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SCIENTIFIC ITEM.

Hicks—The firefly strikes a spark by rubbing its wings together.

Dickson—Um ! What you might call a fire caused by a defective flew.

WHY THEY WERE THERE.

An interesting conversation in a certain judicial house of detention is given as follows in *Kate Field's Washington* :—

"I am here, gentlemen," explained the pickpocket to his fellow-prisoners, "as the result of a moment of abstraction."

"And I," said the incendiary, "because of an unfortunate habit of making light of things."

"And I," chimed in the forger, "on account of a simple desire to make a name for myself."

"And I," added the burglar, "through nothing but taking advantage of an opening which offered in a large mercantile establishment uptown." But here the warden separated them.

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