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ELLICOTT CITY, MD., SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1895.

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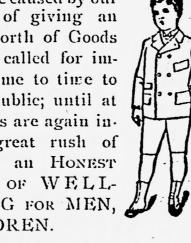
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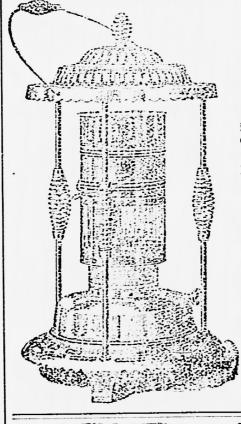
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DEALER WHO SAYS THERE ARE ARTISTIC KLEPTOMANIACS.

"Duchess of Devonshire '-Story of a Kiss Given For a Vote-Sharpers and Counterfeit Etchings.

"Did you ever hear of the artistic kleptomaniae?" asked a well known dealer in etchings during an after luncheon harmony a few days ago. "Well, there is such a person. The artistic kleptomaniac is insanely fond of valuable art in the form of etchings or paintings. He steals through the admiration and love of art. There are many famous instances where old and almost priceless masterpieces of the painter's art have been taken by persons of this kind, and it is odd that in almost every instance the stolen pieces of art could not be

traced. "The most famous artistic theft of modern days was the stealing of the figure of St. Anthony from the celebrated picture by Murillo. The painting, which was on exhibition in the cathedral at Seville, represented St. Anthony surrounded by angels. One morning about seven years ago it was discovered that the figure of St. Anthony had been cut from the canvas.

"All Europe was notified of the theft, but the police never found the thief. About two years afterward a Spaniard from the West Indies called in at the establishment of Mr. Schaus, the well known picture dealer of this city. The Spaniard told Mr. Schaus that he would like to sell him an unsigned painting by Murillo. Mr. Schaus, being a man of large intelligence regarding works of the masters, recognized immediately the figure of St. Anthony cut from the painting in the cathedral at Seville.

"The man was seized, and Mr. Schaus

had the honor of returning the painting "The theft of the celebrated portrait of the Duchess of Devonshire, by Gainsborough, 15 years ago was doubtless the work of an artistic kleptomaniae, for the picture can do the thief no good but excite his admiration. The portrait was in the possession of the Messrs. Agnew, the picture dealers of London. It had been on exhibition, and the Agnew galleries had been crowded. One morning the frame stood empty. The painting had been cut out, and no one knows to this day where Gainsborough's Duches

of Devonshire is. "Some dishonest lover of art is gloating over the picture in private. The por-

trait is valued at \$50,000. "That painting by Gainsborough, be sides being an artistic relic, is also his torie, as the painting was made just when the beautiful Duchess of Devonshire had been the means of turning the political tide of England. Pitt and Fox were rival candidates for parliament. It was demonstrated that the election would be narrowed down to the vote of an elderly fat butcher. The butcher intended to vote for Pitt. The Duke of Devonshire tried every means, including a bribe, to influence the fat butcher to vote for Fox, but the butcher was obdurate. Then the beautiful duch

ess said to him: " 'Is there anything I can do for you if you will vote for Fox?'

"'Yes,' answered the butcher. 'I you will kiss me, I will vote for Fox.' "The duchess kissed the fat butcher. Fox was elected, and the political com plexion of England was changed. It is related that the Duchess of Devonshire told the story to Gainsborough when she was posing for her picture.

The collector of valuable etchings or engravings must be as constantly on the alert for counterfeits as is the bank cashier for forged checks or counterfeit bills or the jeweler for false diamonds Some dealers have suffered heavy losses because of their inability to distinguisl between an original and a counterfeit etching or engraving. Quick wit and wide knowledge of the history of etch ings recently saved Frederick Keppel, the art dealer of this city and Paris, nearly 1,000 marks in Berlin. The collection of etchings of the late Baron Opperman was sold at auction, and dealers from all over the world attended the sale at Berlin.

Mr. Keppel bought an impression of Rembrandt's Christ before Pilate, entitled the "Great Ecco Homo," paying 1,400 marks, or \$350, for the etching. Just after the sale a well dressed gen tleman said in French to Mr. Keppel: "Sir, I presume you are a stranger in Berlin. I am a native of the city, and I am mortified to see you so badly cheated today. I wish to make you all the restitution I can. You paid 1,400 marks for that etching. The price is far too high, but to compensate you for your

loss I will sell you a genuine etching for 1,000 marks." Mr. Keppel knew his etching to be Open Back and Front; Guaranteed to Fit. | genuine. Mr. Keppel saw that the man 203 W. Baltimore Street, was playing a game of high comedy, but he said he would like to see the etching. When Mr. Keppel reviewed

the etching, he said: "I will give you 5 marks for the etching." When the man found he had been caught in his game, he simply said; "Prenez le," and Mr. Keppel took the counterfeit, which he afterward gave to the purchaser of his genuine etching. The counterfeit, which was made by

Solomon Savry, can only be told from

the original by the difference in the

drawing of one of the hands in the etch-BUCKETS, TUBS & BARRELS ing.
The only difference between the original states of the origina inal and the counterfeit of Albert Durer's celebrated etching "Melanchelia" is the form of a ward on one of several keys hanging from a figure's girdle. Though smaller than a pinhead, the flaw represents a difference in price of reveral hundred dollars -- New York

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