

cases were a shapeless mass of gold, and my works locked up in a drawer with a quantity of miscellaneous movements of all grades, from the finest pocket chronometer to the cheapest class of Liverpool or Coventry duffers, and in a few days we were all packed together and sent to New York.

In New York I got new gold cases, and by some means was smuggled into the channels of legitimate trade, and was soon bought by a steamboat captain, who wanted a good, reliable, London made watch. For over a year I gave my new owner the best of satisfaction; he was loud in his praises when he had occasion to talk about me, and once, when boasting about my regular running to a grain merchant, the proposal was made to purchase me. He said he had tried a great many different kinds of watches, and never could get one to run near as well as I was said to, and finally a bargain was concluded, and I was sold for more than twice my actual value. The grain dealer had occasion to travel considerably in the Western States, and somehow I could not run to please him any better than any of the watches he had carried previously.

He regulated me at every town he came to, and attributed my apparent variation to the shaking I had received when he was traveling. He certainly did travel over a great many rough roads, but I was able to stand it all without changing my rate very much—the real cause of the trouble was the difference of the time shown by what was acknowledged to be the standard clocks in the different towns and cities he visited; and when his watch did not show the same time as the clocks, he concluded the watch was wrong, and regulated it accordingly; and in this way he kept constantly shifting my hands and poking at my regulator.

Now, I do not think that a watch acts any worse than a human being when placed in a position of this kind. If a watch is constituted to pursue a certain line of conduct it cannot help doing so if people will only let it alone; but any unnecessary interference, however well meant it may be, always works mischief. I was doing my best to please him and could not do it; and he was under the pleasant delusion that he was helping me to run regular, while his actions were the very thing

that prevented me from doing so. One evening he forgot to wind me, and, as a natural consequence, I stopped. He concluded at once that I needed cleaning, and took me to a watchmaker, remarking that he was to be sure and clean me well, as I had never run right since he got me. "Oh, yes," says the watchmaker, "I will shine it up good;" and he kept his word, too, for the scrubbing he gave me with chalk and a hard brush was perfectly fearful, causing irreparable damage to my fine gilding.

It was the first time chalk had ever been used to clean me, and the watchmaker left much of it in my pinions, pivot holes and other places, and when he handed me back to my owner I was in a far worse condition than before I was cleaned. In the course of a very few weeks I stopped again, from being choked up with chalk and hairs from the watchmaker's brush; and my owner took me to another watchmaker, who, of course, told him that I required cleaning.

My owner could not understand how it was that I required to be cleaned so soon, and evidently regarded this watchmaker as an impostor, but as there was no other in the town, and I had to be made to run somehow, he left me with him. Now,



"This individual belonged to a family of born watchmakers."

this watchmaker treated me very well; cleaned out all the particles of chalk, polished my pivots, arranged my screws in their proper places, and also polished and blued the heads of those that were damaged, and as far as he was able, restored me to my original condition. When my owner called to get me, and when the bill was presented to him, he flew into a great passion; and, instead of only thinking this really honest watchmaker to be an impostor, he now believed him to be one in reality, because he was charging \$3 for what my owner considered to be the same work as

the man who had "shined me up good," had done so expeditiously, and charged only \$1.50. If the watch wearing public only knew a little more about their watches, how much better and pleasanter it would be for all concerned.

After this double cleaning the natural inference would be that I would be sure to run well; but I did not please my owner any better, and the primary cause of the whole trouble was, he kept continually altering the position of my hands and regulator. At last he came across a watchmaker in a large city who thoroughly understood what was the matter. He said that I was not properly compensated for heat and cold, which was invariably the disease that afflicted every watch that came into his hands. Now, this was the most scientific man that had ever handled me. He had an oven constructed according to his own ideas, and which differed from every other contrivance of the kind, for testing the rates of watches in various temperatures. His arrangement for producing cold was equally peculiar, and he was altogether so very scientific that he could use nothing but Reaumur's thermometer to mark the different degrees of heat and cold. I was first put through the stereotyped process of cleaning, but the owner of the establishment did not attend to that personally, leaving it to be executed by a subordinate. After I had been cleaned, and when he was putting me together, he bent one of my third wheel pivots slightly, and it was with some difficulty that I managed to keep moving.

To persons possessed of minds of such high scientific order as the owner of this establishment, the train of a watch is of little consequence; it is in the adjustments where all the science comes in, consequently he saved all his energies to use in that direction. Now, the ordinary adjusters of watches to heat and cold are content if they can get us to run regularly in moderate changes of temperature; but this idea would not satisfy the man whose clutches I had now got into. He argued that if a rope had to sustain 100 pounds weight, it would be safer to have it made to bear the strain of 200 pounds, which, of course, is agreeable to common sense as well as science; and consequently it must also be safer for a watch than usually



"A man with a mask entered."