

Diamond Stealing.

A few days since a St. Louis reporter spent an entire afternoon in the private office of a well-known Fourth street diamond dealer, and listened with rapt attention to reminiscences and traditions of diamond robberies, successful and attempted.

"Beginning here in St. Louis, for instance," said the dealer, "I remember a case that, while not strictly speaking a robbery, had remarkable features. I sold a solitaire ring for \$500 to a lady living in Inoosa place. About a year afterward a man walked into my place, and throwing down a ring, asked me what it was worth. I at once recognized it as the one I had sold, and I questioned the man very closely. He claimed to have come by it honestly. I talked for a long time, and at last told my clerk to go and get a policeman.

"Before the clerk got out of the store, the man let down completely, and told me that he was a plumber; that three months before he had been called to a house in Inoosa place to fix a water pipe which was stopped up. He found the ring in the pipe and nothing about it, and waited for three months to give the loss time to blow over. Strange that he should come to my place, the only one in the city where the ring would be recognized. He saw he was found out, made the best of the job, returned the ring, and secured a reward of \$500."

One day a respectable looking gentleman with a young lady, to all appearance his wife, came to the diamond dealer's place and spent several hours looking at diamonds. One cross and earrings, valued at \$5,000, seemed to strike the young wife's eye. The husband demurred at the price. The wife playfully coaxed him to buy. "Well, well, I will think about it," said he, as they departed without buying.

The next day the woman drove up in a coupe, and said: "My husband desires to see those diamonds again. I think he will buy. He is sick in bed, and will you go to the Southern with me, or send a clerk?"

Warned by a previous bitter experience, involving a loss of \$1,000, the dealer did not send a clerk but went himself. The couple had a suite of parlors on the second floor. The young lady was quite engaging. Her husband was sleeping. Would the gentleman wait a few moments? He would. The lady was unusually interesting, and always susceptible to the charming woman, the time passed agreeable to the diamond dealer. The young lady got up and entered the inner apartment, but returned immediately with the announcement that her husband was awake. With the sweetest affectation of enthusiasm she picked up the case containing the jewels, and with "Let me show them to my husband," disappeared within.

The door seemed accidentally to blow shut. The diamond merchant jumped up, and as he did so he heard a key turn in the lock. He at once recognized what was up and sprang to the door opening to the hall. He found it locked. He was a prisoner. The solid door mocked him. He was desperate. In an instant he drew his revolver, placed it to the lock, fired, it was shattered and the door swung open to his touch. Like a madman he tore along the halls, down the stairs, through the rotunda, and around to the ladies' entrance, just as a lady in a carriage gave the order, "Relay Depot, East St. Louis."

He leaned into the window of the carriage and said, "Will your husband take the diamonds, madam?"

She gave him one long, searching look, quietly said, "The price is too large, and than they are such hard things to keep;" produced the case from the recesses of her muff and handed it to him, saying, "I should have been quicker." Spyer looked at the diamonds, saw that they were all right and bade the young woman good-day. Within the hour she and her confederate had left the hotel.

Since then the dealer has never let a diamond leave his hand for more than two seconds. The idea is just this: Two smart thieves can afford to work a couple of years to make a haul of \$10,000. Take, for instance, the traveling diamond merchants who carry with them from twenty to sixty thousand dollars worth of gems. The chances are that no one of them ever leaves New York without he is shadowed by some adroit thief, who lives in the same hotel with him, rides on the same train, sleeps in the same Pullman, rides in the omnibus from the depot, waiting, watching for a chance to possess himself of the small satchel or case that is the burden of the drummers life.

A Plucky Grocer.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 26.—For some time Robert H. Murphy, a grocer on Grand River avenue, Detroit, suspected that burglars had been attempting to enter his store. Last night he concealed himself under a counter and awaited events. He soon heard the burglar enter the rear door, by means of a false key, and saw him light a dark lantern and fill a bag with a lot of canned fruit and start for the door. Murphy intercepted him and a desperate struggle ensued. Finally Murphy seized an iron wedge and struck the burglar several savage blows upon the head, felling him to

the floor. The fellow regained his feet, and having choked Murphy into a state of insensibility escaped. An hour later a man giving the name of James Ellis applied at a police station for medical attention, saying he had been waylaid and beaten by robbers. Murphy, regaining his consciousness, proceeded to the same station house where he saw Ellis, and identified him as the burglar. The latter admitted the fact, and said that fear lest he should die unless his wounds were dressed prompted him to go to the station house. His skull is fractured, and his head cut in a shocking manner. It is thought he cannot live.

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A New Magazine.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 28th, 1879.

at 10 o'clock A. M., of said day, the following described Real Estate:

A TRACT OF LAND

containing 54 acres, 15 perches and allowance, situate partly in Carroll township, said County of Perry and bounded and described as follows, to wit: On the North by lands of Billman, on the South by lands of John Souder, on the East by lands of Frederick Warderker, and on the West by the said John Souder, and having thereon erected a new Two Story

LOG HOUSE, WITH KITCHEN ATTACHED, A LOG BARN,

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