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THE FIRST PICKPOCKETS

SOFT TOUCH FELT BY TAR HEELS

Bryan's Train, on His First Visit to North Carolina, More Than Ten Years Ago, Brought Them—Smooth Men and Women With Doffed Hats—First This State Rich and Happy People Were Taken Unawares and Robbed Like Innocents—A Wounded Crook Tells of His Experiences in the Old North State—He Had a Good Time "Down Home," Where the Long Leaf Pines Grow.

One cold winter morning, between midnight and day, while waiting for a belated train, in a prosperous North Carolina city, I accompanied a young physician to the charity ward of a hospital to see a tramp, who had been injured in a railroad wreck. I had plenty of time, liked the doctor, who had been a college mate of mine, and relished the idea of calling on the unfortunate fellow.

On the way out the doctor said: "This is a most interesting chap. He is well educated, has more than ordinary sense and his use of English seems remarkable to me for a man of his position; if he is in fine mood to-night we shall get him going and hear what he has to say."

The hobo, or tramp, who travels from Canada to Mexico and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, is always interesting. He is a person not generally appreciated; he gets more out of life than one would imagine. Having had considerable experience with such people I was delighted at the prospect of seeing the patient of my friend.

This story could not have been written had things not turned out as they did. The tramp, John Caruso, he called himself, recovered from the wound but died soon after from pneumonia. The courts of the land can not go beyond the judgment of the Almighty. Therefore, John Caruso is not in any danger of being indicted by a grand jury.

HAD SEEN THE FACE BEFORE.
"Where have I seen that face before?" said I to myself, that night, when I entered the room at the hospital.
"John, where did I ever see you?" I asked.
"I do not know, but your face seems familiar to me. Where do you live?"
"In Charlotte."

That trip. We got anywhere from \$5 to \$1,000 a clip. We had rich pickings that trip." "That is interesting," I declared. "Yes, and you must not give me away, for the man-chasers might run me in for some of those old tricks. I like the doctor here and I take it that you are a friend or he would not have brought you here."

"Yes. You may rest assured that I will tell nothing to hurt you." "Gee, but that was a harvest time for the light-fingered gang. We had eleven in the crew that worked Charlotte, and two of them were women."

"Yes, and you robbed many people that week. A month after you left town, seventy pocket books were found in one pile in a wheat field near Latta Park."

"That is where the races were held?" "Yes."

"We skinned the boys going and coming on the street cars. We hit one great fat duffer for \$200, just as he was landing from a car. It was just like picking up gold in the streets."

"We paid North Carolina several visits. We followed the Bryan train from Asheville to Raleigh, touching the innocents at every station along the way. You will recall the fables everywhere. We were looking for just such opportunities."

"We attended all of your great days. Fairs, historical and political celebrations were fine for us. You people did not suspect us until we had reaped them of their hard earned cash. He had diamond specialists in our party. I recall the day at Charlotte. One of our gang became so bold that he stood up in a crowd and tried to relieve a tall, long-legged guy of a \$400 stud pin and the fellow caught on, fastened the crook by the wrist and held him for the police officers. The next morning I was pinched."

This came back to me. If Jim Cunningham, an Irish policeman, could return to this world and tell of that time the story would make interesting reading. Two pickpockets were arraigned before the mayor of the city. The court room was packed for the trial. The evidence, which was conclusive, all in, the mayor asked: "Have these men any money, chief?"

"No sir. We searched them well." "Well, I will put them under \$100 bond each. That will hold them until court."

goes after his neighbor's cows when they get in the corn. I shall never forget a little barroom stand that myself and three other crooks did. A party of swells were standing in the saloon, drinking cock tails. Jimmie, the rube of our party, staggered in and started a row with the chaps in long tailed coats. We had placed ourselves about the room at convenient points so that we could get in the game when Jimmie got it going. Jimmie was an artist. He looked as drunk as a dry-town bum all the time and could be as mean as John L. That day he reeled right up against one of the stove-pipe hat brigade but did not create any impression. But he was there to stay. Being there to start a row he turned around and plunged right through the bunch, stepping on toes and hitting to the right and left with his hands, making everybody stand about. One of the swells struck back—just what Jimmie wanted—and the fight was on Jimmie was hammering the darling chap pretty lively when three or four of his companions piled in. When the fight became general the three recruits, rushed in and took a hand. The swells and the barkeeps joined forces and made it lively for Jimmie, finally kicking him out of the place. He retired gracefully and met his hour later and counted our cash: out of the haul we got \$625. I think the aristocrats were too proud to cheap but they did not have enough money left to pay for their drinks. While Jimmie fought we cleaned up the cash.

"That was one of our games—start a fight and then get the long green while the boys went at it like monkeys in a forest."

"But the people got onto us. We left Winston, and went to Greensboro, touching innocents as we went."

"On the train, between Greensboro and Burlington, we came near putting our feet into it right. We decided to rob the train—pick the pockets of the passengers—and to get the opportunity we had to have a fight. Jimmie was to start it with the conductor. We were distributed about the car, ready for the mix-up, and Jimmie had the conductor going, but when he rose from his seat to give the first lick some chap in the rear end yelled: "There's that jamaed rascal that started that fight in the Winston saloon and robbed us!"

"Jimmie heard the cry and dropped back in his seat, leaned over on the bench and made out to be asleep. We were quiet until the train stopped at Burlington and then all got off. Jimmie went to the hotel and remained there for hours. We bent about the town taking a watch now and then to keep our hands in. We robbed a night watchman just for meanness."

There are some who will recall the incidents referred to here. Old Jim belonged to the same gang. He worked about Greensboro. Pickpockets were plentiful in North Carolina that year.

OUT OF RIGHT.
"Out of sight, out of mind," is an old saying which applies with peculiar force to a sore burn or wound that's been treated with Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It's out of sight, out of mind and out of existence. Price, 50c, and exhibitors' display under its healing influence. Guaranteed by W. L. Hand & Co., druggists.

The Question Box

E. P. H.—What State has the greatest railroad mileage? (2) Name in order the three States that produce the largest number of pounds of tobacco? (3) Name in their order the three States which produce the largest crops of wool? (4) Name in their order the five largest cotton-producing States?

A.—Texas. (2) Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia. (3) Montana, Wyoming, Idaho. (4) Texas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina.

M. S.—Please print a recipe for tanning deer and woodchuck hides for making strings? (2) What is the horoscope of one born April 21?

A.—I am not informed as to oil tanning. But here is a good recipe for tanning deer and woodchuck hides for making strings, etc.: Remove the useless part and soak the skin soft, then remove the flesh substances and soak in warm water for an hour. Then mix an ounce of vitriol, a pint of salt and three quarts of milk. Dip the skin in warm rain water having sufficient saleratus in it to make it rather strong, and work and squeeze it well a few minutes, then wring dry as convenient and put it into the vitriol mixture for fifty minutes, stirring it all the time. Then wring out and soak in water and finally dry and work until soft. (2) A good thinker and leader, orderly and systematic.

X. Y. Z.—I rented part of my farm on a cash basis; a merchant sold the renter a quantity of fertilizer on credit and without asking me to stand good for payment. The renter raised just enough crop to pay the rent. The merchant now claims he can make me pay for the fertilizer. Can he do it? Can he take any part of the crop before my rent is paid?

A.—As you put it, you are in no way bound to pay the renter's debt. If the renter has no attachable property other than the crop, the first to sue will have the best chance of getting his money, I suppose. You have no claim on the crop unless the court grants it.

W. G. K.—What is the cause and what the remedy for a bump on a horse's face, midway between eyes and nose; it has been enlarged more than a year, and is running a little now?

A.—Can some reader suggest an answer?
G. W. F.—When and by whom was the poem of Heloise written?
A.—It was written by a German poet, Hebel, in 1819. The romance of Abelard and Heloise, however, is nearly a thousand years old. Abelard was a Parisian physician who lived in the eleventh century. Heloise was his wife by a secret marriage, which she denied in order that Abelard might enter the priesthood. The legend of their love was sung by the old troubadours.

mer. There are amusements of various sorts during the winter months, concerts being given at the larger hotels and on theaters, and there are theatres, skating rinks and bowling alleys.

A. D.—What gives the fleur-de-lis its eminence among flowers?
A.—It is not the flower, but the emblem of the kings of France that gives the fleur-de-lis its prominence. It was adopted as such about the year 1280. Many fanciful explanations are given for its adoption, but none are authoritative. It is maintained by some that it represents a lily, while others maintain that it represents the head of a lance.

H. M.—What is the surest method of getting a letter to the French government?
A.—Perhaps the surest way would be to send it, unsealed, to the American ambassador at Paris, with a request that he deliver it to the proper official.

S. C. A.—Is the English language spoken most correctly in Dublin or Boston?
A.—Comparison would not be fair, as the standard differs. Englishmen think the language as we speak it is incorrect. Among the educated people of Dublin the language spoken probably adheres more closely to the English of England than does that spoken in Boston.

L.—Is Joel Chandler Harris living, and an editor of The Atlanta Constitution? Will you please state any items of interest in his life?
A.—Mr. Harris was born at Eatonton, Ga., Dec. 8, 1848, served an apprenticeship to the printer's trade and for twenty-five years down to 1901, was on the editorial staff of The Constitution. He is best known as the author of books on negro folk lore. He is now editor of Uncle Remus Magazine, and resides at 212 Gordon avenue, Atlanta.

E. R. H.—We do not retain addresses of questioners.
Mrs. L. L. W.—Please print something about Hall Caine, the author?
A.—Thomas Henry Hall Caine was born May 14, 1853, of Manx and Cumberland parentage. He was brought up as an architect, which he never practiced, though he wrote for building papers. Becoming a journalist he was for six years a leader writer on The Liverpool Mercury. He began his literary career in London in 1882, writing for The Athenaeum, Academy, etc. The same year he began writing books, some of which have been dramatized. He is a member of the National Whitefriars, Maccabean and Authors clubs in London, and resides at Greeba Castle, Isle of Man.

G. G. M.—Your dime is worth eleven cents.
F. E. B.—Is Britannia metal mined?
A.—It is an alloy of tin, antimony and copper, varying in composition, but generally containing from 80 to 90 per cent of tin. It is used for the manufacture of many articles for the table.

Hattie.—How are sweet pickles made?
A.—The standard for all sweet pickles, I think, is three and a half

pounds of sugar, one pint of vinegar and seven pounds of fruit. Spicing is varied to suit the taste, and a tiny bit of alum is added to keep the fruit firm.

P. W. R.—What is the birthstone and horoscope of one born June 8th?
A.—The birthstone for June is the moss agate. Restless, social, looking for change and excitement, but not ambitious.

L. L.—Please print recipe for oyster cocktail?
A.—A few dashes of lemon juice in a tumbler, a dash of tabasco sauce, a teaspoonful of vinegar, few dashes tomato catsup, six Blue Point oysters with all their liquor; season to taste with salt and pepper. Mix and serve with spoon in the glass.

Drummer.—Is there a tax on commercial travelers in the Province of Quebec?
A.—Not now. It was abolished last spring.

B. M. N.—What is the eastern boundary of Egypt now?
A.—The Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden to the head of the Red Sea arm of the sea, and hence a straight line almost parallel with the Gulf of Suez to the shore of the Mediterranean Sea.

Law.—Under what conditions can an officer arrest a man without a warrant?
A.—Generally the officer must see the man commit the offense for which he is arrested or be near enough in time and space to be sure that the man is guilty of the offense, and fully persuaded that there will be danger of his getting away if he is not at once arrested.

J. S.—Of what nationality was the ancestry of President Buchanan?
A.—His father emigrated to this country from Donegal, Ireland, in 1783.

L. M.—For information as to the automobile rules in Yellowstone National Park, write the Interstate Department, Washington, D. C.

M. B.—Wood alcohol may be made from sawdust.

ense trade already developed in China and rapidly growing to enormous proportions.

It may further be accepted as certain that whatever devices, by combinations or otherwise, may be adopted upon by the leading merchants and dealers of Japan in order to promote their trade, will have the substantial, though probably silent, support and cooperation of their government.

Japan as a nation has but one overwhelming ambition—the political and commercial supremacy and control of Eastern Asia—including, so far as it may be safely compassed, the adjacent islands in the South Pacific Ocean. Hence it will be idle to appeal to the government of Japan against any discriminations of other methods of her chambers of commerce, boards of trade, or any other combinations of her merchants by which they may endeavor to secure the lion share of the business in any particular line. Such complaints will only be viewed by the authorities of Japan as flattering proof of the shrewdness and success of their own traders.

A striking example of what may be done in the direction indicated by the Japanese was recently given in the news dispatches. The two largest articles of export from Japan are tea and raw silk, or as it might be called, silk thread or yarn. The product of this raw silk for 1904 amounted to about \$18,000,000 in value of which somewhat more than two-thirds is sold and consumed in the United States. So large a quantity of silk yarn is purchased here because it is free of import duty, while silk fabrics, woven abroad, are liable to some 50 per cent. import tax.

Until recently the raw silk was purchased for export of factors of middlemen. Then the rulers of silk announced that they would sell only to exporters direct. When no protest was made at this change, a second step, for which the first was a necessary preliminary, was announced. The native "silk trust," as the combination of rulers is called, announced by circular that they would dispose of their products to four Japanese firms only. It is quite unnecessary to point out to business men what this means to us or to call attention to the fact that it puts the entire export trade in one of the largest exports from Japan wholly within the dictation of four firms, all of whom are Japanese.

Silk buyers upon this side of the Pacific and in Europe, as well as Americans in Japan interested in the trade, are in consultation as to what can best be done to meet the situation, but have as yet reached no solution. This is but a sample of the schemes which our commercial leaders must expect to meet—and to overcome—in their business relations and competition with the shrewd and imitative Japanese.

JAPANESE TRADE TRICKS.
People and Authorities United in Methods—All Join in Development of Japan's Commercial Supremacy—Exclusive Plans For Handling the Silk Export Trade—Schemes Which Other Nations Will Have to Meet.
Rochester Herald.

For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain are practiced to a large extent by the merchants and producers of Japan, as well as by their neighbors, the Chinese. What they are, and what are the best methods of meeting and checkmating them, concerns those Americans who hope to secure any share of the foreign trade in the Far East. It has become plain that Japan will everywhere be the leading competitor of the United States in the Orient, while in some regions of the east she will control the entire export and import trade. This may be depended upon as wholly true of Korea, Manchuria and Mongolia. She will moreover have no small influence over the regulation and the direction of the im-

The Grace Cotton Mills of Salisbury has organized with Frank Robbins as president and treasurer. The company was lately referred to as incorporated with capital stock of \$50,000, and it acquires and will continue the mercerized damask mill established by Mr. Robbins. It is understood that 15 looms now in operation will be duplicated soon.