The Infernal Machine

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The GH, what a night it was! 'Twas | "Won't do," returned the cross-eyed

atmosphere as tog. Then it was Christmas eve. That suiting my action to the words. made it worse. The poor in London often find it hard enough to keep up money to buy, and the hearty display on the part of those who have anything Season." But when King Fog blurs and overshadows everything, the temper of the unfortunate classes is severely tried.

I was very savage that night; savage ith myself, savage with my employers, and savage most of all with my miserable lot in life. Once on a time I was a well-to-do householder, with a flourishing watch and clockmaker's repeat. business. But after a while things went badly, somehow or other, and I suppose I took more than was good for me. At last the business broke up; and then-but there! what's the use of looking back? I had now joined the ranks of the struggling and hopeless, and it seemed hard that, half-suffotated with fog, I should be trudging the | nimself. He stepped forward. grimy streets between Clerkenwell and St. James' with a heavyish weight to season, while the rich and fortunate to atoms!" were eating and drinking and enjoying themselves more than was good for them. Bah! it made my blood boil to think of it all. And yet I felt the justice of it all. It was cause and effect. As we make our bed, so we must lie upon it.

along that I-I who have been familiar with every square yard of London ever since I can remember knowing anything-came for a moment to a standstill, and had to admit that I had lost my way. I knew well enough how I on his way to set the blessed thing had come-Red Lion Square, High Holborn, Broad street and the Dials. I ought to be in Cranborne street, or Leicester Square; but, for the life of me, I could not see two yards in front to "You don't know what stuff an anarmake sure.

Only with some difficulty did I ascermy progress soon became slower than | the face of a dial. ever. So thick was the fog, that with "This," I said, solemnly, "is the clock. one of those places where, they say, so whole street down." many foreign desperadoes lie in hid- My cowardly captors uttered an exing; and I was musing on the evil re- clamation of surprise and terror. They pute of some of the back streets in the scemed to have entirely lost their powmost luxurious city in the world, when er of articulate speech. all of a sudden I was roughly seized, and before I had time to use my tongue cheap. French ticker-on the mantel-I was dragged within a neighboring doorway. The door was immediately slammed, and ruthless hands hustled me down a dark passage and into a however loudly I employed my lungs.

Happily I was not injured in any way -only greatly alarmed; and fortunately I had retained enough presence of mind to hold tight the handle of the wooden box which I carried in my hand. If I either of you in Paradise." had dropped it! Well, I would rather not speculate upon what would have happened if I had dropped that box.

The room into which I had been! thrust was lighted by a single gas jet. feminine care. But I was very quickly minutes and a half left." made to understand, by the men who had dragged me into the house, that they were capable of anything in purface of the dial. A bare two minutes of down at him in a superbly scornful of his master's boots in his mouth, and I got dazed, and lost my footing upon two scoundrels present, though it had seemed as if a full score were taking words that forced themselves hoarsely me prisoner.

"Now!" began one of the bullies, a cross-eyed, burly brute, standing between me and the door.

"Well," I said, as he paused. The the center of the room, and asked, They were clearly awake to that. Pray, what is the meaning of this treatment?"

"Money," replied the burly black guard, with laconic frankness.

The second ruffian, who was meantime looking at me over his friend's shoulder, confirmed this explanation with a nod; but the request, or rather temand, made to a man in my position f life seemed to me so absurd that I could not restrain a little laugh. The cross-eyed party frowned an-

"We can't stop here all night," he blurted out in menacing tones. "I'm sure I don't wish you to do so."

I rejoined, trying to gain time. "Well, then, out with the blunt!" put in the second bully; "and look sharp!" | &. Saying which, he drew from his pocket a life-preserver (as people are pleased

to call the murderous weapon). "Really, gentlemen," I answered pacificially. "I am sorry I cannot oblige you. At the present moment I don't possess a cent in the world."

as if the usual winter slush of one, incredulously, "Gammon-flamthe London streets had vaporized bunkum! Turn out your pockets."

to promote a feeling of confidence, and

The second ruffian approached and helped me. He handled my pockets and motion that heralds Christmastide, the he returned to his place between the comrade as to their next step.

"What have you got in that box?" at all to sell-all these are something to then inquired the gentleman with dua dinner with, or a friend on earth to | that I had at least one portable article | Jeremy as a full-blown anarchist, greet with the "Compliments of the in my possession. "What's inside that box?"

"That is my business," I replied, sharply.

"Come, come, we don't want any of your pertness. Open up, and look spry about it." "No."

"Yes," he roared, adding a frightful expression which I should be sorry to

"No," I said, very firmly. . The two men glanced at one another. My opposition was beginning to enrage them. I wondered what they would do next. They evidently meant mischief, and I anxiously watched the burlier blackguard as he hesitated, and then apparently determined to open the box

"Good heavens!" I cried, holding out my hand to stop him. "You don't know carry on such a night and at such a what you are doing! You will be blown

> The man started back as if he had been struck. I pursued my advantage, after a little smile at the situation.

"I will open the outer case," said I, after a pause, "and explain. But by all that's sacred, if either of you comes one step nearer, I'll touch the spring The fog grew so thick as I went and we'll all go to atoms together! Do you think I'd stick at finishing the business? Do you think a man cares two straws about what happens to him when he makes an infernal machine, and carries it about, dynamite and all, going in a tidy corner of-well, no matter where-for the good of his country?" The two ruffians stood as if turned to stone. "Ha, ha!" I laughed. chist is made of!"

The bullies turned as pale as ghosts. tain that there were houses at three They had not bargained for this sort of paces distance. I resolved to push on, thing. I gave them no time to doubt however, keeping my disengaged hand me and recover. In a moment I inupon the walls and lintels and doors, serted a key in the lock of my wooden in order to have something substantial case, turned it, and raised the lid. Opento go by. Even this was awkward, and ing an inner mahogany box, I displayed

my hand on a lamp post I literally If I turn this screw I set the indicator could not distinguish the flame of the for whatever hour or minute I desire. gas above me. Nevertheless, I stum- If I touch this button, I start the exbled onward in hope of meeting some ploding mechanism. This brass rod one to direct me. But no one came in ends in a detonating fuse. I have only sight. I suppose I had got into a slum; to release this spring, and blow the

I looked at a clock-a trumpery, piece, and continued remorselessly.

"It is four minutes to 10. I will now turn the screw, and set the indicator to explode at 10. I will then touch the back room, from which (I felt sure) it button, and set the dynamite mechanwas impossible to summon assistance, ism in motion. This will give you three minutes to open this door and the front door-wide-and to make yourselves scarce. If you don't do so, pretty quick, the infernal thing will take its course-and I don't think I should meet

The two ruffians, petrified with terror, glared at me while I made the nec- check. essary movements.

"Now," I said, firmly, "you have three minutes in which to do as I said. There was nothing about the apart- And remember-at the very first sign ment itself to suggest that my life was of any attempt at violence, I touch this in danger, for it was an ordinary sitting spring under my finger and blow you sitters were women. The girl looked up The dog now made off back to when room, fitted up with something like both to smithereens. New-only two and down the long lines of raglans and his master lay, and a few moments

suit of their object. There were only respite remained. But it was enough manner, but he was an old bird and it was at once surmised that something the rocks, and came a-tumbling down for him to deliver a parting shot, in evidently didn't mind. from his throat.

"Well," he said, "of all the Mephisyou're the most horrible!"

And without another word he and his

I heard them fling the front door open hastily, and run clattering along the to answer: "Your fear is well grounded. pavement in the street-for dear life. There was not the slightest chance they would attempt to interfere again with pride. the anarchist.

by the handle, quickly made my way out into the street. The fog had lifted slightly. I perceived that there was a by-street opposite, and I ran down it as fast as my legs would carry me.

Before very long I found myself in Leicester Square, and in another ten minutes I rang the bell at the back door of a well-known clock and watchmake. t chop in St. James'. The door was opened by my employ-

"Confound it all, Jeremy!" he said. "I thought you were going to fail me. Have you brought the chronometer?" "Here it is, sir One pound-ten, please. And here's my little account for repairs and other work. It's been

owing some time."

"Come in, Jeremy, and I'll give you your money, and a glass of grog. You're only just in time with the chronometer. Lord Bluebury starts the first thing to-corrow morning to meet his yacht in the Mediterranean, and he wouldn't go without the instrument for anything."

"Well-here's the article, and a very pretty old timekeeper it is, too. You don't see anything to beat it nowadays. itself, and settled down again in the "With pleasure," said I, being anxious I told you you'd have it to-night, and I never tell an untruth to anybody."

was asserting as to my truthfulness aembers in the State recently. was not strictly accurate. But I sald The Lead City (S. D.) Miners' Union their spirits in spite of cold, starvation, patted my waistcoat to satisfy himself | nothing more; for, if I had confessed oasts of one of the finest buildings and neglect. Yet even to the most mis- that I hid nothing. It soon became how near I had been to losing Lord wned by organized labor in America. erable and desperate of us all, the com- clear that I had spoken the truth, and Bluebury's valuable chronometer alto- t was completed in the spring of 1894 gether, I'm sure I should never have t is three stories in height, with a busy going to and fro of those with table and the door to consult with his been given another job to do at home assement, is built of cut stone, and is

so long as I lived. It was a narrow escape, that little t a cost of \$60,000. adventure. But I can't help laughing see, even if you haven't sixpence to buy plex sight, perceiving for the first time to myself whenever I think of poor

> set my blessed eyes on," said the cross- the Contractors' League has issued its eyed gentleman, "you're the most hor-

And yet you wouldn't think it to look at me.-Argosy.

YANKEE BANK NOTES BEST.

American Printers Head the World in Execution of Fine Work.

Nowhere else in the world has the art of printing bank notes been per fected as it has in the United States. Jacob Perkins of Massachusetts made great advances in printing early in the nineteenth century when he substituted steel for copper plates and devised a method of making transfers of the original engraving in soft steel, which and in all likelihood the workingmen by being afterward hardened could be of that city will have one before long printed from. Through his exertions After agitating the question for sev in connection with other American ral years the Central Labor Union has his great hostelry. bank note printers the bank notes of let to work to accomplish the object this country many years ago attained and a committee has been appointed to nations which they have always since | t building. maintained.

have been made in this country in the paign to unionize all factions now out making of bank notes, notably in the side the fold. The fight will probably lathework, by which portions of the pegin in Chicago. It will be on the usually executed and various new devices have been tried from time to time to baffle the counterfeiters. The most effective is that now used by the government, whereby notes, bonds, etc., are printed exclusively on paper which has small fibers of silk of various colors incorporated in its texture. After the plates are prepared, extreme care is required in every process. The best ink, nicely ground and mixed, must be used, and the paper wetted with exact regularity. The best workmen can hardly print more than 600 impressions

in a day. The numbers on bills and bank notes are printed by a very ingenious mechanism which makes it impossible to commit any fraud by printing two notes of the same number. The apparatus consists of a series of brass disks, of which the rim is divided by channels into projecting compartments, each containing a figure. The numbers 1 to 9 having been printed in the course of the revolution of the first disk, the second disk then presents the figure 1 which, combining with the 0 of the first disk, forms number 10. The secbeen printed, when it presents the figure 2 and does not move again until pletes the numbers 20 to 29. Thus the self. two disks proceed until ninety-nine notes have been numbered, when the liger apparently realized at once the third disk comes into operation and langerous predicament in which bit with the first two, produces 100. sequently, the first disk performs 100 one of the third. The notes may be numbered independently by this pro- i wild rush. cess without the possibility of error. the machine meanwhile being its own

He Lacked Appreciation. and fairly pretty. The car was full tention was paid to his noises except when she entered it, and most of the co scold him. The cross-eyed villain glanced at me, directly in front of a youngish man farmhouse door. The first person whi then at his comrade, and lastly at the who sat near the stove. She stared approached him saw that he had one

Then her scornful stare changed to ntelligent brute was trying to convey move. one of deep indignation, and this in a message. turn melted into a look of pained surtopheles I ever set my blessed eyes on, prise. But the youngish man stood it several of the farmhands set off with lay there hitching along among the the rest of my life. Yes, madam, cold

box I carried was rather heavy. I horror-stricken companion hurried out. of pity, and presently the girl stooped a | ng greatly, says a New York World was + I could not move for the anguish placed it cautiously upon the table in | There was but one minute more to go. | little and remarked: "I'm afraid you special. The unfortunate man was re in my foot, and it was of no use to don't know who I am."

> May I ask who you are?" The girl stiffened with conscious

"I am one of this season's buds!" she I shut up my box in its case, taking it | said with a superb air of superiority. But even then she didn't get the

> seat.-Cleveland Plain Dealer. Strange Etiquette.

If the King or Queen of England sign their name in a visitor's book, it is customary to provide them with a new pen, which is not used by the hosts or the other guests unless it be handed them by the royal visitor. Another small point of etiquette connected with pens and paper is that in writing a letter direct to the British sovereign, it is written on thick, white paper, on one side only, and is placed in an envelope large enough to contain the letter unfolded.

When a woman gets good and mad she is pretty apt to tell the truth.

A statement issued by the cigarmakrs of New York shows that \$400,000 And then I remembered that what I ras spent in sustaining the strike of

0x112 feet. The building was erected

A terrific labor war is expected in it. Louis The building trades demand hat all work in their line for the "Of all the Mephisto-pheles I ever World's Fair be done by union men dtimatum, in which it is declared that ympathetic strikes will not be toler vhen necessary.

> Sir Charles Dilke, M. P., spoke elo quently of the Irish trades unions in Dublin. He is in favor of the trades mions and the influence they exert in Parliament. He urged the delegates to ther government work in Ireland, and o see that the work was so placed as o favor the Irish industries and Irish the usual announcement." workingmen.

Boston is the latest city to consider he project of building a labor temple

Boot and shoe workers of Chicago Many and important improvements and the West are arranging a cam merrilla order, one employer being an proached at a time. If an employer efuses to pay the union scale, then a tion storm doors, and thus preventing strike will be called, and until it is set led the schedule will not be presented gusty corridors. This Mr. Boldt finds o any other.

The paper-hangers believe that they have at last secured undisputed au onomy of the paper-hanging trade and that they will soon be divorced from the painters and decorators, who have claimed control of the paper rangers heretofore. The recent convention of the Brotherhood of Paint ers, Decorators and Paper-Hangers at Detroit, voted by a good majority to grant autonomy, and if the general nembership in its referendum vote up colds this decision the paper-hanger will be free.

HOW DOG SAVED MASTER'S LIFE

Tiger Took His Boot Home. John Reegan, a farmer of Gulf Sum nit, Pa., went out upon a hill near hin louse to cut down trees, taking with um his dog Tiger. He cut a tall oak which fell in such a way that b in the course of the revolution of the n a little depression. Had it not first disk the numbers 1 to 19 have been for the depression his life would nave been crushed out, but as it was ne was held a prisoner and, struggh thing good." another revolution of the first disk com- is he would, he could not free him

He shouted and his dog appeared Faithful Cow Saves the Life of Her

Arriving at the farmhouse he set ut of the adventure. such a howling that the attention of "I was a lad keeping Donald Mac-She was young and nicely dressed the true cause of his trouble. No at was Meadow-Sweets.

The dog barked with delight when He looked astonished, but managed 10 serious injury.

Tiger is now a great hero.

Ah Expenditure of Ammunition. "Where's your husband?" asked one woman of the other as they met in the zrocery store.

"It strikes me they both might be better engaged."

"I wouldn't disturb them for any thing. Let them use up their complain ing powers on the trusts and such hings. It leaves that much less for he meals."-Washington Star.

The World's Great Cities. There are in the world 270 cities hav ng more than 100,000 inhabitants each; 15 having more than 500,000; and 12 vith a population of more than 1,000,-

lozen yourself.

CRANK HOTEL INVENTIONS.

Walderf-Astoria Manager Is Pestered

by Freak Devices and Schemes. Mr. Boldt, of the Waldorf-Astoria, is tired of would-be inventors. "It makes me very tired," said he the other day, "to hear complaints about our system of paging cards.

"Now, I have made this system of paging cards-first introduced, by the way, by me-a special study since I same here, as I appreciate the fact has the highest recommendation a hoel can have is the efficiency of the service, especially that of card delivery. Nothing is calculated to irritate a guest more than the discovery that she has been called upon by a friend when he or she has been in the hotel at the time and has not known about

"At a greatly increased expenditure now employ young men as pages instead of boys as formerly, because they are more intelligent and discriminating. I used to have the names called out as well as the numbers of the rooms, but this was often embarrassing or objectionable, and so now I sted and non-union men will be hired only have the number of the room announced, which is a private matter known only to the occupant.

"It is amusing, though, that men ometimes become so engrossed in conversation at a round table in the cafe that they do not heed the calls under vatch closely the increase of naval and their very noses. Of course, when the pages identify or know the persons the card or letter is delivered without

Mr. Boldt is a shining mark for inventors. Scarcely a day passes that he is not sought or rather besought by some enthusiastic inventor anxious to have him adopt the new patent for obviating or producing this or that in

One promoter has a scheme for several monstrous switchboards like those that superiority in artistic and mechan-onfer with the Building Trades Coun in the stock exchange for the notifiical execution over those of all other il and report plans for the erection of cation to guests of callers by the automatic dropping of disks containing the number of the room. This Mr. Boldt considers impracticable, because his guests do not want to be bothered looking at such things, and will not when they are engaged in the cafe.

checking in their revolution the rotaa draught through the spacious and all right in theory, but decides it would inconvenience the guest in the compartmental door.

place a tally at the various doors of those who entered, and it could be announced officially the next morning that so many hundred people had visited the place the day before.

Probably the most britating crank Inventor, says the New York Times, is the one who wishes to record on a switchboard conspicuously displayed in the balls the vacaucies at the tables or rather the vacant tables in the restaurant.

"If," observes Mr. Boldt, "this system were adopted there would be a Reegan Was Caught Under Tree and riot every night among those awaiting tables, as each would consider it his turn next, regardless of the fact that the tables had been previously engaged. I never consider any expense in improving my system, but I really ond disk now remains stationary until knocked him down and imprisoned him get very weary of these impracticable by patrons. But you must give every one a hearing or you may miss some-

SHE KNEW HER NAME.

Little Companion?

It is a kindly and affectionate custom master was placed and also the fact to give an individual name to each of that he could do no good on the spot the animals we possess, and a story revolutions to ten of the second and He tugged awhile at the imprisonet told by the Humane Alliance shows man and then started off for home or that at times it may also be a useful custom. A Scotch farmer was the hero

every one on the place was attracted Naughton's cows." he says. "There to him. All wondered what could be were three of them. The dun was Bell. the matter with him, never suspecting the red one was Cowslip, and the black

three children, and would come right across the leas when called.

"One day when I was not with them. flaring hats, and then planted herself ater was again heard howling at the but had been given a holiday and gone owe my fortune simply and solely te bilberry hunting up on the side of the | cold mutton." hill, I climbed until I was so high that was wrong with Reegan, and that the and snapped my ankle, so I could not South African millionaire, "I was se

seemed to me that it was hours that I | rich in order to put it on one side for all in a thoroughly hardened manner. 11m to see what was up. The men found bracken. I thought how night would The look of surprise became a look Reegan almost unconscious and suffer come and nobody would know where I noble sentiments had nothing to eased and was found to have suffered halloo, for there was naught in sight save the crows and daws a-skirling against the sky. My heart was fit to break, for I was but a lad, and mother looked to me for bread, and I thought I would never see home again,

"After a while I spied a cow beneath, grazing on a slip of turf just between "I suppose he's talking politics with a rift and the hill. She was a good your husband, as usual," was the an long way below, but I knew her; it was Cowslip.

"I shouted as loud as I could, 'Cowslip! Cowslip! Cowslip! "Cowslip, when she heard her name,

left off grazing and listened. I called again and again. What did she do? She just came a-toiling up and

up and up-they are rare climbers, those hill cattle. She slipped and stumbled, but up and up she came till she reached me. "She made a great to-do over me:

icked me with her rough, warm tongue, and was as pleased and as pitiful as though I was her own. Then, Laughing at a man's funny story will like a Christian, she set up a voice and slease him more than telling him s moaned-moaned so long and so loud that they heard her in the vale below. | the air.

"To hear a cow moaning like that they knew meant that she was in trop ble. Me they would not have looked for, even if they had heard me. So they came a-searching and seeking, and they could see her red and white body. though they could not see me; and se they found me and carried me down. And it was Cowslip that saved my

"SHE BURNS GREEN I"

How the Finder Announced His Dis covery of Borax.

The greatest discovery of borax in the United States was made in the terribly hot region known as "Death Valley." and in a most romantic way. The Chicago Record-Herald tells the story:

In 1880 Aaron Winters lived with his wife, Rosie, in a gulch known as Ash Meadows, not far from the mouth of Death Valley. He was so fond of his wife that he would not allow her to be long absent from him, although their little but on the side of the mountain was 100 miles from the nearest neighbor, in a wild, rugged, forsaken coun-

One day a desert tramp came along and spent the night at the Winters home. He told the hunter about the borax deposits of Nevada. When he went away Winters thought that he had seen deposits of the same kind on his explorations into Death Valley.

Accordingly he and his wife went together to make the search, having previously provided themselves with certain test chemicals, which, when combined with borax and ignited. would produce a green firme.

Having procured a piece of the sub stance which he believed to be borax, Winters and his wife waited for night fall to make the test. How would it burn?

For years they had lived like Plutes on the desert, entirely without luxuries and often wanting for the very neces sities of life. Would the match change all that? Winters held the blaze to the sub-

stance with a trembling hand, then shouted at the top of his voice: "She burns green, Rosie! We're rich! We're

They had found borax. The mine was sold for \$20,000, and Winters took his Rosie to a ranch in Nevada,

A Generous Repast. If it is true that a rose by any other

name would smell as sweet, it should also be true that what we call an Early Rose, when we speak of potatoes, by A third has an idea that he could any other name would taste as good. But all potatoes are not so poetically named, as two women discovered just after they had finished a farmhouse

They were out on a bicycle tour, and became very hungry, as bicycle riders often do. As there was no inn anywhere within easy reach, they applied at a farmhouse for food. An old man was working in the potato patch, and they attempted to negotiate with him for a luncheon. He was very willing to do what he

could, and reassured them by declaring that although he was afraid there was not much else to eat in the house, he had plenty of potatoes, and he could recommend them as the finest in the country.

The luncheon was entirely satisfactory, and after the guests had finished it, they spoke enthusiastically of their repast, and praised the potatoes in particular.

"Yes-s," said the old farmer, slowly, "you might ha' done wuss. You have eaten two Schoolmasters, two Blacksmiths, four Kidneys and a couple of White Elephants.

Mutton as a Motor. Green, the English historian, one day asked a friend which of all the inventions of their day had done the most for the people, as a whole. His friend guessed this and that, but the answer

"Beyond doubt, sixpenny photo-

raphs." A reply involving quite as great as absurdity as that was made by Cecil Rhodes in answer to a lady who, seek "The cows knew their names like ing to draw him out, suggested that he owed his phenomenal rise to the impetus of noble sentiments.

"Madam," returned Mr. Rhodes, "I "Cold mutton!" gasped the lady. 0

Mr. Rhodes, what do you mean?" "When I was young," continued the dosed with cold mutton, and I hated # "It was very lonesome there. It so cordially, that I resolved to grow mutton was at the root of my success; with it."

Man of Strict Veracity.

He had been out slaughtering dees and when he returned naturally his friends expected a good hunting story especially so because he was known to have a masterly imagination.

"Hello, Jones," chorused several when they met him on the street the night that he returned; "did you have much luck this time?"

"You bet," he answered, just as they expected.

."How many deer did you kill on you trip?" asked one. "Ninety-nine," he replied soberly.

"Ninety-nine?" queried another, in credulously. "Why didn't you make it a hundred?" "Sir!" he said in a voice that scared them, "do you think I would tell s blankety-blank lie about one deer?"-

Memphis Scimitar. Continuous Rainbow Shows. In the coldest parts of Siberia a rain-

bow may sometimes be seen all day long in a cloudless sky. It is supposed to be due to fine particles of snow is