

confusion, the number of transactions taking place at one and the same time, the difficulty of keeping a strict watch, all enhance the temptation to break that commandment which says "Thou shalt not steal." One of the cases of systematic dishonesty just referred to was in a large dry goods establishment, where an immense variety of goods are sold under the same roof. Like all similar circumstances, it had its origin in a small way. A single sales-girl appropriated for her own use a comparatively insignificant article of wearing apparel. An arrangement was made with a friend having charge of another counter, by which these two should exchange the various articles under their supervision. The system seemed practical, and the chain was gradually extended among the other employees, so that finally any one of the girls within the circle, by supplying to her confederates a certain class of goods, could obtain in return enough to almost clothe her from head to foot. Although this syndicate arrangement was operated on a large scale, the girls were not detected for a long time, and even then the final expose occurred through an accident.

In another instance a shipping clerk was in the custom of supplying to certain customers first class goods at third class rates, and then, by a previous understanding, dividing with them the gains thus made. Thefts of cash in retail stores vary according to the system employed of recording cash sales. In large stores, if the salesman is dishonest, no returns are made to the cashier, or false entries are made which leave the salesman a neat margin of profit. Thus it is readily seen that the ways in which an employer may be robbed are almost innumerable.

Now what are the methods by which an employer may protect himself? It depends, of course, wholly on the kind of business and the style of conducting it. Many of the big banking institutions have adopted a system which goes to the root of the matter, but which, by its very nature, is unsuited to any but those establishments handling large sums of money. A private detective is regularly hired by the bank, who makes it his special work to find out about the habits of the various employees out of business hours. Unknown to them the detective follows them about, finds out where they spend their evenings, whether or not they are leading a fast life, and if they are spending more money than their respective incomes would seem to justify. He will thus keep track of a certain man for a week, or a few days, and if all is found well report is accordingly made to the president of the bank and similar tactics are begun with regard to some other employee.

But if, on the other hand, the watched man is found to have irregular habits, his accounts are carefully examined and every detail looked into. Ten chances to one, it will be found that the man who is spending the money right and left and leading a fast life

generally is a systematic thief. It is a sound principle which underlies this method of discovering a defrauder; for no man is going to take money which does not belong to him unless he has some immediate way of expending it. The modern thief does not hoard up in savings banks. It is pre-eminently his spendthrift habits which lead him to steal. Incidentally, all of the employees of the bank, no matter how reliable they may be considered, are successively watched by the detective. It may be an unpleasant precaution, but where thousands upon thousands of dollars come into the question, experience has shown it to be necessary. For smaller establishments similar precautions on a smaller scale would doubtless be the means of stopping many a small leak. In France all banks keep on file a photograph of each person connected with the institution.

The curious thing about the prevailing dishonesty among employees is that a man cannot be persuaded to believe the existence of such a thing in his own particular case until he is confronted with positive proof. Then he blames himself for his negligence and wonders how he could have been so blind.

The patent check machines which have largely come into vogue have done much to stop this monkeying with the receipts. There are a variety of these machines on the market, but they all look toward the same result. By keeping record of every sale as it transpires theft is rendered wellnigh impossible. The cashier is bound to make his—or quite as frequently her—accounts tally with the total shown by the machine. If there is a shortage anywhere someone has got to make it up.

In this connection it may be well to mention the fact that many employers do themselves, as well as the public at large, an injustice by trying to shield a guilty clerk. If the offender happens to be a young man, his father will sometimes approach the employer and plead with irresistible eloquence that his son may not be disgraced, and thus it often occurs that a worthless criminal, in the eyes of the law, is given "another chance." Occasionally a reform is thus effected, while in other cases the lesson soon fades out of mind. To know just what course to pursue under such circumstances indeed requires careful judgment, and no invariable rule can be laid down.

A case in point suggests itself. A young man of poor but honest parentage held a position of responsibility in the office of a well-known telegraph company. It was at the time of the great strike in New York, and the worst type of anarchy seemed imminent. Seized by some sudden impulse or mania which he was never able to fully explain to his most intimate friends, B— appropriated a considerable sum of money and set off for Philadelphia. He was soon caught and taken back to New York, where full restitution was made. He was not prosecuted, but with that

terrible record behind him it would be almost impossible for him to obtain employment elsewhere. Several wealthy ladies interested themselves in his case, and pleaded with the manager to give the culprit another trial. After a tremendous amount of arguing they succeeded in gaining their point, and his career ever since has been most exemplary. To have refused to take the lad back would inevitably have started him upon the down hill road, and instead of occupying a position of trust to-day, he might be paying the penalty for some more serious crime in State-prison. Humanity and justice sometimes lie so closely together that to draw the line between seems a task almost beyond human power. [The Stationer.]



The Toronto News Company are now sending out their representatives with complete lines of finished samples of Hildeheimer & Faulkner's gold medal cards. The excellence and superiority of this firm's productions are so well known to the trade that it is not necessary to attempt to describe them. The plan adopted by the Toronto News Co., of sending out sample lots in quantities to suit buyers has taken very well. It saves dealers a great deal of time and trouble, and they get in a good assortment of the best cards.

"Little Fool," by John Strange Winter, was issued Saturday by the National Publishing Co. in their Red Letter Series.

The reception accorded to Raphael Tuck & Sons last year's collection of Illustrated Books and Booklets have prompted them to issue an extensive line for the season of 1889-90. The illustrations are in monochrome or colour, and a happy blending of these two processes has brought these charming literary souvenirs up to the highest point of artistic excellence. The reading matter consists of well known poetical selections from famous authors, while the selections are further enhanced by original contributions from the pens of such eminent authors as Canon Farrar, Francis Ridley Havergal, Marquis of Lorne, Helen M. Burnside, Geo. M. Sims, etc., etc. The poet's pen and painter's brush have vied with each other in rendering these books and booklets the chief artistic literary feature of the Holiday publishing season of 1889. Warwick & Sons, Manufacturing Stationers, are the Canadian agents for these goods.

ST. JOHN, N. B., April 30th, 1889.

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"Derrick Vaughan, Novelist," by Edna Lyall; "The Fatal Phryne," by F. C. Phillips, are just to hand. John Lovell & Son, Montreal.