

Curious Money-Making Schemes.

To be in the commission business is considered an honorable calling, but it has come to pass that there are a class of commission men who are not only a nuisance to their employers, but they are an ulcer on the nose of honest dealing, quite offensive.

"It happens almost every week," said a well-known butcher, "that I am approached by stewards either of private families, hotels, or steamboats, who give me to understand that for a quiet 'tip' once in a while they will turn their employer's trade to my market."

"What do you do?"
"If I think the trade is worth having I give the fee. Why not? Others do it, and the only way I can fight 'em is with their own weapons. Why, only the other day I had the meat cook in one of the largest and most fashionable boarding-houses in the city tell me that if I would give her five per cent. commission she'd bring me the trade of the house, which probably amounts to \$20 or \$25 a week."

"And you didn't take the bid?"
"No; because I have reason to know that she couldn't fill the contract."

The reporter's next visit was to one of the leading grocery stores in the city, and when the object of his visit was made known the proprietor remarked: "Yes, I hear of such things once in awhile. In fact, I kicked a great mealy-mouthed man out of my store one day last winter who had informed me that unless I did the square thing with him he would take his employer's trade to another store. I asked him what he thought would be square, and he replied that I ought to furnish him with what groceries and canned goods would be used by his family."

"That was modest enough."
"Yes, that was cheap, but I didn't like the cheek of the fellow. Those cases are rare, but I'll tell you a system not so rare. Cooks and stewards often make bargains with butchers and grocers through the drivers of the delivery carts and wagons. That's common, and I've even heard where the drivers make quite a little commission in this way."

Next a visit was made to a prosperous carriage builder and repairer, who didn't hesitate to say that coachmen and hostlers tapped him for tips. "Only this afternoon a hostler came in and asked me for fifty cents. I knew that he wanted it to get a drink, but I gave it to him without a question, because I know he has the placing of the horseshoeing of a man who owns three horses."

"How about coachmen?"
"Well, a little over a year ago I sold a carriage to a gentleman and got \$425 for it. True, I made the sale somewhat through the influence of the coachman, and I would have been willing to pay him a slight commission."

"What did he demand?"
"He called around and said he wanted \$25. I offered him \$10, and he appeared insulted. Then I got mad, words followed, and the meeting ended by my saying I would smash his nose."

"Served him right."
"But that didn't end it. About a month later the man who bought the carriage came around and hinted that I had cheated him; that the wheels wouldn't track, and that it pulled a great deal harder than when he first bought it. I asked him to bring the buggy around to the shop, and when he did so I took the wheels off and found that the axletree had been wrenched, and by main force, so that the wheel did not set squarely on it. In this way friction had ground the axletree just where the box hits the shoulder."

"How do you know that it was done by main force?"
"Because, suspecting that, I told the employer of the demand the coachman had made on me, and he taxed the fellow with it, at the same time charging him with having bent the axle. Then the man confessed. That's how I know."—*Detroit Free Press.*

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