

"'Yes,' sais I, 'friend; but if I am sewed up, I aint green. The fact is, I never play in luck when I am sober.' But after a great deal of palaver, sais I, 'I'll tell you what I'll do; I'll lock it up in the carpet-bag, and if you get the key out of my trowsers pocket without wakin' me, you are a cleverer feller than I take you to be.'

"So I opens the bag, rams the pocket-book well down, and then locks all up safe, and arter many false dodges, gets into bed, and offs into a fast sleep in no time. About an hour afore day, the bell rang, there was a movin' on deck, and we was at a landin'-place. Gambler crawls out o' bed cautiously, and as silent as a cat whips up the carpet-bag, and offs ashore like a shot; and away we went up stream agin, puffin' and blowin' as if the engine was wrathly. Just at the first dawn we gets out and goes on deck, and found, sure enough, a man answerin' to gambler, only he had no beard, had gone ashore with a travellin'-bag in his hand. He fell right into the trap.

"New Orleans, Slick, is a better College for educatin' and finishin' a feller off than Vixburg, arter all. There are more professors and more science in it. Well, as soon as we touched on the other shore, I landed, took the stage, and cut across the country to Albany, to get out of the critter's beat, for he was a feller that would dog you like a bloodhound. In his bed I found that beard, which was all he left in exchange for that are valuable pocket-book. If he was a good scholar, I guess it wouldn't take him long to count his money. Since then, I have been up and down, and all through our great nation; but it's gettin' to be too small a lot for me to feed in without bein' put into pound as a stray critter. So I changed ground for new pastures, and have done first-rate in these provinces.

"The daugertype line would just suit you, Slick. It's a grand business to study human natur' in. The greatest shine I ever cut was in Canada. It beat the rise I took out of the gambler all holler. I sold five hundred bishops and two thousand priests there. It was a first-rate stroke of business. I'll tell you how it was—(this is superior brandy of yourn, Slick; it's a sin to spile it with water, and a man should never sin for nothin'; it makes it too cheap; it is positively a cordial.) I couldn't do nothin' with the French to Canada at first. They were too careful of their money. They wouldn't come near me, nor even look at me. So what does I do, but go to the bishop, and asks him to do me the honour to sit to me, that I might have a likeness of him to present to my honoured and respected friend, the Bishop of New Orleans, who was one of the best men that ever lived, and if his life was spared, would convart the whole city—which was greatly needed, for it was an awful wicked place—and begged him to let me duplicate it for himself, as a mark of my veneration for the head of the only true Church, on the face of the universal airth.