A NEAT JOB.

A BURGLAR'S STORY.

My profession isn't a popular one. There's considerable prejudice against it. I don't, myself, think its much worse than a good many others. However, that's nothing to do with my story. Some years ago, me and the gentleman who was at that time connected with me in business—he's met with reverses since then, and at present is unable to get out—was looking around for a job, being at that time rather hard up, as you might say. We struck a small country town—I ain't a goin' to give it away by telling where it was, or what the name of it was. There was one bank there; the president was a rich old duffer; owned the mills, owned the bank, owned most of the town. There wasn't no other officer but the cashier, and they had a boy who used to sweep out and run of errands.

The bank was on the main street, pretty well up one end of it—nice, snug place, on the corner of a cross street, with nothing very near it. We took our observations, and there was no trouble at all about it. There was an old Stoughton bottle of a watchman that walked up and down the street nights, when he didn't fall asleep and forget it. The vault had two doors; the outside one was chilled iron and had a three-wheel combination lock; the inner door wasn't no door at all; you could kick it open. It didn't pretend to be nothing but fireproof, and wasn't even that. The first thing we done, of course, was to fit a key to the outside door. As the lock on the outside door was an old fashioned Baron lock, any gentleman in my profession who chances to read this article will know just how easy that job was, and how we done it. I may say here that the gentleman in my line of business, having at times a good deal of leisure on their hands, does considerable reading, and are particularly fond of a neat bit of writing. In fact, in the way of literature, I have found among 'em—however, this being digression, I drop it, and go on with the main job again.

This was our plan: After the key was fitted I was to go into the bank, and Jim—that wasn't his name, of course, but let it pass—was to keep watch on the outside. When any one passed he was to tip me a whistle, and then I doused the glim and lay low. After they got by, I goes on again. Simple and easy, you see. Well, the night as we selected the president happened to be out of town—gone down to the city, as he often did. I got inside all right, with a slide lantern, a breast drill, a small steel jimmy, a bunch of skeleton keys, and a green baize bag to stow the swag. I fixed my light and rigged my breast drill, and got to work on the door right over the lock.

Probably a great many of your readers is not so well posted as me about bank locks, and, I may say for them, that a three-wheel combination lock has three wheels in it and a slot in each wheel. In order to unlock the door you have to get three slots opposite to each other at the top of the lock. Of course if you know the number the lock is set on you can do this, but if you don't you have to depend on your ingenuity. There is, in each of these wheels, a small hole, through which you put a wire through the back of the lock when you change the combination. Now, if you can bore a hole through the door and pick up those wheels by running a wire through those holes, why you can open the door. I hope I make myself clear. I was boring that hole. The door was chilled iron—about the neatest stuff I ever worked on; I went on steady enough, only stopped when Jim—which, as I said, wasn't his real name—whistled outside, and the watchman toddled by. By and by when I'd got pretty near through Jim, so to speak, whistled again. I stopped, and pretty soon I heard footsteps outside, and I'm—I mean blowed—if they didn't come right up to the bank steps, and I heard a key in the lock. I was so dumbfounded when I heard that that you could have slipped the bracelets right on me. I picked up my lantern, and I'll be hanged if I didn't let the slide slip down and throw the light right into the door, and there was the president. Instead of calling for help, as I suppose he would, he took a step inside the door, and shaded his eyes with his hand and looked at me. I knowed I ought to knock him down and cut out, but I'm blest if I could, I was that surprised.

"Who are you?" says he.

"Who are you?" says I, thinking that was an innocent remark, as he commenced it, and a-trying all the time to collect myself.

"I'm the president of the bank," says he, kinder short. "Something the matter with the lock?"

"By George?" The idea came to me then. "Yes, sir," says I, touching my cap. "Mr. Jennings, he telegraphed this morning the lock was out of order and he couldn't get in, and I'm come on to open it for him."

"I told Jennings a week ago," says he, "that he ought to get that lock fixed. Where is he?"

"He's been a-writing letters, and he's gone up to his house to get another letter he wanted for to answer."

"Well, why don't you go right on?" says he.

"I've got almost through," says I, "and I didn't want to finish up and open the vault till there was somebody here."

"That's very creditable to you;" says he. "A very proper sentiment, my man. You can's," he goes on, coming round by the door, "be too particular about avoiding the very suspicion of evil."

"No, sir," says I, kinder modest like.

"What do you suppose is the matter with the lock?" says he.

"I don't rightly know yet," says I; "but I rather think it's a little wore on account of not being oiled enough. These 'ere locks ought to be oiled about once a year."

"Well," says he, "you might as well go right on, now I am here; I will stay till Jennings comes. Can't I help you? Hold your lantern or something of that sort?"

The thought came to me like a flash, and I turned around and says:

"How do I know you're the president? I ain't ever seen you afore, and you may be a-trying to crack the bank for all I know."

"That's a very proper inquiry, my man?" says he, "and shows a most remarkable degree of discretion. I confess that I should have thought of the position in which I was placing you. However, I can easily convince you that its all right. Do you know what the president's name is?"

"No, I don't," says I, sorter surly.

"Well, you'll find it on that bill," said he, taking a bill out of his pocket, "and you see the same name on these letters," and he took some letters from his coat.

I suppose I ought to have gone right on then, but I was beginning to feel interested in making him prove who he was, so I says: "You might have got them letters to put up a job on me."

"You're a very honest man," says he, "one among a thousand. Don't think I'm at all offended at your persistence. No, my good fellow. I like it, I like it," and he laid his hand on my shoulder. Now, her," says he taking a bundle out of his pocket. "Is a package of ten thousand dollars in bonds. A burglar wouldn't be apt to carry those around with him, would he? I bought them in the city yesterday, and I stopped here to-night on my way home to place them in the vault, and, I may add, that your simple and manly honesty has so touched me that I would willingly leave them in your hands for safe keeping. You needn't blush at my praise."

I suppose I did turn sorter red when I see them bonds.

"Are you satisfied now?" said he.

I told him I was thoroughly, and so I was. So I picked up my drill again and give him the lantern to hold, so that I could see the door. I heard Jim, as I called him, outside once or twice, and I like to have burst and laughing, thinking how he must be wondering what was going on inside. I worked away and kept explaining to him what I was a-trying to do. He was very much interested in mechanics, he said, and he knowed as I was a man up in my business by the way I went to work. He asked me about what wages I got, and how I liked my business, and said he'd took quite a fancy to me. I turned around once in a while and looked at him a-setting up there as solemn as a biled owl, with my dark lantern in his blessed hand, and I'm blasted if I didn't think I should have to holler right out.

I got through the lock pretty soon, and put in my wire and opened it. Then he took hold of the door and opened the vault.

"I'll put my bonds in," says he, "and go home. You can lock up and wait till Mr. Jennings comes. I don't suppose you will try to fix the lock to-night."

I told him I shouldn't do anything more with it now, as we could get in before morning.

"Well, I'll bid you good night, my man," says he as I swung the door to again.

Just then I heard Jim, by name whistle, and I guessed the watchman was a-coming up the street.

"Ah," says I, "you might speak to the watchman if you see him, and tell him to keep an extra lookout to night."

"I will," says he, and we both went to the front door.

"There comes the watchman up the street," says I.

"Watchman, this man has been fixing the bank lock, and I want you to keep a sharp lookout to-night. He will stay here until Mr. Jennings' return."

"Good night, again," says he, and we shook hands, and he went up the street.

I saw Jim, so-called, in the shadow on the other side of the street, as I stood on the step with the watchman.

"Well," says I to the watchman, "I'll go and pick up my tools and get ready to go."

I went back into the bank, and it didn't take long to throw the door open and stuff them bonds into the bag. There was some boxes laying around and a safe, as I should rather have liked to tackle, but it seemed like tempting Providence after the luck we'd had. I looked at my watch and seen it was just quarter-past twelve. There was an express went through at half-past twelve. I tucked my tools with the bag on top of the bonds and walked out to the front door. The watchman was on the steps.

"I don't believe I'll wait for Mr. Jennings," says I. "I suppose it will be all right if I give you his key."

"That's all right," says the watchman.

"I wouldn't go away very far from the bank," says I.

"No, I wont," says he. "I'll stay righ about here all night."

"Good night," says I, and I shook hands with him, and me and Jim—which wasn't his right name, you understand—took the 12:30 express, and the best part of that job was we never heard nothing of it.

It never got into the papers.

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The word Iowa has heretofore been said to mean "Here I rest," but a recent writer in the Iowa Historical Record, declares it signifies "The sleepy people."

—Mr. H. B. McKinnon, painter, Mount Albert, says: "Last summer my system got impregnated with the lead and turpentine used in painting: my body was covered with scarlet spots as large as a 25 cent piece, and I was in such a state that I could scarcely walk. I got a bottle of Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery, and at once commenced taking it in large doses, and before one-half of the bottle was used there was not a spot to be seen, and I never felt better in my life."

A piece of needle which entered the foot of a Boston street car conductor fourteen years ago, came out of his arm the other day.

—West Toronto Junction is within a few minutes walk of the Union station by the trains of either the Ontario and Quebec and the Grand Trunk or the Northern. Real estate in the neighborhood has steadily risen in value and promises to advance still more rapidly. Some of the best lots in West Toronto are to be had from Geo. Clarke, 295 Yonge street.

There are 623,325 Odd Fellows in Great Britain, a gain of 38,377 during the last year. The number of deaths in 1884 was 7,078.

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Every Italian member of parliament "dead-heads" it all over Italy, and is entitled to a compartment to himself.

—A field of corns.—Thomas Sabin of Eglington, says: "I have used Holloway's Corn Cure with the best results, having removed ten corns from my feet. It is not a half way cure or reliever, but a complete extinguisher, leaving the skin smooth and clear from the least appearance of the corns."

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Oliver Wendell Holmes carries a horse-chestnut in his pocket in full faith that it prevents rheumatism.

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Perhaps the most extraordinary success that has been achieved in modern science has been attained by the Dixon treatment for catarrh. Out of 2000 patients treated during the past six months, fully ninety per cent. have been cured of this stubborn malady. This is none the less startling when it is remembered that not five per cent. of the patients presenting themselves to the regular practitioner are benefitted, while the patent medicines and other advertised cures never record a cure at all. Starting with the claim now generally believed by the most scientific men that the disease is due to the presence of living parasites in the tissues, Mr. Dixon at once adapted his cure to their extermination; this accomplished, the catarrh is practically cured, and the permanency is unquestioned, as cures effected by him four years ago are cures still. No one else has ever attempted to cure catarrh in this manner, and no other treatment has ever cured catarrh. The application of the remedy is simple and can be done at home, and the present season of the year is the most favorable for a speedy and permanent cure, the majority of cases being cured at one treatment. Sufferers should correspond with Messrs. A. H. Dixon & Son, 305 King street west, Toronto, Canada, and enclose stamp for their treatise on catarrh.—Montreal Star. 46

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G. T. R. West	7.00	3.00	11.45	7.20
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