

also a keen relish for anything savouring of a huge joke upon one of their number; and the satisfaction in its enjoyment is increased in just the proportion that the subject of derision has won celebrity in his particular calling; and the cause for the merriment has been the result of his lapse from his usual caution and cunning.

The following incident, which caused much enjoyment among the more able class of criminals throughout the country at the time of its occurrence, illustrates how the shrewdest among them occasionally become so careless as to deserve the severest censure from the fraternity, as well as to at least subject them to an unsought and sudden deliverance into the hands of justice.

The hands of justice did not happen to be groping around on this particular occasion, however. If they had been, two shrewd criminals would not have escaped with merely a costly railway ride and the subsequent raillery of their companions.

A "bank-sneak" is one who, with confederates, makes an excuse of transacting some sort of business at a bank during a time when few of the employees are within. The attention of the cashier or paying teller, and whoever else may be on duty, is wholly absorbed by the principal "sneak" and his accomplices, by various devices, when some dexterous little fellow, one of the gang trained for this work, "sneaks" in behind the partitions and secures whatever may be captured. It is daring work, but, like most other grades of thievery, principally requires coolness, keenness and presumption. Very large sums have thus been secured, indeed almost equalling in amount that captured in the most successful operations upon bank vaults. James Griffin, Frank Knapp, Dan Noble, and Jack Tierney, once got over a quarter of a million in Government bonds from the office of the Royal Insurance Company in New York, in this very manner.

Charlie King, was, and is, a professional bank-sneak. He was shrewd, cautious, jolly, and full of pleasant tricks and jokes with his friends. In fact, he was a handsome, round-faced, happy-hearted fellow, who considered his method of getting on in the world very funny and agreeable, and was never more happy than when pursuing his vocation in the manner of a practical joke, which was made to hit his friends right and left, so that when he made a little slip on the New York and New