

minutes from the time he started would catch half a dozen rats with his hands, unaided by a dog or trap.

The proposition struck the New Yorker as so insanely liberal that he laid the odds of two bottles to one that it couldn't be done. The bet was made. I called up the porter and asked if he would tackle the job. "Dave" asked no better fun than catching rats, knowing from experience that he was always well rewarded for his proficiency in that line. At his request the five of us followed him into the carving room and kitchen to see for ourselves just what preparations he desired to make. What he did when there was to open the slide doors under the meat table, also the door between the two rooms, then provide himself with a big broom.

Returning to the office the New Yorker took the time and all hands waited eagerly for Dave to give the word when the first raid should be made. He kept us nearly ten minutes before giving the signal, when, as quietly as possible he stepped to the door and as he rushed into the carving room all hands followed. The rat catcher's first trick was to shut the sliding doors under the carving tables and the door between the two rooms, and when the gas was turned up there was such a scampering of rats across the floor that our Yankee friend jumped on the table yelling at his highest pitch.

Dave proceeded to work in the most methodical manner. He would single out a rat, and with broom in his left hand, chase him into a corner. He would then clap the broom over him and hold him down, then with his right hand catch hold of the rat's tail, swiftly draw him from under the broom, then keep swinging him round and round until he walked to a big wire cage over on one of the tables, when he would pop him in.

In ten minutes' time he caught seven rats, and therefore easily won my bet, but to give the Gothamite a little fun for his money, Dave made two other raids, securing five the second trip and four the third time. Then to show his utter fearlessness in handling rats, he allowed the New Yorker to point out the ugliest and wickedest-