but this picture, on ac court of its value, eccupied a room by itself, and its owner was very proud of his possession. When hard times struck that family and the collector was compelled to hand every thing over to the auctioneer it was then dis-covered that the Rembrandt, that much treasured painting to which all Murray Hill it. I run as much risk as the passengers do." clever forgery.

years, and who considered himself no mean judge of art, was dumbfounded and would not believe it. An investigation proved that the canvas on which the picture was painted had the stamp of a New York firm on it, and that a drying varnish had been mixed with the paint that was invented enly twenty years ago. The fact that the picture was begus was definitely settled by the arrival in town of a wealthy Brazilian who said he had purchased in Europe the original of the painting, and that all the critics in London and Paris had combined in saying that the had a genzine Rembrandt.

Detectives were finally set to work to ferret out the mystery and soon made everything clear. The son of the American collector. who was a wild and dissipated young man, had taken an artist friend into his confidence and together they plotted to exchange the gennine picture for a copy. The friend worked on the copy at night and soon produced a fair imitation, while the son with the real picture went to Europe and there succeeded in selling it to the Brazilian.

In Philade phia another great picture was spirited away for a long while by much the same means and not returned until the wheels of the law were set in motion. Every now and then we hear through the press of the robbery of an art gallery, but hundreds of such thefts are committed which the public at large never hear of. Artists who go away for the summer on sketching tours often re- lever. Siesch went the siphon. He had turn to find their studios ransacked and pressed too hard. The contents of the glasssome of their best paintings cut from the

The man who owns a fine collection of brica-brac er paintings or curios has more need to look after the visitors and admirers of his treasures than among the servants of his York Star. house. Many an amateur who is badly bitten with the craze of collecting curious works will buy what he wants as long as he can, and then when the money gives out he will steal at the first chance the coveted article which he admires and must own. The average thief has a royal scorn for artistic work. except when he considers it will bring a good price. He would just as leave steal something ess artistic and more salable, for a paintin which is well known is hard to dispose of at

An old Bobenian who used to sell art purterials to the various studios was discovered to be a most notorious smeak thief. It was discovered that he carried on quite a business in disposing of pictures and sketches which he purloined while in the studios under the pretence of selling paints and brushes. Boy eral janitors were suspected of committing these thefts, but the real man was at last our down and presecuted. In his room in East Broadway piles of canvases were found and portfolio: full of sketches which he had surreptitionsly made away with during his brief but successful career as a sneak thief.

The collecting mania is in its infancy in this country and consequently the poor collector is more clumsy as a thief than his European brethren, who could give the average sneak thief points in the business. The American however, is steadily improving and in time may become as dexterous in making off with a peachblow vase or a Chinese god as the collectors across the water who have more experience.-New York Journal.

Abstractly, we do not believe in laws to force men to behave themselves. But concretely, men must be helped to do right if they won't do so of their own accord.—The Earth.

## ENEMIES OF GOOD FICTION.

Shortsightedness of Book Publishers. The "Readers of Manuscript."

One great drawback to good work in tiction is the financial inability of capable writers of both sexes to put their work before the community. It is useless to say that publishers are ready to seize everything new and ager to give the public the latest thoughts This may be true of some publishers, but many are as eager to make a bit and reduce fancies or ideas to hard coin as any merchant in the land. They publish books to make money, and a striking title is often prized more than a good plot. The publishers themselves are human and often shortsighted. Every one knows that some of the best works ever given to the world were knocked about from publisher to publisher and finally sold

Why is this? Back of the publisher are "the readers of manuscript," the man and one woman, semetimes the two men and one woman, who must sit in judgment on the author's work. With all due respect for the judicious men engaged in publishing books, it is an undenbted fact that these readers do not always possess especial fitness or knowledge of the works in question. It may sound like treason, but it is undoubtedly true that many excellent volums of fiction are new hidden away, condemned by some "reader" far less experienced and gifted than the writer, which, if published, would rank high and benefit the reading world. Any one who spends much time in an editorial capacity knows that mistakes as to acceptance and re jection constantly occur. It is the merest folly to talk of the "individuality of the writer" and "the reality of experience which is the secret of success" when a book of real experience, far more captivating and filled with moving, thrilling life, is sat down upon, behind the scenes of some publisher's desk, by men and women who think it will not

real enemies of good fiction are the unappreciative, inexperienced "readers," who can no more understand the sympathetic life of the people than a mere mechanical painter can understand the good points of the Rembrandt in your library. They are good men, good women, who are paid to sit in judgment on the heart throbs of real workers, real thinkers, real duers, and their total inability to write a good work of fiction renders them unfit to decide upon the work of those who already have the public ear and are eager to give "our own conflicts a place in this fiction of the day." The possibilities of American fiction are enormous, the life of the American people fruitful, but the outcome will not be satisfactory until genius and application, ideas and impersonation are not subjected to the cracial test of incompetent "readers," nor while publishers pay more attention "to making a hit" than the merits of a volume. The fault decenot rest with the makers of fiction, but its producers in the market.-Boston

Good Time on the Pankandle Road. The examination of watches of conductors and engineers on the C., St. L. and P. is progressing slowly. There are some 300 watches to be examined, and about 450 have been examined. Fully 50 per cent are condemned. The idea of the company is to compel every man in heeir employ to have a reliable time keeper. Some amusing incidents connected with the examination are related. One big. bonest leoking man, who had just been promoted to an engineer's seat, came in the first of the week. He had an old fashioned watch that might have kept good enough time to run a country school on, but certainly wasn't the kind of a timepiece on the accuracy of which you would want to trust your life. When it was condemned the man took it good naturedly.

That man is now the possessor of one of the finest watches on the road. Another man, who had just taken charge of an engine, dropped in a couple of days ago.

"I want my watch sight," he said, "because for the past two years I have been firing ter a man who was so careless about his timepiece that i lived in a sort of perpetual fear. He had an old Waterbury and he always car-

ried it in his pants pocket."

The movement of the Panhazelle road is something of an experiment. If it is successful it will in all probatility be adopted by all the other roads in Pennsylvania. - Indianapolis Journal

Joe Howard After the Fracas.

I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Howard nediately after his famous interview with Mr. Pulitzer. He came into the International and walking up to the bar asked for some "callsaya and seltzer." There was nothing in is manner or appearance to indicate that he had been manled by the Maygar. The barkeeper mixed the drink, Howard regarding him sternly.

"Young man, how long have you kept bar?"

"Boot eight years." "Then you ought to know that when you serve a gentleman you should put the bottles on the bar and let him help himself."

The barkeeper, nothing loath, tossed the rejected "swash" into his waste basket and placed a bottle of calisaya and a siphon before the syndicate of historians. Joe poured out the calisaya and then put his thumb on the went all over his collar and shirt, up his sleeve and into his eyes. The red stain was ndelible. It was all over town in five minutes that Joe had had a row and was covered with the blood of all the Howards.-New

Instruction in Practical Work. Col. Richard T. Auchmuty, who has been writing for magazines on the subject of industrial education, is practical as well as theoretical in the advancement of his ideas upon that subject. For many years Col. Auchmuty has brought together in the upper part of New York in night schools and small gatherians young people whom he has in-structed in practical every day work. A gen-theman who has visited his schools said to no-the other day: "The colonel is a practical philambropist and has been sowing good seed. I saw bim showing one young man how to mix mortar. Another of his pupil he was instructing in shoving a jack plane. Still another was being shown how to use a saw. That seems to be a simple thing, but skilled carpenters will tell you that not one scaled corporates will tell you that not one man in fifty knows how to properly shove a saw back and forth through a pine bosral. The colonel had also a little class of public who were being instructed how to sharpen edge tools. You can catch the idea of his work from these samples. He was engaged in making beloful young men out of helpless ones,"—New York Tribune.

Accepting the Situation Bobby (to young Featherly)—Will you please pass me the cake basket, Mr. Featherly?

Mamma-No. Bobby, you cannot have any Bobby-Why not, ma! Mamma-Because I have said no. You

will have to take no for an answer,
Bobby (resignedly)—Well, I'm no worse off
than Mr. Featherly. Mr. Featherly (aranaed)—How so, Bobby? Bobby—Sister Clara says you'll have to take no for an answer.—New York Sun.

### SHADOWS.

As though I went by beckoning hands close bldden, I neared, as when one answers calling fond, The curtain by which "there" from "here" is

Its mesh grew gauzy, and I saw beyond. Against its screen my eyes stared straight and

strongly,
The soul of sight searching past warp and woof, Until I could not think my gaze had wrongly Led me to see of afterlife a proof.

I seemed to see a stir of wings light smitten. And welcome waving of white, shining hands, But misty as the summer's message written, On quivering air above the sun steeped lands.

And then, as though by some mysterious tension, The warp and woof grew close my gaze before, And darkness fell beyond, with quick descension, And stir of wings and hands I saw no more.

UNCLE SAM'S CAVALRY.

What a Man Has to Go Through to Be-

long to It-How the Men Sare Money. "People have an idea that the recruiting offices of the United States army take most anybody who comes along," said a newly enlisted man in the cavalry service to a reporter. "But that is a great mistake. I took pains to find out something about this when I entered my application and learned that only about one man in therty of these who apply to enter the cavalry service are able to successfully pass examination. Last month out of fortyfour who applied only eight were accepted. Instead of jumping at a man, as people suppose, they mut him through the most rigid and thorough examinations, and after it all they ask him over and over if he is sure he knows his own mind and is fully satisfied to give his zer vices wholly to the army for five years. You have got to be sound mentally and physically, and your eyesight and hear-

ing are put to very severe tests.

"They way they tried my eyesight was this: A man belding a pack of cards stood at a distance of gwenty feet from me and the doctor put one hand over one of my eyes. The man with the cards held up one after another in quick succession, and I had to call off the number of spots on each card. If you fail in telling one card correctly you are rejected. In testing my hearing they turned me so that my back was toward the man at the other end of the room and the doctor placed his hand ever- one of my-ears. Then the man called saf, in low, monotonous tones an improvised and incorrect multiplication table, such as 5 times 8 is 35, etc., and you must repeat what he says without the slightest hesitation. Men often get caught at this, hearing only part and supplying the rest as if it were correct multiplication.

"I szarned, too, that some men during the five years save as much as \$1,000, becoming teachers and doing extra duty for which there is extra pay. Others lend money on interest to their comrades and make a good deal that way. Besides this, there is a sort of savings bank established by the government which pays interest on the savings of the sol-diers. One can also save on the allowance for clothing and the home fare allowed after your term of enlistment is over. Threequanters of the western ranchmen, I am told, are ex-soldiers who have invested their savings in land out there. A great many who enlist in the cavalry are well educated college bredmen."-New York Mail and Express.

The Companion of Sirius.

The companion of Sirius is getting so closto its dazzling comrade that even with the most powerful telescopes it can only be glimssed with difficulty. Soon it will com-pletely disappear from view in the over-powering light of Sirius, and even the great Lick telescope will be unable to detect it. But "If it isn't reliable," said he, "I don't want after several years it will again emerge to sight and move away from the Dog Star until comparatively small telescopes will show it. This wonderful companion of the brightest star in the heavens is a great puzzle. to astronomers. They have calculated its orbit and know that it makes a journey around the great star once every forty-nine years or thereabouts. It is easy enough to understand that, but the surprising thing that, while this singular star is probably half as heavy as Sirius, it possesses several t sand times less light. It is either a peris or a dead sun; and in the latter case course, is simply an enormous planet shi with the reflected light of Sirias.

But such a planet staggers the imaginat Our sun is more than 1,000,000 times as larg the earth, yet in comparison with the panion of Sirius he would appear so insig cant that we might be ashamed to acknow sige him as the great boss of the solar sys The genius of Voltaire, which accorded Mars his two moons more than 100 years. fore the telescope had proved that they reexisted, also foretold that a large planet, birthplace of the giant Micromegas, revo around Sirius. So the imagination of great Frenchman twice anticipated the n nexpected of astronomical discoveries. nobody could be more astonished at the fillment of his guesses than Voltaire hims would have been.

Two Incidents of Army Life.

Among the many incidents of my arr life, two have always remained impres upon my memory with especial clearne The first of these occurred, I believe, at battle of Fair Oaks. Gen. O. O. Howard, officer as brave as a man need be, in spite his decidedly ostentatious holiness, brought from the front apon a litter, eviden severely wounded. The gallant Gen. Phil Kearney saw him and went to his side, saying: "Gen. Howard, I am really deeply grieved to see this. Where are you hit?" Howard, pointing to Kearney's empty right sleeve, a relic of his Mexican war service, replied: "General, we can buy our gloves in Paris now." The other incident occurred during Banks' famous Redriver expedition. Admiral Porter despised Banks as a military man, and was inclined to treat his plans with great contempt. Banks one day, after some rather heated correspond ence, undertook to order Porter to place gunboats in a certain position. Porter's inswer was short and to the point: "Tell Gen. Banks," he said, "that he may be a king on land, but I am supreme on the river." fury at this reply may well be imagined, but it stated the facts, and the general had to submit,-Col. L. J. Hartiey in Globe-Democrat.

The Barroom Crank.

The barroom crank is one of the characters of the town. No metropolitan bar is complete without its crank. At such swell establish ments as the Hoffman be is commonly a man of means, whose wits have been worn threadbare by overindulgence. In smaller estab-lishments he varies in quality from the Jack of the bar room who sweeps the place out for the privilege of hanging around and picking up what drinks he can, up to some well-to-do customer whose each makes his eccentricity excusable. This species of crank is the most interesting because he presents such an infi-nite variety of oddity. Some are sour tempered and others merry; some are sour tempered and others merry; some kick at the quality of their liquor, and others would drink vitriol and water without grumbling. There are humorous and melancholy cranks and the wise and foolish ones. Indeed, I know no quality of mentality that is not represented among them.—Alfred Trumble in New York News.

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LEWISBURG & TYRONE R. R. Time Table in effect Nov 15 86.

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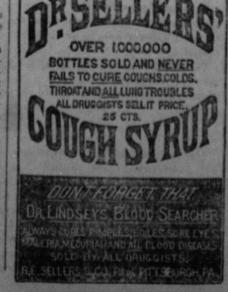
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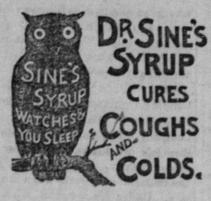
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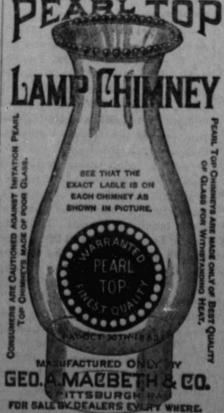
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