

WHERE THEFT IS A FINE ART

World's Light-Fingered Gentry Beaten by Mexico's Wily Raters.

MERE MATTER OF GETTING A LIVING

A Recognized Institution of the Republic, but Hard to Catch in the Act—Sneaks and Burglars Out of a Job.

There are no burglars in Mexico, and for a very simple reason. The daytime and the public street afford the adroit rater such easy opportunities for appropriating other people's property that it really is not worth his while to bother with night raids or to take the risk of forcing an entrance into private houses.

Other countries other customs. The rater is an institution in Mexico, and like the rest of the Mexican institutions, he is indigenous to the soil. The sneak thief civilization's human mill, the burglar is a poison separated somewhere in the process of milling. The rater is nothing of the sort. He is just as legitimate a product, just as much a part of the regular output as any other member of society. He is without shame or reproach in his calling and is quite at peace with mankind.

There is no more matter of getting a living in it is a profession, and he knows in it only the joy of being a good thief when he is skillful, and the sorrow of being a bad one when he is clumsy. Never, even when he is caught in the act, will his eyes become shifty or face lose its composure. That situation appears to the rater simply as calling for facile lying with all the powers of a trained tongue, face and bearing. It is all in the game of his calling.

There is a pleasing diversity in the methods of these light-fingered gentry, ranging from the audacity of a moment's impulse to the most elaborately plotted trap. Bold specimens attack a victim suddenly and rely upon the surprise of an escape. A man descending from a street car has the diamond snatched from his scarf before his feet have fairly touched the ground, and by the time he has caught his breath the thief is lost in a crowd. A woman stops to gaze into a shop window in busy San Francisco street in the capital city, and her richly embroidered cloak is jerked from her shoulders and the nimble-footed rater disappears before a nearby gondame gets the alarm.

Time for Business.

A crowd gathers in the streets to watch a horse fallen on the slippery asphalt pavements, or a procession on a festa day, and the very hats are not safe on the heads of respectfully dressed people. Or it may be on a Sunday, when all the suburban trains are crowded, and the little stations are well supplied with the throngs that enter the open window of a starting electric car and several hats gathered before anyone knows what has happened.

The more wily and considerate of the calling avoid giving these rude shocks to their prey. These are the ones who amass pocketbooks and watches as quietly as the low is only gradually appreciated, and who teach women the folly of wearing dangling ornaments in the street. Often they are so elegantly dressed that no one could object to being elbowed by them, while the plausible situations they create steal their lives with certainty and supply an ever fresh flow of stories, many of them too wildly impossible to be told of any other country.

Some years since a traveling fair of the popular loud-mouthed type arrived in the capital and set up his booth in the Plaza Mayor. The extraction of teeth without pain was the lure that drew a throng, and several successful performances made good the promise. His rasher primitive method was to fire a pistol close to the patient's head at the moment of gripping the molar. The shock of the noise sufficed to distract the sufferer's attention, and on the whole there were few complaints.

A Double Touch.

At last a well dressed Mexican pushed his way through the crowd and, mounting over an aching tooth, seated himself in the chair. "Which one?" asked the dentist briskly. The man hesitated a moment. "The smallest on the left side," he finally answered.

"But the tooth appears perfectly sound," said the dentist after a survey. "But it has ached for three days, I tell you, and I want it out." "You'll pay in advance?" was the query. "Certainly. Will it take long?" The fakir, a dollar in his palm, smiled reassuringly, and pulled out a handsome gold watch. "It will be over before the second hand can go half way around," he boasted.

"All right," said the patient, resignedly. The dentist got a good grip on the tooth while the man lay back quietly in the chair. There was a loud crack in the pistol and the dentist held up a sound and bloody tooth. "It was a mistake to part with that, senator, but did you feel anything?" "No, did you?" "No, did you?"

"Then we're even," said the Mexican, getting up and disappearing in the crowd. A few minutes later the dentist clapped his hand to his empty watch pocket in dismay. It was then that he appreciated the timely jest of his patient.

Done to a Turn.

A story almost too perfectly rounded to an amusing close is nevertheless vouched for among the raconteurs of Mexico. It is said that a certain well known judge found himself at the opening of court one morning without his watch, which he remembered to have left under his pillow. His remark to that effect was overheard by a letterer, and presently a messenger arrived at the judge's casa and asserted that the judge wanted the watch which had been left in the bed. Furthermore, the judge had sent the fine turkey the judge was carrying, and wished it cooked for supper, as he had invited guests.

Such plausible statements could not fail to win confidence. The watch was exchanged for the bird by the lady of the

house herself, and the messenger went on his way rejoicing.

Home came the judge at noon for the midday meal and the afternoon siesta, and with his first inquiry for his watch the trick was exposed. The judge, however, who seemed in the such, expressed at the thief's ingenuity and pronounced him needlessly generous in the matter of the turkey. But since the rater had made the suggestion, why not bring home some friends for supper after all?

The judge returned to court and the worthy seniors saw that the turkey was prepared in the manner so acceptable to the Mexican palates—cooked with a rich, dark chile sauce. It was done to a turn when a man came in breathless haste to say the scamp who stole the judge's watch had been apprehended and the watch recovered, but the judge needed the turkey as evidence in disposing of the case. The thief is already cooked," protested the distressed housewife, with no thought but for her supper. "Si, senora; but the judge says to send it as it is and he'll send it back again before it's cool."

So the judge's wily speed the turkey on it, and within a few minutes her husband appeared with his friends. "I hope you didn't forget to cook that turkey, Matilde," he said, cheerfully. "I can almost forgive the rascal that's got my watch for the sake of mole de guajolote."

Sole choked Matilde's martined response as she realized that she had twice been victimized, and the party supped frugally, though not without mirth on the part of the guests.

Shorn Lambs.

Convivial spirits who go staggering home in the wee sma' hours might recount some sad misadventures, if they could be persuaded to open their lips. It was a shorn lamb indeed that a gendarme rescued not long ago from a rater who was playing vau de vent. The man, too overcome to call a carriage, had dropped into an obscure doorway under the impression that he had reached home. Then came the rater who aroused him from his stupor with the respectful question whether he would rather have his supper or go to bed. Of course, the choice was for bed, and the man had just disrobed his temporary master and was leaving him to shiver in his nakedness when the gendarme arrived and took a hand.

The methods of the rater who enters your office to sell you something, or to offer his services, are quiet and seductive. A merchant dealing in curios was attracted by a tiger skin serape draped over the shoulders of a stupid, low country Indian passing along the street. He called him into his office, examined the skin and began to dicker for a trade.

"I'll give you \$5 for it." "No, senor, I do not wish to sell." "Well, the thing isn't worth that; too many tigers caught in traps for the skins to be worth much anyway. However, it's a fine skin and I'll give you ten for it, just double what you'll get anywhere else." "Pshaw, no, I do not want to sell. I wouldn't take a hundred for this skin. It's all I have to cover me at night." "Now, what do you tell me such a lie for. You know you can buy three serapes with the money. If you won't be decent and make a trade, why then get out of here and stop taking up room and my time."

The Typewriter Moved.

So the meek and obedient native set forth under the very eye and wrath of the proprietor. Nevertheless, as he went he swept up a fine, new typewriter from a table that lay athwart his path, covering the whole movement by a skillful readjusting swing of his tiger-skin, and he emerged into the street with his prize folded to him under the all-enveloping cloak.

He was never found. The "fences" of thieves are too numerous and too much on the game for pursuit to be easy. The unfathomable serape, like charity, covers gracefully a multitude of sins which the haven of the pawnshop afterward forgives outright. It would not be fair to say that every common Mexican will thieve, but it is a good rule never to trust one with an opportunity. Many a servant will keep straight under watchful eyes and then, with a confidence established and the way clear, pilfer without compunction.

An American woman, whose stock of household linen had been steadily dwindling, was driven at last to accuse a long-trusted chambermaid, with unpleasant results. Within an hour after the girl had left in a temper of indignant tears a group of American neighbors gathered at the house, believing that the lady was desperately ill, dying or dead. It appeared that the outraged dame had made the rounds of the neighborhood, getting money from one woman to fill a prescription for her suddenly stricken mistress, borrowing sheets from another for the dead, and articles of clothing for the burial—even enough white silk to make the shroud.

Plague of Peddlers.

But assuming that one's own servants are quite honest, there is the daily swarms of peddlers at the door to be reckoned with—a man with pottery, a girl with fresh flowers, a half naked Indian woman with a tray of vegetables. Those who come regularly are somewhat to be trusted, but the casual vendor is apt to count quite as much upon what he can pick up as upon what he sells.

The cargador who brings home your packages may tuck several objects into his blouse while you turn your back to get a bit of change for his propina. A man in the street may watch the French window open in your bedroom for an hour, until you chance to leave the room for a moment, then a leap into the low balcony may secure him your entire set of toilet silver before you return. Even bars at the window do not wholly protect one's belongings, for the rater, provided with a little cane, can generally hook something out.

But in spite of all that can truthfully be said of the rater and his confederates, Mexico City is by no means a nest of thieves. It is the careless and the easily duped who suffer, and there are many Americans long resident there who have never missed more than the few articles of clothing a washerwoman might choose to pawn.

Meantime, the vigilance of the police is doing much to make the paths of dishonesty less easy to tread. Any common Mexican in the street carrying something that does not obviously belong to him is liable to be stopped by a gendarme, and if he cannot satisfactorily account for his possession of the articles, he is marched to the comiseria, or station house, until the matter can be investigated. For this reason it is customary to provide a cargador with a card explaining how he came by what he carries, which card must be signed upon delivery of his package.

It is possible that after all the rater will have to turn burglar in time, though his cowardly temperament and the well guarded Mexican cassas are against it.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is a medicine of great worth and merit. Try it when you have a cough or cold and you are certain to be pleased with the quick relief which it affords. It is pleasant to take and can always be depended upon.

By Consular Process

By Richard P. Shelton.

(Copyright, 1904, by Richard P. Shelton.) The consul at Antigua, was not particularly enthusiastic over his post. It was financial reasons, rather than inclination, that kept him there. Indeed, had the financial part of the equation been less imperative he would have packed up his few belongings, said goodby to Potiphar—the sole person on the coast, by the way, to whom he would have cared to say goodby—and embarked in one of the fruit steamers for God's country.

From a purely consular standpoint, Antigua was not an exciting post. From the standpoint of nature, it was quite the reverse. In the years he had swelt in the tumbledown, worm-eaten shack which served as consulate, he had passed through several epidemics of yellow fever, and hurricanes so numerous that he had long since lost count of them. If he had grown somewhat acclimated to Antigua as a place of abode, it must be admitted that he had some reason on his side.

But on that particular afternoon Antigua was displaying her best side. Potiphar's dinner had been excellent, and with a black cigar between his teeth, the consul lolled in the chair, drinking cool, sweet breezes that came in from the water. The palm trees rhythmically swayed their tufted heads to and fro; the blue sky was flecked with fleecy white clouds; the bluer water of the bay sparkled iridescently in the sun and tinkled pleasantly on the pebbly beach.

The consul, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to crisp white ash. The consul slept peacefully, with his feet elevated to the veranda rail, succumbed to all the soothing influences about him and nodded somnolently. Occasionally he roused himself to puff the black cigar; but the intervals between his puffs grew longer and longer, until the spark on the cigar had died to