

By the Tie of a Bootlace

I suppose you have had a great many interesting experiences? I remarked to an ex-detective, now a great friend of mine.

Yes, replied, I may say that I have solved a few mysterious cases in my time. There was one in particular that puzzled me tremendously, and was so clever a dodge as to seem almost incredible. It was at a little village in Yorkshire, I was wired for, and hastened to attend with all promptitude. I was cordially welcomed by the local inspector, who informed me that they had arrested a man on suspicion, and that the evidence was very black against him. He then related all the particulars of the case to me, which were as follows:

The murdered man was a very eccentric character, aged about fifty. With the exception of an extremely old man, who waited on him, he lived alone, being a confirmed woman-hater.

"The old man," I burst in, "have you arrested him?"

The inspector shrugged his shoulders. "He is eighty years of age; it is not possible for him to kill a man in his prime, besides there are signs of a severe struggle. No, we have not arrested him."

"How long has he been in the murdered man's service?"

"About a year and a half." "Thank you," I jotted down. "Pray continue." He did so.

"We know nothing more about him except that he was reputed wonderfully rich. On the morning his old servant, as was his usual custom, took his master some hot water. He knocked twice, but, finding there was no response, opened the door, intending to stand the jug inside. An awful sight met his eyes. On the floor lay his master, stone dead, while everywhere were signs of a severe and protracted struggle. Chairs, tables, boxes, everything was topsy-turvy."

"One moment," I broke in. "Does it not seem strange to you the old man should have slept through it all?"

"Not at all. He as deaf as a post; besides their rooms were far apart. But to continue. The old man communicated with us and I wired for you. I carefully searched the house and the grounds. In the library there was a rather superior-looking man of the mechanic class. He was lying unconscious. On the table stood a decanter of wine. 'Halloa, my man,' thought I, 'what does this mean?' We raised him up and examined him. On the back of his head was a terrific bruise, most likely where he had fallen. He showed no signs of returning consciousness and I sent for the old man. I told him how matters stood, and the old chap shouted out, 'He's been at the wine; master always kept a decanter of drugged wine on his table.' There was nothing to be got out of him yet, though, so I went and examined the garden. I found footprints leading to a window which had been forced, and closely examined them. I went back and measured the arrested man's boots; they corresponded exactly with the footprints. That's my case; what do you think of it?"

"Well," I admitted, "it seems very strong against the suspected man. Still I cannot understand him drinking wine after committing murder."

"Well, you see," said the inspector, "one glass is enough to drug a man for hours."

"I see," I replied, "that alters the case. By-the-bye, does he plead innocent or guilty?"

"Innocent. He has some faked story about having a blow on the head, and remembering nothing more."

"Ah," I said, "you never know in such a case as this what's true or not true; however we shall see. I should

like to have an interview with the arrested man."

Fortunately I was allowed to go and examine him and form my own opinion. I found him an ordinary type of the better class British workman. Somehow the moment I set eyes on him I felt sure he was innocent. I explained who I was to him, and that if he was innocent it would be my endeavor to prove it. He swore that he had no knowledge of the crime or of how he entered the room.

"Well," I said, "you must tell me everything you know. I shall possibly be able to arrive at some conclusions."

"I know but very little, sir. I was walking along the road in front of the house, when without a second's warning, I received a severe blow on the head. I remember nothing more."

"Were you quite sober?" I asked. "Yes, sir; I had only had one pint of beer."

"What seems strange to me," I said, "is the fact of your footprints right across the garden."

"My footprints, sir! What do you mean?"

I told him that he had been traced over the garden, and he looked rather perplexed; then he looked down at his boots and blurted out:

"Sir, some one has taken my boots off and put them on differently."

"How?" I said.

"I tied them in a bow—now they are in a hurried knot. See!"—and he held them up for my inspection. He was quite right; they were tied in a knot, as he said.

"Are you sure you tied them differently?" I inquired.

"Positive. I could swear it in a law court."

I put that down in my notebook; it was one point in his favor. Another thing that impressed me was, where could he have put the stolen property if he had fallen suddenly after partaking of the drugged wine? The spoils ought to have been in the room. It was not, for I had examined it.

All this time the man had been silently engaged thinking, now he said: "Look here, sir."

We have for rent a centrally located

BRICK BLOCK IN LINCOLN.

Complete modern conveniences; will lease entire building or part of it

VERY DESIRABLE FOR EITHER

wholesale or retail trade. Attractive terms to the right party. Apply to

HOLM & REED, 1201 O st.

\$100 DOLLARS REWARD \$100

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that is catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of Testimonials.

Address, F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo O. Sold by druggists. 75 cents.

Sutton & Hollowbush, 12th and O, Funke opera house corner, make a specialty of serving families and parties with the finest ice-cream and ices, in all varieties; also fine cakes, etc.

DO YOU WANT TO SAVE TIME?

Well the new flyer leaving Lincoln at 3:20 p. m. via Missouri Pacific will save you several hours to St. Louis, Cincinnati, New York and all eastern points and connections are made in the St. Louis union station, the most expensive, complete and finest in the world. Any information or sleeping car berth ticket office 1201 O St.

Tribby's "Truthful pills" is a specific in all cases of kidney and liver troubles. Just one pellet at night does the work. At Riggs pharmacy cor 12 and O.

For a cooling, refreshing drink drop into Frank M. Rector's, 1211 O street New fountain, the latest drinks.

We have purchased (because it is just the thing we have needed) the Columbian Cyclopedic Library, consisting of the Columbian encyclopedia, which is also an unabridged dictionary thirty-two volumes of convenient size, neatly bound, four volumes of the annual cyclopedic review, four volumes of current history for 1896, one Columbian atlas and the neat convenient revolving oak case with glass doors. From the evidence obtained we find that some part of this work is placed in the best private and public library in this country an d abroad, for the reason that they cover a field relative to the past, present and future progress and achievements of the human race not attempted by others. The plan is original, and the work throughout is carefully and ably written.

Current history contains 220 pages, is issued two months after the close of each quarter, this length of time being taken to reduce all information received to be an absolutely reliable and authentic basis. If these are kept on file, this magazine will prove a permanent and invaluable record of all important movements in political, social, religious, literary, educational, scientific and industrial affairs.

The magazine will be indispensable to all people who have encyclopedias, as it will be needed to keep these works up to date. To those who do not own encyclopedias it will be doubly valuable as their source of information is more limited. About March of each year the four volumes of current history are bound into one volume, known as the Annual Cyclopedic Review. There are now four of these bound volumes covering years 1892-3-4 and 5. The work has for endorsers and subscribers in this city and state such people as Mr. Gere, editor-in-chief of the Lincoln State Journal, Hon. Joe Bartley, state treasurer, Hon. W. J. Bryan, Mr. Miller, editor of the Northwestern Journal of Education, Hon. H. R. Corbett, state superintendent of public instruction, Dr. R. E. Giffen, Miss Mary L. Jones, acting librarian at the state university whose letter we publish below in full:

"Every reading person has felt the need of brief summaries of current topics and events. The daily, weekly and monthly periodicals and papers may furnish data sufficient, but the labor of collecting and digesting it is frequently out of proportion to the result obtained. A most satisfactory summary may be found in the quarterly journal has been of invaluable service to the library covering a field that no other attempts.

MARY L. JONES, Acting Librarian.

Subscription price, \$1.50 a year in advance; bound volumes, cloth, \$2; half morocco, \$2.50; library sheep, \$2.50; embossed sheep, \$3.50; three-fourths perston, \$4. Complete library from \$36. to \$108; cases from \$6. to \$44.

The complete library is sold on monthly payments to suit purchaser. City subscriptions will be received at the Courier office for a limited time only, or at Mr. H. W. Brown's book store, direct all other correspondence to C. S. Borum, general agent, Omaha Neb.

A SUMMER RESORT.

A delightfully cool and attractive place these warm days is the handsome store of Sutton & Hollowbush, 12th and O street. A new addition is a large and beautiful onyx soda fountain, one of the finest in the state. This is presided over by an expert fixz clerk. This season nut ice-cream and many new flavors in cream and ices are strong favorites. Mr. Sutton's cream has a state reputation; he fills orders daily from many outside points; and is making a specialty of this trade. The line of candy is now larger and finer than ever. Confectionery always fresh; many novelties.

POINTS OF CONTRAST.

The morning and evening papers read by purchaser alone, in part, because hastily forgotten in the rush of business, or thrown away as soon as glanced at.

THE WEEKLY PAPER, read throughout in the seclusion of the home after business hours, in the leisure of the reader, at the club by family and friends.

THAT IS WHY

THE COURIER

will pay you as an advertising medium.

Under new management

MERCHANTS' HOTEL

OMAHA, NEBR.

PAKTON, HULETT & DAVENPORT, Proprietors.

Special attention to state trade, guest and commercial travelers. Farnam street elevator opens pass the door to and from all parts of the city.

Time is Money

SAVE IT BY TAKING THE



Actual time traveling.

37 hours to Salt Lake.
67 hours to San Francisco.
65 1/2 hours to Portland.
89 hours to Los Angeles.

—FROM—

LINGOLN, NEB

Wanted—An Idea Who can think of some simple thing to patent? Protect your ideas; they may bring you wealth. Write JOHN WEDDERBURN & CO., Patent Attorneys, Washington, D. C., for their \$1.00 price offer and list of two hundred inventions wanted.