

THE QUEER BURGLAR.

Though some account of the Queer Bank Burglar was given by the writer, in one of the St. John newspapers, a year or two ago, it was of an incomplete and fragmentary character. Since then additional information has been obtained, so that the story may now be told in a more accurate and readable form.

The burglar in question was the only man who ever undertook to rob the Bank of New Brunswick by breaking into it, though, as with all banks, there have been and are likely to be other attempts to get at the money by more respectable, though not more honest, gentlemen. Some of these latter efforts have been attended with success, but, the experiment of the Queer Burglar was a most disastrous failure.

There was no police force in the city of St. John in the year 1848, but there were a number of men who composed the "Nightly Watch," and who did more or less efficient patrol duty during the hours of darkness. The darkness of the streets in those days was of a fairly complete description, for though the city was lighted by gas, the lamps were at long distances from each other and were not a very serious check upon the actions of evil-doers. When a watchman discovered anything wrong he summoned his comrades to his aid, and though they might not always respond in time to catch the thieves, the latter were at least sufficiently alarmed to desist from their felonious purpose and get away, figuring as the anonymous actors in what the newspapers of the time would term a "daring attempt at burglary."

About two o'clock in the morning of Thursday, the 13th of January, 1848, the captain of the Nightly