

expression of surprise mingled with anger.

"What are you talking about, sir? There has been no robbery here. I do not understand you," said Mr. Bond.

"That is strange, but what is the meaning of this?" replied the detective, as he handed him the following clipping from the morning paper; "If Bond and Co., of 19th Street, wish to negotiate for the return of their securities, they can communicate with the present holders by addressing X. Y. Z. through this column."

Mr. Bond said that he had not been robbed and that he would entirely ignore the clipping.

The detective said, "I am sorry to have troubled you, but have you examined your safe this morning? If not, and you find anything wrong, here is my card. He gave his address and was about to go. "One moment, Mr. Bond, if you will pardon me," he then continued "but as it is my business to be a close observer, I notice that door at the rear of the room." He went and opened it without more delay. "O! I see, this is a lumber room," said he. He went on out and we followed. He pointed to an open window and remarked that a burglar could have easily entered from the room.

We returned to the office and Mr. Smith went to the safe and, making a hasty examination, said with a grave face, "Mr. Bond, I am afraid that your safe has been tampered with. You see," continued the detective, "the bank robber of today does not break safes. He is too skillful a mechanic for that. By placing a short ear tube with the sharp edges of the steel bulb over the mechanism of the lock, the trained ear soon detects the combination of the lock, and of course the safe is easily opened."

"To make certain concerning this suspected robbery, I will open the safe," said Mr. Bond. In a few minutes he had drawn out three boxes which I knew contained valuable bonds and other securities of great value. He quickly counted the contents of two of them. While the detective, who was