

## WOMEN AS THIEVES.

A QUESTION NOW IN THE REALM OF SCIENTIFIC DISCUSSION.

Women Steal Much Less Frequently Than Men Do—Differences in the Impulses Which Actuate the Two—Frequently the Woman Steals Under a Man's Influence.

The British Medical Journal affirms that cases of stealing by women who are more or less kleptomaniacs have become of late so numerous and so distressing that it might be expedient to employ special deterrents, such as visible policemen in the shops which principally invite this kind of semi-deliberate action. Our contemporary, after reflection, however, dismisses this suggestion as impracticable, the shopkeeper who resorted to it being nearly certain to lose all custom, and we rather doubt, from the police records, whether the offense is increasing as much as the writer fancies. Every form of interesting crime seems to increase nowadays because it is more commented on. Women of a certain kind have always been addicted to shoplifting, and their inclination has always attracted attention, partly from its extreme inconvenience to shopkeepers, whose very business compels them to expose their goods to this risk, and partly, we imagine, because men are so accustomed to trust in the honesty of women that this particular aberration from their usual habits excites a sense of surprise. Women have much less opportunity of stealing than men, as they could hardly take to burglary, highway robbery or the work of the footpad, women, we notice, being rarely accused even of snatching jewels or purses from other women, though they can approach them so closely. They are, besides, we feel sure, more honest. They feel the temptation of money less and the sense of its importance and of their own trustworthiness in regard to it much more.

That is the universal opinion of the continent, where women are implicitly trusted with the till, and we notice that the practice is spreading here, so that charge of the cash receipts of shops is becoming one of the most frequent of female employments. If they would get up their arithmetic a little more perfectly and be a little less irritable when overhauled—men under such circumstances display a silent obstinacy rather than irritation—they might obtain a monopoly of this sort of work, greatly to their own relief, for the occupation suits them, and to that of the men, who suffer both in health and spirits from confinement in little glass boxes where they can hardly stretch themselves and from an occupation which, though most respectable, allows no scope for energy or for the exertion of physical strength.

There are bold female swindlers, but they generally swindle by using their capacity for histrionics. The charges of embezzlement alleged against women are extraordinarily few, while their honesty as servants, when they must often be grievously tempted, is really marvelous. The ordinary well-to-do housemistress takes no more precautions against her maids' thieving propensities than against her daughter's, and if she is a shrew dilates upon every fault possible except this one. Nine times out of ten when a maid steals it is under the influence of some man outside, a remark which experienced policemen say is true even of the street girls, who are so frequently charged with the offense. Women, in fact, steal much less frequently than men do.

The fact, as contrasted with the other fact mentioned by our medical contemporary—viz, the addition of some women to shoplifting—suggests an inquiry of some intellectual interest. Is it possible that the animal trend, as the lawyers call it, the actual motive for stealing, differs in the sexes in kind as well as in degree? We have an idea that this may be true and that the woman's desire to thrive is excited by a wish to possess the visible article stolen, while the man's is aroused by a craving for the pleasure or the idleness which the article stolen will purchase. He seeks money, in fact, while she seeks things. Only an old and experienced resolver of stolen goods could answer the

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question with any exactness as regards the thieving classes, but among the educated this is almost certainly the case.

Educated men embezzle, forge and swindle often enough, and indeed it takes some education to be successful in those lines of villainy, but they are rarely convicted of shoplifting, while that is the special offense of educated women who take to this description of crime. The latter very rarely forge, which is remarkable, for, being less controlled by commercial opinion, they undoubtedly attach less opprobrium to this form of crime than men do, while they are quite as competent to commit forgeries, but they take things out of shops, the reason being that the things attract them more than the abstract wish for money does. We do not mean that they are influenced by kleptomania more than men are. There is such an impulse, and it is exceedingly strong in both sexes, as all men know who are familiar with ships, barracks, clubs or public schools, but it is not ungovernable—the belts of the soldiers govern it very effectually—and it is constantly pleaded where it does not exist. True madness which takes that form, though it exists, is rare and is usually accompanied by other recognizable signs.

But we fancy that with some women there is a distinct pleasure in acquiring things without paying for them, in part independent of their money value, to which there is nothing corresponding in the minds of males. There is something of the spirit of adventure in the effort as well as greed and something, too, of that overweening and indeed inexplicable idea of their own claim to the portable property they want, which is so frequently apparent even in women who are genuinely respectable.—London Standard.

#### He Was English.

At a luncheon the girl with yellow hair and expressive eyes was asked to tell a story. Without a moment's hesitation, lifting her Irish eyes to the only man present and drooping them with the proper effect, she prefaced one thus: "I have told this simple tale to a lot of Englishmen, and it fell flat. Therefore you may know the irresistibility of its mirth"—and then she told a highly amusing incident. After the applause had subsided the yellow haired recounter lifted her eyes and timidly looked at the only man present. Every one noticed that she turned pale and her smile vanished. Then every one looked at the only man. They understood. He is an Englishman.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

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My love is like—is like a rose  
Kissed by the morning dew,  
Yet never rose brief summer knows  
So fair, my love, as you.  
And when vile winter wits the leaf  
And the pink petals come to grief,  
Stay, love, and shame the rose.

My love hath bosom like the snow,  
Less cold and doubly fair.  
But when earth's wintry fleece must go,  
When spring breathes in the air  
And flowers spring to bless the sight,  
Love rules the heart with added might.  
Stay, love, and shame the snow.

My love's dark eye shines like a star  
When the fade day has fled.  
Aye, fairer far, thy avatar  
Brings blessings on my head.  
The star, that distant bides, is wise  
To shrink from rivaling thy eyes.  
Stay, love, and shame the star.  
—J. L. Heaton in "The Quilting Doe."

### A SMOKESTACK PROBLEM.

Many Schemes That Failed Before the High Chimney Was Painted.

At the cement works on the west shore of Hempstead harbor there is a smokestack 123 feet high and 4 feet in diameter which has long been a painting problem. The manager thought the ad come to dispose of the job. Two of the foremen, the shoveler and a young carpenter set their wits to work to contrive a way of getting a rope up through the pipe's interior and down on the outside so that an apparatus could be rigged to hoist the painter.

One of the Italians suggested letting a pigeon loose to fly up inside of the stack, but this solved only half the problem. Another workman suggested a small balloon. The first one to formulate what seemed a feasible plan was the head foreman, who fastened 10 feet of small brass chain to a rocket, and to that a cord, and then sent them skylarking through the pipe. As a spectacle it was fine, but the heat from the powder burned off the chain, and the string was left at its starting point. Then the younger foreman tried. He had made a kite having two strings, one of which went through a pulley attached near the kite, which had a small iron weight fastened to its upper end, the intention being to fly the kite until it was directly over the smokestack, and then lower the weight down into the interior.

The kite worked beautifully until it was time for it to be useful, when it turned a somersault, tangling itself in the pulley tackle, and the whole thing came to grief. Then the carpenter began to talk. He, too, remembered boyish pastimes and believed they could be turned to account. His idea was to ascend the cable tower, 90 feet distant and 130 feet high, and from this position throw into the smokestack a weight tied to a string. The wind was blowing a gale, but this did not discourage the man, and he, with the two foremen, ascended the tower for performance No. 3.

To throw a two pound weight fastened to a string was no easy matter, and it was exceedingly difficult to keep a foothold on the tower. After three trials, however, the weight fell as planned, save that the string broke. Later the carpenter tried again, casting the weight four times before it entered the stack.

When the rigging to hoist the painter was in order, there was a call for volunteers, but only one man responded. He was the shoveler engineer, Will Snyder, from Chicago. He has had an experience in work in high places, for whenever the steel cable, 140 feet above the ground, needs tarring Snyder gets a paint pot, swings himself astride the framework of the traveler and paints the cable as the traveler goes back and forth on its regular business.

Several of the men employed at the cement works seem to be born acrobats, and they work far up in the air as easily as on the ground, so that when repairs are needed on the towers or cables and cool, level headed men must be had there has never been any necessity to go outside of the regular force.—New York Sun.

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