

“Mr. Blank hereupon shifted his foot and topic. He did not feel at ease, and the less so from his desperate attempts to conceal his embarrassment.

“‘When do you think, General,’ he replied, after a pause, ‘that Congress will adjourn?’

“‘It is doubtful, I should think, Mr. Blank, when Congress will adjourn; perhaps not for some time yet, as great bodies, you know, move slowly.’

“‘Do you hear anything important from that quarter, General?’

“‘Nothing, Mr. Blank.’

“Mr. Blank by this time had become very dry in the throat—a sensation, I have been told, one is very apt to feel who finds himself in an embarrassing position, from which he begins to see no possibility of escape. He feared to advance, and did not know how to make a successful retreat. At last, after one or two desperate and ineffectual struggles to regain self-possession, finding himself all the while within point-blank range of that raking eye, he wholly broke down, and took his leave, without the least allusion to the matter of insurance.

“He never returned to claim the money.”—*The Green Bag*.

GENERAL NOTES.

EXTENSIVE OPERATIONS.—Ernest Hassberger, a Dundee merchant, was recently brought before the Dundee sheriff charged with forging bills to the extent of 112,000*l*. A plea of guilty was put in.

A WARNING.—An habitual criminal who has just been sentenced, not for the first time, by the Dusseldorf tribunal, will probably reflect during his retirement upon the saying that a still tongue shows a wise head. He was arrested on suspicion of an intent to commit a burglary. Although he was well known as an old offender, the magistrate did not see his way to convict, as there was really no evidence in the case before him. However, before discharging the prisoner, he asked him whether he had anything to say. ‘Only that I hope you will let me off as lightly as you can,’ was the reply. As this was considered equivalent to a plea of guilty, this extremely indiscreet offender was thereupon sent to prison for nine months.—*Daily News*.