

THE MODERN SAFE.

AN UP TO DATE FIREPROOF AND BURGLAR PROOF DEPOSITORY.

Skillful Workmanship Displayed in its Manufacture—Locks With Simple Mechanism That Are Extremely Hard to Open if You Don't Know How.

The latest burglar proof safes and vaults are magnificent specimens of skillful workmanship. Although the doors often weigh tons, they swing as easily on their hinges as a window shutter. After the first great door is thrown back and displays its glittering array of bright locks, its glass incased clocks and its smooth steel bolts, there is another door almost as strong, with bolts and locks of its own. When this is open it reveals three other doors. The upper two are of this steel and have no locks. Only papers and books are to be kept in the little pockets or pigeonholes which they inclose.

Under them and shutting in the cash drawer there is the third door with its own lock and bolts. In this safe the size of the cash repository bears about the same relation to the size of the whole safe as a pumpkin seed does to the pumpkin. And it is not only burglar proof but fireproof—warranted, in fact, to stand for at least 72 hours the greatest amount of heat that any burning building could give it.

The making of a safe of this kind is a complicated and expensive operation. All the steel used comes in the form of plates from the works. After having the necessary screw holes bored in them they are heated to a high temperature and then tempered by suddenly immersing them in water. When they come out they are often a little twisted and warped, and have to be rolled, cold and sometimes polished clean by a swiftly moving emery wheel. The noise of this operation is ear splitting and so rasping that a man with ordinary nerves can hardly endure it. When the plate is perfectly level it is transferred to another machine, where it is clamped tight, and an emery wheel shaves off the edges.

The plates are now put together, first one of hard steel, then one of wrought iron or soft steel, and so on until the necessary thickness is obtained. From the iron the safe receives its tenacious qualities—it cannot be cracked or broken as easily as steel, and the steel imparts a hardness that defies the burglar's drill. The screws are also made of combined steel and iron. Each of them is only long enough to reach through two plates, and the screws which join the third, fourth and fifth plates to the first are never directly under any other screws, so that there is no chance for a burglar to bore down through a row of screws. The plates are also drawn very close together, for if any space was left between them a safe blower might succeed in getting his dynamite into it.

Between the interior and exterior walls of the safe a large amount of hydraulic cement, combined with other ingredients, usually according to a secret recipe, is packed solidly. In case of fire the theory is that the water in the cement—about 43 per cent—will, owing to the heat of the outside covering, become steam, partially, at least, and be driven close to the inner wall. Here it will remain and furnish a blanket impervious to heat. All the bolts are cylindrical and from an inch up to two inches in diameter.

Combination locks are now used exclusively. The mechanism of most of them is extremely simple. In one lock there are a number of round brass disks or "tumblers," each pivoted at the center on a small shaft which runs through the safe door and connects with the lock knob. Each tumbler has a slit in it just the size of the steel arm which controls the bolts and reaching nearly back to the center. When all these slits are together and pointing in exactly the same direction the arm slips into them and the bolts can be thrown. But if the slit in a single one of the tumblers is even a thousandth of an inch out of line the arm will not slip back. The disks are set a short distance apart and small screws with big heads are fastened at random over them. As these strike together in turning the tumblers whirl, and a man might turn the lock knob a thousand years without once getting the slits in all the tumblers together. But the man who knows just how far to turn one way and then how far back again according to the combination numbers has no trouble at all.

The combination and numbers are easily changed by changing the screws in the disk. Many of the best safes and vaults are now being provided with time locks. Two and sometimes three clocks are inclosed in glass cases just inside of the safe door. When the door is locked, no one can open it again until the clock hands have traveled the set distance around the dial and touched a little trigger which releases the bolts. More than one clock is used, so that if one runs down the others will go on and perform their duty. In the big banks the vaults are closed about 5 o'clock in the evening and set to open a little before 9 o'clock in the morning. It is a general impression that an expert burglar can open a combination lock by listening to the clicking sounds, but dealers say it is not possible for any one to do it. If a safe owner forgets his combination, the safe has to be bored into. There is no other way of opening it.—Chicago Record.

The Next Best Thing.

The robber presented his glittering pistol.

"Have you a vacancy in your book-keeping staff?" he demanded.

The president of the bank shook his head.

"Well," the outlaw sighed—he was palpably chagrined—"I'll have to be contented, then, with what cash you have on hand."

Stealing \$17,418.18, he left the place.—Detroit Tribune.

HE WAS TOO SMART.

The Experience of a Countryman With London Confidence Men.

London has its confidence men, who are quite as expert as America's, says a writer in the Boston Herald. Their methods are very similar. It is not worth while to record their routine operations, but one recent instance, as illustrative of their resources, is amusing and instructive. An old Scotch traveling man, who bore somewhat the appearance of a countryman, but who knew the ropes perfectly, was accosted. He decided to have some fun at the expense of the would be swindlers, so he pretended to fall readily in with their statements—to be a particularly easy victim. They bought him a splendid dinner, calling him Mr. Kenny of Dundee—a name which they had caught from a traveling bag which he had borrowed from a friend. He enjoyed their hospitality hugely, and ate prodigiously and expensively. They paid the bill, and began the usual talk about a lottery prize, etc. Then he saw it was about time to "cap their game." Said he:

"Gentlemen, I thank you for the dinner. It was very good, and I have had a very pleasant time with you. But I won't go to see you draw your lottery prize. Oh, no! I know all about the lottery prize. My name is not Donald Kenny. It is Robert Ferguson, and I'm not from Dundee, but from Lochmoven, where I've lived with my daughter for 20 years. I am too old a fish to be caught. Good night!"

And he went his way rejoicing. Two weeks later, when he went home to his daughter in Lochmoven, one of the first things she said to him was: "Did you get the £20 all right?" "What £20?" "Why, the £20 you telegraphed for." And it developed that the confidence men whom he had beaten at their own game had an ace up their sleeves, which they played after he had left them.

HE KEPT THE CHECK.

Turfman Green Morris Was Too Cunning For the Banks.

With so many bank robberies all around us it is not surprising that there should be some uneasiness among depositors. In general, however, the New Yorker has a clear head. He has faith in the Clearing House association, because he really does not quite understand the mystery of it, and he believes in his bank through thick and thin, because he has seen the banks of the city stand together in support of a weakened institution. I am reminded of what happened to Green Morris, the turfman, who lived in Brooklyn and raced horses on all the tracks of the metropolitan circuit. He had a big year of winnings at Monmouth park, and received at the end of the season a check from the association for \$67,000. Eighteen months later he showed that check to me, considerably worn.

"Why, Green," I said reproachfully, "this check is 18 months old. What do you mean by keeping it so long? It is nearly worn out. Don't you know that a check should be deposited at once or cashed? Suppose the bank was to fail?"

Green chuckled knowingly and winked as he folded it up and put it back in his pocketbook.

"I ain't been racin' hosses for nothin' these goin' on nigh 20 year. I ain't got no faith in no banks. They's too much failin' to suit me. That's what I've allus been afraid of, an' that's why I'm holdin' on to my check. I ain't a-go'in to have no bank failin' with my money in the safe. Besides I ain't had no use for the \$67,000, an' it's jes' as easy to keep it in my pocket this way."

This same Green is worth now \$300,000 or \$400,000, and yet cannot write his name.—New York Press.

"Christ Hath Risen."

All at once is heard in the distance the clear boom of the cannon announcing the hour of midnight. The Russian priest, standing on the steps of the altar, swings his censer and announces in tones which penetrate to the farthest corners of the edifice, "Christos voskres" (Christ hath risen), and the people answer him with one voice, "Vo istine voskres" (In truth he hath risen). The woman standing nearest the priest lights her taper at the consecrated one presented to her by him, her neighbor in turn receives the light from her, and so on, till in a minute, as it were, the chapel was illuminated with a hundred lights.

Fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, friends and relations embraced one another, kissing three times on the forehead and either cheek and exchanging the Easter greeting. The whole congregation, then passing before the priest, did the same with him, and high mass now followed.—Chambers' Journal.

A Big Surprise.

In store for all who try Bacon's Celery King for the Nerves. The general verdict of all who have used the great vegetable preparation is that it is the grandest remedy ever discovered for the cure of dyspepsia, liver complaint, general debility, etc. Bacon's Celery King for the Nerves stimulates the digestive organs, regulates the liver and restores the system to vigorous health and energies. Samples free. Large packages 50c. Sold only by W. B. Alexander.

Frankford, Del., July 20, 1894.

Gentlemen:—I have been suffering from Insomnia, caused, I suppose, from disordered liver. A friend of mine recommended Hood's Compound Extract Celery. Although I am not a believer in medicines of this kind, rather than suffer any longer I was prevailed upon to give your medicine a trial. Had any one foretold the results that followed, I would have disbelieved them. Thanks to the excellent effects from two bottles, I am working eight hours per day and sleeping like a top.

PATRICK HENNESSEY.
Sold by Stoke, the druggist.

A VISIT FROM THE DEVIL.

How His Satanic Majesty Once Made His Appearance in Hungary.

A rare pamphlet in the library of the editor of a department of The Republic bears the following quaint title: "A Strange and Terrible Wonder Brought Verle Lately in the Parish Church of Bungay—namely, on the fourth of thys August in the Yeore of our Lorde 1577." The story, stripped of the quaint language in which it is couched, and briefly told, is as follows: A storm of extraordinary fury raged during divine services in the church alluded to; rain fell in torrents, and the lightning flashed "blue, red, green and in a mixture of indescribable colors," while the thunder peals "not only disquieted men and dumb creatures, but senseless things devoid of all life and feeling trembled and shook with terror."

While the tempest was at its height, a fiend from the lower regions appeared in the midst of the terror stricken congregation. The account says: "It was in form, as well as could be discerned, of an enormous dog, of black color, the sight whereof, together with the fearful flashes of fire which then were seen, moved many minds to the belief that the end of time had come, and that doomsday was upon us. The evil one, for he it was in such strange likeness, ran with extraordinary speed into that portion of the church where the majority of the congregation was seated. In doing so it passed between two persons who were upon their knees in the attitude of prayer, grasped and wrung the necks of both in an instant, so that they died presently as they knelt. As he passed by another he gave him such a grip on the back that he was drawn together and instantly shrunken up like a piece of leather scorched in a hot fire."

Leaving the church at Bungay, the devil is said to have "flown with a greate noise and rustling" to the church at Bilbery, seven miles away. He was seen to alight upon the roof and to instantly pass through it, dropping from the vaulted ceiling upon the heads of three persons (two men and a boy,) who were all instantly killed, "being scratched by the horyd thing and burned to nearlie a cracklyng."

The "Book of Wonderous Visitation," published in 1682, 119 years after the events mentioned above, says that the prints of the devil's claws where he ran down the aisle of the Bungay church were then still plainly to be seen.—St. Louis Republic.

Electric Light Test.

The public is becoming quite knowing in many branches of electric knowledge, and in none more than in the determination, with greater or less accuracy, of the efficiency of the electric light. At one time a central station had no great difficulty in foisting upon its customers as a 16 candle power a light that the ordinary gas jet would be an improvement upon. Now, however, people are more critical, and they have a very shrewd idea as to whether they are getting as much light as they are paying for. If they have any doubt on the subject, it can be easily set at rest.

The latest method of measuring illumination is based upon the principle that the illumination, falling, say, on a printed page, must have a definite value in order to render the printed characters just legible, and that the intensity of illumination so required will, for a normal eye, depend upon the size and character of the print. A small printed tablet is placed in a darkened box and exposed to illumination from a translucent plate of glass or porcelain, which receives directly on its surface the light whose intensity is to be measured. The area of the translucent plate is then varied until the amount of light received by the test characters just renders them visible. A scale is provided by reference to which the exact degree of candle power of the illumination is determined.—New York Times.

The Compass Plant.

On the western prairie is found the compass plant whose leaves point to the north. We wish to direct you to the great health giver, Bacon's Celery King for the Nerves. If you are suffering from dyspepsia, liver complaint and indigestion, if you are sleepless at night and awake in the morning feeling languid, with coated tongue and sallow, haggard looks, Bacon's Celery King for the Nerves will cure you and restore you to blooming health. Trial packages free. Large size 50c. at W. B. Alexander, sole agent.

A Very Honest View.

The young man whose salary wasn't long enough by several lengths to reach to all the points he wanted it to had been harassed that morning by numerous persons with bills and bills and bills. About noon, at which time he had lost count of them, his landlady's husband appeared with another for the past month's provender.

"What's this?" he asked, displaying considerable annoyance.

"Your board bill for the month."

"Well, I'll not pay it," he exclaimed, throwing it on his desk. "Do all you people think I have no use for money except to pay bills with?" and he invited the caller to get out.—Detroit Free Press.

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Five-fourths oil cloth 15c. per yard.
Men's top shirts from 15c up.

Boys' knee pants 15c. per pair and up.
Men's working pants from 73c. up.

Finest line of trunks in town at cut prices.
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