

An ingenious youth employed to sweep out a New York bank devoted attention, for a considerable period, to gathering up the crumbs from the tills in the shape of corners and other bits of notes such as get torn off, and fall about in any place where dollars are counted. In the course of time he got together a quantity of scraps of the sort, sufficient to fill a pint measure, and he sent them on to the Redemption Bureau at Washington in a box, with the explanation that they had been eaten by mice. He stated the amount at \$200, and asked for new bills in exchange. His little game was betrayed on the face of it, by the fact that the pieces forwarded represented, if anything, not less than \$1,000. The usual affidavit was demanded from him, swearing to his loss; but he had not thought of that requirement and lacked the nerve to give it, luckily for himself.

Undoubtedly the redemption division does sometimes get swindled, though not often. The women experts employed to examine the money sent in are wonderfully skilful. It is marvellous how deftly they will poke over a few charred fragments of notes, and set an accurate valuation upon them. The other day a poor woman in Ohio sent a corner of a \$20 bill, with a pitiful story about her baby's having burnt it. Hardly more was left than a fragment big enough to show the figures of the denomination, but she will get the money back. Mice are great destroyers of paper currency, and some of the most hopeless specimens that come in have been chewed up for beds by those little rodents. Sometimes a pill-box full of indistinguishable ashes will arrive, accompanied by a certificate stating the amount represented. Of course, such a case is hopeless.

Kitchen stoves burn up more every year than is lost in any other way, people will confide their hoards to them for hiding, and when they are lighted, the greenbacks go up in smoke. The greatest sum ever consumed by fire in this country was \$1,000,000. That amount went up in smoke at the Sub-Treasury, but the government was able to replace it at the cost of paper and printing. It has been estimated that one per cent of all the paper money issued is lost or destroyed. Of the old fractional currency it is reckoned that \$8,000,000 worth has been totally lost.