

THE ART OF THE BURGLAR.

The Best Way to Rob a Bank Vault Is to Get Elected Cashier.

FAILING THAT, TOOLS WILL DO IT.

An Immense Amount of Genius Displayed in an Approved Kit.

HOW CRACKSMEN DO THEIR WORK.

(CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.)

NEW YORK, Oct. 24.—Did you ever meet a real live flesh-and-blood burglar? I mean a man who has made a living by cracksmen robbery—who has "done time" in various prisons and who is under police surveillance everywhere he goes? The man with the cast iron countenance, the shifty eyes and the hunted look? Not the "Spike" Melnessy and "Kid" McCoys of the Melodrama, but the more hardened and still unrepentant ruffian of the streets of New York? Not the man behind the bars in the prisoner's dock, but the criminal who has recently been turned loose upon society and who is, that uneven watch apart, as free to come and go as you are?

Of course not. You would shrink from such society. Yet there is a certain novelty in the sensation. Such men, as you know from the street and have no distinct impression that the touch of a bank president who has absorbed the money of his depositors and is yet at large unexposed. It is only when you are brought face to face with the burglar in a dark room with his blood-curdling muzzled pistol pressed against your temples that the sensation is experienced in all its blood-curdling intensity. And if you are sure you would rather be executed by a firing squad than to be in such a position, you would be glad to have a safe or a vault.

INTRODUCED BY A POLICEMAN.

To have an old friend "on the force" say to you suddenly some day, "Would you like to meet a burglar? Here he is now"—and raising a significant finger discreetly directed toward a man in a dark suit from the passing Broadway throng into a back room and say, "This man is a bank snuck burglar," conveys a different and perhaps a more impressive impression than the sensation I have just experienced.

"When'll you fellows let up on a man?" was the first and rather plaintive inquiry of the officer who had taken me to an innocent and well-known place.

The officer addressed his familiarly, asked him what he was doing on Broadway and when he returned to the station, he was invited to a conference and conversation. When the man found he was not wanted and that a newspaper man was his auditor he talked quite freely. He had been reading a recent interview with a well-known safe manufacturer.

"There isn't a bank vault or safe lock made in this city," he said, "that is not opened by an expert. I became an expert at the business while in the employ of a safe manufacturer. I picked locks as a legitimate street trade in San Francisco. Every safe company has men who do the same thing."

OLD STYLE COMBINATIONS EASY.

"The first thing a bank official, or anybody else does, when the safe lock gets out of order, is to send to the manufacturer and they send an expert who opens the safe. The ordinary combination lock is easily picked. There are time locks which cannot be done so easily, especially some modern ones. Some combination locks have a millimeter pointer attachment. That? Why, it's an arrangement which is supposed to prevent the use of the ordinary combination lock. It has a dial which shows the thickness and variation of the dial. Some of these are very cheap combination locks have a bell-like sound, or click, and these can be easily read. And some combinations run in grooves and can be detected at once. You might as well have a house door lock and latch key on a safe as one of them."

"The latest and best combination lock gives out no sound whatever, and, while it may be opened, it would require an expert and a good deal of time to get it—more time than is at the disposal of a man in the night."

"I fear our trouble is not over; for if I return home I shall certainly be seized. I carried back into the city to be punished."

"It was trouble," replied Gilbert, "but I fear our trouble is not over; for if I return home I shall certainly be seized. I carried back into the city to be punished."

"At this thought Dora's bright face grew sad, and she asked: 'Can we not hide somewhere until they find the one who really struck the Count?'"

"While the brother and sister talked they saw a great crowd coming through the forest in the midst was a man in a dark suit, and he was being followed by a man in a light suit. The man in the dark suit was Gilbert and the man in the light suit was the brother who had been found and Gilbert was true. Philip was almost every safe and it is the burglar's art to find it. Some have better steel in the back than in the front and sometimes the steel is tougher and better tempered in one part than another. They tell at once as to the hardness and thickness of steel plating. I've had drills, however, that would go through anything. I could put a hole through a two average steel plates in 30 minutes."

GENIUS IN THE BURGLAR'S ART.

The skill and genius that have been expended upon burglar's tools is something extraordinary. And the pains that are taken to perfect a burglar's tools are of great magnitude or a system of small ones would be astonishing to honest people. I know of a case where a valuable safe was purchased from the experimental work. For instance, several county banks may be found using the same safe. By the purchase of one of the same kind and make the burglar can get into the safe to study out its weaknesses. They then descended upon the selected spots and got away with the booty. Another way is to go right to the manufacturer and see how they are made, just like the fellow did who wrote that article. You have read accounts of repeated burglaries. Certain sections within a certain set of walls. They are usually on a very close watch.

"How is it a safe is the quickest way to get into it. But it's noisy and dangerous and very likely to be discovered. No burglar ever fools with a safe in any way unless he possesses inside information as to the money drawers. In a bank, it is the study of weak points, month after month, or even once or twice a year, or two or three in a few hours. In case of a bank you've got to get into the safe, and that's a great deal of coming and going to get the lay of the land."

ONE WAY TO FORCE A SAFE.

If I was going to force a safe I might drill the door into the lock, take off the machine and put in a new one. That holds the combination. With that off, the bolts are free. If there was much danger from the noise I'd put in a taper tap, follow it with a screw driver, and then a plug. I'd then screw a threaded bolt until it strikes the detent when you can wrench the detent without any noise. It only takes a few minutes on an ordinary safe, and with a good outside partner on the watch no unpleasant interruption is probable. That partner holds a string which is fastened to my leg, and can signal according to a prearranged code. On a safe or vault door in the full light of the gas and exposed to the street the work would be intermittent, perhaps it has been done in this way. "Another way to get into a safe is to drill

A FEW FEET OF WATER.

Make a Great Deal of Difference in Pittsburg's Ore Supply.

HOW THE JOHN HARPER MANAGES.

Unloading the Bottom of the Soo Canal and Riding St. Mary's River.

UNLOADING PRECIOUS BROWN DIET.

(WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.)

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The trouble was the large vessel was drawing too much water to go through the "Soo" Canal. Since last winter an oak platform on the bottom of the lock has been necessary to protect the lower miter-locks, and that has raised the water level.

ACCESSORIES OF THE LAY-OUT.

There is a dark lantern, too, and a three-bar steel, which we call a "tag," for forcing it into the force screw above you have to have a key hole saw which cuts a square hole as well as a round one. There are several sizes of nippers and tongs. When you are in the hole, you must multiply insert one of these, and, nipping the key, can unlock the door from the outside as easily as you could do it with the key. Then you have to have a set of force wrenches, a great variety of drills or bits, and there are brass, wedge, chisel, mutton pumps, and a great many things I have not mentioned, glycerine, dynamite, gas hose and a device for heating the spindle and drawing taper and fulminating caps and all that sort of thing.

"I have said that there are a good many ways of getting into a safe or a bank vault, yet there is one way," added the burglar, "which is the most common and the most successful. This is to get elected cashier or President of the bank, and then you can get away with all the funds at once without any trouble, without exciting suspicion, and without being liable to have your head blown off during the operation. This sort of burglary has about knocked out all the other sorts of burglary. I have not mentioned anything else in the same line completely in the shade."

CHARLES THEODORE MURRAY.

PUTTING DOWN GODFISH.

The Operation of Salting is Much More Delicate Than One Would Think.

Each's Weekly.

The stage of the cod is done in the hold. Each "bunker" brings from France its cargo of salt, an ingredient which, it is needless to say, plays a capital role in the fishing campaign. The salting is one of the most important and delicate operations. If there is not enough salt on the fish, it will not keep; if there is too much, the fish is black and moist. A good salter is just as valuable to the owner of a "bunker" as a good captain.

Four men are generally employed to salt the fish in the hold. One, with a sort of curved trident, shovels down the salt to the level of the piles of fish already made; the other receives the fish that are thrown down from the deck and passes them to the pile, who places them with minute care in close layers; finally the salter comes with his shovel in his hand, spreads salt over the layers of fish, and looks after the methodical and regular execution of all these processes. This work has to be done quickly and well. As soon as the fish has been washed it ought not to remain on deck, but be stored away as quickly as possible. Furthermore, if the codfish is not packed regularly, without the edges touching, and if the lever of salt is too thick or too thin, the salting is compromised, and the drying of the fish, which is done especially at Bordeaux and Cetta, will give a cod of poor quality.

The Goldfish.

(WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.)

Oh, you know the Goldfish, the sweetest song I ever heard.

When he wishes to whistle.

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