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My Last "Break"

By An Author-Burglar.

I had retired—as I thought, perhaps—the old just for gain and pleasure had swept me from my morning, and I was once more on the road making a little professional tour through Westchester County, and venturing with the usual nocturnal adventures and varying degrees of success, when, one gloomy night, I had—sadly committed the fatal mistake which brought to a sudden termination—

But I will not anticipate. It will be better to relate the happenings of that ill-starred night in their proper sequence. Standing well back from the highway, on a slightly eminence, in the outskirts of a thriving village, I had noticed a large mansion, with well-kept lawns, extensive grounds, and other external evidences (as viewed from a distance) of being the abode of wealth and luxury.

I naturally supposed it to be the country residence of one of New York's many millionaires, and though the owner doubtless was not expecting a call from me, I resolved to extend to myself the freedom of his curious abode at the earliest opportunity and carry off, if luck permitted, a few specimens of plate and other souvenirs of the occasion. So the first dark night, armed with necessary tools and my trusty revolver, I strolled out to the neighborhood of the imposing mansion along the midnight, and greatly to my surprise found no trouble whatever in getting my way into the grounds. There was a large iron gate at the entrance, but it was not locked, nor was any watchdog on guard. When I reached the house I saw at I had not before noticed, that there were heavy bars to all the windows. This struck me as strange, but the wealthy householders have peculiar notions, and I chuckled to myself the idea which the owner of this place evidently entertained that the thief would break in and steal the jewels. Just as I was about to enter a side door, I noticed a genuine housebreaker mind—such a trifle as a half-inch wrought iron bar!

Selecting a convenient window, I introduced a chilled-steel saw from my tools and made short work of the bars. Then, prying open the window with a thin knife-blade, I descended for that purpose, I cautiously used the most and crawled inside.

I found myself in a long and comparatively narrow hallway, at the far end of which a door stood ajar; and I confess that it gave me some of a start to notice that a lamp which still burning in the room into which this door opened. Could it be at the inmates of the house had not yet retired? I listened intently, it could hear no one talking or stirring. All was silent as the tomb. The light, which I could hear as I did there was the beating of my own heart. Evidently no one was within. The light doubtless was from solitary gas jet or night lamp which had been left burning, and instead of hindrance would be a help to me in my self-appointed mission.

I determined to explore the apartment containing the light first. Noisily tiptoeing my way along the hall, I reached the door, gently pushed it open, and stepped inside. The moment I had crossed the threshold I saw at I had been entirely too precipitate and unguarded in my actions. But it was too late to retrieve my error or retreat. A thick-set, dark-complexioned man, who had been seated at a desk in the corner of the room, (which appeared to be some of an office,) sprang to his feet and came quickly forward, before I had a chance to draw my weapon or to my escape from the room, and, using both my hands in his powerful grasp, cordially remarked:

"Ah! glad to meet you! I've been expecting you for some time."

"Why, you are the noted author of 'Reminiscences of a Busy Life'—a 'Retired Burglar' for the Daily Comet and other periodicals, of course. As I say, I have noticed your work and I have been on the lookout for you for some time."

"And—who are you, pray?"

"I? Why, I am Dr. Stratford, a head of this restraining institution into which you have so thoughtfully made your way, thereby bringing our friends the trouble of bringing us here, and—"

Suddenly I realized the terrible mistake that I had made, and struggled longer. My long and busy, as well as varied, career as housebreaker and author was ended. I had broken into the Home for Incurables, at last!

Job for a Surgeon.
Bad burns and scalds should be treated only by an up-to-date physician or surgeon. Such wounds are properly washed with sterilized water in covered with gauze dressing containing small per cents of boric acid or salicylic acid. These dressings are not wet or dry, as suits the case in situation, and not removed for twenty-four hours, and after that are changed every several days. Picric acid added to water and so used is itching, stops pain and is a safe wall barrier against outside germs.

Wash of the Cultured.
Mrs. Wigg—Your daughter seems to be suffering from the heat. The Dr. says—No, she's just home from college, and she's prostrated by a family quarrel.

Footing with the Great Forces.
People do not stop to think when they are great forces like steam, electricity, automobiles, street cars, etc. A man is only a tender bag come at together than an inkling roller and can easily be burst or fermented death in any old time or place, and the Japs say, "If you don't look you will die."

Of Interest to Women

Cuban Women Possess For a New Statue of Liberty For Cuba Work of Italian Sculptor Unveiled at Matanzas—Has Been at Work on Statue For More Than Two Years.

Cuba is to have a statue of Liberty at Matanzas, for which a Cuban woman has posed.

Salvatore Benetti of Rome, an Italian sculptor, who executed the figure which will stand in a public park facing the harbor, left this city recently for Matanzas to arrange for the dedication of the monument. Sig. Benetti has been at work on the statue for more than two years and will take an important part in the dedication ceremonies.

In addition to the bronze figure representing Liberty, which will rest on a granite pedestal, the bronze image of Jose Marti will form a part of the same monument, which is being erected by a popular subscription. The Liberty statue will stand 15 feet high and will be at the foot of the Marti monument.



Cuba Libre.

ment, which will rest on a higher pedestal.

Sig. Benetti was born in Messina, but has not visited his native city since the earthquake. He said that he designed and executed the work for a public statue in the public gardens of Messina erected to the memory of Sicilian soldiers who perished in battle.

THE MONTHS AND THE JEWELS.

Garnets, January's gems, mean "Victory and Power";
February Amethysts rule sweet "Affection's" hour;
March with Jasper decorates those who are "Wise and Bold";
April's deep-blue sapphires reign where "Truth" is bravely told;
Chalcedonies belong to May; their message is "Good Cheer";
The Emeralds of June declare "Immortal Life" is clear;
July claims Diamond's "Purity"—freedom from spot or stain;
August's sky-blue Turquoises stand for "Worldly Gain";
September's Chrysolites proclaim: "Hope ever for the best";
The Beryls of October tell of "Happiness and Rest";
November's glowing Topazes types of "Faithful Friends";
December's blood-red Rubies sing: "God's power never ends."—Tudor Jenks, in Harper's Bazar.

To Stem Currants and Gooseberries.

When green currants are to be stemmed, as soon as brought from the bushes, while crisp, take up a handful and rub between the hands over a pan, briskly. The few that do not come off can be quickly removed with the stems thrown away. Should any stems fall into the pan remove at once this way a large quantity can be stemmed in a short time. Even when partially ripened they can be treated in the same manner. Gooseberries, while fresh and crisp, can be put in a flour sack and rubbed on a washboard to remove stems and blot some. Have the sack no more than half full. There will be a few stems left on, which can be quickly removed when looking them over.—Mrs. E. J. H.

Add pinch of salt to water and boil asparagus until tender. Take from boiling water, plunging instantly into cold water. Leave until thoroughly chilled; then spread on a platter, cutting at once on ice, as it should be crisp when ready for use. Serve with mayonnaise or French dressing.

Place it in a wire sieve or colander over a pan of boiling water. It will soon regain its freshness and can be easily cut or put through the food-chopper.

A clean cloth dipped in hot water then a saucer of bran will speedily clean white paint without injury to it. The soft bran acts like soap on the dirt.

Cold water, a tablespoonful of ammonia and soap, will remove machine grease where other means would answer on account of colors running, etc.

Pole Shifts Its Position.
Later information on the results of Lieut. Shackleton's expedition to the Antarctic revealed much that was not disclosed in the preliminary dispatches. It is now brought out plainly that the south magnetic pole, like the north magnetic pole, shifts its position. The discovery will enable geographers to revise the magnetic charts and this will render navigation safer.

ARISTOCRATIC DWARFS.

They Hold Aloof From General Celebration of Midguts.

A diphtheria colony which has arrived in Paris comprises over one hundred and fifty men and women, none over twenty inches high. The novelty of the show will be not a show of "dwarfs" in the ordinary sense. The dwarfs are not perfectly well constituted men and women, but they are many of the "people in society," persons of culture and quality. "We are a true breed," it is true, said the leading member of the diphtheria colony, "and there is each one of us a nobleman." But a number of the dwarfs are persons of good family and in good circumstances who have never consented to exhibit themselves before.

The leading members of the company are two brothers—Count Prince Magri and Baron Magri—both of them are full of dignity and explain that they do not mix indiscriminately with the remainder of the colony which includes persons of all ages and conditions. "The manager must choose the smallest people he can find, you see, in all sorts of classes, over Europe," they say; "and the company, therefore, is mixed. Busy aristocrats like ourselves, there are peasants and menials."—London Telegraph.

More Than She Could Bear.

Marion was a little American girl of six years. For three months her mother and aunt had dragged her through the museums and art galleries of Europe.

She was made to look at the slippers of Marie Antoinette, the prayer-book of Catherine de Medici, hats of Napoleon and endless numbers of uninteresting Madonnas. These, her mother told her constantly, she must remember, for when she grew up she would realize how famous they were.

At last Marion rebelled. She refused to go to a world-famed museum. After much persuasion, she yielded upon one condition.

"I'll go any place you like," she said, "if you'll promise never again to make me look at anything famous!"—Youth's Companion.

The Liveliest Cheeses.

Russell Klavin Bey, the new Turkish ambassador, discussed cooking at a dinner in Washington.

"Your cooking is better than ours," he said. "Still, there are some things in it I decidedly dislike. I dislike, for instance, 'hung' cheese—game kept until it smells like cheese."

"And your cheese itself—I mean your more expensive cheese—the kind with mold in it—it isn't very—"

"I cracked a joke about your cheese at a luncheon."

"Do you prefer with your apple pie Roquefort or Limburger?" said my host.

"Let them race across the table to me and I'll take the winner," said I.

Pure Iron at Last.
Chemically pure iron has never been obtained until very recently. It has been found almost impossible to remove the last traces of impurities, especially of sulphur. But a German chemist, Dr. H. Kressler, has finally by a long series of ingenious processes, partly chemical and partly electrical, succeeded in isolating the pure metal, the properties of which he expects to differ greatly from those of the impure iron that we know. Iron prepared by Kressler's process resembles platinum.—New York Herald.

Whale Fishing Dying Out.

The depression in the Dundee whale fishing is so acute that there is danger of the industry disappearing from the British Isles. The growing scarcity of whales in the arctic regions has made the industry very unprofitable, and shareholders have become so disheartened that a number of the vessels have been put up for sale. A serious side of the question is the probable fate of the Eskimos who depend upon the whalers for supplies of rifles and ammunition.

Natural History as She Spoke.

Doris lived in the city, and a summer visit to grandma's farm revealed many wonders. After being treated to the farmer's luxury, cream, she was allowed to go to the barn to see the cows milked. She looked on with much interest for a while and the asked, "Grandpa, which is the biggest pocket she keeps the cream in?"

Too Many "Rights" for Criminals.

In the fight that never ends between the criminal and society more and more advantage is given to the former. He is handled tenderly. His rights are large, and they are respected even if honest men's rights suffer. Some of his privileges might be withdrawn with no loss to any one meriting consideration.—London Times.

Way to Keep Man's Heart.

A titled English woman who has published a cookbook lays down the law in the dictum that, while a man's heart may be won in a number of ways, there is only one certain way of keeping it, namely, a succession of good dinners.

Observed the Properties.

One evening when Helen came to the end of her prayer she stammered, evidently forgetting how to close. After a moment her face cleared and she said, "Oh, yes—very respectfully, yours, Helen!"—The Delineator.

Different Results.

The man who learns to say no generally succeeds in this world, while the woman is likely to find herself as old maid.—Puck.

Best Use of the Bath.

The human body is covered with the most wonderful and beautiful fabric in the world, flexible as silk, resistant as steel, tough as leather and, beauty of beauties, flushed by some three millions of glands, so that it is absolutely self-cleaning. Therefore, says our doctor, speaking of the bath: "Don't scrub; seldom use soap; use cold water as you can enjoy."

Quality

Appearances may be deceitful and if they are, it pays to have them deceive for, instead of against you.

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