

DR. • VANDELLAR'S • DEVICE.

66

ask is impossible! My banking future."

account is already overdrawn, you hold a bill of sale over this furniture and my horses and cariages, and 1 haven't a penny in the whole world but this handful of loose silver-and you don't want that. I suppose?"

Well, theventeen-and thispenth wouldn't go far to pay off theventeen hundred pounds, would it? Ask yourthelf, Mr. Vandellar," and Moses Marx miled affably, rubbing his fat yellow hands one over the other as comfortably as though he were Dr. Vandellar's greatest friend, instead of his most implacable creditor.

The Doctor frowned inquiringly. Seventeen hundred pounds?" he cried, incredulously. "What are you talking about? The bill you discounted was drawn for tifteen hundred only."

"Yeth, I know," returned Mr. Marx, calmly; "but the other two hundred's extra interest for cashing a forgery!" "Forgery!" exclaimed Dr. Vandellar,

in well-assumed indignation and surprise. "That's an ugly word, Marx?" and his long, wiry hands twitched nervously, making Mr. Marx think how painful they would prove if dug vindictively into his fat throat.

"I know it's an ugly word, Doctor; but it isn't so ugly as the crime itself. What's the use of heating about the bush? I knew that the names on the back of your bill were forgeries when I discounted it."

"You infernal old some leel! But why did you, the shrew a most closefisted money lender in London, discount a bill you knew to be forged?"

"For the thimple reason, my friend, that I knew you'd have to take it up when it fell due."

"Then you've made a mistake; I can't. The bill's overdue now!"

"Oh, another day or two don't mat tter to me." sald Marx, sirily.

"But don't you see," explained the Dector, impatiently, "don't you see that I'm broke-smashed altogether ?"

"It can't be so had as that? No, no. Now, Vandellar, my boy, you're jogink; now, ain't you?'

"No," answered Vandellar, grimly, "I never was more serious in my life." "Then, if that's the case," stormed Mr. Marx, his amiability suddenly vanishing, "you'll have to meet this bill tomorrow or go to prison!"

"Very well," said the Doctor, who grew calm as his creditor became excited. "If that's your decision, you may as well send for the police at once."

Now, Mr. Marx knew that to send Dr. Vandellar to prison would be to irretrievably lose his money, which he did not wish to do; so he instantly calmed down. "Look here, Vandellar." said he, "can't we come to some ar-

T TELL you, Marx, that what you Mr. Trefusis is not to be admitted in In another moment Dr. Vandellar en tered Sir Michael's room. He would see how his patient was, and then, by persuasion or force, make him execute a short will bequeathing something handsome "to his dear friend and attentive physician, Otho Vandellar, M. D.," etc. He advanced to the bedside and called Sir Michael by name. There

was no answer. "Asleep." muttered Vandellar. "Sorry to disturb the old fellow, but it can't be helped."

So saying, he lit the lamp, for the wintry afternoon light was failing fast, and, approaching the bed, placed his fingers on the silent occupant's wrist. He drew back with a start. General Sir Michael Trefusis, K. C.

B., was dead. Dr. Vandellar stood for a moment staring blankly at the corpse. Death

had stepped in to thwart his plans and absolute ruin must follow. Must follow? Surely something could

be done? Something must be done! The Doctor locked the chamber door and sat down in a chair by the side of the dead man. For a minute or two he could not compel his thoughts to definite form; but slowly, under the influence of his indomitable will, they

took shape. Sir Michael was dead-so foreing him to sign a will in his favor was out of the question. But what of the iron box of bonds-to-bearer, and precious lewels brought from India, which the General insisted upon keeping in the cabinet by his bedside? The contents of that box were worth £10,000 or more, and were immediately realizable. The box was still in the cabinet, the Doctor saw, and the key was hanging around the dead man's neck, as usual, That iron box should be Vandellar's salvation, for he would swear that the original owner had given it to him on his deathbed. Of course, the thing was quite easy, and impending ruin would vanish in the sunshine of pros-

perity. And then, like a cold hand laid upon his hot heart, came Vandellar to the recollection that such gifts, to be legal, must be conferred by hand, and in the presence of witnesses.

So it must be ruin after all unlessbut, no, he would not put himself in the power of his servants by making them his accomplices in false swearing. With a sharp exclamation of rage and disappointment, Vandellar rose from his ghastly vigil, thinking bitterly that as Sir Michael had died without a will, all his property, bonds and jewels included, would go to his heir-at-law, his nephew, Harold, from whom, by the irony of fate, he had parted in anger.

But just as his hand was on the key rangement? You've got a lot of paying of the door Dr. patients in the house-can't you squee again to the bedside. He had thought some of them for a hundred or two?" of a device which might secure to him "I've pumped their purses dry, I'm the valuables he so coveted. afraid," returned Vandellar, sadly. An adept in electrical and galvanic "Those gold shares you recommended science, Dr. Vandellar possessed all the to me have swallowed up every penny newest apparatus for experimenting lately. To be sure, there's old Sir Michael Trefusis; he's been with me upon animals and human beings supposed to be dead, with a view of bringsome years now and I've got considerable influence over him. He isn't likeing them back to life. Many such exly to last much longer, and he shouldn't periments had been made by the Doctor. He had never succeeded in rebe very fond of his nephew, if my storing a subject to life, but he had words have had any effect. If I could get him to leave me something handsucceeded in making corpses imitate the movements of living bodies. He some under his will, would you wait had also utilized his ventrilogulal abiluntil his death?" "Oh, certainly, with pleasure. But I ity-acquired as an amateur entertainer in his student days-and in some of shall have to see the will, my boy-and I shall want to be sure it ain't a forhis demonstrations with his disguised voice persuaded students and onlookgery, just as a matter of business, you ers that his galvanized corpses were Dr. Vandellar flushed at the alluliving, speaking beings. True, in such cases the lights had always been low. and no examination had been made un-"I shatr't put myself doubly in your power. Marz," he said. "Will you call til he explained the deception. to-morrow? and I will tell you how I All this flashed through the active get on to-night. If possible, I'll get Doctor's brain with a rapidty of thought, and he instantly decided to the matter settled before morning." "I'll call at 10," agreed Mr. Marx, put his idea into practice, risky as it radiant at the prospect of recovering was. Sir Michael's body was not yet cold, and the plan could be carried out his money. "Then, till morning, au revoir," said forwith. Vandellar, showing his visitor from the Softly Vandellar quitted the death "No doubt I shall be ready for room. chamber, locking the door behind him, and thinking how fortunate it was for you. him it was that Sir Michael's nurse was out for her daily walk, so that he con-Dr. Otho Vandellar, fashionable physician, medical specialist and daring clude his operation before her return. Entering his surgery, Vandellar quickspeculator, was in a tight fix, but he meant to get out of it. There was only ly adjusted his electric apparatus, and carried it up to Sir Michael's room. He one way-that which he had indicated. soon fixed it beneath the clothes and Old, paralytic Sir Michael, at present attached the electric communicators under his tender care, must be coerced to the proper parts of the dead man's into making a will in his favor. That done, the old soldier's death would be frame. He rehearsed the conversation and effects once or twice, and though merely a matter of time-and, perhaps, any suspicious witness might not have opportunity. been deceived by the jerky, hesitating Being a man of action, the Doctor movements he succeeded in producing. rose from his reverie and left his study he considered that they would pass with the intention of visiting his muster with his housekeeper and butwealthy patient. As he ascended the ler, whom he intended to call as witstairs be heard the street door close nesses. Placing the lamp so that the bang. Meeting his housekeeper. dead man's face was thrown into the Mrs. Mallinger, on the landing, Vanshadow by the bed curtains, and ardellar asked who had just gone out. ranging the electric apparatus so that "Young Mr. Harold Trefusia, Sir he could govern it while pretending to Michael's nephew," the woman replied. "He had a private interwiew with his support the sinking invalid, Vandellar unlocked the door and rang the bell de sir, and left the room in an aw fal hurry violently. "Mallinger." he said, as the house-Left the room in a hurry! Shut the network and with a bang! That ant interview between uncle and nephew, and Vandellar augured well for himself under the structured well seeper entered, "fetch Jurgan, the buter, quickly. Sir Michael is worse, and vishes to say something in the preses before the end, which ence of witnes is, I fear, only too near!"

"Now, Mallinger and Jurgan," mid Vandellar, solemnly, "please pay the A you may have to repeat it upon oath." Then, bending over the corpse, he continued:

Oh. you wish Jurgan to give you the iron box from the cabinet there?" The dead man's jaws worked con

vulsively, and from his lips, apparently, came the monosyllable, "Yes." "Jurgan," Vandellar commanded, "do FULL RECORD OF 1895.

as Sir Michael desires." Jurgan rose and handed the box to

the Doctor, who placed it in Sir leading questions and short, decided answers, Dr. Vandeller proceeded with

his grim mummery until his two pervants had duly witnessed the legal handing over of the precious box and heard, as they thought, Sir Michael's words conferring the gift. The box and key once in his possession, Vandellar dismissed the awed witnesses to their customary duties.

Dr. Vandellar rapidly removed his apparatus to the surgery; and then, having returned to Sir Michael's coom. he again summoned Mallinger and in formed her that the poor old get tleman

had suddenly passed away. At this juncture, and before Van dellar had an opportunity of opening the box and gloating over its contents two unexpected visitors were simultaneously announced. One was Har old Trefusis; the other was Moses Marx. Vandellar decided to be at home to both, but he saw Marx first. "Well," he inquired, impatiently,

what brought you back so soon?" "I just called to see if you were

keeping cool, Doctor-I mean I hope you ain't going to do anything so wick ed as to commit stille. Think what a dreadful thing ' is and remember a dreadful thing ! that suicide invalidates your life insurance, my friend!" Vandellar laughed. Then he hastily

explained the circumstances, though not the modus operandi of the gift of the box.

"Now," he said, "as the bonds and jewelry will be deposited at my bank

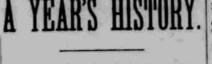
jewelry will be deposited at my bank as soon as the doors open in the morning. I suppose you will take my check in exchange for the bill?" Marx was anxious to get rid of the bill, and he knew that the Doctor's check, though it might not be met, would be a safer thing to sue upon than a bill he admitted he knew to be forged when he cashed it, so he made but lit-tle demur, merely asking, "as a matter of bithness," if the bonds were really in the box. "I saw them there yesterday," said Yandellar, truthfully, "Is that good

Vandellar, truthfully. "Is that good enough for you?"

Mary thought it was, and handed the forged bill to Vandellar in exchange for the latter's check. The Doctor then tore the incriminating paper into fragments, which he threw into the fire. "Now, come along, Marx," he cried, "and support me in my interview with

the despoiled heir!" The pair proceeded to the library. where they found Harold Trefusis impatiently waiting.

afternoon. But, as his only surviving relative. I should like to see the poor old gentleman, and to take formal poson of his effects."



"They are here, now, Sir Michael Chronological Record of Twelve Months.

Michael's hands; and then with awful An Epitome of All Events of Importance.

Usual Admixture of Disaster, Crime, Political Changes, Commer-

cial Achievements, and International Complications-Atrocities of Turke in Armenia the Most Shocking Page in Modern History-Powers of Europe Unite in Demanding Reform Cuban Revolution Next in Public Interest.

With but two exceptions, the nature of the events which go to make up the his-tory of the past year is not startling. The butchery of thousands of Armenians by Turks has aroused the European powers, and at the close of the year active preparations were in progress which suggested the probable dismemberment of the Ottoman empire. The revolt Cubans against Spanish rule was the next most important affair, and that, too, was in full sway at the close of the year. Spain seems to fruitlessly bend every energy toward its suppression. Popular sympathy is largely with the Cubans, and their success seems not improbable. In American politics the year has been exciting, and one of the great parties has suffered such reverses as to leave the chief executive unsupported in political faith by a majority in either house of Congress. A chronological record of events follows:

January.

1. Michigan's first public installation of State officers. Gov Morton, of New York, sworn in. Belgium bars American beef. Tom Biair lynched at Mount Sterling, Ky. Five perish in an incendinry fire at Lancas-ter, Ky. 2. Desch of Col. Edward M. Herl, Inspec-

9. W. W. Taylor, en Treasurer of South inkota, emberzies \$300,000; his bank at Red-

Inkota, embergales \$550,000; his bank at Red-held clowes. 10 Two lives lost in a Toronto fire; prop-city loss, \$600,000; 11 Coldest day of the senson in Chicago; 12 Delow... Storms in the East. 12 Train held up near Ottomwa, lown, 13. One hundred firemen frost-bitten at Bradford, Pa.; \$130,000 damages... Several vessels lost on England's const, fifteen soli-ors drown.

ors drown. 14. Hundred miners trapped by rising wa-ter in North Staff erdshire, Eng.; 20 drowned. 15. Ginnt powder horror at Butte, Mont.; 60 people killed, 100 hurt... French Presi-dent resigns; Royalists awake. 17. M. Fella Faure elected President of

and Mary, filter a remeter services a water ter... Militia ordered out to protect Brook-lyn trolleys.
Body of Barrett Scott, the O'Nell, Neb., defaulter, found in the river, with rope stround his neck... Sinking of stranger State of Missouri in the Ohio, forty lives

21. \$400,000 fre at Slour City; \$300,000 at

23. Furtous dust storm over Central and Western States. 26. 51.000.000 fire in Milwaukee. 27. Three train robbers killed on Queen and Crescent route. 28. Japan declares armistice. Hottest March day ever known in Chicago; tempera-ture 78 degrees. 32. Death of A. C. Hesing, editor of Ill-nois Stasts-Zeitung.

April.

Three killed, six hurt, at Chicago ship-yards.
 H. H. Kohlsaat buys Chicago Times-Heraid. May wheat sells at 60 cents...
 All grain advances strongly...Oll goes higher.
 Five negroes lynched at Butler Springs.
 Ala...15 inches of snow in Colorado.
 Supreme Court decides in favor of Debs in the famous contempt of court case.

tweive vessels lost in storms on Lake Michigan.
18. Great flurry in corn and wheat.
19. \$1,000,000 fire at St Albans, Vt... Terrible earthquakes in flaty... Killing froat in fifteen States.
20. Income tax declared invalid... Wheat sells at 74% cents.
21. Jose Marte, President Cuban Insurgents, killed... 14 killed in San Francisco powder house explosion.
25. Two men lynched for assault at Danville, III... Wheat reaches \$2 cents.
27. Spreme Court against Debs.
28. Death of Gresham, Screetary of State.
29. Remarkable military reunion at Chicago.

ago. 30. Funeral of Gresham at Chicago....Ded 30. Funeral of Greanan A control of the second seco

June. June. 1. 2. 3. Unprecedented heat in Chicago, New York, Detroit, Philadelphia and Indian-apolis: many deaths from heat prostration. 4. Drop at Chicago of 40 degrees tempera-

Silver convention at Springfield, III. Olney appointed Secretary of S State

 Silver convention at Springened, Jr., 7. Olney appointed Secretary of Stat Harmon Attorney General
 8. \$200,000 free at Kilwankee.
 13. Whisky trust declared llegal
 16. Greenville, Ohio, has a \$225,000 free.
 17. H. J. Aldrich fails for \$1,000,000
 Denver... Deadly storms sweep the M souri Valley.... Opening of Harlem st canal. souri canal

canal.
20. Opening of Kiel ship canal.
21. Reschery's ministry defeated....Two fatally, ten badly hurt, by explosion on whaleback excursion steamer Christopher Columbus at Chicago.
26. Six firemen killed at Minnespolis, \$100,000 fire at San Francisco.
29. Death of Prof. Thos. Huxley at London.

ton. 14. Destructive storm in North Dakots... Three drown at South Haven, Mich.... Seven Three drown at South Chicago. Nine

1. Destructive gales on British con Outs declares her independence. 2. Texas special Legislature prohibit

cago. 21 Lake Shore train runs from Chicago to Buffaio, 510 miles, in 7 hours 50 minutes a seconds, running time, beating world's re-ord.

he had countributies makey in a \$500,000 Chi-22 Five firemen lose life in a \$500,000 Chi-cago biaze... Release from fall and enthusi-sitic reception of E. V. Debs, labor leader, at Chicago....Foreign fleets rendezvous in the Dardanelles. 25. Tremendous damage at Chicago by storm of snow sleet and rain; all car lines blocked, wires down...Fire at Chicago does \$200,000 damage...Seventy killed by exple-sion in cartifidge factory at Palma, laland on Matorza.

sion in cartridge lattory at lattor at Giencoe, III.1 20. Three vessels go ashore at Giencoe, III.1 crews of 26 men savedRiot in Jackson, Mich., prison. 27. Death of Alexandre Dumas, Jr., at

27. Death of Alexandre Dumas, 20. 27. Paris. 28. Day of doom for the turkey....Foot-hall games: Michigan beats Chicago: Bostom and Chicago, tie; Pennayivania defeats Cor-neil; Purdue defeats Illinois; Louisvike wina from De Pauw; Columbia Athlette downa Co-lumbia University; Brown defeats Dart-mouth. December.

December. 2 Assembling of Fifty-fourth Congress; Reed elected Speaker of the House....Zero weather in Northwest....Further massacres

age.

"Mrs. Mallinger," he said, curtly,

is this manager. Give orders that some distance from the bed Jurgan, lank and frightened, and Mrs.

"I shall be very glad if you will do so," said Vandellar, smiling blandly, "though I must make an exception of the iron box in which, as you know, your lamented uncle kept all his bonds payable to bearer and his Indian jew-That box and its contents, Sir Michael gave to me, in the presence of witnesses, about an hour before his death.

"What," exclaimed the young man. "My uncle give you that box and its contents? Why-

"Pray be calm." interrupted Vandel. "Of course, if your uncle left no lar will you, as beir-at-law, inherit all his property, and the loss of the bonds and jewels is naturally irritating. Still-"Still," echoed Harold, "I can't understand my uncle giving you the box. Are you sure he was in his right mind

when he did so?" "Your uncle, sir, was as same as you or L" said Vandellar, with admirably assumed dignity, "as the witnesses in whose presence the gift was made will readily testify."

"Then," said Harold, decisively, "If Uncle Michael was sane I am mad, for this afternoon he handed me the whole of the contents of the box, ordering me to deposit them at his bankers. He nearly left it too late, for though I dashed out of this house and hurried to the bank I only reached it as the doors were about to be closed.".

Vandellar and Marx stared blankly at each other. The Doctor sent for the box. It was opened and its total emptiness proved beyond a doubt that Harold Trefusis was perfectly sane.

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Mr. Marx, despite the plea of poverty, has still money to lend on "favorable terms," but Dr. Vandellar's condition proves that the wicked do not always fourish like a green bay tree.-Tid-Bits.

Romance of a Prison.

There is material for a first-rate re nance in a story that comes from a Kentucky prison. A prisoner under long sentence for murder was taken III, and was nursed by the daughter of the prison warden. Propinquity gave rise to a claudestine attachment, and when the prisoner was recovered the young woman visited Gov. Brown and interceded for his pardon. She was successful. The prisoner obtained his release, the girl met him outside the prison walls and traveled with him to St. Louis, where they were married. The warden has forgiven his child, and invited the young couple to come and make their home with him in the State prison.-Buffalo Courier.

The call to arms-"John, take the

lost. 21. Chicago has a thunder and rain storm, with temperature of 54 degrees and a spring breeze, followed by a hurrianne blowing 64 miles an hour, temperature failing to 10 de-grees above zero; many people hart by fail-ing timbers, blown from new buildings. 23. Steamer Chicora and 25 people lost off South Haven, Mich. financial loss, \$185,000Death of Lord Bandolph Churchill at Leader.

een sailors drowned off Point Ju-

storm in the West.
26. Thirteen sailors drowned off Point Ju-dith. Come.
27. Mercury below zero all day in Chicago . Snox blockades many Western roads.
28. One killed, 43 burt, in Vandalia wreek at controllet ind. President Cheveland's conrency message sent to Congress.
29. Beelvers maned for the whisky (rust.
30. Steamer Elbe sunk in collision with the Crathle, in North Sex. 314 lives lost.
31. Death of Ward McAllister, leader of New York's society.
February.

February.

News of kidnaphy of officers from Uni-ted States gunboat Concord, by Chinese, for accidental shooting of a native. Chicago temperature 13 below.

temperature 13 below. 4. Three drowned by Milwankee street car running into an open draw...Thirty French ndners killed by explosion...Chicago tem perature 17 below...Queen Lii abdicates Hawail's throne. 6. Hilzard sweeps over the Northwest. Ahrm for the overdue French linet La Gas-

7. Whole country suffers extreme cold; 20

Whole country suffers extreme cold: 20 below at Chicago. Nine men lost in open boats at Milwarker. Report of annihila-tion of Chinese fleet at Wel-Hail-Wel. Ad-ministration's surretry measure and Reed and Cox substitutes defeated in the House.
 S. President announces the sale of \$62,-400.000 in bonds...Coldest day of the year in Chicago.
 B. Resource Clara and 15 men lost off Liv-erpool, N. 8.

erpool, N. S. 11. La Gascogne, eight days overdue, makes New York harbor with disabled ma-chinery; great rejoicing. 12: £200.000 street-car barn fire at Chicago. 13: Five firemen killed, 16 burt, at Lynn.

Mass lass. 19. Death of Isaac P. Gray, Minister to lexico....New Orleans has ten inches of

Mexico

20. Death of Fred Douglass, the colored orator, at Washington....Quick sale of late and issue. 26 Riot at Savannah, Ga., because of er-

Priest Slattery's lecture; troops called. 27. \$400.000 fre at Chicago; \$1.000.000 at Hallfax...Scores of miners killed in New Mexico...Postmaster General Bisseli re-

March.

1. Mexican train wreck costs 104 lives. Five killed, 19 hurt, by failing walls at New York. Rebellion gains ground in Cuba. 2. \$1,000,000 fre in Toronto; \$350,000 at

Chicago Times lasues its last number before consolidation with the Heraid . . . Ter-rife snowstorm in Northwest.
 Fifty-third Congress adjourns.
 Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt divorced at New York.

5. Mrs. W. K. valuerous captured, and 6. One robber killed, one captured, and four citizens wounded during raid on the Odell, Iowa, bank. 8. Harry Hayward convicted of murdering Catherine Ging at Minneapolls...Steamer Longfellow sinks at Chachmail; twelve drowned.

accidental fatalities at Chicago ... Nine killed by storm in New York and New Jersey. 16. Beginning of Horr-Harvey debate at

killed

killed. 18. Nine miners imprisoned by cave-in at Iron Mountain, Mich. ...British ship Prince Oscar and unknown vessel sink in collision;

Dear and
 do perish.
 19. Rescue of Iron Mountain miners.....
 Cleveland baby named Marion.
 21. Drowning of 148 Itsilans, by sinking in calision of steamer Maria F. Four
 in calision of steamer Maria F. Four

ompany's Chicago warehouse. 22 Report of killing of seventeen Indians car Jackson's Hole, Wyoming; grave trou-

near Jackson's Hole. Wyoming: grave trou-ble huminent. 23. Furiors storm in Pennsylvania roke region. L. S. & M. S. train held up in Ohio; 57,000 stolen. 25. Thirty-two miners killed by explosion in Westphalia. 21. Sitteen perish in a cloudburst in Col-orado and Wyoming... Menominee. Mich., has a \$500,000 fire.

August.

4. Faise report of face war at Spring Val-ler, III., between Italian and negro miners. Murder of British missionnetles in China. 51 occours fire at Sprague, Wash. 7. Drath of George F. Root, the famou

to Pateben. 26.7.8 Heavy rains in corn belt; severe storms accompanied by fatalities in lilinols

and Ohio. 20. Fifteen miners drown at Central City. Col.

Fentember.

2. One hundred people hurt on the Sea Beach road, Long Island. 3. Furious storm in central Northern

States. 4. Execoto fire at Boston. 6. Triple munder in Sollivan County, Ind. 7. Forty-two miners perish in a burning mine at Catumet. Mick. ...Defender de fents Valkyrie in first cup contest by uno

8. Five killed by dynamite near Dubuque,

rallway service suspended. Desth of Capt. Isanc Bassett, doorkeeper of the Senate. In Thirty-six lives lost in Newfoundiana fahing fact by storm. Forty-three killed in a North Carolina mine. Tremendous rainfall at Chicago. 29. Paulc on Wall street. Senate unanl-monsly passes House bill for Venezuelan commission. Cleveland sends financial message to Congress. Twenty-four miners at Dayton. Tenn., killed. Unprecedented flood at Chicago.

PUFFING THE PLAY.

"A New York Success" Abuse of Press Courtesy.

The United States is a broad and busy ountry, and it is well supplied with exellent journals, says the Forum As is natural and unavoidable, these generally take their tone in treating dramatic affairs from those of the metropolis. What is said and done in New York about plays and actors is published all over the union as quickly as the wires and press can spread the news. Consequently the theatrical business of the entire country is managed from New York. That is why actors, managers and the minor personages of stage life flock to New York. That is why for many years past it has been possible for the wily speculator in rotten dramatic lumber to set up a flimsy stage structure, held together only by the adhesive qualities of paint and printers' ink, and-by keeping a New fork theater open and empty for its exhibition for a stated term of weeks at the expense of \$3,000 or \$4,000 a week, and by a continual pestering of the good-natured journalist-to obtain a sufficient amount of notice of his 'great New York success!" to enable him to travel throughout the country with his "show," and gather a rich harvest from those who are eager to see what sort of plays please the people of the great city.

Of course the "show" soon falls to pleces from the weight of its own worthlessness, and the seeds of general contempt for New York's good taste in theatrical matters are sown broadcast. But no matter. The enterprising speculator, now well in funds, return to New York and is soon upon the full tide of another like venture. Year after year this sort of thing goes on. But the people of the East, South and West are becoming wise and wary. The "business" is not so good now as it once was in those often-deluded sections. One of the roots of our theatri-cal troubles upon which the az should fall quickly and sharply is this ab of the press courtery-first extended in good nature toward the struggling artist, but now demanded as a right by the brass-band "show boomer."

Our hardest battles are those we fight with ourselves.