

VOL. XXII.

THE LAWYER'S STORY.

old gentleman, whose conversation greatly interested me. He had evidently seen a great deal of the world, and was especially conversant with everything connected with the banking business.

In a few days we became quite companions and James Archer (for such was the name of my new friend) informed me that he had been engaged in the banking business all his life, having at various times held the different offices of cashier, teller and president.

"I should suppose," I observed, "that the banking business offers few other dramatic episodes than any other professions."

"You have been an actor in some scenes of this character?" I asked.

"I have indeed. Let us sit down on the porch, and I will tell you what happened to me once or twice."

Some thirty years ago I was cashier in a bank situated in the city of Milwaukee, in the State of Wisconsin. Although a large place now, Milwaukee at the time I refer to was a long, straggling town, with a very rough class of inhabitants.

famous robbers had changed their minds, and had gone to exercise their enterprising profession in a different field. We had forgotten all about the matter, when one Saturday, in the month of September, while we were busily engaged in our various duties, a clerical individual entered and asked to see the president. He appeared to be about forty years of age, of commanding presence.

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Like all places on the extreme verge of civilization, the law was almost a dead letter. Horse thieves, robbers and murderers were there in such numbers that they struck terror to law-abiding citizens, and no jury could be found to convict the most heinous offenders. If it chanced to leak out that any of the twelve jurors were in favor of bringing in a verdict of guilty, his or her lives were sure to pay the forfeit of their sense of justice.

As a natural consequence of living in such a state of society, every man walked abroad with his life in his hand, and without a single exception every one went armed to the teeth. I have known men to be shot down like dogs for a word, or even a look.

There were hundreds of men who made it their especial business to try to pick up quarrels with the better class; that they might have a chance of killing and robbing them.

You will readily understand that carrying on a bank under these circumstances was a most arduous task. Every one of the employees was heavily armed, and the vault built for the specie and valuables of the bank were of the most massive character. In fact no such was the case, that they became a kind of show case for strangers; and every one who happened to be detained in the city was sure to visit the vault of the "Citizens' Bank."

Our president was a strong, powerful, energetic man, who had more than once proved his courage in a melee; consequently the ruffians of the place kept him at a distance, and for two years after the bank was started no one attempted to molest us. We had orders from him to shoot the first man that showed the slightest disposition to be aggressive.

Mr. Brantree, for such was our president's name, was accustomed to mingle a great deal with the rougher portion of the community, thinking by these means he might learn if there was any scheme on foot to attack the bank.

Of course, these inquiries were always made in disguise, and indeed, Mr. Brantree, possessed the art of altering his features that he could deceive even his own family, and his particular friends, when assisted by the aid of dress.

He had carried out his plan for about two years without anything occurring to prove its necessity; and indeed, when one hot July morning he entered the bank about an hour earlier than was usual with him.

"Good morning, Mr. Archer," said he to me, as he took off his fine black coat, and put on an easy fitting blouse.

"Good morning, Mr. Brantree. You are early this morning," I remarked.

"Yes—I have something particular to tell you, and I thought it better to lose no time. You must know in the first place, that I visited the 'Three Swans' last night."

The "Three Swans" was one of the lowest taverns in the place, and the rendezvous for all the desperate characters in the town and neighborhood.

There was scarcely a night passed that some one was not killed there. I remarked, "I was designated as a driver, and had the extreme pleasure of being taken for a horse thief by all the scoundrels present."

"That is at least a compliment to your success in disguising yourself," I returned.

"Yes—that's true. I learned something at the 'Three Swans' last night, Mr. Archer, which nearly concerns me."

"Indeed," I returned, "giving up my ears."

"You have heard of 'White Haired Bobby'?" said Mr. Brantree.

"Do you mean the great bank robber?" I asked.

"Yes, he is known. He has robbed many banks here and there, and is now in the United States. He has never been in any other State."

"His name is breaking into papers and results his something marvellous in it. He works generally in company with a

few other men, and they are all of the same class. They are all of the same class, and they are all of the same class."

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THE INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION OF DRUGS EVER DEFEAT DISEASE AND DEATH.

Mr. R. P. Buffet, in the September number of *Lippincott's Magazine*, has written a very readable essay entitled "Shall we throw Phisic to the Dogs?" The reasons he gives why we should do so, are such, we think, as will prompt humane men to say we should from benevolent motives throw phisic to something it will neither

benefit nor harm, and let the poor dogs, abused enough now, escape an additional burden. From the article in question, we quote the following extract.

One fact in the history of medicine might well stagger the faith of the most confident believer in the virtue of drugs. It is the coexistence of two systems of practice, professedly antagonistic, each denouncing the other as absolutely ineffective or positively harmful, yet both apparently flourishing, both having enthusiastic and intelligent advocates.

At a time when human blood was flowing in streams both large and small, not from the sword, but the lancet, depended on being scarified, cupped, leeches, and venesection—an impudent

taught, and hastening to make the dreadful plunge which should deposit the blood in its accursed resting place, the Hahnemann man mentioned was tickling the palates of his patients with sugar pellets, and facetiously insisting that they were taking medicine. Some of them believed him, and from some ailments cause would recover.

This wonderful baroque on the practice which Solomon adopted, whether it had added anything useful to the Pharmacopoeia or not, has at least added a new dilemma. Either the dose in its accursed resting place, the Hahnemann man mentioned was tickling the palates of his patients with sugar pellets, and facetiously insisting that they were taking medicine.

Somehow, the inference is a fair one, even if it has not been absolutely demonstrated, that the virtue of their efficacy in healing disease has been overestimated, and that recoveries have been ascribed to the action of medicine which were due to an entirely different cause.

Solomon says: "A merry heart doeth good like medicine." The inference is unmistakable. The wise monarch thought that "a medicine" does good. Probably Solomon supposed he had a large family, and as he was not in the habit of sparing the rod, very likely he succeeded in persuading some certain juvenile members to swallow certain unpalatable doses which he thought would cure their health; and very likely he then thought he observed good results from the administration. It is not improbable that the Jewish king, having retired for the night after some salubrious sleep, with every window of the palace wide open to catch the faintest breeze, had been aroused in the morning to find that the chill northern blasts from the hills about Jerusalem were driving in at the open casement, and that the infant Reheobam, from his cradle bed, long before the matutinal hour, was vigorously crowing with spasmodic convulsions, and his mother, in a panic, was being fanned by the boy's

NEW YORK AND ITS LESSONS.

Evidently the exposures of the frauds of the New York Ring, have flattered the dove coats of the jobbers, who have so long plundered the citizens more ruthlessly than highway robbers, and a strong disposition on the part of each to provide for his own escape by throwing overboard the rest.

One day it is shown that the lady of one of the gentlemen, not many years ago a bankrupt tradesman, has been able to transfer of bonds to the value of hundreds of thousands of dollars to her son-in-law, and then, to convert an official alarm into something like a personal fight, the *Tribune* gives a history of the celebrated Vigilance Committee of San Francisco, and shows how men have been hung by outraged citizens for less crimes than those of the New York gang.

Lynch law is no doubt, a very effective restraint upon bad men, with all other checks fail; and we must presume that our neighbors in the United States know how to work their system in its last and severest exigencies. Yet it cannot be thought that the same illegal energy which is required to be exerted for a few weeks in order to suppress crime by spasmodic action, might if rightly applied, continuously and steadily produce the same good in accordance with order and with law.

Be that as it may if there were any good in reformation, we might very fairly retort upon our American friends the good of firing off at other forms of government. We might ask them if there is any other Government within their acquaintance, even in countries which abound in ignorance and poverty, where the public daily record of frauds and crime are equally shocking with those which the American Press lays before the public every morning and evening. Where are the boasted aristocrats, who rob the people as meanly and shamelessly as these foreign adventurers, who a few years ago were in the lowest positions of society?

Where are the cities of civilization, where the cities of man or woman to visit places of public entertainment in the open air, lest, if a female, she may be exposed to insult, and if a male, to murderous assault? We are not disposed, however, on account of these disorders—which certainly are unwholesome—to decide that Republicanism is a form of government inconsistent with honest administration, and with that degree of restraint upon individuals, which is necessary for the general safety, though we think that no one can look at the course of affairs in the great American cities, without seeing the deplorable influence of their political institutions, as now worked. Everywhere the bonds of wholesome authority are relaxed, for one reason, because officials hold office for short terms and on such precarious tenure, that they disappear from the scene with the change of place, and the blow of justice can reach them. They are a body so fluctuating in character, that to strike at them is like striking at the air; and without any permanent hold of their offices, they are influenced neither by a feeling of official honor nor by any *esprit de corps*.

Another reason, of course, is the great power which the criminal and vicious classes have in the choice of judges and those other officers whose business it is to keep these classes in order. We shall not here attempt to point out in detail the methods by which reform could be effected. To state the form of the evil itself is required. But the remedy which we draw from it is this—that no patent form of government has yet been discovered which is automatically secure, as sanguine politicians have sometimes thought, the integrity and disinterestedness of the men of government into which communities in certain stages mould themselves, as Darwin would perhaps say, as a natural selection. It is properly for such communities the best, as it is the only possible form of government, which is likely to be very wide spread in the immediate future. But it has its peculiar dangers, and these must be watched and guarded against. If the commonwealth is to be protected, with as much real and obstinacy as we require to put down the despoticism of former regimes.—*Monroe Herald*.

The many deaths from drowning reported this season naturally direct attention to the dangers to which bathers are liable. A resident of one of the most frequented of English watering places, who has just had great experience in such matters, is of opinion that the principal cause of accidents while bathing in the sea is the want of a proper knowledge of the nature of the sea, and the position of the shore. A swimmer on his return towards the shore is apt to be startled by the slow progress which he seems to make. He sees the waves rolling past him, and is often led to fear that he is actually being carried out to sea. He is usually, however, mistaken. He is actually being carried in, and he is actually being carried in, and he is actually being carried in.

London, Sept. 21.—A despatch from Vienna says that there have been further explosions to-day, and the explosion has been followed by a second explosion, and the explosion has been followed by a second explosion, and the explosion has been followed by a second explosion.

ON CERTAIN MODERN CONCEPTIONS OF THE NATURE OF CIVILIZATION.

The *Nation* in a recent issue discusses the subject of the use of stimulants of various kinds, treating these stimulants as necessities of modern civilization. The almost universal use of some kind of stimulant is the ground upon which it assumes the necessity of their use.

The Brooklyn *Union* also in a recent issue gives its readers an account of the extent to which opium is consumed in the City of Churches, which may be considered as somewhat astonishing. From seventy-five to over one hundred dollars per annum is the cost of the opium consumption of single individuals devoted to this habit, from which the quantity they take may be estimated at a daily habit to estimate the aggregate quantity used for purposes of stimulus alone in this country or any section of it.

The habit is easier to conceal than the drinking of alcoholic liquors, and statistics are hard to obtain. It is suggested that they take note of the fact that if it could be shown that the consumption of opium is as extensive as the consumption of alcohol, the latter would be considered as a necessity of modern civilization.

So much for opium eating. If we now consider how much alcohol, tobacco, coffee, and tea are consumed, we shall have before us the chief articles of demand for artificial stimulation. They will upon reflection appear so good evidence of the truth of the *Nation's* statement that stimulants are universally used. Is the inference of that the journal that they are necessities of civilization, and its suggestion that they be accepted as such, and the proper kind of stimulants for different temperaments be studied, so that each individual may select intelligently and wisely, sound and safe advice to the public? We say, no.

As well might we ask the wearing of narrow boots or orthopedic, or corsets, or any other fashionable folly, as necessary, on the ground that such follies are universal. The universal wearing of stimulants is purely a matter of habit—not of inherited habit, as a rule, although there may be instances of inherited appetite. We believe the world would be better off by far if opium, tobacco, alcohol, tea, and coffee were clean swept from the face of the earth.

But then what would ladies do when they wish to remain out of bed all night to parties and balls? And how would night editors be able to pen their pungent epigrams for morning readers? And how would doctors be able to maintain prolonged deprivations of sleep incident to their vocations? And how would Jones, after having robbed his club, be able to sleep late hours at his club, be able to eat his breakfast next morning without his accustomed gin cocktail to force his appetite? And Jones, you know is good for nothing all day unless he takes a good breakfast.

Well, we must say to fashionable party goers, editors, doctors, and poor Jones, that if modern civilization entails necessities which make the wholesale use of stimulants a necessity, society had better make a new departure, and return to a more simple mode of living. Stimulants are like whips applied to overworked horses; they will get a little more work out of the poor brutes for the time being, but all work so obtained is dearly paid for in the end by shortened life and the misery of protracted old age, burdened by disease, and physical as well as mental pain, or perhaps in something worse.

If medicines of this kind are the necessities of modern civilization, it is as well perhaps to pause and at least make the inquiry whether an exchange of some of our present "refinements" (if of living may not profitably be exchanged for health.

HOW TO SEE UNDER WATER.

The Indians of North America do this by cutting a hole through the ice, and then covering or hanging a blanket, in such a manner as to darken or exclude the direct rays of the sun, when they are enabled to see into the water, and discover fish at any reasonable depth. Let any one who is anxious to prove this place himself under the blanket, and he will be astonished when he beholds with all its brilliancy everything in the fluid world is lighted up. I once had occasion to examine the bottom of a mill-pond, for which I constructed a float out of inch planks, sufficient to buoy me up through the center of this float I cut a hole, and placed a blanket over it, when I was enabled to clearly discover objects on the bottom, and several lost tools were discovered and picked up. I am satisfied that, where water is sufficiently clear, this method is a simple and easily used, and it is a method which I would not suggest that this experiment be tried on the sea; for I am satisfied that, with a craft like the Great Eastern, where an observatory could be placed at the bottom, with sufficient darkness, by the aid of glasses we could gaze down into the depths of the sea, and as we can survey the starry heavens at midnight.

MUST HAVE THE MEDICINE.

Dr. J. L. Little, the well known surgeon of this city, remarking on the ignorance of people in general about the laws of health, and heartily approving of the laws of enlightening them as the standard magazine *Home and Health* afforded, told me the following as an illustration.

I was once called to see the child of an Irishman, quite sick and growing worse on account of the food—potatoes—with which they were feeding it pretty freely. "Stop giving it potatoes," said I, "and it will be all right."

"But, doctor, where's the medicine?" asked the father.

"It does not need any medicine," said I. "Stop the cause of the disease and the disease is gone."

But without comprehending what I was saying, he called out again, "But, doctor, where's the medicine?"

"To make it plainer, I said, 'Where you suppose one of the men where you are living should be killed over and over with a great stone on his breast, would you do it?' 'It do nothing at all, doctor, but I can be the doctor as fast as I could go.' I gave up then, and wrote him a prescription, for such implicit faith in doctors as all that deserved a reward."

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