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TALES OF THE TOWN.

ANY ONE who buys an off-colored diamond without first satisfying himself of its genuineness, must be innocent, indeed," remarked my Uncle Aaronson the other day, and every one knows that, without a doubt, my obliging relative is one of the best judges of diamonds in the country. "If you doubt the genuineness of the color of such a stone," continued my uncle, "all you have to do is to dip it in a little alcohol or ammonia and then wipe it dry, and if it has been doctored the fact will be immediately apparent. You can give an off-color yellow diamond a white or

steel-blue lock by rubbing it with an analine pencil, but you can rub it off with a handkerchief moistened with alcohol. The most precious stone is a pure pigeon-blood ruby. After it comes the fancy diamonds, such as brown, blue, pink, black and 'canary.' There are very few of the last kind in existence." Uncle Aaronson promises THE HOME JOURNAL a treatise on the subject of valuable stones at an early day.

I attended the Tuesday night performance of Monte Cristo, and really I was delighted with the thorough work of that rising young actor, Mr. Darrell Vinton. It is not of the performance on the stage I desire to speak; it is of the performance of a cocoa-nut headed person, who by his appearance might be taken for an hostler, a flunkey, or a scavenger; but upon inquiry I found he was a mainland auctioneer. Some of the most beautiful scenes in the performance were spoiled by this horrible burlesque on humanity; he laughed during the pathetic parts, and talked so loud at other times that it was utterly impossible to hear a word that was

being spoken on the stage. The ignoramus did not appear to be drunk, either—simply ignorant and vulgar. His language was such as is only heard among the lowest types of humanity. It is rather unfair that people should be compelled to pay taxes for the erection and support of houses of detention, while this creature is permitted to run at large. The public demand that all animals of his species should be penned up.

Speaking of animals alive, reminds me that the butchers of this city should be a little more careful, and not monopolize the whole sidewalk in order that they may display their goods to advantage. In pass-

ing a Government street butcher shop, the other day, I observed a lady brushing stains from a cloak that had accidentally come in contact with a quarter of beef that had been hung up in front of the store. As might be expected, the lady was highly incensed at the ruin of her new cloak, and expressed herself plainly on the subject. If there is a by-law regulating matters of this kind it should be enforced, and if not there should be one passed that would put an end to the nuisance.

And the sidewalks of this city are not by any means kept in a proper state of repair. A young law student tells me that the legal fraternity, of the future, were, in the person of himself, nearly losing one of their most promising lights, through the agency of a defective sidewalk. Others make similar complaints; therefore it would be well for those interested to see that the necessary repairs are made, or the city may be called upon some of these days to defend an action for considerable damages, for such gross negligence. Owners of buildings in course of construction, and contractors, should not