PICTURE THIEVES

DEALER WHO SAYS THERE ARE

ARTISTIC KLEPTOMANIACS.

Theft of a Murillo and of Gainsborough's

stances 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

"The most famous artistic theft of

modern days was the stealing of the fig-

ure of St. Anthony from the celebrated

picture by Murillo. The painting, which

was on exhibition in the cathedral at

Seville, represented St. Anthony sur-

rounded by angels. One morning about

seven years ago it was discovered that

the figure of St. Anthony had been cut

"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

largo intelligence regarding works of

the masters, recognized immediately

the figure of St. Anthony cut from the

"The man was seized, and Mr. Schaus

"The theft of the celebrated portrait

had the honor of returning the painting

of the Duchess of Devenshire, by Gains-

borough, 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

ing over the picture in private. The por-

"That painting by Gainsborough, be-

sides being an artistic relic, is also his-

toric, as the painting was made just

when the beautiful Duchess of Devon-

shire had been the means of turning

the political tide of England. Pitt and

Fox were rival candidates for parlia-

ment. 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

"'Is there anything I can do for you

"'Yes,' answered the batcher.

you will kiss me, I will vote for Fox.'

"The duchess kissed the fat butcher.

between an original and a counterfeit

etching or engraving. Quick wit and a

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 col-

lection of etchings of the late Baron Op-

perman was sold at auction, and dealers

Mr. Keppel bought an impression of

Rembrandt's Christ before Pilate, en-

1,400 marks, or \$350, for the etching.

Just after the sale a well dressed gen-

"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 cheat-

ed 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

Mr. Keppel knew his etching to be

genuine. Mr. Keppel saw that the man

was playing a game of high comedy,

but he said he would like to see the

etching. When Mr. Keppel reviewed

"I will give you 5 marks for the etch-

"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-

The only difference between the orig-

s the form of a ward on one of several keys hanging from a figure's girdle.

inal and the counterfeit of Albert Du-

rer's celebrated etching "Melanchelia"

Though smaller than a pinhead, the

flaw represents a difference in price of

several hundred dollars.—New York

A piece of limburger cheese is like

tack in one respect—you can always find it in the dark.—Texas Sittings.

ing." When the man found he had been

caught in his game, he simply said;

tleman said in French to Mr. Keppel:

was obdurate. Then the beautiful duch-

trait is valued at \$50,000.

ess said to him:

sale at Berlin.

for 1,000 marks."

the etching, he said:

if you will vote for Fox?'

painting in the cathedral at Seville.

terfeit Etchings.

traced.

from the canvas.

VOL. XXVI. NO. 16.

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

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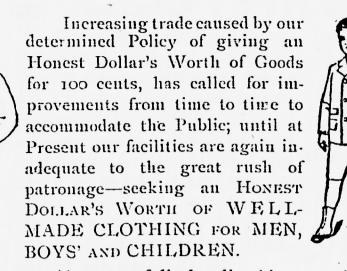
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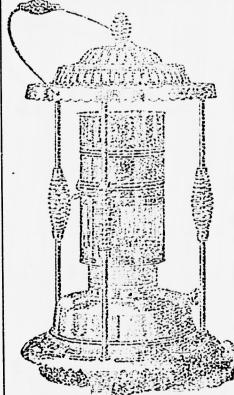
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in the possession of the Messrs. Agnew, the picture dealers of London. It had been on exhibition, and the Agnew galleries had been crowded. One morning the frame stood empty. The painting had been cut out, and no one knows to Sizes, shapes and shades for this day where Gainsborough's Duchess of Devonshire is. "Some dishonest lover of art is gloat-

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THE STREET STREET

Fox was elected, and the political complexion of England was changed. It is related that the Duchess of Devonshire ICE COLD BEER always on draught. Selec 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 distinguish

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