BAFFLING BURGLARS

SAFES AND LOCKS WHICH ARE PROOF AGAINST TAMPERERS.

Each Bank of England Lock Costs $375 and Has 302,880 Different Combinations. Elaborate Mechanism to Protect Treasure Vaults.

There is no denying the fact that the burglar of today who aims at high game, displays amazing ingenuity in the manufacture of scientific tools and apparatus and also in the practical working of the same.

But he is completely out of the running when pitted against our safemakers and locksmiths, even though he periodically buys their wares for experimental purposes.

While the present writer was being "personally conducted" over the premises of the greatest firm of lockmakers in the world he acquired much interesting information concerning these wondrous pieces of mechanism which protect the vast riches of palaces, banks and strongrooms and which render it absolutely impossible for thieves to break in.

Perhaps the most interesting department was that one in which an exhibition of the highest form of the burglar's craft was being given. Skilled workmen were seated before locked safes and were using the almost irresistible fusing apparatus on the door in order to reach the locks or were forcing gunpowder through the keyholes by means of a tiny pair of bellows.

Others were squirting corrosive chemicals into the locks and noting the effect, while sturdy artisans were using the drill and the wedge with a scientific force and skill that showed they could be dangerous enemies to society if they were criminally inclined.

The fusing apparatus consists of a cylinder of compressed oxygen gas, which supplies a short section of pipe terminating in an iron cup. The latter is pressed firmly against the door after a light has been applied, and a stream of flame issues from the end of the pipe in its bottom. So fierce is this flame that it melts the metal in the safe door and cuts a jagged hole through it in a remarkably short space of time.

"We turn out about 288,000 locks every year," remarked the manager of the works, "and they range in weight from a quarter of an ounce—including key—to 228 pounds, the respective values of these extremes being 19 cents and $1,600.

"Foremost among those locks which protect enormous wealth come those on the treasury doors of the Bank of England. The making of each of these marvels of mechanism occupies three men for six weeks and costs $375.

"Those little fluted pieces of steel in the head of the key—technically called 'steps'—are nine in number and are capable of 302,880 different combinations.

"If a banker whose safe was fitted with this lock chanced to lose his key, or if he had reason to suppose that a wax impression of it had been made, all that would be necessary in order to baffle burglarious designs would be to unlock the safe with the duplicate key, unscrew the head and change the position of the steps and then relock the safe or strongroom.

"The mechanism of the lock would instantly adapt itself to the changed combination and could never be unlocked by the former key.

"This, however, is not an unmixed blessing. One afternoon a certain city merchant was amusing himself by unscrewing the steps of both his keys when it suddenly occurred to him that he had forgotten the combination.

"As the keys in question were capable of thousands of combinations there was nothing for it but to set to work on a system of numbered tables and tick off each combination as it were tried.

"'But that may take months,' objected the merchant ruefully. Well, as the only other alternative was to build a furnace round the door of the safe it was decided to try the combination first.

"We sent two men and an apprentice with the printed tables—great sheets of paper several yards long—and after nine days' labor, during which about 18,000 different combinations were arranged and tried, the right one was hit upon by accident, and the door opened. Needless to say, there was a pretty big bill against the customer who gave us all this trouble.

"The treasury doors at the Bank of England measure 7 feet 3 and weigh about 2½ tons. Besides being fitted with the above mentioned changeable locks they have violence locks 5 feet long, each of which weighs 200 pounds, and gunpowder proof locks, having blowholes on every side, even through the massive bolt. These blow holes allow the gunpowder pumped in to escape and reduce the force of a possible explosion to a mere harmless puff.

"It is worthy of note that there are more than 10,000 locks fitted in the Bank of England. Then comes the Savoy hotel with 1,800, controlled by one master key. The manager of each of the six floors at the Savoy, however, has a master key which controls the lock of every room under his supervision.

"Her majesty's safe at Windsor castle in which the gold plate is kept weighs eight tons and is protected by a violence lock 18 inches long, a changeable lock and a gunpowder lock, all of which can be mechanically covered by an undrillable steel plate, which renders it impossible to insert even a hairpin into any of the keyholes."—London Answers.

Small, but Important.

Rusty Nail (in the street)—What are you doing here?

Carpet Tack—Waiting for a ride.

"Do you think any of these fine people will stop their carriages to pick up a worthless little thing like you?"

"[illegible] ... up without [illegible]"

HIS FIRST ATTEMPT.

A Bachelor's Highly Interesting Experience In the Tribulations of Housekeeping.

"I am passing through a novel and exceedingly interesting, even if not highly agreeable, experience just now," said a young newspaper man at one of the down town offices this morning. "I am going through the tribulations of the housekeeping side of marital life, although I have never yet led a bride to the chancel rail. Yesterday all my folks went away to the seashore, leaving only myself, the youngest of the family, and my sister, who is next older than me, to assume the cares of the household. Neither of us has had any experience in this line, and the results bid fair to be amusing, if nothing more, especially in the matter of preparing for breakfast, as both of us are late sleepers. This morning the first break occurred, and thus it happened. The servant is due at about 6 o'clock in the morning, and as I am a sound sleeper I instructed her to ring the bell vigorously and not to go away if she was not very promptly admitted, and I also told my sister if she heard the bell to awaken me and I would let the girl in. Last night I was up till 2 o'clock writing, and consequently four hours later was in the soundest of my slumbers when the iceman came and left a cube of his wares on the steps. Just afterward the servant came and applied for admission. At first her vigorous rings on the lond gong, which is only one flight of stairs away from my room, produced no impression on my morning slumbers, but she followed my instructions and continued conscientiously to make that bell startle the whole neighborhood except myself and sister, whose alarm clock also did not have the slightest effect of driving away unconsciousness.

"At last I was partially aroused so that the ringing of the bell caused me to dream of fire engines, and in a few seconds all the horrors of a destructive fire passed through my reviving brain, and I saw myself running and shouting and the engine steaming, and the firemen pursuing their heroic work of rescue. Then—I suppose her arm was tired—the faithful servant pulled slow, steady strokes, and instantly my dream changed, and I found myself in a railway station going to join the family at the seaside. Suddenly these visions were dispelled, and the stern reality of the occasion was forced upon my unwilling mind as I reluctantly jumped up and removed the bars that hindered the servant's entrance. She was quite cheerful over the affair and said she had not been kept waiting for more than 15 minutes. Truly, the way of the head of the house is pleasant."—Washington Star.

THE TOUCAN.

A Queer South American Bird With an Extraordinarily Large Bill.

A queer kind is the toucan. It seems to have been made expressly to take charge of its huge banana shaped beak, which, in some species, is fully 7 inches in length and more than 2 inches in width—entirely out of proportion to its comparatively small body. This beak is the most brilliant possession of the toucan, being orange and black, scarlet and yellow or green and red, according to the species of the bird.

Its home is in the wild South American woods, where, mingled with the screaming of parrots, macaws and other tropical birds, is heard its monotonous cry, "Tucano, tucano!" from which its name is probably derived. It is a fruit eater, and climbing among the branches it gathers its food with its long beak, whose strength no stem can resist.

The toucan nests in trees, and it is uncertain whether it excavates its burrow or builds in a natural cavity. Nothing more comical can be imagined than the head of this creature, with its sparkling eyes and enormous, gayly colored beak, appearing from a hollow in the trunk of some forest monarch. It is said that the young birds are subject to the attacks of monkeys and birds of prey, and that when the parent bird is alarmed all she has to do is to poke her head out of the aperture leading to the nest. The assailant, seeing so huge a bill, fancies an animal of corresponding size behind it and leaves, without bowing or saying farewell.

Toucans are sociable birds and go in large flocks. They make common cause against their enemies, such as owls and falcons, which they surround and mob, as the rooks do in England. Having thus no need for protection, they are noisy and clamorous, like parrots and monkeys.

The plumage is generally black, but the throat is white, tinged with yellow and commonly edged beneath with red. The tail is nearly square or moderately rounded, with the upper feathers red and the lower scarlet. Alternations of the brighter colors are displayed in the feathers of the throat, the breast and the tail.

The bird is kept easily in confinement, and no doubt from early times many were brought alive to Europe. Some of its brilliant tints are very fleeting, and they often leave little or no trace after death, so that little idea of its beauty can be obtained from a stuffed specimen.—Philadelphia Times.

The Outlook.

Aunt Maria—I think you and Mr. Mann ought to get along nicely together. You know you both like the same people.

Matilda—Yes, and, what is better, we hate the same people. Just think what nice long talks we shall have together.—Boston Transcript.

Two chemists of Hamburg, MM. Forster and Nijland, have published some studies on the cholera infection, from which it appears that soap is one of the best known sterilizers of water suspected of infection.

There is a laundryman in London who has a baby girl with 26 Christian names, each name beginning with a different letter of the alphabet.

NEWS DOTS FROM IRELAND

Interesting Paragraphs Concerning the Doings of Our Friends Across the Ocean,

Gathered from All Parts of the Emerald Isle for Our Readers.

CONNAUGHT.

GALWAY.

An inquest was held at Portumna, by Mr. Martin Pelly, Coroner for this division of Galway County, on the body of Constable Lavelle, of the Rossmore station, which was found in the Shannon. Deceased had been bathing and got into a deep hole, out of which he was unable to swim. The jury found a verdict of accidental drowning.

LEITRIM.

At the assizes for the county Leitrim, in Carrick on Shannon, before Justice Andrews, James Daly and Pat Daly charged with having taken forcible possession, on the 5th of June last, at Kiltoghart of a house and some land from which they had been evicted, pleaded guilty, and were allowed out on their own security to come up for judgment when called upon.

Mr. Patrick Reynolds, of Carrickfad, secretary of the Drumlease Branch of the Irish National Federation, has forwarded £10 to the trustees of the Irish Party as the contribution of his branch to the Home Rule Fund. The subscription is a large one from so small a district, but the men of Drumlease have been always remarkable for spirit, pluck and patriotism.

MAYO.

During Michael Davitt's recent visit to Castlebar, after arriving from Achill Island, he proceeded to Mayo county prison, accompanied by the esteemed parish priest of the town, Rev. Father Lyons, to ascertain the condition of Honor Gallagher, who is undergoing a sentence of twelve months imprisonment, for a trivial assault on a sheriff's bailiff when seizing her pig for seed rate. The prisoner presented a miserable appearance, and when spoken to in reference to the Achill disaster, which she was apprised of, she seemed deeply affected. She also stated that the pig was the only source of means she possessed for herself and family, as she was utterly destitute. Since her incarceration she has been under medical treatment, as her health is considerably impaired.

ROSCOMMON.

At Boyle fair, a splendid young mare, value for about £50, belonging to Mr. E. Martyn of Templehouse, county Sligo, was killed by colliding with a horse and car belonging to Mr. Gorden of Frenchpark.

Mulligan of Roscommon won the 120 yards hurdle championship of Ireland at Ballsbridge, Dublin.

The Rev. Canon Henly, of Castlerea, who has been for the last fifteen months in the United States, collecting funds to help on the erection of St. Patrick's new church, at Castlerea, returned home after a most successful mission. His return was the occasion of a great demonstration on the part of his parishioners, who gave him a right royal and well deserved welcome home.

SLIGO.

A young woman named Clancy of Glencar, was seriously injured about the head by being stoned by a young lad who lives in the neighborhood. It seems that the lad who is a nephew of the injured girl, entered Clancy's garden for the purpose of taking currants. Miss Clancy came out to drive him away when he turned on her with stones and inflicted such severe injuries that a doctor had to be called in. Subsequently the girl's depositions were taken and the boy was lodged in Sligo jail. Miss Clancy is at present lying in a serious condition.

The treasurers of the Sligo Fund in aid of the Irish Parliamentary Party have forwarded to the trustees a cheque for £68. This sum, which is exclusive of the Bishop's contribution of £20, makes a respectable response to the local appeal.

LEINSTER.

CARLOW.

The knot of bigots on the Carlow Lunatic Asylum Board lacked one of their number at their muster at the late election, and Dr Fitzgerald was elected by nine votes to eight. The minority protested against the election. To oblige them an advertisement had been inserted postponing the election, by whose authority does not appear. But the Governors proceeded in accordance with the original advertisement, and now the Board of Control may be left to deal with the protest.

DUBLIN.

The Dublin Gazette announces the appointment of the Very Rev. Canon Quinn to be one of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, in the room of William (Monsell) Baron Emly, deceased.

The Rev. J. J. Mahaffy has been appointed the delegate to represent the University of Dublin at the Halle Bicentenary Festival.

The project of starting a table glass manufactory in Dublin, judging from the encouragement given to the promoters of the undertaking, promises to be a decided success. A deputation from the Irish Industrial League recently waited on the Grocers' and Vintners' Association in connection with the matter, and received every satisfaction from that body. The members fully sympathized with the movement.

KILDARE.

It is reported that an Athy man is to become successor to McIntosh as the grabber of the holding of the late Mr. Daniel Whelan, of Barrowhouse. Mr. Whelan, whose name is fondly remembered by all who knew him, was the only tenant on Lord Lansdowne's Barrowhouse property who joined the Plan of Campaign and allowed himself to be evicted at the same time as the Luggacurren tenants. He did service long after, and since then his holding has been in the occupation of emergencymen and successive land grabbers. It appears that the last of these is about to give it up, and the general belief is that an Athy man is to be the next grabber.

A respectable old woman named Mrs. Gorrey, who lived at Friary road, Newbridge, was missed from her home recently, and her friends searched through the night at length found her drowned in the Liffey, at a place called the Harbor. Mrs. Gorrey, was a very old inhabitant of Newbrige.

LOUTH.

The solemn dedication of the new church of the Immaculate Conception, in historic Monasterboice, by his Eminence Cardinal Logue, will take place on Rosary Sunday, 7th Oct. Solemn High Mass will be celebrated at 12 o'clock, and the dedication sermon will be preached by the Most Rev. Dr. Healy, Coadjutor Bishop of Clonfert.

MEATH.

Nothwithstanding all the paragraphs that have appeared in the Press to the contrary, Killeen Castle is still unsold. Lord Fingall has been visiting Melbourne, en route to Tasmania.

QUEEN'S.

At the Assizes in Maryborough, Escher Cahill, charged with concealment of birth, was acquitted.

WESTMEATH.

At the Assizes in Mullingar, a respectable farmer named Patrick Ward, residing near Fore, Castlepollard, was araigned on the charge of firing at his wife with intent to maim her, on the 24th of February, with a loaded gun, and in a minor count with wounding her, to which, by the advice of counsel, he pleaded guilty, the plea being accepted by the prosecuting counsel. Evidence of the character of the accused was given, and the Judge said he would take into consideration the fact that the accused was in jail since the 26th of February, and would now sentence him to nine month's imprisonment with hard labor, and after that period to find bail for his good behavior, himself in £20 and two sureties of £10, for twelve months, in default of that he was to be imprisoned for a further term of two months.

WEXFORD.

At the examination of the summer session of the school of surgery in the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, Mr. David Hadden, Wexford, secured first prize, and medal for practical pharmacy.

It is stated that Mr. Spratt, who was formerly connected with the Rosslare Railway line, has been appointed station-master at Rosslare, and that some cattle trucks for the line have also arrived in Wexford, so it would seem that, after a weary wait of months, the line will be opened at an early date.

It is understood that Mr. Guinness, agent of Lord Ardilaun's Trimmer estate, visited the locality a few days ago, and in place of evicting the Misses Edwards, whose place Thomas has grabbed, has allowed them to remain in the house, turning them over as caretakers to Thomas, who has taken possession of all their land.

MUNSTER.

CLARE.

The Rev. John McNamara, P. P., of Bodyke, in a letter to the Dublin Freeman's Journal, states that no landgrabbing has taken place at Bodyke, or on the estate of Colonel O'Callaghan, and the Rev. gentleman adds that—"it is in the highest degree improbable that it will. The Bodyke evicted tenants have the universal sympathy of their neighbors, and of all who have the knowledge of the heroic struggle they made in defence of their homes, and the patience with which they are bearing their present sufferings must evoke the praises of all who know them."

In West Clare, Mr. William Redmond, M.P., was recently prevented by the police from addressing a meeting called for the purpose of denouncing land-grabbing. He got on a wall and tried to speak, but was forced down by the police.

CORK.

It is stated that the Diary, kept by the late Wm. J. O'Neill Daunt, since 1842, will be published shortly. This will be a rare treat, and will afford many glimpses of the character of the venerable patriot.

An assault, whereby the life of a man named William Gordon was placed in imminent jeopardy, was committed in Abbey st., Cork. Gordon is about 50 years of age, and had come recently from Louisville, Kentucky. He was lodging at 34 Abbey street, a tenement house where John Murphy, who is alleged to have assaulted him, also resided.

The consecration of the Right Rev. Dr. Brown, as Bishop of Cloyne, will take place on the 19th of August, when he will take official charge of the diocese, and will go to reside at Queenstown.

KERRY.

The impressive ceremony of Reception took place at the Presentation Convent, Cahirciveen. The young lady who received the white veil was Miss Walsh, in religion Sister Mary Joseph, daughter of Mr. John Walsh.

Rev. J. Casey, O.P., of Tralee, who for some time past was attached to St. Francis Xavier's Church, Glentworth street Limerick, has been transferred to Waterford.

LIMERICK.

The criminal business of the county Limerick Summer Assizes was opened by Justice Holmes, who in addressing the Grand Jury, said the calendar showed that there were only six bills to go before them, and they were not of an important character. Nevertheless, when in the first three of these cases, the petty juries acquitted the prisoners accused, Judge Holmes stopped the proceedings of the Assizes, and ordered a nolle prosequi in the other three cases—declaring that trial by jury in such cases was a farce, and a miscarriage of justice, and that it would be better that no prosecutions should take place than that there should be prosecution with a failure of justice. Judge Holmes, must, evidently have expected to find somebody to hang or commit to penal servitude; and he was evidently disappointed.

TIPPERARY.

At the meeting of the South Riding of Tipperary Grand Jury, Mr. P. Bagwell, foreman, presiding, Constable R. Cassidy, R.I.C., Clonmel, applied for £500 compensation for injuries received while arresting a soldier in the Artillery Barracks in March last. After a protracted hearing it was agreed to pass the presentment of £100.

WATERFORD.

A movement has been set on foot to start a collection for the parents of poor Breen, who was drowned at Tramore, recently. Subscriptions will be received by Mr. Burke, M. F. H., Tipperary, or Mr. M. J. Murphy, J.P., Tramore, Ireland. The family of the unfortunate lad are in very humble circumstances.

ULSTER.

ANTRIM.

At the Bisley Rifle Competition, in the Walter Winn Competition, of 15 shots at 900, and 15 at 1,000 yards, Mr. T. Caldwell of Belfast, won with a remarkable score. In the 900 yards range, he started with a 'magpie,' but finding the bull's-eye with the next shot, he kept there till he had got a string of eight bulls. He then put one shot into the inner ring, close to the bull, but got the bull again with the next shot, and finished up with five bulls. His shot-by-shot score was—3 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 4 5 5 5 5 5—72. The following were the principal scores at 900 yards: Mr. T Caldwell, Belfast, 72; Mr. Henry, Ulster Rifle Association, 70; Mr. Ganly, I.R.A. and Mr. A. Baker, Croydon, 68. Mr. Caldwell made 68 at 1,000 yards, and thus won with an aggregate of 140 points.

ARMAGH.

At the Armagh Assizes, before Judge Gibbons, Patrick McGarry, James McKenna, John McKenna, Daniel Skelton, John McAnulty, Neal McAnulty, Peter McAnulty, Daniel Hagan, Joseph Hagan, and Patrick Robinson were indicted on a charge of riot at Maghery, on the 13th of May last. The jury found the prisoners guilty on the second and third counts, viz—unlawful assembly and making an affray; and the Judge said that in case the prisoners could get bail for their future good behavior he would only pass the following sentences—Wm. McKenna, 1 month with hard labor; Daniel Skelton, 1 month with hard labor; Daniel Hagan 3 weeks; Peter McAnulty, 2 weeks with hard labor; Patrick McGarry, 2 weeks with hard labor. The others charged were allowed out on giving security. A large number of the members of the Orange party were also charged with unlawful assembly, but the case against them was dismissed.

CAVAN.

A correspondent of the Tuam Herald writes: "Mr. William J. Mitchell, for many years Station Master at Ballyglunin, has been changed, on promotion, to Claremorris junction. All who have passed on the line, or who had any business transactions with Mr. Mitchell, have invariably found him most courteous and obliging, and at the same time a highly capable and efficient officer. The regret at his departure is universal, but all are glad to learn that Mr. Mitchell's services have been rewarded by the Railway Company."

DONEGAL.

Messrs. MacKee & Thomson, of Derry have procured a steel screw steamer, which they propose to utilize for excursions between Sligo and Ballyshannon, this season.

DOWN.

The Newry Chamber of Commerce recently instructed Mr. J. Brown, architect, to prepare plans for the improvement of the existing Post Office building, and to ask the Postmaster-General to have these improvements effected. It was also decided that the secretary should communicate with the General Post Office, Dublin, in order that arrangements might be made to have a mail bag from Newry for Dublin and intermediate stations carried by the 11:8 a. m. train, so that answers to letters to Dublin might be received on the same day.

TYRONE.

The O'Donovan Rossa Reception Committee in Omagh has fixed the 15th of Augest for his lecture in that town.

The Ledger of Newark, N.J., remarks that there is a semi-public office in that city held by a Catholic which the A. P. A.'s do not seem to covet. It is the office of chaplain to the post house, nobly filled by the Rev. Father Holland, of St. Columba's Church.