HIS WEDDING JOURNEY

Mr. Quivey was about to be married. His fiancee living in a city 300 miles away, he had arranged to start the day before the wedding, to be met by the bridal party at the stacion and go from there to the church. This was an unusual proceeding, but it was the best Mr. Quivey could do under the circumstances. His business engagements and the departure and arrival of trains rendered any other arrangement impracticable.

Mr. Quivey took a train at 11 p. m. due to arrive at his destination at 11 a. m. Dreading the hours between daylight and his expected arrival, alone on a train and about to make the most important step in his life, he told the porter of the sleeper to let him sleep as long as he possibly could. He would even then have plenty of time to get into his wedding clothes, which he carried in a suit case, and be ready to meet the party at the station.

The porter let him sleep. Indeed, Mr. Quivey, inistaking the hour, lay in his berth, trying to get another nap, till 10 o'clock. Then the porter stuck his head between the curtains and in an agitated voice said:

"It's time to raise, sah."
"What o'clock is it?"

"Ten, sah."

"Good gracious!" And Mr. Quivey

"Somepen's happened, sah," said the

"What?" Mr. Quivey looked up in terror. He was in a state of mind to consider even the loss of his gloves a calamity.

"The young man opposite tuk yo' shoes, sah."

"Heavens! It's the only pair I have with me."

"He got out an hou ago and lef" notten but a pa'r o' wo'n out shoes too little fo' anybody but a boy."
"Porter, you must get me a pair

from some of the passengers."
"All de passengers lef de sleeper,

sah, 'cept a few."

Quivey turned pale. "How about the

other cars?" he asked.
"Way passengers don't have extry
pa'r shoes."

Mr. Quivey looked at his watch. It was 10:15. "Are we on time?" he asked, hoping they were not.

"Yes, sah." We are accustomed to consider highway robbery a very wicked thing. But there are temptations that are irresistible, and even a gentleman of respectability under distressing circumstances may be tempted beyond his sense of honesty or fear of the law. One passenger still lay in his berth, a pair of well shined shoes waiting for him beside it, about the size Mr. Quivey required. They were such respectable looking shoes that he despaired of getting them honestly for money. The only way was to steal them, and once on his feet Mr. Quivey felt capable, under the circumstances, of tying them on by strings of lies. If lies would not avail, was not possession nine-tenths of the law?

Mr. Quivey stealthily approached the shoes, which every moment looked more precious, and was about to grasp them when the car iurched and his hand went under the pillow of the sleeping owner. Suddenly he thought there must have been a collision, for he saw innumerable stars. There had been a collision. The fist of the passenger had come in contact with his left eye, and a rainbow eye, not so brilliant, it is true, as his stockings, was sure to be the result. The passenger at the same time cried justily:

"Thief! Hey! Porter! Conductor!" The shouting awakened the remaining passengers, who stuck their heads out between the curtains while the man who owned the shoes called on the porter to go for the conductor of the train and request him to telegraph the police to be ready to arrest Mr. Quivey on arrival, averring that the robber's hand was under his pillow and about to grasp his watch when he saved it by a well directed blow. The conductor came and, seeing that Mr. Quivey was a gentleman and in a miserable plight, declined to interfere. But unfortunately the train was obliged to stop at a way station for water, and the owner of the shoes, who was an ugly fellow, sent the telegram himself.

As the train approached the terminal Mr. Quivey, ignorant of the fact that he was to be arrested on arrival, bemoaned his fate at having to meet the wedding party in striped socks. He would have welcomed an arrest if it would have solved the difficulty. It happened that the police were looking for a notorious criminal, and they were quite sure the telegram indicated that they would find him on the train. In order that Mr. Quivey might not escape they jumped on as the train was rolling into the station and proceeded to take the unfortunate Quivey into custody.

The wedding party stood on the platform, the men in light trousers, slik hats and frock coats, each wearing a big boutonniere in the buttonhole. The bride and her attendant ladies were in day costume. Lining up before the sleeper, they waited the groom's coming. The men prepared to doff their hats, the women to shake their tiny lace handkerchiefs. Presently out came Mr. Quivey between two policemen, his left eye yellow and blue, both feet all colors.

There was a hush, then a laugh in which all but the bride joined. She,

poor thing, wept.

Mr. Quivey's accuser, taking in the situation, withdrew his charge, the police were satisfied, and Mr. Quivey

was hustled into a carriage.

The wedding was twenty minutes
late.

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ALEX MARTIN, JR., Cashier.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of July, 1906.

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