

WOBBLES' BURGLAR.

How a Bold, Bad Thief Was Thoroughly Reformed.

The Midnight Visitor Assisted in Cleaning Out a Residence by the Owner, Who Invites Him to Call Again—The Outlaw Repents.

CHAPTER I. RECENT paragraph in the Sunday Herald greatly interested Rev. Mr. Wobbles. It stated that Rev. Hugh O. Pentecost had said that if he should find a burglar in his house he would go to him unarmed and "talk to him as I would to a friend whom I desired to help. If he then desired to take my goods I would make no protest, nor would I cause his arrest. I would follow him to the door and invite him to come again."

As he read this Mr. Wobbles' face beamed with sympathizing assent. "That's what I call good common sense," he remarked, half aloud. "If Providence ever sends a burglar to my house that is just the way I trust I shall have the grace to treat him."

Ab! how little the reverend gentleman knew of the present, let alone of the future. Even then the burglar was on his way to him.

CHAPTER II. The shades of night had fallen with unusual deliberation. They had fallen to the extent of about 8 a. m. Rev. Wobbles awoke with a start. There was someone in the house—someone who was stirring stealthily. Rev. Wobbles was not a coward. He arose and proceeded to investigate. He heard sounds in the back parlor and went there. The burglar was there and his dark lantern made him visible to the naked eye.

"Ahem," remarked Mr. Wobbles, by way of introducing himself. "Throw up your hands," hissed the burglar, leveling at the same time a seven-shooter at Mr. Wobbles. To the distorted vision of the parson the weapon seemed to be about ninety-six caliber.

Yet he was not sore afraid. "My friend," he said, with an attempt at that factiousness for which he is noted.

"I have not eaten my hands." And standing with arms akimbo he calmly faced the now astonished burglar. "Well, I'm plugged," ejaculated the midnight lawbreaker.

He wasn't accustomed to this.

CHAPTER III. Rev. Mr. Wobbles explained his friend Pentecost's system, and the burglar kindly offered to help put it in practical operation.

"It's a good scheme," acquiescently remarked the burglar, "and if only more covets 'ud adopt it us blokes 'ud have a

damn sight easier time. Ther' perfesh is full of trials and tribulations, specially trials."

Then the good parson talked feelingly on the subject of covetousness and the badness of pretty much every thing. His words certainly had some effect on the burglar's mind, for that worthy actually smiled and winked approvingly at his soft remark.

"Now, Mr. Burglar, just help yourself and welcome. If there isn't very much to take remember, pray, that a donation party was here last week."

For a moment the burglar's heart was touched, but only for a moment, and then he proceeded to fill a large bag which he had brought expressly for this occasion, with the parson's light and portable valuables.

CHAPTER IV. At last the burglar departed. Mr. Wobbles had helped him pack the bag.

HE DEPARTED. He assisted him to the front door, and even looked up and down the dark street to make sure that no police officer, accidentally lingering near, should "col-lar" his burglar.

CHAPTER V. The next day Rev. Mr. Wobbles was industriously re-writing his next Sunday's sermon. He had written it before, but the burglar had inadvertently taken it with the other plunder.

HE RETURNED IT. "To know me," he said, "but I'm the burglar who called on you last night. I stole your sermon. But I read it and in

THE YELLOW LOCUST.

Its Value as a Wood to Be Cultivated by Farmers.

While much attention is being paid to the importance of systematic forestry, systematic tree-planting is sadly neglected in many parts of our country where it could be profitable. In the Middle and New England States there are thousands of acres, once cultivated, that are now apparent waste excepting for pastures, which returns but a small revenue. There are many whole farms no longer valuable for agricultural purposes that could be made profitable if planted with the common yellow locust, a valuable timber tree of easy, rapid growth.

Some fifty years ago an intelligent farmer having a large acreage in Long Island on rocky land where profitable tillage was impossible, planted about thirty acres to the yellow locust, which made a rapid growth on the steep hills among the rocks, the soil being a moist, lively loam. All undergrowth was annually cut, which allowed a fair growth of grass that furnished good pasturage the entire season.

After a period of twenty years the larger growths were eight or ten inches in diameter, and from that time there has been an annual sold more in value from this rocky waste than from the most productive field of the farm, and without expense other than the cutting and getting to market.

The timber takes the first rank, whether for strength or durability, among our forest trees. It is invaluable in ship-building, as well as for posts or rails, and for railroad ties it has no equal; for the latter purpose alone it would be a remunerative industry on lands now overgrown with comparatively useless timber. There are few trees that make a more rapid growth, or are half so valuable. A peculiar feature of the locust is that it grows freely in its shade, which will not do other most forest trees. When the planting is once made no further attention is required, other than to thin out annually all superfluous growths. It increases so rapidly by suckers that this attention becomes necessary in order to make available the entire product of the soil. The same rule, we believe, is applied to all timber growths.—American Gardener.

FAT AND LEAN. Some Practical Hints About Fattening Hogs.

We hear more and more about making a streak of fat and a streak of lean in our pork. The sensible idea is becoming more prevalent that the great lumps of fat which we make and market are not just what the people want. Indeed a streak of lean and a streak of fat can not use fat pork, and there can be no doubt that all who do use it would be better off if it was less fat. Yet we do not sympathize at all with the notion that fat pork is necessarily injurious in a marked degree.

We believe that it can be shown that pork-eaters are as healthy and long-lived as beef-eaters. Still, leaner pork would be more palatable and more healthful. How is it to be produced? Some of the experiment stations have been doing something in that line, but they claim that their experiments have been to a degree unsatisfactory. Well, it can not be expected that our present hog can be made over in a minute or a day or a year. It is the nature of the hog to take on fat. Give it a fat-forming food and it will convert it into fat. But there is no special secret in creating leaner pork. We may never get the streak of fat and streak of lean laid out with mathematical precision, and there never may be any "streaks" at all in some hogs.

But the prevailing system of feeding can not create lean streaks or otherwise. Lean is simply muscle. Make muscle and you make lean meat. Now we all know how to make muscle. It is made by maintaining the health of the hog and by feeding muscle-forming foods. If we feed in that line and breed from hogs thus fed we shall in time have leaner pork. If double the quantity of muscle is created that the average hog now has there will be double the quantity of lean meat. But we must give the muscle time to develop. We can not expect that two years' growth of muscle can be made in nine months.—Western Rural.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES. Did you ever try dry bran for packing apples? TAKE a walk around the orchard and garden. Have your note book along. HAVE you protected the young trees of the orchard against the attacks of mice? ABOUT ten million pounds more dried and evaporated apples were exported this year than last.

If you have some long manure that you wish to put to good use, spread it among the raspberries. If the ground is not yet frozen it will yet do to lay down the raspberry and blackberry bushes and the grapevines. It is claimed that the daily consumption of good sound fruit is better than all the cathartics in the universe. It is pleasanter to take.

AS SORT your seeds and make a list of what you need for next year's planting—do it now—when the opportunity comes for buying you will know just what you want.

FORCEPS for numbering labels. The little device for numbering zinc or lead labels is sent out by a German firm as the best and simplest of its kind, and costing only about \$2.50. It is small enough to be carried in one's pocket, and has sufficient purchase to be easily worked. Any number from 0 to 9999 can be pressed into a label with a single impression. This number ready impression is also indicated by same number appearing on top between two of the dies, and the operator is thus enabled to avoid all mistakes. To avoid the necessity of setting the whole machinery for single figures (from 0 to 9), these figures appear a second time, and independently, on the handles, as appearing in illustration, and impressions of them can be taken rapidly without changing the wheel.—Popular Gardening.

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CAMP-FIRE STORIES.

FOR PENSION CLAIMANTS.

How the Issue of Certificates Can Be Hastened and Much Trouble Saved. The Indianapolis Journal's Washington correspondent was speaking to Representative Cheadle, the other day, in reference to the work of the Pension Office, when he said:

"I wish you would take down a few suggestions and print them for the benefit of pension claimants and the Pension Office. There are now pending in the office 469,000 unadjudicated claims. The law authorizes the employment of 1,542 persons in that office. This number includes special examiners in the field and employes here. Never before in the history of the department has the work been expedited like it is now. Nearly 5,000 claims are allowed weekly, and an effort is being made to reach 900 a day. To secure the best results is the earnest wish of the Commissioner, and claimants and pension attorneys can materially aid the office if they will. To illustrate: suppose some claimant requests Senator Voorhees to call up his claim and ascertain its status, and then asks Senator Turpie, Congressman Brown and myself to do the same thing, and we each send in a call, what is the result? It is found by experience that a clerk can, on an average, examine eight cases in a day and report their status. Thus by asking four members, instead of one, to learn the status, the claimant has taken the labor of one clerk one-half a day instead of one-eighth of a day, or he has kept three others from learning the status of their claims. No soldier can, therefore, afford to ask more than one Senator or one member to call up his claim. To ask more than one to do this is an imposition upon claimants, and upon the Pension Office."

"A certain number of claims are assigned to each examiner, and as each claim is examined, if the evidence is complete, the claim is either admitted or rejected, and it then goes to the board of review, medical board and board of re-review for final adjudication. If the claim is not made out the claimant is notified, or the attorney associates what evidence is required to complete the claim. When notice is so given, until the evidence called for is furnished, the claim can not be admitted. Thus, over and over again do the examiners look into and make reports upon all pending cases. I should say, at a rough guess, that once in four months a case is reached for consideration in the ordinary course of business. If, therefore, a claimant has learned the status of his claim, say on December 1, he ought not to ask the department for its status again inside of ninety days. It is true that when a claim is submitted to the board of review it may be allowed in less than that time; yet it is best not to expect it in much less time than that."

"Every claimant and attorney should therefore adhere to the rule of not calling for the status of their claim oftener than once in three months, and then never, under the circumstances, ask more than one person to do it. If the comrades knew just how much they could expedite business by adopting this rule, there would not be another one asked oftener than once in ninety days."

"To make a claim special requires an affidavit setting forth the fact that the claimant is near to death, the fact that he is feeble, or is in destitute circumstances, and stands in absolute need of assistance. It is idle to ask for any claim to be made special, except upon a sworn statement of facts which will authorize immediate action."

Mr. Cheadle stated further that, in his opinion, soldiers who had not been pensioned at all should have the preference in having their claims considered, in order, if possible, to enable all who are entitled under the law to receive pensions to have at least a partial relief afforded them. Mr. Cheadle informed the correspondent that he has called up as many as forty-six claims in one day. This will give an idea of the amount of labor involved in obtaining the status of claims, and the absolute necessity of not making any unnecessary calls upon the department.

RELICS FROM GETTYSBURG. Many Interesting Articles Brought Home by a Connecticut Man.

John Hutchinson, of Branford, a veteran of the navy, visited Gettysburg with the Connecticut party which went to this celebrated battlefield in October to dedicate a monument erected to mark the most advanced point reached by the Twenty-seventh Connecticut regiment. While there Mr. Hutchinson purchased a valuable collection of relics picked up on this battlefield. There are nearly one hundred different articles, including bullets, rebel and Union buttons, belts and plates, and numerous little things, all of which were found on the field of battle. On one of the relics appears this certificate of genuineness: "Gettysburg, Pa., August 9, 1863. This is to certify that this shingle was taken from the roof of General Meade's headquarters by the Battlefield Association when repairing the house, making it look as it did during the battle of Gettysburg, July 1, 2 and 3, 1863. N. G. Wilson, Superintendent R. F. A. Grounds."

One of the largest relics is a broken gun—an Enfield rifle—which was used in Pickett's charge. The breech, lock and stock were torn off, probably by a shell, leaving only the barrel and a part of the forearm. The most dangerous-looking of the relics are the butts and sections of terrible percussion and shrapnel shells. The edges of these are rough and serrated, and their very look is sufficient to convince one of the slaughter they created. Along with these shells are pieces of lead and iron that were used for a filling for these missiles. Another of the relics, a tree section studded with bullets, was taken from Devil's Den. The tree from which this piece was taken was bought after the battle by a man who, upon cutting it down, found in the part between the roots and branches 250 bullets. Pieces of this tree can be bought at prices ranging from 25 cents to \$1.50, according to the size and number of bullets imbedded in the piece.

Two canteens which were once the property of a Union and a Confederate soldier are in the collection. The Union soldier's canteen differs from the one carried by the "Johnny" only in as much as the edges are elliptical instead of square. One of the articles that Mr. Hutchinson values most is a twenty-dollar Confederate note, which was picked up in the wheat field soon after the close of the battle. A piece of saber blade which shows evidence that it was broken in some desperate hand-to-hand struggle is another of the relics. There is a bayonet with its point broken off, probably from hitting some stone as its owner fell wounded, never to rise again.

ANDERSONVILLE PRISON.

How the Whilom Terror of Union Captives Looks at Present.

I arrived at Andersonville station the latter part of last September. The town consists of eight or ten dwelling houses and one hotel. I hired a colored guide, who escorted me to the old prison inclosure. The ground is now owned by two negroes, and a cotton crop now covers its once repulsive surface; all the evidence of imprisonments once used by the Confederate military authorities have ceased to exist, save a small shed over the once famous spring that many claimed had supernatural origin.

Nothing to define the once ponderous inclosure, except that the stumps of the logs and the outline of the prison are defined by the old water wells, dug by the Union prisoners. There are no remains of the Confederate cook house, dead house, or Captain Wirz's headquarters; the only unweeded remains of the earthen breastworks, from which Captain Wirz used to point sections of artillery, with grape and canister, to awe and bring to terms the Yankees who dared to sing patriotic songs within range of his guns.

The low ground or swamp between the north and south sides of the prison is now grown over with canebrake and brushwood. This was the place so repulsive while occupied by the prisoners. In some other parts of the inclosure are trees twelve to fifteen inches in diameter, of the persimmon and pine variety. Time, with its quietly influence, is tenderly and gently placing the cover of oblivion on these tragic scenes of other days.

The cemetery, a short distance from the old prison-pen, is maintained by the Government. The superintendent, Captain Bryant, was a Union soldier. The known graves number 23,774, and the unknown number 925. The unknown have a square block of marble with the solitary number in figures inscribed on its face; the known have the soldier's name, number and State; and the register in the superintendent's office tells you the regiment and company.

General Grant's Good Heart. Edward Griswold, first Connecticut L. A. Guilford, Ct., writes that on August 15, 1864, one section of his battery was sent out to the extreme left of our line on the north side of the James river, beyond Deep Bottom, with Foster's Brigade, of the Tenth Corps, to dislodge a regiment of rebel riflemen, who had secreted themselves in a farmhouse and its outbuildings and hedges, and had opened a destructive fire in one of our brigades of infantry. It was a terrible hot day, and soon the stretchers were doing a lively business carrying off the struck and as well as the wounded. While they were engaged the writer heard the means of a wounded man near him, but could not leave his post to go to his assistance. Just then two men approached. They were General Grant and his orderly. The General did not see the fallen man until his horse was almost over him, when he stopped, dismounted, beckoned to his orderly, and the great General took the private soldier in his arms, and, with the help of the orderly, carried him as tenderly as if he was his father to the shade of a hemlock, some yards away, and laid him gently down. This incident well illustrates one of the characteristics of this great soldier, and the writer doubts if any of his subordinate Generals would have done the same thing.—National Tribune.

How Uncle Abe Danced. General Singleton, of Quincy, Ill., who was one of the bright young lawyers of Springfield when Abraham Lincoln was a green youth there, tells this story, which we believe has never been printed before. The boy of bright young ladies to which Miss Todd belonged before her marriage to Mr. Lincoln used to have a good deal of sport at this awkward young man's expense. One evening at a little party Mr. Lincoln approached Miss Todd and said, in his peculiar idiom: "Miss Todd, I should like to dance with you the worst way."

The young lady accepted the inevitable, and hobbled around the room with him. When Miss Todd had returned to her seat, one of her mischievous companions said: "Well, Mary, did he dance with you the worst way?" "Yes," she answered, "the very worst."

WASHINGTON POST.

RANDOM SHOTS. THE Ohio Department of the Grand Army has a membership of 44,000. The first pension ever authorized was in 1776. The first service pension was granted in 1818.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC POSTS of Jersey City are raising funds to supply with National flags the twenty-one public schools of that city.

GENERAL LANDER POST No. 5, Lynn, Mass., is the largest post in the Grand Army. It has 1,106 comrades in good standing, and owns real estate valued at about \$90,000—1,587 in all have been mustered into this post.

GEORGE H. HOPKINS, Adjutant-General of the Grand Army of the Republic, was an enlisted man during the late war, having carried a musket for three years. He is now a successful business man of Detroit, Mich., but is a bachelor.

THE selection of August 12 as the date for the next national encampment will be just before the "busy season" in the hotels. The hotels will be less crowded than ordinarily, and the comrades there will be freer to assist in giving the delegates a welcome.

A COMMISSION has been organized, with Governor Beaver at the head, to endeavor to secure from Congress \$3,000,000 to reimburse the people of Chambersburg and other residents of the southern tier of Pennsylvania counties for the losses sustained by rebel invasion. The State of Pennsylvania has already paid these people \$900,000 on this account.

AT the breaking out of the war the first call was for 55,000 men and the number obtained was 92,000. The second and third calls for three-years men were for 583,000 and the number responding was 714,000, besides 15,000 three-months men. The fourth call, in July, 1862, was for 500,000 men for three years, and the number responding was 432,000. After that the enlistment fell below the calls because, as an exchange puts it, the former calls had skimmed the cream of the nation's manhood.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The experiment by a Brooklyn surgeon of making a nose with a chicken's breast bone is said to have been successful.

A farmer in Holmes County, Ohio, has got plucky roosters. Two of them fought a prowling fox a few nights ago, and, having picked out his eyes, beat him till he died.

It was once remarked by a certain professor at Cornell, well known for his oft-expressed contempt for our climate, that, "we never have any weather in this country, we have only samples."

The conductor of a train that runs between Philadelphia and Norristown was recently converted, and now holds daily prayer convocations. The baggage car which are attended by the trainmen.

A Pocahontas County, West Virginia, ghost in the shape of a woman in white wearing a belt stuck full of revolvers turns out to be nothing but the shadow of a tree thrown against a wall by a street lamp.

"I saw a sign this morning, 'Umbrellas Recovered,'" remarked the horse editor. "Well, if the man can really do it," replied the snake editor, "he's on the road to fortune."—Pittsburgh Chronicle.

A horticultural journal advises: "Plant an onion beside a rosebush and increase its odor." But who wants the odor of the onion increased? That esculent is fragrant enough for culinary purposes.—N. Y. Ledger.

Pumpkins were so abundant in New England that a wit seized upon them as a symbol of the country. A chubby boy astride of a large pumpkin and blowing the hollow stalk of the vine for a trumpet was an emblem of some significance.

A Hebrew Bible in the Vatican is said to be the most valuable book in the world. It weighs more than 320 pounds and its weight in gold, or \$125,000, has been refused for it, which sold was worth three times what it is now. This was in the days of Pope Julius, or in 1512.

Whales will be more plenty than porpoises in a few years, now that the low prices of oil make it less profitable to destroy them. Professor Trine, of the National Museum, who makes whales a specialty, says they are fast multiplying and that their numbers will increase indefinitely unless some new use for them should be discovered.

A cotton plant has been grown that produces seed without lint. Mr. T. Ferguson, a planter of Spartanburg, S. C., has produced a variety after many careful experiments. He claims, and credible men of experience in cotton planting agree with him, that what has been already done indicates that a yield of 400 bushels of seed to the acre can be obtained, as against 35 bushels from lint cotton.

The giant diamond lately discovered in Cape Colony, and displayed at the Paris exposition, weighs 180 carats, and is valued at \$3,000,000. It is kept in a glass case by itself, and guardians stand around it all day. At night it is placed in a big safe, which is similarly guarded all night. It is said to be of the first water and as pure as the famous Regent in the French crown diamonds.

An ingenious man at Ilion, this State, has invented a machine by which pancakes may be turned hot out of a hopper at the very breakfast table. This is an encouraging invention, but within the next few years it will probably be antiquated. Even now scientific men are looking about them for means of making nitrogen and carbon unite in such a manner that, with a little trouble, a hungry man may draw his food directly from the common air.—Troy Times.

Legal Technicalities.—The miserable prisoner was on trial for embezzlement. He leaned over to his lawyer and whispered: "As the evidence is so strong, I don't mind confessing that I took \$250 of the stolen money." The lawyer shook his head. "Won't do. You'd get six years." "The fact is," pursued the prisoner, "I took in all about \$50,000." "In that case own up. You can't get more than eighteen months."—Society.

The carrying of money in the glove is a fixed habit among the female shoppers of all large cities in this and all other civilized countries. Glove manufacturers have at last recognized the custom and made preparations to meet its requirements. The very latest "thing" in gloves is a palm pocket attachment, roomy enough for a respectable roll of bills or all the "small change" necessary for the current expenses of an afternoon among the stores.

Life in Jersey City.—A Jersey City man was going through a back yard one day recently, trying to make a short cut to town, and struck his head in doing a wire clothes line, and a woman thought he was bowing and winking at her, and her husband came out and chased the poor man six blocks, and finally run him under a barn and then got down and jabbed a pitchfork into his legs for half an hour. And now the rest of the Jersey City men walk right in the middle of the street when they go down town.—Drake's Magazine.

A beautiful Persian cat living in East Fifty-ninth street, New York, was a great pet, and until recently the queen of the mansion. A visitor came, bringing a parrot. Vashiti saw and immediately felt a hungering desire for parrot flesh. She approached and prepared for a spring, when she heard in amazement a sound as of a human voice issuing from the cage, and her ears were shocked with a torrent of oaths such as had never before been heard in that well-regulated household. The horrified cat fled from the room, which she has never since been induced to enter.

It is a pity that so many people suffer from insomnia when such a simple preventive is in reach. I have a recipe which never fails. When I find myself tossing I get up, walk across my floor once or twice, and then get an apple, a bit of bread, any thing to arouse my stomach and set it to working, says a writer in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The moment it commences it attracts the attention of the nerves, so to speak; the nerves forget they are "on edge" and are soon soothed in slumber. Commence on the inside to cure sleeplessness, not externally, nor with drugs, for they are base deceivers.

The applications of electricity are becoming twiliding in their number and variety. A recent affair of some local importance in a western town developed the fact that a young woman had purchased a four-light chandelier specially designed to contain a detective camera, arranged to be operated by the closing of an electric circuit, concealed pushers or circuit closers being placed at convenient points, while a miniature reflector directed a portion of the rays of light from one gas jet directly