

How He Escaped.
[Copyright, 1903, by American Press Association.]
"That brand of canned tomatoes," said a grocer to a customer, "I can recommend, for I've sold them for years."
"What so interests you in that brand? You're always trying to sell them to me, when you know I prefer another kind. Do you make more on them?"
"No. There is a very different explanation. Come in here and I'll tell you."
And, leading the way to his private office, he told the following story:
"One day some years ago a young woman came in here to buy some canned goods. I waited on her myself. These tomatoes were new in the market then, and I had been offered inducements to push them. The girl didn't appear to know what she wanted and was a bit flustered, but there seemed to be something about the label on the tomatoes that attracted her attention. It covered the can from top to bottom, and on it was a colored picture of several ripe tomatoes—indeed, the same label that is used to-day. I sold her a can and a can of peas, both of which she seemed to select under the influence of the labels. She took them away with her."
"The next day she brought them back, telling me that she wished me to ship them with some other articles she intended to purchase. She then selected a lot of canned goods—marmalade, peaches, jelly and the like—directing me to pack all in one box. They were to be sent to her invalid brother, in care of a certain person at a town near the center of the state. She paid all charges and left me to ship the box when I liked."
"I took an especial interest in the girl from the first. She was so pretty, so sad, and before she went away gave me an appealing look which I interpreted to mean that she wanted me to be sure that her brother received the delicacies in good order. I superintended the packing myself, and, noticing that the can of peas indicated fermentation, I put it aside and got another. The rest of the goods seemed to be all right, and I shipped them."
"I left the can of peas in the packing room till the next day, when I took it up to put it away. It had stood all night near a sink, and some one had spilled some water over it. I felt the label slip away and noticed that something had been wrapped tightly under it. Settling it down on a shelf, I saw that a lot of small thin saws had been soldered around the can."
"You may imagine my astonishment. My first impulse was to call some one to see my find; but, suddenly realizing that the position in which I was placed required thought before action, I took the can up to the top floor where I could examine it alone. The saws were highly tempered and would cut right through iron. Upon reflection I surmised that the girl had taken this and the can of tomatoes home with her that the files might be fixed beneath the labels. The tomatoes had been shipped and would doubtless go to some prisoner who would use the saws about them, to cut himself out. The girl had surreptitiously used our firm, believing that any goods coming from us would not be suspected."
"There was a situation. Suppose the saws were discovered by the authorities. I had a fine prospect of taking the place of the prisoner. I resolved to telegraph at once to the prison officials a warning that would protect me from intentional complicity. I hid the can with the saws still on it and, going to the office, was writing the telegram, when, feeling that some one was looking over my shoulder, I turned and saw the girl who had trapped me. I had written enough of the telegram for her to see that her game was up."
"There was no one else in the office. I stepped to the door, closed and locked it. For an hour I listened to a story with infinite complications which portrayed the landing of an innocent young man, the girl's brother, in jail for a crime of embezzlement into which he had been trapped by the real criminals."
"The girl, overanxious as to the shipment of the goods, had called ostensibly for the purchase of some articles for herself, but really to ask if the box had been sent. Seeing me in the office writing, she had slipped in and, looking over my shoulder, learned the situation. Having told her story, she concluded:
"I know it has been very wrong of me to use you in this fashion, but—"
"Do you realize," I asked, "that if the saws are discovered I run the risk of going to prison myself?"
"I did not think of that. I will confess to have done it all myself."
"What my head."
"What are you going to do?"
"I sat for some minutes deliberating. Neither of us spoke. There was the usual going on of business outside that could be seen through a glass partition, but within the little inclosure all was silent as the tomb. Presently I reached for a box of matches, scratched one, took up my half finished telegram and burned it."
"Can you imagine the look the girl gave me? No; you can't. Nor can any artist paint it. I saw it but once. I have seen looks like it since from the same woman, but they were as moonlight to sunlight."
"The saws found their way through the prison cook, an accomplice, to the prisoner. He escaped and has never been seen since in America. His sister is my wife."
ANNA BENTLEY.

A Mother-in-law's Experiment.
[Copyright, 1903, by T. C. McClure.]
When James Burton married he invited his mother-in-law to live with him and his wife. She accepted. Both promised to refrain from "butting in." When the first born came a hundred new complications arose. As a young husband he had never before had an infant in his arms and had never really seen above a dozen of the nuisances at close range, but he felt that he needed no advice from grandma. When he set out with spoon and castor oil to doctor the kid for a dozen things at once the mother-in-law had to make a few remarks—she just had to.
There were occasions when the father would carry the squalling youngster about head up, head down, over his shoulder and under his arm and pay no heed to the protests of his wife or the looks of the mother-in-law. There were other occasions when he would fling it into the lap of the old lady and expect her to walk the floor with it for half the night. In return she would visit the druggist next day, walking into the store with an iron jaw, but somehow she could never ask for arsenic or strychnine. The words always stuck, and she ended off by asking for soda water with sarsaparilla syrup. There were lumpy hours, however. There were hours when the mother-in-law and son-in-law sat down and told each other that it surely must have been the work of Providence in bringing them together. They almost held hands over it. They felt a just pride in realizing that they were the only mother-in-law and son-in-law on the face of the wide earth that ever lived in the same house and loved each other.
A crisis must eventually come in the happiest family. One came in this. It came one day after the mother-in-law had carried in a ton of coal and beaten two carpets. On the same day the son-in-law had discovered that the old lady was in the habit of coming downstairs at midnight and cooking herself a late supper. There were no words over either circumstance. On the contrary, they sat and smiled at each other and purred like two kittens. She was informed that but for her presence in the house life would have held little or nothing for the man but for her, and she reciprocated by saying that she never knew what that complacency and contentment meant until she made her home with him. It was a feeling hour. The fountains of the deep were broken up, and neither felt ashamed of the tears in their eyes nor their quivering lips. Next morning both were missing. On a stand in his bedroom and on the bureau in her bedroom the distracted wife found epistles. The one from the husband read:
"I invited my mother-in-law to pass the rest of her days with me and contribute to our happiness. I had always held to the theory that the wife's mother, particularly if she had an iron jaw and a mind of her own, could render the little woodbine cottage of her son-in-law a paradise on earth. Men argued with me in vain. When the opportunity came I tried it. There was to be no butting in on the other side. It has been, I go to my reward simply because I can't send her to hers. Ever since her first week in the said woodbine I have never for an hour been clear of thoughts of murder. They have always been thoughts of murdering a mother-in-law. In imagination I have given her nine different poisonings; five times I have remembered her with the ax; eight times I have stolen upstairs at midnight to choke her to death with my strong fingers. I have hired chauffeurs to try to run over her, and I have removed the steps from the cellar stairs in hopes to precipitate her to the cement and break her back."
"In conclusion let me say," the statement went on, "as she refuses to die for me I have decided to die for her. We have grown to be too happy. The deadly monotony has come, and I haven't the strength to endure it. My cold blood will be found hanging in the wood shed. Love to you and the kid and any number of best regards to the dear old lady. I know she will mourn."
The letter of the mother was equally interesting.
"When you read this, my dear daughter," she began, "the body of your mother will be found at the bottom of Gray's mill pond. I have been thinking of taking this step for a long time. I have been too happy with my son-in-law. That happiness has begun to pall. Think of having a son-in-law and yet be bound by the most solemn promise not to call him a heutz, a villain and a wretch a dozen times a day. Think of how I have had to keep my hands off him when I fairly ached to wash them in his blood! Think of the sleepless hours I have spent in rhypling and mangling and murdering him in imagination! I believe that I could live with my son-in-law and feel that I was living in the suburbs of heaven itself. It has been a grand success, but only up to a certain point. The element of murder has been lacking. He has never given me a shove or a kick. I die because he won't. I know he will mourn me, but I must go. I shall make all calculations to meet him in another clime, where I can perhaps get at him with a stick of stove wood or he can throw me over the kitchen range and out of the window. If asked point blank if the mother-in-law experiment is a success, hedge. Qualify it. Throw out a hint or two that it is too full of happiness. Farewell!"
M. QUAD.

Attorney General Wickerham's admission that he received a professional fee of \$200,000 for services lasting over two years proves President Taft's wisdom in getting so high-priced a man at such a low salary as the office pays.

I'd Rather Die, Doctor,
than have my feet cut off," said M. L. Bingham, of Princeville, Ill., "but you will die from gangrene (which had eaten away eight toes) if you don't send all doctors. Instead he used Bucklen's Arnica Salve till wholly cured. Its cures of eczema, fever sores, boils, burns and piles astound the world. 25c at Stone's drug store.

Spring Chicks!
Start them right by keeping them healthy and free from vermin by using
Lee's Poultry Remedies
They never fail if used rightly.
Lee's Germozone,
Lee's Chick Food,
Lee's Insect Powder,
Lee's Lice Killer.

For sale by
Schiller & Co.,
1st door north First Natl Bank.

IF THEY START TO RUN AWAY
give all your attention to the horses. The carriage will take care of itself if it is one of ours. Most any old carriage will do for slow horses and smooth roads. It is when you have a frightened team and a jolting road that our carriages stand out so strongly. Better get one so that if you do have a runaway you'll have a carriage that will stand the test.
A. M. Lock.

A Better Finish Than the Natural Grain
Can easily be obtained on doors, old floors and woodwork by using Chi-Namel, the varnish made in all colors, and our new patent graining process. Easy work for the amateur. No technical training necessary.
Made by The Ohio Varnish Company, Cleveland, O.
Stone Drug Co.

THE BEST SADDLER IN THE BUSINESS
is none too good for our harness requirements—nor is the best tanned leather to be found in the market. We are solicitous as to turning out high class horse goods and our constantly increasing orders and sales speak well of our ability to fulfill our promise of All harness and horse clothing.
A. F. FINK.
Dirt, Dirt,
Plenty of dirt in any quantity needed. Will fill lots in cemetery and take care of same. Will furnish monuments, grave stones, copings and all. We will also deliver ICE to all desiring it. Phone 448.
J. D. W. LINCOLN.

Words To Freeze The Soul.
"Your son has consumption. His case is hopeless." These appalling words were spoken to Geo. E. Blevins, a leading merchant of Springfield, N. C., by two expert doctors—one a lung specialist. Then was shown the wonderful power of Dr. King's New Discovery. "After three weeks' use," writes Mr. Blevins, "he was as well as ever. I would not take all the money in the world for what it did for my boy." Infallible for coughs and colds, its the safest, surest cure of desperate lung diseases on earth. 50c and \$1.00 Stone's Drug Co., guarantees satisfaction. Trial bottle free.

PROBATE NOTICE.
In the matter of the estate of Mary Phillips, deceased.
In the county court of Lincoln county, Nebraska, March 29th, 1909.
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of said deceased will meet the Administrator of said estate, before the County Judge of Lincoln county, Nebraska, at the county court room, in said county, on the 30th day of April, 1909, and on the 30th day of October, 1909, at 9 o'clock a. m. each day, for the purpose of presenting their claims for examination, adjustment and allowance. Six months are allowed for creditors to present their claims, and one year for the Administrator to settle said estate, from the 30th day of March, 1909. This notice to be published in the North Platte Tribune for six successive publications prior to April 30th, 1909.
W. C. ELDER,
County Judge.

TAX NOTICE.
City, No. 351.
To Louis Stockdale: You are hereby notified that on November 16th, 1908, L. A. Wright purchased at public sale for taxes for the year 1905 the following described tract of land, to-wit: The west 1/2 of section 13, township 11, north, range 32, west of the 6th principal meridian, in the county of Lincoln county, Nebraska, said land was taxed in the name of Louis Stockdale. The time of redemption will expire after July 15th, 1909, at 10 o'clock a. m. each day, for the purpose of August 30, 1909, when tax deed will be applied for.
Dated March 29th, 1909. L. A. WRIGHT.

SHERIFF'S SALE.
By virtue of an order of sale issued from the district court of Lincoln county, Nebraska, upon a decree of foreclosure rendered in said court wherein Martin L. McCullough is plaintiff and Minerva A. Chase, et al, are defendants, and to me directed, I will on the 24th day of April, 1909, at 1 o'clock p. m. the east front door of the county house in North Platte, Lincoln county, Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, to satisfy said decree, interest and costs the following described property, to-wit: West 1/2 of no. 16 east quarter and east half of north west quarter of section 17, Township 9, Range 28, West of P. M.
Dated at North Platte, Neb., March 16, 1909.
L. L. MILTONBERGER,
Sheriff.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.
Department of the Interior,
U. S. Land Office at North Platte, Neb., March 28th, 1909.
Notice is hereby given that Leslie H. Sims, of North Platte, Nebraska, who, on July 1st, 1902, made homestead entry No. 10773, Serial No. 9128, for south half northeast quarter and lots 1 and 2, section 31, township 10, north, range 32 west of the sixth principal meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final five year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before the Register and Receiver at North Platte, Neb., on the 30th day of May, 1909.
Claimant names as witnesses: Charles Meyer, William Facka and Joseph Everhart of Dickens, Neb.; and William Garman of Wallace, Neb.
J. E. EVANS, Register.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.
Department of the Interior,
U. S. Land Office at North Platte, Neb., March 28th, 1909.
Notice is hereby given that Leslie H. Sims, of North Platte, Nebraska, who on January 29, 1902, made homestead entry No. 10530, Serial No. 9126 for 8 1/2 acres, more or less, in section 28, township 11 north, range 30, west of 6th principal meridian, has filed notice of his intention to make final five year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before the register and receiver at North Platte, Nebraska, on the seventeenth day of May, 1909.
Claimant names as witnesses: Albert Nickles and Joe Roester, of Wellfleet, Nebraska; and James Ribbet and Alexander MacDonald of North Platte, Nebraska.
J. E. EVANS, Register.

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION.
Department of the Interior,
U. S. Land Office at North Platte, Neb., March 28th, 1909.
Notice is hereby given that George Moran, of North Platte, Nebraska, who on October 19th, 1902, made homestead entry No. 10611, Serial No. 9122, for southeast quarter section 31, township 16 N., Range 29 W., 6th Principal Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final five year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before the register and receiver, at North Platte, Nebraska, on the 19th day of April, 1909.
Claimant names as witnesses: W. H. Combs and Garfield Guttershous of North Platte, Nebraska; and James Cooley and E. W. Wright of Myrtle, Neb.
J. E. EVANS, Register.

ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR SUMMARY ADMINISTRATION.
State of Nebraska, Lincoln County, ss.
In the county court, April 30, 1909.
In the matter of the estate of Bridget Maloney, deceased.
On reading and filing the petition of O. E. Elder, praying for a summary administration of said estate.
Ordered, That April 30th, 1909, at 9 o'clock a. m., is assigned for hearing said petition, when all persons interested in said matter may appear at a county court to be held in and for said county, and show cause why the prayer of the petitioner should not be granted. This notice to be published for six successive publications in the North Platte Tribune prior to April 29th, 1909.
W. C. ELDER,
County Judge.

CONTEST NOTICE.
Department of the Interior,
United States Land Office,
North Platte, Nebraska, April 5, 1909.
A sufficient contest affidavit was filed in this office by Charles T. Breach, contestant, against homestead entry No. 7472 of George W. Craig, claimant, in township 9, range 32, west of the 6th principal meridian, in which it is alleged that George W. Craig has never established his residence on said land; that he has never cultivated or improved any portion of the same, and that he has wholly abandoned said land, for more than six months and one day last past; that said alleged absence was not due to his employment in the army, navy or marine corps; and that none of the defendants in which the United States has been engaged. Said parties are hereby notified to appear, respond and offer evidence touching said allegations at 10 o'clock a. m. on June 15th, 1909, before the Register and Receiver at the United States Land Office in North Platte, Nebraska.
The said contestant having filed a proper affidavit, filed April 5, 1909, set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice can not be made, it is hereby ordered and directed that such notice be given by due and proper publication.
J. E. EVANS, Register.

PROBATE NOTICE.
In the matter of the estate of Thomas Hanrahan, deceased.
In the County Court of Lincoln county, Nebraska, March 29th, 1909.
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of said deceased will meet the Administratrix of said estate, before the County Judge of Lincoln county, Nebraska, at the county court room in said county, on the 30th day of April, 1909, and on the 31st day of October, 1909, at 9 o'clock a. m. each day, for the purpose of presenting their claims for examination, adjustment and allowance. Six months are allowed for creditors to present their claims, and one year for the Administrator to settle said estate, from the 1st day of March, 1909. This notice to be published in the North Platte Tribune, for eight successive publications prior to April 30th, 1909.
W. C. ELDER,
County Judge.

Board No. 317.
To all whom it may concern:
The following section lines have been established as a public road by the county commissioners, as they deem this road for the public good.
Commencing at a point in the southwest corner of section 32, township 15, range 32, and running thence two miles north on section line between sections 31 and 32, sections 29 and 30, thence west one mile on section line between sections 19 and 30, all in town 15, range 32; connecting thence with road No. 47. All claims for damage must be filed in the county clerk's office on or before June 9, 1909, or such road will be established without reference thereto.
Dated North Platte, Neb., Apr. 7, 1909.
F. R. ELLIOTT,
County Clerk.

NOTICE.
Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of March, 1909, W. E. Ellis, Henry P. Hansen, Emanuel Hubart, Frank L. Macomber, and Julius Mogensen associated themselves together as a body corporate, under the name and style of Circle Hill Telephone Company. The principal place of transacting the business of said company shall be at the Ellis school house, located on section 15, Township 15, north, of Range 30, west in Lincoln County, Nebraska. The general nature of the business to be transacted by said company shall be to own, operate and maintain a main telephone line in Lincoln and McPherson Counties, Nebraska, extending from the north limits of the city of North Platte, to a selected point in section 31, Township 17, north, of Range 31, west of the 6th P. M., together with lateral and branch lines, and extensions of the main line, and for such purpose may own, lease, sell and convey such real estate as may be necessary or convenient to its profitable and proper conducting of said business, and to do and perform such other acts and things as may be incident and necessary to the main purpose of the corporation. The authorized capital stock authorized is \$20,000.00, divided into shares of \$20.00 each, of which capital stock there shall be issued six hundred and thirty-three shares of which shall be paid in at the time of subscribing. The date of the commencement of the business of said corporation shall be the 1st day of April, 1909, and the date of its termination shall be the 1st day of April, 1929. The highest amount of indebtedness which said corporation is at any time to incur shall not exceed the sum of \$200.00. The affairs of said corporation are to be managed by a board of directors, consisting together with a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, together with such other and additional officers, agents and clerks as said officers may appoint and hire.
Signed March 27th, 1909.
W. B. ELLIS,
HENRY P. HANSEN,
EMANUEL HUBART,
FRANK L. MACOMBER,
JULIUS MOGENSEN.

Probate Notice.
In the matter of the estate of Ernest Teitz, deceased.
In the county court of Lincoln county, Nebraska, March 29th, 1909.
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of said deceased will meet the Administrator of said estate, before the County Judge of Lincoln county, Nebraska, at the county court room in said county, on the 30th day of April, 1909, and on the 30th day of October, 1909, at 9 o'clock a. m. each day, for the purpose of presenting their claims for examination, adjustment and allowance. Six months are allowed for creditors to present their claims, and one year for the Administrator to settle said estate, from the 30th day of March, 1909. This notice to be published in the North Platte Tribune, for eight successive publications prior to April 30th, 1909.
W. C. ELDER, County Judge.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.
Department of the Interior,
U. S. Land Office at North Platte, Neb., March 28th, 1909.
Notice is hereby given that William Doelke, of North Platte, Neb., who on March 29, 1903 made homestead entry No. 10770, Serial No. 9128, north half northwest quarter, north half northeast quarter and lots 1 and 2, section 31, north, range 31 west of the sixth principal meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final five year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before the Register and Receiver at North Platte, Nebraska, on the 25th day of May, 1909.
Claimant names as witnesses: Frank Smith, James Hechan, George Macomber, and Dennis McKillips, all of North Platte, Neb.
J. E. EVANS, Register.

SHERIFF'S SALE.
By virtue of an order of sale issued from the district court of Lincoln county, Nebraska, upon a decree of foreclosure rendered in said court wherein William Paddock et al are plaintiffs and The South Platte Loan and Trust company, et al, are defendants, and to me directed, I will on the 24th day of April, 1909, at 1 o'clock p. m., at the east front door of the county house in North Platte, Lincoln county, Neb., sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, to satisfy said decree, interests and costs, the following described property, to-wit: Southeast 1/4 of section 5, Township 9, Range 28.
Dated North Platte, Neb., March 16, 1909.
L. L. MILTONBERGER,
Sheriff.

ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR.
State of Nebraska, ss.
In the county court, April 1st, 1909.
In the matter of the estate of Louisa Hund, deceased.
On reading and filing the petition of Fred Hund, praying that an administration of said estate may be granted to him as administrator.
Ordered, That May 3d, 1909, at 9 o'clock a. m., is assigned for hearing said petition, when all persons interested in said matter may appear at a county court to be held in and for said county, and show cause why the prayer of the petitioner should not be granted. This notice to be published for six successive publications in the North Platte Tribune prior to May 4th, 1909.
W. C. ELDER, County Judge.

PROBATE NOTICE.
In the matter of the estate of Samuel Tankhouser, deceased.
In the county court of Lincoln county, Nebraska, March 31st, 1909.
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of said deceased will meet the Administrator of said estate, before the County Judge of Lincoln county, Nebraska, at the county court room in said county, on the 31st day of April, 1909, and on the 31st day of October, 1909, at 9 o'clock a. m. each day, for the purpose of presenting their claims for examination, adjustment and allowance. Six months are allowed for creditors to present their claims, and one year for the Administrator to settle said estate, from the 17th day of February, 1909. This notice to be published in the North Platte Tribune, for eight successive publications, in the North Platte Tribune, prior to May 4th, 1909.
W. C. ELDER, County Judge.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.
In the District Court of Lincoln county, Nebraska, Eugene W. Pickett, Plaintiff, vs. Erasmus B. Pickett, Caroline Boyl and William Plummer, Defendants.
Notice of Sale in Partition.
Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a decree and order of the District Court of Lincoln county, Nebraska, made in the above entitled action upon the 29th day of February, 1909, the undersigned referee duly appointed in said case and duly sworn in and authorized by law and given bond in the usual manner and with sureties as provided by law, and authorized by the Court and by H. M. Grimes, Judge of the Court, to Mainard E. Crosby, the said referee, will offer at public auction at the east front door of the County House in Lincoln county, State of Nebraska, to the highest bidder for cash the following described property which was ordered to be sold by said decree by said court, to-wit:
Lots one (1), two (2) and three (3) in block Maxwell, Lincoln County, Nebraska, said sale will be held at 2 o'clock p. m. Central Standard time on Saturday, the 15th day of May, 1909, and said sale will be held open for a period of one hour from and after the said time of auction. The highest amount of indebtedness which said corporation shall be authorized to incur shall not exceed the sum of \$200.00. The affairs of said corporation shall be conducted by a board of directors, not exceeding five in number, who shall be selected by the stockholders. The officers to be elected shall be a president, vice-president, secretary or treasurer and such other officers or managers as shall be authorized by the stockholders.
Hershey Telephone Co. by President,
Attest: J. W. AMBOTT, Secretary.

How He Escaped.
[Copyright, 1903, by American Press Association.]
"That brand of canned tomatoes," said a grocer to a customer, "I can recommend, for I've sold them for years."
"What so interests you in that brand? You're always trying to sell them to me, when you know I prefer another kind. Do you make more on them?"
"No. There is a very different explanation. Come in here and I'll tell you."
And, leading the way to his private office, he told the following story:
"One day some years ago a young woman came in here to buy some canned goods. I waited on her myself. These tomatoes were new in the market then, and I had been offered inducements to push them. The girl didn't appear to know what she wanted and was a bit flustered, but there seemed to be something about the label on the tomatoes that attracted her attention. It covered the can from top to bottom, and on it was a colored picture of several ripe tomatoes—indeed, the same label that is used to-day. I sold her a can and a can of peas, both of which she seemed to select under the influence of the labels. She took them away with her."
"The next day she brought them back, telling me that she wished me to ship them with some other articles she intended to purchase. She then selected a lot of canned goods—marmalade, peaches, jelly and the like—directing me to pack all in one box. They were to be sent to her invalid brother, in care of a certain person at a town near the center of the state. She paid all charges and left me to ship the box when I liked."
"I took an especial interest in the girl from the first. She was so pretty, so sad, and before she went away gave me an appealing look which I interpreted to mean that she wanted me to be sure that her brother received the delicacies in good order. I superintended the packing myself, and, noticing that the can of peas indicated fermentation, I put it aside and got another. The rest of the goods seemed to be all right, and I shipped them."
"I left the can of peas in the packing room till the next day, when I took it up to put it away. It had stood all night near a sink, and some one had spilled some water over it. I felt the label slip away and noticed that something had been wrapped tightly under it. Settling it down on a shelf, I saw that a lot of small thin saws had been soldered around the can."
"You may imagine my astonishment. My first impulse was to call some one to see my find; but, suddenly realizing that the position in which I was placed required thought before action, I took the can up to the top floor where I could examine it alone. The saws were highly tempered and would cut right through iron. Upon reflection I surmised that the girl had taken this and the can of tomatoes home with her that the files might be fixed beneath the labels. The tomatoes had been shipped and would doubtless go to some prisoner who would use the saws about them, to cut himself out. The girl had surreptitiously used our firm, believing that any goods coming from us would not be suspected."
"There was a situation. Suppose the saws were discovered by the authorities. I had a fine prospect of taking the place of the prisoner. I resolved to telegraph at once to the prison officials a warning that would protect me from intentional complicity. I hid the can with the saws still on it and, going to the office, was writing the telegram, when, feeling that some one was looking over my shoulder, I turned and saw the girl who had trapped me. I had written enough of the telegram for her to see that her game was up."
"There was no one else in the office. I stepped to the door, closed and locked it. For an hour I listened to a story with infinite complications which portrayed the landing of an innocent young man, the girl's brother, in jail for a crime of embezzlement into which he had been trapped by the real criminals."
"The girl, overanxious as to the shipment of the goods, had called ostensibly for the purchase of some articles for herself, but really to ask if the box had been sent. Seeing me in the office writing, she had slipped in and, looking over my shoulder, learned the situation. Having told her story, she concluded:
"I know it has been very wrong of me to use you in this fashion, but—"
"Do you realize," I asked, "that if the saws are discovered I run the risk of going to prison myself?"
"I did not think of that. I will confess to have done it all myself."
"What my head."
"What are you going to do?"
"I sat for some minutes deliberating. Neither of us spoke. There was the usual going on of business outside that could be seen through a glass partition, but within the little inclosure all was silent as the tomb. Presently I reached for a box of matches, scratched one, took up my half finished telegram and burned it."
"Can you imagine the look the girl gave me? No; you can't. Nor can any artist paint it. I saw it but once. I have seen looks like it since from the same woman, but they were as moonlight to sunlight."
"The saws found their way through the prison cook, an accomplice, to the prisoner. He escaped and has never been seen since in America. His sister is my wife."
ANNA BENTLEY.