Story of Murder.

The murder of Mr. Constable aroused indignation such as the taking of a human life seldom does. He was shot down while taking a walk near his home at Elkton on August 18. The murderer was masked, and after fatally wounding the man who was so highly respected through the State, robbed him of his watch and 25 cents, all the valuables Mr. Constable had about him.

The wounded man was found by John Holland, colored, who said that a man accosted him and told him that a man was "in need of he p up the road." Mr. Constable was taken to Baltimore and was taken to the Union Protestant Infirmary, where he died on the afternoon of August 23.

As he lingered between life and death at the hospital Mr. Constable gave out the following account of the shooting:

"I was out for my usual walk from the house to Gray's Hill and had just made the turn toward home when someone from the side of the road shouted 'Hold up your hands!' I thought it was someone playing a joke, as I am so well acquainted in the neighborhood and have been so often seen taking this walk, and did not pay much attention to the command.

"The same order was given a second time and was accompanied by a shot. I started to run, and a second and third shot followed. The bullet from the third shot struck me in the head as I started to look back. I fell, and a man came foward with pistol in hand. I thought he was going to end my life and asked him what he wanted. He said he wanted my money, and I told him I only had 25 cents. He remained about ten feet away and tried to protect his face.

Demanded His Money.

"He demanded that I throw the money to him, and I did so. He then wanted my watch, and I threw that to him. He was about to leave, when I begged him to inform some of the residents that I was shot and in need of help. He said he would do so and ran off."

Holland, the negro, said he was afraid to go to the place the mysterious stranger had told him, and did not go until his wife suggested that the wounded man might be Mr. Constable, who was known to walk along the road at that time of day. When he did go Holland found Mr. Constable lying in the middle of the road, bleeding.

The inquest held by the Baltimore authorities brought only a verdict of murder at the hands of "parties unknown to the jury." Holland testified to the fact of finding the body, and gave a very accurate description of the man who first told him of the crime.

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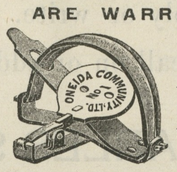
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BOX OFFICE TRICKS.

THE BERTH OF A THEATER TICKET SELLER IS NOT A SINECURE.

Why the Man Who Sits Behind the Wicket Must Be a Good Judge of Human Nature—The Art of "Dressing" a Light House.

To the average theater goer the man who sits behind the wicket in the box office and sells tickets seems to have one of the sinecures of earth. True, he has to answer many fool questions and deal with many fool persons who are often ugly because others with more foresight have picked up early all the good seats. He has to handle diplomatically the woman who wants dollar seats for 75 cents and with the other fellow who wants "first row, center," after the play has begun and that has been sold for a week ahead. But all these things seem but his share of the minor ills of earth. Outside of them apparently his job is what is generally known as a "snap."

But the man in the box office has other things to do besides sell tickets. True, that is where he comes in contact with the general public, and that is all that is usually thought about his duties. But at the same time he is serving the public he is working for two masters behind the scenes, the proprietor of the house and the manager of the attraction, and he must serve them equally, while their interests sometimes conflict sharply. Furthermore, he must serve them as against the public if need there be, and it keeps him hustling to hold his job to do it too.

The man behind the wicket is a good man if he can make you buy a seat that costs you more than you intended to invest to see that particular "show"—all attractions in a playhouse are "shows" in the parlance, be they opera, comedy or vaudeville. Now, most men think they know what they are going to get when they visit a theater, and they especially have the price fixed in their minds. Perhaps, psychologically speaking, they are stronger minded than the house treasurer. Then they do get what they want, and he never questions it. But the average man is not. The treasurer is trained in ticket selling. It is his daily routine, while it is an occasional act on the man's part. Hence he is fortified for the public, and the latter is not for him, and so when the people step up, especially if it is rather late and there is something of a rush, a clever ticket man can easily get the extra price out of them for a higher selling seat.

How does he do it? Largely by the power of suggestion. He implies that you want it, for instance, when you go up. In other words, he puts the question as to what priced seat by asking you about the higher ones before he mentions the lower ones, and when he does refer to the latter, at your suggestion, he does it rather apologetically. He has the higher rate tickets in his hand, and if you do not take them he reaches to the rack for the others, and all the time the line is waiting, those back of you are scowling, if not making remarks, and every one within earshot of the window knows that you have refused the higher seats for the lower priced ones. This is embarrassing. Especially is it so if a girl is with you, waiting just outside the rail that separates the mob from the line, and the chances are 10 to 1 that you will take the cue, involuntarily, and pay a quarter more, when you had no intention of doing so when you approached the clever man in the box.

That is one way. It doesn't require any falsehood. It does require a good knowledge of human nature. Some men wouldn't "stand for" that. They would be offended, and it might hurt the house. That is for the treasurer to beware. He must "size up" his customers and act accordingly.

There is a great gain in time in selling without a chart. A man will then step up and ask for a "good seat" about a certain place. Running through his lists, the seller finds him something very near there, and he is satisfied. That one man is finished in a few seconds. It would take minutes if the sheets were there. Time is important when the orchestra is playing and the curtain about to go up.

Still further, the absence of a chart enables the seller to "dress" his house, provided the sale is light, and to keep out "singles" if it is heavy. "Singles" are seats left alone when the adjoining pairs have been selected from a chart. "Singles" are hard to sell because very few persons attend a theater alone. Almost all seats are sold in pairs. A treasurer with a bunch of "singles" on his hands, even with a house threatening to sell out, is "up against it," for often he will lose sales that would have meant capacity but for the fact that he cannot place a couple in adjoining seats, though he may have several odd ones left.

"Dressing" a house is the avoidance of this condition in one sense, but it applies to light houses generally. When a show is not doing well it is up to the box office to make the house look full even though it be only partly solid. He does this by scattering the crowd. Instead of selling a section solid and leaving adjoining sections vacant he sells a few here, a few there, and thus the empty spaces are not concentrated.

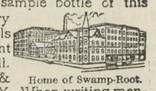
Men usually dress a house from the center out. They will sell a good part of the center section, scattering, and then will work out on the left and right. This is because seats on the extreme edge of the house are not so good, and people expect them to be vacant except in a heavy house anyhow and do not notice them so soon. He knows his house like a book, and he knows early in the day whether or not he will have a crowd. Hence he acts accordingly.—Kansas City Journal.

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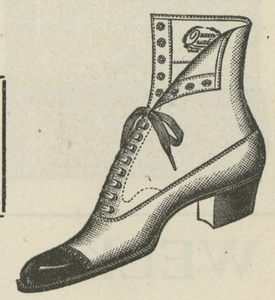

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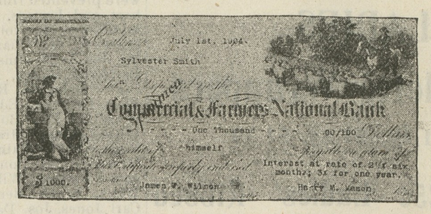
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