



THE CHAMPION MONEY FINDER

Has Picked Up Two Millions of Dollars.

Received Allegedly About Eighty Five Dollars Reward, or Four Cents a Thousand.

The champion money finder of the world is undoubtedly Isaac Banks, of Philadelphia, as this man, in the course of his 77 years has found over \$2,000,000. Not a penny of that great sum stuck to Mr. Banks' fingers, for he was quite as lucky in finding the owners of the lost money as he had been in finding the money itself.

It would seem, though, that he must have reaped a great harvest in the way of rewards, but that is not the case. The following is a complete list of the rewards that were given to him.

In cash \$30
3 books, value 2
2 neckties, value 2
7 silk handkerchiefs 2
2 pairs of suspenders 2
2 pairs of gloves 2
2 pairs of pulse warmers 2
2 hats 2
4 boxes of writing paper 2
1 watch guard 2
5 shirts 2

Total value \$35

For returning \$2,000,000, he got \$85 in rewards—4 cents, that is to say, for each \$1,000 returned.

The question, "Do you regard honesty as the best policy?" was put to Mr. Banks the other day. He replied: "I do."

"It was objected, 'if you might have been less honest, look what you might have had.'"

"I might have had," said the old man, "a good long term in jail."

He lives in a clean and modest house at 1624 Bainbridge street. His figure is spare, and, despite his 77 years, he stands erect, and walks with a quick gait. Recently he was pensioned, and he should have earned pension for his services.

He was not, for he worked for one employer 58 years.

Mr. Banks was the doorkeeper of the vaults of the Fidelity Trust Company on Chesnut street, below Fourth.

In these vaults there are thousands of private deposit boxes, and over 600 depositors a day passed Mr. Banks on their way in to the vaults to examine their boxes.

It is not negotiable his own money, while not in actual cash, was in paper or valuables as good as cash; every cent of it was negotiable. However, he should have been paid for his services.

He has made a study of money losers.

"Women are less liable to lose money and valuables than men. I would rather trust irreplaceable papers for safekeeping to a woman."

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ed. Later, walking through the room, the doorkeeper perceived a box of jewelry upon the table and carried them to the superintendent of the company. Their owner on their return to him gave Mr. Banks \$5.

All the money that he found was found in the same way. A client of the company would open his deposit box in a table, take out part of its contents, rummage about till he came upon what he wanted, close and lock the box, forgetting the valuables he had taken out, and depart, leaving them on the table. Or else the valuables would fall from the pocket of the man who had taken them, and he would find them in his hand or pocket.

Mr. Banks once found jewels valued at \$5,000, and their owner did not know he had lost these jewels for seven years. They were discovered late in the day on a chair in a distant corner of the room. As 500 persons had visited the room in the day's course, and as the jewels had on them no identifying marks, it was impossible to locate their possessor. The company, in its accustomed careful manner, set out to find the owner. Mr. Banks' duty was to examine their boxes, as it knew there had been a loss. But the owner of the jewels had not returned, and the company's letter either did not reach him or else, after reading it, he forgot it. At any rate, he knew nothing of his loss till seven years later, when he opened his box again.

On another occasion Mr. Banks found on a table in plain sight \$25,000, which no less than 300 persons had overlooked. The young and inexperienced have shown that the average woman is 25 per cent more careful than the average man. It was a long day for the lawyer and 300 cases a month pass before him. So he is in a position to find out about the tragedies, for the stories told include all varieties, from the all too common wages troubles to swindles of the most highly individualized order, and from the commoner cases, each hour brings in some client with an entirely new variety of trouble.

Such, then, is the other day, was that of the old lady with curly white hair and neat blue cotton gown, whose hands were shaking as she sat down on the storage house, so much less in bulk than when it left her, that she made haste to get her tape measure before the meet her brow and could leave the house. Whereupon the latter hastily seized the carpet, and amid her unavailing protests made it with it. She was poor, and they thought she would be powerless to do otherwise than finally accept what they might choose to give her.

Another unusual case was that of a large lady from across the seas. She had lent her friend, Mrs. Grady, \$250, all the money she had in the world, and had been invited to live with that lady the rest of her life.

"So long as I have a roof over my head, Norah, never leave a place for you, Mrs. Grady had said, when she urged her to come. So the elderly Mrs. Norah had been living there for nine months, had done all the housework and much of the sewing, as she would have done in her own home, and everything was apparently going smoothly when Mrs. Grady suddenly asked her guest to leave, gave her back half of the money she had lent her, and said she would keep the rest as board money, and as payment for certain articles she had lent her. Mrs. Grady had been told that she was to live with her friend during the nine months.

Mrs. Norah's face flamed with indignation as she produced a battered paper bearing the itemized account of these gifts and their values which the businesslike Mrs. Grady had triumphantly brought forward at the end, in lieu of the money she had borrowed.

My pink waste \$15
Socks 5
Black skirt 12
Sack 10
Milk 10
And so on, the long list of last-of-its-kind of her own which the thrifty Mrs. Grady had conferred.

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THE TRAGEDIES OF CITY POOR

Told to a Legal Aid Society Lawyer in a Day.

The Defrauded Guest and the Thrifty Borrower—Her Lost Carpet—They Whom Nobody Pays.

The seeker after tragedies need not go so far as Servia to find them. They are here at first hand.

But he who has one of the best opportunities for observing unrecognized and commonplace tragedies is the lawyer at the desk in a certain crowded little room down-town.

It is a long day for the lawyer and 300 cases a month pass before him. So he is in a position to find out about the tragedies, for the stories told include all varieties, from the all too common wages troubles to swindles of the most highly individualized order, and from the commoner cases, each hour brings in some client with an entirely new variety of trouble.

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