

Set. ate read. room

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THIEVES IN SOCIETY.

STORIES TOLD BY NONBELIEVERS IN KLEPTOMANIA.

Light Fingers in the Dressing Rooms of Fashionable Entertainers—Unfair Exchanges Which May Be Called Robbery. Old Things For New.

"Oh, give it any name you like—borrowing other people's belongings and failing ever to return them, mistaken identity as to special possessions or kleptomania, but I call it thieving, and something ought to be done about it."

This is what the blond woman in the very smart bonnet said to her nearest neighbor in blue, whereupon every other woman near the tea table cut short her conversation and held her cup in midair to hear what the discussion would bring forth.

"That I do," went on the blond emphatically, "and I've been stolen from repeatedly. No, my dear, I won't take a word of it back, and I am not speaking hastily. In every instance it was a plain case of theft, and I've not up to date recovered a single belonging. Why, of course if it had been a grimy fingered sneak thief, or a too enterprising housemaid, I most naturally would have gone to the police and detectives for protection and assistance, but it is not quite so easy to have an individual who wears the best French gloves, whose bonnets come from an expensive importer and who sometimes asks you to share her opera box, receive at her teas or take a lift home in her brougham, arrested and searched on suspicion."

"Well, I never!" remarked the woman in blue.

"Oh, that's just because you are a dear, unsophisticated little creature, and out in your western town they don't do such things. The temptations are not so great, but I can assure you that here in our big cities, at regular intervals, polite kleptomania is simply rampant, and hardly a big function breaks up that half the women don't come away quite savage over the loss of some pretty and especially prized belonging." Evidently the blond was right, for all the other women nodded assent, and the hostess was apparently breathless to tell of some personal grievance on this score, when the first speaker broke in again:

"You see," she elaborated, "we used to think it might have been the servants' fault, or an honest error, when we found our possessions exchanged for others less valuable or simply disappearing, until two or three times the offenders were caught right in the act, and then came the awfully dismal consciousness that really no one could be trusted."

"My first experience was with a very costly lace fan I carried to a dinner. I held on to it most affectionately throughout the evening, until some half dozen of us went up to the hostess' bedroom for our wraps. There I laid it, with my vinaigrette and fan, on the dressing table, and when I turned to get them again the fan was gone. I protested, the maid searched, but nothing came of it, and broken heartedly I went down, bewailing my loss to a sympathizing feminine companion. We went out to our respective carriages together, but as the hostess opened the hall door a puff of wind blew her long cloak aside, and there I saw, snug in its pocket, my precious fan. Well, the next day I wrote

her very frankly, asking for its return, suggesting, of course, she had taken it by mistake, and home it came. But we have never spoken since.

"That taught me to look for higher offenders than maids in dressing rooms, who are usually accused of making way with all wraps, umbrellas, overshoes and what not that may be missing."

"Ah, that is not my trouble," chimed in a debutante across the tea table. "The favorite plan is now to exchange bad for good things. I am growing almost philosophical over the deplorable shabbiness of my wardrobe from this constant swapping. Last week, on coming up late to the dressing room from a dance, I found in place of my brand new green suede carriage overshoes two overlarge, badly worn ones of rusty black velvet and my lace head scarf exchanged for a frayed one of soiled white chiffon. Naturally cross and sleepy, I fell on the tired maid, who wept and denied, but looked as if she could tell a tale.

"Only to make a test case of it I rolled my new French galoches in my mackintosh, laid my card on top and put them in a safe corner of the dressing room of a house where I went to luncheon the other day. But it was of no avail. The galoches had been metamorphosed into a pair of muddy rubbers with holes in them when I went back, and I didn't grumble, since my pretty umbrella was left. The work of the spoiler goes on in the cloakrooms when big wedding receptions, teas, musicales and private balls are in progress.

"At one of the big dances of the season the hostess simply ordered her maid to issue checks for every woman's wrap, and, charming to relate, not so much as a hairpin was lost, for at her daughter's wedding reception, only a week before, three muffs got away somehow without their rightful owners, and the possessor of a \$300 sable hand warmer found a scrubby old astrakhan one in its place.

"That is where the fashionable kleptomaniacs save their consciences by an exchange, you see, for rarely is anything taken that some inferior article is not put in its place, and very rarely are they caught with them. Their position in society is one of protection, and their victims are too timid or proud to trace a clew, which too often leads right to

the door of their best friends or some woman who is aiding materially in helping them along in society."—Millinet Arrowpoint in Chicago Record.

Sandals were more fashionable among the Egyptians than among the Hebrews. They were worn by women of the highest rank, for we read of the sandals with long, turn up points which a beautiful queen habitually wore when she was at home.

JEWELRY CONCEITS.

In London and Paris everything Etruscan is in vogue.

With the old fashioned stones recalled by jewelers is the moonstone.

Our women are adopting the fashion set abroad of wearing gem set bracelets around the knot of hair.

Jeweled embroidery employs not only imitation jewels, but in some cases real brilliants are used.

It is rumored from foreign fashion centers that earrings of the old time type are coming back to us.

For the hair are many new rayed stars, and besides tiaras there are high shaped combs and glittering aigrets.

Eminently ornamented are my lady's dress buttons, which may be of tortoise shell, amber, gold, Russian enamel or painted china in Louis XV and XVI styles.—Jewelers' Circular.

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THE TATTLER.

Mrs. Sarah J. Brown, who died in Bloomsburg, Pa., recently, left all her fortune of \$60,000 to Methodist institutions.

Mrs. George Crocker of New York is a progressive society woman, who will be entertained during the summer by the Countess of Essex.

Miss Grace Hubbard of Iowa is a civil engineer. She was given the contract by the United States government survey for the maps of Montana.

Mrs. Anna Bowman Dodd, who has written such delightful books on English cathedral towns, is a woman of great personal charm and magnetism.

Miss Mary E. Corbett and Miss Helen J. Wescott have been admitted in the Suffolk supreme court as qualified attorneys and counsellors at law for the courts of Massachusetts.

It is announced that St. Andrew's university, Scotland, will soon confer the degree of LL. D. on Miss Sellers, the translator and editor of several books on Greek art and archaeology.

Princess Wewha, who died recently in Zuni, N. M., was one of the finest pottery makers in the country. Her sacred and domestic vessels are in almost every museum in the civilized world.

It is said that Mme. Sarah Bernhardt has never used wine or other intoxicants, confining her beverages mostly to milk and water, and that she attributes largely to this the remarkable preservation of her powers.

Louise Michel is well advanced in age and not particularly prepossessing. She was carefully educated as a girl, and might have become famous as a pianist. Her life of recent years has been one of unrelenting poverty.

Miss Helen Hinsdale, a daughter of Professor Hinsdale of the University of Michigan, upon whom the University of Göttingen recently conferred the degree of Ph. D., is the first woman to be so honored by that institution.

The once famous Russian actress, Mme. Orlov, who is 95 years old, recently made her appearance on the stage at Ostakow for the benefit of a charitable institution. She was the actress who first played Ophelia and Lady Macbeth in the Russian language.

Miss Mason, sister of Canon Mason, has started an Anglican teaching sisterhood in Kensington. Miss Mason spent some time in France studying the methods adopted in French schools. The sisters wear a gray habit, this being considered to have a more cheerful effect on children than black.

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are the leaders.

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THE BARCAIN CORNER,

How He Meant to Settle It.
Judge Murphy was trying a case in San Rafael once. It was a murder case and was bitterly contested. It had not proceeded very far before the attorneys got to loggerheads. The attorney for the defense did his best to imitate the attorney for the prosecution, and the prosecuting attorney retaliated with all his might. Finally matters got to such a pitch that the attorney for the prosecution turned upon his opponent and called him down in open court. Judge Murphy interrupted, saying:

"Gentlemen, gentlemen, this won't do. This sort of thing is very disrespectful to the court. This is no place for such exhibitions. If you gentlemen have any differences to settle, settle them out of court."

The attorney for the defense immediately rose and said, "We have no differences, if your honor please."

"If your honor please," said the prosecuting attorney, "I wish to say that we have differences. And I wish to give notice that when court adjourns I intend to crack that man's head over there."

Judge Murphy exploded. "How dare you, sir! How dare you! This is the grossest contempt of court. How dare you come here and attempt to terrify counsel! I fine you \$50 sir—\$50."

The attorney replied: "That is rather hard on me, if your honor please. Your honor distinctly suggested that I should settle my differences with this man out of court, and I gave notice of my intention to do so. That was all. I have the highest respect and appreciation of your honor's judgment in such matters, and I felt proud to accept your honor's advice."

Judge Murphy was not proof against such subtle flattery, and the fine was promptly remitted.—San Francisco Bulletin.

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NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of the Charlottetown Gas Light Company will take place at the Gas Works, on Tuesday, the 11th day of May, 1897, at the hour of eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of electing directors and the general transaction of business.

LEMUEL MCKAY,
Secretary.

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