

HE WAS HIS OWN DETECTIVE. A Diamond Robbery for Which No One Was Punished.

How the Suspected Person Managed to Prove His Innocence.

A Case Where Circumstantial Evidence Was Upset by a Well-Directed Effort to Find the Person Who Was Guilty.

The following story was told by a detective familiar with the matter to a Herald reporter recently, and was vouched for as an actual fact throughout. Some time ago the papers had considerable to say about a diamond robbery which occurred in this city. The jewels belonged to a well known lady of this city, who had deposited them as security for a loan she had negotiated with a business firm. This firm was composed of two partners, both respectable men, and the brother of one partner was the bookkeeper and trusted man of the establishment. He was a bright young man, of good habits, and was engaged to be married to a most estimable young woman. This young man and the two partners were the only persons who knew the combination to the safe in which the diamonds were kept, and this safe had inside doors which were locked by a key. One of those keys by the young man carried on his key ring, the other being kept by the bookkeeper in the safe door. His door was not intended as a resistance to burglars, being only of thin metal. Now when this young clerk came to the office on the morning of the burglary, he found on opening the outer door that the inner door was locked, but that the key to its accustomed place. He took the duplicate key out of his pocket, opened the door, and there in a pigeon hole reposed the key that ought to have been in the keyhole. He at once knew that something was wrong, and a quick investigation showed that the precious diamonds which were there the evening before were gone. The members of the firm were summoned and an investigation was commenced. Every feature of the case pointed to the guilt of the young clerk. He claimed an alibi and established it. The young woman he was engaged to be married to, however, and that evening he visited her and staid all night at the house, having a room with a brother of his fiancée. This brother was certain that the clerk had not gone out of the room during the night; it would have been possible for a man to have left the room at 12 o'clock, driven to Los Angeles, opened the safe and returned to the house again before daylight, but as stated the clerk's room-mate was positive he had not left his bed during the night. Notwithstanding the police and detectives maintained that the clerk was the guilty man, and certainly no one else could be suspected. He knew the combination and had the keys. The young man could not prove his innocence, but it was decided to let him go and not to take any further steps in the matter. The fiancée, however, was frantic at his position; he knew he was innocent, but it seemed as if he must always have the stigma of being a thief. However, he set to work as a detective himself. He thought out a plan, and made a duplicate key made for that inside door, and he began a pilgrimage to all the places in the city where it would be possible to have a key made. At first without success, but after several days' hunt he discovered a tinker on Los Angeles street, who, when shown the key, said it had been made only like that for a gentleman a few weeks before. The man had brought an impression in a piece of soap. No, he could not remember the man's appearance exactly, but he would know him if he saw him again. The clerk was reluctant. The tinker's testimony was the first ray of light he had seen in his trouble, and he asked him to go to the office and tell what he knew about the key matter to the partners. The locksmith consented, and in a few moments they entered the place of business and the tinker's testimony was listened to eagerly by the partners, and they shook hands with the clerk as a token of their returning confidence. "And can you not tell us anything about the man who ordered that key?" asked one of the partners. "No, I can't remember his name, but I am sure if I saw him, I would recognize him," answered the locksmith. As he completed his words the door opened and in walked a young man who was a confidential friend of both partners, a young fellow who had had the use of the office, and who was light and seemed by all to be a party to the robbery. As he entered the locksmith looked at him and said: "That's the man who ordered the key from me." The newcomer turned pale and staggered. "I never took the diamonds. It's a lie. I never took them," he cried. "None of us have mentioned diamonds," quietly replied one of the partners. The newcomer turned whiter than before and faltered his way to a chair. "Now, why did you get the man to make you a key to the inside door of my safe, and how did you open the outside door, and what have you done with the diamonds?" continued the member of the firm who had first spoken. The young fellow stammered a few incoherent words and then confessed everything. He had managed to learn the combination of the safe by watching closely when it was opened. Then one day, while pretending to look at some of his own papers which were in the safe, he took the key of the inside door out of the keyhole in which it was, and pressing it into a piece of soap which he had in his pocket, he got an impression of that. When he got the duplicate key made he entered the office one night by means of an ordinary skeleton key, and opening the safe took the diamonds. The key he found in the keyhole of the inside door he put inside of the safe and locked the door with the key he had made, doing this purpose to throw suspicion on the clerk who carried the only other key on his

key ring. He was very glad when discovered to return the diamonds, and he was never prosecuted. All the parties to this story live here yet, and all of them, including the guilty one, still occupy positions of trust and responsibility. No one but the parties themselves and the detective who told the story to a Herald reporter and the reporter know who the men are, and that knowledge will never be divulged, as it could serve no good purpose now. The clerk who was first suspected was overjoyed at his success at proving his innocence at his wedding with the young woman to whom he was engaged soon followed, and he is today one of the most prosperous young fellows in Los Angeles, but it is dollars to doughnuts that he never has forgotten his one piece of detective work.

THAT REDUCTION OF SALARIES Compensation of High School Teachers Here as Compared with Elsewhere.

The motion made by Mr. Buehler, in the board of education last Monday night, to put back the salaries of the high school teachers to the old figure which prevailed prior to the closing session of the old board, has created some comment in educational circles, and, feeling it to be a matter of general import, a Herald reporter was sent out to make inquiry as to the merits of the case. He went first to the office of the city superintendent of common schools, but Mr. Freisner was not in, so he had a few words with Mr. Baker, the chief clerk of the office. "Mr. Baker, you were not present at the meeting on Monday night, at which Mrs. Hughes denied that the outgoing board had increased the salaries of the high school teachers. In reply to Mr. Buehler, she said that a reduction had been made for the sake of economy about a scale, and the board merely put them back where they stood before the reduction was made. Is that correct?" "Yes," replied Mr. Baker, "that is all correct in the main. The teachers had been hired at a certain figure and their wages had been scaled off before the expiration of the year, and they had been hired there. Mrs. Hughes' resolution merely put them back to the old figure."

"Did Mrs. Hughes or any other member of the old board know that there was a large deficiency in the school fund, and that they put the salaries back to the old figure?" "Oh yes, Mr. Freisner had notified them that there would be a large deficiency, although he did not then believe it would go as high as \$10,000," said Mr. Baker. This was all the reporter wanted to know. He then went in search of Mrs. Hughes, who was chairman of the teachers' committee in the old board. The lady was seen at her cosy mansion in St. James' park, and on the reporter making his business known, the lady said: "You see we had a shrinkage in values here several years ago, and a difficulty in the collection of taxes for all sorts of purposes. In course of time this shrinkage affected the schools as well as anything else, as the number of school children was constantly on the increase, while the money for their support of the schools was as constantly diminishing in amount. About a year ago the board resolved to economize in every possible way and so reduced the salaries of all the high school teachers except the principal and the superintendent. Several of these teachers were offered better salaries to go elsewhere but many of them had acquired pleasant homes here and did not care to leave. Those who stayed by us were assured that whenever it could be done their wages would be put back to the old standard; and hence a part of them, so far as I know, have rendered as good service for the reduced compensation as for their original salaries. Hence the retiring board felt that as they had worked nearly 18 months at a scale of compensation 20 per cent lower than they could have got elsewhere, they were fairly entitled to have their salaries put back to the standard of 1890. Do you believe in cheap teachers?" asked the lady. The reporter replied he did not; he thought that popular education was one of the things in which that which is compensated the least is paid for the most. "Very well," continued Mrs. Hughes, "I am not afraid to go on record in this matter. I believe in getting the best teachers one can get, more especially in a high school, which requires extra care and study to qualify one for the position of a teacher. You get cheap teachers and your children come out of school knowing a little of everything and a good deal of nothing. But if you want your children thoroughly schooled, you must get teachers who have undergone the regular preparatory discipline themselves. Mr. Kierulff, Dr. Bond and other gentlemen on that board were of the same opinion as myself as regarded the reduction of salaries as only temporary. Hence they voted on the last night of the old board to put them back to the old standard. The present board is composed of men having no experience in any such matters; and one or two of its members are there purely from motives of speculation. Time will show whether they or the old board most had the interest of the schools at heart."

BOWERS AND SAN PEDRO. The San Diego Man Thinks Colonel Craig's Report is Incorrect.

Whispering Willie Bowers, it appears, will not support the San Pedro harbor appropriation matter very forcibly, notwithstanding his many promises made before election to get all the money possible for that project. The San Diego Sun of Monday prints the following: Mayor Sherman has a letter from Congressman Bowers, in answer to the joint resolution adopted by the council concerning Engineer Craig's report on a harbor for Southern California. Mr. Bowers says the matter will be referred to the river and harbor committee of the house. He expresses the opinion that Craig's report will not have great weight, as the incorrect features will discredit the entire document. Mr. Bowers says, however, that he is the accredited representative in congress of Los Angeles as well as San Diego, and it is his duty to secure aid for an artificial harbor at San Pedro if it can be secured. The letter will be transmitted to the council tonight. But Mr. Bowers will continue to represent the Los Angeles district after March 4th. Thereafter he will represent only the present seventh district, which does not include Los Angeles. To obtain an abundant head of hair of a natural color to a good old age, the hygiene of the scalp must be observed. Apply Hall's Hair Renewer. California Vinegar Works, 355 Banning street, opposite soap factory, also Alameda and First streets, one-half block from electric light works.

THERE ARE ONLY SIXTY-EIGHT. Eighteen More Men than Places on the Police Force.

The Proceedings Yesterday of the Board of Commissioners.

A Change in the Requirements for Applicants—New Members of the Force Must Serve a Probationary Term.

The board met yesterday at 3:30 p. m., Mayor Rowan in the chair. Chief Glass also was in attendance. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. THE RULES CHANGED. The first business proposed was offered by Mr. Weldon, by which the maximum age of applicants is to be limited at 45 years; the maximum weight at 160 pounds, and the maximum height 5 feet and 8 inches, which was adopted. PROBATIONARY SERVICE. Mr. Bradish offered a resolution to the effect that all officers hereafter appointed shall be appointed as special on probationary service for a term of three months, at the expiration of which time they shall either be assigned to duty as regular policemen or dropped from the force altogether. This was adopted. APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENSE. Emil Waldeck applied for a retail liquor license, at 105 North Main street. He has resided here nine years, and is 32 years of age. The case was referred to the chief of police. FOR SPECIAL POLICE. An appointment was made of J. H. Howard as special policeman in the service of the park commissioners. He goes out every day in the wagon with the chain gang now at work in Elysian and other parks. Several applications for changes of beat were received from officers now on the force, and referred to the chief.

THE BOOM COMING. A San Franciscan's Opinion of the Situation Here.

Mr. Wendall Easton, the well known business man of San Francisco, recently returned to that city after a visit to this part of the state, and in an interview published in the San Francisco Post, spoke as follows of what he observed: Commenting on the general outlook for business Mr. Easton said this morning that everything was looking better in the districts he had visited, and that he is also satisfied that the same outlook will prevail in Southern California will before long find their way to this part of the state to its immense benefit. "Our firm has organized its business," said the real estate man, "so as to give special attention to country lands as well as to the city trade. Our excursion work out of Los Angeles for San Diego has been particularly successful. The first of these excursions for the season left Los Angeles on the 10th inst. with 78 land-seekers. The latter are now being entertained by a company of citizens, and the advantages of the country will be shown them. The second excursion will leave next Friday and already 89 people have been booked at the Los Angeles office." The Pomona Progress, one of Southern California's prominent journals, makes the following remarks of its district: "Everything is booming in Southern California in country lands, and nurserymen report sales of deciduous trees as three times greater this year than any previous year for Los Angeles. Nine thousand acres are to be planted in prunes alone and there will be 10 times as many acres of lemons set out this year as ever known in a previous season."

THE SINGLE TAX. How the Principle Works at Hyattsville.

Washingtonians are watching with interest the workings of a new economic experiment which is being tried at Hyattsville, just outside the limits of the District of Columbia. Hyattsville, so far as known, is the first place in the world to put the single-tax system into practical operation. Of course it is not complete even there, for the Hyattsville people are still taxed for water, as well as to the general taxation of the state. But all the local taxes of the town are now levied on land values alone, irrespective of improvements. The first step toward the adoption of this plan was taken two years ago, when a person property in Hyattsville owned two acres of vacant land in the center of the town and was holding it for a rise, did not relish the idea of paying as much in taxes as a dozen families that had built cottages on the same amount of ground. An anti-single tax party immediately sprang into existence, and an indignation meeting was called and resolutions adopted requesting the commissioners to retreat or resign. They declined to do either, and proceeded to collect the taxes under the new system. The next step of the party was to appeal to the courts, and this is still pending, although the first judge who heard the case dismissed the complaint, and the prospects of a reversal of his decision are not flattering. Meanwhile the town has been prospering. More buildings have been put up here in the past six months than in any similar period of its history. The total revenues have been largely increased, and at the same time the small house-holders have found their taxes reduced by from 25 to 75 per cent. But the large land-holders are still unreconciled, and are working industriously to defeat the single tax commissioners at the coming election in May. The single-taxers are equally active, and Hyattsville is having a political campaign to which the presidential fight was merely an undress rehearsal.—(S. E. Moffett in Stockton Mail.)

A PLUCKY BOOTBLACK. Robbed by New York Sharpers He Cheerily Goes to Work Again.

In Jim Marekko, the bootblack, Los Angeles has a warm advocate and a devoted lover. He has no use for any place but this, not excepting his sunny Italian home on the bay of Naples, and whenever New York is mentioned Jim emits a groan. He has been away from Los Angeles for over a year and returned about two weeks ago bringing his wife and babies with him. Jim formerly blacked boots in a barber shop on First street. He was very diligent, always attending to business, and by dint of hard work managed to save by degrees several hundred dollars. Some of this he sent to his wife in Italy. Finally he found himself with \$150 ahead, so he started for home. All went well until he reached New York. A couple of men saw him at the depot and asked if he wanted to find a hotel. Yes, Jim wanted one. The men said they owned one and would take him to it. After walking him some distance they finally got him into a dark alleyway and proceeded to go through him. They took his watch, \$150 of his own money, and some money entrusted to him by Los Angeles parties, in all about \$250. In the scuffle Jim was severely cut and bruised. After yelling lustily for a while, a policeman came and helped him to a drug store. Jim stayed in New York for one week and then went to Italy. He worked hard awhile there and finally determined to return to Los Angeles, with the present result. At present he is the official shiner at the Nadean hotel, and bids fair to save enough money to be able to laugh at his experience with New York sharpers.

TABLE DECORATIONS. What Fashion Has to Say About the Matter.

Fashion regulates not only our wearing apparel, but in the way in which we decorate our dinner tables as well. Simplicity of style has quite crowded out the more ornate fancies of former years. Where once a center piece, three or four feet high, obscured completely the guests on one side of the table from those on the other, there is now a flat arrangement that cannot possibly interfere with the vision. At a recent holiday dinner a round mirror, on which was placed a white bisque swan, formed the central decoration. The spreading wings of the bird left a space which was filled with green carnations, while a circle of similar, green carnations and lilies of the valley ornamented the edge of the mirror. Loose sprays of flowers caught by flowing ends of ribbons and laid carelessly across the center scarf on a table form very artistic as well as inexpensive decorations. Silver wicker baskets filled with the new "American Belle" rose and with the handles tied with bows of wide pale blue satin ribbon are very much in vogue. A Leghorn hat, filled with moss, in which long-stemmed roses are set, is another attractive device. If cut flowers are too expensive, a bit of growing green can be used with delightful effect and do service many times. Violets are very pretty if used in loose clusters, but when massed together are apt to be rather overpowering in their fragrances. Things should be remembered in the choice of all sweet-smelling flowers, as an odor that is delightful emanating from two or three selected blooms will become positively sickening if employed in quantities.—(San Francisco Evening Post.)

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Largest U. S. Gov't Report. Royal Baking Powder. ABSOLUTELY PURE.

A SETTLER'S OPINION. THE SITUATION DESCRIBED ON SECTION THIRTY-SIX.

The Original Land Owners Will Not Resort to Violence but Demand the Right to Keep Possession of Their Own. The Herald has published the facts about the decision of the United States supreme court regarding some land north of Pomona, technically described as Sec. 36, T. 1 N., R. 9 W., S. B. M. The land was settled upon as state land, and the holders getting a title from the state supposed it was good and have improved their holdings. The decision referred to holds that the state had no title, that the land belonged to the federal government, and some real estate men immediately filed upon it, and apparently intend to dispossess the men who have worked on it, and put their money in it, and who it would seem should have the chance to perfect their title. The following communication gives the situation from the point of view of one of the settlers. EDITORS HERALD: As there have been several dispatches sent out in regard to violence in the contest about our section 36, I can say that as to our title, we are in the full faith that our state title was as good as the best; and had we known otherwise we would have been only too glad to have had it rectified, if such proved to be the case. And now a dispute arises between the state and the general government about this title, without our knowledge or consent of the real owners some land sharks, who have not the faintest shadow of a moral claim upon our lands and homes, are permitted to put a flag upon them. The only inexcusable excuse they could offer when they came and gave the following as a sample in which many homes are included: Mark Rickels, a hard-working young man, by day's work and economy saved enough money to purchase a few acres of this land, planted it to trees of his own raising, built a small home and has been enabled to give his old mother a home in which to spend her declining years. J. L. Marshall, an honest, hard-working old man, 73 years of age, and with his united help have established themselves in a nice home in which to spend their last days. T. S. Oldham, 70 years of age, has put the earnings of years of toil into a good home here. The writer and his wife have a nice little home of five acres, upon which we have lived for eight years. We have it all planted and in bearing trees; a comfortable home and its necessary surroundings, all of which is the fruit of our own toil. This is our home, the home of our little children. And these same sharks who would rend the hard and honestly earned return from their comfortable homes aged people, who would send drift from the only shelter they have upon God's earth wives, mothers and little children, are today poring with hats in hand before the public of Los Angeles as gentlemen, as business men, respectfully soliciting its patronage in their business relations. Will the good people of Southern California permit this outrage upon some

THEY CAN WED. People Who Yesterday Secured Their Marriage Licenses.

Marriage licenses were issued yesterday to the following persons: L. T. Lawrence, aged 27, a native of Connecticut, and J. M. Marshall, aged 21, a native of Nova Scotia; both residents of Nova Scotia. L. W. Rehard, aged 27, a native of Ohio, and L. V. Martin, aged 29, a native of Oregon; both residents of Los Angeles. W. Bass, aged 43, a native of Maryland, and Jennie B. Hargrave, aged 42, a native of Vermont; both residents of San Bernardino. The Santa Fe's Wine Rate. Yesterday the Santa Fe announced a change in its provisions about its rate on wine and brandy. The rate now applies to California wines, both in wood and in glass, not including champagne, and permits wine and brandy, when shipped in mixed carloads, to take the carload rate of 50 cents and 60 cents respectively. From Newberg. C. F. Moore & Co., prominent druggists of Newberg, Ore., say: "Since our customers have become acquainted with the good qualities of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, we sell but little of any other kind. Chamberlain's medicines all give good satisfaction. For sale by C. F. Heinzenman, 222 N. Main, druggist. Household Goods. Of every description at the W. C. Farrey company, 159 to 165 North Spring street.

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE. Prominent Persons Speak Highly of the Doctors of the European Staff.

IGNACIO I. PEREZ, with Cohn Brothers, says: "I have suffered from catarrh and nervous debility for several years, and have continually been treated by different doctors without benefit. I commenced treatment two weeks ago with the European Staff and am happy to say that I am better than I have been for years. To any person calling upon me I will be happy to prove this statement." A. ARICKSON, 920 Philadelphia street, says: "I went to the doctors two weeks ago. I want to the doctors two weeks ago. I was suffering from chronic malaria and acute gastritis. The doctor cured me in ten days. I am now a well man." MRS. LAURA JACOBS, 132 Third street, says: "I have been suffering from chronic stomach trouble. I can truthfully say that the improvement in my case has been simply wonderful." Others who endorse our methods: HERMAN BOETTCHER, Los Angeles. A. BAUSENBURGER, 229 1/2 Twenty-fourth street. MISS S. H. BARRETT, 328 1/2 South Spring street. H. DUBER, 1403 Buena Vista street, East Los Angeles. R. E. BEEBE, 1100 1/2 Broadway street. JOHN HALL, 557 San Pedro street, W. E. JONES, 17 1/2 Gony street. JOHN J. KELLY, 107 North Los Angeles street. S. B. KENNEDY, corner New England and Freeman streets. C. F. BLANCHARD, 112 First street. M. OLSEN, Sierra Madre, Cal. AN O'NEILL MORENO, 730 Date street. MISS E. PALMER PALMER, 315 1/2 South Spring street. THOS. RELLEY, 447 Flower street. C. E. SMITH, 1111 1/2 San Pedro street. MRS. ELIA STEELE, 408 La Fayette street. MRS. ELIZABETH DANIEL, Santa Monica. MRS. HENRY DEMING, 107 North Los Angeles street. CHAS. SOHLING, 209 Whittington street. MRS. S. SMITH, 525 1/2 Market street. MRS. W. A. SMITH, 525 1/2 Market street. H. M. TAYLOR, Natick hotel. W. H. TROUP, 513 1/2 North Spring street. N. V. VALIN, 713 Alpine street.

THE DRUGGISTS. In Lowell, Mass., agree in saying that they sell more of Hood's Sarsaparilla than all other blood purifiers.

For instance: F. C. GOODALE: I sell more of Hood's Sarsaparilla than all other blood purifiers. A. W. DOWD & CO.: Hood's takes the lead of all other Sarsaparillas. C. F. BLANCHARD: We sell more of Hood's Sarsaparilla than of any similar. MARSTON & SHAW: With us the sale of Hood's is 5 to 1 of any other kind. F. & E. BAILEY & CO.: Hood's Sarsaparilla is one of the best medicines. C. F. BLANCHARD: Hood's Sarsaparilla is one of the best medicines we have. Its sale increases every year. F. P. MOODY: We sell twice as much of Hood's Sarsaparilla as of anything similar. C. A. SWAN: Hood's is the most popular Sarsaparilla of the day. THIRTY OTHER DRUGGISTS SPEAK SIMILARLY. This popularity at home, where Hood's Sarsaparilla and its proprietors have been known for many years, could not continue if the medicine did not possess merit. And these facts should certainly convince people in other sections of the country that Hood's Sarsaparilla is a good, reliable medicine. Hood's Sarsaparilla Sold by druggists. \$1; six for \$5. Prepared only by C. L. HOOD & CO., Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass. 100 Doses One Dollar.

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DIVIDEND NOTICE. DIVIDEND 7 OF THE MAIN STREET Savings Bank and Trust Co., for the six months ending December 31, 1892, will be due and payable on and after January 10, 1893, at the rate of 5 per cent per annum on term deposits, and 3 per cent per annum on ordinary deposits. J. V. WACHTEL, Secretary. Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 2, 1893. 1-2 30t

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