VOL. XX, NO. 167.

A COOL SCOUNDREL. The Manner in Which a Burgiar Cracked bing of that you?-bold your lantern or sorre-bing of that you?

a Bank

hing of that sort?" The thought came to me like a fissh, and I turned around and says: "How do I know you're the president? I sin't ever seen you afore, and you may be a tryin' to crack this bank, for all I know."

The Daily

My profession isn't a popular one. There is considerable prejudice against it. I don't myself think it's much worse than a good many others. However, that's nothing to do with my story. Some years ago, me and a gentleman "ho was at that time connected with me in business -he's met with reverses since then, and at pres-ent isn't able to go out-was looking around for a job, being at that time rather hard up, as you might say. We struck a small country town I name is

ain't going to give it away by telling "No, I don't," says I, sorter surly, "Well, you'll find it on that bill," where it was, or what the nime of it was. There was one bank there; the says he, taking a bill out of his pocket, and you'll see the name on these letters," and he took some letters president was a rich old duffer; owned the mills, owned the bank, owned most of the town. There wasn't no from his coat. I suppose I ought to have gone right on then, but I was beginning to other officer but the cashier, and they

had a boy, who used to sweep out and run of errands. feel interested in making him prove The bank was on the main street,

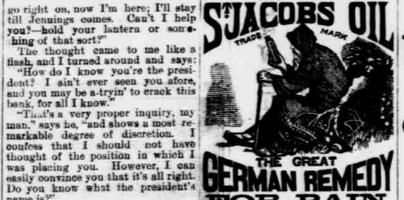
who he was, so I says: pretty well up one end of it nice, snug place on the corner of a cross-"You might have got those letters to put up a job on me." "You".e a very honest man," says street, with nothing very near it. We

took our observations, and found he; one among a thonsand. Don't think I'm at all offended at your per-sistence. No, my good fellow, I like it, I like it," and he laid his hand on there wasn't no trouble at all about There was an old watchman, that walked up and down the streets nights, when he didn't fall asleep and my shoulder. "Now, here," says he, forget it. The vault had two doors; taking a package out of his pocket, "is a package of ten thousand dollars in bonds. A burglar wouldn't be apt the outside one was chilled iron, and had a three-wheel combination lock; the inner door wasn't no door at all; to carry these around with bim, would he? I bought them in the city you could kick it open. It didn't pretend to be nothing but fireproof. vesuerday, and I stopped here to yesterday, and 1 stopped here to-night on my way home to place them in the vault, and, I may add, that your simple and manly honesty has so touched me that I would willingly leave them in your hands for safe-keeping. You needn't blush at my and it wasn't even that. The first thing we done, of course, was to fit a key to the outside door. As the lock on the outside door was an old-fashioued Bacon lock, any gentleman in my profession who chances to read article will know just how easy praise that job was, and how we done it. I I suppose I did turn sorter red

may say here that the gentlemen in when I see them bonds. my line of business, having at times a good deal of leisure on their hands, do considerable reading, and are particularly fond of a neat bit of writing. In fact, in the way of literature I have found among 'em-however, this be-ing digression, I drop it, and go on with

when I see them bonds. "Are you satisfied now?" says he. I told him I was, thoroughly, and so I was. So I picked up my drill again and gave him the lantern to hold, so that I could see the door. I heard Jim, as I call him, outside once or twice, and I like to have burst out langhing, thinking how he want he the main job again. laughing, thinking how he must be This was our plan: After the key wondering what was going on inside. I worked away and kept explaining to him what I was trying to do. He was very much interested in me-chanics, he said, and he knowed that was fitted I was to go into the bank, and Jim-that wasn't his name, of course, but let it pass-was to keep watch on the outside. When any one passed he was to tip me a whis-I was a man as was up to my business the, and then I doused the glim and lay low; after they got by, I goes on by the way I went to work. He asked by the way I went to work. The asked me about what wages I got, and how I liked my business, and said he took quite a fancy to me. I turned once in a while and looked at him a settin' up there as solemn as a biled owl, with my dark lantern in his blessed hand, and I'm blamed if I don't think I should have to holler right out. again. Simple and easy, you see. Well, the night as we selected, the president happened to be out of town; one down to the city, as he often did. I got inside all right, with a slide-lantern, a breast-drill, a small steel jimmy, a bunch of skeleton keys and a green-baize bag, to stow the swag. 1 fixed my light and rigged my breast-drill, and got to work on I got through the lock pretty soon, and put in my wire and opened it. Then he took hold of the door and

Probably a great many of your readers is not so well posted as me chout bank locks, and I may say for them that a three wheel combination lock has three wheel combination pose you will try to fix the lock to-night." I told him I shouldn't try to do lock has three wheels in it and a slot each wheel. In order to unlock the door, you have to get the three anything more with it now, as we could get in before morning. NEW SLIP slots opposite to each other at the top of the lock. Of course if you know "Well, I'll bid you good night, my the number the lock is set on you man," says he, as I swung the door Just Finished in Rear of Store can do this; but if you don't you to again. have to depend on your ingenuity. There is in each of these wheels a Just then I heard Jim, by name, whistle, and I guessed the watchman small hole, through which you can put a wire through the back of the lock when you change the combinawas a coming up the street. "Ah," says I, "you might speak to the watchman, if you see him, and tion. Now, if you can bore a hole tell him to keep an extra look-out tothrough the door, and pick up those wheels by ranning a wire through those holes, why you can open the door. I hope I make myself clear. I was boring that hole. The door was night." "I will," says he, and we both went to the front door. "There comes the watchman up the street," says he. "Watchman, this shilled iron; about the neatest stuff man has been fixing the bank-lock, I ever worked on. I went on steady I ever worked on. I went on steady enough; only stopped when Jim-which, as I said, wasn't his right name-whistled outside, and the watchman toddled by. By-and-by, when I'd got pretty near through, I heard Jim-so to speak-whistle again. I stopped, and pretty soon I heard footsteps outside, and I'm blowed if they didn't come right up the bank steps, and I heard a key in the lock. I was so dumbfoundered when I heard that, that you could and I want you to keep a sharp lookout to-night. He will stay here until Mr. Jennings returns." "Good night, again," says he, and we shook hands, and he went up the street. I saw Jim, so called, in the shadow on the other side of the street, as I stood on the step with the watchman. "Well," says I to the watchman, "I'll go and pick up my tools, and get ready to go." I went back into the bank, and it New Store, when I heard that, that you could hve slipped the bracelets right on me. didn't take long to throw the door open and stuff them bonds into the I picked up my lantern, and I'll be hanged if I didn't let the slide slip bag. There was some boxes lying around, and a safe as I should rather down and throw the light right on to the door, and there was the presi-dent. Instead of calling for help as have liked to have tackled, but it seemed like tempting Providence af-ter the luck we'd had. I looked at I supposed he would, he took a step inside the door, and shaded his eyes with his hand and looked at me. I A my watch, and see it was just a quar-ter-past twelve. There was an express knowed I ought to knock him down went through at half-past twelve. and cut out, but I'm blessed if I could, I was that surprised. tucked my tools in the bag on the top of the bonds, and walked out to the front door. The watchman was "Who are you?" says he.



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"Who are you?" says I, thinking that was an innocent remark as he commenced it, and a trying all the

time to collect myself. "Tm the president of the bank," says he, kinder short; "something the matter with the lock?" man. By George! the idea came to me

"Yes, sir," says I, touching my cap; "Mr. Jennings, he telegraphed this morning as the lock was out of order and he couldn't get in, and I'm come

and he couldn't get in, and I'm come on to open it for him." "I told Jennings a week ago," says he, "that he ought to get that lock fixed. Where is he?" "He's been a writing letters, and he's gone to his house to get another letter he wanted for to answer."

Well, why don't you go right on?" say he.

"I've got almost through," says I "and I didn't want to finish up and open the vault till there was some-body here." "That's very creditable to you,"

"Insts very creditable to you," says he; "a very proper sentiment, my man. You can't," he goes on, coming round by the door, "be too particular about avoiding the very suspicion of evil." "No, sir," says I, kinder modest fortable.

like. "What do you suppose is the mat-ter with the lock?" says he. "I don't rightly know yet," says I; "but I rather think it's a little wore on account of not being oiled enough. There 'ere locks ought to be oiled Destroyed a reac." sboat once a year." "Well," says he, you might as well March Sist, 1894.

on the steps. "I don't believe I'll wait for Mr. Jennings," says L "I suppose it will be all right if I give you this key." "That's all right," says the watch-

"I wouldn't go very far from the

bank," says I. "No, I won't," says he; "I'll stay

right about here all night." "Good-night," says I, and shook hands with him, and me and Jimwhich wasn't his right name, you un-derstand -took the twelve-thirty ex-press, and the best part of that job

was we heard nothing of it. It never got into to the papers.

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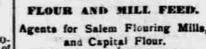
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