A MISER SEES SATAN.

EVIL CAUGHT HIM STEALING AN ACTOR'S FIREWOOD.

His Satanic Majesty Was Only Impersonated, but the Hotel Keeper Thought It Was a Real Visitor—Million Nickles Reformed a Penniless Lawyer.

Million [illegible] The man has been in recent years well known to professionals, and there are many stories extant of his penuriousness. He was very wealthy, but a confirmed miser. A stranger coming his hotel would invariably pick him out as the porter, and indeed he performed the most menial offices, even to carrying the boots of his guests if asked to do so. Yet he always kept a good hotel. On "show" nights he closed out the dressing rooms and acted as janitor in general.

From the second story of this hotel there was a hallway leading to the stage. The actors were usually assigned to the rooms along this hall, and would occasionally use their rooms as dressing rooms at night a proceeding to which the old man seriously objected. The old man would watch the doors like a cat, and as soon as a room was vacated he would let himself in with a pass key, and if the gas was left burning he would turn it out. He would also gather every stick of wood from the rooms and redeposit them in the big box at the top of the office stairs.

THE DEVIL.

I was playing two or three characters in the piece, among others that of Zamiel. My room was near the stage door, and I could hear the orchestra and so tell just how long I could safely remain in the room before my scene would come on. I finished my first character, and taking my costume for the Devil went to my room to make the change. The dress was a combination of flaming red, black and green, tight fitting, with big bat wings. The feet were long and pointed, with cloven hoofs; there was a close fitting skull cap with two protruding horns. I made the face a flaming red, with large pieces of green foil paper under the eyes.

There were a large skull and cross bones on my breast, with red foil paper set in the eye sockets. The long scarlet tail was forked at the end and illuminated with foil paper. As I completed this satanic toilet I could hear the orchestra playing the ballet music of the grotto scene, so I knew that I should not be wanted for at least twenty minutes. I dropped two or three pieces of pine wood on the open grate fire, and drawing a big chair to the side of the grate seated myself comfortably in a Turkish manner, placing my feet in another chair directly in front of the grate, and letting the animal's forked tail gracefully over my right shoulder.

I was just dropping off when the door was opened softly, and by a reflection in the mirror I could see the old landlord sneak into the room. His eagle eye missed me, half hidden in the big chair, but hit on the single gas jet burning at full head. He turned it off quickly and moved toward the well filled woodbox; he filled his arms full, leaving two or three small pieces as a blind, and turned. This movement brought him face to face with the apparition in the big chair. The darkened room illuminated by the glare from the burning pine added a weird effect to the scene. The wood fell from the nerveless arms, and his lower jaw dropped to the position of dislocation. I remained motionless, staring at him through my green foil eyes.

THE MISER PALES.

The old miser seemed to have grown to the floor; he could have stood for thirty seconds without breathing. Finally his breath came with a gasp and a gurgle. With one hand I gently shook that forked tail, the end of which was standing on a level with my head. Raising my eyes slowly I leveled at him the long red foil tipped finger. With a gasp he pulled for the door. As he reached it I could swear, my back to the fire, scratching my ear with the tip of my tail. The old man gave one glance over his shoulder, and, with an unearthly scream, fell against the door, and seemed unable to pass it through his fear dominated by. I very easily [illegible] [illegible] As the scream I [illegible] my [illegible] pushed the door open and the old man fell into the hallway. He got out of his room quickly after that [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]