A Pin for a Clew

By an Ex-Operative of the Secret Service

Capt. Dickson Illustrates a Detective's "Nose for Details."

WHAT do I consider the most important thing to notice when first investigating a crime?

Capt. Dickson, a retired secret service officer, had repeated the words of my question.

After some moments of thought, he replied:

"Well, from my own experience, it has become a fixed conviction with me that no crime is ever committed where the criminal fails to leave behind some clew that, if it is only found and its worth appreciated, will invariably lead to the detection of the culprit.

"I have a case in mind, a post-office robbery. It happened when I was connected with that department, before I was transferred to the broader field of the secret service. I will never forget the village where it occurred. It was a town of some 300 or 400 souls in the Green mountains. It had only one hotel, and in the three weeks that I was detained there, I almost destroyed my digestion endeavoring to support life on its abominable fare. I believe that I felt a keener satisfaction in the royal meal I secured at Boston, on my return to Washington, than I did in capturing the author of the robbery.

"The post-office safe had been tapped for a large quantity of stamps, about $500 in money and a brand new money-order book. This last item gave importance to the case, because a book of money-order blanks in the hands of a clever crook can cause the government more trouble than a session of congress.

"The safe was a crude iron affair which was fastened by means of a clumsy brass key. The key was too large and too heavy to be lugged about, and after the safe was locked it was hid away in a corner of the cash-drawer. A peculiar circumstance of the robbery was that the safe had been found locked and the key was in its place of concealment. The culprits had possessed an intimate knowledge of the habits of the postmaster and his assistant, Miss Lundy, a young lady of fine appearance and charming personality.

"Mason, the postmaster, had a theory that two tramps had committed the theft. He said that two suspicious characters had come into the office the afternoon before the robbery and had bought five two-cent stamps. He considered this a suspicious circumstance, as he said that persons of their type always bought stamped envelopes—no more than they needed at the time—and that they always mailed their letters before leaving the office, addressing them with the dilapidated pen maintained by the postmaster at all country offices for victims who have no alternative than to use it. At the back of the building, a window-glass had been broken out, and Mason especially directed my attention to it, as he said it must have been by this means that the robbers gained entrance to the building. All of the doors had been securely locked.

I made a minute examination of the premises, and the only thing I found was a small steel pin with a green-glass head. It was in a crack of the floor immediately in front of the rifled safe. Without attracting attention, I secured the pin and stuck it beneath the lapel of my coat, I thought it might prove of value. It did. It was the key to the situation.

"My examination showed that the robbers had entered the post-office through the front door, and that the broken window was merely a blind or else it had been broken by accident. I didn't take much stock in this last theory, but put the window down as a deliberate effort to muddy the water. There were two doors, a front and a back one. The rear one was kept locked and the key to it hung on a nail in the office. Only Mason and Miss Lundy had keys to the front door.

"It was not so easy to trace Mason and the young lady on that evening. After some considerable work I learned that neither of them had been at home the early part of that particular evening. No one knew where they had been nor what they had done during this period. Mason had left his home and Miss Lundy her boarding house early after supper on that night on the pretext of taking a walk. Mason had returned sometime after midnight. The hour of Miss Lundy's return was uncertain.

"Already sorely puzzled over the evidence which was accumulating, one morning, upon arising, I was more than ever mystified by finding a slip of paper under the door of my room. In a sprawling, unnatural hand, four words were written upon it

Mason robbed the safe.

"When I visited the postoffice, I noticed that Mason was pale and haggard and he was as nervous as a caged leopard.

"When I went to the hotel at noon, I found a tiny note on the table in my room. It was a dainty, perfumed bit of paper, just the kind that refined young ladies employ in their polite correspondence. I jumped to the conclusion that it must be a further message of the same character as the morning's note. It was, but there was a decided conflict in the news it contained. In a cramped, disguised writing, evidently a woman's, were five words:

Miss Lundy is the robber.

"Frankly, I didn't know what to think. Suspicion and these mysterious notes pointed to the postmaster and his handsome assistant. The letters were written by different persons, and it was easy to imagine that Mason and the young lady had robbed the safe and that each of them had been seen by a different person as they left the building; that these persons were a woman and a man and that they had taken the pains to advise me of what they had seen by means of the brief, unsigned notes.

"The situation puzzled me more than ever and I didn't fall asleep until late that night, having tossed away many restless hours upon the instrument of torture which did service for a bed in the stuffy room of the hotel. Involuntarily, next morning, I as soon as my eyes opened. It was there, a third note, on the same paper, in the same hand and of the same purport as that of the morning before. The only change was in the wording of it.

Why don't you arrest Mason? He robbed the postoffice. Ask him if he didn't break the window-glass. He won't deny it

"I worried through the morning somehow; never trusting myself to show up at the post-office. At noon I was forced to go back to the hotel, as it was the only place of public entertainment in the village. I headed straight for my room, expecting to find a fourth note on the table. I was not disappointed, for there it was, as big as life, the exact counterpart of the day before:

Miss Lundy is the robber.

"More than ever puzzled, I strolled over to the postoffice after lunch. Mason was there and alone. Miss Lundy had not returned from her dinner. The postmaster's face was piteous to behold. He shrank from me as I greeted him and put his hands over his face. His hands shook like a man's with the palsy. Before I could find a seat he arose and went into his private office, beckoning me to follow.

"I seated myself and watched with patience while he strode back and forth across the limited space of the office. Suddenly he stopped squarely before me, and bracing himself with a painful effort, blurted out a jumble of words, confessing that he had robbed the safe. I was struck all of a heap, but never for an instant did I believe him. There was something about the very language of his incoherent confession and his manner in making it that told me that Mason was not the thief.

"'What more do you want?' Mason breathed. 'I did it, I tell you, and I shall be convicted of it. I can't restore the stamps and the money-order book because I have destroyed them, but here is the money, every penny of it.'

"He threw a roll of bills in my lap and continued:

"'My confession is sufficient to convict upon. I will repeat it in court and I want you to arrest me and get me away from here just as soon as you can.'

"Just at this juncture the depot agent entered the office with a telegram for me. It was a cipher message from the department. Taking out my code book, I translated it in a moment and the contents of it, in the light of Mason's confession, was nothing less than unnerving.

"Without a word I wrote the message out and passed it over to Mason; Money orders being passed Waco and other Texas towns.

"'What does it mean?' he cried.

"'Before I could answer him, Miss Lundy came into the office. With a woman's intuition, she saw that something was wrong. A look of terror, which smote me to the heart, swept over her face. She sprang forward and stepped between Mason and me, who stood staring at each other like wooden images.

"'Oh, Capt. Dickson,' she sobbed, 'don't you believe him. He didn't have a thing to do with it. I did it myself. The money is in my trunk. I have burned the stamps and the money-order book.'

"'She didn't do it, Capt. Dickson,' ranted Mason like a man demented. 'She knows nothing about it. I alone am guilty and she is merely trying to save me from prison; she is my affianced bride.'

"'Hold on there,' I cautioned, 'you are a pair of sentimental young innocents, and while I am willing to give you my blessing, although it is a bit out of my line, I am not going to believe a word either of you say about this robbery and don't either of you dare to breathe a word of such absurd nonsense to any one else. I know that neither of you robbed the safe and you couldn't convince me of it if you talked

"SHE DIDN'T DO IT, CAPTAIN DICKSON — I ALONE AM GUILTY."

alone had caused their marriage to be so long postponed; he had seen her leave the post-office at an hour of night when she could have had no business there and at which, even had she felt some necessity for visiting the office, propriety would have prevented her doing it; she had worn the very tube-rose blossom that he had found in the office. Although these circumstances seemed to fix guilt upon his assistant beyond a doubt, Mason had thought only of shielding her. He had endeavored to figure out some plan and had conceived the idea of the tramps and the broken window. Immediately he had smashed the glass of the back window with the stick that was employed in fastening it. Miss Lundy had arrived at this inopportune time and had seen Mason strike the blow. In her excitement over the robbery, she had forgotten the incident, nor did she remember it or attach any importance to it until Mason had showed it to me as the place where the tramps had gained entrance. Miss Lundy had feared me would be comfortable, cozy, old-fashioned house with 90 feet front on Martin Street. Fine location, plenty of room, and the price is only $1,300.

77

One set on Saginaw street, just south of land owned by John German, 50 feet frontage. Anyone wishing to purchase will find this a bargain. For particulars inquire of Mollie G. Smith or at the Exchange Bank.

103

Eighty-acre farm in White Lake township, w ¼ of s e ¼ of section 32; 70 acres cleared, 10 acres timber and huckleberry swamp. Don't laugh, this swamp netted the owner over $150.00 last summer.) Three acres of good orchard, house of 7 rooms, barn, hog-house, etc. Good gravel road. 3 miles from Commerce; proposed electric road comes within a mile of the house. Price, $2,000.

147

Nice little home for someone of small means (¼ acres in n w ¼ of n e ¼ of sec 34, township of Troy, having 3 rooms but is all ready for 5, with both barn and house never dry. ¼ mile east of Rochester Electric fare to Detroit 15c. R. F. D. all cash and no grumbling will buy it at $750. Hurry up!

No. 167.

Wants to trade for 80 or 60 acres on or near electric. Ninety-four acres on east ¼ of southwest ¼ Sec. 11, Troy township; three buildings valued at $8,000 (insured for $4,700). Fine rolling well drained to barn; farm well adapted for stock or dairy. Is 4 miles from electric at Troy Corners, where there are good schools and churches. Fare 15c to Detroit. $60 per acre.

No. 171

Finest building site between Birmingham and Pontiac, on electric railway, just north of Birmingham, among the country homes of such men as Booth, Barbour, Kindicott, Brady, Shaw, Conklin, and others; 45 acres, part of which is timber, and pretty little branch of River Rouge (never dry) runs through the place with plenty of fish and game. Fine for building, good drainage, fine orchard of 3 acres. Price is high, but if you have the cream you must expect to pay for it.

178

Seven-room cottage on west side of Bates street, 40 feet front, 120 feet deep. You couldn't build the house for $1,200, and that's all we ask for it. City water, wood shed, cellar, all ordinary conveniences. One of the best bargains we have. Show it to you any time.

180

Farm in Avon township, 35 acres of good clay loam, all cleared, small orchard, no build ings; small amount down. For sale or exchange for small farm.

185

Corner lot, 100 feet front on Maple avenue, 132 feet deep; one good building insured; plenty of small fruit. A bargain for $1,800, one-half cash down.

188

One of the best-arranged and finest-equipped residences in the village, and in absolutely the best location. East Maple Avenue, two blocks from electric road; bath, toilet, hot and cold water, city gas, 10 rooms, 2 stories, rebuilt last year, better than new; buildings, fine orchard; 112 feet on Maple, 320 feet deep; plenty of room for children and garden; good barn. Worth looking at. What else do you want, anyhow? Will sell house and lot for 150 feet deep for $5,800. One of our best bargains.

193

Thirty-five-acre fruit farm, 1¼ miles north of Birmingham, on the town line; 6 buildings, insured for $1,600; 2 wells, well-clay, gravel, sand and dark loam. Last year this farm produced 1,100 bushels raspberries, 20 bushels blackberries, 111 bushels strawberries, 10 tons hay, etc. A gravel ridge 40 rods in length, with an almost inexhaustable supply of gravel, is worth almost the price of the farm alone. No waste land and under a high state of cultivation. Worth looking at. Price $5,000; terms easy.

194

Fifty acres in Township of Troy, adjoining the Bay Stock Farm; 5 buildings, good house, basement barn, granary, etc. Only 2 miles from excellent fruit; 2¼ miles from Flint Division R. R. R. 3 wells and fine spring. Price $6,000.

195

Fifteen acres in Township of Royal Oak; six buildings; small grove of maples is a pretty feature; new land, well drained, clay loam with gravel top soil; corner of the 9½-mile road and Campbell road, 3 mile east of electric road; adjoins J. L. Hudson and Duffield estates. Will make fine site for $600.00 per acre. 1¼ miles north of State Fair grounds. Price $300 per acre; will exchange for Detroit property.

196

Six acres, part of s w ¼ of n e ¼ of section 36, Troy township; new barn, fair house, well clay loam, fine for fruit or chicken farm; 2 miles from electric road, 8½ miles from Big Beaver; good farm for somebody. Price $1,200.

198

Ten acres 1 mile east of Royal Oak village on sellent land, 40 fine apple trees, no buildings. Price $1,200. The place is well fenced, and the price will enable you to build the kind of house you may require.

200

One hundred and twenty-six acres near Birmingham; good buildings, well fenced, fine orchard, flowing well; pretty little River Rouge runs through this farm. Is well worth looking at. Worth looking at. Take you to see it any day. Oh, yes, the price is $10,000, and the terms easy. Farms not as good as this have sold within the past year, in the immediate vicinity, for $180.00 per acre. Now, for what they are worth, don't please you, and if you don't buy we won't grumble.

201

Fine 5-story residence on Maple Avenue, corner of High Street; 50 feet front, 125 feet deep; hot-water heater, hot and cold bath, toilet, city gas, city water; conveniences of every kind in the neighborhood. Cement walk (cost $3,000 to build today; ask any one to build it for less and see what they say.) Will buy this beautiful home for $2,900, and have your own way about payments. Ask the man at the bank.

216

A new, modern dwelling, constructed by a well-known builder for his own use, from best cement blocks, hollow walls, 2 stories high, in one of the best locations in our village; lot 60x100 feet; 12 large apple trees; has hot-air furnace, hot and cold water, coal-pool, hot-air furnace, 2 rooms beautifully finished in hard wood, large attic. Owner's reasons for selling. Price $4,800. Let us show it to you any day—any time.

219

Tidy little place for some one with moderate means. Corner Chestnut and Palm, Campbell Addition. Lot 50x150 feet; house of 5 rooms; house is insured for $1,250; that's $1,700, and prices are advancing all along the lines in that location. If you come right away we will consider an offer of $1,500, and if that is too high after we have shown you over the property we will introduce you to the owner and you can make your own terms. Eh?

222

Two-story tenement or terrace, on the east side of Woodward Avenue, in Ferndale. Two-story houses of 5 rooms each. Furnace, water-closet, bath, hot and cold water, city water and gas; each independent of other apartment. Rents for $18 per month each. Will exchange for a year's rent for taxes and insurance. Good barn on the premises, and the lot is 70 feet front on the best frontage on Woodward, and 132 feet deep; room for a nice garden; can live in one apartment and have a steady income from the other. This is something to ponder over. Come and let us help you ponder. Always at your service. If you can't call, write.

227

Five acres just outside of the corporation limits of Birmingham, about 10 rods frontage on Woodward Avenue, on the Pontiac electric line; the price is front; about 80 rods deep, with nice level piece (branch of the River Rouge) crossing the back end. A beautiful location for a home in the country for a nice little chicken farm. No buildings, but you will be bought cheap enough so that you can build to suit yourself and have one of the finest homes among the many in the Bloomfield Hills district. Postal card request will bring prices and all particulars. Better show it to you, though.

Real Estate Exchange

Of WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL

Exchange Bank, Birmingham, Mich.

The following is a partial list of Farms, City and Village Lots and Real Estate generally which we have for sale. As our list is constantly changing, we request that parties will write us if they do not see what they want in this list.

229

A pleasant and sightly farm of 71 acres in West Bloomfield, 1 mile from the Northwestern electric road; 40 acres under cultivation; buildings worth $6,000, and the price is $6,000—and it is well worth it. Will exchange for Detroit property of high grade of cultivation. Better investigate.

231

Cheerful, square house in good repair; well and cistern. Lot 66x132. House would cost more than $1,500 to build—and they will let you have it for $1,000 or less. Corner Merritt and Macomb Streets. Terms easy.

232

Farm of 270¼ acres, just outside the Village of Birmingham, on the D. & P. electric line; 120 feet on highway, half-dozen buildings, good clay loam soil; four buildings, all in good condition. Superb location between Detroit and Pontiac.

241

Fine new house with all modern conveniences, within 300 feet of the west side of Woodward Avenue; 8 rooms, hard-wood finish; lot 66x100; plenty of fruit. You could not build this house for $3,000, and that's all we ask for the premises. Well worth looking at.

243

Farm of 160 acres, Saginaw county, 2 miles from Fergus Station, on the M. C. R'y. Clay loam; good buildings valued at $5,000, and $3,000 will buy the farm if you come right away—now. The place is within 2 miles of active coal mines, and there is a rich coal deposit under the entire farm; 6 miles to Chesaning; 16 miles to Owosso; 44½ miles to Charles and 22 miles to Saginaw. Well drained, good fences, and altogether worth the money.

244

If you could buy an acre and a quarter of land with a brick house equipped with hot and cold water, bath, water closet, furnace, and every possible convenience, and barn, chicken house, plenty of fruit and cement walks—and the house alone cost $6,000—for $3,000 on easy terms, you'd call it a snap, wouldn't you? Well, we can do it. Come on and we'll show you.

246

One hundred and twenty-seven acres in the Township of Avon. Six buildings worth $8,000, 8 acres of timber, 5 acres of orchard; well watered (Clinton river runs through the farm); no marsh land in 120 feet above the river; fine cedars, 4 wells, 3 good houses, 2 barns in good repair, well fenced, and only a mile from the thriving Village of Rochester. Will trade for a smaller farm or will consider an offer of $8,500, with one-third cash. Take you to see it any old time at all.

247

House, barn, and also an acre of good garden land on north side of Adelle Street. Good, old-fashioned house, and a cozy home at a low price. Party has decided to go West and wants to sell badly enough to make a decided sacrifice. Ask the man at the bank about it.

248

Comfortable house, nearly new, in good location in Whitehead & Mitchell's Subdivision. House would cost more than $1,000 to build this red-hot minute, and we only ask $1,050 for the house and two lots. There is a mortgage of $100 which can run. The building is insured for $700. Owner lives in Detroit and wants to sell.

249

Nice, warm, old-fashioned house on the south side of Maple Avenue, among the best class of residences in the village. Plenty of room for a good garden, and it can be bought for $1,800. Not? Why not? Well, just come and talk it over with us; and after you look the premises over you will make us an offer anyhow.

250

Now, here is a "Beaner!" House, barn and chicken house, with two acres of land on westerly side of Woodward, opposite Electric Park, known as "Elmcrest." Ten rooms, bath, toilet, two cellars, furnace room, good hot-air furnace, two grates and mantels, one of the best equipped lot of buildings in the village, city water, drains, fine shade trees and beautiful lawn; buildings insured for $4,000. $3,500 cash will buy it, and the balance of purchase price can be had on long time and low rate of interest. Without exception, this is the finest location and the best lot of buildings on our st, and the price is right.

251

House and lot in Campbell's Subdivision; corner lot 60x110, fine hedge on front and side, cellar, city and cistern water in the kitchen, fine veranda on front and side; cherries, peaches, pears, crab apples all bearing—and some smaller trees. $1,450 will buy it, and terms are such so that it won't take a million-naire to handle it. Come on.

252

Eight acres of land in Newaygo county, Michigan, listed "A No. 1 sandy soil;" no buildings, 12 acres oak timber; price $5 per acre. Won't cost anything to investigate. We're ready to answer all questions you may ask—wise or otherwise.

253

Two hundred acres of sand and sandy loam, 40 acres of mixed timber, 20 acres cleared; two buildings of little value. Price $10 per acre. Is in the Township of Big Prairie, County of Newaygo. And then we have 440 acres more, in the same township, with 8 buildings, 80 acres of orchard and 100 acres of mixed timber; all at $10 per acre. We'll just dare you to dig into this proposition—and you know what our opinion used to be at school regarding any "feller" that wouldn't "take a dare."

256

Eight-room house, good barn and two acres at excellent land on west side of Southfield Avenue in the Village of Birmingham; one of the best equipped and tidiest homes in the village. Buildings would cost $2,800 to build today (house is practically new), and the whole outfit can be bought for just a little more than that. Enough to secure it, will get it, and you can have your own way about payments on balance!

257

Just what everybody wants! Don't wait a minute or you'll lose it. Fine house and barn, with 2 other good buildings, all nearly new, an acre of fine orchard, lots of small fruit; buildings insured for $2,900; 11 acres of excellent land, 1½ miles from Flint Electric, an hour's ride from Detroit. Price $3,500; terms easy. Half mile east from school church and store. Take you to see it any old time.

258

Lots 23 and 24, Beach & Miller's Addition, Price $400 for both lots. Terms, $25 cash; balance on contract.

265

Eighty-acre farm in Iosia county, Town of Easton. Will exchange for small farm or residence. Property is described as w ½ of s e ¼ of sec 36, town 4 north, range 3 west. Nine buildings insured for $2,250 mortgage of $8,500, which can run; $2,500 cash will move it. 2 miles from Ionia; 9-room white brick house; all kinds of fruits in bills or waste land; orchard well set. This offer is good for 30 days only, so you'd better get busy.

269

House and lot, east side Woodward Avenue; will exchange for small farm; lot 105x87, house of 6 rooms; small barn, large garden, some fruit; $1,000; buildings are insured for $600.

270

House and lot, west side of Ann Street; 2-story frame cottage, cement-block foundation, 8 rooms and cellar, one block from Woodward Avenue; $1,800; terms easy.

271

Forty feet front on Southfield Avenue, 176 feet deep; fine building site; electric car, sewerage, water in house, garden, fruit, new cement walks, $1,350.

1273

New cement house, one block from Woodward Avenue, 4 bedrooms, bath and closet on second floor. 4 rooms downstairs; large veranda, hot-air furnace, hot and cold water; hard-wood floors, good barn large enough for horse or auto; cement walks, cistern, etc. Worth looking at; also worth more money than we ask for it, but we'll sell it for $5,500 on easy terms.

274

Nice little country place for some one of small means. House, barn, and all necessary outbuildings with two acres of good land; buildings insured for $725; cistern, good location, 2¼ miles from Clawson on the Flint electric line; $900; terms easy.

275

Fine new house and 102 acres of good land on west side of Woodward Avenue, near Pontiac; 12 acres timber, 5 acres orchard; 2 buildings, valued at $7,000; hot and cold soft water, tubular hot-air furnace, bath, toilet, water closet; grapes, peaches and apples in great abundance; one mile from Pontiac on D. U. R. electric. Prices and terms on application.

276

Farm of 160 acres, west of Birmingham; excellent soil, good buildings, fine location; 16 acres orchard, 20 acres timber; one of the finest farms in the country. Price low and terms. Take you to see it any day.

Best Masts of Norwegian Fir.

The best masts are made of the Norwegian fir. The next best in order are spruce fir, American white pine and Scotch pine.

267

Forty acres on the line of the Flint electric, at Harris Corners, in Washington. Excellent soil, clay loam, no waste; one of the finest pieces of land for building a home country residence. The place is held for more money, but you can have it offer of $2,400 cash, and we will see what we can do for you; or, we will sell from one to 20 acres in any sort of parcel, or any part of the 40, at prices which cannot fail to interest you.

277

Farm of 160 acres in Southfield; gravelly loam and clay; 4 good buildings, 6 acres orchard, 40 acres oak timber; 3 miles from Inkster and Village of Franklin; 3½ miles from electric road; Ann Arbor, R. F. D., and 80 rods from school. Will sell for $4,000 cash, and we will see what we can do for you; or, we will sell from one to 20 acres in any sort of parcel, or any part of the 40, at prices which cannot fail to interest you.

277

Farm of 160 acres in Southfield; gravelly loam and clay; 4 good buildings, 6 acres orchard, 40 acres oak timber; 3 miles from Inkster and Village of Franklin; 3½ miles from electric road; Ann Arbor, R. F. D., and 80 rods from school. Will sell for $4,000 cash, and we will see what we can do for you; or, we will take some stock in a corporation to buy it. A postal will bring full particulars, photographs and map.

279

Fine farm of about 96 acres, a trifle more than a mile from the Electric line, and in the fashionable Bloomfield Hills District. Brick house, 2 story, 30x36, 8 large rooms; 2 basement barns, ice house, wood house, 2 chicken houses, tool house, milk house, wind mill which pumps an abundance of pure water to house and barn. Soil rich gravelly loam; buildings in good repair; farm well fenced with wire and cedar posts; good roads; no waste land. Will be sold for considerably less than $100 per acre if sold before the spring work begins.

Painting on Grain of Corn.

The smallest painting known was done by a Flemish artist on the smooth side of a grain of common white corn. It represents a mill on a terrace, the miller mounting the stairs with a sack of grain on his back, a horse and cart standing near, and a group of peasants in the road at a little distance.

Men of Letters.

Twelve letters by Chopin to his friend Fontana were sold at auction in Berlin the other day for $600. Five Brahms letters went for $42. Fifteen Wagner letters brought $200, and a Wagner manuscript, a dedicatory composition for the hotel keeper Kraft, brought $240.

Time's Change.

"How girls do alter," said the mother. "There's Chrisie, now. When she was a girl she wouldn't sit in a room without a light in case there might be a man in it; now, three nights a week she won't have a light in the sitting-room because there is a man in it."

Fatherland, Mother Tongue.

"Can you tell me why it is," asked Mr. Henpeck, in a lapse in the conversation of his spouse, "that when they speak of their native country, it always is the fatherland, but when they speak of the language they invariably call it 'the mother tongue?'"

Executioner Also General Thug.

The public executioner at Yekaterinoslav, southern Russia, has been executed by his successor. He was sentenced to death over a month ago for spending his leisure on the high roads, plundering, and frequently murdering travelers.

Arts of Civil Policy.

To rob, to ravage, to murder, in their imposing language, are the arts of civil policy. When they have made the world a solitude they call it peace.—Tacitus.

Planning for New Business.

A leading German electrical company has in contemplation the erection of a new plant for the exclusive manufacture of airships and aeroplanes.

Horrible.

"That was an awful disaster. There was only one survivor—isn't that terrible?" "Fearful. What a bore he will be!"—Cleveland Leader.

The Same Thing.

The same thing which causes a young writer to think the whole world is excited over the first story he gets published in a magazine causes a man to believe everybody is interested in the extraordinary brightness of his first baby.

Beard Pleased the Czar.

It is recorded that Ivan the Terrible was so delighted with the beard of one of the envoys sent him by Queen Mary of England that he "smiled at the sight of it, and after dinner played with it as with a favorite-toy."

Will Work in a Theater.

The Ladies' Home Journal is right—a lady should precede her escort down the aisle of the theater, but in churchgoing, lest he should get away, she should shoo the man on ahead.—Houston Chronicle.

For Debating Societies.

If love is blind how does it happen that the girl in love can see lint on a man's coat so much quicker than she can see a grease spot after she has married him?—Atchison Globe.

Make Right Use of To-Day.

The only preparation for the morrow is the right use of to-day. The stone in the hands of the builder must be put in its place and fitted to receive another.—George Bowen.

Opposed to the Beard.

Some physicians say that the beard is a repository for harmful germs, which are kept alive by the warm breath being constantly breathed upon them.

Corncobs a Basis for Cattle Food.

Ordinary corncobs are worth 16 cents for 80 pounds in India. They are ground to a coarse meal, mixed with molasses and used as a food for cattle.

China's Chief Port.

Nearly 45 per cent. of all the imports to China last year paid duty at Shanghai.

Some tropical daisies measure a foot in circumference.