

A PECULIAR MARRIAGE.

By J. A. BOLLES.

The Smith brothers were all peculiar, and Justin Smith was far more peculiar than any of the others. He lived on a good farm of his own in Duchess county, New York.

You must go to Florida and help your Uncle Theodore manage his orange grove. You must not leave Florida for four years, or until Flora is 21 years old. If you do leave the state before that time, as an unmarried man, and I can find it out if you do, I'll disinherit you.



IT MEANS THAT FLORA IS MY WIFE.

for you. "If you're sure you'll be rewarded, you should add." "I'll add it, then, just to please you," retorted John with a laugh.

John and Flora retired crestfallen from the old man's presence. During the ten days that had many serious talks and made such plans and decisions as seemed to them best. On the last day of probation John sought his father.

that day, for the purpose of diverting the attention of Justin while the young man and Flora drove away from the house. Muffled and disguised, Justin returned to his abode only to search for Flora in vain.

Justin received them with distant politeness, refraining from all scolding. He himself had acted so unwisely that he felt too much disconcerted to find fault with others. Of course, now that Flora was legally married, it was useless for Justin to insist on the stipulations in the Edwin Smith will.

Justin Smith was quite surprised, but such was his curious character that he was rather proud that John should have taken the course he had. "How is it that you, who are a German, should be named John Smith?" inquired the old farmer.

ODD TRICK IN THE SURVEY

Duplication of Land Description Numbers in Adjoining States.

DUPLICATE OF THE MISSOURI'S WEAKNESS

An Inheritance for Dakota Territory from Iowa—Transferred to Nebraska by Changing Course of River—Land Number Novelty.

"Did you know there is a peculiarity in the public land survey near Sioux City which doesn't exist anywhere else in the country?" remarked Clem, the Pardner, who is known in police circles all over the country.

The attempt to lay out square areas of land upon the curved surface of the globe must after a while result in an accumulation of errors that require correction. The meridians lines on the surface of the earth constantly approach each other as they proceed from the equator toward the poles.

For instance, while the entire six miles of range 47, in township 88, in Woodbury county, lie directly north of the same range in township 87, only two miles of range 47, in township 88, lie directly north of the range of the same number below the line.

Now the numbering, which Dakota inherited from Iowa, was that which had been corrected by showing the range lines four miles further west at the correction line. The numbering, however, was not corrected.

But, while the system in Iowa could stretch itself across the Sioux river, it could not leap the Missouri—notwithstanding the Missouri subsequently leaped the system.

This chunk had inherited its numbering from the system which Dakota had inherited from Iowa. The system in vogue in this state had crossed the Sioux river, it was numbered, with township 89, range 48, just north of the corrected line.

Further west than would have been the case if it had inherited its numbering from township 88 of range 47, as it should, because of the adjustment of range lines made at the correction line between townships 88 and 89.

POINTS FROM A BURGLAR.

Advice Which Householder May Take Favorable or the Reverse. "Thomson Simpson, alias 'Tom, the Dodger,' who is known in police circles all over the country, was in town the other night, relates the Cincinnati Enquirer, but he got away before any of Colonel Deltz's 'tips' got onto him.

"You see," said Tom, "the public themselves assist us a great deal, or men in my line wouldn't be able to bring off successfully one-tenth of the jobs they do now. For instance, however careful housekeepers and their servants may be with regard to window fastenings on the ground floor, as a rule they pay little attention to those of rooms upstairs, being absolutely careless in many cases, for even when the fastenings are in good order they are often left undone.

Now a man who knows his business never tries the ground floor for an entry, unless he is perfectly well acquainted with the run of the house and the habits of the household; and even then he nearly always enters by one of the doors, for which a key has been procured, or the lock and bolts of which can easily be forced.

Well, there ain't none any good, unless it's one or two inches from the ground, and attached to one each side of the window. The screws to fix the sashes, as well as the other 'safe' dodges, can easily be undone by cutting out a piece of glass. Now the wedges, if you tumbled at once that there were wedges, could only be got at by cutting two holes in the glass, and then, if properly fixed, they can't be shifted without making more

noise than we care about doing while on business; more especially in this case if a bell with a coil spring is attached to the window. "The last time I was 'copped' was through one of them coil-spring bells—but not on a window. It was like this: The house 'went for' was occupied by an eccentric old man, well-to-do and owning a tidy lot of plate.

"When my trial came on, and not until then, I discovered that my capture was due to the fact that the master of the house, in order to find out if any of the servants came downstairs after he had retired, had placed cotton across the passages and staircases, about six inches from the ground, and attached to it a coil-spring bell fixed in his bedroom. In my journey upstairs I had, without knowing it, broken the cotton and sounded the alarm. Yes, it was a neat 'con'.

chance of making money. The consequence is that directly an opportunity offers to carry out a burglary, they go for it—go for it without taking any precautions and relying on brute force, the knife or even the revolver to effect an escape if disturbed. That is why there are so many brutal assaults and murders by so-called burglars just at that time of the year.

"Of course the particulars as to rooms, valuables, locks, windows, and habits of those living in a likely house, together sometimes with wax impressions of keys, etc., are obtained by 'the spotter,' a man who has nothing to do with the actual burglary, but takes a share in the haul, nevertheless. A 'spotter' may be anything from a hawker calling at the servant's entrance, the 'gas man' come to take the meter, a water inspector to see if there is any leakage, or simply the (for the time being) devoted 'follower' of one of the servants.

"Just a remark about ladders. In large establishments I have particularly noticed the care with which all ladders are locked up, while just round the corner, perhaps lying in the open, are the clothes posts used for drying or sun airing the clothes from the laundry. Now, it's as easy to swarm up a good square clothes post to reach a first-floor window, and, when in a hurry, it's a lump quicker to slide down one than a ladder will shake the nerves of a burglar as much as anything, and it's kicking against a large sheet of crumpled newspaper carefully laid in the passage. I got 'had' that way myself once, and made such a noise that I immediately bolted.

"But if you yourself is frightened of burglars paying your house a visit," he concluded confidentially, "the best tip I can give you is to lay in a little yapping, snappish dog—one that will rouse everybody directly a door or window is tried—and let him have the run of the house, inside, every night. That's the best safeguard there is."

"What is the best window-fastener? Well, there ain't none any good, unless it's one or two inches from the ground, and attached to one each side of the window. The screws to fix the sashes, as well as the other 'safe' dodges, can easily be undone by cutting out a piece of glass. Now the wedges, if you tumbled at once that there were wedges, could only be got at by cutting two holes in the glass, and then, if properly fixed, they can't be shifted without making more

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