AN ENGLISH BURGLAR'S RUSE

Story of an Escaped Convict From Portland Prison.

The London Telegraph.

At Bow street yesterday William Bartlett, of North street, Borough, summoned the commissioner for the delivery of a savings bank book, £6 in gold, a silver watch and chain, a pocket knife and some papers. Detective Sergeant Thomas represented the commissioner.

The complainant in the case is a well known burglar, and it is stated that he is the only man who ever effected his escape from Portland prison, an escape which is the original of that described in Hawley Smart's novel, "Broken Bounds."

W. Bartlett, the ex-convict, after leaving Bow street, told the romantic story of his escape from Portland prison to a reporter. "The correct details of my escape have never been told," he said. "I'll tell you what actually happened. In 1868 I received a sentence of ten years' penal servitude. From Pentonville I was taken to Portland. It was awful. I made up my mind to escape—a feat never before accomplished. One day I managed to pick up a small piece of hoop iron. That seemed like a godsend. Every time I had a chance I took that iron hooping with me, and worked like a nigger to make it into a saw. I did it in fear and trembling, for the slightest sound would have betrayed me. A stroke of luck awaited me. I found a convict who had got a little bit of a file. He had no ambition, and said the file was no good to him. I gave him my dinner for it and with my file I was able to complete the saw. Then I managed, by working stealthy every evening after I had been locked up for the night, to saw through the wood flooring to my cell. Every night I had to replace the boards, so that the warders should not see what I had done. Then an awful disappointment awaited me. The space beneath my cell was lined with sheet iron; but, nothing daunted, I eventually cut through that. Then I got into an airshaft, and after three months' hard work saw my way clear to liberty.

"At last the opportunity came. It was a dark night and all was still. With my sheets I had made a rope, and, as luck would have it, I had picked up a piece of wood called a 'dog,' with iron hooks at each end. I put my stool underneath the quilt to look as much like my body as possible, in case the warders should look in, and then went down the passage it had taken me three months' hard labor to make. After lifting an iron grating I found myself in the open air, and managed to throw the hooks of my linen ladder over a wall. By this means I got onto the roof of the officers quarters. There was no one about and the only sound I could hear was that made by the beating of my heart. From the roof I had to jump onto the boundary wall, about ten or twelve feet distant. I dare say it was a bold leap, but you don't stick at trifles when you are escaping from Portland. I made the leap and was successful in reaching the boundary wall. Then I got to the ground by means of my linen ladder.

Unfortunately the hooks were so secure that I had to leave the ladder where it was, and if it had not been for that I might have been in London in three or four days. As it was I had an awful experience. While making desperate tugs at the ladder I heard footsteps approaching, and I rushed into the garden of the Grove public house. I turned around and saw a guard looking at the ladder. A few minutes afterward shots were fired and a bell was rung. My escape had been discovered. The guards were running by in all directions; but unperceived I got through the window of the Roman Catholic chapel and concealed myself beneath the communion table which proved to be something very much like a box. I could hear the sound of hurrying footsteps all night, but no one came into the chapel until the next morning, when service was held there.

It was not a pleasant position to be in, I can assure you. A sneeze or a cough would have betrayed me, but, fortunately, all went well. But I got very hungry. So at the end of about 33 hours I stole out and broke into the Clifton hotel. I there found some bread and meat, cheese and tobacco. What was of more consequence I was able to steal a hat and some clothes. With the clothing and the food—the sweetest food I ever tasted—I returned to my hiding place in the chapel. Out of a black coat I made a pair of trousers, and put on another of the stolen coats, which happened to be made of velvet. The food I divided into six portions, and for six days I was concealed beneath that communion table. There were frequent services, and, what was still worse the priest used to come in at night for private devotions!

At last I had more than enough of and broke into the priest's house with the object of obtaining some money. I could find none, however. There was some silver plate but that was of no use to me. I obtained a white stole, however, and with that made something resembling a shirt. Feeling now fairly confident as to my appearance, I walked down the road, and saw a milkman, who I afterward found gave information about me. At a little place nineteen miles from Portland I concealed myself in a field. Two men came in blackberrying, and I had to get out. They asked me where I was going. I said to Blandford. They volunteered to show me the way, but we had not gone very far before we met two police inspectors. They asked me to go into a public house and give an account of myself. They were particularly anxious to know if I had a mark on my right arm. Seeing the game was up, I tried to dash through the public house, but it was no good, and I was collared. I was afterward sentenced to eight years' penal servitude for the burglary at the Clifton hotel. No, I did not have the cat. You see I was tried by a civil power"—and the little man chuckled. Immediately afterward he assumed a graver tone, and asked in mournful accents, "But what can an old convict like me do for a living?"

THE BAGGY COAT.

"Raglans" Now in Favor in England—A Revival of an Ancient Style.

The London Star.

Fashion, like history, repeats itself. Even with men's fashions there are some quaint reversions to an earlier type.

"The Tailor and Cutter," has just been interviewing H. A. Hughes, president of the Metropolitan Foreman Tailors' Society, a cutter of very high rank. Mr. Hughes wears several gold medals for gallantry as a cutter, and may be regarded, as a sort of King of Shears.

He was interviewed about the Raglin overcoat, which has had such a run this year—the baggy, olive green garment in which so many of our Fleet-st. leaders of fashion have been arrayed.

"This coat," he said, "is one of the most successful revivals of an old style that I know of. My firm made them fifty years ago, and we have patterns by us that were used at that date."

One of the new triumphs of the Raglan, the gold medallist said, was that it is driving out the mackintosh, being made of waterproofed venetians and covert coatings. "We have a special staff for this purpose, all waterproofing being done on the premises. I believe many of the smaller firms send out the materials to be waterproofed."

When you have a Raglan be very careful about the pockets. The specialist is very firm about this. The pockets are invariably at the side, and there should be two. More pockets "detract from the character of the garment," he says severely. And one can fancy how the would be owner of a Raglan squirms when the Shears King says that to him. Which of us would like the character of this garment detracted from?

Here is another delicate matter: "Sometimes our customers remark to us: "Could you not make me look a little squarer in the shoulders?" it being one of the leading characteristics of the old style of cut that it produces a very slooping appearance in the shoulder, and if the order has been given by a short customer the effort is sometimes grotesque. In my opinion, it would be wise to advise all people of little stature to select some other style for their overcoat rather than this."

A West End tailor gets 21s or 22s for making a Raglan.

OCEAN CARRYING.

S. F. Bulletin.

In a recent address on the proposition to build up our merchant marine by some form of government help, either direct subsidies or liberal mail contracts, Senator Frye said: "It is imperatively required that we should carry in our own ships under our own flag all our imports and exports. We should pay to our own people the $100,000 a day we now pay to foreigners." While there are men in both parties in the United States who would advocate government assistance to our merchant marine that will place American vessels on equality with competitors for the ocean-carrying trade, such a measure as Mr. Frye contemplates will hardly receive the indorcement of either party. The assumption that we should carry in our own ships and under our own flag all our imports and exports is absurd. The nations with which we trade have the same right to ocean transportation one way that we have, and our policy of subsidies aimed to obtain the carrying trade both ways would provoke retaliation. This carrying trade is now chiefly in the hands of Great Britain, Germany and France, and as the governments of these nations are fully as alive to the necessity of keeping their people at work as that of the United States, they would not willingly part with it. It would be entirely in accord with our protective policy to give aid to the merchant marine sufficient to place it on an equality with the ocean carriers of other nations. We have now reached the point at which we can build ships as cheaply as other nations, but there is still a heavier cost attached to the maintenance of ships than our competitors incur. This heavier cost arises mainly from the higher wages paid American sailors and the better accommodations they demand.

HE DIDN'T LIKE THE LOCATION.

Spokesman-Review.

While in Tacoma I went down on the bridge overlooking the railroad tracks and newly made ground below the bluff, and gazed at 500 government mules ready to be shipped to Manila. They were a sturdy lot of animals, and with their stamping, kicking braying and tail switching made that part of Tacoma a lively scene.

"What do you think of it?" asked a Tacoma friend who was with me.

"Quite a sight," I replied.

"You are not so much impressed with it, then, as Thad Huston was," he observed.

"How is that?" I asked.

"Why, Thad came down here the other day, and after a few minutes' inspection of those mules, remarked: "That's a h—l of a place to hold a democratic convention, isn't it?"

THE OLD LADY'S OBITUARY.

Atlanta Constitution.

"I want you to write an obituary on the old lady," said the rural subscriber to the editor.

"Sorry to hear of your loss."

"Well, I'm not kicking ag'in' providence!"

"Oh, of course! Well, how old was she?"

"She never did tell."

"Of a retiring disposition, was she?"

"No, sir—she wuz mightly in evidence at all times!"

"Well, my friend, what on earth am I to say?"

"Oh, jest say that she was took away by providence, an' providence knows its business!"

PINS AND EXPANSION.

This is an age of expansion. One hundred years ago it required the services of ten men to turn out 48,000 pins in a day. Now three men make 7,500,000 pins in the same time.

Once upon a time David B. Hill might have had a seat upon the grand stand at a Dewey reception.

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7:00 p. m.	Portland and intermediate points for Astoria	9:40 p.m.

	ASTORIA.	
7.45 a.m.	For Portland and intermediate points	11:30 a.m.
6:10 p.m.		10:30 p.m.

SEASIDE DIVISION.

p. m.	a. m.			a. m.	p. m.
5:00	11:25	Lv	....Astoria....	Ar	7:40
5:25	11:55	Ar	...Warrenton...	Lv	7:20
5:50	12:13	Lv		Ar	6:52
6:30	1:00	Ar	....Seaside....	Lv	6:15

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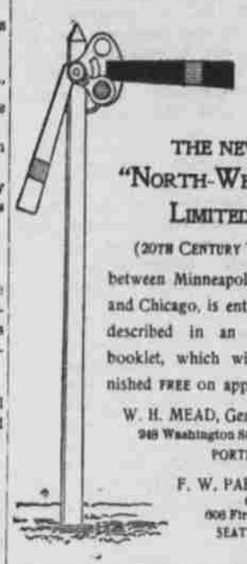

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