

Unmasked

THE NEW MOON.

THIRTY YEARS AGO the concern of Moore & Co., wholesale dealers in silks, velvets and dress goods, was one of the largest and best rated houses in the trade. In a successful career of many years it had established a high reputation for probity and liberal dealing and for an admirable system of conducting its business.

Notwithstanding the immense stock and the large number of the employees, errors were rare and always trifling. A perfected method of keeping the stock quickly exposed any irregularities.

Great, then, was the surprise when it was whispered among the older employees that a series of petty errors, which indicated theft, had been happening for some weeks. This state of affairs excited great concern among the members of the firm. After twelve years of active service I had been for two years past the junior partner. As general manager of the stock it devolved upon me to put a stop to the irregularities and discover their source if possible. Investigation had already demonstrated that thefts, not errors, were the cause. Apparently, also, these thefts were committed by somebody connected with the establishment.

As the losses were comparatively petty, suspicion fell at first upon the boys who were first at the store after the porter, who carried the keys, had opened in the morning. Twenty years of unswerving honesty in our service placed the porter beyond suspicion.

The head bookkeeper, Mills, who was also a partner, and myself were the only others who had a set of keys. All ordinary precautions had already been taken. The night watch was warned, and the police department was furnished with a descriptive list of the missing goods for identification in pawnshops or in case of stolen goods they might make from time to time. A close study of the outside habits of some of our young men was also made by a chosen detective.

Scarcely had we taken these steps when the trouble ceased for some weeks and a feeling of relief was felt by all. Suddenly we discovered that, within a period of twenty-four hours, five pieces of superfine black velvet had been taken. This broke up all our past theories. Here was no irregular sneak thieving. It was planned, systematic robbery. Upon the theory that some one might have obtained false keys, it was decided to change all the locks and have only one set of keys, one of which would be kept by Mills, who often stopped into the evening to finish special work, and the other was to be in my charge. This would necessitate my being the first at the store in the morning and the last at night. The porter and all our employees were thus relieved of all suspicion of entering the store after closing hours.

The change went into immediate operation. Confidence was rapidly restored, though traces of the theft were still zealously sought.

Our confidence was short lived. Within a week another robbery was made. This, again was in the silk department, and such discrimination was shown in selecting the goods that we were satisfied the thief was a judge of the fabrics and was also apparently posted on our stock. This was bewildering and made me almost frantic, although I kept an outward appearance of calm.

A night watch was now set within the store. This was done without the knowledge of any of the employees. I was thus compelled to rise very early in order to release the watchman before the porter and the boys arrived.

Again all was quiet for a time. The system worked; but it was unsatisfactory that we alone of all the trade, were obliged to take such extraordinary precaution.

I did not therefore feel at all satisfied and still sought to discover the cause of our troubles.

But the end was not yet. Within two weeks another heavy theft occurred, covering a value of nearly four thousand dollars. The watchmen, inside and out, protested their vigilance, and not a trace of the robber or of the goods could be found.

I became morbidly nervous, and the slightest unusual event excited my attention.

In this frame of mind I was one day sitting in the counting room near Mills's private desk, just after he had gone out to his noon lunch. Intently thinking, I stopped to pick up a fragment of paper that lay at my feet, and was about to throw it into the waste basket when my attention was arrested by a few printed and written words upon it. It proved to be half of a postoffice box bill.

The fragment read, "Charles V. Onslow, and on the line below, 'Box 1234.' That was all. But how came it in our office, since we had no Onslow in our employment, nor was there such a man among our customers? It could not have lain on the floor long, for Mills was usually neat and would have noticed it.

I seized the directory. Yes, there was the name Charles V. Onslow, agent, No. — Washington street. It was there in a few minutes. It was a large building entirely devoted to offices. Onslow occupied one of the two small rooms on the top floor. On the door of the other I read the name "John May."

Onslow's door was locked, and so, alas, I found was May's.

I sought the janitor; but he could give me little information. Onslow, he said, was at his office very irregular, often being absent for weeks. He rarely spoke with him, except when he settled his quarterly bill, which he did very punctually. In appearance Onslow was a compactly built man of medium height, quiet round-shouldered, and had long black hair and a full beard. There was no connection, he was certain, between Onslow and his neighbor May. They rarely met. The two rooms were formerly let to one tenant, but the door communicating between them had long ago been nailed up, and the rooms let to separate tenants. Now, he continued on his own account, may that I had got his tongue loosened, was a brisk, erect man, with a very high voice, a heavy black moustache, gold-rimmed eyeglasses, and wore a very small cloth hat.

None the wiser for my prying, impatient curiosity, I carefully abstained from any allusion to the subject on my return to the store. Though Onslow was nothing to me, I still kept the fragment of the bill, and determined I would some day make the acquaintance of the man. Weeks elapsed, and neither ourselves nor the police had made a single point. Finally we discontinued the inside watchman.

Two nights afterward a sweeping robbery was attempted.

On opening the store a great quantity of superfine stock was found piled in confusion at the rear of the first floor. Footprints were plainly visible, and a rear window, opening on a narrow alley, was found partly raised, with the outside shutters down.

Consternation seized us. About five thousand dollars worth of silks proved to be missing, but at least ten thousand dollars were represented by what was left in the pile.

There was a buzz along the street and among the police. We became a marked concern and an irritating symptom poured in upon us from the entire trade. Only the well-known wealth of the firm prevented a serious impairment of our credit; but even this could not long sustain a continuation of these operations.

The last robbery, differing in some respects from all the others, exploded many theories we had previously entertained. Did we have among our employees a thief skillful enough to conceal himself in the store before closing hours, and who, after operating with outside accomplices during the night, contrived to quit his hiding place unnoticed in the morning? It hardly seemed probable, or possible in view of the many precautions we had taken all along. In the present case it must have been intended to use a large wagon to carry off the plunder. This employed a gang of skillful professional thieves and perhaps even the complicity of the outside watchman.

Evidently the thieves had been unable to carry out their plans fully and had been scared off before securing all the goods selected.

Matters now went on quietly for many weeks, and we concluded that the last grand attempt was intended as final. But we maintained a strict watchfulness in every respect notwithstanding.

The vacation season came on, but I would not go away for a single day even. So Mills started off in my place, several weeks ahead of his usual time.

When not occupied with regular business, my mind was never off the subject of the robbery, and as trade was now dull, I spent much time in conference with the police and in trying to find some of the stolen goods in the stocks of retailers in all parts of the city and vicinity.

The chief of police had sent to the police of any other cities a full description of the stolen property. With this matter heavy on my mind, I was going down Washington street one afternoon in a highly nervous condition when my attention was attracted by the very beautiful marking on a medium-sized case in a passing wagon. In letters like copperplate I read:

JOHN BAGLEY,
No. — Duane Street, New York City,
Per Fall River Lane from C. V. O.

The instant I saw the initials "C. V. O." I stopped short and halting the astonished teamster asked who shipped the case. He looked me over curiously and then replied: "C. V. Onslow, Washington street."

I cannot explain why I did not stop to reason, or take counsel with the chief of police, or go once more and endeavor to see Mr. Onslow and find out more definitely the nature of his business. But I did not. I went directly to the telegraph office and sent to the chief of police of New York the following telegram:

Without exciting suspicion, get full information concerning John Bagley, No. — Duane street, and telegraph of write to

night. Look out for case shipped today per Fall River Lane by "C. V. O." and ascertain contents, if possible. GEORGE CASS, of MOIRE & CO.

I returned to the store somewhat quieted by my walk and energetic action, and others matters occupied the balance of the business hours.

That very night we lost ten pieces of fine black silk and four pieces of black satin. The robbery was committed in the old mysterious, clean, untraceable manner. After the excitement of the discovery had subsided, I began to open my letters. One was from the chief of police of New York.

He reported Bagley to be a very small jobber of silks and velvets in a chamber on the third floor No. — Duane street. His trade was mostly western; but he also sold a few goods in the city and in Philadelphia. His capital was reported as small, but his character was good and his credit fair. It was also added that a strict watch would be kept for the case to arrive per Fall River line, and its contents ascertained if possible.

A few hours later, while I was debating within myself the advisability of telling my senior partners what I had done, an announcement, which I had done, a customer who had fallen fifteen years before called and to the astonishment of the seniors, who had greeted him heartily, desired to settle the balance of his failed account. He had gone into business at the then extreme west, prospered, and now desired to clear up his old record. In the absence of Mills I devolved upon me to get the books of the year indicated.

The books of each year were kept in separate chests, each chest having its date distinctly painted upon it. There were twenty chests, and now I was directed to clear up his old record. In the absence of Mills I devolved upon me to get the books of the year indicated.

Selecting the proper keys, I quickly skipped up stairs, and found the proper chest in the row upon the floor. To my surprise I found it unlocked. Hastily raising the lid, I was staggered to see, not the books I sought, but the chest full of silks and satins. At a glance I perceived the exact nature of the goods stolen the night before.

This nerved me up strangely. At length I was getting a clue; something upon which to work out a solution of the great problem.

After some search I found the books carefully hidden away behind the chests on the shelves. I found all the other chests locked, and postponing further action I went below and settled the account of our conscientious debtor.

I now resolved not to mention my great discovery for the present. Taking all the chest keys, I first returned the books to their hiding place just as I had found them, and then carefully examined every chest. The books were in every case found intact except in the particular chest I had had occasion to open.

I went below, leaving the goods untouched in the chest, and still keeping my own counsel. I wanted time to think.

Hardly had I settled down into my arm-chair in the private office, when a telegram came from the New York chief of police.

It read as follows:

"The 'C. V. O.' case arrived. Contents, silks and velvets."

I decided upon a course of action instantly. Calling into the office Mr. Prince, our best posted clerk man, and impressing upon him strict secrecy, I directed him to take the night for New York, and thoroughly work up the Bagley and "C. V. O." matter.

Armed with letters to the chief of police and a first-class lawyer, and carrying also a full list of the stolen goods, he was to act in accordance with legal advice and his own judgment, and telegraph me at the earliest possible moment. Even if the original tags, marks and numbers had been removed, Prince would instantly recognize our goods, as most of them were especially made for us and had distinctive characteristics to an experienced eye.

I quickly decided upon another point—namely, that Mills must come home at once for a few days at least. I wanted him surely.

To avoid alarming him, I telegraphed that we desired him to investigate the affairs of a debtor, whose financial condition we considered critical. This was strictly true, but we could have waited a few days.

Before night Mills replied that he would arrive about noon the next day. And now I determined to await the result of Prince's trip to New York before exciting the senior partners unnecessarily, as it might finally appear.

I also concluded not to disturb the goods in the chest. I might alarm the thieves and give them a chance to escape detection. I believed I could well afford to take the chances for twenty-four hours. By that time Prince would probably give me a cue for further action. Should his report prove unfavourable, I could still hope to trap the thief or thieves.

It is hardly necessary to state that I did not close my eyes that night. I was feverish with anxiety about the result of Prince's trip, and also as to the effect upon Mills of the discovery I had made in the book room.

Early the next morning I was at the store. Going directly to the book room I found the goods in the chest had not been disturbed.

Evidently I had lost nothing, and perhaps might have gained a good deal, by leaving the goods untouched in the chest. I must now wait as patient as possible for a few hours.

The forenoon seemed interminably long. The forenoon conversation with my partners on the topic of the robbery, but kept up a cheerful, hopeful style, as they still looked to me to unravel the mystery.

The clock had hardly struck twelve when a telegram came from Prince. It read:

Bagley's stock full of our goods shipped him by Onslow. Bagley secured. Arrest Onslow immediately.

Another telegram was received while I was reading that of Prince. This second was from Mills. He had been delayed, but would arrive in the afternoon.

Early in the forenoon I had sent a note to my special detective officer, Jenks, to be in readiness for action at any moment.

Ten minutes after receiving Prince's dispatch I was in the office of the chief of police. The necessary papers were quickly furnished, and in company with Officers Jenks and Sampson in plain clothes, I started for No. — Washington street.

Posting Sampson at the lower door, Jenks and I started upstairs.

We had ascended all but the last flight when we heard a door open on the top floor. It was quickly closed and locked.

A few hurried footsteps were heard

in the hall, and the form of Onslow appeared at the head of the stairway. There was no mistaking his peculiar figure. Perceiving us, he hesitated a second, then coming quickly down, was passing us with a heavy stoop.

"Excuse me, Mr. Onslow," said Jenks, laying his hand firmly upon his shoulder, "we would like to see you in your office."

"Take the key, gentlemen, and walk up first door to the right. I have a special telegram to send without delay, but will be back in ten minutes or less," said Onslow in a deep voice.

"Sorry," replied Jenks, "but we must see you now. We don't wish to make a scene on the stairs, you know," added he in a low tone.

Without a word Onslow turned, and we were soon in his office, which contained only a large dry goods case and a desk and chair.

Before the ceremony, Jenks told our errand and produced the papers.

Onslow said quietly: "Gentlemen, before you proceed further I would like the presence of a friend, Mr. May, in the next room."

Jenks looked at me. I nodded assent.

"All right," said Jenks, dryly, "I'll wait in the hallway until you bring him."

"Very well," answered Onslow. "As intimate friends we have an inside door open between us. I'll bring Mr. May at once."

So saying, he rose and tapping on the door he entered without waiting for an invitation. I then remembered that the janitor had told me the door was nailed up.

Jenks meantime had posted himself in the hall so as to command the approach to the stairs.

For three or four minutes I heard indistinct conversation. Onslow's voice was in tones of entreaty; the other, pitched in a high key, was decidedly querulous. Suddenly the door opened, and there burst into my presence a brisk, compact man, answering the description the janitor had given me of John May.

"Excuse me, sir," said he, walking rapidly toward the door. "I find it sought by Mr. Onslow to mix me up with very questionable proceedings. I cannot consent to it. Settle the matter for yourselves. I shall withdraw. Good day, sir."

And he quickly stepped out, nodding to Jenks as he went to the stairway.

Anxious to terminate the disagreeable business, I opened the inside door which May had closed as he came out, and instantly discovered it was empty.

"Onslow's gone," shouted I to Jenks. "Stop the other man, May!"

We were none too quick. May had already nearly reached the lower door. A shout from Jenks, however, and he was abruptly collared and brought back by Sampson.

"Now you have mixed yourself up," Jenks said to May, "and you are obliged to sit in one place for five or six hours a day. In cases of capital crime they are housed at some hotel at night, and have changed diet, changed sleeping rooms, imperfect exercise, continuous mental strain, and this may be continued for a week, ten days, or even longer. Intelligent and sound brain reasoning would be impossible under these conditions. Even judges trained to examine and reason from facts along legal lines, display weakness and confusion of mind at the close of a long trial on many occasions."

"The diet of hotels, consisting of rich meats and desserts in great variety, is usually different from the food of the average jurymen, particularly of the working class. The result is always overeating and under-exercise. This alone would quickly break up or disorder the mental activities. In addition to this, the confinement in the hot air of the court-rooms brings new sources of poisoning, particularly de-

tailed face and I fell back into a chair completely overwhelmed. Jenks looked puzzled at my conduct. "Do you know him?" he asked.

"Yes," I answered huskily; "too well; too well."

(To be Continued in Tomorrow's Tribune.)

HYGIENE OF OUR JURY SYSTEM

Criminal Confinement of Jurors in Ill-Ventilated Rooms and the Result as Shown in Their Verdicts.

Before the Medical-Legal society on Sept. 26, Dr. T. D. Crothers, of Hartford, Conn., read a paper, entitled "A Psychological Study of Jurors." In it he said:

"The uncertainty of jurors, and their capricious, whimsical character of their verdicts, are accepted as inevitable, and explained as part of the natural weakness of the mind. It is assumed that, if the facts are clearly presented, a jury will give a common-sense verdict, which will approximate the truth and human justice. When they fail, it is due to the confusion of testimony, the misrepresentation of counsel, and the general perversion of facts. Many thoughtful men consider the judgment of twelve men, who are disinterested, superior and on general matters of dispute of far more reliable character than the judgment of one trained man. Yet, literally, the verdicts of twelve men, based on the same set of facts, are widely, and can never be anticipated; and whether wise or unwise, are clearly due to other influences than the commonly supposed conflict of facts and motives of truth and justice. While it would be difficult to doubt the motive and intent of the average juror to be just and fair in his conclusions, it would seem that certain conditions and surroundings make it impossible in most cases either to understand the case in question, or the principles of equity involved."

"From a medical and scientific point of view, the average twelve men who are appealed to by the counsel and judge to determine wisely the issue of a case are usually incompetent naturally, and are generally placed in the worst possible conditions and surroundings to exercise even average common sense in any disputed case. Practically and literally twelve men of uncertain intelligence, and of doubtful capacity and training essential to determine the disputed questions, are placed in the most adverse hygienic conditions for healthy brain and functional activity. Supposing these men to have fair average intelligence with honesty of purpose, they are placed always in a close, badly ventilated court room, and are obliged to sit in one place for five or six hours a day. In cases of capital crime they are housed at some hotel at night, and have changed diet, changed sleeping rooms, imperfect exercise, continuous mental strain, and this may be continued for a week, ten days, or even longer. Intelligent and sound brain reasoning would be impossible under these conditions. Even judges trained to examine and reason from facts along legal lines, display weakness and confusion of mind at the close of a long trial on many occasions."

"The diet of hotels, consisting of rich meats and desserts in great variety, is usually different from the food of the average jurymen, particularly of the working class. The result is always overeating and under-exercise. This alone would quickly break up or disorder the mental activities. In addition to this, the confinement in the hot air of the court-rooms brings new sources of poisoning, particularly de-

tailed oxidation, which if itself is sufficient to derange the normal brain functions. The crowded rooms at hotels are either overheated and badly ventilated, or cold and noisy. The time for resting and rising varies, and the usual habits of the jurymen are changed in every respect. His accustomed food, sleep, and exercise, and his manner of thinking and the subject of his thoughts, all are broken up. He is asked to follow an intricate chain of reasoning, and discriminate the errors, and told that this is true and that is true, and that the law should lead him to some other point. He is flattered, and his pride is roused to do the best he can. He grows more incensed daily as the evidence accumulates, and his system becomes deranged. Then, in despair, he will suddenly form some conclusion, guided by a fancy for some attorney or some remark by the judge. Perhaps a stubborn member of the jury has formed a conviction on the first day of the trial, and all the rest of the time is passed unconscious of evidence, pro and con, and in the jury-room his very stubbornness wins."

"In reality, the average jurymen becomes more incapacitated to rise above his prejudices, or to reason impartially, every day he is confined to the courtroom. At the end of a long trial he is utterly unable to form any new views, and nothing remains but his old prejudices, and these are often more fixed than ever."

In Chicago.

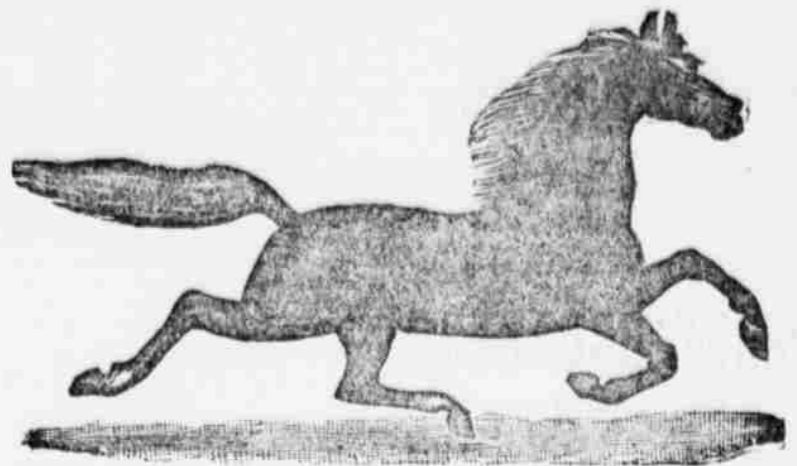
"Yes, I discovered that she loved another."

"Heaven! how did you feel?"

"I felt that I was going to save a big chunk of alimony."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

BABY HUMORS—Dr. Agnew's Ointment soothes, cures and effects quick and effective cures in all skin eruptions, common to baby during teething time. It is harmless to the hair in cases of Scald Head, and cures Eczema, Salt Rheum and all Skin Diseases of older people.—25 cents. For sale by Matthews Bros., and W. T. Clark.—28.

Waldron's Big Horse Sale



Friday, October 27

AT

CUSICK'S OLD STABLES, Wash. Ave.

New York Announcement.

Horner's Furniture

is the subject of this announcement. The term stands for everything that is reliable and fashionable in Furniture, in both the simple and ornate lines, whether wanted for town or country homes. Two other important features are the moderate prices at which the goods are marked, and their unequalled assortments.

Dining-Room Furniture in all finishes of Artique, Belgian, Flemish and Golden, with Tables, Dining Chairs, China Closets and Side Tables to match.

Bedroom Furniture in all the various woods and finishes, including special lines for country homes. Brass bedsteads in over 70 patterns from \$10.00 upward. Enamelled Iron Bedsteads from \$4.50 up.

Latest designs in Parlor Furniture, Library Furniture, Hall Furniture, Venetian Carved Furniture.

Couches, Seating, Easy Chairs, Rockers, Morris Chairs, Dressing Tables, Cheval Glasses, Writing Desks, etc., etc., all in unequalled assortments, and all prices.

Send for Illustrated Handbook, "Our American Homes and Interiors," to Pariah Thayer.

R. J. Horner & Co.,
Furniture Makers and Importers,
61-65 W. 23d St., New York
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Pennyroyal Pills
Chamberlain's English Dressing
Pennyroyal Pills
The most reliable and effective medicine for all skin eruptions, common to baby during teething time. It is harmless to the hair in cases of Scald Head, and cures Eczema, Salt Rheum and all Skin Diseases of older people.—25 cents. For sale by Matthews Bros., and W. T. Clark.—28.

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Of the Board of Health of Fall River, Mass.

SOLD BY YOUR GROCER.

COOK'S
FLAKED RICE
For **BREAKFAST.**
Made only by **THE AMERICAN RICE FOOD & MFG. CO.**
MATAWAN, N.J. U.S.A.

FOR BREAKFAST.

Take the rice from the package, put on just enough salt to season it, then pour on only enough boiling water to cover the flakes.

Let it stand a second, until the flakes soften; if the flakes have not absorbed all the water, pour the water off, then serve with milk and sugar.

DO NOT STIR the rice, as it breaks the flakes and spoils the flavor. NO COOKING WHATSOEVER.

A LARGE PACKAGE, 15c.

Mrs. Simons says, "It's good for baby, too!"
A Little Cook Book of Delicious New Dishes Free in every package.

Healthiest Food on Earth

\$5.00

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Don't spoil your feet by wearing cheap shoes.

The best test to give a shoe is to wear it. Shoes vary in wear as leather varies in quality. Some shoes are made in a hurry; some are not. The Burt & Packard "Correct Shape" shoes are sold at \$5.00 and \$6.00 every where; none better made. Once worn always worn. They sell on sight.

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