

A Check Mystery.

From Tid-Bits.

In the whole of my long and eventful experience as a tracker of criminals, there is one falling which puzzled me more than any other thing in connection with the men whom I have been fortunate enough to hunt down, and that is the extreme carelessness shown by the cleverest of scoundrels. A man will plan out a crime with the most subtlety and ingenuity, providing for well-nigh every contingency, and altogether showing himself to be a Napoleon of criminality, but all the same, by sheer carelessness or want of foresight, he will leave one glaringly obvious clue which brings his house of cards to the ground and delivers him into the clutches of the law. It is the history of such a scheme, ruined by such an oversight, that I will set down in the lines that follow.

One morning I was instructed by my chief at headquarters to go to the office of John Pennythorpe, in Golden Square, to inquire into a forgery case. I at once took my steps to the office named, and after a short delay, was shown into Mr. Pennythorpe's room. He was a genial-looking, clean-shaven man of some 35 years, and he rose to greet me with a smile.

"Good morning, Mr. Blake," he said, as he motioned me to a chair. "I am glad that you have come so promptly, for there has been some bother over a check of mine."

I prepared to listen to the details, and he continued: "Last Monday I received from the bank the usual paid checks which they are in the habit of returning to me every month. There were fifteen in all, most of them for small sums. One of them, however, was for no less an amount than £500, and directly I looked at it I knew that it was a forgery."

"The signatures and the body of the check were apparently in my own handwriting, but as I had not drawn anything like such a sum for months past, I knew, of course, that the business was a fraud. I at once communicated with the manager of the bank and also with Scotland Yard."

"You seem unnecessarily agitated," I remarked, after a pause, "for all the bank, I presume, will bear the loss and not yourself. In the case of forgeries the bank is always liable."

"Quite so, quite so," he returned. "I myself do not lose a penny, but what agitates me is the knowledge that I must have a forger near me, for no body but a man intimate with me could have so gauged the amount of my account. It was just £500, so that after paying the amount of the check, only £50 remained. The bank has treated me very honorably, and has written already to say that my account has been credited with the £500 in question. My interest, therefore, in finding the forger is purely from the point of view of justice to the bank. Doubtless, if the scoundrel is discovered immediately, some of the money may be refunded."

"No doubt," I returned, quietly, "and now, perhaps you will be good enough to let me see the check, also a check bearing your genuine signature."

He took from a drawer in his table a couple of checks. "Here is the forged document," he said, "and here is the genuine one. Compare them, and you will detect absolutely no difference."

No. There was no noticeable difference. I scrutinized the forged check with the aid of my glass, but the magnifying process elicited absolutely nothing.

"This is the most strikingly clever forgery that I have ever come across," I said, after a pause. "I do not wonder that the bank people were deceived."

"Nor I," he made answer, "for upon my word I myself should have been taken in by so extraordinary an imitation. And now, if there are any details I can give you which may be serviceable, pray command me."

"First of all," he said slowly, "I should like to ask you where you usually keep your check book?"

"I am afraid," he answered, "that I have been rather careless in that respect. Its usual place is an exposed position on the mantel."

"Who has access to this room?"

"I have only one clerk, and he comes and goes when he likes."

"Do you suspect him?"

"My dear sir," he answered, as he rose and paced the room, "it is impossible for me to say. He has always appeared thoroughly reliable."

"How long have you had the man?"

"Three years. He came to me with admirable testimonials. I do not think he could possibly be guilty."

"Would this year be acquainted with the state of your passbook, so that he would be in a position to know how far he might go without over-drawing the account?"

"Oh, yes. You see, he usually goes to the bank for me, and checks the passbook with the returned checks. I have always had so much confidence in Jenkins that I have allowed him absolute control of my bank business."

"I see. Has he appeared to you lately?"

REPUBLICANS GET CONTROL TODAY

Annual Reorganization of the Councils This Morning.

APPROPRIATIONS WILL NOT PASS

Claim of the Republicans That the Ordinance Was Passed Two Readings Without a Quorum and Illegally Is Well Supported—The Democrats Could Not Get a Quorum Sunday Night and They Have No Brighter Prospects for This Morning.

This morning will witness the annual reorganization of councils immediately following the final meeting of each branch for the year 1898.

A greater change in the personnel of the two bodies has probably never occurred and in connection with that fact there is reason for satisfaction to the Republicans. Up to now the Democrats have had a joint majority and a majority in the lower branch. The reorganization will show a Republican majority of one in each branch and consequently a joint majority of two votes.

Following are the names of the retiring members:

Collectors—W. J. Thomas (R), Fourth ward; M. E. Clark (D), Sixth ward; Fred Burr (D), Eighth ward; James J. Manly (D), Twelfth ward; M. J. Burns (D), Eleventh ward; J. J. Wilson (D), Fifteenth ward; J. J. Gordon (D), Second ward; Simon Thomas (R), Fourth ward; John F. Rogan (D), Sixth ward; John J. Flanagan (D), Eighth ward; Morgan J. Searcy (D), Twelfth ward; P. J. Neelis (D), Fourteenth ward; Lorenz P. Zedler (D), Sixteenth ward; James P. Noonan (D), Eighteenth ward; and Thomas McGrath (D), Twentieth ward.

The new members are:

Selectmen—Simon Thomas (R), Fourth ward; Edward James (D), Sixth ward; Thomas C. Melvin (D), Eighth ward; John J. Sheehan (D), Twelfth ward; O'Boyle (D), Eleventh ward. In common council: M. V. Morris (R) Second ward; William W. Griffiths (R), Fourth ward; John J. Flanagan (D), Sixth ward; Fred Burr (D), Eighth ward; Edward J. Hutton (D), Twelfth ward; C. F. Wenzel (D), Fourteenth ward; E. J. Coleman (D), Sixteenth ward; Thomas Morris (D), Eighteenth ward; Michael J. Casick (D), Twentieth ward.

THE FINAL SESSION.

Select council will not begin its final 1897 session until 9:20 o'clock, although the commoners will meet a half hour earlier. The only business of any consequence in the upper branch will be the consideration of the viaduct resolution which does not, however, seem likely to pass. For reasons to be explained in what is appended it is not probable that common council will be able to muster a quorum.

Immediately following the sine die adjournment of the old councils, the new bodies will organize. C. E. Chittenden and James Moir, both Republican residents of the Ninth ward, will be elected presidents, respectively, of the select and common councils. Harry Hutton, the Republican ex-council clerk of the lower branch, will succeed John Mahon, the present clerk of the lower branch. The councils will then go into joint session and re-elect Martin T. Lavelle city clerk in which office he will serve his nineteenth successive year.

Mayor Estlin's annual message will be read. In addition to the usual recommendations and suggestions the mayor will have some views to offer in relation to the proposed bond ordinance.

The probability that common council will meet at 9 o'clock this morning is based upon the failure of that Democratic body to get a quorum together for an adjourned meeting Saturday evening. The quorum failure Saturday evening, and its probable repetition this morning, is the subject of a letter to the publicans which claim the 1898 appropriation ordinance illegally passed two readings Thursday night, that it was passed with only nine members in the room or within hearing when the question of a quorum was raised.

DID THEY PASS.

As related in Friday's Tribune President Nealis declared the appropriation and the tax levy ordinances passed two readings. This was done while the select and common councils, by Mr. Wenzel. There were then present all the Democratic members, except Messrs. Norton and McGrath, who had not been present, and Mr. Sheridan, another Democrat, who left the room before the appropriation ordinance was read.

The adjournment to Saturday evening was for the purpose of re-passing the ordinances and legalizing the two readings. The measure could then be passed on third and final reading this morning and be signed by the mayor. Legal or illegal, the Democrats failed to get a quorum Saturday night. They waited late and finally adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock this morning.

All the ordinances, resolutions, etc., awaiting his approval or disapproval were, with one exception, signed by Mayor Estlin Saturday night. The exception was the ordinance providing for a pavement on Providence Road and North Main avenue from Court street to the city line.

Easter Things and Other Things

OUR ARRANGEMENTS for this busy Easter week include extensive preparations for the prompt handling of the vast army of shoppers and buyers who will be with us. Fake stories concerning imperfect cash systems—that are perfect—have no weight here. Your change comes quickly—no slow-freight contrivance to detain you. The Best is none too good. A word as to delivery—the system is now high perfect; could not be better, in fact. Your parcels will reach you promptly—every time. Our busy wagons girdle the city. But we've plenty to make the chain complete.

The Bargains advertised below are for today—and this week. Every item carries price argument that will bring you here—and you're heartily welcome.

Sale of Odd Lengths

6,000 yards of all kinds of Toweling, including checks in all colors and plain Towelings suitable for kitchen use. Among this special lot are goods as low in price, per yard, as **2c**

10,000 yards of Cotton Goods of every description, including the best qualities of Outing Flannel, Plain Flannel, Gingham, Fancy White Materials, Lawns, Percales and other goods. All will go on special sale this week at the one price, per yard, of **5c**

Table Damask

500 yards of all pure Linen Bransley Damask, good full width, would be first-class value at 33 cents per yard. As long as it lasts at **19c**

Linen and Turkish Towels

100 dozen of all-linen fringed Huckaback Towels, also Turkish Towels. A special bargain. **3 for**

A Sensation in Women's Suits

Here is a bargain that the good people of Scranton cannot afford to miss. We've just 25 very stylish FLY FRONT SUITS, made of good materials, with jacket all silk lined. They're in all sizes from 32 to 42. Colors are black, navy and brown. These suits were made to retail at \$7.50—indeed many merchants ask \$10.00 for them. While **\$5.69** they last the price here will be

Just to get you acquainted with the Department—which is now at its best.

BLOUSE SUITS—A special lot in sizes 32, 34, 36 and 38—stylishly trimmed. Fit guaranteed or no sale. Today's price **\$8.75**

Women's Underwear

Medium weight Ribbed Underwear, more than 60 odd dozen that sold at the beginning of the season at 20c and 25c each, to make one grand wind-up of the entire lot, vests and pants. Today **18c**

Hosiery Bargains

Fashion calls for Fancy Hose. Good, dependable colorings have only been shown at the high price. Here's a chance at more than 200 dozen LADIES' FANCY HOSE, made with double soles and guaranteed fast colors. The assortment consists of Polka Dots, Pin Dots, Fancy Checks and Plaids. The price is not 25 cents, but today only **10c**

Shoes

Men's hand-welt Calf Shoes, all style toes, worth \$3.50. Special at **\$2.29**

Men's Fine Calf Shoes, in Congress or lace, worth \$3. Special at **\$1.98**

Boys' and Misses' School Shoes, worth \$1.50. Special at **98c**

Women's fine hand-sewed lace or button shoe; worth \$3.50. Special at **\$2.98**

Women's fine dongola kid buttoned and lace shoes; worth \$1.50. Special at **98c**

Boys' Clothing

"COMBINATION" SUIT in navy chevot, coat, two pairs pants and cap to match, 8 to 15 years. Coat is made double-breasted, well tailored and will stand the hardest kind of wear. Worth \$4.00. Special at **\$2.98**

SAILOR BLOUSE SUITS for boys 3 to 10 years. Among the many of our assortment we offer special this week of dark blue woolen cloth, collar and shield fancy trimmed, pants having patent band, regular \$3.00. Suit at **\$2.25**

KNEE PANTS in blue, corduroy, brown, gray, steel mixture. All have double seat and knees, and made so the seams will stand the strongest strains. Regular 75c value, at **47c**

BOYS' SHIRT WAISTS AND BLOUSES, laundered and unlaundried, starting at 25c upwards to **\$3.98**

Bargains In House Furnishings

Carlsbad China Dinner Sets will be slaughtered this week.

\$10.50 sets reduced to **\$15.50**

18.50 sets reduced to **13.50**

16.95 sets reduced to **11.50**

And these prices on Fine English Semi-Porcelain Sets, illuminated with gold.

\$24.50 sets at **\$19.50**

18.50 sets at **14.50**

There are also forty-eight beautifully decorated TOILET SETS that will find quick purchasers this week at **\$1.10**

Women's

Medium weight Ribbed Underwear, more than 60 odd dozen that sold at the beginning of the season at 20c and 25c each, to make one grand wind-up of the entire lot, vests and pants. Today **18c**

Shoes

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Women's fine hand-sewed lace or button shoe; worth \$3.50. Special at **\$2.98**

Women's fine dongola kid buttoned and lace shoes; worth \$1.50. Special at **98c**

"Well! I Never Saw the Equal of This."

That's what a man remarked while eating dinner in the Restaurant yesterday. Said the "Food was good—that there was plenty of it, and that the service was fine." You'll agree with him after eating here once.

Jonas Long's Sons

Regular Dinner 11.30 to 2.30—25 Cents.

ton & Co. to complete Farber court sewer.

ALDERMANIC CASES.

For betting his wife Dennis Ruane, of Dunmore, was held in \$50 bail by Alderman Miller Saturday.

Alderman Howe fined D. W. Nivian \$1 Saturday for jumping on a Delavan, Lackawanna and Western train.

A charge of stealing a bicycle was preferred before Alderman Miller Saturday against Cephus Scott by Forrest Pedrick. Bail in the sum of \$50 was demanded and furnished.

Mary Ann Fenney, of Throop, was held in \$50 bail by Alderman Howe Saturday on a charge of selling and consuming liquor without a license. Mary Maxwell is the prosecutor.

Mrs. Mary Gallagher, of Emmett street, gave out a warrant before Alderman Miller Saturday for the arrest of John Gaffney, charging assault and battery and burglary. She alleges that Gaffney broke into her house one night and beat her and carried off what valuables she possessed.

Two men were before Alderman Miller Saturday charged with a charge of being house-keepers. William Stone was held in \$50 bail at the instance of Me-

Tigue & Melvin, proprietors of the American house on Franklin avenue, and Ester Linn was held to answer a charge preferred by Peter Baumzahn, of Oliphant. In that case \$50 was also asked.

The last grand jury ignored cases against William Conroy, Thaddeus Walsh and Thomas Coyne, who were charged with assaulting William Gleason, one of the Scranton Railway company's motormen while he was running a car between Meade and this city. Saturday they were arrested on a warrant issued by Alderman Miller and bound over to answer a similar charge before the next grand jury.

The last grand jury ignored a charge preferred against John Kapp, of 1st street, by Katie Neeloh, who lives on the same avenue. Saturday a warrant was again issued for the arrest of the young man on the same charge. The warrant was issued from Alderman Miller's court. It is said the case was ignored by the grand jury because the young woman failed to subpoena an important witness whose testimony was necessary to make out a case.

Alderman Wright on Saturday discharged Constable Joseph Woelkers, who was arrested on a charge of petty larceny by C. W. Traylor. The latter alleged that the constable committed perjury in swearing, when he made his quar-

terly return to court, that to the best of his knowledge no intoxicating liquors were sold in the Eleventh ward in violation of law. The Alderman after hearing the evidence decided that Traylor had not made out a case and discharged Woelkers.

W. H. Reinhardt was arraigned before Alderman Howe Saturday charged with the larceny of an elevator. He waived a hearing and entered bail for his appearance at court. It appears that Reinhardt leased a store on lower Lackawanna avenue from Mr. Freeman and during his term of possession placed an elevator and store fixtures in the building. When he moved out of the building he took the elevator and fixtures with him. Mr. Freeman now charges him with larceny. The case will be heard in court.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

It is the best of all medicines.

RADWAY'S PINK PILLS,

Always Reliable. Purely Vegetable.

Perfectly tasteless, elegance of color, regularity, purity, efficacy and strength. RADWAY'S PINK PILLS for the cure of all disorders of the stomach, bowels, kidneys, bladder, nervous diseases, dizziness, vertigo, constipation, Piles.

SICK HEADACHE, BILIOUSNESS, INDIGESTION, DYSPEPSIA, CONSTIPATION, AND ALL DISORDERS OF THE LIVER

Observe the following symptoms, resulting from disease of the digestive organs: constipation, inward pain, fullness of blood in the head, acidity of the stomach, nausea, heartburn, distastefulness, flatulence, sinking or fluttering of the heart, checking or suffocating sensations when in a lying posture, dimness of vision, dots or webs before the sight, fever and dull pain in the head, redness of the face, yellowness of the skin and eyes, pain in the side, chest, loins and sudden flashes of heat, burning in the flesh.

A few doses of RADWAY'S PINK PILLS will free the system of all the above named disorders.

Price 25c per box. Sold by Druggists or sent by mail.

RADWAY & CO.,
55 Elm St., New York.

A STUDENT SAVED

From a Life-Time of Struggle with Chronic Catarrh.

A young man has before him a brilliant career. Chronic catarrh fastens itself upon him. He tries many remedies in vain. At college a room-mate persuaded him to try Peruna. Peruna cured him in a short time and he rose on his way rejoicing. This reads like a novel, but it is precise history and exact truth. Read what Mr. A. F. Stern, Marine City, Mich., says: "I was troubled with catarrh for three years and tried almost every remedy in medicine, but I had heard of I went down to Delaware, Ohio to attend college, where I got one of your Almanacs and saw another remedy for catarrh. I was almost discouraged with trying all kinds of medicine, but my roommate told me that it was all right, and so I tried it. After taking seven bottles according to directions, I was cured and felt like a new man. I recommend it to all that are suffering with that dreadful disease. It is the best medicine for catarrh. I owe my health to you."

Send for a free copy of Dr. Hartman's latest catarrh book. Address: The Peruna Drug Manufacturing Company, Columbus, Ohio.