

demolition, at the corner of Chaucery lane, to his new premises at 71 Strand, was conversing one day with some customers, when a stranger hurriedly entered and asked whether any one of the name of Hamilton had come about the purchase of some jewellery. Mr. Attenborough turned to the newcomer, and, seeing he was quite unknown to him, asked the hour at which he was to meet Mr. Hamilton, and the nature of his business, to which questions he gave satisfactory replies, and, depositing his hat on the counter, he quitted the shop as if to give directions to the cabman who had driven him there. He was observed by an assistant to be in conversation outside with another man, who handed to him a small bag, with which he entered the shop, and stood near the door, as though waiting the arrival of his friend. No one, however, came, and presently he put on his hat and went away, saying he would return again shortly. No one of the name of Hamilton called, and nothing was seen of the visitor during the rest of the day, and on Friday Mr. Attenborough asked his assistants whether they had heard or seen anything of their strange visitor. He was told that he had not returned, and a curious fact connected with his visit was that one of the assistants felt confident that the man he was talking to outside the show window was one of Messrs. Wellby's people. The whole circumstances were so strange, that a member of Mr. Attenborough's staff took an opportunity of calling at Messrs. Wellby's on Saturday morning, and during his visit he mentioned that he had seen one of their people outside Mr. Attenborough's premises on Thursday. "Why, of course you did," was the reply, "he took down the jewellery you sent for." "We have sent for no jewellery," said Mr. Attenborough's assistant, and immediately the nature of the fraud became apparent. It was afterwards discovered that on the day previous to the robbery a well-dressed man called at Messrs. Hancock, and stated that he came from Messrs. Attenborough, whose card he presented, and said they had just entered their new premises, and wished for some handsome jewellery for stock. Messrs. Hancock's manager replied that he thought it very odd that Mr. Attenborough should send to him, as he (Mr. Attenborough) could buy jewellery much more suited to him at Messrs. Wellby's with whom he knew

Mr. Attenborough dealt; and he added: "You tell him so with my compliments." The next day the thief, fortified with Messrs. Hancock's advice, called on Messrs. Wellby, and stated that he was an assistant to Messrs. Attenborough, and had been sent for some expensive diamond ornaments to show a customer at their new shop on the Strand. The first observation was "Why, you are not one of Messrs. Attenborough's assistants." To which he replied: "I have been there for years; here is our card." And he again produced the card he had previously procured. Messrs. Wellby then allowed him to select £400 or £500 worth of brilliants handsomely set; and not being quite satisfied with his statement, sent one of their assistants with him in a cab to Mr. Attenborough's. The thief alighted first, and asking the young man to wait a moment while he spoke to Mr. Attenborough, he entered the shop as described above. The assistant of Messrs. Wellby paid off the cab, and was following the stranger into the shop when that person ran out without his hat, saying: "All right, the customer happens to be there now. Give me the bag." He then took the bag and ran into the shop. Mr. Wellby's man, after looking through the glass and seeing the stranger inside with several of the regular assistants, became satisfied that all was right and walked away. So, it appears, did the thief, carrying the jewels with him. He is described by the attendants at Messrs. Wellby's as follows: Height, 5ft. 8in. or 5ft 9in.; oval face, pale; dark hair, inclined to be gray; whiskers and slight moustache and beard; age about 45; wearing black frock coat and silk hat. The stolen bracelet contained a single row of diamonds; one of the brooches was arranged in the shape of a leaf, the other in the form of a spray. The earrings were rather long and old-fashioned, of the description known as "drop-earrings."—*Paenbrokers' Gazette.*

#### A CURIOUS CONSPIRACY.

At the instance of Hagstoz & Thorpe, proprietors of the Keystone Watch-case Manufactory, a *capias* was issued on Friday for the arrest of John C. Dueber, the chief owner of Dueber Watch-case Manufacturing Company, of Newport, Ky., and three of his employees, Richard Clarke, A. Williman, and Christopher Naul.

Some years ago Dueber owned a watch-case manufactory in Cincinnati, and produced some of the best watch-cases made. As his business grew he moved across the Ohio river to Newport, Ky., where he established large factories, and was one of the largest manufacturers of the kind in the country. He made some of the finest cases there in the trade, and found a ready market for his wares. In 1875 Hagstoz & Thorpe started in the business with thirteen hands, having their manufactory in the *Ledger* building in this city. They obtained possession of the "James Ross' patent gold watch-case," which was a better case, and manufactured for less money than any then made. It consisted of a heavy-solid gold plate on the outside and inside of the case, with an inner plate of a cheaper metal to give it the necessary strength. This was the principle of the patent, but of course the manner of producing the result was a secret known only to themselves. The business so grew that in 1880 they moved to the new buildings at Nineteenth and Brown Streets, where they now employ 500 hands. At that time George W. Childs entered the firm as a special partner, putting \$100,000 into the business with the idea of manufacturing silver cases as well as gold. Hagstoz & Thorpe had discovered a new way of making silver watch-cases, using one piece of solid silver for each part of the watch-case instead of making the parts of different pieces of metal, soldered together, as had been the custom under the old method. In this way they made a case much finer in appearance and almost absolutely dust and damp proof.

#### A VAIN COMPETITION.

Dueber endeavored in vain to equal their work, and now that silver cases of such quality were produced, found his trade fast slipping away from him. About two months ago Richard Clarke, one of Dueber's subordinates, came to this city and took up his quarters in a boarding house on Wylie Street, occupied by the workmen of the watch-case factory. He made himself very agreeable to the workmen, was very liberal with his money, tried to get hold of cases in process of manufacture, and endeavored to decoy several of the skilled workmen away from Hagstoz & Thorpe to work for Dueber, at Newport. If he could have obtained the cases in the different stages of completion, he could have got hints at the peculiar tools used in the different