

THIS DETECTIVE A SOCIETY THIEF

"PRIVATE INQUIRY AGENT" BY DAY, BURGLAR BY NIGHT.

STRANGE TALE OF DUAL LIFE

Used Fiancee's Social Position to Aid in Perpetration of Robberies—Often Engaged to Investigate His Own Crimes.

London.—Sherlock Holmes and the amateur cracksmen rolled into one—that was Joseph Machin Hirst, who despite his aesthetic objections to the associations it entailed has been sentenced to four years' penal servitude. The story of his dual life—how he was a burglar by night and a highly aristocratic sort of detective by day—is an amazing one.

The police credit Hirst with having committed no less than 40 burglaries during the last year, but up to a few weeks ago no one was less suspected in connection with them than the prosperous "private inquiry agent" who lived in one of the most comfortable houses in Balham and who moved in the smartest circles of the district. In fact, on more than one occasion Hirst was called in to investigate one of the crimes that he himself had committed. He really was a social favorite, but all the time he was doing the society act he was also getting "wise" to the peculiarities of the district and its people and finding out which houses contained valuables and by what methods the latter might be obtained.

In the dock Hirst declared that until about a year ago detective work was his real means of getting a living. Then, however, he says that the scandal in connection with a well-known private inquiry agency spoiled his business and obliged him to turn burglar while pretending to be still on the side of justice.

At the house where Hirst lodged he had bachelor apartments which could



SOCIETY MAN BY DAY, THIEF BY NIGHT.

only have been kept up by a man with a substantial income. He was engaged to a girl of good family and it was largely through "keeping company" with her that he had made some of his richest hauls. As her intended husband he was invited to many functions and seldom received an invitation of this kind without utilizing it as an aid to theft. At one dinner party he sat beside his sweetheart's sister. He made an excuse for leaving the dinner table rather hurriedly and, rushing off, broke into the sister's house. Having taken all he wanted, he returned to the party and spent the rest of the evening sitting between his fiancee and her sister with the latter's jewelry in his pocket.

On another night he accompanied the girl to a ball, when he took a fancy to a diamond stud worn by the master of ceremonies. A few days afterward Hirst broke into the man's house and stole the piece of jewelry. As a guest at an afternoon reception the "detective" had his attention called by his hostess to some beautiful old silver. A few nights later the silver disappeared. This was one of the cases that Hirst was called upon in his capacity of sleuth to investigate. Needless to say he didn't produce the criminal. After committing another daring burglary he called and sympathized with his victims and suggested that in addition to the ordinary lock on their front door they should put in a Yale. They lost no time in following his advice, when Hirst, in order to show his contempt for all locks, broke into the place again.

His nerve and coolness never deserted him. One day he entered a house in broad daylight, while the woman who owned it was out for a walk. While he was inside the woman's father-in-law arrived and knocked at the door. Hirst opened it, saluted the caller and told him rather frigidly that the lady of the house was out. The relative left immediately, but while going away met his daughter-in-law and demanded who was the man she had in her house. Of course she was astounded, but when she reached home with a policeman she found that the intruder and a goodly number of her most valuable trinkets had disappeared.

Hirst had a particularly ingenious way of getting into houses and one which greatly puzzled the police, who could never find that locks had been forced or windows broken. He had a wire with a loop at the end of it partially wound with cotton wool and so arranged that if put through a letter drop it could be used to pull back the catch of the door lock. Hirst got rid of his "swag" to dealers in stolen property, whom he met by night at some specially

chosen rendezvous. He corresponded with them by means of cipher messages.

Unluckily for this amateur cracksmen, he had an uncommonly clever member of his former craft on his trail in the person of Detective Fipp, of Scotland Yard. For months while the Balham burglaries were going on and Hirst was playing the part of society butterfly on the proceeds thereof from Fipp worked on the mystery.

At first the authorities had believed that an organized gang was at work, but after a while Fipp satisfied himself that the series of crimes were committed by one man. He decided, too, that the robber must live in the district, who he evidently knew like a book. So he set himself to find out if there was anyone in Balham who seemed to be prospering exceedingly without doing much work. Finally he became suspicious of Hirst, who, though he posed as a private detective, didn't appear to have many clients, and yet lived on the fat of the land. So he got in touch with Hirst's landlord and eventually got permission to visit the "detective's" rooms. In the fireplace he discovered a torn checkbook which had formed a part of the proceeds of a recent burglary. Then he arrested Hirst and made a more careful search of his establishment, when articles of jewelry and other valuables were found relating to 17 cases of theft.

Not the least remarkable thing about Hirst's case was the plea on which, after his conviction, the "gentleman burglar" asked not to be sentenced to penal servitude. Through his counsel he issued a written petition to the judge in which, after stating that his relatives were highly respectable and that he had received a good education, he said: "I have during my remand seen enough of the ordinary prisoners to see that they are like, and I can assure you that it is my earnest desire not to associate with such a class of people. I pray you not to send me to prison to mix with such an ordinary class of criminals." But aestheticism didn't appeal to the judge, who gave Hirst the maximum sentence.

UNKNOWN INSANE MAN STEALS A LOCOMOTIVE.

Runs at Breakneck Speed Near Chicago and Ends by Wrecking Another Engine.

Chicago.—An insane man played havoc on the South Chicago branch of the Illinois Central railroad early the other day. Stealing a switch engine standing near Ninety-first street, he ran it recklessly and at top speed to Parkside. Reversing the lever, he leaped from the locomotive, which retraced the route it had just covered, and wound up its flight by crashing into another switch engine standing near Ninety-third street. Both were thrown from the tracks, badly damaged.

Shortly before three a. m. employees of the Illinois Central were preparing for their day's work. Engines were run out into the yards, with steam up, while the engineers and firemen cleaned and polished them. Through the gloom stole the figure of a man. Reaching the side of one of the switch engines, whose attendants had gone to the repair shop near by, he leaped into the cab and pulled the throttle wide open. Both engineer and fireman heard the iron steed as the wheels raced around and rushed to capture it, but suddenly getting a firm hold on the rails, the locomotive darted forward into the darkness.

Seeing a wild engine running at breakneck speed, of which he had not been



THE POLICE TRIED TO CAPTURE THE ENGINE.

notified, Jake Olson, towerman at Eighty-third street, scrambled from his tower and telephoned to the South Chicago police, who in turn notified the Woodlawn station. Patrol wagons from both stations were sent out and officers from the Woodlawn station soon sighted the rushing machine as it neared Seventy-first street and Jackson Park avenue at Parkside. The big engine slowed down, a man sprang from the cab and disappeared in the darkness, while the engine, which had been reversed, soon left the policemen standing alone on the tracks.

At Ninety-third street the wild engine crashed into another switch engine standing on a siding ready to begin the work of moving the heavy meat trains to the stock yards. The engineer and fireman of the "dead" locomotive were approaching it when the collision occurred and escaped injury from the flying debris.

Gives Own Funeral Oration.
Sandusky, O.—On a phonograph record which is locked in a safe deposit vault is recorded the funeral oration spoken into the phonograph by Benjamin F. Goodsell, an aged resident of Ashmont, this county, to be delivered at his own funeral. Goodsell is an unbeliever, and desires that his funeral shall be conducted without the services of a clergyman.

REVOLVER ENDS ARMY SCANDAL

WIFE OF LIEUT. CHANDLER COMITS SUICIDE.

CLOSE OF A LIFE TRAGEDY

Husband Refusing Reconciliation She Kills Herself—Her Mad Infatuation for Another Officer Cause of Trouble.

Omaha.—Before firing the shot which ended her troubles growing out of the suit for a divorce brought by her husband, Lieut. L. B. Chandler, Mrs. Bessie Chandler copied two verses from Omar Khayyam's "Rubaiyat." She read the verses to a chambermaid, to whom she confided the story of her wrecked life. "I am the most unhappy woman in the world," she cried. "I had a beautiful home, everything I wanted, and a good husband, and I have sacrificed all. Now my husband will not have anything to do with me. There is no chance of ever being forgiven."

Mrs. Chandler was the second wife of Lieut. Louis B. Chandler, of the Twenty-fifth infantry, stationed at Fort Niobrara. They were married four years ago in Baltimore. Both are from prominent families, Mrs. Chandler being a niece of the governor of Maryland. Her maiden name was Elizabeth Kenley. They lived happily until last summer, when the lieutenant was on duty at Fort Riley, Kan. Mrs. Chandler, remaining at Fort Niobrara, is alleged to have fallen under the influence of Capt. Kirkman, whose relations with her led Chandler to bring suit for divorce.

Clasped in Mrs. Chandler's hands, as she lay dead by her bed, was a picture of her little boy and a curl of his hair. On the back of the photograph was the written request that these souvenirs be buried with her.

The mad attachment of Mrs. Chandler and Capt. Kirkman had been the chief scandal in army circles for a year. In the early part of this winter the scene of their love making was transferred to New York city. Capt. Kirkman left his post without leave and was joined here by Mrs. Chandler. Practically a deserter, the captain made his stay here a wild spree, until finally, ill from the effects of drinking, he sought refuge at the home in Brooklyn of a retired army surgeon.

Kirkman was notorious in the army for his bad habits, and had once been dismissed for intoxication and other disgraceful conduct. All of these facts were known to Mrs. Chandler, and on her clandestine trip here with him she had cause to have them impressed upon her.

Kirkman drank so much she lost control of him, and he finally wandered



ENDS HER TROUBLES WITH A BULLET.

away from her and was seen no more. Before this he had consented to stay for a time in a sanitarium, but he soon afterward lapsed into his old habits. He did not return to the hotel, and Mrs. Chandler at last was compelled to pay her bill and return to her mother's house in Baltimore.

In the meantime the army authorities here had been requested to find Kirkman, if he was here, and return him a prisoner to the western post.

The presence of Kirkman in the home of the retired army surgeon was in some way communicated to Governor's Island and he was placed under arrest. It was then asserted that he must have been mentally unbalanced for some time, and that if his troubles were found to have proceeded from a diseased mind he would not be punished.

During the Spanish war Kirkman, a captain in the regulars, was made a major of volunteers and went to the Philippines. On board ship going over he insulted and persecuted Archbishop Chapelle and otherwise conducted himself badly while in his cups. Soon after landing he was intoxicated on the streets of Manila, and for this and his behavior on shipboard Gen. Otis court-martialed him. He was dismissed from the army.

Kirkman's dismissal took place on the last day of March, 1900, and on July 1 he was restored to his regular rank, and on July 4 sailed to rejoin his regiment, the Twelfth, in the Philippines.

Kirkman is the son of a well-known army officer, and was born at a Texas post. He was appointed to West Point from Illinois, and was graduated in 1889. It is said that a strong political pull was exerted to secure his reinstatement, and that the plea advanced was that he had become temporarily irresponsible from mental trouble.

MINNESOTA NEWS.

Railway Taxes.

Minnesota receives from the thirty-three railroads operating in the state as gross earnings for the year 1904, \$1,911,184.43, as against \$1,971,622.67, for the previous year, a decrease of \$60,438.24. The gross earnings of the companies for last year amounted to \$64,506,903.05, and for the year before, \$66,840,130.55, a falling off of \$2,203,127.50.

The Great Northern had the largest gross earnings of any of the companies in the state. Its total income aggregated \$17,323,144.87, but its earnings for 1903 were \$17,893,537.03. Its taxes for last year amounted to \$319,694.35, against \$334,108.11.

The Northern Pacific comes second to the Great Northern. Its earnings amounted \$11,253,757.23, as compared with \$11,401,432.60. Its taxes for last year amount to \$337,612.72, and for 1903, \$42,042.98.

The third on the list is the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. Its earnings, instead of falling off, like the most of the roads in the state, showed an increase. Last year it took in \$9,214,038.19, and the year before \$9,033,643. Its taxes last year were \$276,421.15, as compared with \$271,099.27.

State Fair Attractions.

To make the amusement side of the state fair of 1905 the most complete in the history of the institution, was the key note of the discussion of the board of managers at a meeting held at the state fair grounds.

The board heard propositions from various fireworks men, and amusement bureaus and though little was actually decided upon enough was heard to give basis for decision in the near future on attractions which shall eclipse anything ever seen before at a Minnesota state fair. It is certain that the fireworks spectacle of the evening will be the largest and most magnificent yet produced.

Liberati, the famous band leader, met the board, and was forthwith engaged to bring his great military band to Minnesota for fair week. This insures high-class music by a band of international reputation.

Buys Own Watch Back.

While returning from St. Paul, Dr. J. A. Dunn jumped from a train in the Great Northern yards in St. Cloud, in tending to take a short cut home. He hardly had gone a hundred feet, when he was confronted by a gang of six men who first held him up and then relieved him of a gold watch and of about \$5 or \$10 in money. The victim was so anxious for the return of the watch that he offered the thieves some money which they had overlooked for the return of the ticker. The proposition was accepted and the doctor continues to wear the watch though he is out of pocket about \$15 as a result of his experience.

Will Harness Taylor's Falls.

"More power to ye," is the greeting of the Minneapolis General Electric company to the vast manufacturing interests of the Twin Cities in a project of magnificent proportions that has just been undertaken.

After romping and rioting at will for untold centuries Taylor's falls, in the St. Croix river, is now to be taken firmly in hand by the Minneapolis company and made to assist sober old St. Anthony in performing the industrial labor of Minneapolis and St. Paul which in the long period of his service has finally outgrown his capacity. Three million dollars will be spent.

Food Articles.

The examination of food articles by the state Dairy and food department during the past week covered 135 samples, of which 96 were classed as legal and 39 as illegal. Ten out of forty-one samples of vinegar were below standard in acetic acid, and eight samples of catsup out of twenty-two were found colored artificially. Only two samples of maple syrup out of eight were found pure, the rest being mixed with cane sugar or glucose.

News Notes.

Dr. G. H. Bridgeman preaches the baccalaureate at the state farm school. The annual commencement exercises are held at the state farm school.

The executive committee makes preliminary arrangements for the saengerfest.

The street car company pays into the St. Paul treasury \$30,000 to be used for the erection of a pavilion at Como park or the widening of Sibley street.

Three small orphans, children of the late Mrs. Otto Brosius, were rescued from the burning home of William Faue, Minneapolis.

Colonel Samuel Lowenstein, a prominent St. Paul politician, died at his home here.

A high school building to cost \$36,000, a Lutheran church costing \$20,000, will be built at Rushford and Mrs. Harriet Stevens will erect and donate to the Ladies' Guild of the Emmanuel church a handsome building to be used for guild purposes.

Congressman David says rivers and harbor appropriation insures a six-foot channel for the Upper Mississippi. The St. Paul baseball team will begin spring practice at Cincinnati.

ON LIFE IN CHICAGO

OFTEN IMPERILED BY EVASION OF BUILDING ORDINANCE.

A VISITOR OF DISTINCTION

Office Structures to Be Rigidly Inspected—New Woman's Clubhouse—Juvenile Offenders to Be Handled with Gentleness.



HICAGO.—The city person walking along the streets of his town not infrequently reflects on the risk taken every day by occupants of the great office buildings. In each of the largest of the sky scrapers are housed enough people to make a fair-sized village. I have been told that in the Monadnock in Chicago something like 4,000 humans are lived during the working hours of the day. It seems needless to emphasize the urgent need of protection against fire. But the protection is wanting in many a building that presents a front of dignity and an appearance that inspires confidence.

A recent fire that got quite a start in the Stock Exchange building brought to light conditions that have aroused hosts of people in Chicago—insurance men, the city firemen, and the army of office workers. The discovery of defective stand pipes in the Stock Exchange when the firemen were trying to fight the fire has led to pretty thorough inspection of all the chief office buildings down town.

All escaped just in time, for inadequate means of battling with the fire allowed the quick spread of the flames. The two companies of firemen that had been sent to the top floor found that they could make no connection with the stand pipes along the fire escapes; and after a dangerous delay leads of hose were carried up through the elevator shaft. Finally the fire was put out by chemicals and the hose lines carried up by the firemen.

As soon as the fire was under control the fire chief and inspector began investigation of the faulty stand pipes. On each floor they found that connection between the main pipe and the elbows extending into the building had not been made. When the chief started to test the stability of the elbows, in several cases a vigorous jerk dislodged the elbow from the wall. In the words of the fire attorney: "Imagine the result of trying to fight a fire that way if the building had been full of people. Even the lives of the firemen on the top floor were in jeopardy to-night, so you can imagine what the conditions would have been at a midday fire in one of these buildings."

At Hull House.
IN CONTRAST to the above criminal neglect, lack of common precautions, it is refreshing to turn to quite a different aspect of city life: to altruism and a proper civic spirit. This is found in its essence at that center Chicagoans point to with just pride.



Hull House grows at an astonishing pace and presently may fill that ward its little leaves once affected so slightly. Its latest contribution of excellent things is a club house. Yesterday saw the formal opening of the Hull House Woman's Club building, considered one of the most complete assembly halls to be found in the town. It adds very handsomely to the Hull House group.

The house, which cost \$25,000, is the gift of Mrs. Louise De Koven Bowen, a woman that gives generously of time and money towards bettering conditions among the poor.

From without, Hull House buildings look more or less dispirited by the dirt and crowded conditions about them; but within, everywhere one is impressed by artistic arrangement and coloring, by the fact that a love for the beautiful as well as a love for humanity reigns here. The new building expresses this in high degree; the hall where a meeting of 800 people can be held, is very pleasing with its yellow curtained windows, its dark Flemish-oak furnishings; in the library and reading room is a bronze memorial tablet to the memory of a former president of the Hull House Woman's club. The inscription reads:

"As more exposed to suffering and distress, Thence also more alive to tenderness."

Henry James in Chicago.
WE LAUGHED when the coming of Henry James to Chicago was heralded; we laughed when his arrival was announced; we laughed most of all when he was in the thick of it.

We wait with greatest interest what he may say of us. He is of the sort that no matter how smothered with hospitality he will not hide the truth—unless it

be in sentences of such complication not all may read.

Fair dames in purple and ermine, men of prominence in commercial and professional circles, traveled Chicago clubs and stay-at-home Chicagoans, club women and their husbands, assembled to do Mr. James honor—and incidentally to see what manner of man he was. To catch every word that fell from his lips; to but touch his hand; to study his personality; they came from far and near.

The American joke and joker were not wanting on the occasion of Mr. James' appearance as lecturer. The gentleman that introduced the author to the Twentieth Century club got in a word about that early creation of Mr. James, the widely known Daisy Miller, and mischievously announced to the large assembly of ladies that the prototype of Daisy was then and there in the audience. Mr. James groaned, but, doubtless remembering the joke is a sacred matter in America, took his medicine courageously, laughed indulgently, heroically endeavored to answer the excited questions put to him by the bevy of fair questioners that surrounded him at the close of his lecture, "The Lesson of Balzac."

The Waitress.



OTURN from Henry James to restaurant waitresses—a dizzy feat. The question came up of who is the more pleasing server, waiter or waitress. The majority voted in favor of the latter.

In this city, especially, the respectful, skilful man attendant at a hotel is conspicuous by his absence. We have studied him at the most prominent hotel in the town, at the small exclusive restaurant, in private homes, and found him wanting as well as waiting.

Over in England and on the Continent he is to the manor born; here he has no manners whatever as a general thing. Occasionally one finds a piece of perfection among the waitresses who receive their training in the hands of first-class caterers; but the ordinary white man and the ordinary colored man do not equal the trim waitress to be met with in a number of places in Chicago.

Of course there are numerous exceptions among the girls, almost enough to merit sweeping condemnation; but we have in mind waitresses at the tea rooms in the three best department stores here, and pronounce them well trained in their work, well mannered, well intentioned.

In the restaurants and hotels where meals are served at all hours of the day the wonder is that any of them are able to keep up an appearance of good humor, a show of willingness to perform their tasks. In the tea rooms the hours are comparatively short, no breakfasts being served; but in the other places it means getting up at five for many a girl, being ready for work at seven. The intermissions are short; the serving must be continued to a late hour of the evening. When does the waitress get any time for quiet, for diversion? It is easy for theorizers to assert working people, if they would but divide their hours properly, be systematic, could get a good deal out of life. The waitress would have to draw on her sleeping time pretty heavily, it seems to us.

Whip the Boys?



Judge Mack has also ordered that no child under the care of the juvenile court is to be whipped or otherwise brutally punished. This is a sweeping order, and affects a number of juvenile institutions.

The principal under whose orders one of the boys in the John Worthy school received corporal punishment appeared before Judge Mack and gave as explanation for the order that the boy under consideration, one Ike Doré, had indulged in succeeding days of outrageous conduct prior to the whipping, and that the punishment was tried as a last resort. He swore at the teachers. He would not study his lessons. In three years at the school he had advanced but half a grade. Certainly a hard proposition. Judge Mack dismissed the cases against the accused instructors, who, by the way, have been removed from the school, but gave forth a warning to all teachers dealing with wards of the juvenile court: "I want to give a public warning to all persons having care of children of the juvenile court that there must be no beatings of their charges. I am not going to discuss the merits of corporal punishment. We have reached a stage in civilization in which it has been declared bad for the child and bad for the state to whip children. This court believes it is bad for all parties concerned and does not approve of any brutality in any form. No corporal punishment will be tolerated by this court and I take this occasion of giving public warning to all persons having control of children to resort to no extreme measures without advising with me in advance."

KATHERINE POPP