

Peter V. Wilkinson, the multi-millionaire—the ten-million-dollar steal trust—so called from the habit of its owner in stealing trust companies.”

This exceptionally brilliant play upon words was instantly rewarded by a titter from some of the occupants of the car, and the perpetrator, encouraged, proceeded:

“This house contains no less than eighty-four rooms; has twenty-four bathrooms, not to speak of the Turkish bath; has paintings worth a million or two; the rugs cost half a million, at least; and nearly a million pounds of bronze has been used in its construction. Wilkinson’s second wife—Maggie Lane, when he married her, now Mrs. Margaret Lane Wilkinson,—is said to be the handsomest woman in the block.” He paused to heighten the effect of what was to follow; then trumpeted: “That is, on this end of the block. Peter V. Wilkinson owns seventeen trust companies in the City of New York. He is president of the famous, and now notorious, Interstate Trust Company which closed its doors last week. Also president of the Tri-State Trust—the largest trust company in the world, now topping on the brink of the precipice. . . .”

So the voice droned on, the car laboured on, and the passengers, already sufficiently gorged with Wilkinson’s affairs, would have been spared any further enlightenment had not the eye of this