

BEWARE of PICKPOCKETS

Schools of the Light Fingered Art Are on the Increase.



SOME day the warning to "Beware of Pickpockets" may be seen as frequently in street cars and other public places as is the famous "No Smoking." In every large city the pickpocket, like the burglar, lies in wait for the victim. The pickpocket is even more than the burglar, being a cannibal and preying upon his own kind. Furthermore, he acquires his nefarious business by being educated to it, while the burglar is born bad and therefore can't help it.

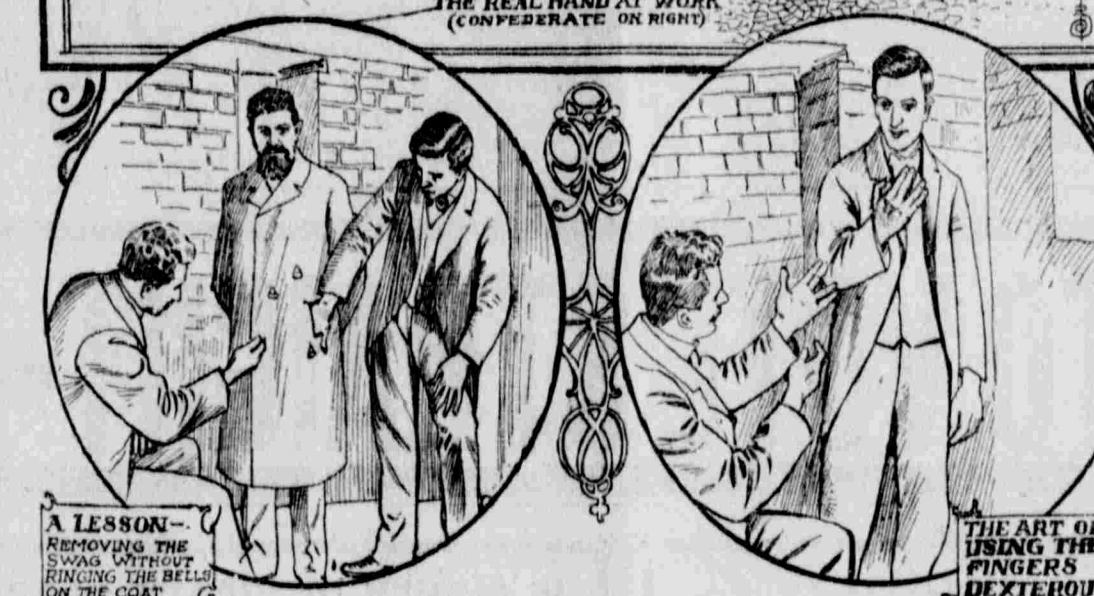
Now then we read in a newspaper that a school for pickpockets is conducted in a certain city. Almost invariably the reporter refers to the principal of the institution as a "Papa." This is a compliment to the memory of Charles Dickens, himself for years a newspaper reporter, who first described in a work of fiction a school for the instruction of children in criminality, such as really existed in London and no doubt still exists there. The writings of Victor Hugo contain vivid glimpses of Parisian schools of crime. Quite recently the police of Berlin have discovered advanced institutions of learning for pickpockets, many branches of the profession being taught.

But American cities furnish plenty of instances such as those disclosed in European fact and fiction. We have our pickpocket schools, as the courts record of New York, Chicago and other large cities prove. New York is America's center for pickpocket colleges. There are two very good reasons for this. New York is the port of entry for European immigrants, and it is "the town where the money is." Men who have studied the problem declare that by far the greater number of pickpockets in the United States are the offspring of the lowest class of foreign immigrants. Those who follow this trade do not select small villages. They go with the money. They seek the places where money is made and means live and move and their being. They are ever on the alert for the thick roll, the fat purse and the headlight diamond or real gold watch.

For many years the New York police have denied the existence of the so-called schools where children and adults are instructed in the picking of pockets. The Pinkerton people, however, whose detectives operate largely in New York and have a general knowledge of pickpockets everywhere, declare that such places do really exist. In the past several societies devoted to the protection of children and the suppression of crime and vice applied to District Attorney Jerome of New York for special officers to go into the lower east side of the

city, the slum district, and break up the pickpocket gangs. Mr. Jerome assigned to this duty two of the men on his staff, a young detective named Daniel J. Reardon being in charge. The authority to make arrests was given to Reardon. This young man was born and reared on the east side and knew the thoroughly. In a little more than a month he arrested 124 pickpockets, securing convictions in court of all but sixteen of the number. Reardon also raided and broke up a number of "joints" which, he declared, were nothing less than schools for pickpockets and shoplifters. Some of these were operated as cheap saloons, others as billiard rooms and still others as restaurants or coffee houses. Boys and girls were found there under actual instruction in the art of taking pocket-books, money rolls, watches and diamonds from the person. The instructors, as a rule, were old hands at the business of picking pockets, who had quit the work themselves because frequent arrests had become troublesome. They were teaching the young idea how to shoot in the same direction, no doubt getting a rakeoff on the products of their graduates. Boys of from fifteen to twenty underwent actual courses of training, and it was not until they were able to "lift" the money or jewelry of other and older crooks without being detected by the latter that they were sent out to operate upon real victims. Little girls also took these lessons, with supplementary courses in shoplifting.

Detective Reardon stated that in his belief 95 per cent of the pickpockets in New York city are the children of immigrants of the very lowest type. It must not be inferred from this, however, that the pickpocket is lacking in shrewdness or education. As a rule he has received some common school instruction, and his struggle for existence from the cradle up—granting that he had a cradle, which is not probable—has been of a character to develop



with the many other gentlemen in evening dress and finery. His identity was lost. He had timed his job on the car for just such a denouement. Pickpockets, like express train robbers, go after the biggest game they can locate. This being the case, there are not so many of these gentry aboard crowded cars at work cutting time as there are on the cars which carry bankers and brokers to business or well dressed and bejeweled parties to the theater. There are in New York gangs of pickpockets who hire quarters near some of the principal theaters, play cards to pass the time during the performance, and then station themselves at the exits of the playhouse to



the street, who seems to be much interested in his newspaper or in the bulletin board across the way, may be figuring on the surest and safest way to get your watch or your pocketbook, or both, in the discretion of the thief. One of the commonest tricks is for a pickpocket to pretend to be interested in his paper and lift your watch by reaching his hand underneath the paper. Another trick is for the thief to nudge or hunch the victim, attracting his attention or arousing his indignation, while the innocent looking chap on the other side, the wire or tool, "gets the goods."

Pickpockets acquire remarkable dexterity in fingering bank rolls out of pockets without alarming the victim and in twisting watches loose from their swivel rings. In old times it was the custom to cut the chain, but later day "dips," as the pickpocket is known, consider this too clumsy. They have a way of twisting the ring loose without being detected in the act.

Not only are pickpockets increasing in numbers in the United States, but they are becoming much more proficient than of old. This is due to their superior education in their profession. When Inspector McLaughlin was at the head of the New York detective force an old time pickpocket, well known to him, called at his office to complain that one of the younger generation of dips had lifted his gold watch. He said that he never discovered his loss until he saw his watch chain dangling. The crook remarked that the present day pickpocket is a very superior article.

These crooks sometimes develop into very able actors. Chief of Detectives William Desmond of St. Louis, one of the most noted thief catchers in the United States, lives across the street from a church. One day during the progress of a funeral he observed that three boys, pretending to be mourners, were robbing the real mourners. He rang for special officers, and the three lads were nabbed, their pockets filled with watches, purses and other property. They had put pepper in their eyes to assist them in weeping. Kneeling with the mourners near the coffin during prayer, they plied their trade even in the presence of death and sorrow.

On the occasion of every great national gathering, such as a presidential inauguration, a nominating convention or an exposition, every big city sends to the place some of its best detectives, who know most of the veteran pickpockets by sight. When a detective spots a man whom he knows is a pickpocket the thief is either arrested on general principles or ordered to get out of town by the next train. Usually he gets out, for he knows that the next time he is seen and recognized he will be jailed until the event which has brought him to town is over.

ROBERTUS LOVE.

IDLENESS OF THE MUJIK.
The Russian peasant is lazy from climatic influences. The excessive heat in summer and the severe frosts and the earth's heavy blanket of snow in winter preclude vigorous exercise; the abject poverty oppressing the villages also tends to prevent any kind of exhilarating sport. Abject poverty keeps whole families, whole districts, buried in darkness for eighteen hours out of the twenty-four for more than a quarter of the year. Artificial light is, on account of the very heavy excise duty and the cost of distribution of kerosene, beyond the reach of the poor villagers, whose only means of lighting their sparsely windowed cabins is the primitive chip light stuck in the wall. Old and young have therefore to cease all occupation in the winter soon after 3 o'clock. Reading and handwork of all kinds have to be given up, and early bed is the only resource. Children from school have no means of preparing their new day's lessons or of varying the appalling monotony of their dull and tedious young lives by story books or table games.

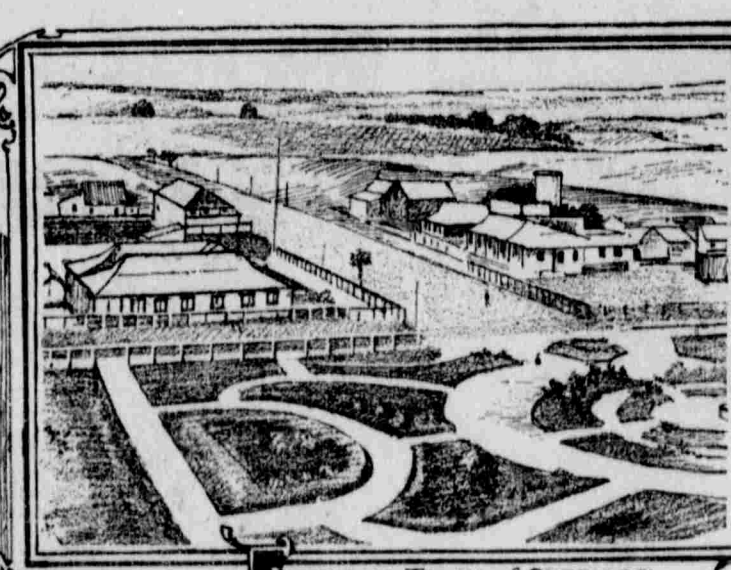
GERMANY'S RAILWAYS.
In recent years the construction of railways proceeded in Germany at the rate of about 621 miles a year. The entire trackage exceeds at present 34,381 miles. The electrification of railways is still confined to a few suburban lines, where the system works satisfactorily.

The Strange Story of Manuel Silveira;

A Man Who Started a Revolution For the Sake of Revenge

AMONG all the sensational happenings of a decidedly sensational season there is nothing more suggestive of romance in the telling than the story of Manuel Silveira. When one has accepted the facts as they have unfolded chapter by chapter and proceeds to take a comprehensive review of the entire business, it is hard to believe that the imagination is not responsible for the whole matter.

It has been asserted that any man who is willing to pay the price may have wealth. Now here comes Manuel Silveira and his career to refute the claim. He coveted riches, and he was perfectly willing to pay the price. His willingness was his undoing. He was eager to attain his end that he committed the supreme folly of building himself, and the game was on. From his position as promoter of the most extensive business enterprise in Cuba he fell precipitately to the level of a fugitive, a prescribed wanderer on the face of the earth in search of some place that would conceal him from the eyes of his fellows. It was Manuel Silveira, it appears, who planned the recent revolution. He was not responsible for the sentiment which led up to open revolt against the government, but he took advantage of the spirit of unrest that was stalking around and manipulated it to his own purpose. He it was who collected the thousands of elements that were awaiting the torch and fired them. The revolution already existed in theory, he made it practicable and precipitated it.



quarrelled with the president. The cause of the difference is believed to have been Silveira's crookedness in a cattle deal in which Palma was interested. Silveira engineered the job and when the opportune moment came he sold and pocketed the proceeds. Naturally Palma was indignant. He remonstrated, but Silveira would not divide the profits.

Then the president resolved to get even. He at once set himself resolutely against all the jobs which Silveira was steering through the Cuban congress. One of these was a clever steal by which Silveira expected to coin half a million. He actually got it through the congress, but Palma vetoed it promptly.

In the meantime Palma secured a reelection, but it was a very troublesome business. Gomez, the popular idol of the Cuban race, came out as the Liberal candidate and at once manifested a strength that seemed to make his election certain. Although the Moderates were hopelessly in the minority, they had control of the government machine, and they did not hesitate to use it for all it was worth. Before election day they succeeded in convincing their opponents that little numerical strength would be of little moment at the polls. Gomez, who realized the hopeless nature of his can-

didacy, withdrew from the race and went to New York, where he remained in seclusion until after his successful rival's triumph.

When Gomez returned to Cuba he was received by Silveira with open arms. He was immediately made general manager of the great sugar plantation at Ceballos and given carte blanche as to the hiring of workmen. Although there is no evidence that the patriot general began at once to plot revolution, it is a fact that he assembled a body of 7,000 men and put them to work on the estate. Silveira saw to it that they were supplied with weapons and ammunition.

The government recognized the menace and took steps to cope with it after the most approved Latin-American fashion. An extra force of rural guards was stationed in the vicinity of the estate with instructions to make all attempts at armed rebellion a failure. There was a good deal of trouble first and last, and the government troops, armed with effective guns and reinforced by the artillery, usually got the best of it. The government demanded that Gomez leave the vicinity, and he was obliged finally to seek other quarters.

But Silveira kept on with his preparations. It now appears that the revolution did not come from his own private resources, but were flitted from money sent by clients for investment. Finally he got things precisely as he wanted, and then he sprung the mine. About that time he learned that the government was likely to order his arrest and imprisonment.

He took measures to throw President Palma and his advisers off the track. His first step to that end was to send 500 horses as a present to the national



army. Fearing that this show of generosity would not be sufficient to patch up his reputation for disloyalty, he supplemented it by betraying one of the revolutionary leaders, who was wounded and had taken refuge in one of Silveira's houses, into the hands of the enemy. The victim of Silveira's treachery was chopped into pieces with machetes.

This was Silveira's undoing. The friends of the murdered revolutionist

Cuba he was the fiscal agent of the Spanish government in that city. After the war, through the agency of Silveira, he began to branch out in a variety of big Cuban enterprises and established an American colony in the island and built the town of Ceballos. They started a bank, built a fine hotel and operated a railroad. One of their enterprises was a gigantic cattle ranch, and a mammoth orange plantation was another. They also manufactured sugar largely.

Silveira is a small man, fair haired and blue eyed, with a great deal of vivacity and a convincing manner. He has demonstrated the fact that he is endowed with plenty of nerve and daring in business. He was fond of wearing in difficult problems, and anything that required intense effort appealed to him. He was known in Havana as "El Morgan Cubano," a title given him on account of his manifest disposition to absorb everything of importance in the country for the benefit of his numerous financial connections.

ELMER G. HOWARD.

FOR THE NEWLY MARRIED.
In every marriage, however happy, there must be a certain amount of readjustment of habits, and this readjustment can scarcely fail to be accompanied by more or less disillusionment. For one thing, the point of view, masculine and feminine, as regards many things, is totally different, and the bride who declares during her honeymoon that "men are just horrid!" is by no means rare.

Why should not a man be as tactful and as little disposed to find fault with his wife, or life partner, as he is with his partner in business? Why should he not entertain and amuse her as he does his friends and business associates? Why also should not a wife exert herself to please and entertain her husband as she did her lover?

Much domestic infelicity is directly traceable to the custom which wives and husbands contract of thinking of the other "does not matter," of treating one another not only without ceremony, which is pardonable, but without consideration, which is inexcusable. Newly married people should burn up in the fire of their ardent affection all little ways which are disagreeable to each other. Like government, marriage must be a continual series of compromise.

WOODEN RAILWAYS.
There are still several wooden railways in existence in Canada and the United States. One of them is in the province of Quebec and is thirty miles long. The rails are of maple, and trains are run over them with remarkable smoothness at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour. This road is used for the transportation of timber.

HERE AND THERE.
The Mediterranean is supposed to be shallow, yet there are sometimes four fathoms of water in the Adriatic. Cumberland is the highest cultivated land in England, and Devonshire comes third. The Northwestern railway holds the record in number of engines owned by any one British railway company. The king of Spain's full name is Alfonso Leon Fernando Maria Santiago Gabriel Pascual Marcin. His mother

decided on Alfonso, Santiago is the patron saint of Spain. Leon is adapted from the name of his godfather Pope Leo, the ploverman is the patron saint of Madrid, Pascual is the patron saint of his birthday and Marcin is that of his christening day.

The bishop of London spends no great amount of time in the planning of his sermons—forceful though they are. He writes them only on very special occasions. Usually he selects

a suitable text, ponders it for a moment, notes down the heads of his subject, verifies his quotations and references and in the space of a few minutes he has settled the whole matter.

There are on an average 14 deaths yearly in the British Isles from lightning, 26 from sunstroke and 131 from exposure to cold.

In Bombay cotton mill natives receive 16 pence for a thirteen hour working day.

A cubic foot of mercury weighs 13,500 ounces, a cubic foot of lithium only

596 ounces. Lithium is the lightest solid known.

Germany now has fifty-four mountaineering clubs, with a total membership of over 142,000.

The first steel pens were made in England in 1820. The first gross sold for \$27.50.

Alligators will soon be extinct. Two hundred and eighty thousand alligators are yearly worked into leather.

Mme. Flammarion, the distinguished wife of her equally distinguished husband astronomer, never allows any one

to cut her husband's hair but herself, and she uses the short locks for pillows. Her home in Paris is full of such pillows stuffed with clippings. The Flammarions were married thirty years ago, therefore, taking the average time of a man's growth of hair between each cutting as three weeks, the treasured accumulation of over 500 hair cuttings must make a goodly pile.

Barcelona alone takes nearly 800,000 tons of British coal yearly.

Upward of 40,000,000 sleepers are used annually on the railways of the

world. Of these the United States uses 16,000,000.

Paisley was the first place to make pocket handkerchiefs. That was in 1743.

It would take over 7,000,000 acres to grow the timber annually imported into this country.

It is reckoned roughly that about 40,000,000 animals are killed yearly for their furs.

The roads of Great Britain cover a space of 362,000 acres.

All the gold in circulation could be

put in a room forty-five feet long, twenty-five feet wide and twenty-five feet high.

The Teme is said to hold more different varieties of fish than any other inland British river.

In 1272 a Dutch force from Amsterdam, moving upon Skates, utterly defeated a large body of Spaniards.

The British government owns more than 25,000 camels.

If the oceans suddenly became dry it would take the rivers of the world about 35,000 years to refill the dry beds.