THE GLEANER

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THE BANK MYSTERY.

(From the Sunny South.)

One day the directors of the Bank of England were much puzzled, and not a fittle amused when the secretary read to

them, at their usual sitting, the following ill-spelt and curious letter:

Two Ginerians ore Bask Incline.

You think yew is all safe hand you're Bank is seate, but I know better i' but "hissid the bank the last 2 nite hand you nose mothin about it. But i am not a theat, so hif yeo wil mett mee in tee gret sour room weak orl the mone. mee in tace gret squat room weah orl the mone ely is, at twelve 2 alto I'll xplain orl to yoew. let only one or too cum alown, and say nothin 2

"JOHN SMIFF" The letter being real, was, as might be expected, the tupic of conversation and suggestion for some little time. come of the directors thought it a hoax. Others thought that under the apparently ignorantly written letter a deeper mys-tery was hidden; but all agreed that the satest way was to put the letter, with proper instructions in the hands of the detectives specially employed by the

The detectives looked grave. There was a plot at work, they saw; and with their usual penetration they at once penctrated the deepest depths of the iniquity Every one knows that a file of sol-diers march every night from the tow-er to the bank to keep watch and ward over the vast treasures there; but they simply guard the outside from attack. All within is calm and still when busi-

less bours are over.

There is a very large room underground, where the buge wealth of the bank is deposited—millions and millions of English soverigns, bars of gold and hindred weights of silver, with myriads of notes to an incalculable amount. The detectives, of course knew that this room must be the great square room that the writer of the letter designated. It was full of treasure. Its floor is a solid stone pavement, and its walls, roof and door, are of wrought iron. The door, the only means of access, is immensely thick, and means of access, is immensely thick, and befored by the best of modern locks and boils, while a sentinel is stationed in front of it all the night through. No one from the outside could enter: but of course the police understood the tricks; there must be some confederacy within the bank, and one of the conspirators bemore cowardly than the rest, had resolved to betray his fellows and save himself. The bad writing and spelling were of course only felgued. Their plans were taken accordingly.

All the night long the detectives were

All the night long the detectives were secreted in the room; but they saw nothing and heard nothing, with the exception that some one said they heard, about one or two o'clock, a 'strange' sound which they could not account for. The next night was the same, and the next; and next; and when the 'board day' of the bank came round, the whole of the directors would have treated the affact as an idle attempt to frighten them, had not their attention been more strongly called to the subject by the following in-

A heavy chest had been forwarded by the Parcels Delivery Company, directed to the 'Directors of the bank of England.' The cliest was of course opened before them at once—such a thing very unusual—and found to contain a large packet of most valuable papers and se-curities which had been safely deposited in the vault. With them the sollowing

in the vault. With them the *tollowing letter:—

"To the Directors of the Bank of England: GENTLEMEN—My lumined, who is an honest man wrote to you last week, and told you that he had found a way which he believes is known only to himself—of getting into your strong room and othered, if you would meet him there at night, to explain the whole matter. He has never taken anything from that room except the enel is do by; You set detectives upon him, and he took the box to show that he could go, there, whoever might watch him, if he chose. He gives you another chance. Let a few gentlemen in the room alone. Guard the door and make everything secture, and my husband will meet you there at midnight.

"Yours very respectfully,"

"ELLEN SMITH."

This letter was more mysterious than the last. The only thing that was evident was that the writer, - Ellen Smith, was a better scholar than her husband, who styled himself 'Jon Smiff.' The dewho syste ministry on Smill. The de-tectives were shown the letter, and acted accordingly. Of course they saw through the dodge. The cleverest men were posted in the room.

In the merning they told a strange They said they saw a light about twelve o'clock. It seemed to come from a dark lautern; but directly they ran to the spot was set but nothing turned up until, on the morning when the next sitting of the

How it got there considering the room was guarded day and night, was a mys-tery. Its contents were still more mys-terious. They were as follows:--

terious. They were as follows:—
It was for your own good that you are warned that the strong room of the bank is not entirely safe. At any time, anyone can enter it. If we wished to steal we certainly would never have told you about it, or returned the box. You have basely set the police to see what you ought to have looked after yourself. If the police are there to night we will never explain the easy way of getting into your strong room, but most likely some one else will let you know that we have told the truth, when they help themselves to what is there. We are houseland will not steal but if the police are thouseland will not steal but if the are honest and will not steal, but if the police and not yourselves, gentlemen are there to night we will say nothing and do nothing. In aione from twelve to one, my husband will meet you there, as he said he would several

More and more astonished than ever on the receipt of this extraordinary letway in which it had been delivered, after a long consultation they agreed upon a plan of a tion. There were things per-fectly evident: one that the writer of the letter really had access in some mysterious way to the strong room; and the other, that he had discovered that the police had been put on his track, instead of his suggestion being attended to. So it was determined that some of the directors who could conveniently do so should visit the strong room at the time indicated by the letter.

This plan was carried out. But, as might be expected, the directors were

The police had advised them too well for that; and half a dezen of the best Euglish detectives were dressed up in the garb of gentlemen, and mingled in such way that any one would have supposed that they formed one group, and were now at last literally tulfilling the requisi.

tions of the mysterious letter.

They waited until nearly twelve, and then one of the directors, a little impatient, approaching the table, saids Well, it's a most extraordinary affair. be almost atraid were I alone; but, Fel-

den, you are used to these matters, and you have examined the room. Where the fellow can come from is to me a perfect Perhaps, if he had not used these words

at that moment, the mystery, as he called it, might have been instantly solved. Of course every ore was directed to the table where the letters had been placed; but though every precantion had been taken, there was not the least sign of any one but themselves, or any voice save their own in the room. They waited there the whole hight long, but nothing was seen of heard. Their labor was in vain. About four o'clock in the morning—it was mid-winter, and day was scarcely breaking at cight—the detectives whispered that it was needless for the gettlemen to remain any longer; they themselves would wait as long as the gentletaen chose, but the hour for break-ing into that strongest of all strong rooms —if it could be broken at all—was long past. The gentlemen, nothing loath, deants liberally, but yexed that their search should end so, and half suspecting that they had only been on a fool's errand. The detectives also, convinced that their work for the night was done, left the room about six o'clock. At that time, eing winter, the whole enveloped in fog and darkness.

The sext morning the board held an extraordinary meeting, in order to discuss the result of the gentlemen who had been all night in the vanit. They had little or nothing to say of any conse-quence; and after a long argument about nothing, were about to separate, when a porter entered with a letter, which he stated had been found on the table in the strong room, when the man whose business it was entered-about eight o'clock Every one had left the room more than an hour—perhaps two—before, and no one had been admitted in the ordinary way. The mystery increased. But of way. The mystery increased. Date course the letter was read, and it ran as

follows:

"You kin do ass you like. Lars night I herd someone speek to Mr. Feldin, who I know is an nossifer of the perlice, sow of course I did not come, has I mire ave dan. I give yoo another chance. Coome to nite. If two or three gentlemen are theare alone hi will be with um. If any detectives is thare hi shall give it up at 1st. "Yo, may choose as you wall." J. S."

This extraordinary communication was a sorree of no small anxiety to the bank directors. How it could have been left.

directors. How it could have been left on the table in the strong room, guarded as it was, no one could imagine. They, however, at last agreed to do what perhaps would have been wiser it done first, namely, to depute a few of their number to visit alone. There was, they concluded, but little danger in doing so, as from the strange letters which they received, it would appear that the intruders in the secret precincts were only one man and his wife - probably the man one than and his wife- probably the man alone. So it was arranged that three gentlemen, who were selected as the best able to deal with such a case, should remain all night in the strong room, and that no one case should be with them, but that the police should be within call, in

case they were needed. Every suitable precaution was taken when night came. The sentinel paced up and down outs.de; the detectives were not far off; and after the most rig-orous search had been instituted, the gentlemen were locked in. Hour after hour passed by, but nothing appeared. Somesilence, that the room was empty, in or der to tempt the depredator, if present from whence the light proceeded it went from his hiding place. Then they would out, and the strictest search had revealed nothing. The bank officials became any person who overheard them would alarmed. Every night the strictes watch know that they were alone; but not a seves fiftered, was heard. At last one of board was to be held another letter was them, who paced the floor rather impa-tound on the table in the strong room. tiently, beginning to think that perhaps

out—
'You ghost, you secret visitor, you midnight thiet, come out! There is no one here but two gentlemen and myself. If you are afraid, I give you my word of honor as a gentleman that the police are not here—only we three of the directors. to whom you wrote. Cone out, I say!'
It was more in jest than in earnest that Major Cifford—for he was a military man—shouted out this absurd speech. For as we said, he had began to suspect after all some practical joke was being adroitly carried on as had more than

once been before perpetrated, and he did not much like being victimized himself His astonishment, however was great when, in reply to what he had said, he

neard a strong voice saying:

'If you have kept your word I will keep mine. Put out your light, for I have

The Major and his fellow directors did not much like putting out the light, but they were not cowards, and after some demur it was done. Where the voice came from was, however, a mystery, for there were no hiding places in the room, every side being of thick, many-plated iron and steel; the ceiling was also of the same material. When the light was out they waited in silence, while the Major grasped firmly in one hand a revolver. and in the other held the lantern and -a. few matches. For a little while, a low, grating sound was heard, and then a voice, evidently that of some one in the room, said:

"Are you there alone, sure?" The Major who cared for nothing bodily form, struck a match and instant ly a crash was heard, and a low, smouth ered laugh. When the mutch was lighted, nothing could be detected-no one was there. Again the Major called upon the mysterious somebody to come forth, and again a voice was heard saying:

"How can I trust you now? The Major was angry, and his com-vanions alarmed; and after trying in various to trace the point from which the voice

So saying, he put out the light again. A moment or so after, the same grating sound was heard, then the falling of some heavy body, and the next instant a man was visible standing in the middle of the vault, with a dark lantern in his hand. Of course he came from somewhere, but the puzzle was—how? A ghost could not have entered more mysteriously, for they already knew that the walls and ceiling had been most carefully examined, and there was no possible way of ingress. The man, however, soon spoke for himself: and the Directors, who were still at a less to explain his presence there, listened in astonishment.

It appears that he was a poor man, and btained a precarious living in a strange, way. When the tide was low, it is the custom of a certain class of people, unknown to refined society, to enter the sewers, to search for any article of value which may have been accidentally washed down into them. It is a very dangerous task, and, of course, revolting in the extreme, but they not unfrequently find

very precious things hidden in filth.

This man was one of those strange adventurers. One night he had discovered an opening leading to some place above. There was a large square stone which he found could be easily raised. He listened for some time, and finding all was silent, lifted up the stone without much diffi culty, and found, after some little inves tigation by the light of his lantern, that he was in the strong room of a bank.

These men, like minners, can readily determine the exact spot of ground under which they are; and he soon had a clue to the whole mystery. He told his wife, who was a woman of much superior edu cation to his, of the whole affair; and he then wrote, as we have seen, to the directors. After that his wife wrote until the last letter, as the spelling shows.

Down in the sewer he was able to hear all their movements as well as if above ground, and thus was not only able to snow their plans, but to frustrate them and of course could watch in time to remove the small but valuable box which we saw was afterwards returned; to leave the letters on the table, and to appear so mysteriously.

Of course, no one ever thought of look. ing to the stone pavement, which was supposed to be solid and immovable, as it was known there were not vanits below, although the iron walls and door had been most carefully tested.

The mystery was now cleared up, and the directors calling for other lights, examined the place carefully and fully veri-

rance, after his address had been taken, and a time had been appointed when he should appear before the board. The whole affair, which caused a great

He was then liberated at the usual en

sensation at the time was duly inquired into, and such precautions taken that a repetition of the adventure would hence forth be impossible. The directors felt that they owed the

strange man a debt of gratitude. Although gold and silver were now lying in heaps upon the cellar floor, there conscience, and I send it back. When was incalculable wealth hidden there, in remorse have again I'll send you some the shape not only of notes and the most

after all it was only a clever trick; cried valuable securities, but also in solid bullion and hard cash. It is impossible to say what a a clever burglar might, if he only knew of the secret entrance, have taken away undetected, and until beyond possible detection, as money is always available, and leaves no trace behind; in fact, a perfectly fabulous amount might have been stolen, so thick were the walls and so sequire was the room considered.

nothing had been taken besides the box which was returned intact. When this point was fully settled, it was agreed by the directors that the mysterious visitor to their strong room should be rewarded for his housety, and it was currently reported that they settled upon tilm w libs eral annuity, sufficient to support him

Proface Swenring.

A few years since I was a passenger on a Soutwes cra rallway, and found my self in the company of Bishop Quintard, A more accomplished of Fennessee. Christian gentleman, a more accomplished. Christian gentleman, a more kind and genial companion, I have seldom met with. We were passing through Bedford in this State, and I presume the senior of the Heraid, and the pastoral incumbent of Grace Street Church, would have no reason to interpose special obthat thiels a country famed for the nume-ber of distriguished men it has furnished the Christian ministry of different 100 nominations, among whom was the faop of Alabama. As we come in fall view, of the tamous peaks of Otter, Bishop Quintund observed to me that het never passed the Penks in recent days, without being reminded of mannecdote, in conmedion with the memory of our mutual Tricond Lighop Cobbs, , who, he said, seemed to be the charm of every so-said direct be happened to cuter. Bishop Quintard went on to say that Bishop Cobbs and he were one evening in company with several other Bishops of their church, all hispleasant social conver at at we will put out the light again only forth from wearing—Bishor Cobbs started with the was pussing along the public outher. foot of a heavy hill be came up to a man with a londed wagen; and a team that seeped inclined to bake. He had evidently made several charte to accord the

hill, with little progress, he was in a ler-rible passion, and swearing most prefame.

The Bishop said be rece gently up the mun, and in a kind and respectful 'My triend can you not drive your

team up the hill without swearing so dreadinly?

My sir, neither can you, said the manaul if you think you can, get down and ity it.

The Bistop said he seit inclined to

The Blacop said he felt inclined to saile at the unexpected reply; but assuming a more scrious sir, he said to the man; I could never be induced to profain my Master's maine on account of a toolish horse. Where do yen live, sir? Just over there, at the foot of the Peaks of Otter, where I have lived nearly all my lite, said the man.

ly all my lite, said the man.
That was what I thought said the Bishop, but the wonder to toe is this, that of your life at the loot of those tall peaks whose ascending summits are always pointing up to the throne of him who has said, 'The shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain,' and yet profane that came so awfully!

that name so awfully!

The man let the reins attached to his team daugle a little loosly from his hand looked at the bishop with an expression of seriousness and surprise at his own tolks and saids it does seem a little

tolly, and said: It does seem a little strange indeed!

Not a little strange, merely, said the Bishop, but awfully wicked, my friend. The Bishop said he made the man turn pale with thoughts of his own wickedness, and then said: I presume you have no idea of the number of wicked oals you have attered in time?

'No, I have not, said the man, 'I' could not aw show many.'

'I'd you war derive any benefit from profine swenting? Said the fishop.

'Never in my life,' said the man.

'But the day of final account will show that you are a fearful debtor; it does not

that you are a fearful debtor; it does not pay, and you had better quit.' said the

Bishop.

'I believe I will,' said the man.

The Bishop said, so far as he could 'earn, the man never uttered another oath.—Religious Herald.

A German doctor declares that "early to test and early to rise" is a delusion and a source. He has discovered that those who include in late hours and lie abed the longest in the morning are the healthiest and live longer than those who get up with the lark. German doctors have made some very remarkable discoveries of late, and it will be surprising if one of them doesn't soon anuounce that the best way to care a heavy cold is to get into a perspiration and thea throw off some of your clothing and sit in a draught with your sect in a pail of cold

A woman sold her baby in a bar-room in Horsham, England, for \$4,34 to a man who had taken a fancy to the child. He left the place with his purchase, but the woman followed him, snatched the infant out of his arms glapped his face and ran away.

A man who had \$65 stolen from Lin received a note with \$25, saying: I stoled your money. Remorse naws my (From the Telegraph.)

Sunday in Paris seems to be becoming in one re-pect at least, more like Sunday in London than was the case formerly, Nearly all the respectable shops are closed, and the business trafic in the street is small. The streets and bonlevards, with the cares and resturants, are, however faction being deserted. Sanday is a boliday for the school boys, who The very strictest search proved that spend the day with their parents or nothing had been taken besides the box which was returned intact. When this point was fully settled, it was agreed by benefit of this public of school boys and there is more gambling among women at the present are the present ar return to their dismai country until place. It is largely for the benefit of this public of school boys and and their paceuts that morning performances take place at the theaters. Vester-day there were matinces at thirfeen of the Paris theaters, and there is no exagging that they were all well sitended. The performances vary from those of the classical works of facine Corneille and Molere, down to the modern melodrama and operetta, tikking in on the way, Victor littge's Hernan' a comedy of Labichoy and a scance by the country iterrana. Then for the lovers of pulpit oratory the lecture of read of pulpit oratory the lecture of read don. the Dominican preacher, the successor and rival of Lacordare, and the line sermon of father II activite—or rather pull through.

Should say of M. Loyson—bottl of whom points that it ought to be admitted only in very grave cases.

Shuday being a holiday, not only for the lovers and case this specific to the pulpit oratory, while M. Loyson but in very grave cases.

The atyle tor this year. Forty is more gambing about the case ince public gambing about the case ince public gambing about the public of school boys and at the present ame chan has been the case ince public gambing at the present ame chan has been the case since public gambing at the present ame chan has been the case since public gambing at the present ame chan has been the case since public gambing at the present ame chan has been the case since public gambing at the present ame chan has been the case since public gambing at the present ame chan has been the case since public gambing at the present ame chan has been the case since public gambing at the present ame chan has been the case since public gambing at the present ame chan has been the case since public gambing at the present ame chan has been the case since public gambing at the present ame case ince public gambing at the present at the presen

should say of M. Loyson—both of whom lectured on the subject of Divorce. Father Dislos is entirely opposed to the institution of divorce, while M. Loyson thinks that it ought to be admitted only in very grave cases.

Shiday being a holiday, not only for the beys and girls who ascut scoool, but also for the servants, many families dile ont, and all the resturants are consequently fuffer and gayer on Sunday than anyother day of the week. Then lafter dinner if you have the whole range of sunday than anyother day of the week. stimers, if you have the whole range of the steep, from the humble shanty of La Y flette to the still humble temple of the drama at Mout Parnasse, each offering something attractive. The cassinos are open as usual, the circuses are filled with a special Sunday audience, and all purveyors of anusement are beating the big trum to altract the public. With such a carled programme, it is no wonder that a man, no matter of what usting half to many he of what tasts he may have, finds no difficulty in passing Sanday in Paris. Picture galleries, churches slegant pressure their ingent with the circuston and sense the state of the control of the circustons are galleries, and sense the circustons are galleries, and sense the circustons are galleries, and sense the circustons are galleries and sense the circustons are galleries.

ing la arenyamente la le cotte, whitten WHY MAJOR WHEREOOK WILL BUY AS NAME D CLUSIVE USE TOTAL

From the Detroit Free Promedad

Mrs. Major Wheelock, wife of that old pioneer and einfnemly respected official of that name, leaned over the banistic the other morning and answered firm.

The shears? Why, they are right down there somewhere. I was using them not five minutes ago.

The Major wanted them to trim off a horse blanker at the barn, and he marched into the lifting room and up to the ramity work bisket. Of course they were there, lie tumbled a ball of yarn, a paper of pins, a half made garment, a botton box and a pin cushion off on the floor, made a dive among bodkins, worsted, threads and darning needles, and the made a dive among bodkins, worsted threads and darning needles, and the shears didn't turn up. He stood the work basket on its head, but it was no good. Then he went over to the whatnot and raked off three or four photographs, faltled down a lot of shells and knocked off two books, but the shears

were not there. He was red in the face as he went into the hall and called out: 'I can't find bide or nair of 'enr,' and I don't believe you ever had any P
"Now look again—that's a good in she replied. 'I know they are ri there.'

there?
The Major got down on his hands and knees and looked under the lounge. No shears. Then he stood up and looked on the mantel. The trearest approach to shears there was a bent hair pin. Then he walked around and surveyed each window sill and gave the work basked another tarket.

I tell you there a int no shears here, or cless I'm blasses it is but the shoeted from the sail after he had given the majore a looking over.

tree a looking over.

'Why, Major, now impatient you are!'

'There's no impatience alout it! I tell
you the shears ain't here! No one can
ever find anything in this bouse! I had
to look a straight hour the other day to
find a gimle!

find a gimlet!

"It you don't see them in the bed room.
I'll come down."

He entered the bed room, glanced over the bureau and stand, pulled the shams off the pillows and whirled the pillows around and then fook down a hair oil bottle from a bracket and looked into It. The shears were not in the bottle nor anywhere else. Stay! They might have been carried under the bed by that mysterious household tide which carries articles from room to room in an invisible. ticles from room to room in an invisible manuer. He crawled under, bumped his

namer. He crawled under, bumped his head on the slats, got dust in his throat, and was backing out with blood in his eye when his wife called out;

'Why, what on earth are you after?'

'After! Atter!' he shouted, as he almost coughed his head off—'I'm after them interpal shears!'

'Why here they are! There are him.

them interpal shears!"

'Why, here they are! They are bring in my sewing chast, right in plain sight."

I don't believe it—I'll never believe it. I looked into that chair over ten thousand

dimes!'
'Well, there they are.'
'It's no such thing! You've lost 'em or pawned'em or traded 'em for gam.
You've no more order in your house than

an old cooper shop!"

He walked past the chair into the hali and was going out when she called:
'Dear, aren't you going to take the E DONNELL'S

shears? What shears? Um going over to the store and buy me a pair of shears and if any human being in, this borse ever puts a singer on 'em they'll suffer for it. I'll see if I can't have a pair of shears in my house after being married for upward of forty three years?

And he pulled down his hat and clammed the door with all fills might as he went out.

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