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Poetry.

BILL MASON'S BRIDE.

Half an hour till train time, sir,
An' a fearful dark night, too.
Take a look at the switch-lights, Tom,
Fetch a stick when you're through.
"On time!" well, yes, I guess so—
Left the last station all right—
She'll come round the curve a flyin'—
Bill Mason comes up to-night.

You know Bill? No! He's engineer:
Been on the road all his life—
I'll never forget the mornin'
He married his chuck of a wife.
'Twas the summer the mill-hands struck—
Just off work, every one:
They kicked up a row in the village
And killed old Donovan's son.

Bill hadn't been married mor'n an hour,
Up comes a message from Kress
Orderin' Bill to go up there
And bring down the night express,
He left his gal in a hurry,
And went up on number one,
Thinking of nothing but Mary
And the train he had to run.

And Mary sat by the window
To wait for the night express,
And, sir, if she hadn't a' done so
She'd been a widow, I guess.
For it must a' been nigh midnight
When them mill-hands left the Ridge—
They come down—the drunken devils!
Tore up a rail from the bridge.
But Mary heard 'em a workin',
And guessed there was somethin' wrong—
And in less than fifteen minutes
Bill's train it would be along!

She couldn't a' come here to tell us,
A mile—it wouldn't a' done—
So she jest grabbed up a lantern
And made for the bridge alone.
Then down came the night express, sir,
And Bill was makin' her climb!
But Mary held the lantern,
A swingin' it all the time.

Well! by Jove! Bill saw the signal,
And he stopped the night express,
And he found his Mary cryin'
On the track, in her weddin' dress;
Cryin' an' laughin' for joy, sir,
An' holdin' on to the light—
Hello! here's the train—good-bye, sir,
Bill Mason's on time to-night!

Miscellaneous.

A Detective's Story—All a Mistake.

The Boston *Traveller* tells this story:

Some years since a gentleman stopping at one of the hotels at Washington, D. C., (who upon this occasion will be called Brown), sent a letter from the hotel to his wife in New York, containing $50. The letter was not received, and Mr. Brown visited the Post Office Department to make a complaint. In due time a case was made out and placed in the hands of a well-known and experienced detective, whom, for this occasion, we will designate as Seekem. After putting this and that together, Seekem came to the conclusion that the clerk of the hotel was the guilty party, and proceeded to demonstrate his convictions. With this object in view, he prepared a couple of decoys for the young man's benefit. Letters from the hotel were forwarded to the Post Office morning and afternoon, so Seekem first went to work on the morning mail, but his decoys turned up all right.

Seekem then started on another tack. He gave about $50 (bogus) to Mr. Brown and persuaded him to write to Mrs. Brown, enclosing the money, and leave the rest to him.

The letter was written in a very conspicuous place, at a dining table at the hotel, it being so arranged that no one should see him write the letter but the suspected individual, who was called upon to furnish paper and an envelope.

Mr. Brown remarked to the clerk that as Mrs. B. did not get his last remittance he must send her some more, at the same time denouncing post offices in general, and the Washington offices in particular, where, he said, he had no doubt his money had disappeared.

The letters from the hotel were received at the Washington office, and there was no letter for Mrs. Brown of Fifth avenue, New York. Seekem was greatly elated, feeling sure that he had at last entrapped the suspected thief. He went carefully through the Washington office, so as to make sure that there was no mistake. The letter, however, could not be found. Seven o'clock that evening found Seekem at the hotel in consultation with the proprietor and Mr. Brown. It was determined to arrest the suspected clerk at once. The supposed culprit was called up. He denied all knowledge of the affair, and Seekem was compelled to abandon the job for the time being.

Nothing more was known about Brown's letter until three days afterwards, when Brown himself entered the Post Office in a very excited state of mind and inquired for Seekem—said he must see him—that it was of the utmost importance that he should see him at once. Brown's wife had been arrested in New York for passing counterfeit money, and was then held under $10,000 bonds for examination. The murder was out and the hotel clerk was innocent!

Something had to be done immediately for the lady, and that night Seekem left for New York, visited the United States Commissioner, explained matters, and procured Mrs. Brown's release. Now for the secret of this singular proceeding. On the afternoon in question, when the letter containing the bogus money was sent to Mrs. Brown, the clerk took a walk down to the depot at about six o'clock, to see a friend off, taking what letters there were in the hotel box along with him, and dropped them in the postal car at the depot—the train leaving at seven o'clock. Mrs. Brown's letter went through to New York, and she subsequently went out shopping. She tendered in payment a bogus $10 bill, and the storekeeper objecting, she offered another, which was also declined, the dry goods dealer informing her that both were counterfeit. Then she showed him the remainder of the $50 that was sent to her, and he pronounced it all bad. Meantime a clerk had been dispatched for an officer, and Mrs. Brown was taken into custody. The lady protested in vain, and was taken to a station-house, where a friend of Mr. Brown's gave bail for the wife's appearance for examination. The husband was then notified.

A Curious Defect.

A curious defect in our mental organism is a certain slow apprehension of what is before us, a partial paralysis of our perceptive faculties, which, fortunately, only occurs at intervals, although it gives us, while it lasts, an appreciative taste of what idiocy must be. A gentleman of high intelligence was reading an account of the Prussian campaign of 1866, and chanced upon this sentence: "The Prussians were misled by a pretended guide, and suffered severe losses in consequence." After reading this phrase through several times, he laid down the paper and pondered awhile; nothing coming of this meditation, he called out to his wife in the next room, "Mary, did you ever hear such a word as misled?" pronouncing it as though it rhymed with "drizzled." "No," she replied: "Why do you ask?" "Because here is an account in the paper which says, 'The Prussians were misled by a pretended guide, and suffered severe losses in consequence,' and I cannot imagine what it means." "Nor I; how is it spelt?" "Why, *m-i-s-l-e-d*, of course." *Mis led*, John, *mis*-led: where are your senses."

I was playing whist one evening with some visitors, when the door opened and my aunt made her appearance holding aloft a newspaper. "Young people, can you tell me what a bug-ler is?" she demanded in an earnest voice. "You mean bungler, don't you, aunt?" "No," she replied, with emphasis, "I have read the same notice in this paper every evening for two weeks, and I cannot imagine what it means. Listen: 'Wanted immediately—Two good Buglers. Apply at Camp Lincoln.'" "Buglers, aunt—buglers," shouted the young people; and Aunt Jane retired into the shades of her apartment with dignity somewhat diminished.—*Lippincott's Magazine.*

A green hand in the milk business, who brought out a dealer in Springfield, Mass., found he did not have milk enough to go round to all the old circle of customers, and applied to the seller for relief, who gave him the following recipe for making "milk," and assuring him that with this he would be "all right:" "Take three tablespoonfuls of molasses, one and a half teaspoonfuls of saleratus, and three quarts of milk to twenty-two quarts of water; add three pints of this mixture to each twelve-quart can of milk."

THE NETHER SIDE OF NEW YORK.

BY EDWARD CRAPSEY.

There are a dozen adroit rascals in New York who do a prosperous business by acting upon the principle that a large share of the people only need motive and opportunity to become knaves. Of course these roguish cynics offer the coveted chance with the end of making fools instead of knaves of the thousands of people in all parts of the country who listen to their allurements.

No fraud is more transparent, successful, universal in its ramifications, or corrupting in its influence, than that known, for want of a better name, as the circular swindle. Worked from obscure garrets and cellars in New York, it reaches every town and hamlet in the Union, to rob the credulous and tempt the weak-principled into crime. And no fraud ever made more rapid, but less unnatural progress. Based upon a scoundrelly belief in the fact that very many men are in too great haste to be rich to scrutinize the means by which the end shall be obtained, it was not long satisfied with the various mean devices to which it first had resort, but speedily reached perfection in this form (I print from a very well executed lithographic letter, which many a simpleton undoubtedly takes to be a written letter prepared for him exclusively):

NEW YORK, March 1871.

Dear Sir—We wish to secure the services of a smart and intelligent agent in your locality for a business that cannot fail to yield (without much effort) at least a profit of $10,000 per year, and, if shrewdly managed, will return a much larger amount, and this, too, without neglecting your regular business. We have been constantly engaged for several months past in preparing plates of the $1, $2, $5, and $10 U. S. greenbacks. Having completed them, we are now prepared to furnish the bills, of the different denominations, in any quantity desired, above $500. These are, without any exception, the finest executed bills that ever issued in this country, and cannot be detected even by the oldest experts; they are correctly numbered; the engraving cannot be excelled; in fact, no expense or labor has been spared to bring to the best talent the country could produce in the art of engraving and printing to make our issues *exactly like the originals*, thus rendering it just as safe for you to pass them as if they came from the *Treasury Department*." We have them put up in packages, of $500, $1,000, $5,000 and $10,000. On account of the superior excellence of these bills, as well as the large expense in bringing them to perfection, we shall charge you twenty-five cents on the dollar for them, but in order fairly to start you and to show you that we "*mean business*," we will send you a package charging you only five cents on the dollar, *provided* you will pay the balance (twenty cents on the dollar) within fifteen days of receiving the package. You will be required to meet your bills promptly. The first cost to you will be $25 for $500, $50 for $1,000, $100 for $2,000, $250 for $5,000, and $500 for $10,000. When you order, be very particular to *send your letter by express*, for positively we will not fill an order, that reaches us through the post-office; we have lost large amounts that have been forwarded this way, and we will run no risk hereafter.

The express is sure, safe, and expeditious, and the money forwarded through it, is at our risk. Seal your order, as you do any letter, and mark, outside, in large figures, *value* $500, and it will then be received and forwarded by the Express Company. It is always best to have a "*cash remittance*," accompany your order, thus showing good faith on your part. Be very careful to distinctly state, the amount and denominations you wish, also your name and Post-Office, with the *county* and *State plainly and clearly written*. You are one of three persons, in your State, that we addressed, and with these bills so artistically executed, and the facilities we will give you, you are started at once upon the highway to *fortune and affluence*. You can rest assured of one thing, that you can never be wanting for *funds*, while you are connected with us, and *remain true*. On receipt of your order, we immediately write through the Post-Office to you: address stating the day we ship your package, and you will always call there before going to the Express. The package is made up in such a way, that no one will ever suspect its nature. *A personal interview* is always desirable, and would better suit us, and might be to our *mutual advantage*, as you could then examine the money for yourself, and judge its quality, and the amount you would require. Fraternally yours,

JAS. P. BAKER & CO.,
No. 206 Broadway, N. Y. City.

P. S. We received so many letters, asking for samples, that we have concluded we will, on receipt of $5.00 *by express*, send sample of our issue. We have also *fractional currency* in 10c 25c and 50c denominations, fully up to our standard of bills. *Prompt attention and fair dealing guaranteed.*

No one of these knaves is so poor as to have but one name; and besides being James P. Baker & Co., this fellow is B. B. Walker & Co., 206 Broadway; but he is poor indeed compared with some of his comrades, one of whom begins his lithographic letter thus:

Dear Friend: While conversing with a gentleman from your locality recently, you were named as a shrewd and reliable person, and one likely to enter into a business the nature of which will be explained in this letter. At all events, he said, whether you go in or not, you would keep a still tongue, and would not expose me. He told me that under no circumstances must I mention you who recommended you; and as I claim to be a man of honor, I will never violate a pledge. I have on hand, and am constantly manufacturing large quantities of the best counterfeit money ever produced, in the world.

There are five undivided parts of this sensitive man of honor, which are labelled respectively John F. Hamilton, No. 212 Broadway; Wm. J. Ferguson, 194 Broadway; Robert H. Holland, 142 Fulton street; Thomas W. Price, 89 Nassau street, and Wm. B. Logan, 15 Dutch street. Under each name he offers perfect counterfeits of the $2, $5 and $10 bills, and 50-cent stamps in unlimited quantities, and burdens his circular with constant reiterations that he is a man of honor, anxious to deal on the square with his customers.

Another of the knaves starts out in this fashion:

BELL & SON.
37 Nassau Street, New York.

My Dear Sir: We wish to secure the services of a live gentleman to push the business named in the enclosed circular, and have been informed by a friend, who knows you well, that you are highly suitable to represent us. As we have had business dealings with that gentleman and know him to be an upright and honorable man, any friend of his will receive our utmost confidence, we therefore feel that there is no risk in confiding to you our secret.

In this particular case he won't require cash in advance, and after making several alluring propositions, he winds up thus:

We know you will serve us faithfully and truly. You cannot afford to deceive us. State the amount and denominations required. When you send the money, *please pay the express charges*, and deduct the amount from the principal to pay the same. Whatever you do, don't write by mail, as we will not claim or receive any letters from the post-office. *Send only by express, prepaid!*

Awaiting your early reply,
We are yours fraternally,
Bell & Son.

☞ Take notice that by remitting $25 to us by express, and ordering a $1,500 package, you will secure the agency for your State.
Please return this to remind us.

This gentleman is contented to do business with only the additional names of King & Co., 39 Nassau street; Owen Bros., 58 Liberty street, and Williams & Co., 196 Broadway.

Another operator, also capable of subdivision, is the one who throws his hook thus baited:

Esteemed Friend: Being in want of a reliable agent in your State, I have selected you in preference to many others, in consequence of your being recommended to me by a gentleman of this city, whose business is to drum up trade in the country for a large commercial house. I already have five agents at different points; but desiring to push my business for the season, I have resolved to employ one or two more. I have now on hand about $50,000 in counterfeit $2, $5 and $10 bills. I might as well represent them as genuine, for it would require an expert banker to distinguish them from the notes issued at Washington. They are printed on first-class bank-note paper, are of the same size as the genuine, and are correctly numbered. The printing is incomparable. I would not for the world send out a bill that is badly printed.

He gives much excellent advice to his gudgeon to the effect that "When you get the bills ruffle them so as to make them look old. Don't pass too much upon one man at a time. Put a private mark on the bills, so that, should they come back on you in the course of trade, you will know them. You can carry as much about you as you like, but do not exhibit too much. If you follow these instructions I guarantee that you will clear a large sum of good money in a short time. Endeavor to send all communications by express. Do not, under any circumstances, send me a letter by mail." This man of careful business habits is variously known as Joseph R. Lee, 82 Nassau street; Horace Madden, 10 Chatham street; George Sommers, 30 Chatham street; Edward F. Dickinson, 36 Maiden Lane, and John B. Forrest, 30 Liberty street.

In addition to these operators doing business under several different names, there are a few who, having not yet risen to this pre-eminence, are content to swindle by a single cognomen. Among them is S. Y. Adando & Co., No. 60 Park Place, whose lithographic letter, covering three large pages, sets forth the manifold excellencies of his wares and the extreme reasonableness of his rates. He, too, is "a man of honor," trusting to the "honesty" of his correspondent, and manifests in an extraordinary degree that wholesome dread of the Post Office, and great solicitude that money shall be sent by express, which is prominent in the epistles of all the swindlers. C. E. Benson & Co., No. 176 Broadway, is a shrewder knave than some of the others in many respects, for he boldly puts his letter into type and baits his hook for the most foolish of very tiny gudgeons. After offering a package of $500 for $25, a package of $1,000 for $40, and one of $5,000 for $200, he says:

On receipt of price in registered letter for either of these packages, we will send the goods by mail in registered package which is the only safe way by mail, as there is then no cause for fear whatever, or we will safely pack either size package and send by express, C. O. D. on receipt of a deposit of $2 for No. 1 package, $4 for No. 2 package, or $8 for No. 3 package, the balance to be paid on receipt of package, and mark them in such a way that no one will suspect or know but ourselves. We will give any information desired of us at any time, but we suppose any one knows what to do with money when they get it.

"William Cooper & Co.," who styles himself "dealers in fine stationery, 688 Broadway," has devised yet another method, by having all of his thousands of circulars actually written by hand, in which work, up to the time he, or rather his business, suddenly came to grief, he had eight men constantly employed, and had so drilled them there was no perceptible difference in the chirography of his missives. He also enclosed a printed circular, with the assertion that very few are to be issued, which he begins with this alluring scrap of secret history:

When Congress authorized the present issue of greenbacks, the Treasury Department executed plates of enormous cost and wonderful workmanship, from which the whole amount of currency authorized by Congress was to be printed, and it was ordered at the time that as soon as the whole amount had been printed the plates, some 100 in number, should be taken from the Treasury Printing Department, conveyed to the navy yard and melted. Now, it so happened that the plates from which the 1, 2 and 5 dollar bills had been printed were not destroyed. How it was brought about, we as a matter of prudence, do not state. It is enough to know that the plates are still preserved unimpaired, and we trust their whereabouts will never be known except to us.

He then proceeds to offer at fabulously low rates money in any desired quantity, surreptitiously printed from these plates, so miraculously saved from the fire. "Rufus Stockton, stationer, wood, steel and copper engraver," 204 Broadway, is the pioneer title in the fraud, but now is so seldom seen as to be unworthy of further notice.

H. Colter & Co., 195 Broadway, also does business in the usual way, and on a small scale. Last, but by no means least, is a rascal who is aware of the rescality of the other fellows, and advises his dupes of the fact thus:

[Express all your money to this address.]
McNally & Co., 229 Broadway.

Dear Sir: You no doubt have some reluctance in engaging with us; perhaps you have already received from different parties in New York, who represent things highly colored, with a great mixture of flattery, in respect to the goods they desire to dispose of, and their extreme cheapness; they unconcountably got hold of the way to do business, and as near as possible they try to imitate us; they are flooding the country with circulars, receiving money, and sending nothing in return; you can see for yourselves: how can any one sell $1,000 worth of the goods for $10? They can't do it, and more, they won't do it. We have letters every day from parties they have gulled and caught. Now of two evils you can choose the least; we have goods that no one ever has, so far, found fault with. Remember, we do this business with two names. One to write to and one to express all money to; make no mistake in addressing us if you desire to do business and yourself justice. Address by "mail" your letters to

P. Mayborn & Co.,
Box 216 Jersey City, N. J.

Thus far I have used my space to present all the names under which this knavery is perpetrated, with enough of the distinguishing traits of each of the circulars to prevent all but those absolutely bent on being robbed from obeying the order of the last quoted, and expressing *all* their money to these rogues. It must next be shown how it is that these men can flood the country with these demoralizing circulars with entire safety. This explanation involves an *expose* of a fraud which is so transparent that this exposure ought to be unnecessary. Were there a little more sense and honesty in the people at large, it would be sufficient to say that these circulars are self-evident lies; but this not being the case, it must be shown that these men really do not deal in counterfeit money. In that simple fact is not only their immunity, but their profit. To produce an imitation of the United States currency sufficiently exact to have a ready circulation is an operation not only requiring the expenditure of much time, labor, skill, and money, but involving more risk of punishment than most men care to assume. These cheap Johns of villainy have therefore hit upon an expedient which demands a skill, little labor, and less money, besides being perfectly unobnoxious to any crimes set which ever has been, or, perhaps, ever can be devised. When these knaves first began, they conducted their business exclusively through the Post-Office, and at that time they were as grimly jocose with their dupes as now for they sent as the "counterfeits" the small photographic cards of the greenbacks lately so common, and which could be bought in unlimited quantities for a fraction of a penny each. But the United States Government speedily tired of being partner to this fraud, and without much law to back it up, but with great moral and popular justification, it seized the letters coming to the New York Post Office for the counterfeit men, and returned the money contained in them to the senders. But in the end, the only effect of this resolute attempt to break up the swindle was to put the schemers to the trouble and expense of getting up new lithographs, which bristle with such phrases as this:

☞ DON'T WRITE BY MAIL—SEND ONLY BY EXPRESS, CHARGES PREPAID. ☜

Their own letters, of course, went by mail, as before, and, being in plain envelopes, were unknown and unchecked. By the aid of directories, commercial lists, and advertisements in newspapers, they obtained lists of names of persons in all the important cities and towns, while, by some means, those of men unknown beyond the narrow confines of obscure hamlets were also on their lists. It was this part of their scheme which involves the most labor and adroitness, for having obtained their lists they had nothing to do but mail their lithographs, and sit down with their pockets wide open to catch the golden reflux.

It is impossible to say what proportion of the hundreds of thousands of circulars they issued had the desired effect. Some of the recipients tossed them contemptuously away, others were indignant, and instantly mailed them to the New York Superintendent of Police, with the idea that they were putting him on the trail of a hitherto unknown villainy, and demanding in most peremptory terms the instant incarceration of the scoundrels that had dared to tempt them. But many read in secret, as commanded, and permitted the golden vision thus skillfully raised to shut out reason and conscience until they at last ventured a little way into the new El Dorado by sending for the smallest quantity of bogus money mentioned in the circular. In the early days of the fraud, when the Post Office was the medium of communication between two knaves, the victim knave sent his good money after the bad, and waited impatiently for the receipt of his purchase; and he still waits, for the circular swindler could write letters, but made it a rule never to reply to any. Since the closing of the mails against the business, the metropolitan outlaw has still remained superior to fate and his bucolic brother. The business being done by express, two methods are adopted, the first being for the victim to send his money with his order as before, in which case he gets precisely what he did in the mail days. But the more seductive and general way is to have the order come unaccompanied by any money, whereupon the "queer" is "forwarded C. O. D. by express, packed in small boxes so as to defy detection." Every business man can see without further explanation how easily the fraud is managed. The box is duly sent, and on this point the operators fully deserve all their encomiums on themselves for promptitude. When it arrives at its destination the intending knave, who has already cast up a thousand times the profits he is to secure by cheating his friends and neighbors, is equally prompt to demand it, and of course must pay all charges, including the price of the "queer," before delivery. Having obtained his treasure, he steals off to a secret place to examine it, having done which he finds he is the possessor of a small and exceedingly flimsy box filled with saw-dust and little scraps of old iron, to give weight, the whole thing worth upon a liberal calculation perhaps a small fraction of a cent. The remainder of his natural life will probably be spent in pouring forth silent anathemas upon the knaves who have outwitted him. But he must take very good care that his wrath is silent, for there never comes a moment when he can blest his sorrows in the public ear. He may be as stupid a dolt as ever fell a prey to the sharper, but yet has sense enough to known that his is only a case of the biter very savagely bitten, and that so far as intention is concernd he is many degrees more depraved than his city confederate. His mind was fully made up to do all in his power to commit the meanest of all crimes, by uttering counterfeit money; whereas the city rascal had never intended to do anything more or worse than swindle the scoundrel who intended to commit that mean offense. He knows further, that for him to ask the return of his money from the tempter is only to subject himself to derision, for he can make no legal demand, and these fellows have never been known to make any restitution, except upon the urgent solicitation of a Sheriff or Marshal. Therefore the poor bitten rogue must nurse his anguish in secret; his money has gone to the dogs, and he has only to mention the fact to throw his reputation after it.

An average of fifty of these circulars are returned every day to Superintendent Kelso, as they had been for many months to his predecessors in office. They come from all parts of the Union, and in nearly every case the sender, supposing he is dealing with a fraud which is what it purports to be, believes that he is giving the first clue to a nest of counterfeiters which is invaluable to the authorities. Every writer calls upon the Superintendent in the most positive terms to stop the villainy and punish the villains; some even going to the length of advising how they may be discovered and entrapped by the law. Very many receive the assertions of the circulars as literal truth, and some are indignant thereat.

All of the letters returning circulars go at once to the waste-basket at Mr. Kelso's feet, for the reason that none of them are of the slightest use and tell him nothing that he did not already know. In fact, every intelligent police officer has long known all about these swindlers, except how to baffle them. Their names and haunts are matters of police record; but Kelso, like Kennedy and Jourdan before him, is powerless to interfere with them. They offer indeed to commit a crime, but really commit none except that of obtaining money by trick and device; but no one can afford to come forward and prove it, so they are entirely safe. They absolutely refuse to do business except by the express, and therefore the extreme but effective method of placing policemen before their doors to warn away the unwary cannot be adopted in their case, as it has been in those of mock auctions, panel-houses, and places of similar peril. The United States are equally powerless to interfere; for it is perfectly well known these fellows have no counterfeit money, and their arrest would only be time and trouble thrown away. There is no case upon record where any of these knaves were brought to justice.

It is amazing that by so bold a device as this a dozen men in the garrets of New York can swindle thousands all over the land out of at least $250,000 per annum; but it is true. Let me hope that this plain narration of perfectly well authenticated facts will help to create a public sentiment which will compel every recipient of these counterfeit circulars to promptly cast them into the fire. By the creation of this sentiment, and in no other way, can this scandal be removed from the American people, and these hundred of thousands of dollars saved from these knaves.

Compared with this particular fraud the circular swindles are annoyance rather than dangers. Of late the most virulent and the meanest of these smaller swindles is that of "J. F. Williams & Co., sole manufacturers of aluminum gold jewelry in the United States. Office and show rooms 561 Broadway," whose particular variety is embodied in an advertisement found in nearly all rural newspapers, offering for $3 each their great eureka aluminum gold watches, of which they say:

The watch we guarantee to be the best and cheapest timekeeper that is now in use in any part of the globe. The works are in double cases, ladies' and gents' size, and are beautifully chased. The cases are made of the metal now so widely known in Europe as aluminum gold. It has the *exact color of gold which it always retains;* it will stand the test of the strongest acids; no one can tell it from gold only by its weight, the aluminum gold being one-fourth lighter. The works are all made by machinery, the same as the well-known American watch. We pack the watch safely in a small box and send it by mail to any part of the United States on receipt of $3.50; fifty cents for packing and postage. A key is sent free with each watch. Money should be sent by Post Office money order or in a registered letter.

The victims of this knavery deserve sympathy rather than censure. To the average uncultured intellect a good timepiece in cases as good as gold is a desirable possibility at $3, and in sending the money to the swindlers who advertise such articles they intend and do no wrong to the community. Thousands do send the money, and either get nothing whatever in return or a small toy watch which can be bought anywhere for five cents. This fact is so perfectly well known that in many cases where the thing is sent by express C. O. D., the express agents kindly tell the consignee the true character of the package, and advise its return to the shipper unopened. Sometimes this sensible advice is acted upon, but instances are not rare where faith has triumphed over reason, and the box taken and paid for, in spite of the warning. If J. F. Williams & Co. attempted to do a city trade upon the principle that governs their out-of-town business, they would find themselves in jail as a consequence of their first transaction. Protected by the non-residence of their victims, they snap their fingers in the face of the law, and, I presume, are getting rich very fast. Very similar to this scheme, in its purpose and results, is that of James T. Barton & Co., 599 Broadway, just instituted, which is called the "Spanish Policy," and seems to be a lottery, offering prizes ranging in value from $25 to $10,000. Circulars are now being sent all over the country, with each one of which are enclosed eighteen checks like this:

THIS CHECK will be put in the Wheel as soon as received and paid for; the owner thereof will be lawfully entitled to whatever Prize it may draw.

No......
The number selected by you should be put down in plain figures in the space above.
JAMES T. BARTON & CO.

These checks, it is said, are placed in the wheel, and we are told "the drawings take place daily in the large rotunda in the rear of our office, at three o'clock p. m., in the presence of the purchasers of checks." The laws of New York prohibiting lotteries are rigidly enforced, and if any such drawing took place everybody concerned in it would be immediately prosecuted criminally. But this fact is not generally known, and James T. Barton & Co. are flourishing by reason of large sales of these worthless bits of paper at forty cents each.

There are scores of such schemes as this, differing only in the names attached, but they are unworthy of further description. Out of the more legitimate lotterics has come another swindle, illustrated by such fellows as B. C. Travers, 85 Nassau street, who declare in circulars that "Fortune knocks once at every man's door," and proceed at once to do the knocking on behalf of Fortune in this most boisterous fashion: "Having long been connected with the Royal Havana Lottery, which draws every Saturday, and knowing that the true way to increase business is to have a nice prize of $1,000 or $2,000 in the hands of some good person who will make it known, I have decided to offer you the chance, and if you will send me $7, the price of the ticket, so that I can account for it as being really sold, I will send you one that will draw a handsome prize in the next drawing after hearing from you. After its receipt I shall expect you to show the money to all your friends, telling them where you bought the ticket, and by that means build up a large business in that section. Answer soon."

Very many do answer soon, and the knaves, who of course buy no tickets in the Havana Lottery or any other, live very cosily on the dollars that flow to them for that purpose.

I have ennumerated only a few of the almost innumerable smaller swindles so common in New York, every one of which is operated through the mails or express companies, but I have told enough to justify this general statement; a circular promising an inordinately large return on an investment is a *prima facie* fraud. That the primeval law, "in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread," cannot be evaded by New York sharpers, is a truth that cannot be too soon or too thoroughly learned by the world. Instead of seeking these sudden riches, let the rural coveters of fortune remember that the product of nothing is always nothing, and profits of roguery will be vastly lessened. Whenever one of these short-cuts to fortune is opened to them by a circular letter from New York, let them be not like ruined Wolsey, and remember too late that

"Corruption wins not more than honesty."

—*The Galaxy.*

The Joint High Commission Treaty.

Washington, May 8.

The following will appear in the Washington *National Republican* to-morrow morning. It is an authoritative official statement of the results of the labors of the Joint High Commission:

The treaty is to be known as the Treaty of Washington for the adjustment of claims for injury alleged by the United States on account of the escape of Confederate cruisers from British ports, and the depredations committed by those vessels during the late rebellion in this country.

A tribunal of arbitration is constituted, to consist of five arbitrators—one appointed by the United States, one by Great Britain, and the other three each by a designated sovereign state of Europe or America.

The treaty establishes special rules of neutral duty and obligation in addition to the generally-received public law, which rules, although not admitted by the British Commissioners to have been in force at the time, are yet, it is agreed, to retroact and to govern the decisions of the arbitration.

This tribunal may either award damages in detail or in gross, at its discretion, or it may refer this duty to a board of assessors sitting in the United States, which also shall report from time to time, with payment to be made accordingly.

The British Government frankly expresses its regret for the occurrence of the incidents complained of by the United States for adjudication.

For all other claims by citizens of the United States against Great Britain, and by citizens of Great Britain against the United States during the same period—that is, from April 13, 1861, to April 9, 1865, an ordinary mixed commission is provided, to sit at Washington, with an umpire to be nominated, if necessary, by a designated friendly power. This limitation of time is material in substance, for it confines reclamation against the United States to the incident of actual war.

It is accompanied, also, with a declaration, on the part of the British Commissioners, to the effect of excluding claims on account of slave property.

Great Britain does not recognize the claims of her subjects for the seizure of cotton in cases where they took up their abode in the South, as they became subject to the contingencies of war.

In regard to the fisheries, in addition to the liberties already secured to them by the treaty of 1818, fishermen of the United States shall have liberty to take sea fish on the sea coast and shores, and in the bays, harbors and creeks of the provinces of Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, and the colony of Prince Edward's Island, and the islands adjacent, without being restricted to any distance from the shore, with permission to land upon such coasts, shores and islands, and also upon the Magdalen Islands for the purpose of drying their nets and curing their fish—subject, of course, in this respect, to local rights and private property; and the same liberty is granted to British subjects on eastern seacoasts and shores of the United States north of the 39th parallel of latitude. This liberty is not to include on either side the shellfish or salmon and shad fisheries, or other fisheries in the rivers and mouths of rivers. It is further agreed that fish-oil and fish of all kinds, except the fish of inland lakes and their rivers, and except fish preserved in oil, the produce of the fisheries of the United States, or of the Dominion of Canada, or of Prince Edward's Island, shall be admitted into each country, respectively, free of duty.

The privileges thus conceded to the United States are, obviously, most important ones. It is asserted by the British Government, but not admitted by the United States, that the privileges accorded to citizens of the United States are of greater value than those accorded to the subjects of Great Britain, and, to prevent or avoid controversy on this point, it was agreed that a mixed commission, with an umpire to be appointed by a designated friendly power, shall determine whether any compensation for such alleged excess of privileges, and, if so, how much ought to be paid by the United States.

Next come various questions of navigation and commercial transit, which are disposed of by declaring the navigation of the river St. Lawrence and the rivers Yucan, Porcupine and Stilline forever free, and open to citizens or subjects of both countries by providing for the equal use of the Welland, St. Lawrence, and other canals in the Dominion, on one hand, and of Lake Michigan and the St. Clair Flats and Canal on the other; by providing for the free transit of merchandise to and fro, as well in the British Possessions as in the United States, and abolishing the provisional export duty on American lumber in the river St. John.

All these provisions concerning the fisheries and commercial transit are, of course, made contingent upon their being approved by the Congress of the United States, the British Parliament, the Parliament of Canada, and the Legislature of Prince Edwards' Island. By these various stipulations all privileges of fishery, navigation and transit accorded to the United States by the treaty of 1854 are once more obtained, and in a better form and without the burdensome conditions of that treaty in the matter of reciprocal importations. Of the pending subjects of controversy between the governments, there remains to be considered the question of the northwestern boundary line. It is to be remembered that the line of the treaty of 1846 runs by the middle channel, which separates the continent from Vancouver's Island; but several such channels exist. Great Britian contends that the channel of that treaty is the Rosario Straits, and the United States that it is the Canal De Haro, the two channels being separated by the island of San Juan. This question having once been reported on by a mixed commission, that for the survey of the line, the United States are not to refer it to another such commission; nor has it been deemed convenient, even though such tribunal be appointed by a friendly sovereign power instead of this. It has been agreed by the present treaty to submit the question directly to a neutral power, and the Emperor of Germany has been selected for that purpose. The Government of the United States has in its hands much documentary evidence in support of its pretentions not heretofore made use of, and on that as well as on other grounds is confident of the better reason on its side for the cession to the United States of the possession of the island of San Juan.

Such are the outlines of the provissions of the present treaty, and such are some of the considerations which have commended it to the approbation of the President.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Sky-light—Stars.

A Notice of a Peal—Lightning.

"Capital" Sport—Money-hunting.

The End of a Candle—To give light.

New Name for Tight Boots—Corn cribs.

The Teetotaler's Paradise—The Temperate Zone.

In what color should a secret be kept? In violet.

The average price of a good horse in Los Angeles, California, is $13.

Hartford, Conn., claims to be the wealthiest city of its size in the United States.

In what circumstances is a woman that wears stays? Straightened circumstances.

If you would lay in a supply of old wine, be sure and make it out of elderberries.

Choir singers in New York this year command high salaries. First-class soloists easily get $1,000.

Insure your life in the Mutual Life, of Chicago, to the amount your farm is mortgaged for.

Two of the proof-readers on the London *Times* are lawyers, who look out for anything libelous.

There landed in Canada last year 66,019 immigrants, of whom 42,000 afterwards left for the United States.

The President of the oldest Life Insurance Company in New York is insured in the Washington Life.

A man has got so deep into debt that not one of his creditors has been able to see him for months.

An advertiser in one of the papers says he has a cottage to let, containing eight rooms *and an acre of land.*

A desk at which Benjamin Franklin is said to have learned to write, was sold at auction in Newport, R. I., the other day, for ten cents.

Don't let your cattle stray; they often wander to the most mysterious places; we once saw a cow-hide in a shoemaker's shop.

A young lady who was perfectly thunderstruck at hearing of her friend's engagement, has since been provided with a lightning-rod.

"Grandma," said a shrewd child, "do you want some candy?" "Yes, dear, I should like some." "Then if you'll buy some, I'll give you half," said Polly.

"Well, what is it that causes the saltness of the water of the ocean?" inquired a teacher of a bright little boy. "The codfish," replied the little original.

Josh Billings says flies have a big appetight for getting into things; they are the fust at the dinner table, and alwuz take soup, and don't leave until the cloth is removed.

About the year 1685 the Legislature of Pennsylvania passed a resolution that "no member thereof should come to the House barefoot, or eat his bread and cheese on the steps."

A young man says that there may have been such a thing as real true love in old times, but that now the notion is entirely obsolete; and if you ask a young lady naw-a-days to share your lot, she immediately wants to know how large that "lot" is.

"Does the train start this evening at 35 minutes past 6, as usual? asked an elderly lady of a railroad employe. "No; it leaves at 25 minutes to 7," was the reply. "Dear me, dear me, how they do change these trains!"

"Tell me, angelic host, ye messengers of love, shall swindled printers here below have no redress above?" The shining angel band replied: "To us is knowledge given; delinquents on the printer's books can never enter Heaven."

There is a story going the rounds that a boarding-house keeper died and left all her property to a young man just because he never complained about the hash and things. It is evident that the item is published at the instigation of boarding-house keepers, who think young men will take warning, and quit complaining in hopes of being remembered.

John Hatfield, who died in Troy, N. Y., a few days ago, was the first maker of lucifer matches in this country. He cut them out one by one with his jack-knife. The chemical composition necessary to insure combustion was prepared by him, the ingredients at that time being known in America only to himself. This was in 1836.

Constancy.—A young British officer in India, who was shockingly mutilated and disfigured in battle, after mature reflection requested a comrade to write to his betrothed in England, and release her from the bridal engagement. Her noble reply was worthy of a true woman:—"Tell him if there is enough of his body left to contain his soul, I shall hold him to his engagement."

Long ago Spallanzani discovered that bats which had their eyes put out were able, nevertheless, when allowed to fly about in a room, to avoid threads stretched across it. This faculty he attributed to some highly developed sense of touch possessed by the wing. Dr. Scholl has repeated these experiments; but for the putting out of the eyes he has substituted the less painful method of covering them with sticking-plaster. He has kept bats, thus treated, for a year alive in his room, and has confirmed Spellanzani's results.

The agent of the Central Railroad Company, at Seneca Falls, has in his possession a picture of the first train of cars run in the United States. It was an excursion from Albany to Schenectady, in 1831, and on the Mohawk & Hudson Railroad. The body of the cars was made of the style of the stage-coaches in use at that time, and of those who participated in the excursion but one of the number is alive to-day. That one is Thurlow Weed.

A curious and beautiful effect was produced by one of the ice-making machines built lately in Philadelphia. This was a cake of manufactured ice, in the center of which, completely enclosed by the translucent material, was a bouquet of fresh flowers. Every leaf and flower was perfectly visible, while the brilliancy of the colors was enhanced by the refraction through the ice. This specimen of summer entombed by winter was produced by the Care-ammonia process, a French invention, under which these machines are operated.

A good story is told in the Hartford *Courant*, of a young couple who wanted to hear Dickens read; they could hardly afford it, but screwed up their extravagance to the necessary pitch. As they had concluded to invest, they bethought themselves of a poorer family near by, who were suffering from lack of work. So they gave up Dickens, and gave the price of the two tickets to their impoverished neighbors. The poor couple took the money, bought tickets with it, and attended the readings. They had