# The Daily

storian.

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ASTORIA, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1885.

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MUTILATING COIN.

MODE OF COUNTERFEITING.

ld Pieces Not Counterfelted So Much as Silver Coins Inter-esting Account.

Of the many different ways of swindling practiced nowadays upon the public there is probably no one thing so dangerous as counterfeiting. Of late this has been carried on quite extensively in different parts of New England, and in a number of in-stances the principals have been ar-rested with all their paraphernalia, convicted and sentenced to penal in-stitutions for various periods. Thinking that the general public would be interested in knowing how some of the "queer" is coined and circulated, a Traveller representative started out with that end in view, and had the good fortune to fall in with a Government official connected with the Secret Service Department, who has had many years' experience in ap-prehending counterfeiters. When the writer announced his mission the

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ing appetite, sound digestrong stools, a clear skin and a vigoody. TUTT'S PILLS cause no cody. TUTT'S PILLS cause no cody.

SAFE.

official readily gave his consent to be interviewed, and said:

"Counterfeiting is practiced more extensively than is generally known. In my official capacity my work has been almost entirely confined to unbeen almost entirely confined to un-earthing counterfeiting places. It is almost impossible for me to say to what extent paper money is counter-feited, but I know that coin of every denomination is counterfeited. Strange as it may seem, but one counterfeit \$20 gold piece has ever been discovered, and that was dated 1859. It was made as follows:

A GENUINE DOUBLE RAGLE Was sawed in two, one side being left thicker than the other. As much gold as possible was then scooped out of the thick side, and a mixture of platinum and some other metal substituted, to bring it up to the standard weight. It is what is known as a 'filled coin,' and is worth from \$7 to \$8. A \$10 gold piece filled in the same way is worth from \$3 to \$4.50. There are quite a number of \$10 counterfeits. The dates of those filled or counterfeited are 1841-47-49-55-61-75-79 and 80. The one considered the most dangerous is dated 1847. The first counterfeit half-eagle, or five-dollar gold piece, that the Secret Service discovered was issued in 1850, and no less than twenty-two have appeared since then, some of them being absolutely worthless, while others are worth from \$2.70 to \$4.63 each. The ones dated 1882 are the most skillfully executed counter-feits known. Gold pieces are not counterfeited so much as silver coins, for the reason that gold counterfeit coins are made from dies, and not cast. The manufacturers of the 'queer' must buy the gold, which re-quires, of course, considerable capital, and the machinery is not only expensive, but of such large proportions as to rander it liable to detection. In manufacturing counterfeit silver dol lars, most any ingenious mechanic can do that after a little experience. The recent capture and conviction of a gang of counterfeiters in New Hampshire illustrates how few things are required in

COINING THE 'QUEER.' "The articles found in the house where the counterfeiters made their spurious money, were plaster of paris molds of genuine coin, britannia, block tin, lead and a silver wash. The men engaged in manufacturing these counterfeit silver pieces stole Dollar a Day Hotel in the North West

These counterfeit siter pieces store the lead pipe and bought in the neighborhood old britannia teapots, from which they got their metal, and the block tin they purchased in Boston. The writer was permitted to a symmetal the store of the st examine twenty or twenty-five of these molds and dies for manufacturing different coins of the United States, and they were found to be fine pieces of workmanship.] Dur-Paid to the Comfort of Guests.

ing the past year new counterfeit silver pieces were discovered almost every other month. In a leather bag were about two hundred or three hundred silver dollars in the rough that is, before they had been finished up and made ready for the mar-ket. They were made in New England. A number of others that had been finished, were shown, and it was almost impossible to distinguish the difference between the genuine and the spurious coin, so finely were the latter finished. They are detected by their general appearance and their weight. The weight test is the most accurate and reliable, especially with gold coin. The Treasury has a set of maximum and minimum weights, which distinguish the weight of all coins. For example, the maximum of a twenty-dollar gold piece is 516 grains, and the minimum 513.42 grains. The difference is exactly one-half of 1 per cent., the amount

allowed by law. A GREAT DEAL OF COIN Becomes light from natural causes and when they come into the hands of the National Treasury they are sent to the mint and recoined, the Government bearing the loss. As a general thing nothing smaller than a ten-dollar gold piece is ever filled, though the smaller coins are plugged, which is, perhaps, the most common. A new process, however, has taken the place of plugging, to a great extent, and is called 'sweating.' Some photographers are credited with doing this kind of thing. The modus operandi of this new process is to take a number of gold or silver pieces and suspend them in some acid for a few moments and then withdraw them. By using fresh coin a considerable Government bearing the loss. As a

quantity of metal is obtained without reducing the weight of the piece to any great extent, and they are then passed off again on the public. Sometimes as much as fifty cents in value is taken from a \$5 gold piece, and as much as eighty cents has been known to have been taken from a double eagle. Another way of tampering with double eagles is to remove their rough edges and remill them. Between fifty and eighty cents can be obtained in this way from a single coin, and the difference is not perceptible to the naked eye."—[Boston Traveller.

#### A Nobib Beed.

There was a crowded temperance lecture at Marysville the other day, and the audience was very much affected at the speaker's pathetic account of how a faithful wife had borne the abuse and ill-treatment of a drunken brute for years, and had reclaimed him on her death-bed. As the audience was viping its eves and reclaimed him on her death-bed. As
the audience was wiping its eyes and
sniffling vigorously, a sad-faced man
in a fatigued looking ulster, arose in
the center of the hall, and said in a
melancholy tone:

"The incident related by the talented speaker is certainly very interesting, but a case recently came
under my notice that illustrates even
in a greater degree the heroism and

in a greater degree the heroism and self-sacrifice on the part of woman-

noble woman!"
"Will the gentleman oblige by re-lating his experience?" urged the

lating his experience?" urged the lecturer.

"Well, I am not used to public speaking," observed the thin man, "but I will do my best."

"Go on, go on," shouted the sympathetic listeners.

"The episode to which I refer," said the man with the called-in overcoat, "relates to the heroic act of Mrs. Maria K. Diffenheimer, of Windy Gulch, Wyoming. Learning that a lonely widow woman living about fifteen miles out in the forest, was stricken down by the fell hand of disease, she resolved, although the snow was twenty-seven feet deep on the ground, and a fearful storm raged at the time, to take to the poor creature in her hour of need, the only succor that would assuage her agony."

agony."
"God bless her!" sobbed severa "Strong men—miners, hunters— inured to exposure and hardship shrank from accompanying her; no one volunteered. It was almost cer

one volunteered. A was almost cer-tain death to brave the trackless for-est on that bitter night; but the noble woman never faltered. There was a precious human life hanging in the balance, and she would go alone."

"What mas would have done so?"
cried one of the female vice-presi-"For two days and three nights

that devoted woman toiled on through the blinding tempest. With both feet and one hand frozen, she tottered through the gigantic snow drifts, un-til at length she managed to crawl to the cabin of the lonely invalid. had barely strength left, as she fell exhausted upon the floor, to hand to the yet lingering sufferer the price-less boon she had brought."
"And what was it?" shouted the

entire audience, as the emotion-choked narrator paused to dash away

a tear.

"It was, my friends," said the thin man, reaching under his seat for a valise—"it was a box of Skaggs' Oriental Cathartic Pills" (and he scattered a handful of circulars) "which I would now like to furnish at the low price of two you all with, at the low price of two bits per box. None genuine without the maker's name upon the—"

As his remains were not called for in three days, he was buried at the expense of the corporation.—[Derrick Dodd, in the San Franciscan. Scott's Emulsion of Pure

od Liver Oil with Hypophosphites. As a cure for Marasmus in Children WM. FARR, of Brooklyn, L. I., says "On the recommendation of my physician, Dr. Wm. Vyse, I have given my boy who was dangerously iti of Marasmus, your Emulsion, with excellent effect, and he is at present as hale and hearthy as can be wished."

A gentleman who did not trust to his memory, wrote in his memoran-dum book, "Must be married when

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