



## The Mosler Safe and Lock Company.

Moses Mosler, Julius Mosler and William Mosler, all young and enterprising men, had been virtually born and brought up in the safe business, of which Cincinnati had long been the acknowledged center of trade. But while the safe business of Cincinnati was an immense one and represented the highest attainments in the art, it had fallen into ruts and the products failed, to a certain extent, to keep up with the march of events. Safes, as a general thing, were not handsome, nor were they constructed upon such systematic lines as were essential to the getting of first class safes at a fair price. Nor had the genius of the safe maker kept up with the genius of the burglar.

These three brothers started the business under the name of The Mosler Safe & Lock Co. on Pearl Street. They put business talent and mechanical talent into the art and pushed the business with vigor and soon out-grew the factory and the capacity of the factory to be extended within the limits imposed by the surroundings. Then a move was made to another locality in Cincinnati and soon the business outgrew the new situation, and then a move was made to another locality on Elm Street in Cincinnati. The business

continued to grow and extensions were made in all possible directions until there was no longer room to extend. Then an entirely new factory was built on Front Street to be devoted entirely to burglar proof work, and this factory soon overflowed its capacity and made it impossible to fill the orders received. In 1890 it was determined that room must be had for the increasing industry and accordingly, the magnificent factory was built at Hamilton. In this grand establishment a single one of the work-rooms is 205 feet by 400 feet. The premises occupy ten acres bounded by Grand Boulevard, Lincoln Avenue, Safe Avenue and Mosler Avenue. The Miami and Erie Canal runs at one edge of the property and the Panhandle railroad upon the other.

The Mosler Safe & Lock Co. has worked a number of revolutions in the safe trade. Special appliances were contrived for the production of the work so as to secure superior results without increase of cost. Great ingenuity was shown in modifying the established principles of construction. Safes had always before been constructed with square corners and were decidedly unhandsome. The Mosler Safe & Lock Co. abandoned this system and introduced the round cornered safe which was free from sharp angles and possessed an integrity and strength and beauty before unknown. The construction of burglar-proof work was brought to its highest point. Time-locks were brought to a superior condition of efficiency and convenience.

Burglar-proof safes of the highest type had resolved themselves into impenetrable walls (that is impenetrable within the length of time available for the burglar) and hinged air tight doors locked by unpickable combination locks guarded by time-locks. The locks were inside the safe, and the safe door closed air tight in its jamb. Such construction constituted the highest attainment which had been reached in the art of safe-making. The doors were fitted with the greatest of care and there was no chance for the burglar to introduce explosive material at the door-joint. But the inherent defect in the system lay in the fact that the spindle of the combination lock must reach to the outside of the safe through a hole in the door, and fit in that hole with a certain degree of looseness. Here was the fatal crack and through it the burglar could introduce liquid and gaseous explosives and cause them to reach the very vitals of the safe.

The Mosler Safe & Lock Co. began the manufacture of the screw door safe. The door is circular and is ground into the door-jamb and fits as tight as a poppet-valve. The door is screwed into the door-jamb and the door can only be opened by unscrewing, and it is kept from being unscrewed by the time-lock located within the safe. There is no hole through the door for a lock-spindle and no lock-spindle at all. The safe is an absolutely air-tight impenetrable structure.

Much originality is shown in all the work of this Company, which owns a large number of patents under which it is operating. The business done

is enormous and the products go everywhere where there is anything worth locking up against fire and the knight of the jimmy. Branch houses for the sale of the work of this establishment have been established in Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, New York, St. Louis, Kansas City, Minneapolis, &c. and a very extensive branch house is located in the City of Mexico. One hundred salesmen are employed in selling the goods.

In 1890 Mr. Julius Mosler died and the business has since been conducted entirely by Mr. Moses Mosler and Mr. William Mosler, both of whom give constant personal attention to the business. When the other shop was built in Cincinnati for the burglar proof work, that part of the business was incorporated under the name of the Mosler Bank Safe Co. In the removal to Hamilton everything is consolidated into one system.