THAT FATAL DIAMOND.

BY A THIEF.

I am the most unhappy man that ever occupied a prison cell. I say this advisedly, knowing that hundreds are at this moment bewailing their fate, which, in many cases may seem harder than mine; but it is not, if they still retain the self-respect which I have lost. That's what tortures me; my prestige is gone; I am degraded in my own eyes; I despise myself as heartily as the most virtuous man in the world could. That I, to whom half the thieves in the city have looked for guidance, should myself have laid a plot for myself and walked into it! It is too humiliating! To fall a victim to a too powerful combination of adverse circumstances is no disgrace; to be outwitted by the superior finesse of the police is hard, but endurable; but to fall into a snare which should not have misled a boy who had never stolen so much as a handkerchief in his life—this, this is a shame!

It was that diamond ring that did it. I really think some special ill-luck must have attached to the trinket, for it brought no good to its previous possessor. It was hardly in the regular way of business that it came into my hands—just as it has escaped from them in a most unbusiness-like fashion. That young man must have been in great straits before he united himself to me in the business of stealing his uncle's cash-box, in order to obtain funds to pay his gambling debts. It was a very easy matter for me. He was to mix a few drops of an opiate I gave him with his relative's brandy and water one evening, and leave the hall-door open; I had only to walk in and take up the booty he had collected and placed ready for me. It was a very fair collection of plate that awaited me as well as the coveted cash-box; but I am fond of jewelry, and the house was so beautifully asleep, that I could not resist creeping up to the master's bed-room to see if there was not in it a trifle worth picking up. There was—the diamond ring, and a rather good set of studs. I took them, and slipped out of the room so quietly that I should not have disturbed their owner, even if my young friend had not, by way of making sure, doubled the prescribed dose of the opiate, and thereby plunged his uncle into, not sleep, but death. Poor young fellow! the knowledge that he had killed a relative who had always treated him with kindness, if also with severity, was too much for his mind, which, doubtless, was never strong. Those debts of honor were never paid; he never came to claim his share of that night's spoil; and I have heard that the distant cousin, who, failing him, inherited the old man's property, grumbles greatly at having to pay for his being kept in a lunatic asylum.

This is cowardice on my part. I have condemned myself, as the fitting punishment of my folly, to set down in black and white the way in which I entrapped myself, and I am postponing the task to maunder over an irrelevant incident.

The ring had not been long in my possession when I paid the unlucky visit to Paris which began my misfortunes. The London police were very active just then, and the business was in consequence dull and risky, so, being in funds, I thought I might take a holiday and enjoy a fortnight in the city of pleasure. I was pretty well known at home, but I had not, so far as I knew, a single enemy in France, and I did not intend to make any. For a fortnight I would be a mere innocent pleasure-seeker, taking the day's amusements as they came, and making no effort after either my own gain or others' loss. Such was my intention; but, alas! what intention, especially if it be a good one, can withstand the force of the habits of a lifetime? Mine gave way, and speedily.

One evening, a pleasant April evening, I formed one of the crowd that surrounded the platform at an open air concert. By my side was standing a stout and elderly man, whom, from a score of tiny indications, I guessed to be a British holiday-maker.

"There's from fifteen to twenty pounds in his coat pocket, I'll be bound," thought I. "He is far too cautious to leave his money at his hotel, where Frenchmen, whom he regards as all thieves, may lay hands on it, so he carries it about with him, thinking that on his person it cannot fail to be safe."

The idea of undeceiving him in this particular was too tempting; I found myself smiling in anticipation at the bewildered and horror-stricken expression his face would wear when he discovered his loss. It was the humor of the thing that touched me. That fatal gift of humor, which has ruined so many honest men, led me to my destruction. Deep in my soul, beneath the outer garb of the man of the world I was wearing, dwelt the instincts of the professional pickpocket. Almost unconsciously I inserted my left hand (we are all ambidexter in our profession) in his pocket and gently drew out a pocket-book—the very sort of pocket-book I knew he would carry. I edged away from my victim as soon as the little operation was over, and disentangling myself from the interested auditors who were listening to a gayly-dressed damsel shrieking with the remains of a once powerful voice, I soon found myself walking along the bright-lighted boulevard. I had not gone far before I noticed that the diamond ring which I constantly wore on the third finger of my left hand, was missing. It was a little too large for me; but I had not thought it advisable to have the size altered just yet; and the result was that it slipped from my finger. I knew that I wore it when I left my hotel; but I could not recollect noticing its presence at any subsequent time; so I went to every place I had visited since I came out, the cafe where I had dined, the shop where I had bought some cigars, the streets I had traversed, looking everywhere for some trace of my lost jewel, and inquiring of every one to whom I had previously spoken if they had seen anything of it. I felt a dreary conviction that my treasured ornament was gone for ever, when, as a last resource, I went to a bureau de police and gave a description of the lost ring to the officer there. The officer was polite, but gave me small hope of ever seeing my diamond again. I gave it up as gone for ever.

I was sitting in my hotel dull and depressed, angry at my own carelessness, and inclined to give up any further holiday and forget my annoyance by a speedy return to my professional duties in London, when my friend of the police office entered.

"I am happy," he said, bowing politely and smiling withal, as I thought, anticipation of a handsome reward; "I am happy to inform monsieur that we hope soon to place his ring in his hands. One answering to the description you gave was brought to our office by the finder, a countryman of your own. The ring being rather an uncommon one, I felt assured that it could be no other than the one you had lost. You described it, I think, as consisting of five diamonds set in the shape of a violet, with a smaller brilliant in the centre—a very curious and valuable jewel."

"Yes, that's it," I replied curtly, wondering why he could not give me back my property without so many words.

"Then I may safely assume that this is the ring in question?" He brought out my ring from his pocket and showed it to me. "It is, I said, stretching out my hand; but he did not restore the jewel, only stood there, holding it and smiling more than ever. I supposed that he wanted to see some sign of the reward he expected to receive before parting with the trinket. I took out my purse, and opening it, made some remark about showing my appreciation of his honesty; but he shook his head, smiling, if it is possible, more broadly than before.

"Do you not wish to know, monsieur, how your ring was found?" he asked, with a leer which I thought was disagreeable.

"Well, how was it found?" I said, tartly.

My policeman drew himself up to deliver his great effect. "Monsieur, your ring was found in another man's pocket!" I stared at him in bewilderment, mingled with an indefinite fear, while he continued his narrative in a less courteous and more confidential tone than he had hitherto assumed. "Ah, mon ami, one may be too clever; one's dexterity may lead one astray if it be not balanced by discretion. You had not long left the office when another Englishman came in complaining that he had lost a pocket-book containing all his money. He had put his hand in his pocket to bring it out, meaning to pay for something, but found it gone, and in its place a diamond ring—your ring. For my own part I do not doubt your honesty—even your generosity. You believed, doubtless, that exchange is not robbery, and that, in leaving your ring in exchange for his portemonnaie, you would at once obtain a memento of a compatriot and do him a practical benefit. That is the interpretation I should wish to put on the affair; but the owner of the pocketbook will not see it in that light—he lacks imagination, as so many English do. Of course, your coining to ask us to try to recover your lost ring tends to give color to his version of the matter, which is, that while you were robbing him of his money the ring slipped from your hand, and remained in his pocket; and, with a lack of sympathy for a countryman which I grieve to recount, he demands that you should be arrested—a duty which I am reluctantly compelled to fulfill."

I was absolutely dumb with surprise and anger. Had I had my wits about me I might—though circumstances were against me—have brought some counter charge of theft against my accuser; but I was so stupified by the strange turn events had taken, that I submitted meekly to be searched, to have the fateful pocket-book taken from me and to be led away to prison. Somehow, too, I was unable to secure possession of the ring that was the cause of my undoing, and I have not seen it since my arrest.

So here I sit in my cell, depressed and weary, a victim to the bitterest self-reproach. I could almost wish to be condemned to life-long imprisonment, for what is freedom worth to me? After such a piece of suicidal folly as I have been guilty of, I shall never dare to lift up my head among my professional brethren, and I fear that nothing will be left for me but to take to honesty when my term expires.

—How often is the light of the household clouded by signs of melancholy or irritability on the part of the ladies. Yet they are not to be blamed, for they are the result of ailments peculiar to that sex, which men know not of. But the cause may be removed and joy restored by the use of Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription," which, as a tonic and nervine for debilitated women, is certain, safe and pleasant. It is beyond all compare the great healer of women.

It took just fifteen minutes for Fay Templeton, the actress, to get a divorce from Billy West, the negro minstrel, from a Chicago judge the other day. It is not known whether the judge attended the minstrel performance on the previous evening, but there are rumors to that effect.

Catarrh.

—Catarrh, on account of its prevalence in this country, is attracting a good deal of attention, more especially now when there is a probability of a visit from cholera, for when either is a muco-purulent discharge, such discharge forms a nidus very inviting to cholera germs, and very favorable for their reproduction in a more virulent form, thus placing sufferers from catarrh at a great disadvantage in the event of a cholera visitation. Catarrh is a contagious disease, it is a muco-purulent discharge, caused by the presence of a vegetable parasite in the lining membrane of the nose. These parasites reproduce themselves in great multitudes, and each generation is more virulent. They spread up the nostrils and down the fauces or back of the throat, causing ulceration of the throat, up the eustachian tubes, causing deafness; burrowing in the vocal cords, causing hoarseness; usurping the proper function of the bronchial tubes, ending in pulmonary consumption and death.

The reason that catarrh has become so prevalent a disease is entirely due to the fact that it has not been understood. Physicians have been unanimous in treating it as a simple inflammation of the membrane and have signally failed to produce cures, but microscopic research has revealed the presence of the parasite, and now sufferers from this disease who appreciate the fact that it is by way of its secondary effects a most deadly one, will be glad to learn that a wonderfully successful treatment has been formulated, whereby the most aggravated cases of catarrh have been permanently cured in from one to three simple applications. The interesting pamphlet descriptive of this new treatment, from which we glean the above, is sent free to all applicants on receipt of stamp by A. H. Dixon & Son, 305 King street west, Toronto, Canada. —The Star 15

Mrs. John Watkins, of Almena, Mich., dreaming the other night, kicked violently as she dreamed, and when her frightful shrieks woke her she found she had broken several bones in one of his feet. This explodes the theory that nightmares do not kick.

—Severe colds are easily cured by the use of Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup, a medicine of extraordinary penetrating and healing properties. It is acknowledged by those who have used it as being the best medicine sold for coughs, colds, inflammation of the lungs, and all affections of the throat and chest. Its agreeableness to the taste makes it a favorite with ladies and children.

Public Notice.

—All testimonials in favor of Hallamore's Expectorant are from well known residents of Toronto. Mr. S. J. Willcock, 189 Spadina avenue, says: "I have used Hallamore's Expectorant for coughs and colds for thirteen years, and would not be without it. It never fails to cure me." edx

Mrs. Mary A. Hunt says: "I have voted for several years, and there's no beard on my chin yet." The reason is simple enough, Mary. The friction induced my continuous motion keeps it from growing, that's all.

—So rapidly does lung irritation spread and deepen that often in a few weeks a simple cough culminates in tubercular consumption. Give head to a cough, there is always danger in delay, get a bottle of Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup and cure yourself. It is a medicine unsurpassed for all throat and lung troubles. It is compounded from several herbs, each one of which stands at the head of the list as exerting a wonderful influence in curing consumption and all lung diseases.

The New York Commercial Advertiser heads an editorial "A Guide Book to Failure." The shortest guide book to failure, and one of the most effective, is comprised in two words, viz.: "Don't advertise."

It Acts Like a Charm.

—Ex-Ald. George Evans, 449 Queen street west, testifies to the efficacy of "Hallamore's Expectorant" as follows: "It is undoubtedly far superior to all other advertised remedies for coughs and colds, especially in the case of children, with whom it acts like a charm." edx

An Illinois girl died from the effects of tight-lacing. This is a warning to young women who attempt to make corsets perform the work that properly belongs to young men.

—One or two bottles of Northrop & Lyman's vegetable Discovery will purify the blood, remove Dyspepsia and drive away that extreme tired feeling which causes so much distress to the industrious, and persons of sedentary habits. Mr. W. E. Ellis, Druggist, Fenelon Falls, writes: "The Vegetable Discovery is selling well and giving good satisfaction."

A new version of "Othello" is being made for the Southern states. In the fifth act Othello is lynched for being a nigger and Iago is elected to congress as a foe to nigger domination.

—C. A. Livingstone, Platteville, Ont., says: I have much pleasure in recommending Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil, from having used it myself, and having sold it for some time. In my own case I will say for it that it is the best preparation I have ever used for rheumatism.

"Great men have often risen from small beginnings," says some one. This is undoubtedly true. We have known many great men to rise from the point of a little everyday tack.

Hoarseness and Bronchitis.

—Among the many remedies used for the cure of coughs and colds, none more speedily gains the confidence of the sufferer than "Hallamore's Expectorant." For hoarseness and bronchitis its rapid effect is surprising. In private sale during 25 years it has gained for itself an enviable reputation, and produced wonderful results. In 25 cent bottles at all drug stores. edx

An egg one thousand years old has been unearthed at Washington. They ought to put it into an incubator and see if the original American eagle was baldheaded.

—If your children are troubled with worms, give them Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator; safe, sure and effectual. Try it, and mark the improvement in your child.

The rivers in the southwest are so high from the recent rains that the fish having their bedrooms on the third floor have to use step ladders.

—Ill-fitting boots and shoes cause corns. Holloway's Corn Cure is the article to use. Get a bottle at once and cure your corns.

A cremation company has just been formed in Detroit, and remarks on base burners are now in order.

—A. S. Smith, the hat manufacturer, has received the style of silk hat for spring both in American and English, in which he is prepared to fill orders either in the easy fitting wire brim or the regular solid brim. Ask your hatter for the wire brim hat in best quality. edx

Advice to young authors: In writing sharp language be sure and put in plenty of points.

DYSPEPSIA.

SYMPTOMS Variable Appetite, Faint Gnawing at Pit of Stomach, Rising and Souring of Food, Heartburn, Wind in Stomach, Choking Load from Food Undigested, Bad Taste in Mouth, Headache, Constipation, Foul Coated Tongue, Low Spirits, Wandering Pains—especially in Left Side,—Languor and Debility.

CAUSE Too Hearty Eating; Eating too rapidly; Too free use of Stimulants; Too much greasy and animal food—gravy, pastry, cheese, pickles, etc.; Neglected Constipation; Bad Air; Lack of Exercise; Hurrying to Hard Work—either physical or mental—immediately after Eating, is the source of many Stomach Troubles.

CURE Regulate the Diet and Mode of Living; take active Exercise, but not too soon after Eating; Shun Stimulants; Avoid Late Hours, Rapid Eating, and overtaxing the Stomach; Regulate the Bowels; Avoid Drinking at Meals; Abandon all Narcotics, such as tea, coffee, tobacco, liquors, etc., as far as possible. Eat only plain nourishing Food; Milk or pure water is the best drink. Take Burdock Blood Bitters, which regulates the Bowels, Promotes Perfect Digestion, Makes Pure Blood, Tones the Stomach, Regulates the Liver and Kidneys, and thus Restores Perfect Health and Strength to the Debilitated System.

BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS CURES DYSPEPSIA.

READ THE GREAT DETECTIVE STORY,
"The Crime of the Tunnels,"
IN THE
FIRESIDE WEEKLY.
For sale everywhere. Price—5 cents per copy. Two dollars per year.
The Toronto News Company,
Publishers' Wholesale Agents.

TWO JUDGMENTS
have been delivered sustaining the contentions of the present management of the Temperance Colonization Society (Limited): 1. That all candidates must stand on equal footing; 2. That no preferential arrangements can be allowed; 3. That the scrip contract is a binding contract; 4. That the bargain cannot be rescinded.
The full texts of these judgments may be seen at the Society's offices. Scrip-owners in default should pay up arrears and select their land this season and have settlement duties done.
C. POWELL, Manager,
114 King street west, Toronto.

THOS. WICKS & SON,
Practical Watchmakers, Jewelers, Engravers and Opticians, 77 Yonge street, Toronto, dealers in Diamond and fine Gold Jewelry, Watches, Clocks, Silverware, Spectacles, etc. (The latest novelties in Jewelry.) Highest Award, "Bronze Medal" for coin engraving, Toronto Industrial Exhibition, 1885. Engraving and repairing promptly attended to. 246

The Intercolonial Railway
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and DIRECT ROUTE between the West and all points on the Lower St. Lawrence and Baie des Chaleur; also New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton, Newfoundland, Bermuda and Jamaica.
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Years of experience have proved the Intercolonial, in connection with Steamship Lines to and from
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QUICKEST FREIGHT ROUTE
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D. POTTINGER,
Railway Office, Chief Superintendent.
Moncton, N.B., November 13 1885.

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For T. Fisher, Express, Parcel Delivery and Furniture Removing Depot, 538 Yonge street. Double and single teams always in readiness for removal of furniture, baggage, merchandise, etc., to and from all parts of the city. Special low rates for removing furniture, etc., during winter months. French's patent truck for removing pianos.

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Late of Queen street east, has removed to 2 RICHMOND EAST, corner of Yonge, where will be found a full line of English and Canadian Tweeds, Suitings, Overcoatings, etc

A SEASONABLE PUZZLE!
Where should a gentleman go for a stylish spring suit?
ANSWER, TO
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WHY?
Because you are sure of getting not only a perfect fitting pant there, but a coat and vest as well, cut up in a style not easily imitated.
NO FANCY PRICES.
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ARTISTIC PHOTOGRAPHERS,
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Write for Circular.
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I have a positive remedy for the above disease; by its use thousands of cases of the worst kind and of long standing have been cured. Indeed, so strong is my faith in its efficacy, that I will send TWO BOTTLES FREE, together with a VALUABLE TREATISE on this disease to any sufferer. Give express and P.O. address.
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This Belt is the last improvement and the best yet developed Curative Appliance in the world for
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Wanted to purchase at once, a detached brick residence containing 10 to 12 rooms and modern conveniences, with lot of not less than 40 feet frontage. Must not be further west than Beverley street, east than Jarvis, or north than College street. Price from $4000 to $6500. Apply to
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Special attention is directed to my
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A fine stock on hand for the Holidays. Ask for the Dominion Brands, and see that it has my label on it.

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