

THE
GOVERNMENT BLUE BOOK.

A COMPLETE HISTORY

—OF—

The Lives of all the Great Counterfeiters,
Criminal Engravers and Plate Printers.

CONTAINING full details of their various operations and style of work, with an account of all the plates engraved or worked from by each of them. The whole being carefully compiled from Official Documents, furnished for the purpose to JOHN S. DYE from the archives of the UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT, and from other Authentic Records, giving also the result of an extensive official experience, beside diligent original research by the author.

One hundred and twelve pages, 8 vo., illustrated with sixteen life like portraits of HENRY C. COLE, JACOB OTT, CHARLES F. ULRICH, THOMAS BALLARD, JOHN PETER McCARTNEY, MRS. MARTHA A. McCARTNEY, DR. LEWIS H. MASOS, MILES OGLE, WILLIAM RHODES JOHNSTON, JOHN OGLE, BEN BOYD, NELSON DRIGGS, FREDERICK BIEBUSCH, IRVINE WHITE, HENRY T. CONDRON, and CHARLES T. CONDRON.

Besides original views of the Federal Capitol, Treasury Building and that of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing at Washington, D. C., the United States Mint at Philadelphia and of noted places referred to in the text.

Illuminated Covers.

PUBLISHED, 1880,

By JOHN S. DYE,

AT THE OFFICE OF

DYE'S GOVERNMENT COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR,

1338 CHESTNUT ST., PHILADA., PA.



THE CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, D. C.
(From Official Photograph especially for the Government Blue Book.)

PREFACE
AND
INTRODUCTION.

Ignorance of evil is the mark of innocence, the pitfall in the path of good intent. For want of knowledge the unthinking are deluded into vice, the well-meaning fall into crime, social disorders multiply and thousands sink to ruin in the hopeless depths of felonious degradation. Of some offences, "the least said is soonest mended," but the counterfeit is a bandit against whose robberies, intelligence is the only safeguard. The welfare of the public demands a complete exposure of the professional secrets of the lives of all the great counterfeiters, criminal engravers and plate printers, with full details of their operations and a complete account of all the plates and printing counterfeits made or worked by each of them. This and much other important information, the reader will find in the GOVERNMENT BLUE BOOK. This unique publication, being carefully compiled from official documents in the archives of the Secret Service Division of the United States Treasury Department, collated from other authentic records, and derived from the reminiscences of a celebrated Treasury Expert, of more than thirty years' experience, has all the character and value of a complete text-book to the money expert. That it should be of thrilling and romantic interest, as well as full of varied and instructive details, to the general reader, is inevitable from the character of the individuals whose extraordinary biographies are given and from the nature of the exciting circumstances naturally involved. While careful, for the sake of truth and the credit of human nature, to award to each of the offenders of whom he has written, whatever good traits and qualities they may personally have possessed, the author has not concealed the true nature of crime by specious phrase of morbid sentiment. True to the facts of history, these narratives of felonious adventure are moral beacon-lights along the coast of life, they show that indeed the way of the transgressor is hard and in his sad dreary prison fate, give most effective warning of the wreck, ruin and despair, certain to all those, who, whatever their abilities, attempt in future to follow a similar career.

Counterfeiting is a crime as ancient as the use of money, a practice in vogue, for almost five thousand years and probably of pre-historic origin. Kings, Statesmen, Warriors and great Commercial magnates have been guilty of this offence, like other criminals of all ranks of social distinction or degradation. Governments have debased their own overrated currency, thus robbing the already swindled people. Statesmen as a matter of hostile or belligerent policy, have imitated the currency of national rivals to throw and circulated the counterfeit freely, to the great loss of those they were anxious to injure. Mighty Conquerors have not hesitated to make counterfeit money the sins of war, while venerable and vast Corporations have foisted upon the world immense sums in pretensions representative fraudulent currency, and great Merchants have not scorned to profit by similar practices. Of parties less distinguished, from the wealthy, able "capitalist" and "business man," down to the artistic engraver, the plate printer, the wholesale dealer, the robber, the peddler, the hoochie carrier and the shaver who passes the queer, all those celebrated in the calendar of crime, or even now engaged in filling the channels of trade with worthless stuff in the likeness of coin or notes, their name is Legion and the miracle of casting them completely out, has been above the faith of the men of a former age and is beyond the power of even the native Operatives of the present generation. The great obstacle in the way of official success in the prevention of counterfeiting, is the unfortunate fact, that among the immense majority of the public counted honest and respectable, the average person is not only careless about ignorantly accepting counterfeit money, but more reprehensible still determined to pass the same away, whenever accidentally found in his possession! To such moral stolidity, apparently insensible to ethical distinctions, the sharp penalty of the law will be a proper and deserved application. Let the amateur and the professional shaver of counterfeiters, suffer a corresponding penalty, as they share a common guilt, and the sphere of felony will specifically be diminished. It is impossible, all who handle money should become competent Treasury Experts; really "good judges of money" are and must remain, fellows of rare achievements, but, for all that, any person of fair intelligence, may by reference to DYE'S GOVERNMENT COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR, discriminate conclusively in every case, so being saved from loss themselves and from the temptation to inflict loss upon others.

Under the administration of Lord Castlereagh, the Government of England was accused of counterfeiting the assignments of the French Republic, and putting the false issues in circulation through paid agents, thus debauching the currency and breaking down the credit of France. The Continental money of the American Revolution it is said, was counterfeited by the same power, in the same manner, for the same purpose, with like results. The Great Napoleon Bonaparte is reported to have made use of counterfeit notes of the Bank of Austria, in Hungary and other parts of

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Europe, where his purveyors and commissaries passed them in payment for horses and other military supplies—like cases are historical, but need not be mentioned in this article. As to the character of the counterfeiter and the estimation in which he is held, the mistrust and woe which he seeks the life of his enemies by poisoning the wells and streams of water, is held in universal execration and horror as the most detestable of murderers. Money is the blood of business, the stream which feeds the veins of commerce, the motive-power of progress. The counterfeiter vitiates the life-current of civilization, he is the notorious assassin of wealth and deservedly held to be of all public enemies and social parasites the most dangerous. The pursuits of the counterfeiter, especially those of the capitalist, manager and engraver, demand uncommon talent, even genius, to secure success. He is not in general of brutal instinct, his occupation compels refined habits to a certain degree, and he seldom finds occasion for violence; his brain, his eye, his steady nerve, his almost preternatural sensitiveness, either of wit or of touch, these are his capital, and these he prostitutes to the service of crime in a wonderful style, promoting his career even into the shadow of prison walls and seldom effecting a reformation though severely and repeatedly punished.

History shows that severe penalties have in all countries been powerless to prevent counterfeiting. In England during the earlier part of the eighteenth century, cruel torture, imprisonment and even death, was inflicted upon false coiners, forgers and counterfeiters. By sentence of the English Court, Barbara Spencer for "making a few shillings," was doomed to be burned; the authorities modified the order of the court, so that the woman was first strangled at the stake and then her body consumed. Brutal punishments of this kind were relied upon for some time, but the more severe the punishment, the greater the increase of crime. A more successful method of prevention was found at a later date. The peculiar character of the paper used, and the artistic yet plain device, printed in the most workman-like manner upon them, with the particular management of the bank regarding their circulation—no note being issued a second time—have made the imitation of Bank of England notes so difficult, that very few counterfeiters of them have ever been manufactured. The Bank of France has not been quite so fortunate, and the bills of banks in the United States have been extensively counterfeited, as have the former issues of the United States Treasury Notes. The last series of these Treasury Notes are superior in design and finish, and almost free from imitation.

It is not complex and elaborate design, or the amount of ordinary engraving or combination of florid colors on a bill, which effectually checks the counterfeiter; but the very best and most delicate work, in reasonable display, on special, distinctive paper. This, with proper management of the currency and frequent redemption with issues of clean bills, is all that can be done in this direction. At present, more is to be apprehended from the camera and the chemical laboratory, than from the pencil and burin of the engraver. To meet the exigencies of the future in this direction, will tax the unceasing vigilance of the officers of the Treasury; to the skill and fidelity of such men as Geo. W. Castler, of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, must be added the attainments of such men as chemistry, photography and kindred arts; the people must through a reliable periodical be constantly informed and enabled to discriminate; finally the penalties for counterfeiting, severe but not barbarous, must be made certain and unvarying. To this last named end the Secret Service Division of the United States Treasury Department, which under the superintendence of Chief James J. Brooks has been such a terror to evil doers, must be maintained in the highest state of efficiency. There is no room for false economy in this connection. By reference to statistics, we find that counterfeiters cost the people of the United States about \$12,000,000 annually, criminals about \$40,000,000, lawyers about \$70,000,000, beside these vast amounts, the few thousands doled out to the Secret Service for its wide spread, varied and necessary work show as a contemptible pittance. In the faithful performance of their dangerous duties, many brave Secret Service Operatives have lost their lives or received painful disabling wounds, in all such cases, a liberal and certain pension should be allowed.

On the pages of the Government Blue Book, the reader will find original views of the great government edifices, the Federal Capitol, the Treasury Building and that erected for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, all photographed as they stand in Washington D. C. by official artists and engraved especially for this work. In addition, there is presented a fine view of the United States Mint at Philadelphia. In the Capitol originate the laws which govern the Treasury. From the Treasury Building issue the immense disbursements of the Nation and the orders of Hon. John Sherman the Secretary, which regulate the vast multifarious and successful financial operations of the Republic of the United States. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing supplies the Treasury and the Banks with bills and notes, while the Mint at Philadelphia coins most of the gold, silver and other coins circulated in the country. Devoted as these structures are to such distinguished practical uses, illustrations of them form a fitting embellishment to the pages of this volume dedicated to the honor and the law and the cause of public education in that which pertains to the important and necessary matter of honest money.—That every reader of the book may have of this last a convenient share, with the intelligence to know its character and wisdom to make good use of every dollar, is to all the respectful wish of the author.

A GREAT COUNTERFEITER'S RECORD.

THE CRAFTY MAN

—WHO—

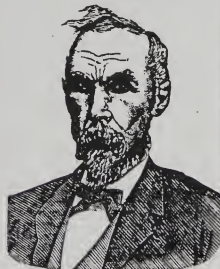
COULD NOT BE SHADOWED;

THE LIFE OF HENRY C. COLE

ALIAS

HARRY C. COLE OR BIG DUTCH HARRY.

AN ORIGINAL SKETCH.



HENRY C. COLE.

Henry C. Cole, alias "Big Dutch Harry," a good portrait of whose sinister physiognomy stands at the head of this article, is a celebrated counterfeiter and ex-convict. He was born at Red Island, Vermont, March 19, 1821, and is now fifty-eight years of age. As a principal and capitalist he has long been concerned in the most daring, dangerous and successful schemes for corrupting the currency of the country.

The subject of our sketch, as may be observed, is a man of most striking appearance, whose portrait in some form may be found in every complete rogues' gallery in the country. Among detectives, this man is described as being "tall, stoop-shouldered, thin of flesh, cadaverous in countenance, with a dark and despondent expression almost always hovering over it;

an old fellow, with sharp, deep-sunken eyes, scraggy grey beard—every line of his peculiar face indicating cunning and artifice of the most consummate type."

The above is a good description of Cole to-day, but such was not his appearance when he began his criminal career. He can be traced back as we have said, into a former generation, for those beginning with him, fifty-eight years ago, very few are still in the body. His history makes him a sort of connecting link between the men who, early in the present century, flooded the United States with fraudulent bills and coin and the rogues and rascals of like sort in this year of grace 1879.

At the beginning of the present century, the want of a proper extradition treaty between the United States and Great Britain, made the provinces of Canada a harbor for every kind of refuge from this country. The head-quarters of American counterfeiting were for a long time in the town of Dunham, Seigneurie of St. Armand, Canada. Near Missisquoi bay in the above locality, was a village called Frelingsburg, in which there was a road called Koniack street, which still retains the name. Nearly all the residents upon this street, about 1820, had come to be counterfeiter, and there the coney business was carried on full blast and "goods" of all kinds manufactured for the United States market. Of the many parties engaged in the rascally trade, some became notorious, and all have left names which grace the criminal calendar.

Chief of all the numerous gang, was the accomplished and saucy scoundrel, Stephen Burroughs, who had a partner named Nat. Burrill. There were other wholesale dealers by the dozen, such men as Seneca Page, Reed Page, Tom Wing, Ebe Gleason, the Stephens, Hazard, Adams, Hurd, and others. Parties from the United States bought their "boddies" on Koniack street; famous among these last were Chollar, Lombard, Mills, Congdon, of Ira, Vt., and later James Boyd, Jr., for a period Deputy Sheriff of Frelingsburg, finally captured and imprisoned at New York city, as appears upon the record of the United States Secret Service.

These parties counterfeited the issue of most all the old New England banks and those of New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, as well, also many in various other States. They besides supplied a liberal amount of false coin. Omes La Grange was the principal manufacturer of American counterfeiters in that region, but soon had plenty of help. In 1831, a combined effort of the British and United States authorities checked operations, which were soon bad as ever, until the Canada rebellion of 1836, when for two years the trade was broken

up. The survivors of all these strange and moving events became in time the ex-ampars, teachers and partners of Henry C. Cole, who holds over until to-day.

The subject province, and the mind refers to events long gone by at the mention of "Harry" C. Cole and the names of those first associated with him. At the same time, he has been a man comparatively unknown. Like honest merit, he has sought the shade, though for a different reason, and has the reputation in the service of being one of the most efficient men to "sashod" an officer ever undertook to follow up. In consequence of his very retiring ways, no history of him has ever been published, and the sum of his deeds, and in our search for data we have been compelled not only to consult a score of records, but to apply to those whose knowledge of criminal matters has been traditional and personal.

The first conviction of Cole was in 1854, when he was arrested on a canalboat, in the State of New York. The captain of this boat was a regular dealer in the queer, and Cole was in his employ, or in partnership with him. The captain, being wanted to answer a charge of selling and passing counterfeit money of the State Bank Notes, ran away, leaving Cole in charge of the boat. Like Casabianca, our hero refused to vacate the deck, and stood squarely by the mules and the rest of the artillery, mindful of the dying command of Lawrence, "Don't let the ship," until pulled overboard by the ruthless minions of the law. Even then he had but few remarks to make, either in favor of himself or crimination of others.

Cole was sentenced to state's prison for five years on account of his crime on the canal, and served his term at Sing Sing, N. Y. Having learned a lesson from his superior officer on the canal, he has kept clear of naval operations ever since, and always ran away wherever he had a chance, or squealed if put in a tight place.

In 1859, after his release from Sing Sing Prison, Henry C. Cole, called by Schunheut, or Schoener, was in Philadelphia, dealing in counterfeit money. One of his customers at this time was Mary Brown, alias Mary Henderson, who was the pal of Mother Roberts, of Cincinnati, and the partner in various ways of Charles Ulrich, at the same place.

Some time in 1862, according to his statement, Cole became connected with that King of Money men, the unconquered Joshua D. Miner, of New York city. Miner was the capitalist and manufacturer of whom Cole purchased his first haul.

In 1866, Cole was in active business in his line, the confederate of Bill Gurney, Lame Sam, Hank Hall, Jim Boyd, Phil Hargrave, old Kate Gross, Bill Stewart,

Mary Brown, and other noted counterfeiters, dealers and shovers. He was the seller of all the counterfeiters of the Poughkeepsie tens, selling sometimes more than \$30,000 in a single day. Beside, he dealt largely in the counterfeiters of the old issue Treasury Notes, especially the fifty-cent greenback of 1863 (head of Hamilton vignette), which he obtained from Bill Gurney, for whom they were made.

In August, 1870, an admirably executed counterfeit of the twenty-dollar bill of the National and Leather Bank of New York city appeared in the financial center of the Eastern States. This dangerous fraud was traced to the notorious and successful wholesale dealer, Bill Gurney, who was arrested in the act of selling. To make terms, Gurney promised to deliver the plate for the twenty, and in keeping his promise, took the Chief to Joshua D. Miner, some time in May, 1871. The plate had been traced to Miner before, but there was no evidence to warrant arrest. When confronted by Gurney and the Chief, Miner gave up the plate, and was closely shadowed from that hour. Gurney was convicted, and committed for ten years to the King's County Penitentiary and to pay \$3,000; his services having him some five years.

The arrest of Gurney and his revelations made lively times for the Secret Service. Not very long after he was taken, one of Gurney's peddlers and shovers, named Dave Kirkbride, having been arrested by Operative Drummond, of the Secret Service at the Hudson River Depot, New York city, just as he was leaving for Chicago with \$1,980 of counterfeit money in his pocket, squealed on a co-partner of his, named David Keen. The active Drummond soon had Keen in custody, when Keen pleaded for "Harry" C. Cole. Being in the hands of the Philistines, Keen cooperated with the officers for the arrest of Cole. He arranged a purchase of counterfeit money from Cole, and was provided with marked money to complete the trade. The bargain was for \$5,000 in counterfeiters of Poughkeepsie tens, and National Bank and Leather twenties, for 18 per cent. of their face in good money. On the night of October 10, 1871, officers Kennoch and Drummond went with Keen to the house of Cole. Keen went to the door, which, upon a signal, was given, was opened by Cole. Keen at once entered, revealed the counterfeiters, paid his marked money for them and came out. Instantly the officers rushed in and Cole was nabbed in the hall, with the marked money in his possession.

Being examined, Cole was admitted to bail in the sum of \$10,000. Having his bail caught in the act of selling, Cole felt himself in a very tight place, and talked for fear with unaccustomed frankness,

saying that he and others obtained the stuff of Josh. D. Miner, the manufacturer. When asked how he knew who Miner's engraver was, he professed to be unable to tell, but admitted he had seen a man carry the stuff to Miner's house; he could not say who he was, but if he were to see him again he should know him. Cole revealed the place of meeting to be the corner of Sixty-first street and the Boulevard, New York city, and a plan was concocted for the capture of Miner and the engraver. Cole undertook to buy of Miner the counterfeit plate of the two-dollar bill of the Ninth National Bank of New York city and that of the counterfeit ten on the Farmers and Manufacturers' National Bank of Poughkeepsie, and good but marked money to the amount of \$1,600 was furnished him for the purpose. He made his negotiation and an agreement to meet Miner at Sixty-first street and the Boulevard the night of October 23, 1871.

That night proved to be extremely dark, rainy and disagreeable, but "business is business," and there was little doubt Miner would, under such favorable circumstances, have been ready. The Chief of the Secret Service and a considerable squad started for the scene of operations by different routes, but such was the storm Operatives Kennoch and Drummond were the only two men who, with Cole, reached the spot in time. Disguised as laborers, with axes, etc., returning from some job of night work, Kennoch and Drummond kept on to where Cole paused upon the curbstones at the corner of Sixty-first street. A man came into view in the middle of the street from the darkness, and being joined by another, they went out to the middle of the space where the street and Boulevard crossed. Kennoch came up on the side nearest to Cole, and Drummond on the opposite. The Operatives crept out as near the two men in the street as possible without being noticed, and lay down flat in the mud of the Boulevard. One of the men had a large umbrella, and when the other party came to him he closed it down over the two, so that neither of them could be more than half seen. What they did could not be seen at all, and it strains their ears as they might as well have been able to distinguish no word of their conversation. Presently the men separated, one of them moving quickly off up the Boulevard and one over to Cole. The critical moment had now come. He had arranged that the arrest should take place at a signal from the Chief, but Chief and squad—aside from Kennoch and Drummond—were away, wandering somewhere "in outer darkness." Of course, no signal came, but the officers were not men to shirk responsibility. Kennoch promptly laid hands upon the man near Cole; a struggle

ensued, and in the melee the plates and marked money were hurled away into the air. When the police package broken and the bills scattered in the mud. The captured man was Josh. D. Miner, and as he had many rough fellows in his employ in the neighborhood, he made an uproar intended to call some of them to his assistance, but Kennoch stood his man. He stood, by a little persuasion, quiet as a lamb. Cole all the while stood on the curb immovable and silent as a stone image.

No sooner had Kennoch and Miner grappled, than Drummond, who had followed the rapidly retreating second party, suddenly appeared upon the scene. Drummond was at this time non-commissioned agent, and was compelled to make his capture on the broadest kind of general principles. He really knew nothing of the man, and had only his well-founded suspicions to justify his action. However, he laid his left hand suddenly on the broad breast of the stranger and instantly flashed his revolver near his head. A few energetic words convinced the captured man of the futility of resistance. He yielded the more readily as Drummond pretended to have never seen him, and took responsibility, to answer for a pocketbook just snatched in an adjoining street. When brought back and confronted with Kennoch, Cole and Miner, the stranger realized the situation and accompanied the drenched and awfully muddy party to headquarters. The plates were taken along at the time, but a carriage had to be sent up with officers and lanterns to withdraw the \$1,500 deposit made in the mire. Strangely enough, after all the stampede about the place, every one of the bills was recovered.

At the Chief's office the man captured by Drummond gave the name of Thomas Avey, stated his residence, and declared his business to be that of a painter. Upon inquiry at the house, no man by the name of Avey could be heard of, but the officer caught, by overhearing, the name of Ballard, and the prisoner being thus addressed, acknowledged that was his name; his first name, Thomas, being found out, he confessed his connection as an engraver with the counterfeiters. He ultimately revealed the particulars of the whole business, locating the "mill" at 236 Rivington street, New York.

It cost Josh. D. Miner over \$25,000 to get clear in this case; the evidence was not considered complete, and he escaped conviction. Somehow, Thomas Ballard, with Billy Brown, of Cincinnati, and Jas. Quimby, of Philadelphia, both noted counterfeiters, managed to break out (?) of Ludlow Street Jail, New York city, on the night of November 15th, 1871, before Miner's trial, and thus get an ugly wit-

ness out of the way. There is little doubt that Miner's money opened the prison doors for his skillful employe. Something of like nature befell several other parties whose testimony would have been important against Miner. Cole, having served time as a felon, and being under a criminal indictment, was not a competent witness in law. To enable him to testify against Miner, Cole was pardoned by Governor John T. Hoffman, of New York, in 1871, and so reinstated in all his civil rights. He testified squarely against Ballard and Miner, a piece of business those parties never forgot or forgave, as will appear farther on in our history. A *nolle prosequi* was soon entered in the case of Henry C. Cole, and thus, at great cost to other people, this slippery scoundrel once more regained his liberty, and has been a freeman of the commonwealth and a regular and legal voter until the present year.

Through the agency of Cole in the arrest of Miner and his confession of Tom Ballard, fourteen men, six printing presses, two powerful transfer presses, nineteen sets of steel plates, stock for making the pink filbed Government paper, and counterfeit bills representing \$60,000 were captured.

In 1875 Lieutenant Kelly, of the Philadelphia Police, arrested Cole and sent him to New York city to answer to a charge of forging and selling certain spurious Allentown, Pa., school bonds. The prosecution was brought in the name of Scott, Dougherty & Co., brokers, of New York, who, as alleged, had sold the bonds of one Muir, who swore he had purchased them of Cole. The date of purchase Muir gave as the 7th, 8th or 9th of November, 1871, at which time, unfortunately for the credit of Muir, Cole was in the custody of the Secret Service, and the bonds were seized and watched by men detailed day after day, in turn, for the express purpose.

The charge of forgery against Cole appearing to be but a mere job put up on him by the Ballard-Miner gang, out of revenge, he was ultimately acquitted on the criminal indictment. He was, however, made defendant in a suit for civil damages for selling the bonds, and Scott, Dougherty & Co. obtained judgment against him therein for \$10,670; but the Judge, inasmuch as Cole had been brought into the jurisdiction on a criminal count, would not allow that he should be detained in jail for payment of civil damages in the same connection.

Cole was imprisoned a year or more in New York city through the above affair, and expended \$33,000 in getting out of the trouble it made him up to May, 1876, but he has never paid a cent of the \$10,670 damages, and as the judgment remained

against him, that fact and the apprehension of annoyance from other quarters has made the city of New York an undesirable residence for "Harry" C. Cole for some time past. In consequence, he has lived with his family in respectable style at 2127 North Eighth street, Philadelphia.

In 1875 Cole was in Philadelphia, and, through his associates, had arranged to take and sell \$50,000 in counterfeit fives on the Highland National Bank of New York, N. Y., but so much had been learned by the Secret Service of this intended remittance, and the Quaker City was in consequence left without a dollar of this peculiar currency. Elmer Washburn, then Chief of the United States Secret Service, and James J. Broke, its present competent Chief, with Operative Henry R. Curtis, of the New York district, captured about \$30,000 of these notes, together with the "mill" (owned and run by Tom Congdon, one of Cole's associates) and some important members of the gang, including the engraver, Chas. Congdon, printer, Rans Warner, Eli Fields, G. W. Jenkins, and Edw'd Griffin, at 45 Wilson street, Brooklyn, N. Y., June 28, 1876.

On the 10th of May, 1877, a finely executed counterfeit fifty appeared in New York city, on the Central National Bank of that place, and early in the month of July following another fifty was put into circulation, on the Third National Bank of Buffalo, in the same State. The last, it was plain to experts, was produced by means of skeleton pieces, from the same plate which had been used to print the first.

On the 22d of May, 1878, Mr. Percy Joseph, of Woodville, Miss., who had just arrived in New York from Hamburg, Germany, in the German steamer Herder, tendered, at the office of the Penn. R. Co., 528 Broadway, New York, for a ticket to New Orleans, a fifty dollar bill on the National Broadway Bank of New York city, which Mr. Wm. Hoffman, an expert of that office, pronounced a counterfeit. Joseph declined to have received the bill from the bankers, Israel & Co., of Hamburg, and the emigrants of the Herder were found passing the same bills and other fifties on the Tradesmen's National Bank, also of New York city. Subsequently, a steamer from Germany brought quantities of these bills, which continued to be extensively shored in Europe some time after, until the capture, at Munich, Austria, of Joe B. Chapman, alias "John Conkling," and Ed. Baker, alias "John Butler," or Billy Baker, alias "Lobster," whose supposed counterfeit was fully and officially reported in "Dye's Government Counterfeit Detector" of

August, 1878, page 45. It was plain to the expert that these bills were from the same plate with the Central New York fifty and the Third National of Buffalo.

An immense excitement ensued after the new fifties reached the United States. "Dye's Government Counterfeit Detector" plunged out its cards of warning by thousands after thousands; the newspapers, with less accuracy, sounded the alarm, while the business world gasped with astonishment at the audacity which had successfully flooded Europe with the criminal currency of another continent.

In September, 1877, the now famous five on the First National Bank of Tamaqua, Pa., made its appearance, followed soon afterwards by the five on the First National Bank of Hanover, with the plate which had been altered. All this was evidently from the same hand, and issued, as was supposed, by the same managers.

It has been many years since our hero could plead that he was, as Caesar's wife should have been—above suspicion; and in consequence he has long had been looked after by official eyes, on general principles, as a good man to find when anybody was wanted. Of late years the supervision of his movements has been more careful, and during the latter part of 1877 and all through 1878, since Charles Ulrich and he were again seen together in Philadelphia, his every movement has been shadowed with the utmost diligence.

Cole and Ulrich managed their meetings with all the secretive artfulness of which Cole has shown himself a perfect master. During the summer of 1877 they would walk out of town by a secret way to the suburbs, at Echo Park, and there, in a narrow, obscure lane, would conceal themselves in the long grass and discuss their plan of operations. But Drummond, a competent and tried officer, was in charge of the Philadelphia District, and the subtlety of Cole, with the skill of Ulrich, were overmatched. Cole, though more wary than a fox, was followed, without his knowledge, everywhere. When he lay down in the grass with Ulrich, an officer of the Secret Service reported to have observed, as he lay there, their long, low-toned, ambiguous conversation. When the moon changed, the conspirators changed their time of meeting to the darkness of early morning; but the watchful detectives were not averse to irregular hours, kept with their movements, and, watchful and wary, continued observations.

In November, 1877, Officer Drummond observed Cole in Philadelphia visit establishments in Philadelphia where bond paper, lithographic and other materials for plate printing were sold. Other parties, supposed to be associated with Cole,

were known to buy engravers' tools and presses in New York. The counterfeit bills already described were issued all the while. Cole was as good as known to be pushing business in supplying them, yet months after months of his activity nothing could be fastened upon him, nothing positively known of his associates, and only suspicion reported of his operations. Yet the wary Cole duly appreciated the attention constantly given him, and complimented the local services of Philadelphia by changing his base of operations.

Charles Ulrich, who was pardoned from the state's prison at Columbus, Ohio, in 1876, was pretty much lost sight of for a year or two after leaving that city, yet his work had been suspected, and in the month of April, 1878, he was placed under arrest in an obscure town in New Jersey, by Operative H. R. Curtis, of the New York district, and tracked to the City Line Hotel, at Oak Lane, about six miles from Philadelphia, on the North Pennsylvania Railroad. He was taken over to the mercies of the Philadelphia officers of the Service, who located him in a few days at No. 2041 Hope street, Philadelphia, where Cole visited him on several occasions.

About the first of October, 1878, Ulrich, still followed by his evil genius in the shape of one of Drummond's unobeyed, all-observing Secret Service agents, left Philadelphia via Bound Brook Route to New York, getting off at Plainfield, and putting up at the City Hotel. After riding about the country for a while, Ulrich (as "James Winell" to the gentlemen of leisure, from Cleveland, O.) hired a furnished house at Scotch Plains, a locality in the town of Plainfield, N. J., about eight miles southwest of Rahway, and well back towards the mountains from Fanwood railroad station. Being thus comfortably located in the New York District, he was reported and transferred to Operative H. R. Curtis for supervision once more.

"James Winell" became an object of very special attention by the Secret Service and in a short time, it was discovered that he was in the habit of receiving counterfeit bills from Harry C. Cole of Philadelphia. Of course, very little went on at Scotch Plains which was not known at once by the wide-awake New York Secret Service officers. In consequence, on the 30th of November, 1878, Chief Operative James Operative H. R. Curtis in person made a raid on the house of Mr. "Winell," and, by a well-timed movement, captured Charles F. Ulrich hard at work upon a new counterfeit plate of the \$100 new issue legal tender Treasury note. This plate was found to be a masterpiece, in which the supposed and boasted inimitable geometric lathe work was reproduced to a microscopic accuracy.

Ulrich made full confession to the Chief and implicated "Harry" Cole as the capitalist and manager of the business. It had been intended, he said, as soon as the plate was finished, to strike off \$1,000,000 of them and push them off, half in Europe and half in America.

Ulrich was put in charge of officers D. H. Gilkinson, of the New York District, and M. G. Bower, of the District of Tennessee, who remained constantly on the premises for over six weeks, being sometimes reinforced by the superintending presence of Operative H. R. Curtis himself. Meantime Cole came and went several times, unexpectingly and freely, but it was not until the 17th of January, 1879, that things shaped themselves so as to perfectly suit the full purpose of the patiently waiting officers.

On that day Cole, who had purchased materials for plate printing at Billington & Co.'s, Chestnut and Letitia streets, Philadelphia, and a quantity of ink of Charles Eneue Johnson, manufacturer, Tenth and Lombard streets, in the same city, stily left Philadelphia in the direction of Fanwood. But a telegram flashed ahead of him the news of his departure, and his arrival was quietly awaited in the residence of Mr. "Winell." Meanwhile, Cole, in blissful ignorance, of his guard (?) for once, sped on his way and was soon in the company of his able engraver and partner. All unconscious of the hidden eyes and ears taking in every move and sound, Cole eagerly discussed the plans of the future with Ulrich, and chucked with satisfaction at the excellent state of the workmanship of the unfinished plate. He brought the blankets purchased in Philadelphia, to be used by Ulrich in printing the notes; he remained an hour, and when about to leave, gave Ulrich fifty dollars as had been his custom. While Ulrich was counting the money given him, officers Gilkinson and Bower suddenly stood in front of Cole and ironed him before he could realize what had happened. A clear case against both parties, the most dangerous criminal combination of the age broken up and the whole plant captured at one grand movement.

During November, 1878, Officer M. G. Bower, being in New York, made the acquaintance of Jacob Ott, who proved to have been the partner of Cole and Ulrich, and engaged with them at Oak Lane and Marcus Hill, near Philadelphia, in producing the fifties on the Broadway National Bank and the Tradesmen's National Bank of New York, which had been sent to Germany, and the fives on the First National of Tamaqua and Hanover, Pa. Ott undertook to get these plates from Cole, for Bower, with the idea of go-

ing into "business" with him, but Cole was too suspicious and the negotiation fell through.

On the 21st of January, 1879, Ott was arrested in New York city. The capture of all his principal associates being effected, the curtain was soon lifted from the latest scenes in the life of Henry C. Cole. Cole, Ulrich and Ott had produced the counterfeit bills named in the preceding paragraph, but Ott, being intemperate, had been dropped from the combination.

Cole received the fifties for Germany, and sold them, unsigned, "to three men—one from Canada and two from the United States." These parties were Joe B. Chapman and Ed. Baker—the "Conckling" and "Butler" afterwards captured at Munich, Austria—and another, yet unknown. The bills being sold unsigned explains the remarkably defective signatures they bore and the fact that some of them had the names of officers of the other bank.

There are limits to all things human, and Cole, who bragged to Secret Service men that "he could not be shadowed to a mill," and who kept his boast to the last, actually did not seem to know the significance of the charter number on a bill! It has been a wonder to experts that none (or but few) of the counterfeit fifties on the Central National Bank of New York city and the Third National Bank of Buffalo, N. Y., or the counterfeit fives on the First National Bank of Tamaqua, Pa., had the proper charter number. Such has been the fact, however, and subscribers to "The Government Counterfeit Detector," knowing the real number, have been able to protect themselves accordingly. Either from ignorance, or some queer idea of policy, it was Cole's order to the printer that the charter numbers of these bills should run in an imperfect series! (*De gustibus non disputandum!*)

From Scotch Plains, Cole and Ulrich were taken to Newark, N. J. They were indicted in the United States Court at Trenton, N. J., January 22, 1879, examined before United States Commissioner Keasby and committed on the 23d. On February 4, Cole pleaded guilty before Judge Nixon, of the United States Court at Trenton, and on the 11th, was sentenced by the same Judge, to twelve years' imprisonment in state's prison and to pay a fine of two thousand dollars.

Henry C. Cole was able and adroit; a kind husband and indulgent father; intemperate man who paid common debts. Had he devoted his talents to honest business, he could have been successful, useful and happy. He chose to be a criminal; lived a hunted life of trouble and fear, and has been driven at last, like a wild beast, into a hole to die.

THE ADVENTURES

—OF—

JACOB OTT.

The Champion Cony Striker of the Age.

\$500,000 of Counterfeit Money in

Less than Thirteen Months

AN ORIGINAL SKETCH.



JACOB OTT.

The German Lithographer, Jacob Ott, a native of Frankfort-on-the-Main, the confederate in the United States, for several years past, of Henry C. Cole and Charles F. Ulrich, is the man who printed all the fifty-dollar counterfeit notes on the Central National Bank of New York city; the Third National Bank of Buffalo, State of New York; the National Broadway Bank of New York city; the Tradesmen's National Bank, of the same place, and the counterfeit fives on the First National Banks of Tamaqua and Hanover, in Pennsylvania. From the hand of Ott came, between March, 1877, and April, 1878—during less than thirteen months—over five hundred thousand dollars in counterfeit notes, most of which were thrown into circulation as fast as they were printed. The criminal relations of Jacob Ott connected him with the abundant capital of Cole and the skill of the expert engraver, Ulrich. He diligently improved his chan-

ces, and was enabled to hoard, most truthfully, that he had "made thousands" of counterfeit bills of large denominations. In view of all the facts in the case, it is no exaggeration to call this man "the champion cony striker" of the age.

The assignment of Jacob Ott to this bad notoriety could be justified, not only from the amount of counterfeit bills he produced and the quality of his work, but from the association and unparalleled circumstances that the "goods" of his manufacture were not only extensively circulated in this part of the world, but sold by hundreds of thousands of dollars for exportation, and actually passed in great sums upon the bankers and people of Germany, Austria and Europe in general. All this has become matter of criminal history, of which the full particulars may be found in the sketch of Henry C. Cole, written for and published in the March Issue (Number 10) of "The Government Counterfeit Detector."

Jacob Ott is well represented in the likeness which heads this sketch—a man not past the prime of life, hardly up to middle age. He is a small-sized man, of rather genteel appearance and slender build, with a weary look about his eyes—an expression of countenance the events of his life and recent criminal career may be reasonably supposed to have induced.

In July, 1876, Jacob Ott, being in Cincinnati, Ohio, and out of employment, saw in the newspapers of that city an advertisement for a lithographer, by a concern in Columbus, Ohio. As lithography was his trade, Ott answered this advertisement, and in consequence was called upon in Cincinnati, soon after, by Charles F. Ulrich, who engaged him to go to Columbus and work for him. Ulrich, who at the time was well known to the world, had just been pardoned out of Columbus state's prison, and was started in the lithographing business by Colonel Innes, the warden. The business was planned more to give Ulrich a chance to pursue an honest life than for any other reason, and all concerned soon had occasion to congratulate themselves upon the ability of the lithograph printer they had secured in the person of Ott.

In October, 1876, as Charles F. Ulrich says, the business he was doing with the warden, Colonel Innes, "failed." The fact seems to be, Ulrich was induced by Cole to come to Philadelphia and resume counterfeiting. Ulrich induced Ott to do his printing, most of which was in the United States, of the criminal purpose of his journey also. This, however, Ott steadfastly denies, asserting he was invited to remove with Ulrich, not knowing the nature of the intended operation, but supposing it honest.

However this may have been, in December, 1870, Charles F. Ulrich was housed in Philadelphia, at Sixth and Cumberland streets, laid at work on a new plate for printing counterfeit bills of various national banks in the State of New York. The general work on the genuine plates of the fifties of all the national banks being properly produced by regular transfers from the same original dies, should be precisely alike. This general work Ulrich imitated with great exactness, but instead of engraving the name of any bank on his counterplate plate, he left its surface unetched where the name of the bank appeared on the genuine plate, so that when his bills should be struck off through the process used by plate printers, there should be a blank space left for the name of some bank and that of the town or city where it is located. These bills, printed as above described, it is evident might afterward be issued in the name of any bank, the title of which could be printed in the blank space upon them—that is to say, upon any number of banks in the same State (New York) having titles of about the same length or number of letters. To print these bills, skeleton plates," bearing requisite inscriptions, were all that was needed, when the title could be changed at will, and, with proper care as to "registering," the counterfeit fifties could be issued whenever desired, in exact imitation of the bills of any many different banks as the counterfeiters found would suit their purpose.

In March, 1877, the plates being nearly finished, Ott, who is a married man, began housekeeping at a place called Oak Lane, about six miles from Philadelphia on the York Pennsylvania Railroad. There Ulrich also became domiciled with the Ott family, and completed the engraving and fitting of his work. Henry C. Cole, being the capitalist and manager of the business, secured materials for printing and a plate press, which last he bought at the establishment of Mr. Barlow Quigg, at the corner of Seventh and Sansborough streets, Philadelphia. This machine Ott set up in order in the garret of his house at Oak Lane, and there the printing began. Though a first-class lithographer, Ott was not a plate printer by trade, and the work he did at first is an evidence of his want of experience. But, whatever their defects, the bills were readily sold by Cole in one large lot, and being delivered during the first days of May, 1877, were issued to the small dealers and bootie-carriers on the 7th, 8th and 9th of that month. The first bill showed was passed in Baltimore, May 10th, 1877, and went through one of the banks there without suspicion. On the 11th of that month a similar bill was passed in the city of New York, and

in a few hours the metropolitan press was teeming with news of a new, excellent and exceedingly dangerous counterfeit bill on the Central National Bank of that city.

Within ten days over \$40,000 of these bills were thrown into circulation, and the issue continued week after week, to the loss of the business community and the chagrin of many a "smart Aleck," whose "system" and "points" were found all at once worse than useless when tested by the genius of Ulrich and the workmanship of Ott.

On the 12th, of May, 1877, "Dye's Government Counterfeit Detector," issued an official notice and description of these frauds, and in consequence they were refused in a great number of cases—indeed, it is not known that among all the thousands of these false fifties which have been foisted upon the public, not a single one has been taken by any person who trusted to that publication for protection.

At the conclusion of his work on the counterfeit fifty on the Central National Bank of New York city, Ott changed his skeleton plate and printed another immense batch of counterfeit bills on a different bank, before any of the first were issued. These were kept back until the first had been disposed of, and the experts became well used to it, and then, on July 30, 1877, "another new counterfeit fifty" was uttered at various points, and in a few days the country was in excitement over a second grand fraud—this time on the Third National Bank of Buffalo, New York. "Dye's Government Counterfeit Detector" gave a forewarning of this latest detector and "new deal" before the public had any other intimation of the matter, also prompt notice of its utterance and a full and timely description of the bill; in consequence, though many thousands of them were circulated, they were not taken at all among its subscribers.

Henry C. Cole, though one of the "smartest" men on the criminal calendar of any country, was curiously deficient in some respects. Accustomed for years to imitations of the currency, he not only failed to appreciate the character of a genuine bill as noted in his biography, ("Dye's Government Counterfeit Detector," March, 1879, page 42.) but was so wanting in discrimination that the paper he selected for the counterfeit on the Third National Bank of Buffalo, New York, was quite too thick, almost like a pasteboard; hence the second fraud was less dangerous. Ott printed over two thousand pieces (\$100,000) of the fifty-dollar note on Oak Lane. In the meantime, Ulrich (a rapid worker when directed) had engraved a new plate for printing counterfeit five-dollar bills on banks

in the State of Pennsylvania, and from it, by the use of a "skeleton plate," Ott, having moved his press from the garret to the next lower floor of his house, printed eight thousand pieces (\$40,000) counterfeit fives on the First National Bank of Tamuqua, Pa. This was the last work done at Oak Lane, being finished in September, 1877. On the appearance of "Dye's Government Counterfeit Detector" for October, 1877, the counterfeit Tamuqua five was declared "very dangerous," and the extent of its circulation at that time since, even among so-called "good judges," not subscribers to that standard and reliable work, has made good the terms of the warning.

During October 1877, the Ott family with Ulrich, moved with their whole outfit, and apparatus for the circulation of the north of Philadelphia, to a locality, well chosen for their purpose, in the village of Darby, some ten miles from Philadelphia, to the southwest, on the Chester turnpike, near the terminus of the Darby Passenger Horse Railway line and the Sharon Hill Station, on the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore railroad.

There, in a hired house, surrounded by a pleasant, quiet and very accessible neighborhood, the confederates established their household and "mill" under one roof, as before, and Ott, by help of a skeleton plate produced by Ulrich, printed two thousand pieces (\$100,000) of counterfeit fifties on the National Broadway Bank and the Tradesmen's National Bank, both of the city of New York. There, too, Ulrich having turned out still another skeleton plate, Ott printed about twenty thousand pieces (\$100,000) of counterfeit fives on the First National Bank of Hanover, Pennsylvania.

All of the fifties printed at Sharon Hill, Darby Village, (except possibly an incidental one or two) were sold by Cole in bulk, unsigned and carried to Germany by J. E. Conking" and "John Baker," with another confederate, and there passed off upon the bankers and people—Conking and Baker, as has been recorded, being arrested finally at Munich, Austria. These bills were not uttered in the United States prior to their circulation in Germany, nor until a large sum of them were brought back all at once to New York by emigrants on the German steamer Herder, which arrived May 22, 1878. ("Dye's Government Counterfeit Detector," May 23, 1878.) Subsequently, very many more were circulated, and a quantity are still afloat. "Dye's Government Counterfeit Detector" had noted the peculiar imperfection as to the charter number of the counterfeit fifties on the Central National Bank of New York city and the Third National Bank of Buffalo, New York, and

the counterfeit five on the First National Bank of Tamuqua, Pa., and June 1, 1878, that publication appeared in a new form, giving, with other complete information, the true character of all of the banks having counterfeit bills of any denomination upon them.

Certain would-be experts and pretended Counterfeit Detectors affected to regard this as quite an absurd performance; but since the arrest of Cole, Ulrich and Ott, it has been found that of the bills produced by that celebrated trio—a half million or more of dollars within the last two years had the pretended charter numbers printed in an irregular, broken, progressive series, increasing from small numbers to large, and since the bills were struck off by batches, each had its own set of defects, or other vast issues of counterfeit bills, notably, the tens on the Richmond, Lafayette and Muncie, Indiana National Banks, manufactured by Miles Ogie, and first circulated in August 1874.

On the genuine bills of any one bank the charter number is, of course, the same. For instance, the charter number of the First National Bank of Tamuqua is 1219, and so appears on the genuine bills of that bank; but, by Cole's strange system, but few, if any of the counterfeit fives on that bank bore the true charter number, 1219, but instead, figures above or below it. The comparison of these varying numbers with the true 1219 at once detected probably every false bill in some twenty thousand pieces.

The same is true of the exceedingly numerous and very dangerous counterfeit bills on the Central National Bank of New York city; the Third National Bank of Buffalo, New York and the First National Bank of Tamuqua, Pa.; all of which were printed at Oak Lane, Pa. The "Broadway Bank five" were correctly printed at Sharon Hill, Pa. It is evident, notwithstanding the carping of the ignorant and conceited, that "Dye's Government Counterfeit Detector," by giving the charter number of the first three banks mentioned, those who were wise when that publication came, in an easy, instantaneous and absolutely certain safeguard against almost or quite the whole of the vast issue of counterfeit bills upon them—a safeguard by which the genius of Ulrich, the skill of Ott and the talents of others like them could be checked, even by the intelligence of a child barely able to read. Since this demonstration, there has been an end to adverse criticism regarding the publication of charter numbers, and a great increase in Dye's list of subscribers. In April, 1878, Cole, Ulrich and Ott gave up the business they had been engaged in, the presses and material on hand were sold, and Ott being out of a

job, went to New York city and opened a dram shop. He had received some eight thousand dollars, besides a living for himself and family, during the two last years he had worked with Ulrich, and had quite a snug little capital to invest in the liquor business. Unfortunately for Ott, the investment proved to be permanent altogether, for after a short time he was sold out under distress for debt. The loss of his money, however, is not the worst thing has come to Ott through the liquor business, as will be seen further on in his history.

But the convivial habits of Ott, badly as they may have betrayed him, have not been the cause of all his trouble. From first to last, as long as she was in the country, Mrs. Ott strenuously opposed her husband's business as a printer of counterfeits. Again and again she threatened an exposure "to the police," and was ready at different times to reveal the whole affair to the officers of the law. On such occasions it was difficult to restrain her or to raise money to satisfy her demands, as Ott was repeatedly compelled to do. Finally, to get rid of her, at least for a time, the whole party united to induce Mrs. Ott to return to Germany, where some property needed looking after by her, and where they promised to rejoin her as soon as they could close out the operation then in hand. Mrs. Ott went to Germany in a time accordingly; but destiny had another fate in store for her household.

After the failure of his liquor business, Ott turned his attention to his legitimate trade of lithography, and a competent workman, soon found a place. All this time Cole and Ulrich had made their home in Philadelphia and New Jersey. Being old offenders, and suspected, they were constantly kept watch of by careful agents of the Secret Service. They, not being so well known, was for a time lost sight of. During the spring and summer of 1878, Cole and Ulrich, encouraged by the grand success of their recent scheme, and emboldened by the immunity they seemed to enjoy, set on foot the most stupendous fraud, which, if successful, would forever eclipse all of the kind that had been done in the past and raise the bold operators at once to luxurious independence for life.

The new issue of Treasury Notes had not been at all counterfeited, and it was supposed and taught by many that to imitate them was impossible, on account of the geometric scroll work upon them. Ulrich knew better, and "Dye's Government Counterfeit Detector" had given notice of the danger of too implicit a reliance upon scroll work of such a description. Cole and Ulrich agreed between themselves

to produce a counterfeit plate of the one hundred-dollar new issue Treasury Note, from which a million dollars in counterfeit notes were to be struck as fast as possible, and the whole run put in circulation at once, in both America and Europe. Some account of this plan is to be found in our preceding sketch of Cole, and more will be given hereafter, in the history of Ulrich.

In carrying out this scheme, Ulrich had occasion to repeatedly visit New York city. He was followed by a competent Secret Service Operative and traced to where he called upon Ott, and the two were respectively sent to visit different establishments and finally make purchase of a full set of engravers' tools. The object of such buying, by such men, could not be misunderstood. A sharper watch than ever was kept upon Cole and Ulrich, and the veteran Chief, James J. Brooks, detailed M. G. Bowers, of the Tennessee District, for observation of Ott. Being a stranger in New York, Bowers could operate more freely, and on the evening of November 13, 1878, took occasion to meet him in a drinking house at No. 9 Spring street, New York city, who to an acquaintance, or what Ott supposed to be such, was formed between them.

Bowers gave Ott an assumed name, and pretended to have just come from Memphis, Tenn., on account of the yellow fever then raging there. This led to conversation about the Southwest, and Ott informed Bowers he had worked in St. Louis and Cincinnati at his trade, which was that of a lithographer. He also stated he had a "brother" in Philadelphia, who was a lithographer and engraver. Ott is a person of social and convivial habits, somewhat garrulous when under the influence of his potations. Over the social glass the two became, in seeming the best of friends.

On the evening of November the 16, 1878, while they were in conversation, Bowers produced a hundred and a fifty-dollar bill, saying he had just been paid off and had a few such pieces. Ott remarked he could make such notes, and, in continuing the talk, which had taken so interesting a turn, Bowers remarked: "If you can make them, we can make a good deal of money together." Ott replied, "I have made thousands of them." On the 19th, of November they had another talk about the matter, and finally arranged to go to Philadelphia together. The two men lunched at the Hibernia House, after their meal Ott said: "You saw in the newspapers about there being so many counterfeit fifty-dollar bills in Germany, and so many emigrants being swindled by them?" Bowers stated, of course, that he had seen such a statement. "Printed

them all," said the confident Ott; "me and my brother at Philadelphia, and we also made some in New York. One night we burned up about eight thousand pieces, as the men we worked for became scarce and came in and said the detectives were after us; so we burned them up to get rid of them. Besides," he continued, "I have the plates we used, or, at least, they are where I can get them." Operative Bowers concluded he was on the right track, and took great care of his friend Jacob Ott.

The two soon took the agreed-upon journey to Philadelphia, and on the way Bowers told Ott that if he would get the plates he had spoken of, they two could easily make all the money they wanted, and Ott, who, as may have been noted, had become bankrupt, agreed to Bowers' proposal. After reaching Philadelphia, the new-made partners went out one evening toward Darby Station, near the Chester turnpike, and on the way Ott said Harry Cole was the man he worked for, and that Cole was the wife, Elise was the smartest woman he had ever seen in business. The conversation at this time gave Bowers reason to suppose the "brother" to whose co-operation Ott had referred was no other than the distinguished Charles F. Ulrich—as indeed was the case.

Ott finally showed Bowers a house, which, he said, "belonged to the President of the Centennial Commission," and stated that from one corner of the lot, beyond eighteen trees, at a certain point beside the road, was where the plates had been hidden every night, rather than keep them in the house where he printed the bills, they being in constant fear of a raid from the Secret Service. In the same place Ott supposed the plates might still be left, and that evening he and Bowers undertook a search for them. The night being quite dark, the search could not be made thorough, and it was arranged that it should be resumed another time; but Ott, distrusting his ability to find the plates, called upon Henry C. Cole and proposed to purchase a printing press. The old manager became alarmed, and gave Ott such advice and reprimand that when Bowers met him again he refused to have any more to say about the business.

While Messrs. Bowers and Ott had been conducting their negotiations, Cole and Ulrich had been under the watch of sharp-eyed officers, and were finally, as has been recorded in the sketch of Cole, both captured in *flagrante delicto*. This being done, Jacob Ott was himself very quietly arrested by Officer David H. Fierro, and taken to his room at No. 8 Spring street, New York, where he and his baggage were searched, and he and part of it taken to

the Secret Service Office, in the Post Office building. From there the United States Consul, at once sent for, and, by his authority, the accused was committed without bail for examination next day, and confined in Ludlow Street jail. It was understood that application would then be made for a writ of removal, and Ott be taken to Philadelphia for trial. The prisoner, by legal advice, refused, however, to be carried from New York without an order of removal by the Court. His right to a hearing upon that point was secured before United States Commissioner Deuel, of the United States Court in New York, on Tuesday, January 21, 1879. Assistant United States Attorney Wetberbe appeared for the Government, and ex-Judge Dittenhofer for the prisoner.

When the Commissioner called the case, Mr. Wetherbe said he should be compelled to ask for an adjournment of the examination for a day or two, in consequence of the absence of the principal witness for the prosecution, Judge Dittenhofer, who he was ready to proceed at once, and he thought the Government when initiating a proceeding against an individual should certainly not plead inability to prepare, with such vast resources at its command. He was ready to show that Ott was absolutely and entirely innocent, and that this remarkable activity of the Secret Service officials would in the end amount to a useless and causeless demonstration. He had often been accommodated by the United States Attorney, however, and he would consent to an adjournment, on the prosecution stipulating that during the interval no attempt should be made by the officials to "spirit" the prisoner away to Philadelphia, as he had been so frequently tempted to do. The stipulation being agreed to, the examination was adjourned.

Ott was again arraigned on the afternoon of Thursday, January 30, 1879. Assistant District Attorney Fiero conducted the case for the Government, and ex-Judge Dittenhofer still appeared for the accused. In the meantime, the Government brought forward Capt. H. R. Curtis, of the United States Secret Service; Operatives D. H. Gilkinson and M. G. Bowers, of Tennessee, and in principal Charles F. Ulrich, who had been arrested from the jail at New York, New Jersey, to testify. Jacob Ott appeared, and was seated between the two lawyers, and Ulrich, "a large man, of fine presence and much intelligence," occupied the most of a seat at the opposite end of the room. On the table before him "the rubber bed," a bundle of woolen clothes, etc., which had been found in Ott's trunk and which were of the kind used in plate printing. There were also presented in evidence four counterfeit bills

—three fifties on the Tradesmen's National Bank of New York city, and a five on the First National Bank of Tanquaqua, Pa. Captain Curtis recognized the counterfeit fifties as bills sold a Secret Service Operative by Henry Peckham, now serving a term of eight years for their utterance, and the five as the one uttered by Michael Conners, now serving five years for the offense. He also testified the prisoner had told him he had lived for the past two years with Charles F. Ulrich, at Oak Lane and Sharon Hill, suburbs of Philadelphia.

Operative D. H. Gilkinson testified to the arrest of Ott, and identified the material for plate printing as that found by him in the prisoner's trunk, which Ott stated he brought from Columbus, Ohio, where he had been engaged in lithography.

Operative M. G. Bowers stated his general relations with Ott as they have been related.

Ex-Judge Dittenhofer cross-examined the witness, prefacing his questioning by saying that on its face the statement was very weak as evidence, as the men appeared to have been drinking strong drink, and the witness could not even remember the name of the bank which had issued the two bills shown to Ott, and which, as he claimed, Ott had said he had counterfeited. He directed his queries mainly towards these points, and Bowers admitted that he could not remember the name of the bank; but he did not claim that Ott had said that he had counterfeited notes on that particular bank, but referred generally to National Bank issues. Ott had been drinking some, and if he had drunk more he would have very likely have told more. Bowers denied that either was drunk, but said that Ott was rather talkative.

Ulrich swore to a statement of his own career; his relations with Cole and Ott, and the particulars of their counterfeiting business, much the same as has been given in part in the account of Cole, and in this sketch thus far, all of which must, of course, will appear in the next sketch—a history of Ulrich himself.

Ulrich having stated that he was pardoned from Columbus, Ohio, states prisoner in 1876, after serving eight years, ex-Judge Dittenhofer, asked, "didn't you obtain your pardon by promising to abandon counterfeiting?"

"I might have made some such promises privately, as a man will under such circumstances," Ulrich replied, "but I don't remember that I did."

"At any rate you didn't mean to keep them; is that it?" queried the examiner.

"That has nothing to do with this case," was the critical answer of the witness.

At another point in the testimony, Attorney Fiero took one of the "exhibits"

from the table, saying: "Is this one of the bills you were concerned in making?" "Yes," said Ulrich, "that was printed from the plates I made."

"How can you recognize it?" asked the lawyer.

"How can you recognize your own hand writing?" demanded the counterfeiter engraver with a sneer!

Ulrich informed the Court, counterfeiters made most small bills, as wholesale dealers made most of them, they being current and unlike large notes circulating long after notice given of their existence.

Being asked if he had any money, Ulrich stated he had saved some, but did not wish to spend it on a lawyer's fees! "Did you make it counterfeiting?" was the next demand.

"That I don't propose to say," said Ulrich in conclusion.

Commissioner Deuel decided to hold the matter of the extradition of Ott over for consideration.

As the result of the deliberations of the Commissioner, Jacob Ott was fully committed for trial in the United States Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Under this decision, the prisoner was brought to Philadelphia, on Friday, the 7th of February, 1879, and handed over to the custody of United States Marshal Kerns.

Jacob Ott was put on his trial in the United States Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, before Judge Wm. Butler, March 5th, 1879, charged with the manufacture of counterfeit bank notes. Here again the chief witness was Ulrich, whose evidence was corroborated by Mary Ulrich, his reputed wife. There was no defense, and after the Judge had explained the rule of the law in respect to the testimony of accomplices, the jury returned a verdict of "guilty" without leaving their seats.

On March 11, 1879, Jacob Ott was brought before Judge William Butler, in the same court, for sentence and condemned to ten years' imprisonment in the Eastern Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, and to pay a fine of two thousand dollars, with costs of prosecution.

Thus, in still another case, the law triumphed through the faithfulness of its officers, and still again another fearful warning is given against the perverful of skill and industry to the service of crime. The offense of Jacob Ott has been great and his punishment severe, but just; yet for him there is hope. May his first term in the prison of the State be his punishment, and his skill, honestly used in free labor, yet benefit to some extent the country he has so greatly injured—whose hospitality he has so outrageously and criminally imposed upon.

MIRACLES IN CRIME.

HISTORY OF CHARLES F. ULRICH,

ALIAS

DUTCH CHARLIE, ALIAS CHARLES OTT,

ALIAS JAMES WINELL.

"BOSS CUTTER"

AND

ARTIST COUNTERFEITER.

AN ORIGINAL SKETCH.



CHARLES FREDERICK ULRICH.

The Mohammedans have a proverb that the destiny of every man is written at his birth upon the inside of his skull, and that no mortal can evade the career thus assigned to him. Oriental and allegorical as the idea of these Islamites may be, there is a sense of truth in their teaching; for the "Destiny which shapes our ends" is predicated in the constitution with which nature has by inheritance endowed us. For good or evil, distinguished action is the product of pre-eminent abilities and the difference between a great hero and a great criminal is but in the mysterious modification of character which admits or hinders a capacity for moral discrimination.

Persons like the subject of our present sketch, phenomenal in themselves, are a wonder and curiosity to the world, objects of dread and aversion to law abiding

citizens; problems of profound study to statesmen and lawyers and almost the despair of philanthropists and moralists. But such criminals are in the world and must be dealt with, and it is more to help an understanding and proper treatment of them, than cater to the greed for sensation that compels the chronicler of such erratic, dangerous lives.

There is one thing clearly demonstrated, and the moral may as well be prefixed here, as appended at the end of this narrative. It is this, that merely practical industrial skill, artistic genius, intellectual capacity and general education are quite insufficient guaranties of good citizenship. In fact, when uncontrolled by moral sense and training in a well-balanced nature, these natural faculties and cultured attainments are but as weapons in the hands of maniacs, dangerous and dreadful, in exact proportion to their efficiency and completeness. At the same time, ignorance is the symbol of brutality. The need of civilization, is a moral culture, as thorough as mental discipline has become, and practical as the science and industry of the nineteenth century.

Charles F. Ulrich is fairly presented in the portrait which precedes this writing. Of rather distinguished appearance, conciliatory address, winning manners and intelligent conversation, he would be taken by most persons for a well meaning gentleman, rather than a man so destitute of a sense of right, as not only to lend his great mechanical skill and artistic genius to the work of corrupting and counterfeiting the currency, but actually argue, even with the Secretary of the United States Treasury in person, that owing no allegiance to this Government, he had a natural privilege so to do! Ulrich was born at Prenzlau, Prussia, some twelve miles from Berlin, Jan. 18, 1836. He learned the rudiments of his trade of his father, and was, at one time, sent to Berlin to school. From his association with his father's business, Ulrich imbibed a taste for the fine arts, and to give his evident genius the opportunity, he was apprenticed in 1849, when about fourteen years old, to the trade of an engraver, at which he worked and improved in Prenzlau, Dantzic and Berlin.

After serving some four years and six months at his apprenticeship and becoming very skillful, Ulrich, being then some nineteen years of age, was driven by circumstances, to emigrate to England. As to the particular nature of the causes, which compelled him to leave his native land, and to go to a country where there are different statements put forward. Ulrich himself declared under oath in the United States Court, that he went to England with the consent of his father, to escape the conscription which requires military service

of all the young men of Prussia, when about twenty years old. If we were content like the philosopher to feel we were not bound to know any further than for "a sufficient cause," we might simply credit this affirmation and ignore whatever else is offered in this connection. Many a German youth has left the "Federation" for the cause Ulrich assigns, but there is another story about the matter, which, though somewhat discredited by investigation, is after all so much in keeping with the genius of Ulrich as to make its reproduction a suitable part of this work.

Some twenty-five and more years ago, according to one account, Ulrich was in Berlin doing a "clever" class of criminal work, but nothing like the refinements of fraud which were multiplied by his hand since that time. The particular transaction which put Ulrich on the list of criminals in Berlin, is stated as follows: "The place had been thrown into a fever of excitement, by the victimizing of five banking houses in one day through forged acceptances. Five different and totally dissimilar descriptions were furnished the police of the person who passed the fraudulent paper, by as many bank clerks. The police for what was considered good reason, suspected Ulrich and he aware of the fact, fled to said, to England. Another person named George Wendelen, was also suspected but he is now dead and the "credit" of the transaction, rests between the two, "with odds in favor of Ulrich." He is also said to have been "crooked" in England, and to be the only person who ever successfully engraved an imitation of the Bank of England note. In consequence of his attempts in this direction and his efforts to produce the Bank of England paper, Ulrich, it is alleged, attracted the attention of the English authorities and was obliged to leave that country in turn and so came on to America. Ulrich himself, on the witness stand and in private, repudiates all this addition to the record of his life, saying that he was endeavoring to avoid conscription, was in London but about six weeks, then went to Liverpool and embarked for New York city on the good ship Ticonderoga of the "Black Ball Line," arriving in October, 1853.

One might, as well undertake to follow the wonderful into and out of convolutions and convolutions of the geometric root work. Ulrich so well imitates, and remember every line, curve and relation, as to assume to trace completely, in less than a life-time, the career of a man like Ulrich amid the fantastic and bewildering people he made his associates. Quite as difficult to do injustice to him, or any other, criminal and convict though they may be,

we can but give reports in cases where precision is impossible and leave the intelligent reader to draw his own conclusions. It is difficult to determine the reasons why Ulrich became an emigrant, when so young, but suggest here, that more light will be thrown upon this point farther on in this biography; until then, we may postpone our conclusion that to believe where reports conflict so exceedingly. The stay of Ulrich in New York city in 1853, was short. He found no work at his business of engraving, which was due in part to the fact that he then spoke no English but a few words and Germans were not so numerous in New York as now.

After wandering about for some ten days, he fell in with a party of Englishmen who were privately recruiting in New York for the British army, then preparing for war with Russia. By some means Ulrich was induced to enlist, in Chatham street, where he was provided for a few days, and then with about sixteen others, forwarded to Boston Mass. There they were placed in a boarding house, with about twenty more, and as soon as circumstances favored, were secretly sent to Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Governor of that Province was engaged in raising a regiment to be presented to the Queen of England for service against the Russians and Ulrich on his arrival found a large number of men like himself congregated from all parts of British America and the United States.

When a sufficient number had been recruited, everything got ready, and this body of men was placed on board the ship Royal George, transported to England and landed at Plymouth. From there they were taken to quarters in the Haseler barracks in the suburbs of Portsmouth. The men thus added to the forces of England, were representatives of various nationalities and were organized and mustered under the name of "The British Foreign Legion." From this Legion Ulrich and some others were selected, on account of their superior bodily and mental qualifications, as Cavalrymen, and being taken to camp Aldershot near London, were drafted into the renowned organization known as "The Light Brigade." After being as thoroughly drilled as the time would allow, Ulrich with the rest, was again shipped on the Royal George and conveyed to the Crimea.

The Light Brigade numbered more than a thousand horsemen and constituted the cavalry of an English force of twenty-seven thousand men of all arms, which was sent to fight the Battle of Balaclava (see map) made up the British contingent of the French and English allied forces.

The allied army landed during the five days from the fourteenth of September 1854, to the eighteenth of the same month, at a point above Sebastopol, on the coast of the Black Sea, six miles north of the mouth of the Bulganak River, off Old Fort in Kalamita Bay. The English landed a mile to the north of the place first intended, at a beach between Lake Kalamita and the Sea.

The allied armies suffered much from sickness from the moment of landing, being men by the cholera hour by hour, but as soon as they could get into formation, they marched off as what is technically called "a moveable column," toward Sebastopol. The French marched the sea and the English formed the wing toward the interior. So the Cavalry of the Light Brigade, being "the eyes of the army," were required to skirmish continually to the front and flank, for upon their vigilance by day and night depended the safety of the entire allied force. The first general engagement was that of Alma and the next on the 25th of October 1854, that of Balaclava, where The Light Brigade immortalized themselves and where Charles F. Ulrich met adventures he will not be very likely to forget.

During the battle, the Russians fought tenaciously and captured some guns belonging to the English. The Russians holding the ground to the front, occupied two hills or ridges, which lay almost at right angles with the British front, the valley between them some half a mile or more wide, across which some mile and a half from the British front, a heavy Russian battery stood in position. The captured English guns were on the spur of the ridge to the right of the Lord Raglan, and so conceived that cavalry dash for the purpose, would recover them. The cavalry was under command of Lord Lucan and to him Lord Raglan sent his orders.

For some reason Lord Lucan did not make the charge and the order was repeated; still there was no movement of the horsemen and after waiting half an hour and over, Lord Raglan who could see the Russians harnessing teams to his guns to draw them out of reach, dictated a renewal of his order to "charge for the guns," which was written by his Quartermaster General, who forwarded it by his aid to camp Capt. Nolan. This last officer was a brave and gallant Cavalryman, full of faith in his own weapons and confident English sabres were competent to carve out for Great Britain, a military supremacy of Europe and Asia as the navy had over-predominance she held upon the sea. He also considered the phlegmatic Lord Lucan

in command, the one great hindrance to so glorious a consummation.

It is singular that a battery in front, by mounted men, but Nolan believed the cavalry the supreme force and nothing could have given him more pleasure than to recapture the cannon at the point of the sword. Overjoyed at the prospect of brilliant and special services for his comrades of the sabre, Capt. Nolan made his blooded and trained horse swoop like a bird down the almost impassable hillside and riding as only an English fox hunter could, he dashed up to where Lord Lucan was in a hollow and instantly delivered his dispatch.

It was the third order the Cavalry Commander had received within the hour and this last one was marked "Immediate;" beside there was something in the signature and the manner of the bearer which ruffled Lord Lucan. The one was the name of an officer of whom many were jealous and he conceived a repugnance to Nolan, from his impetuosity. In his vexation he failed to comprehend the order and sharply asked Nolan "what business art thou in?" "I have delivered the message on which the captured English cannon were, was not to be seen from Lucan's position and Nolan himself affronted, simply waved his hand toward the Russian position and said: "There are your enemy and your guns My Lord!" Lucan scorning to ask, as he should have done, for more definite explanation, rode over to where Lord Cardigan was at the head of the Light Brigade, which he commanded and gave him the order to advance—not as Raglan intended, but straight ahead, between the hills, down the valley, betwixt the outlying flanks of the Russians, up to the front of the great battery and plump into the very centre of the Muscovite hosts.

Lord Cardigan pointed out the terrible nature of such a movement, but Lucan assured him such were the imperative orders of Lord Raglan and there was nothing to do but obey them. "Certainly Sir," said the undaunted Cardigan, and the arrangement for the charge began at once.

"Their's not to make reply,
Their's not to reason why,
Their's but to do and die."

The Brigade moved off at a trot. Lord Cardigan, on a splendid officer, plumed and shining with gold riding a magnificent horse alone, well in advance made the first rank; then came the staff and the Brigade, all at a steady precise and decorous trot, as if once more back at Aldershot on review. Lord Lucan rode elsewhere in command, not evading his share of the ordeal of blood work. As soon as the cavalrymen began to move out, the

Russians on the ridge with the captured English guns supposing the charge was intended for their own guns, their priceless booty and began to fall back, but the Light Brigade kept on in the road toward the valley and past the flank of the ridge.

For a time the Russians looked eagerly for the development of some incomprehensible piece of strategy, some novel ruse; but as the troop still trotted forward all emotions were lost in surprise admiration and utter wonder. There were but six hundred and seventy-three men altogether, riding to the charge; deliberately moving in a slight and narrow valley, commanded by cannon on either side and swept by the great battery which lay across it, behind which were the heavy squares of my regiments. At this moment, Captain Nolan dashed in diagonally across the line of Cardigan's advance, bearing of in the direction the brigade should have taken and waving his sword, shouting desperately. Cardigan who had fixed his eyes on the center gun of the great battery and was riding like an engine straight toward his mark, with all his troop following his plumes, at the caution, did not understand Nolan's words, but was enraged at his seemingly absurd exhibition of ill-timed gallantry. Cardigan kept sternly on his way and as he never looked behind him once from first to last, he saw the Captain no more.

By this time the Russians had recovered their senses and some fierce gunner threw the first shell toward the English troop. The projectile burst in front of Nolan and a fragment of the iron entered his heart, inflicting a ghastly wound which struck him dead. His horse turned about, but the hand of Nolan still unconsciously clenched the rein and his right arm kept his uplifted sword poised in air and dead as it was, the body of Nolan sat bolt upright in the saddle and was carried swiftly toward the brigade. It was a fearful sight, most dreadfully by the fact, that as it neared the lines there came from what had been Nolan, an awful ringing unearthly shriek, as of utmost agony and despair; "an unearthly cry" says one who heard it, "Nolan's horse galloped swiftly to the rear and there the corpse suddenly relaxed and fell to the ground. The Captain's last brave ride was ended. His gallant life was sacrificed, but the brigade was not saved."

Cardigan and his men moved on, steadily, but not too fast, they were entering the valley, a roll of death, yet there was neither haste nor hesitation. The Russians were aroused now—the amazed giant struck at the brilliant audacious gnat. The Muscovite guns suddenly roared on both sides of the

narrow way, at most effective distance; the great battery in front wrapped itself in smoke and hurled its countless missiles in the face of the advancing horsemen. It is Teunynson, Peer Laureate of England, has sung the episode and nothing can so briefly and well describe the event:

III.

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them,
Volley'd and thunder'd;
Storm'd it with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well,
Into the jaws of death,
Into the mouth of hell
Rode the six hundred.

IV.

Flash'd all their sabres bare,
Flash'd as they turned in air
Sabring the gunners there,
Charging an army, while
All the world wonder'd;
Plung'd in the battle smoke
Right thro' the line they broke;
Cossack and Russian
Saw'd from the sabre stroke
Shatter'd and sunder'd,
Then they rode back, but not
To the sea—unsunder'd.

V.

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon behind them,
Volley'd and thunder'd;
Storm'd it with shot and shell,
While horse and hero fell,
They that had fought so well
Came thro' the jaws of hell,
Back from the mouth of hell,
All that was left of them,
Six of six hundred.

Lord Cardigan rode fairly through the Russian battery, up to the very faces of the enemy's reserves. He came upon a very rough looking set of customers. He was alone. A Russian officer knew Cardigan and ordered his men to take him alive. He escaped and rode back through the battery and so on to his place in the line from whence he had started. The brigade was broken to pieces and fighting desperately hand to hand, after a while some of them made their way back from the scene of carnage. There were six hundred and ninety-three men rode forward after Cardigan at roll call after the affray, one hundred and ninety-five of them still sat in their saddles; there was a loss in about half an hour of two hundred and forty-seven men of whom one hundred and thirteen were killed and one hundred and thirty-four wounded. There were four hundred and seventy-five horses killed and forty-two wounded. It indicates the nature of the fighting that but two officers of the first line escaped unhurt and that the Russians took but fifteen wounded prisoners. "It was," said Lord Cardigan to his men, "a mad brain piece of business, but not my fault," "Never mind My Lord," cried the men, "we are ready to go at them again."

Whose name

When the name of Charles F. Ulrich was mentioned, there was a murmur. When the time came to charge said he, "I was carried away by excitement, as were all around me. I did not think of the danger, but kept on until we were among the Russian guns and men, when the fighting was savage and the head-work of it. I was struck over the head with a musket by a Russian soldier; my skull was crushed and I was bayoneted in the side. I fell insensible and was left for dead by friend and foe. Thirty-six hours after, the English came on the ground and nothing was still to be seen. Senseless, they pulled me out from among the dead men and horses and carried me to the rear, where I was placed in the hospital. There I was most tenderly cared for and after a time having sufficiently recovered, I was transported to England discharged and paid off. The Prince was offered us of lands at the Cape of Good Hope, and seven years in the militia there, or extra pay to the amount of over eighteen pounds in money. The last I took and with it returned to the United States."

This was in 1856. For a young man barely of age who expatriated himself to keep out of the army Ulrich on his European tour obtained a pretty thorough experience of war; whether it was "written on the inside of his skull" that he should be a soldier, is unknown, but it seemed a kind of fate that he should handle weapons, anyhow the outside of his skull bears evidence that he has been where wounds were given and an ugly scar on his body is further testimony in the same direction.

More fortunate than when he first came to New York, Ulrich soon after his return there in 1856, found employment at his trade with Messrs. Doty and McFarland at their establishment on William street in that city. For a long time after his second arrival in America Ulrich was one of the greatest mysteries that ever befogged the mind of the American detective. It was all at once evident that a master hand in crime had begun his operations in the country, but who and where he was, became an aggravating question. Ten dollar notes raised to hundreds, were discovered in circulation, the product of most consummate art and these after long investigation, were supposed to be the work of a certain unknown "Dutch Charlie," which was all that could be learned of him for several months. After a time however he became entangled in the meshes of the law as all criminals of his class are about sure to do and was arrested and imprisoned.

Ulrich did not remain long with Doty and McFarland, but opened a place of his

own at the corner of Maiden Lane and Nassau street, to which time he brought on Centre street opposite Old Fellows' Hall. The first conviction of Ulrich was for engraving a small vignette on copper and his own version of the affair is as follows: "I was employed to engrave a vignette on a copper card plate or planer aware that it was to be used for; while I was at work upon the piece, a man named Bob Boyer, then a detective on the New York city force, came and arrested me, claiming I was making the plate for purposes of counterfeiting. The vignette was too small to be seen by the eye, but suggested, but I was taken before Oakley Hall, then District Attorney, Boyer stating that I was an old offender and was wanted in England and Germany, from which country I had run away."

After a preliminary examination, I was placed in jail and finally tried before Judge Russell, who Boyer actually swore to the false statement he had made before Oakley Hall, Judge Russell charged the jury accordingly and I was convicted and sentenced by Judge Russell to imprisonment at Sing Sing for five years. This was in 1858. My counsel was summoned to prison. I informed the Warden Mr. William Beardesley, that I had never perpetrated any crime whatsoever, either in Great Britain or Germany and that Boyer had perjured himself in his testimony concerning me before the court, and that his falsehood had principally influenced the jury to convict me. Mr. Beardesley became interested in my case and instituted inquiries about me, writing to Sir Richard Main who was in control at Scotland yards London England. He learned through Sir Richard that no person of my name or description had ever been in durance there, or was wanted on any charge. The Chaplain of the prison at the time also interested himself on my account and by aid of the book-keeper who was a German scholar, sent letters to Berlin and other towns in Prussia, where I had lived, where Boyer swore I had been engaged in counterfeiting. The same kind of reply was returned from Berlin as had been received from the country, but who and where he was, became an aggravating question. Ten dollar notes raised to hundreds, were discovered in circulation, the product of most consummate art and these after long investigation, were supposed to be the work of a certain unknown "Dutch Charlie," which was all that could be learned of him for several months. After a time however he became entangled in the meshes of the law as all criminals of his class are about sure to do and was arrested and imprisoned.

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to a counterfeiter named Jimmy Colbert who was intimately connected with a large gang of counterfeiters, among whom Harry Cole, his partner, was prominent. For Colbert and Cole, Ulrich did several jobs of engraving and finally made them a Title Line of one of the Old State Banks. Ulrich at this time had a shop also on the corner of Maiden Lane and Nassau street, but opposite the one he occupied before he was sent to prison. That he did all his work in that place is not at all certain. In fact, he had a number of hangers about the city, and was sometimes in one, sometimes in another. In his new shop, and indeed everywhere else that he could, the New York City detectives kept a sharp and constant watch upon Ulrich, and he charges that he was constantly blackmailed by men who were detectives or assumed to be. To escape from all this, Ulrich decided to move west. Sometime in 1864 he agreed with Jimmy Brunell to make a plate for counterfeiting the hundred dollar notes of the National Banks and they went to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1865, and Mary King, sister of Henderson, went there with Ulrich as his necessary housekeeper. Tom King had proposed to go into partnership with Ulrich, meaning to have Brunell as capitalist, but Brunell, hearing of Ulrich through Mary Brown, went to Ulrich and supervised King in the business. Ulrich and Brunell located at College Hill, six miles from Cincinnati, and began work. Brunell had a plate for printing counterfeit of the fifty cent fractional currency note bearing the likeness of ex-Secretary Spinner as a vignette, which he had used to a considerable extent.

The work on this plate was not equal to that generally done by Ulrich. The countenance of Spinner appears very fierce, wild and unnatural. Tom King, John Hart and Charles White, all three "crooks" and "coney-men" came down from Pittsburgh, and Hart and King pretended to be detectives, arrested Ulrich and Brunell at the house on College Hill. "Little Jimmy" as Brunell was called, gave up the plate, and Brunell and Ulrich paid these "detectives" over sixteen hundred dollars, after which both parties were set at liberty. These "detectives" may have been models in their very peculiar way. They allowed King to take the plates to Pittsburgh, where he of course began printing from them, but was caught and sentenced for eight years.

Soon after this "perfect sell," Ulrich began to work on a plate for printing counterfeit of the hundred dollar note of the Central National Bank of New York City. Skeleton plates were made at the same time, which being used with the other, enabled them to produce similar bills upon

the Ohio, National Bank of Cincinnati, Ohio, and the First National Bank of Boston, Mass. These bills were printed in the following order: first, Central National, second, Ohio National, third, First National of Boston. Two thousand impressions, representing two hundred thousand dollars, were printed from these plates. "Little Jimmy" Brunell disposed of the lot in two days and could have sold many more. Through Kate Gross, while under arrest in Philadelphia, the residence and business of Ulrich became known to Col. Wood, Chief of the Secret Service, who also ascertained that a package of money was about to be forwarded from Philadelphia direct to Ulrich. The Chief went at once to Cincinnati and with some of his aids located themselves in disguise as clerks, behind the counter in the express office. When Ulrich called for his package, two of these operatives sprang over the counter and arrested him. This was during May, 1867. Col. Wood, by an understanding with Ulrich, obtained the plates above described, and all the presses and appliances used in printing from them, and also voluntarily surrendered to Col. Wood in addition, the back and nearly finished front of a plate for printing counterfeit of \$500 National Bank Notes. This last plate was pronounced by the experts of the Treasury Department to be in all respects equal to the genuine.

It is reported that Col. Wood failed to obtain for Ulrich the consideration expected, anyhow Ulrich was tried in the United States Court at Cincinnati and convicted of making the one and five hundred dollar plates above described. The Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. McCullough, was at this time much perplexed on account of the appearance of a new counterfeit, \$1000 seven-thirty United States Bond. During June, 1868, between the time of Ulrich's conviction and sentence, he was taken from the prison in Cincinnati to Washington, D. C., to be examined by the United States Attorney-General and the Secretary of the Treasury, as to his knowledge of the engraving printing and issuing of this Bond. Nothing definite was learned upon these points and Ulrich was taken back to Cincinnati and sentenced for twelve years to the State Prison and so committed to the Ohio penitentiary at Columbus, O. Ulrich remained in prison at this place eight years, being pardoned in June, 1874.

The long term of imprisonment Ulrich served in Columbus gave the authorities opportunity for better acquaintance with this result that they ever had before. Had, at Columbus, as at Sing-Sing, the convict managed to make friends of those having the charge of him, and many stories are told of his prison life and

when (disguise alike the character of the apparatus) mechanic and the estimate in which he was held by those around him.

The brains and hand of Ulrich can never be exaggerated. Whenever restrained from criminal work, he has done things which demonstrate an ability and genius of the most versatile order. Up to the time of his incarceration in Ludlow street jail in 1858, he had never handled a billiard cue or any other article. A billiard table, as the story goes, was in those days in the center hall of the jail, and such prisoners as could afford to pay for the privilege were permitted the use of it. Ulrich was one of the prisoners who took a corridor above the hall every day for a week. Then he asked permission to come down and try his hand. After playing half a dozen games the best players in the jail could not compete with him. "I saw," said Ulrich, "that the billiard table was an affair of angles and geometry; you were master of this branch of the game you could play it against anybody, provided the mechanism of the eye, the nerve power of the brain, and the education of the hand were up to the mark. I sat for one whole week and studied the angles, the combination of angles, the ricochet and the rebound, the elastic force of the rubber cushions and their *pro rata* action to the impact of the ball, as derived from the propulsion of the cue in hand. You are pretty well aware my eye is quite geometrically correct. I had ample coolness and nerve; half a dozen games educated my hands, and hence my success as a billiardist."

But there were other games played by Ulrich, which he followed with the same coolness as his exercises at the billiard table, but which could not be calculated with the same precision; amusements of his, more criminal than anything done by his hands with the burin in steel, deeds which made their cruel marks on human hearts instead, and induced in social life consequences more of good and happiness to those who trusted him than all his frauds upon the currency.

When Little Jimmy Brunell, Charles F. Ulrich, Tom King, Kate Gross, Mary Brown, alias Henderson, and others, established their home in Sing-Sing in 1865, it is reported there was a relationship more intimate than business required between Ulrich and the women of the party, but this Ulrich scornfully denies. About a year after his first arrival in Cincinnati, Ulrich married a lady who lived near the Brighton House. She was a Roman Catholic and "Charley" is said to have joined the Roman Catholic Church to win his bride.

The information which led to the arrest of Ulrich by Col. Wood, in 1867, was ob-

tained from Kate Gross, while under arrest, and as she stated, as much through jealousy as a desire to make terms for herself. It appeared from this woman's statement that Ulrich had been intimate with her and deserted her, but she cared less about his leaving her than his living with another woman. "At this," she said, "my heart revolted. I could forgive him anything but that; that he meditated over it for a long time, and the more my mind dwelt upon it, the more anxiety it gave me. I knew I must break it up between them, or I should go crazy. Charley had given me away in exchange for that woman and that was my excuse for giving Charley away to the officials."

She "gave him away" very boldly indeed. Ulrich generally secretive and always successful when reticent, had told this woman more than he ever before entrusted to any mortal. And then, whatever their relations, he forsook her. "Hell has no fury like a woman scorned," said Ulrich, "and I do not know you were master of this branch of the game you could play it against anybody, provided the mechanism of the eye, the nerve power of the brain, and the education of the hand were up to the mark. I sat for one whole week and studied the angles, the combination of angles, the ricochet and the rebound, the elastic force of the rubber cushions and their *pro rata* action to the impact of the ball, as derived from the propulsion of the cue in hand. You are pretty well aware my eye is quite geometrically correct. I had ample coolness and nerve; half a dozen games educated my hands, and hence my success as a billiardist."

In Sing-Sing, we have noted that Ulrich won the favor of the officials of that institution and so presented the particulars of his conviction that his pardon was secured by their intervention. There is a tradition current among those who it seems to be well informed, that a certain wonderful bracelet of gold, miraculously engraved by Ulrich's deft fingers, was made a proof and presentation of his skill at Sing-Sing, and subsequently secured for him a fair advocate, whose plea of mercy was all over so honestly made the ears and head of the Executive of the State. The saying has been that, "Ulrich engraved his way into prison and carved his way out." But this is not at all official.

In the Columbus penitentiary, the confidant of Ulrich made him many sincere friends; gentlemen, who seeing his talent and genius, regretted their perversion and sought by practical efforts to reclaim them to honorable purposes. "Charley" gave every sign and promise of reformation at the same time and even yet; those who were his friends then, are satisfied that he himself intended an honest life thereafter.

The order and encouraging conduct of Ulrich secured him many indulgences at Columbus prison, and he was enabled to pry his graver on several pieces of work, proofs of which hanging before us we write, "make the judicious critics" that he should ever have been employed upon anything equally beautiful and perfect, yet utterly fraudulent and dangerously criminal. One of these master-pieces is a steel engraving of ex-Governor Allen, of Ohio. The work is a comparative failure in the matter of light and shade, because the engraving was done in the prison, on a bit of an old saw blade, without proper tools or machinery, or even acids for etching, but the likeness is a good one and the general work exceedingly well done. Another piece is a steel engraving of the Ohio penitentiary at Columbus, O., and still another, a letter head, on steel, with a view of the penitentiary inwrought, as part of the design.

But the most remarkable of this prison work of Ulrich, is an ornamental copy of the Lord's Prayer. The work contains an ornate lettering of the text of the prayer, surrounded with elaborate wreath and scroll work, enclosing ideal portraits of the twelve apostles. Two of these portraits, occupy the center of the work at the top and two others the same position at the bottom; two of them are centrally situated on each of the sides and one appears in each of the four corners. Ulrich had to create, as well as design and execute the ideal heads of the apostles, having nothing in the way of a prototype to work from. The whole was done in water colors and would be more than creditable to even an accomplished water color artist. With Ulrich it was of course an experiment. "What is most remarkable in this man," says an agent and correspondent of DYE'S GOVERNMENT COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR, in his report of recent interviews with ex-warden Col. Innes, "is that he is literally master of all trades. He excels the Chasse, being not only able to imitate but to originate. He could make a watch, or invent and build a threshing machine with equal facility. He was standing one day in the prison, watching a gang of men at work, and turning to the contractor at hand, he said: 'I can make a machine that will do the work of all those men.' The authorities were ready to allow Ulrich the means of his experiment and in due time the promised machine was completed, as also were several other labor saving contrivances of like nature."

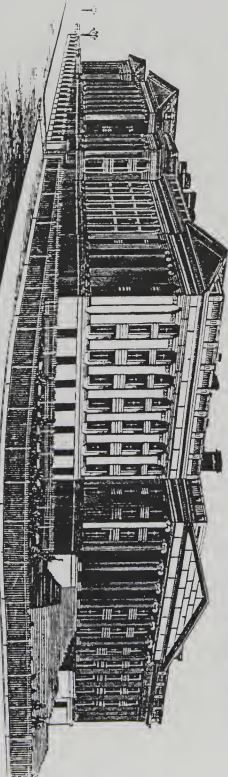
Col. Innes, who still resides an honored gentleman near Columbus, was warden of the penitentiary while Ulrich was confined there, and was the moving spirit in procuring the pardon which was granted him. By an arrangement with Ulrich, Col.

Innes provided some means of starting the lithographing business, and otherwise helped him carry on that branch of artistic work in Columbus. For three weeks Ulrich worked earnestly and well, and Col. Innes collected for the business, fully four hundred and seventy dollars. They did not, however, get the State work they expected, though there was "any amount of work ordered and left unfinished when Charley left for New York." (Philadelphia), says Col. Innes. While Ulrich was honestly at work he was in realized danger from his old associates. His former partner, Mary Brown, alias Henderson, came at one time to Columbus, and under an assumed name, tried to secure an interview with him, and upon his refusing to see her, left the place swearing vengeance. "Harry" Cole came on from Philadelphia and saw Ulrich again and again, which Warden Innes being told by Ulrich, declared that if Cole was seen there again he would have him arrested. Ulrich states that his first temptation to resume counterfeit work came from Cole, who offered him five thousand dollars to go to Philadelphia. Whatever inducements were held out, Ulrich resisted all for a time, but finally, as the report is, a man came from Cincinnati and offered him a thousand dollars, three hundred dollars when the work was begun, for a plate from which to print counterfeit revenue stamps for tobacco. Ulrich gave no attention to the proposed criminal work, but informed Col. Walcott, the United States Internal Revenue Collector, of the affair, and soon after, during November, 1874, disappeared from Columbus.

Brief as was the time between his pardon and his flight, Ulrich had contrived during the three months to again add to his social and domestic complications, and his circumstances in this relation doubtless had a strong influence in inducing him to break away from his benefactor and cooperator. Soon after his release from prison, Ulrich, with characteristic gallantry, devoted himself to the daughter of the keeper of a public house near the court-house in Columbus, and the two soon became domiciled together. Col. Innes remonstrated duly, and knowing no impediment urged a marriage. Ulrich promised repeatedly to marry the girl, but not caring to add bigamy to his professional exploits, he never pretended to do so and the girl suddenly went away a few days before Ulrich himself departed.

In December of the same year Ulrich was living in Philadelphia, Pa., at the corner of Sixth and Cumberland streets, working upon the now famous plate of the counterfeit fifty of the Central National Bank of New York City, the hundred dollar bills of which institution were counterfeited by the plate Ulrich surrendered to Col. Wood at Cincinnati during the month

THE READING BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.
(From Official Photographs, especially for the Government Photo Process.)



of May, 1867, as described. The partners of Ulrich in Philadelphia, in 1876, were Henry C. Cole and Jacob Ott, the last having worked as a lithographic printer for Ulrich and Warden Innes in Columbus. The operations of this trio of counterfeiters have been so fully presented in the preceding sketches of Cole and Ott, published in DYE'S GOVERNMENT COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR for March and April, 1879, that a shorter report of the details of their joint work will be sufficient in the present writing. As related in the sketch of Ott, the fifty plate which was used for the Central National Bank of New York City, was made so as to serve for any National Bank having a title of the same length and being situated in a town the name of which had the like number of letters. In March, 1877, Ulrich removed about six miles from Philadelphia, with the Ott family, to Oak Lane, a station on the North Penn'a Railroad, where they

made their residence, in a house belonging to Mr. William Davidson, proprietor of the City Line Hotel. There the plates were finished, and in the garret the counterfeit fifties on the Central National Bank of New York City and the Third National Bank of Buffalo, N. Y., were printed. In this house Ulrich rapidly produced a plate for printing counterfeit bills of National Bank fives, and the well known "Tamaqua Fives" were printed in a chamber of the second story of the same building.

In May, 1877, the counterfeit fifty on the Central National Bank of New York City appeared. The work of Ulrich was at once suspected. In July, 1877, came the bills, produced by change of skeleton title plates, on the Third National Bank of Buffalo. The sketch of Ott, contains an explanation of the peculiarities of these bills. In September, 1878, work ended in the house at Oak Lane and the "Tamaqua Five" was put into circulation.



OAK LANE HOUSE.

This house, since occupied by Mr. John Unruh, is a modest grey rough-cast cottage with a shingle roof, standing about a quarter of a mile from the station, in a lot adjoining the City Line Hotel, a few rods from the County Line Road and a short distance from its crossing with the old York Road. The view is from a special sketch exclusively for DYE'S GOVERNMENT COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR, and is a reliable illustration.

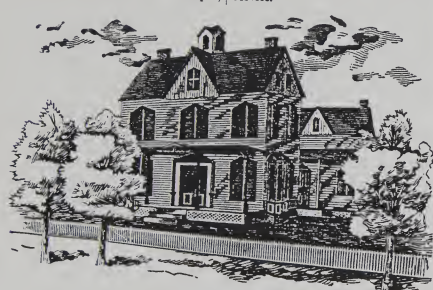
During October, 1877, the "mill" of Ulrich and Ott was moved to Sharon Hill Station, on the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, Cole still remain-

ing in Philadelphia. The same fifty dollar plate was again put on the press and this time the counterfeit fifties on the National Broadway Bank and the Tradesmen's National Bank, both of New York City, were produced and set in bulk unsign'd for the German market. The five dollar plate was also worked from and the title of the First National Bank of Hanover, Pa., was given to the bills produced at that time.

Although the contrary has been stated, the "Hanover fives," "German fifties" and all the bills struck off at Sharon Hill were printed with the true charter num-

ber, the bills done by Ulrich and Ott, at Oak Lane, having the supposed character number, running in a series. The mistake was not in the engraving of Ulrich, but in the printing by Ott under the direction of Cole, against the remonstrance of Ulrich, as has been explained already in the sketch, "The Champion Coney Striker." In April,

1878, the firm of Cole, Ulrich and Ott gave up business, and the house and "mill" at Sharon Hill, or Darby Village was abandoned by the "Konsackers." This building will, however, long be regarded with interest in the criminal history of this country, and be well remembered by the Secret Service.



SHARON HILL HOUSE.

The Sharon Hill place, which is the property of Mr. Samuel Ulrich, and now occupied by a Mr. McLaughlin, was in every way more desirable than the one occupied by Ulrich and his co-workers at Oak Lane. The building is a pretty and quite commodious house, built of wood on stone foundation. It stands about fifteen yards from the Chester Town Pike, and fronts upon that road, being about a quarter of a mile from the Sharon Hill Railroad Station, on a site where there is nothing to obstruct the view in any direction to some considerable distance. The counterfeiters were printed in the east back attic room, directly over the kitchen in the back part of the house. The above illustration, like that which precedes it, was engraved from an original sketch especially for these columns.

When Ulrich left Columbia, Ohio, in November, 1876, he was lost sight of by the Secret Service, until after he was discovered during April, 1878, in Elizabethport, New Jersey. During May, 1878, Ulrich traveled to and fro from his New Jersey stopping place, to New York and Philadelphia, and in June of that year was at Davidson's City Line Hotel, Oak Lane, Pennsylvania, next door to the house where he had lived and worked with Ott from March, 1877, to October of the

same year. At Davidson's Ulrich rejoined the young woman he had lived with in Columbus after his pardon, and from that time onward was strictly "shadowed," for in his various journeys enough had been seen to convince his watchers that he was buying tools and materials for some new operation, though his connection with whom we have related as having occurred between himself, Cole and Ott, was then merely strongly suspected.

Within two weeks of his arrival at Davidson's, Ulrich and his companion returned to their residence, since October 1877, at 2041 Hope street, in the city of Philadelphia, and there Henry C. Cole came to meet them. When this veteran was thus seen coming to the front it was well inferred these "high contracting parties" intended business, and the watchfulness of the Secret Service men was made still more diligent. Cole and Ulrich managed their subsequent meetings most secretly and artfully, but the men under Capt. H. R. Curtis of New York, and under Officer A. L. Drummond of Philadelphia, cooperated in honorable and effective competition, and day by day drew their lines closer around the two men whom they knew deserved their utmost distrust and would tax their best efforts. Early in October, Ulrich and his reputed wife with

their child left Philadelphia for Plainfield, New Jersey, where they were observed by one of Drummond's men, who followed them, to put up at the City Hotel.

After several days spent in riding about the country, Ulrich established a boarding house at Scotch Plains, near Fanwood Station on the Philadelphia, Bound Brook and New York Railroad. This house he hired under the name and style of "James Winell," a gentleman of means and leisure, from Cleveland, O. Cole became an occasional visitor at the residence of Mr. "Winell," where, having been turned over to that district, both parties were constantly and carefully shadowed by the agents of the Secret Service from New York.

On November 30th, 1878, "the time having fully come," Hon. James J. Brooks, Chief of the Secret Service and Capt. H. R. Curtis, operator in New York, made an unexpected and informal call upon Mr. "Winell," and found that gentleman amusing his elegant leisure by engraving a plate for printing counterfeitlets of the hundred dollar United States Treasury Note of the New Issue, the workmanship of which, as far as completed, promised the production of a piece of criminal engraving superior to anything even Charles F. Ulrich had ever accomplished. The engraver was promptly arrested and once in the power of the Officers, was like a captured cannon, turned at once upon the enemy. Ulrich was directed to go on with his work upon the plate and Officers D. H. Gilkinson of New York City and G. B. Bower of the Tennessee District, were detailed to watch the premises and the visitors who were expected. Ulrich cooperated in good faith with the detectives and yet, though Cole came several times, it was not until January 17th, 1879, that he was arrested, as has been noted in "The Great Coney Striker," in a manner which made capture equivalent to conviction.

Cole was taken from Fanwood to Newark, New Jersey, and Ulrich, after remaining two or three days in charge of the Secret Service, was lodged in jail at Trenton, N. J. From Trenton Ulrich was taken to Newark where he waited a hearing and was held by United States Commissioner Keesey for action of the Grand Jury and remained to jail in default of twenty thousand dollars bail. On January 20th, 1879, the cases of Cole and Ulrich were brought before the Grand Jury of Trenton, New Jersey, and a true bill found against Cole, upon the testimony of Ulrich, who came forward as a witness for the Government. They were both indicted in the United States Court at Trenton, January 22, 1879, on the 23d of that same month, were examined and committed for trial.

On Saturday, January 18th, 1879, Charles W. Schoener, alias Charles Cole, a stepson of Henry C. Cole, was arrested at his residence in Warnock street, Philadelphia, by officer A. L. Drummond, charged with making and passing counterfeit notes. The presence of Ulrich was put off and he was called as a witness for the Government at the hearing given Schoener on January 25th, 1879, in Philadelphia, before United States Commissioner Aubrey H. Smith. Charles F. Ulrich voluntarily appeared as the principal witness for the Government, and he testified that Schoener had dispensed the paper and strung the bills to dry, which Ott printed at Oak Lane, Pa. He further stated that he had never informed the Secret Service concerning Schoener, and had not been promised any immunity for testifying. Schoener was held in five thousand dollars bail for trial, in default of which he was committed to Moyamensing prison in Philadelphia, and Ulrich again returned to jail at Trenton, New Jersey. Jacob Ott having been arrested in New York City, January 20th, 1879, he again appeared as a witness for the Government at the hearings of Ott, held in that city the 21st and 30th of that month, when Ott was committed for trial in Philadelphia. On the third of the ensuing February, Ulrich being brought up for trial in the United States Court at Trenton, pleaded guilty before Judge John Nixon of that Court, an example which was followed by Cole in the same place, Ulrich was remanded to jail to await sentence, as was his partner Cole. On the 10th of the same month, Cole was sentenced by the same Judge, and was sentenced by the same Judge twelve years in the State prison, and to pay a fine of two thousand dollars. Ott having been committed for trial on the testimony of Ulrich, proceedings against Ott were ordered in the United States Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and a sentence of Ulrich was postponed while he was held as a witness.

The trial of Ott took place in the above Court, before Judge Wm. Butler, March 5th, 1879, and upon the testimony of Ulrich, Ott was found guilty, the jury not having their seats so defence being attempted. On March 11th, 1879, Judge William Butler, sentenced Jacob Ott, to ten years imprisonment in the State prison and to pay a fine of two thousand dollars.

In the course of his testimony on the several occasions where he appeared, Ulrich not only admitted the partnership, but gave a considerable amount of information as to his own career and the general features of the counterfeiters' art and practice. Among other things, Ulrich has stated that he was "the roustabout" of the team to drive the men to whom he sold his "boodles" of counterfeit bills,

to instruct the parties they sent out, to show or pass them, that to avoid capture, and for the avoidance of the trade they should never offer bad money. Ulrich could see DYE'S GOVERNMENT COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR, or learn it was taken in the place of business.

Although Ulrich had not been promised immunity or any favor, yet that very fact and his manner of action created in official and legal circles, as well as to some extent in the public mind, a feeling in his favor, and the question was raised, whether the Government ought, whether indeed it had legal power, to sentence a man who, guilty as he confessed himself to be, had still been brought forward again and again as a witness whose evidence had convicted each of his partners and exposed the details of a most dangerous scheme of crime.

This public sentiment found expression at last in the form of a petition to the President of the United States for the pardon of Charles F. Ulrich, which memorial was extensively signed by the most respectable and influential persons. This petition was presented to the President in due form, but the Executive of the Nation, after due consideration felt himself in duty bound to deny the same, at that time, and he gave an answer to that effect.

On April 30th, 1870, District Attorney Kneely applied in the United States Court at Trenton, N. J., for some adequate and proper recognition of the services of Charles F. Ulrich in the courts in connection with the recent cases of counterfeiting by his associates. The President of the United States, he said, would not sign a pardon for Ulrich, because the prisoner was wanted as a witness in still another case. He suggested the prisoner be released on his own recognizance during the term of his good behavior. The Honorable Court was ready to acknowledge the usefulness of Ulrich, and very properly took occasion to read him a very stern lesson, and give a most solemn warning. Judge John T. Nixon reminded the prisoner of his great and numerous crimes, made more atrocious by his talents. He recited to his mind that he had before escaped merited punishment by acting as an informer, and that he had in that and every other way reached the limit of any possibility of forbearance by the country.

His honor then announced the suspension of his sentence; telling Ulrich, however, that any infraction of the law would at once be noted and that his third and next appearance before the courts, would procure for him a renewal of all from which he was released and immediate sentence to punishment to the utmost extent and rigor of the law.

Ulrich expressed his thanks in a becoming manner, and promised Judge Nixon he would heed his honor's admonition and hereafter, under all circumstances, turn whatever of ability he might possess to the pursuits of honest industry. And the prisoner was liberated upon his own recognizance during the term of his good behavior.

There was quite a scene of excitement in and about the court when Ulrich thus regained his liberty. It is to the credit of our common humanity that soon after, in a certain residence, not far away, there was a scene still more affecting.

The countrymen of Ulrich have a word they apply in cases where anyone is fortunate in escaping disaster, though running, imprudently into danger. "It is his *Schicksalstuck*," say the Teutons, literally, *pig's luck*. This kind of blind chance luck was born with Ulrich and has followed him thus far. It gave him at first, health, strength, talent, genius, art and education; it brought him out from among the dogs of Balaicid; it aided him in repeated escapes from prison; it secured him a pardon from Sing-sing; it did the same at Columbus; it has all along given him the undeserved love of women and secured him the ill-requited friendship of good men. At last his *Schicksalstuck* came between Charles F. Ulrich and Judge Nixon and gave the convict his freedom. But let him beware. There seems a fate to follow him also. If indeed, as one who has been most faithful to him declares, "Charles cannot say no," his doom is sure. In case of any folly on his part, or any tampering with temptation, the avenger of Justice, suspended, like that of Barnside, by a single hair, will suddenly fall and Charles F. Ulrich disappear forever in the living tomb of perpetual imprisonment. The ways of honest industry are open before him, he owes his liberty thrice over to the clemency of the State. Let him place himself among honest men by a full exposure of the schemes and ways of the counterfeiter to those who labor for the public protection, and show his gratitude for mercy and his good sense as well, by the prompt exposure of any impudent felon who insinuates to him the possibility of crime.

In the arrest and conviction of Cole, Ulrich and Ott, Chief James J. Brooks and his men assume to have done no more than their duty, yet they have shown themselves as incorruptible as they are able and zealous, and the work done in the case, has certainly saved hundreds and thousands of dollars to the public, and given the Secret Service a new and honorable claim upon the consideration of the Government.

SCIENTIFIC COUNTERFEITING;

OR,

FRAUD AS A FINE ART.

BIOGRAPHY OF THOS. BALLARD,

ALIAS

THOMAS AVEY, ALIAS THOMAS WESTON,

ALIAS TOM DAVIS,

"THE PRINCE OF COONEY MEN."

AN ORIGINAL SKETCH.



THOMAS BALLARD.

"The proper study of mankind is man," declares the poet Pope, on the authority of the most profound Essay on human nature which graces the English language. "Know thyself" was the inscription the ancient and classic Greek placed upon the keystone to the entrance of the temple of his gods. We learn of ourselves best by comparison with others. The study of mankind is the prelude to self-knowledge, and they are not philosophers, who, even through just admiration of the good and true, refuse to observe the morally deformed and the criminal.

To know the world, in the worst aspect of its inhabitants, is not a cheering sort of talent, talents misapplied, genius prostituted, energies misdirected and human lives worse than wasted, will sadden any soul, unless in itself, capable of and inclined to the very evil, misdemeanors and crimes

it should deplore. Yet it is only by the most very pathetic understanding, even that restraint of the passions, and the recognition of the unfortunate can be made possible. Beside, there is an intensely practical aspect of the matter. It is better and safer to know the wicked arts and desperate methods of those who make a felon of the dishonest and dexterity, through losses from their crimes, inflicted upon us in consequence of our own ignorance.

The History of Crime has no record of a character better worth studying than the "magnificent genius" whose portrait is presented at the head of this article, and whose biography appears upon the succeeding pages. Thomas Ballard was born in 1840 at Johnstown, Fulton County, State of New York. His parents, of English origin, were born in Boston, Mass., and on the maternal side bore the name of one of the most distinguished families of the historical old Bay State. Thomas Ballard was the eldest of five brothers, Thomas, John, William, Benjamin and George. The father of these boys was a tradesman, a ring painter, which business he taught his sons, one after another, and at which young Tom Ballard became proficient, being especially expert in the "fancy" or more artistic branches of the work. A born genius, Tom early developed a taste for study, and was as industrious, intelligent, well behaved and promising a young fellow and mechanic as is to be imagined.

As Tom Ballard grew older, he became anxious to make money more rapidly, and ambitious to occupy a vastly higher social position. His uneasiness, his taste for enterprise, his restless English nature, considered led him to follow the footsteps of many a hopeful youngster before him, and in 1858, Thomas Ballard, then eighteen years of age, had his name upon the payroll of one Henry Hinman, a carriage builder of some celebrity, doing business at 45 Bowery, New York City. This Hinman was an uncle to the first wife of the noted Joshua D. Miner, of the City of New York, a politician, a city contractor, and the autocrat of cooney men. It has been said that Miner was once in the carriage with the young man, but how far he may have been Miner soon noticed Ballard, and in an evil day for that young man, made his acquaintance. Ballard worked for Hinman about two years, through just admiration of the good and true, refuse to observe the morally deformed and the criminal. To know the world, in the worst aspect of its inhabitants, is not a cheering sort of talent, talents misapplied, genius prostituted, energies misdirected and human lives worse than wasted, will sadden any soul, unless in itself, capable of and inclined to the very evil, misdemeanors and crimes

sentenced for ten years. During May, 1871, Gurney conducted Chief H. C. Whitney to Miner, as the party from whom his supplies of the coins came and the owner of the "mill and Lick's mill" to keep the pieces of property had been traced to Miner before, but not in a way to make a case against him. The Chief and Gurney came upon Miner suddenly. "Halloo!" cried the veteran Joshua. "Halloo, stick in the mud! Did I tell you to keep your hands out of mischief? And show what can you expect me to do for you?" In spite of his bravado, Miner was brought to terms, and to settle the matter, he surrendered the plate aforesaid.

Being urged to give up the rest of the plates he was so well known to control, Miner referred to Henry C. Cole, then living at his farm in Quakertown, Pa., stating that Cole had the plates with him there in the country. This statement cost Cole a good deal of trouble, for the Secret Service men came upon that agriculturist at Quakertown, with an imperative demand for a very important set of products the farms of Quakertown did not yield, but which were cultivated in New York City, under care of the agent John Ballard. He could not deny it but assert the fact that he had no plates in his possession, which, as the officers could not disprove, they were forced to credit and leave the premises no wiser than when they came. They were nevertheless convinced of the character and satisfied that Cole was his able confederate. About this time the invention of steam or other power drills for stone was receiving attention, and Miner, who had heavy contracts of rock work in the upper part of New York, was engaged in experiments with this kind of machine. Henry C. Cole became interested in the patents which were procured, and in consequence was much in Miner's company. There was a great deal of coming and going between them and about the excavations of the ledges. The business about the drills was genuine and successful in the end, but not as profitable as that done under cover of his name in the counterfeiting line.

One of the well-known "coney men" of those days was David Kirkbride, alias Thomas, alias Harris, alias Moore, a fellow about twenty-six years of age. Kirkbride was "shadowed" from about July 4th, 1870, and yet it was not until August 6th, 1871, that his arrest became possible. On that day he was taken by A. L. Drummond, now the efficient first operative of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Kirkbride had one thousand nine hundred and eighty dollars in counterfeit money on his person when arrested. When brought before Chief H. C. Whitney he was

stubborn and non-committal, and so remained until the 23d or 24th of the ensuing October, when he became more communicative. In consequence of the information given by Kirkbride, the Secret Service men privately arrested a co-partner of his in the person of David Keen, a liquor merchant, in the act of delivering a large amount of counterfeit bills to a party who came from Rondout, New York, to purchase the same, in a manner which had been arranged among the operatives having charge of the arrest.

It was once a proverb that "All roads lead to Rome," and it seemed at the time of Kirkbride's arrest that every trace of an operative in the quest was to be traced back to "Jot" Miner as his undoubted origin. The unsolved and vexatious problem, was, how to fix his guilt upon him, how to legally effect his arrest, and how secure his conviction and deserved sentence. David Keen, being secretly under arrest, in order to make interest for himself, undertook, upon certain terms, to help the Secret Service men to just such an interview with Miner as they desired. To this end Keen was given considerable liberty of action, he and Miner and the others concerned, were members of the same secret organization, and Keen was reluctant to strike directly at one of his brothers in the society, beside, it was not plain how he could in that way secure the counterfeit plates which were in Miner's possession, and counted of the greatest importance. In the dilemma a scheme was concocted between Keen and parties at Headquarters, for implicating another person, a supposed confidant and confederate of Miner, through whom it was expected that the business could be carried completely accomplished. Accordingly there came again a person from Rondout, New York, to Keen and offered to buy counterfeit bills to the amount of five thousand dollars by their face. Keen applied to Miner for the "coney," and a bargain was made for the mutual safety and convenience, the delivery should take place through Henry C. Cole. Miner being willing to avoid personal risk, and Keen seeking to implicate Cole, in order to use him against Miner, and thus effect the capture of that worthy and to surrender the plates, to the end of securing his own release, and all without showing directly to Miner his own hand in the matter.

As has been noticed, Cole was engaged with Keen in the ownership and use of the patent rock drill, and was constantly going and coming to and from Miner, and around town about the same. In these little journeys Cole habitually rode in his own carriage, like any well-to-do and enterprising man of affairs. In this way it came about that Cole had at times made

his vehicle a convenience to Miner by carrying various articles for him, one way and another, and it seemed a common-place thing enough, when Cole being at Miner's residence, Miner requested Cole to take a "package" home with him, for delivery in exchange. Cole not knowing the contents of the package, took it in his carriage as requested and conveyed it to his house. All this Keen duly told at Secret Service Headquarters, 52 Bleeker street. Keen was furnished with a money bag, and was concluded to make an arrest of Cole, trusting through him, to reach the astute Miner in proper form after all. Accordingly, as described in the sketch of Cole, David Keen and officers Kennoch and Drummond proceeded to Cole's house, 319 Eighty-fourth street, on the night of September 11th, 1871, and the exchange of packages being made, Cole was arrested with the marked money package in his hands.

Being put under ten thousand dollars bail, Cole felt, doubtless, that Miner, as in the case of the affair with Gurney, had selfishly given him notice, and he accordingly, he knew about enough of Mr. Miner, entered into an arrangement with Chief H. C. Whitney to secure the capture of Miner, in order to save himself. This was consummated as fully related in the sketch of Cole, through an attempt of Miner, on the night of October 25th, 1871, to deliver certain counterfeit plates Cole had agreed to buy. Miner, after a sharp fight, in which the officers fingers were badly bitten, and the prisoner had four teeth knocked out, was captured by officer Kennoch, and at the same time Drummond captured another man who came on to the ground to meet Miner, and this man, as related in the account of Cole, gave the name of Tom Avey, of 225 Fifty-third street, and proved to be "Ballard," as was discovered incidentally at his house. Even after the discovery of his real name and residence, there was nothing to connect "Ballard" with any crime, and Miner talked politics only, with a fluency and ability worthy a well-paid statesman.

The prisoners were taken before United States Commissioner John J. Davenport, and, waiting an examination, were committed to Ludlow street jail, in default of bail in the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars each. Cole was put to lodge with Ballard, the Chief hoping Ballard would betray himself. Cole did not trouble himself to "primp" Ballard, and the two retired together. During the night Ballard got up and was about to attempt an escape by a leap from the second story window. This Cole persuaded him to give up, but assured him the circumstance was proof

of his complicity with Miner, and that he must keep his own counsel in the matter. Ballard himself has told a hard story of the means used which induced him to criminate himself, and destroy his very name, and to do such a felonious business. He was really outwitted, being more artistic than artful, and in his surprise at the discovery of his real name, he supposed Miner had betrayed him, whereupon he weakened, and Whitney's magic pump did the rest.

The officer who was sent to look up "Tom Avey" at 225 Fifty-third street, of course, found no such person, but found in the mistress of the house a woman he reported "all a lady should be." As he was leaving, he overheard some woman say to another, "I will bet he is looking for Ballard." Upon this hint he acted, and the next officer who spoke to "Tom Avey" exclaimed: "I see you are feeling well, Ballard!" "For God's sake, who are you?" cried Tom, and not being of the brute kind he faints.

Fair promises may have been made Ballard, but we shall soon see why such an end was not to be kept. Ballard disclosed his relation with Miner, and also the location of the mill at 256 Livingston street. Another mill was also discovered through the agency of Elie C. Cole working in the interest of her husband's release in the house of Lewelly Williams, 428 West Fifty-fourth street. From these places were taken, on October 26th, 1871, the following schedule of various articles and materials: counterfeit plates; \$100 United States Treasury Notes, unfinished; \$20 Greenback, back and front plates, finished; National Banks of Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; full set, back of note; \$3 National Banks; full set of plates, Lincoln head, 50 cent scrip; a second set of the same, very superior; a set of plates, Stanton head; 50 cent scrip, for seven impressions; a second set of the same on steel, for ten impressions; a third set of the same on copper for five impressions; also the transfer rolls for the above, except the \$1000 unfinished plate; ten full sets original, back pieces for making transfer rolls; transfer press, cost \$10,700; transfer rolls; cost \$1500; two large presses for printing bills; two smaller presses for printing bills; a large quantity of type and galleys; ink, rolls and press blanks; a full set of Treasury seals for stamping red seals on the notes; forty-five thousand dollars of counterfeit money in denominations of two, five, ten, twenty and one hundred dollars, beside all the other articles for making the same, and one hundred and fifty pounds of the best fine fibre paper, and all the complete apparatus for making the same. Ballard declared afterward that "the

Capture made.

Whitely the happiest man on earth. Certainly the Chief had reason for satisfaction, but his pleasure would have been marred badly could he have known, as was the case, that an important part of these captured plates had been electromet, and that these reproductions of the wonderful plates are equally stored on other banks, and would some day be brought out and used almost as extensively as the original.

On the night of November 15th, 1871, Thomas Ballard, Billy Brown and James Quimby, broke jail, escaping through the roof, and getting down by descending through an adjoining tenement house. Whether the escape was due Ballard's dexterity, or Miner's liberality, or both conjoined, is an open question still with the public. By the escape of Ballard, the Government lost its most important testimony in the case of Miner, and Ballard was cut off from whatever consideration had been promised him, on account of his service as an informer and witness for the State. A reward of five thousand dollars was offered for the apprehension of Ballard, but he remained at large in a remarkable manner, as is to be described hereafter. In the meantime, Joshua D. Miner was brought to trial. Every device was resorted to by Miner, to defeat the ends of justice. Tom Ballard being out of the way, other important witnesses for the prosecution disappeared, or became incapable of memory, while some of those for the defense were convenient as possible and exceedingly glib. In the emergency the Government had to depend on Henry C. Cole for testimony, but being an ex-convict and then under arrest, he was in a way disqualified. To remedy this, Cole was pardoned before conviction, by Governor John T. Hoffman, and reinstated thereby in his civil rights. His testimony against Miner was clear and straight forward, and it seems, should have been sufficient.

As has been noted in the preceding paragraphs, Miner on more than one occasion, had, by false charges and various treacherous tricks, involved Cole in trouble and loss to the Government; but when Cole testified against Miner, truthfully, to save himself from punishment, rely on Miner's account; there then arose a war between the houses of Miner and Cole, as fierce and revengeful, as that of *Fendita* between the Montagu and Capulet.

In addition to Cole, an important witness at Miner's trial, was found in John Ballard, who testified as follows: "I am thirty two years old, a printer by trade, up to last March, I have been engaged off and on in manufacturing counterfeit money; the place where I have carried on my operations principally, is No. 238

Rivington street; where I had full control, using printing presses; the plates which are here, I recognize as the same ones I used in printing the counterfeit money; there is a process of driving up the letters which give the name of the bank, so that they may be filed down and new names engraved, and printed from as counterfeits on other banks; the twenty dollar plate which is here has been filed down in this way at least twenty-eight times, the Farmers and Manufacturers Bank of Poughkeepsie being the last counterfeit. I have been engaged for over three years at 238 Rivington street at this kind of printing, generally turning out about ten thousand dollars a month. Henry Hinman was a man who, in connection with Mr. Miner, furnished capital and material for the carrying on of this business. I have known Miner for over four years. Mr. Hinman came to me one afternoon, and told me to come up to the corner of Fifty-ninth street and Tenth Avenue, and bring with me all the counterfeit money I had at that time in my possession, which was ten thousand dollars in ten dollar notes, on the First National Bank of Red Hook, New York. I went up as directed, and there I met Mr. Hinman and Mr. Miner. I gave the money wrapped up to Mr. Hinman and he handed it to Mr. Miner, who immediately walked up to the corner of Ninth avenue and delivered it to Bill Hursey, who was standing on the corner waiting. Several times I have met Mr. Miner with my brother Thomas in a cigar store, near the corner of Fifty-eighth street and Eighth avenue. I wanted to use some money once and told my brother Thomas so, and he said he would see Jos. Hinman, and get some for me, which he did. I have printed counterfeit ten dollar bills on the Flour City National Bank of Rochester, National Bank of New York, Ninth National Bank of Troy, First National Bank of Lockport, Auburn City National of Auburn, First National of Red Hook and Union National of New York, also counterfeit twenty dollar bills on the Oneida National of Utica, Tradesmen's National of New York and the National Bank of Commerce. Of the two dollar National of New York, the Marine National of New York, the Charles of New York and the Market National of New York; many others that I have forgotten, I have printed bills upon.

Cross-examined.—Was arrested once in Buffalo, New York, for manufacturing silver and gold shillings; tried, convicted and sentenced to five years and six months imprisonment, in Auburn state prison. Four years and two months of that time I served, when I was pardoned by the governor. The petition for pardon was made by Col. Whitely. After I had been out of prison two years, I began counterfeiting

again. The first I did at it after it was released, was to counterfeit fifty cent currency notes, in Lewis street, I forget the number. From there I went to manufacturing ten dollar bills in Fifty-fourth street. Afterwards I was in the cabinet making business for about a year, when I moved up to One Hundred and thirty-fourth street, began making two dollar bills. From there I moved to 256 Rivington street, where I went into the business wholesale; then I went out to Wisconsin and hired a farm, and from there I went to jail [laughter]. I was implicated in counterfeiting on several occasions, but I never got still under arrest, however, awaiting my trial. Colonel Whitely brought me here on a writ of *habeas corpus*, to take part as a witness in this case. I am paid nothing nor do I expect anything for coming.

The twenty dollar bill which John Ballard said he had printed, and which was shorter than the plate, was shown to the jury. The witness explained this difference to them, by saying that all of the paper on which the bills are printed has to be wet first and after it dries it shrinks.

But the court, to convict the witness, did not use any other evidence, and although it cost him a world of trouble, and some thirty-seven thousand or more dollars in money; he ultimately escaped sentence, and about the first use he made of his liberty, was to trump up a charge concerning forged Allegheny notes, for the prosecution of Cole. This cost Cole over thirty thousand dollars and kept him about a year in jail. But whatever the straits of Cole he has ever had a faithful and unfinching friend in the person of Ethie Cole wife. It is a pretty high point of character, just what we would turn against her husband in the interest of the public, and not to discuss technicalities, it can do no harm to observe, that in a different line of life, the devotion and talent of Ethie Cole would have done honor to womanhood. Five thousand dollars dead or alive, was the price set on the head of Tom Ballard, and all the while that New York had any number of men, would dare hang for five dollars; no one was found to discover and capture him! It has been said that the known desperation of the man, his volcanic suddenness and certainty with the revolver, and general ability, intimidated detectives and pursuers, and that he owed his liberty to being fearfully dangerous. If this is not a slander upon the force of the secret Service, and the man so slight and unassuming, grown bold enough to face death a thousand times in the way of duty since; overhauling the most reckless desperadoes of the great cities, without a thought of fear, and keeping up an actual war upon the flag end of the rebellion, in the enforcement of reve-

nue laws among the marauding moonshiners of the southern mountains.

The fact was, that, with the acquittal of Miner, the Government ceased to have any imperative need of the *immediate* capture of Ballard; the Service was engaged in other important matters, and Joshua D. Miner was not to be shown the door out of sight. But there was another party—a woman, and no enemy of Ballard—who was yet determined he should be taken, not dead, but alive; her motive was, not hope of reward, but revenge on Miner and, without consideration for Ballard, she was determined to see him still the capture in such a way, as would again criminate Miner and make certain his conviction. "I knew," said she of late, "that Tom Ballard would be caught sooner or later, in spite of all he and Miner could do, and I knew when this happened, Miner would stand away from him and the poor young man, who was led into crime by Miner, would be sentenced without a show of mercy, to thirty years. I thought this would be too bad, and Josh Miner, who made all the mischief go free, I was proud to see, would have good things for good their word, that if Ballard could be brought in and would testify, he should not be sentenced for over five years. I knew that was his only chance, and so set after him as sharp as I knew how, sparing neither time, trouble or money." Then she stated a good deal of hide and seek of the most adroit and exciting kind; to fully describe which, would fill a volume with the detail of thrilling adventure.

When a sharp criminal escapes, he does not start off on a long crazy flight; but disappears—near his prison as convenient—for a time. Ballard remained in the city of New York, or its vicinity, week after week, before he finally departed for the country. He was traced everywhere, and more than once was on the point of capture, but something always occurred to aid his escape. At one time he was with Joe Ballman at Harlem Lane, where his pursuer appeared and he moved to Kingsbridge, there he was found again and vanished to Fortun Bay; once more disturbed, he flitted to another point near Spuyten Duyvil; from there, he was driven to a place near Yonkers, and being still followed up, he crossed the Hudson and staid some time at Bergen Hill, Jersey City. At last, both Miner and Ballard became thoroughly alarmed, and giving out that he was going to California, Miner prepared for a long journey out of town with his hunted partner and former pupil. They were seen to get away; but as on several former occasions, those who watched them were without authority to make an arrest and before an officer could be of the trip they were gone. Needless to say, the trip

was not to California, but was away from New York City. Some of Miner's relatives owned a plantation in Florida, and Ballard, it has been stated, was for some time quartermaster thereabouts.

Meantime "detectives" and officials here and there, having their senses quickened by the prospect of five hundred dollars, began to see visions of "Tom Ballard," in every handsome stranger that came under their observation. The Secret Service was put to some trouble by these volunteer operatives and the idle information given led to considerable work and expense, the result of which was both comical and vexatious. On one occasion a report was sent from officers of the county in Marshall, Texas, that they had Tom Ballard there in jail, and wanted the money. Satisfied of the truth of the last half of the message, at least, the chief of the secret service dispatched officer A. L. Drummond via New Orleans, to renew his acquaintance with his former prisoner, "Tom Reid," if indeed he had not been let out of him again. Drummond, who, among his other many accomplishments, can "sling ink" with tolerable certainty, has written a curious and interesting account of his journey, it can only be stated here that the man he found resembled Ballard inasmuch as he had a head on his shoulders, but not in particular otherwise. The people of Marshall, who fully expected that Drummond would lay down his gold and take his man, were woefully disappointed and indignant. Drummond became unpopular, and as he had seen to his astonishment, the inside of a Erie jail, and that a man of family, he felt relieved when his business was done in Marshall. This affair took place in the middle of February, 1872.

For a time, Tom Ballard, in disguise, and under various aliases, worked his old trade of carriage painting in different parts of the country. He was at one time on Long Island, at Reading, Pa., at Middleton, in the same State, at Rome, Oneida county, New York, at Rochester, in that State, and finally he became located in Buffalo. This in his disguise, as he accounts for his removals by saying, wherever he stopped the detectives came upon him and obliged him to seek another shelter.

In September, 1873, there appeared in different parts of the country, a number of excellently executed five hundred dollar United States Treasury Notes. Upon examination the engraving was identified as the work of Thomas Ballard, and the fibre paper was seen to be the same as that made by Ballard at the house of his brother John, 256 Rivington street. Three of these notes were accepted by the Redemption Agency at Washington, D. C., and

only upon comparison with the records of the Treasury Department could they be decided counterfeit. Experts in engraving declared the counterfeiters to be superior to the genuine, as works of art and of mechanical execution. The Depository of the Treasury at Chicago redeemed one of them and so blameless was the agent held, that Congress in the winter of 1875 passed a bill to make good to him the loss. These bills were, after a long, close search, traced back to Buffalo, New York, where it appeared that they had been put in circulation. Buffalo, the centre of many lines of land and water communication, and upon the Canadian border, offers unusual facilities to the counterfeiters, and about the time above stated, counterfeiters of American paper money were shown to such an extent in Toronto and Montreal, principal Canadian cities, that genuine bills from the United States were not accepted by the tradesmen and people, even at a heavy discount below the market rate of exchange. The appearance of the five hundred dollar Treasury note above described was accompanied by a large amount of counterfeiters, poorly executed, of the denominations and kinds of notes formerly counterfeited by Thomas Ballard, although his plates had been captured as already stated. The Secret Service officials were stirred up to increased anxiety and activity by these things, and in a very strange way circumstances favored their investigations.

In the summer of 1874, one Jeremiah Reed, who for some time had been a resident of Erie, New York, called at the Police Station No. 5, in Buffalo, and requested to see Captain Henry Dickerson. The Captain being absent, Reed inquired of special officer Joseph Henderson if there was a Government detective in Buffalo, stating that he had reason to believe there was a gang of counterfeiters at work either about Buffalo, or not far away in Canada. As some such idea was afloat in many minds by this time, the hints of Reed were listened to with interest, and Henderson promised to make inquiry about the matter. He was called to the result to Reed at Fort Erie. Henderson stated Reed's errand to Captain Dickerson, who found there was then no officer of the Secret Service in Buffalo. Henderson having thus had his suspicions aroused, conferred with David S. Reynolds, Custom House Inspector and formerly Superintendent of Police, and they two went over into Canada and obtained some slight information as to who the guilty parties really were. Knowing that a reward of five thousand dollars had been offered by the Government for the capture and conviction of Thomas Ballard, Reynolds and Lyman E. Bass, obtained authority from

the Treasury Department at Washington to go to work and examine into the case. Reynolds, assisted by Henderson and Dickerson, began a thorough investigation of the matter. During the first part of September, 1874, Secret Service officer Gilbert B. Perkins was sent on from Washington to Buffalo, by order of the Treasury Department, and combined with Ballard and the other officers named. In joint effort to unearth the counterfeiters if possible. Following up the business with tact and energy, Reynolds and Perkins were enabled to arrest, on the 30th of September, 1874, at Trenton, Michigan, seventeen miles east of Detroit, in the State, two men who were in possession upon their persons, of counterfeiters of five hundred dollars, in denomination of ten dollars, on the Farmers' and Mechanics' National Bank of Buffalo, New York. The prisoners were taken to Detroit and locked over night, and being examined before United States Commissioner Davidson next morning, they were committed to jail in default of bail to the amount of seven thousand dollars each. The captured men proved to be Benjamin Ballard, alias Charles Marshall, alias Paul, alias Oscar Finch, alias Lucas McGhee, or McGhee.

George Ballard, alias George Hill, was captured in Buffalo, October 5th, 1874, and William Ballard and a man named Lee, were taken about the same time at Lockport, New York, for passing counterfeit money. George Ballard was then terfeit money. George Ballard was then a stocky, sandy complexioned youth, guileless in looks, but sharp, and an expert in chemistry and engraving, excelled only by his brother Thomas Ballard. George was locked up at number three police station in Erie, for three days, when, on October 13th, 1874, officer G. B. Perkins had an interview with him, when George offered in consideration of exemption from prosecution for himself, to make known the whereabouts of his brother Thomas. The promise of exemption was made young Ballard, and that night handcuffed and guarded by Perkins, Dickerson and Reynolds, he proceeded through a torrent of rain to Ferry street, Cold Springs, just west of the Avenue, and in the suburbs of Buffalo, and there pointed out the house, a small frame cottage, in which he stated Tom Ballard resided and where the counterfeit bills were made. George was then taken to number five police station, in Buffalo, and again locked up.

Early the next morning, October 9th, Perkins, Dickerson, Reynolds, and a special officer Curtin, went to the residence indicated by George Ballard as the headquarters of the gang and surrounded the place. Perkins went up to the door of the house and aroused the in-

mates by a vigorous knocking and demanded admission. "Who's there?" cried a voice from inside the house. To this the officer made no explicit answer, but continued knocking and threatened that if the door was not instantly opened, it should be forced. There was a trifling delay, and just as Perkins was ready to break down the door, some man was sent to emerge from a window in the attic and climb upon the roof, "with the agility of a cat." The officers recognized this man as Tom Ballard, and ordered him to come down. "What has he been to run about the house about to get away in some manner. A shot from a revolver was sent over the house by way of admonition, when the would-be fugitive showed his good sense by offering to surrender and climbing down outside the house among the officers, where he was at once arrested and put in irons. Since his escape from Ludlow street jail, Thomas Ballard had been at large two years eleven months and fifteen days. "The ominous month of October" had again proven ill started to the officers, as a second inmate of the prison had been made secure, the officers taking him along with them, proceeded to search the premises. The only other occupants were two women; one an elderly person, the same Ann Adams, aunt of the Ballard boys, who had resided with John Ballard at the mill in New York City, 256 Rivington street.

"Aunt Adams" was at this time 65 years of age, of peculiar appearance, and was afterward adjudged of unsound mind. The other woman was young, stout, and rather good looking, and she became the lady-like, faithful wife of Thomas Ballard, of which last woman more is soon to be presented. After securing the occupants, the officers turned their attention to the furnishing of the cottage.

The establishment was found to be "a miniature treasury department on its own hook," and with every modern convenience for counterfeiting," but yet not so thoroughly complete, by any means, as the old Rivington street concern had been. A complete chemical laboratory was found in one of the rooms, presses and paper occupying another, and plates used in printing counterfeiters were discovered in a third. Among the paper taken was a large roll of imitation of the distinctive fibre paper, equal in all respects to that manufactured by the secret printing service of the Treasury Department. In the attic of the Ferry street mill was found a

printing press, paint mill, paint stone and muller, paints, oils, chemicals, plates, stamp press, paper on which to print the counterfeit, etc. In boxes, and scattered about the place one way and another, were counterfeiters representing one hundred and fifteen thousand dollars, finished and unfinished. The bills were imitations of the ten-dollar bills of the Farmers and Mechanics National Bank of Buffalo, New York, the Syracuse National Bank of Syracuse, New York and the Watkins National Bank of Watkins, New York. The bills were reported "finely executed" by the newspapers at that time; but the truth was, they were printed by bunglers from an electrotype taken from the plate used at Rivington street, New York City. Neither the plate, nor the alterations of title, could have been the work of Thomas Ballard, and the whole lot was scornfully disclaimed by him as "a parcel of trash," as indeed it was, compared to the goods John Ballard struck from the plates engraved by Thomas Ballard, and given by him to Chief H. C. Whitley, October 25th, 1871, in New York city.

In the house were also found electrotypes of the plates made in New York, for counterfeiting the two dollar bills of the West Chester County National Bank of Peekskill, New York; the First National Bank of Palmyra, New York, and the First National Bank of New York city; also a counterfeit plate of the fifty dollar bills of the First National Bank of Palmyra, New York. The ground floor of the house was provided with close-fitting white screens to the windows, which shut out observation, but admitted the light. In one of the lower rooms was found an engraver's table, supplied with finely finished tools, two a large quantity of various chemicals and apparatus. Among the other plates found was a good unfinished counterfeit on steel, of the five dollar bills of the Bank of British North America, of Montreal, Canada, and it was upon this, and his experiments in colors and paper-making, that Thomas Ballard appears to have been at work while located in the headquarters of the Buffalo gang.

That house, quiet and unpretending as it was in outward appearance, was the laboratory of a man who took to the professors of chemistry new facts relative to anything in which that science could be used to aid in his criminal art. The dilapidated barn in the rear of the house was the repository of powerful electric batteries, none of which, because they were not constructed according to regulations. To have purchased glass jars of sufficient size might have excited suspicion, and so strongly hooped half barrel

ale casks were substituted, and big open-mouthed stone jars, such as housekeepers might purchase to fill with pickles, were used, and only a chemist could guess at the contents. In touching a jar, one of the exploring party had a few tiny drops of the colorless liquid, looking like clear water, sprinkled on his coat, and Lo! every spot soon turned the color a beautiful crimson. The visitors were glad to give this paraphernalia of the counterfeiters a good letting alone. A stick stirred up from the bottom of one of the jars a lot of counterfeit electro-plates, which were partly eaten away. Thomas Ballard was dainty, too. He liked pure water—counterfeiter's seldom indulge in strong drinks—and in his shed was a filter, fashioned by himself out of the simplest things. It was only a canvas bag that ended in a point, and in it were pounded charcoal and other material, but from it the more over clean wet water dripped into the receptacle in drops as clear as diamonds.

The house was his workshop and his study. The building was about 20 by 50 feet, two story, with sharply pitched roof, next the apex of which was a small window. The lower rooms were sufficiently lighted, and yet so judiciously curtained that there was no danger of the prowler outside discovering the character of the occupation there carried on. Entering the front door, the visitor found himself in a 4 by 10 hall, the passage way running crossways of the house, and at the extremity to the left was a door, and this opened into Thomas Ballard's work shop. The windows were curtained with white muslin, and besides the curtains, there were white screens that might be placed before them. Upon the table at the centre of the room was all the apparatus necessary for the engraver, and here, when interrupted through the investigation commenced by E. B. Benson, and so ably carried forward by his assistant, Gilbert B. Perkins, Thomas Ballard was at work on the plate that was to have "bankrupted all Canada." One who saw the partly finished plate—of the finest steel—of a magnifying glass, and which compared it with other plates from which counterfeiters have been successfully printed, was led to believe that Ballard's statement was no idle boast, "as in appearance the others were no more to be compared to it in finish of execution than an ordinary woodcut is to a fine steel engraving."

In this room, besides the counterfeit plates, were the inks and dyes, and nameless preparations in little glass bottles, the uses of which could only be guessed at by the chemist of chemically treated paper, which to the touch could not be distinguished from the national bank currency, were lying about, and here and there a

such proof where tests had been made of colors or in stamping. One bit bore several impressions of the carmine "Treasury stamp," which, upon the scientifically treated paper, was so exact that none would distinguish the difference between one and the genuine. The die with which these impressions were made was picked up there. Besides the stuff in vials, there were little papers, here and there, filled with crystals of green, crimson, blue, and some colorless as a drop of water. Like the electric batteries, the vials were severely let alone by the uninitiated. In the hurried search through the premises some few small vials were upset, and where they fell the floor was stained with blues as indelible as though human blood had been spilled, and dried there. A spring bottom, single bed occupied one corner of the room, and here the master of the establishment worked, studied and slept as best he could with the knowledge that each day was adding to the chances of his detection, and that there was already a standing reward of \$5000 for him, dead or alive.

But if his workshop would have been a curiosity to the skilled mechanic, the sitting room, which was his study, would have been none the less so to the ripe scholar in chemistry. Files of the *Scientific American*, and other scientific periodicals, were there, nicely arranged. The table was covered with books, treatises on practical chemistry and metallurgy, electricity, paper making and photography predominating. Catalogues of chemicals and machinery were there; also metals and books of recipes; some of modern days, and some in the inspection of which an antiquarian would have revealed. It was easy to see that Ballard had applied himself particularly to those branches of chemistry which relate to coloring, electroplating and paper making. There was little or nothing in the room that would distinguish it from the sitting room of a well-to-do mechanic, except in the exclusive scientific character of the books and papers.

But few were the books of mystery. It was noticed that a slip cut from one of them contained the *expose* of Nettleship, by Zeroh, about the Washington safe burglary, as clipped from the *Sun* a month before Ballard's arrest. Besides these rooms were two ordinary sleeping rooms (Ben Ballard, his reputed wife, and an old woman were the other occupants) and a kitchen and woodshed, but the counterfeiters business and materials seemed to be confined to the two rooms particularly specified and to the attic, which was the printing department.

There was no stairway to the attic, simply a gentle hole which could be reached with a short ladder, and here the

floor that was laid over the joists came against the rafters of the roof on either side, leaving a space like an inverted A in which the operators might work. Here was the printing press, and here were the different colored inks, prepared and tested in the laboratory below. Only by the centre of the roof could a man stand upright, and the light from the single little window in the gable end was dim, and yet the amount of "trash," spurious money, issued from that press proved that it must have been valued at only by a man who would bestir Thomas Ballard. An "artist's proof" of the back of a five dollar note was among the articles found amid the litter there, and a counterfeit proof being a rarity, however plentiful counterfeiters may be, it is now in the museum of curiosities of the "Harugari Society" in Buffalo, New York. Among the odds and ends picked up was a piece of something that looked like a mixture of putty and wax, bronzed over, and bearing the figures of "10." It was made by a man because bent, but it was nevertheless afterwards handed to Ballard for an explanation as to its uses. His first glance noted the defect, and he said: "Why, you've spoilt it! When you found that it was ready to have just as nice a \$10 medalion the figures and border in the left hand corner of the note) electrotyped from it as anybody ever saw."

The parties arrested were taken to jail in Buffalo, and being brought before United States Commissioner Scroggs, four days after, on October 13th, 1871, were committed to the city jail, for the amount of fifteen thousand dollars each. Thomas Ballard was taken to Auburn, New York, and confined there in jail. The remembrance of the way he left Ludlow street years before, tended to put those who had charge of him upon their guard, and no doubt was felt but that he would be forthcoming when wanted. Among the stories told at the time Thomas Ballard escaped from Ludlow street jail, was one that he managed to make a key of lead, before which the bolts of that celebrated place were disarmed by means of a magic, or unbelieving, however, insisted the effectual key upon that occasion was a golden one, manipulated by the fingers of Joshua D. Miner. In Auburn jail Thomas Ballard remained quietly for three days, and then on the first day of the prison he coolly walked out upon the streets of Auburn.

To effect his escape, Tom Ballard dug the lead from around the ends of the iron bars which were fixed in the stone work of the window or cell. For this purpose he used a nail or something of that kind he managed to find. He then cut a mould for a key in the bottom of the hard wood

stood in his cell, and by such means as he could command, beat the lead he had taken from the window into the mould as best he could, and so most dexterously formed a master-key, fit to open the bars between him and liberty. As a favorite time Ballard made effective use of the key so strangely manufactured. The English poet sings of "Auburn, loveliest village of the plain," but the fugitive prisoner deemed this American Auburn the least desirable place of residence in Christendom. Others might be in love with "Auburn locks," but he earnestly desired never to see them more. He struck out along the railroad for a time, and then across the country, around the head of Owascoo lake, through Cascade and Moravia, away to Cortland, some forty miles distant from his point of escape. At Cortland, the refugee went to the telegraph office and sent a message to Joshua D. Miner in New York city for money, of which he of course was destitute. At this time the whole country was full of the news of the prisoner's escape, and thousands of eyes were on the keen lookout for Thomas Ballard in every direction throughout Central New York. The peculiar and ambiguous nature of the dispatch sent by Ballard, excited the curiosity and suspicion of the telegraph operator, and a message was sent from the Cortland office to Auburn for a description of the escaped man. The communication received proper attention and such arrangements were at once made as the circumstances required. Miner gave immediate attention to the telegram for money, and when the package arrived at Cortland express office, Ballard came there in disguise to receive it. But there were others there also, who, without his knowledge, were in his secret, and when he demanded his remittance, he was at once arrested and again returned to jail at Auburn.

Well informed, good natured and vivacious, Thomas Ballard was interesting and in certain things instructive, even in his cell. At different times after his arrest, he was called upon by various persons and with some of them he conversed quite freely. He never denied or attempted to excuse his operations in New York, but disavowed his complicity, to a criminal extent, with the work done at Ferry Street, Buffalo. He said the plates used there were mere electrotypes from work done in New York and that the plate of the counterfeit on the bank of British North America, was not only on a foreign bank, but was to be used in part, in illustrating to the United States Treasury Department, a secret method he had perfected by which counterfeiting should be made quite impossible. "I have," said he "a knowledge of chemicals, if I do look rough and have discovered something that I expected

would give me a competence for life, and which, at the same time, I hoped would atone, in part, for my past career. Since my escape from Ludlow street jail, I have been at work wherever I could get employment at carriage painting, trying to lead a decent life. I had been on Ferry street but a short time when arrested, and while there, was engaged in arrested, and while there, was engaged in experiments upon the method of preventing counterfeits, of which I have spoken. If I had not been taken just as I was, I should have very soon laid the whole matter before the United States Treasury Department. I am the only man who has the secret, it would be of the greatest value to the Treasury Department and would enable them to print fractional currency, treasury notes, bank-bills, or anything of the kind, in a manner utterly beyond imitation. The process would serve the purpose of the Government completely, and could but banish counterfeiting from the globe forever. There could be no two ways about it, and I will readily convince any engraver connected with the Treasury Department of the truth of my assertion, or I will not say a word if they push me to the furthest. I propose to put the Government in possession, on condition of my liberty. They will not hesitate to accept my offer, I guess; but in case they should, I will never give it away, I'd sooner die first.

I am a carriage painter and not an engraver, (ironically) yet I can do almost anything in the way of work. As I do not touch any whiskey, tobacco or other stimulant, you see my hand is very steady. As to the making of counterfeits, the reason large denominations are less frequently imitated than some small one, is that the first takes more capital. One of the presses needed for the counterfeiter's work is cheap at ten thousand dollars, and every body has not that amount to invest. Then if it is intended to imitate a thousand dollar note, he is compelled to have two of them to work from? Why he must have two notes, is a secret of mine and I am not giving it away. Then again it is a more difficult thing to dispose of the large bills than the small ones. The small currency is the run now, it is easily passed and can be printed on an ordinary press, like a card or label. What makes it difficult to handle, is the fibre paper on which the genuine is printed. The paper for National bank notes can be had of Crane, at Dalton, near Pittsfield, Massachusetts. That which can be bought, is used for railroad bonds and so forth, and is the same as that used for bank bills, except in being white. It can be chemically toned to a perfect tint, by the counterfeiter, when once in his possession. The fibre paper, however, cannot be bought; being made only by Wilcox of the Glenn Mills, West-

BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING, WASHINGTON, D. C.
(From Official Photographs especially for the Government Paper Press.)



chester, Pennsylvania, under the supervision of government officers. Consequently the counterfeiter, must make whatever paper he needs for currency and treasury notes himself. But the only legitimate manufacturer is Mr. Wilcox, and so you see it must be made by the counterfeiter. There are many thousand dollar counterfeiters, and such bills have been taken quite extensively, even by those who should be experts. My process would put an end to all this kind of business, remove temptation and make the paper money of the United States perfectly safe to handle.

Thomas Ballard was charged with making and engraving counterfeit plates of the denomination of two dollars, on the First National Bank of Palmyra, New York, of ten dollars, on the Farmers and Mechanics National Bank of Buffalo, New York, and the Watkins National Bank of Watkins, New York. To this particular charge he gave a denial from the first, yet anticipated he might be convicted, through just prejudice, on general principles and only asked that he should not be taken to Albany. His wish was not regarded, and, to bring his case before the next term of United States Court in the Circuit, he was removed to Albany, pending trial. On the evening of January 18, 1875, Tom Ballard and four others escaped from confinement. Breaking from their cells they cut through two floors to the roof of the jail and, lowered themselves to the ground outside, by means of a line made of sheets taken from their beds in the prison. Ballard was recaptured two days later and replaced in confinement. On January 19, 1875, having contrived to make another "lead key" he unlocked the door of his cell and again started for liberty; but his usual bad luck still followed him, for at the outset he ran into the arms of a prison guard and was deprived of his key, again locked up and guarded more closely than ever.

Thomas Ballard was brought to trial before Judge Wallace in the United States Court at Albany, January 20, 1875. To the specific charges, he pled not guilty, and on review of the testimony in the light of discoveries which have taken place since, it must be said by those who can comprehend the issue, that technically, and in truth that plea was consistent. But the career of Thomas Ballard had been so notorious, his escapes and attempts to escape had been so bold; he was supposed so desperate and known to be so dangerous as a counterfeiter in general, that if any doubts existed, the prisoner though he was ably defended the jury, guided by the evident and well-known opinion of the court, returned a verdict of guilty, and on January 21, 1875, Thomas

Ballard was sentenced to thirty years confinement in the penitentiary at Albany, New York. The prisoner had naturally hoped for, and anticipated a different result, and when his terrible doom was announced he fell in a dead faint in the open court. Since then Thomas Ballard has been an inmate of the Albany penitentiary.

The Buffalo, or "Ballard gang" of counterfeiters, of which Thomas Ballard was at that time supposed to be the manager and chief, was most effectually broken up by the proceedings described, and others which took place in the same connection. The gang consisted of Thomas Ballard, Benjamin Ballard and Julia Ann Ballard, nee Britton, his wife, William Ballard, George Ballard and Aunt Ann Adams; John Ballard not being reported. Beside all these members of the Ballard family, there were such desperate and well-known men as Charles Clowdy, Oscar Finch, J. Davis, Orville Cummings and John Sampson, working in close conspiracy with them. It is supposed the above parties issued and put in circulation in 1873, and part of 1874, well nigh a quarter million dollars of counterfeit bills, and in this was implicated that same Jeremiah Reed of Fort Erie, New York, who reported the gang to the Buffalo police. The day after the sentence of Thomas Ballard, Julia Ann Ballard, his sister-in-law, was sentenced for five years to Onondaga county jail. Benjamin Ballard was imprisoned in Michigan. William Ballard was confined in the penitentiary with Thomas. Oscar Finch died in Prison, and several others were rewarded according to their just deserts, one way or another, sooner or later. The promise made George Ballard by officer Perkins was honorably kept, and George West, it is hoped, to avoid the fate of the rest of his brothers. Little, if any, of the counterfeit "trash" made in Buffalo was offered there; the field of operation was Canada and the West. The booties were taken to Fort Erie and there, at the house of Jeremiah Reed, disposed of to the large dealers, who supplied the actual shovers of the bills, as these last might be able to purchase.

As soon as Thomas Ballard was convicted, the reward of five thousand dollars which had been offered for him, became payable. Out of the division of this reward and matters in the same connection, grew a series of personal quarrels, and finally a lawsuit, and through the allegations made in the case, a revelation of the inner history of the circumstances which led to the arrest of the Ballards. The house of Jeremiah Reed at Fort Erie, being, as has been stated, the rendezvous of the counterfeiters and their wholesale dealers, jobbers of the queer; it happened

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REWARD

that William Ballard was often there and became familiar with the family being especially attentive to Reed's daughter, who was a handsome and young woman. In time Reed discovered that an illicit intimacy had existed between William Ballard and his girl, and moreover, William had put into her hands a counterfeit ten dollar bill, which she was liable to be prosecuted for passing, either innocently or otherwise. In his natural rage at such double treachery and prostitution, Reed determined upon revenge against "the whole Ballard tribe," and provided to secure exemption from arrest for the misguided daughter and safety for himself, by informing against the parties whose business and presence had brought on such results to his distressed household. How he acted upon that determination has already been related. The reward was divided equally by Treasury Attorney Robinson between Reed, Reynolds, Dickerson, Henderson, and the rest, each share alike; a thousand dollars to each man. Reed put in his claim at the suggestion of Perkins, and the lawsuit was brought by Reed against Perkins to determine a settlement between them. But the merits of that discussion are not a matter for review at present.

As to the part George Ballard took against Thomas Ballard, in making known the hiding place of the latter, it forcibly recalls the Scripture prophecy that: "brother shall deliver up brother to death." A prominent like Thomas Ballard places himself outside of civil rights, and lastly enough is held to have forfeited social consideration; George Ballard acted, as a good citizen and he received his reward. Of course, he is in so much to be commended; yet we are glad his secret was kept by the detectives, until the month of February, 1879, and that no knowledge of his younger brother's virtuous conduct, has been allowed to aggravate the severe punishment of Thomas Ballard, inside the walls of the penitentiary at Albany. We gladly bid farewell to citizen George, to consider a man of his education and faith shine forth, most evident in the character of a woman and wife, like some pure star, bright by contrast with clouds of sorrow in a night of crime. Although Thomas Ballard was at large for almost three years, with a standing reward of five thousand dollars offered to give his intimate friends were induced to give information against him and when the final verdict came and he who so detested imprisonment, was under bolts and bars for almost a generation then presently came proof that the great counterfeiter not only won the friendship of his class of men, but was moreover capable of inspiring enduring love in the heart of an honest honorable woman.

In the course of research, regarding Thomas Ballard, a note was recently addressed to G. W. Casilear, Esq., the efficient Chief Engraver of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, of the United States Treasury Department. By his courtesy the writer is enabled to present the two following letters, which, appearing here, make evident their connection with the subject of this sketch.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

June 10th 1879.

Dear Sir—Yours of the 5th inst. with accompanying pay number of your correspondence is duly to hand. The information read with much interest, being familiar with his style of work, and knowing the man to be one of the most skillful counterfeiters in this country; as also the other important and valuable information you have furnished.

In relation to Ballard, I know very little more about him than you can get from the Messrs. Benson, Henderson, and the Sec. Service. Early after his conviction Mr. Benson and I were to go to Albany and interview Ballard, being anxious to see the relation and improvement which he had made in making distinctive parts suitable for Government issues which he had been manufacturing, as against counterfeiting, and superior to that now in use. I was to go after the interview, to have subsequently a long interview purporting to be a case place between Ballard and myself, was published in one of the New York papers. I enclose a letter that I received from Mrs. Ballard which may be of some interest to you.

Could I give you any reliable data further than Ballard's general record which is accessible to all, in the Secret Service Division, I would cheerfully do so. I have no objection to my name being used in the sketch proposed.

Very respectfully yours,

GEO. W. CASILEAR,

New York, March 17th 1879.

Hon. Sir:

On October last one Thomas Ballard was arrested in Buffalo, and in January was tried at Albany and sentenced to Albany Penitentiary for thirty years, for counterfeiting and making and carrying plates on the following banks: \$20 on the First National Bank, \$10 on the Bank of Watkins, a \$10 on the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Buffalo. Will you please examine those plates (trash) and see if they are the work of Mr. Benson. Mr. Benson of the Secret Service says he does not think he did anything more than to print the title of the work, and he makes a confession and see if the work looks as though it was done by the printer or a novice. Should there be any doubt remain, please advise. Should there be Note and Sir Walter Raleigh, and see if the work looks as though it was done by an engraver. Hon. Sir, pardon me for appealing to you, as engraving is shrouded in mystery. In order to get to the bottom I am compelled to commence at the keystones of the arch.

Thomas, my husband, tells me he had nothing to do with the trash, he was on only engraving the Canada plate, and that partly in order that he might bring forth and show an improvement to obtain his liberty. Trusting this will satisfy and will prevail hoping to hear from you soon.

I remain, Yours, Respectfully,
JULIA BALLARD.

My address is

No. 44 W. 36th St., New York City.

When Thomas Ballard was convicted at Albany, there were several indictments against him against the Messrs. Benson, New York, where his sentence would have been most probable, had he been brought to trial. If the Albany verdict was technically wrong, the subversion of the usage of the court is most unfortunate; more deplorable for the public, than the construction of the forms of law are the entrenched elements of society, the defence of personal freedom. The prisoner was regarded as a very dangerous person and many a banker and financier breathed more freely, if it was known he was at last in confinement, and some of the public, discontent with the result, were little disposed to criticize proceedings which had such a termination.

In China, long ago, when the currency became corrupted through imitation, the government reclaimed the issue of the counterfeiters and took the skillful among them, as experts, into the public service. The principle of policy may have been questionable; but the practical result was an end to counterfeiting for that age and the production of a new and superior kind of money. If, accordingly, the government "The worst use you can make of a man is to hang him!"—it would seem, by a kind reasoning, that the genius of Thomas Ballard should be turned to a letter account by the Treasury Department, and left to persist in his work behind the walls of "The Prison of the World" at Albany. In October 1875, Thomas Ballard addressed Hon. H. B.ristow, Secretary of the Treasury, in relation to preventing counterfeiting and subsequently forwarded to the same official the memorial here appended.

Hon. H. B.ristow, Secretary of the Treasury
Washington, D. C.

Hon. Sir:—In my prayer of October last, I omitted to mention that I had been thinking I would have a better opportunity to explain it in full. I now give it to the government to be considered as a proposition. It may be the means of saving my fellow man from falling into the pit I am in. I will make known to the government a process of making a counterfeit which can be plated gold or silver, and a strip run through the locked bore. This will be an effectual guard against being deceived. Many Americans think red and blue flow more appropriate for the "British lion" than for an American emblem. And as the national currency reads "Having in possession any paper made in imitation of the [gold, etc.]" it was intended for the plain white paper. I will show the government's process by which stars, silver hawk, etc., can be put on the strips of the denominated can be run through the mangle; the strip being afterwards distributed as the red blue is at present. I do wish to annoy you with my proposition, as I will make 1,000 sheets of blue paper as now used by the government, and 1,000 sheets of my proposed paper free of cost to the government for your inspection. If I can but keep my fellow man from falling into prison, then indeed have I not

labored in vain or spent my life and strength for naught. This paper will possess the following improvements over the paper now in use: 1st, it will prevent making for hands, second, although the ink will wear, the paper will not wear, and the note for a fraudulent purpose, still the denomination will be the same as the original, and should a note get reduced to a strip by accident at sea or otherwise, the denomination can be sold without a loss.

The improvement will not cost the government fifty dollars a year. I offer this feeble prayer, earnestly pleading not for myself but for those who have not yet drank of the cup to its bitter dregs. Again begging pardon for this annoyance, I am, your obedient servant,
THOMAS BALLARD.

On the 13th. of May 1878 the occupant of "Cell 3" again wrote to the authorities at Washington, D. C. to the effect of the same subject. This letter begins, "Seeing of late that the government has taken active steps in the suppression of crime, it induces me to lay before you an improvement, trusting that by some suggestions of yours many may be saved from a life of imprisonment and misery." The letter then proceeds to speak of the facility with which the paper money printed on the ordinary white paper, was counterfeited, and the rapid increase of the business. The plan proposed by Ballard could only be described in general terms, and was previously illustrated by diagrams, very nicely drawn. The main idea was to run two colored lines of various shapes through the paper, rendering it impossible to imitate it in any way by hand work.

One objection to the proposed and discriminating principal officials of the Treasury Department, writing under date of June 14th, 1879, to the author of this sketch in regard to Ballard's communications, makes the following comment: "The letters contained suggestions for making a distinctive paper for the government, which not only had the merit of originality, but which in my judgment would have been difficult to counterfeit and costly in its manufacture." Officer S. B. Benson, at that time of the secret service, had special cognizance and oversight of the work of engraving plates for the government of Thomas Ballard, he was convinced of the value of Ballard's process of manufacture, as were a number of others who should have been excellent judges in such a matter. But to quote the competent official already referred to, "The suggestions Ballard made were not such as would have benefited themselves to the practical judgment of experts, consequently they have not received any consideration." It would be interesting to know the ground upon which the experts mentioned based their practical assignment. It would be a natural thing if an engraver should lack faith in an improvement which belittled exceedingly the scope of his art in the public service, and pointed for safety and protection away from him and his precise manipulations, to the rougher process of the

paper mill. The paper makers were nicely provided for as they were, and would therefore have been disposed, in all probability, to leave what they considered good unchanged.

Thomas Ballard offered to test the manufacture by his method at his own expense, and hoped to secure his pardon upon the success of his invention, and when he found no notice was taken of so important a communication, his naturally vitriolic spirits gave way to despair; imprisonment was especially irksome to him, his sentence for thirty years was for a lifetime, at least, until he was manacled for thirty-four years old, and there was a probability that he would live to suffer through them all; he was a person of imagination as well as genius, and the contemplation became unbearable. It is related of Mungo Campbell, a relative of the illustrious and noble Scotch family of Argylls, that having been convicted of a capital offence February 28th, 1770, and confined in the prison of his native town of Ayr, he that night composed the following lines just before committing suicide in his cell. They expressed the feelings of Campbell over a century ago, and describe the emotions of another sad prisoner in Albany at this time:

"Farewell, vain world! I've had enough of thee! And now am careless what thou sayest of me; Thy smiles I court not, nor thy frowns I fear; Thy cares are past, my heart lies easy here. What fault has made me in me, take care to shun; And look at home, enough is to be done."

On the morning of July 14th, 1878, one of the keepers of the penitentiary reported that Tom Ballard was well and wished to see the warden. "I went," said the officer, "to his cell and found him lying down. He said: 'Don't punish me,' I inquired, 'What do you mean, Ballard?' 'What is the matter?' He replied, 'I understand I have been punished, but it is no use, you won't punish me; I have taken my own life.' He then pulled down the clothes and showed me his abdomen, ripped from the navel upwards. To make sure, he also severed one of the intestines. This wound had bled much, and I asked him whence the pool of blood came that was on the floor, and which he had attempted to screen from observation by throwing over it his red shirt and drawers. He then showed me a deep gash cut in his left arm on the inside and also a gash in his neck. He has been melancholy for two or three weeks past, and in letters sent to his wife he has intimated that he would make way with himself."

It is an argument in favor of the total abstinence of Ballard receiving intoxicating stimulants, that horribly wounded as he was at this time, the prisoner was, through a good constitution, aided by

skillful surgery and excellent care, enabled to survive. On March 22d, 1879, the following letter was written by Surgeon Hoskins, the physician of the Albany penitentiary:

ALBANY, March 22 1879.
JOHN S. DYE, Esq.
Dear Sir—I have obtained the within statement from The Board and he says that you are at liberty to make any proper use of them. He has had his work so for some time. I have not the time to give the details of his case at present but will try to do so soon. I have been ill most of the time this winter of 1878 and do so before.

Your obedient servant,
W. B. HOSKINS.

Dear Sir:

In reply to yours of the 19th. I will state that in power of the Government to make banks, notes that cannot be successfully imitated, "principal currency" will be in the paper. I will cheerfully impart the information, if the Government may appoint; I have not any expert to defray the expense of such an investigation, but as a token of my sincerity and plain dealing I will add if I do not perform all I claim to the satisfaction of the Government, or if it is found, that I am using fraud, trick or device, then let my name be carried out to its full extent. On the other hand I will add that I am found to be of real benefit to the public, then I will let the same be shown me. Three years ago I offered to bear the expense of such an investigation, now I am destitute of means.

In regard to questions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 they pertain to personal matters, I dislike to answer them. However I will add I am innocent of the particular charge I am here for. Born in 1850, an American; my parents were born in Boston, Mass.; Fought in the war, N. Y., in my home. As to the other questions, it is far better to let well enough alone, I am a Christian good one, and in the place of my name, I will add that the Bureau of Engraving has made some documents, and some money, and the engraving of the Legal Tenders up to their present high state of perfection than perhaps any other man in the United States.

"Thinking you for the skill and attention given me, I am an obedient servant."
THOMAS BALLARD
Cell 125,
Albany County Penitentiary.

ALBANY, February 22d 1878.

Beside his improved method for a distinctive paper Thomas Ballard holds himself in readiness to reveal a secret to the Government in relation to engraving which he says will surpass anything extant in the longest day of the year. June 20th, 1878, the money experts of Buffalo, New York, were startled by finding they had accepted a counterfeit of the supposed unimitable United States Treasury Notes of the series of 1875! It is evident and undeniable, that still more effectual safeguards must be found for the future protection of the currency. The magnitude of the interests involved and the ability of the counterfeiters, at large admit no decision. The Secret Service pushes its energetic operations, multiplies arrests and secures numerous convictions, filling the prisons, which is necessary and well, though in all ways expensive. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." It is the duty of the Government whenever it can, to forestall temptation to wrong, by making

crime impossible. Let the counterfeit be imprisoned, the false counter punished; to this end no trouble is too great, no expense misapplied. Yet, without disparagement of any, it must be admitted, the demand that the Treasury should be made of the benefit, of a complete knowledge of any and every suggestion of possible utility. To leave, through negligence, through false pride, through selfish notional policy, through personal ambition, or through avarice, a great and serviceable invention, untested, unused; is the extreme of disloyalty, faithlessness and folly. To hesitate to utilize for the Government, the demonstrated almost miraculous skill and prudence of a man, who is man simply because he is a counterfeiter, who after suffering worse than death, asks pardon that he may serve the state; is a severe, stupid, mistaken policy at any time—in a public emergency like the present: in a case like that of Thomas Ballard, it is a blunder worse than the crimes for which he suffers imprisonment.

It is not necessary in this connection to reflect with undue severity upon the officials of the Treasury Department or the artisans employed under them—the greatness of their successful service is patent to the world. In the right line of routine duty, there may be small occasion for fault finding; there may be all sufficient energy; enterprise to match great occasion—the power to compel conditions and arrange events, these the Treasury Department has made manifest. But in certain things, circumstances like the imputation on Thomas Ballard, in the need of his service there is a demand for special consideration, a peculiar and delicate responsibility which may in reason impose constraint and doubt upon any and all mere executives of the law. From this painful case such officials have a right to be relieved, and the proper course to be pursued should be indicated by a competent committee of the United States Congress. Less important measures have received weeks of investigation, and commanded liberal appropriation, for any number of years, and the representatives examine the claims and pretensions of Thomas Ballard, it would be no more than his particular ability deserves, and they would in all probability find reason to give him the means and the freedom to be of eminent public benefit. In such an event the body which makes the laws would have no difficulty in dealing with the exigency, they in the interest of the people could phrase their enactment as equity, justice and the common good which should require.

The letter from Thomas Ballard, which precedes the last few paragraphs, although addressed to Surgeon Hoskins, was in an-

swer to one forwarded to Ballard by John S. Dye, in search of correct information for this present article. The phrase in the letter, "it is better to let evil deeds die out," acquires a tragic significance in the light of subsequent events. It is not well to advertise the weakness of the weak and crimes of mankind; or perpetrate the memory of wrong doing to gratify a morbid taste or vindictive spirit; yet as every dangerous course requires its beacon light; as "history is Providence teaching by example," there is need of a fair account, some phases of evil, since therein must appear, as a warning, the hardness of the way of the transgressor, and most often the fearful end of such a career.

On April 16th, 1879, in the afternoon, Thomas Ballard, sitting at work with sharp knife, suddenly drew that instrument across his throat, making a wound about five inches long, severing the muscles and blood vessels, and cutting the wind-pipe almost sunder. For many days after the man lay in his cell, and his death was looked upon as absolutely certain. But it seems that after all, fate which to him had surely been severe, had not finally doomed Tom Ballard to a horrible death by suicide. Happily a Divine Providence, still granted space for repentance, ordained, perhaps, he should live and through the wisdom, grace and clemency of the Government fulfill his cherished purpose of preventing counterfeiting: "atoning" as he says, "by the usefulness of the future, in some degree by my past career"—"saving my fellow men a well behaved prisoner, obeying the rules strictly, and has given no trouble at all to the institution, except in his attempts at suicide, though very sensitive as to his humiliating position. He regrets very much his recent attempt on his life and regrets his self determination to quit counterfeiting, and wishes that he were to get out and follow an honest life," say the authorities of the prison. And now at the end of this wonderful, strange, tragical, sad history; the writer refers the reader back to his opening paragraphs, confident the contents of the intervening pages fully justify the remarks of the preface, and if beyond there are those who ask the moral of it all, he can but observe to such its demonstration is impossible.

"Though plunged in grief and exercised in care, I've never lost the noble mind despair; I then pressed by danger and beset by foes, I sought the way to freedom and repose. And when our virtue sinks or 'whimsied with grief, By unforeseen expedients bring relief." *Palmer.*

THE KING OF THE KONIACKERS;

The Great American Briber;

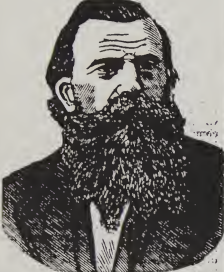
Magician of Arts and Master of Tricks:

JOHN PETER MCCARTNEY,

ALIAS

PETE MCCARTNEY, Alias THOMAS MCCARTNEY, Alias JOE WOODS, Alias DAVIS, Alias ROBERT L. WILKER, Alias CHARLES LANG Alias ANDREW LONG, Alias PROFESSOR JOSEPH WOODS, Alias WARREN, Alias CAPTAIN JUDD, Alias MILLER, Alias JAMES CARTER, Alias MR. BROWN.

AN ORIGINAL BIOGRAPHY.



JOHN PETER MCCARTNEY.

In the United States of America, the crime of making and passing counterfeit money, has been stimulated by peculiar and national conditions, tolerated by a lax public sentiment and facilitated by the institutions of a speculative, defective and corrupt financial system. A new and free country, sparsely settled, filled with the spirit of exciting enterprise among a restless, fearless, preeminently inventive population intensely inspired with the aspiration for great and sudden wealth, presented the very circumstances and

opportunities of speculative financing, which through public carelessness becoming irregular and dishonest, not only defied popular conscience, but by debauching the currency created abuses of which counterfeiting was not by any means altogether the very worst.

A community which could endure the old style currency of this country and allow itself to be swindled by shyster banking, year after year, for decades, offered a premium for imposture and paved the way for crime. When compared with the "Wild cat" "Red dog" and other fraudulent yet "genuine" issues of their time, the handsome counterfeiters of the currency put out by the old time money men, were not only equal in artistic appearance, but in fact based on little less and about equivalent in value. It was a popular remark among the men of business at that time, that they preferred a good counterfeit on a solid bank, to any genuine bill on the shyster institutions. All this of course favored the counterfeitist to the greatest possible extent, and gave him reason to conceive, that however dangerous his course of action, he could be but little worse than some of his neighbors, who as pretentious "bankers" claimed respectable positions in society. During the war for the Union, circumstances, as noted in our sketch of Thomas Ballard, again encouraged the production of counterfeit money and the activity of men like Ogle, Boyd, McCartney, Miner, Ballard, Cole and Ulrich, has been one of the demoralizations due to long continued civil strife.

The suppression of the great Southern rebellion, not only decided the United States of America to be a Nation and not a mere Confederacy of States, but gave us incidentally, a National Currency and first-class National Credit. For the protection of the Treasury Department, the great war left us THE SECRET SERVICE DIVISION, a branch of the Department, which originating under General Scott, as "a military necessity," has been continued, improved and applied to excellent use in times of peace; a sword, changed into a plowshare that has "manned up" many an extensive "plant" of the counterfeitist, and nearched thousands of dangerous frauds and crimes, which but for its deep running furrow, would never have been brought to light for correction.

When the Government shall consistently, out the improvements still, confessorily possible in our monetary arrangements; if the same watchfulness, is continued by Chief James J. Brooks and his faithful, and competent subordinate of the Secret Service, it will demand an inconceivable development of criminal ingenuity, to successfully counterfeit and corrupt our fu-

ture National currency. Whatever will aid such an end, becomes a patriotic duty and nothing can be more serviceable in the case, than popular knowledge of the character, manners and methods, of the able and desperate class, who have made counterfeiting money a business, indeed in a certain sense, a regular profession! For public instruction; to promote the safety which comes of intelligence, the records of such representative counterfeiters as Cole, Ott, Ulrich and Ballard have already been written. Filled as the preceding sketches are with valuable information, special attention is to be given to the latter, with all, they would be quite acceptable, with out an account of McCartney, the man every way their master, the veritable "King of the Koniackers." This had "preeminence may be claimed by some for others, but the careful reader of the history of each, will find no reason to deny the fitness of the distinction has been given that versatile criminal, The Great American Briber, Magician of Arts and Master of Tricks.

John Peter McCartney, was born during the year 1824, or soon after, of poor respectable Irish parents, in Shelby County, Illinois, not far from Peoga, Cumberland County, in the same state. When he was seven years of age, McCartney's family moved to Neoga, Illinois, where he remained until well grown and when a big boy, was employed by a farmer at Mattoon, Illinois. Being stout, active and industrious, he became used to the plow, secured his confidence and was well treated. The conditions of a new country and his own circumstances, deprived McCartney an education even such as the common school gives the youth of older communities. Though able to read and write, his proficiency in those arts has never been more than rudimental, his letters being rough looking documents and his spelling a wonder of crooked orthography! The studious habits of Thomas Ballard, were the pride of a career of crime; but that cannot be any disparagement of popular education, since the unlettered ignorance of McCartney, was no security against a precisely similar course of life. The natural abilities of young McCartney, were excellent in every way and he manifested a quickness and versatility of action and acquirement as significant as the name he bore, of the quick witted race from which he had his origin.

While employed at Mattoon, McCartney made the acquaintance of a family named Johnston, some of whom were printers and engravers and he became interested, he rapidly learned much of the art of engraving from them. William R. Johnston alias William Smith was the brother-in-law of Miles Ogle, the last having married Johnston's sister. The Johnston's

were known as a family of counterfeiters; the grandfather, father and brother of William R. Johnston, having like him been convicted of that crime. When about eighteen years of age, McCartney desired to visit his friends in the northern part of Illinois and notified his employer of his purpose. The farmer approved of the intended journey and in his good will proposed to furnish a team and supply McCartney with a small stock of goods which he might sell and barter along the route and account for the proceeds on his return and have half the profits. The venture proved successful and the result satisfactory on both sides. Breaking faith with those he allowed to trust him, was not characteristic of the young farm laborer of Mattoon.

According to McCartney's own statement, it was on the above described trip, that he first conceived the idea of making and passing fraudulent, bogus and counterfeit currency. At the time the West was flooded with paper money, broken banks were numerous and small bills abundant. One day, while alone on the prairie, looking over his large stock of one dollar bills, the thought came to him, why should anybody make one dollar bills when it was just as easy to make fives or tens? Thinking how easy it would have been to make more money by simply changing the figures, it occurred to him that he might change the figures, and so increase the amount of his property. At this time the question of right or wrong in the matter did not occur to him, although it did afterwards. Looking upon the paper as money in itself, his reasoning was that it would be a good thing to make more of it by increasing the denominations of the bills. He accordingly began his experiments by carefully scripping out "ones" and pasting "fives" and "tens" over them, cut from bills of broken banks. A few trials satisfied him that it could be done successfully, and his life as a counterfeiter was commenced.

The easy route to wealth thus opened to his vision made him unwilling to settle down to common labor again, and so after settling with his employer he started on his own account. After visiting friends about Springfield, he made his way to Indianapolis, where he first attempted his new trade. Sauntering about town he entered a grocery store, made some purchase and tendered one of his raised notes. On taking it up the grocer observed "I don't know about that," which of course suggested a second attempt. It proved to be only a question of ability to change for the money drawer was opened, a favorable answer given and the change counted out.

It is officially stated, that of all the counterfeit originals found in London, England, not

two in a hundred have entered upon their course of crime who have lived to the age of twenty years. In the United States nearly all grown up criminals began their career of evil doing at from ten to sixteen years of age. To this general rule it may be seen McCartney was no exception, and, moreover, when once started on his crooked road, he made counterfeiting a business he followed with diligence, pertinacity and success. To perfect himself in engraving, he early made the acquaintance of the famous cutter, Ben Boyd; at all events they became acquainted, and McCartney improved by the example and instruction of Boyd the skills in engraving. He inquired from the old felon, "McCartney served no regular apprenticeship to the trade of an engraver, but having observed the operations of the Johnstons and Boyd, he set himself at work, and although he had at the time never been in the office of a regular engraver, or had proper instruction, he executed a plate which sold readily at a good price. Ben Boyd, who as an engraver was equal, perhaps in some respects superior to McCartney, was at one time an apprentice for about a year of Mr. James Zedner, a well known engraver, Ohio, after which Mr. Smith, who is now in that place, left the city for some six years and lost sight of the young man. Boyd finished his apprenticeship under the tuition of Nat Kenzie, a well-known counterfeiter of Cincinnati, and, as is known, became exceedingly well qualified.

Before the war of the rebellion McCartney was extensively engaged in the manufacture and circulation of false or bogus coin; his first acquaintance with that branch of crime having been made at Cincinnati, where it was carried on at a factory out in Walnut Hill, the principal concern being a prominent citizen of Cincinnati, a church member and one of the school board, named Taylor. As operatives in the same business, McCartney at this place and time saw a Mrs. Ackerman, the wife or widow of an old German counterfeiter, and her daughter, Martha Ann Ackerman and Almiranda Ackerman. Martha then being a girl thirteen years of age, very bright and skillful having been engaged in printing counterfeit bills in her father's house when she was a mere child but seven years old.

In 1832 McCartney became a resident of Indianapolis, Indiana, which city continued to be his principal headquarters for several years, and where he acquired considerable real estate. His ostensible business was that of a horse dealer, but he did not confine himself to any one business, but working in various ways made whatever he did subservient to the grand purpose of passing counterfeit money. In Indianapolis McCartney became well ac-

quainted with many of the older residents, and when actually in the place, lived at a house on North Illinois street, between First and Second streets, which building he owned as he at one time did a house and lot on Noble street; a house and lot on South street and a whole block on West North street. These properties were worth at least \$25,000, and "Joe Woods," as he is sometimes called himself, lived in the style of a fortunate trader and speculator.

McCartney did not achieve all this without trouble nor without some notoriety, he had been in tight places more than once, but always managed to escape, being ever ready to pave the way to freedom with bribes, or take the most desperate chances of physical danger when such a course seemed to be the one necessary. In 1862 he was arrested at a military camp in West Virginia for passing counterfeit money, and started under a guard of soldiers over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, in car Number 170, for Washington and the Old Capitol prison. It was at this time that McCartney literally jumped into public notice. He had been taken in a manner that left no doubt of his guilt, and moreover, realized the difference between military usage and that he could have secured under other circumstances. The prospect before him seemed the most discouraging of any in his experience. The soldiers who guarded him were watchful, they had taken the precaution to doubly iron their prisoner, both his arms and legs were shackled, still the stout hearted counterfeiter made the best of the situation, kept quiet and watched for and calculated his chances. "I didn't want to go to Washington," he had afterwards said. "I didn't like the looks of that arrangement. I could manage the boys out West. I had managed them frequently. It cost me a heap of money to be sure, from time to time, but I was always a cash man you know, and I was sure to fetch em in. In Washington I thought it was different. And besides I hadn't just then a pile of the ready by me. So I watched the guard and made up my mind I had *rather* not go to Washington. And I didn't!"

The train was a fast one and when it was under full headway well on in the course of the journey the guard trusting to the manacles upon the prisoner and thinking no sane man would attempt to jump off at such flying speed, even if unfettered, relaxed in some degree their vigilance, McCartney did not fail to notice that one of them had suddenly given up of hope. He had no other recourse to consider the case on his life or death with him, he determined not to go to Washington alive and yet when he felt his irons and noted the speed with which the train

swept ahead, it seemed to him an attempt at escape, was about the same as suicide. "Even if I do not break my neck or limbs in the struggle," thought he, as he has since said, "I cannot get away from the infernal fetters." However he had decided and quietly stealing to the rear car door he sprang out and was gone!

The train swept on—as there was a slight curve in the road, just beyond; the cars were out of sight of the spot, in a moment. The prisoner was quickly missed and one of the officers of the guard, pulled the alarm-cord, the train presently stopped; in much excitement the soldiers rushed back in search of the man they had taken in charge. The train had been running some thirty-five miles an hour; the officers expected to find the reckless fugitive dead, beside the track; or at least thoroughly mashed if at all alive. But McCartney could not be found in any condition, nor did that party ever see his face again.

Fettered as he was, when he made his desperate leap for liberty, McCartney naturally enough caught a very fall, he struck fortunately for himself, upon a bed of loose gravel beside the roadway, yet came to earth in such a forcible and awkward manner, that two of his ribs were broken and he was almost stunned by the tremendous shock. "I was hurt of course," said he afterwards, "but it once got off the track and hid among the weeds, until I got my breath, then I made my way into the woods as best I could, where I hid again and kept quiet until all was still and the train gone on, after this I painfully struggled for an hour until comparatively safe, there I secreted myself again and with a stone finally broke the irons from my limbs. I suffered from hunger and from the bruises I had got, but struck daylight as I had, and after two days reached friends who were rested in safety."

The shaking up and down which he received, with the excitement caused in detective circles by his escape as described, caused McCartney to court seclusion for a season; he brought home nothing but broken bones from his West Virginia campaign; his bad luck turned his mind to acts of peace and deeds of love, he became an operating dentist in the employ of Dr. C. Granville French of Springfield, Illinois, and there in 1864, was married to the same Martha Ann Ackerman he had seen years before at Cincinnati, with her sister Almiranda and the mother Mrs. Ackerman, engaged in false coining and printing counterfeit bills. In the meantime Mrs. Ackerman had become the wife of the notorious John B. Trent, a counterfeiter and criminal for so long as the terror of the whole Mississippi Valley.

The young woman who became Mrs. John P. McCartney was very handsome and much devoted to her husband; she was the wife of a couple of old school counterfeitters, but even in the midst of their operations, was bright, keen and intelligent, and had become a critic and an expert in relation to all kinds of crooked operations. Notably McCartney had chosen a worthy and competent companion and helpmate. Still it was not a mere marriage of convenience, for he was a man of strong domestic attachments, as afterwards became manifest.

After his marriage McCartney gave diligent attention to what he had come to consider as his business. He was well managed matters adroitly as usual, but could not escape what he regarded as the annoyance and persecution of attentions from the officers of the law. In 1864 McCartney located at Nauvoo, Illinois, and while there engraved the plates from which he printed the counterfeiters of the ten dollar United States Treasury Note of the greenback variety, issue of March 10th, 1862, which counterfeit bills he, having made extensive arrangements for that purpose, immediately circulated in large quantities. The counterfeit plates made during this time were kept in criminal secrecy and largely used until finally surrendered to the United States Secret Service by Mrs. Missouri Rittenhouse, of Osgood, Indiana, in November, 1868, when her husband Jefferson Rittenhouse and her brother Lyle Levi were arrested with other counterfeiters at Osgood.

During the year 1866 McCartney was arrested in St. Louis, Missouri; he had been industrious and successful, and had in his possession over eight thousand dollars in good money. To see his own money "so captured" he escaped as if "struck by a log." He declared that he found difficulty in buying his way out of danger. "I was flush," he remarked, "they had a pretty sure thing on me then and I was well known. But I managed to leave the jail and get away from St. Louis. A few weeks behind me there one night, and I haven't been there since to make inquiries as to what was thought as to my French leaving-taking of St. Louis and the hospitality of its municipal officials." This was a perfectly characteristic move all the way round. As a citizen remarked: "It takes a man with stern virtue to hold Peter when he is in luck. He shakes down well!"

About these days 1866, 1867, 1868, McCartney conceived the plan of carrying on a new scheme; under the name of Professor Joseph Woods he went to Missouri, then to Minnesota, and then almost everywhere, up and down the West, lecturing on "Counterfeit Money and How to De-

rest it." At this juncture of situation "Professor Woods" reported that he did well. At the same time McCartney, to those detectors who were sure for what he really was, assumed a deal of penitence for his past career, and stated that he wished to abandon counterfeiting forever. He gave wise, sagacious hints to Treasury officials and bankers, and was altogether quite a reservoir of moral and virtuous promise. Meanwhile the famous coney men Miles Ogle, alias George Ogle, alias J. F. Oglesby, with James Lyons, alias Murphy, "his boodle carrier and right bower," the pair not being as well known as they afterwards became in the hands of Wayne, Indiana, engaged in the constant manufacture of counterfeiters. Of the five dollar United States Treasury Note, of the greenback variety, issue of March 10th, 1863, and of the twenty dollar United States Treasury Note, of the greenback variety, issue of March 10th, 1863, plates then just finished by the deft hands of "Professor Joseph Woods" in his true character as John Peter McCartney.

A skillful engraver can cut a counterfeit of the greenback plate in from six to twelve months. Incredible stories have been told of the rapidity with which McCartney engraved the five dollar plates above described, the time of his entire work upon it having been positively stated to be less than two weeks. McCartney was a fast man in more ways than one, but such a performance in the time given would have been a miracle, or the doing of one inspired. The trees of life, as they are, though handsome when well printed, do bear marks of haste in the engraving of the same; but the twenties were excellent, and though McCartney improved this plate, retouching and altering it from time to time to the end of the war, it proved to be very fact produced very good imitations of the genuine, and placed him at the head of the Coney business as a "cutter," or engraver. It is suggestive of the character and value of the public teachings as "Professor Joseph Woods," that the counterfeiters made at that time, as they were regularly passed as change from the tickets of the various halls and lecture rooms where that expert and public benefactor so frequently held forth. It was true that Martha Ann, as she after a time saw her husband in possession of a competency, urged him, for the sake of her child to give up his dangerous pursuit of the coney trade, and be on more than one occasion promised compliance with her wishes; but the fascination of his course of crime was too strong upon him; he kept on until reform or even change seemed impossible. However, the plea of Martha was not a prudential merely for she aided and abetted "Peter" in all his

schemes to the best of her keen ability when he had once engaged in them, and when he became involved in trouble and danger, she came to his help with a faithful zeal and discretion more suggestive of womanly affection, cunning and personal courage than of regard for the law or any horror of a criminal life.

During the summer of 1860 McCartney was arrested in Illinois and taken to Sangamon County jail at Springfield in that State for confinement. On his person, among other things, was found two thousand dollars in good money, which was deposited by the officers having him in charge in bank at Springfield for him. On the evening of the 10th of October, McCartney having been in jail but a short time, the money he had in bank was turned over to his wife Martha Ann, who arrived in Springfield soon after the commitment of her husband. When the officers of the jail went their earliest morning rounds on October eighteenth, one week after Martha received the money, they found the doors of the cell of McCartney and his cousin were open, as were those of the corridor and the outside wall of the jail. The two prisoners were nowhere to be found, and McCartney had disappeared with her husband. Considering the notorious character of McCartney and the circumstances it was most positively assumed that some one had been bribed to allow the escape. The sheriff at this time was William Crafton, and naturally suspicion fell upon him. He was indicted for complicity in the matter and vigorously prosecuted for two days, but there was actually no evidence against the sheriff and he was acquitted.

Being questioned about this affair some time after, McCartney said: "The prison where I remained was a confined and poor structure; 'I had no trouble in going through that jail; it wasn't a comfortable place and I didn't like my quarters, so I stepped out early one morning and left the premises and the neighborhood.' He always insisted that the accusation of Sheriff Crafton was unjust, as all his help came from outside of the jail and altogether in the shape of "keys," pretty well adapted to his purpose, which were supplied by persons in no way connected with the jail, not residents of Springfield, or even of Sangamon county. All of which is quite consistent with the fact that Mrs. McCartney had money and made liberal use of the same, even if Sheriff Crafton and his subordinates got nothing from her.

John Peter McCartney was at this time a little over forty years of age, and the perfection of his power and faculties. He was somewhat large, strongly framed and stout limbed, weighing one hundred and

five pounds or more, and standing five feet seven and one-half inches high. Of a generally prepossessing appearance, good and regular features, wearing a full natural black beard and hair with bushy eyebrows. In a crowd wearing a common dress, he would have been taken for an ordinary person, frequently passing as a farmer or drover.

A closer inspection, however, led to a different conclusion. Under the bushy eyebrows were to be found a pair of cold, piercing, half shut, grayish-blue eyes, so changeable and quick that they have been described variously, one officer reporting that they were "like the eyes of a hawk," the peculiar eyes, spread and rose a broad and high forehead, giving an indication of mental capacity, to which a clean cut regular, aquiline nose added a suggestion of sharpness and decision. These features formed a countenance which habitually wore a keen, watchful expression, as of a man continually on his guard, and the whole appearance indicated to the trained observer a subtle, cunning and powerful personage. Beside his regular features, the face of McCartney seemed to be narrow, he had a cynical, crafty look, calculated to excite distrust, and his eyes were even, quiet, those of a gentleman, and averted suspicion, while his whole form and bearing were the embodiment of activity, resolution and imperious will.

In his speech he was reserved, in fact taciturn. In the presence of strangers he was always wary and alert, apprehensive of danger; but in the presence of those whom he felt safe, he was like to be social and fluent even communicative, about his own ordinary affairs, but always very silent about the doings of other people. He was an interesting talker when he chose and though uneducated, had a vast fund of general knowledge, which he discussed with good sense and judgment. When pressed for information he did not wish to give, he had the faculty of rapid practical and witty conversation, for any length of time, from which however the aggravated listener could never learn anything to his advantage of either side. In the company of his criminal associates, McCartney would have been an object of interest to any intelligent person, under any circumstances, although least aware curious eyes were studying his character; he had become one of the very best and most rapid engravers of counterfeit plates and an excellent plate printer; he was a good practical manufacturing chemist and capable of skillful mechanical work in almost any connection. He was moreover known to be "a most resolute determined untiring fellow" in any undertaking, his peculiar line of inclination or for profit he once freely turned his attention, "and undoubtedly a man

of wonderful nerve, full of resources and having the pluck to carry out any of the plans he might conceive." Such was the principal opinion of a pair who assessed from Sangamon County jail in the fall of 1866, and who thus described, was an object of detective vigilance sought for in every direction. Although he little to speak, "picked up" his art, owing little to text books and instruction, McCartney became very skillful; he invented a machine for copying the geometric scroll work on the greenback treasury notes. He chemically discharged all the color from treasury notes of small value, to get paper to print counterfeits of those of a larger denomination, instead of making the same after the manner of Thomas Ballard. Thus he made the art of counterfeiting and as one safeguard after another was adopted by the government, he enlarged the scope of his processes and was able to meet the most delicate tests the Treasury Department had devised.

McCartney's field of operations was chiefly the West and South, yet his bills have circulated freely in all parts of the country. Although he had at an early date his headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, and never abandoned entirely the scenes of his boyhood near Nevada, Illinois, yet he had his launts in many places and making extensive connections, carried on business from various points at the same time. Thus he operated from Indianapolis, Indiana; Nevada, Illinois; Louisville, Kentucky; Cincinnati, Ohio; Dayton, Ohio; St. Louis, Missouri; Chasson, Illinois; Easton, Illinois; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Portland, Kentucky; Dallas, Texas; and a number of other Western and Southern towns. He was beside an extensive traveler and in one way and another, roamed over the West, traversed the East and quite thoroughly surveyed the whole of Mississippi valley. At the time of his escape from jail in 1866, or soon after, McCartney established a centre of operations for himself at Osgood, Ripley county, Indiana, in the house of an old counterfeiter named Levi, where the head coney kept his headquarters, and since from the early days in 1850, a fitting rendezvous. It was a queer little old house that of old man Levi, a log cabin built around with addition after addition, each one increasing the facilities for entrance and exit, until at last a better hiding place, or a more convenient place for a meeting, could not be found or imagined. The house stood on the outskirts of the town, about half a mile from the centre of the village. There McCartney was often welcomed, there he transacted a great deal of business in his peculiar line, and there too, says Miles Ogle, the members of the Driggs family and whole

bers of many another gang of queersmen besides; all of whom came to know McCartney and look upon him as the master spirit of their wide-spread schemes and combinations.

The most important personage among the co-workers of McCartney was Martha Ann, his wife, and next to her, Fred Buebusch, a German resident of St. Louis, Missouri, a heavy capitalist and wholesale dealer in the queer. Biehusch and McCartney were close companions and McCartney came from Prussia in 1844, was engaged in counterfeiting for many years, and though arrested in all some fifty times, escaped imprisonment by the use of money in adroit management, until December 30th, 1870, when, at the age of forty-seven years, he was imprisoned for fifteen years in the State's prison at Jefferson City, Mo. The right hand man of McCartney in his showing operations was Lyle Levi, the son of the old man Levi, of Osgood, Indiana, owner of the rendezvous already described. They were close companions and McCartney could not have made a better selection of a man for his purpose. Lyle Levi was merely a dealer and shover of counterfeiters. He was coarse, uneducated, vulgar, boorish in all his instincts, yet possessed of a shrewd, quick instinct and an indomitable courage and perseverance which nothing could daunt. He was a common man, jovial in his low way, strong as a bull and feared by his associates, whose respect he gained also through his shrewdness. His intimate associates were sporting men, gamblers, horsemen and drovers. Every year he would take some of his fine horses, of which he had a large stock, and travel around to the various county fairs. There he was in clover, and he made these the chief places of his criminal work. He was so powerful, vicious and drowsy that even if his neighbors did happen to see him somewhat crooked in his dealing, they were little disposed to make themselves busy spreading the report. He was regarded as most decidedly "a man not to be fooled with," and though audacious to a degree, was the very soul of success as a shover, and as such did an immense amount of work for his friend McCartney, received a great deal of good money on his own account for his service and for a long time met with no adequate punishment.

Lyle Levi was a tall, well built man, almost a score of years younger than McCartney. He had large loose joints and was exceedingly supple and active. In any kind of a fight he was as nifty a customer as any one need to meet. He was a splendid marksman and could walk the handle with a pistol ball at twenty paces. He had a homely, long face, with a villainous cast of countenance. His cheek bones were prominent, his forehead high, his ap-

pearance shrewd. He had a very bad looking eye, a long hooked nose, and his bearing was that of the perfect desperado and did not belie his character. He was not handsome or good, but to a manufacturer of counterfeit money he was more—he was exceedingly servicable and reliable if well managed.

The Levi family consisted of the parents and four children, two sons and two daughters. The oldest son was named Isaac, a high suspect of complicity in the counterfeiting, and other crimes, was not proven guilty. Lyle Levi has already been described. The sisters were named Clara, Issa Lyle and Missouri Lyle. Clarissa being the eldest, married a man named Lee, and they made their home in Seymour, Indiana. The Lees were poor people and though she kept up her relations with her father's family, Mrs. Lee worked hard and constantly as a wash woman, and had friends among respectable people in her neighborhood. She was arrested in time, and her name was established to one number directly. She was of a dull mind comparatively, and of whatever she may have been guilty, seems to have taken but small profit from anything.

Missouri Lyle became Mrs. Missouri Rittenhouse, her husband, Jeff. Rittenhouse, being a celebrated counterfeiter, as well known as the family he married into. Mrs. Rittenhouse was an entirely different kind of woman from her sister Mrs. Lee. At the death of "old man" Lyle, Mrs. Rittenhouse came into possession of the home-stead, where she continued to live until where she manifested all the qualities requisite in the mistress of such an establishment. She was a robust, handsome and courageous woman, of a masculine nature, and yet in her manners quite well behaved and ladylike. Naturally shrewd and quick, she had been well educated. The daughter, sister and wife of counterfeiters, she could but become thoroughly informed in the profession of the queersmen and an adept in all its intricacies and mysteries. She was essentially "strong-minded" and determined in her own bold and audacious as any occasion required. Though discreet and careful in her public department, she could fix her bright blue eyes in a stare that would put any ordinary man out of countenance and such that he could tell the story of his psychological discomfort. Mrs. Rittenhouse made few female acquaintances and was quite incapable of the small weaknesses which indicate the defective training of some of her sex. Her woman's wit and common sense however, she possessed, and she knew how to make herself attractive and interesting. All these peculiarities made her a skillful and daring manipulator and most effective "shover," espe-

cially among the men she fascinated. With McCartney's assistance she was on the most intimate terms; her home was his stopping place and that he said was law to the establishment. An offer was once made her to turn McCartney over to certain officers, for a very large sum of money; this she peremptorily refused to consider, saying: "I would not for the world; Pete McCartney is the best friend I have on earth." The Lyle family manufactured nothing, but Lyle Levi and Mrs. Rittenhouse were managers of whole gangs of shovers and through their operations, under the superintendence of McCartney, much of the money produced by the family, Dr. Miles Ogle, and by McCartney himself, was thrown into circulation. In addition, McCartney worked with the family of his stepfather-in-law, John B. Trout; with Ben. Boyd, W. neck Hammond, Charles Walters, and more or less directly with all the coneymen of the United States and Canada. About the time of McCartney's escape from Sangamon county jail as has been described, Ben Boyd married Almira Ackerman, the sister of McCartney's wife. The brothers-in-law retained friends for several years, but finally disagreed about business and never spoke a word to each other up to the time of Boyd's arrest, October 31st, 1873.

As a counterfeiter McCartney was above prejudice, versatile and played all parts. He began by "bugging" and raising small notes; became a shover and a false colorer of silver and gold; acquired the art of engraving; made his own plates and sold them; made others and printed from them; sold his own bills wholesale or retail; bought plates and bills to sell and worked in every disguise, printing small orders' make of queer into circulation. He had an exceedingly low estimate of men, supposed everybody could be bought and by this means always expected to escape and often did so but not finally. He had the faculty to appreciate ability in others and made his selection of special agents with discretion, then treating them liberally, worked through them and with them and stood squarely by his partners when they became involved in trouble. When arrested himself he kept his own counsel, never betrayed others and exercised the utmost liberality, cunning and bravery in his struggle for freedom. In this way, at different times he practiced medicine, served as a peddler and as a drummer or commercial traveler; gave orders; acted as an agent of the secret service and as a Treasury expert; represented a gentleman of elegant leisure; an artist; a cattle or mule drover; a miner; a stableman, &c., and when hard pressed by detectives, would locate in Washington, D. C., and lie concealed almost within the very shadow

of one of the Treasury buildings.

Though all the above such a life a well high impossible, and to state them would fill volume after volume; in this connection the reader must be content to follow the current of time and from the authentic history of principal and characteristic events, gather the useful information the case has to offer and realize the nature of the era and the person concerned.

Sometime after the escape from Sangamon county jail, October 18th, 1866, McCartney started business as a daguerrotype artist and went to Warrenton, near Cairo, Illinois. There he spent some time and probably gave satisfaction to the beauties of that low lying section of the country; at all events, he made use of his time to study chemistry and experiment in colors, inks, &c., and thus improved in the art of the counterfeiter, even while working at an honest business.

From Cairo, Illinois, McCartney went to Rolla, Missouri, changing his business to that of a livery stable, buying out a party already in that occupation in Rolla; here he continued to study, not entirely absorbed in contemplation of his horses, however, and having more than once to fee liberally certain officers, who, in St. Louis and elsewhere, had politely put him under arrest for one cause or another. One day in 1869 there came to Mr. Warren's stable a gentleman who wished to hire a team for a little journey out of town. The shaver sighted McCartney recognized a party who had been familiar with his arrest at Mattoon, Ill. and his escape from jail at Springfield, Illinois. "I saw through his business at Mattoon," said McCartney, when relating the circumstance. "This fellow was after me. I told him I would drive the horse to his hotel at once. He went back, I took what loose money I had in the till, jumped out of the back window, and in a few possible left Rolla and my would-be customer behind me. He did not pull me."

The faithful Martha was left to close out the livery business and follow her spouse into some other place of seclusion, all of which she did, intelligently and well, as was her habit at all times of her life in circumstances. McCartney's tracks were followed up however from this time more diligently, and he was arrested again and again, but invariably escaped. When unable to escape by bribery or audacity when fairly cornered, on several occasions gave up counterfeit plates and money which he had or procured and making promises of future good behavior, he would get off in consideration of his futureance of the purpose of the government. But it was unnecessary to induce him to expose his confederates. Some of them

were known counterfeiters and all marked parties. But they were too vain to betray themselves to conviction, and McCartney kept their secrets with a fidelity worthy the noblest brotherhood in some holy cause.

Once, before his escape from Rolla and his lively stable, McCartney was arrested and of the event he has told his own version: "I was not," said he, "at that time dealing in coney; but I knew where there were large amounts of counterfeit notes and plates of National Banks and I offered to buy up all which I could conceal or which I could get money for, notes, dies, etc., and I would agree to live anywhere that Government might designate, and would pay the expenses of one of its own officers to watch me for one year, if they would promise not to pursue me further, but give me the chance to follow some honest business and give up the coney trade of which I was tired. But the men then in the Secret Service didn't want me to go out of the coney trade. This was evident to me. They would agree to anything, but would perform nothing satisfactorily and I was not a way from them. I had done this before and I repeated it. They couldn't catch me and hold me, and they didn't." McCartney also stated that he was at one time actually in correspondence with the officials of the Treasury Department concerning the prevention of counterfeit money, wherein he says he gave valuable advice, wherein he says he was always ready to give to his own detriment, but of no benefit to the public because the men then doing the work of manufacturing the paper currency, through their interested influence prevented improvements which might have made the business they did less profitable. He also claimed that at one time he had an arrangement by which the government paid a certain sum to his wife and children yearly, so long as he kept from counterfeiting or other crime, and that he kept to the contract until Congress neglected the appropriation, whereupon he became suspicious and returned to his old course of operation, like the life long counterfeiter which he was. According to McCartney, he was a man desirous of peace and a quiet, honest life, but driven into crime by the corruption and cruel impertinence of the Secret Service men and other officers of the law. His bribes he considered as huge practical jokes, and when he recalled the fortunes he disbursed in that way, he came to consider himself as at once a victim of circumstances and a practical philanthropist of high degree.

McCartney was arrested at Mattoon, Illinois, in February, 1887, by the City Marshal of Mattoon. Among the effects taken upon his person, was a check for his baggage, upon presentation of this

check at the Railroad Baggage Room, the officers received a red chest containing a press, some printing material, a roll of press paper and twenty three thousand four hundred dollars in counterfeit notes of the denomination of fifty dollars. Upon examination, McCartney was held for trial and in default of bail, was committed to his old quarters in Sangamon County jail at Springfield, Illinois, and subsequently released on bail of one thousand dollars, which is said to have been furnished by the Chief then in charge of the Secret Service Division. What information the prisoner gave at that he surrendered in consideration of this virtual release, has not been made public, though doubtless important. McCartney did not return to claim his property sealed up in the red box in the government storeroom and as time went on the case through oversight, fell into abeyance and was forgotten. Subsequently the box was discovered, January 26th, 1887, through the diligence of P. D. Tyrrell of the Secret Service and being broken open, the contents upon examination proved to be the press, paper, and counterfeit money as described. Mr. Tyrrell said this evidence properly made up and the case was reinstated on the Criminal Docket, by United States Attorney James A. Connolly.

Meantime the career of "Peter McCartney" had become too notorious for the credit of the Secret Service and local officers and quite too successful and long continued for the good of the general public. Three Operatives, Agnew, Loneragan, and John Egan, were put upon his trail by Chief H. C. Whitley, soon after his accession to office and in the fall of 1870, McCartney concluded it best to withdraw for a time from the gaze of the public, to a place where he could be quiet and unobserved, while he occupied himself in making arrangements for future activity. Accordingly he migrated to Portland, Kentucky, and there he went about the neighborhood and selected an old house which was occupied and for which he paid a bonus and moved in at once. The party who left the house, for some reason suspected the stranger and reported the circumstances to the Chief of Police at Louisville, Kentucky. The local officers looked into the matter and shortly afterwards, Detective Bly found a quantity of counterfeit notes in McCartney's house, also a printing press, rolling machine and full sets of plates for manufacturing counterfeit greenback notes. There "Alexander Bill" was arrested by the police and he proved a notorious rogue, was taken to Louisville jail. Martha McCartney was also arrested, but McCartney himself was not to

be had for the asking, not being about the place when the Louisville police made their raid. The Chief of the Secret Service hearing of these arrests, immediately began to look up the affair, but when he reached Louisville, he found Mrs. McCartney had been discharged by the United States Commissioner and the Secret Service man had his journey for his pains. Not long after in August, 1870, McCartney was arrested in Cincinnati, Ohio, in company with one Chasley Johnston, no counterfeit money was found upon McCartney, but he had three thousand five hundred dollars of good money in his possession. Johnston had over four thousand dollars in counterfeit notes, in twenties and fives, greenbacks and fractional currency, with a set of twenty dollar greenback plates. McCartney and Johnston were both locked up in jail. Once more, John Egan hastened forward from St. Louis for his long desired interview with "The King of the Konauckers;" but when Egan arrived in Cincinnati, McCartney had departed; broke jail as usual and down to parts unknown! The three thousand five hundred dollars, taken with McCartney, was not forthcoming when called for by the Chief. Whitley recovered fourteen hundred dollars of the amount, which was subsequently returned to its owner; but the remaining two thousand dollars, was reported to have been stolen from the desk of the police office. "They shook it out of me," said McCartney afterwards; "But I will get it yet." He also declared that he was only "a stall" and that his release was part of the arrangement made for another purpose. Now, the fact is, I walked out of that jail without hindrance, at the right moment and if I could see the man who held the keys, I could identify him. But I don't know who he was.

On November 21st, 1870, McCartney was arrested by the police in Cincinnati, Ohio, but he soon escaped, leaving behind him in the Third Street police house, three one thousand dollar genuine United States Bonds and five hundred dollars in genuine currency, which, with a counterfeit plate, was found upon his person when he was taken. Some conjectured the fugitive left his cash for distribution among the poor, but the facts in the case hardly bear out so highly moral a theory. "Bonds money and plate were put in the keeping of the station house officer's. Sergeant Sam Simmons and Lieutenant Evans, Brummy Bayless was around that night. The prisoner's cell door was open and he walked out. Ostensibly the money bonds and plate were put in the safe at the Mayor's office, on Saturday morning a few hours after the escape. On Sunday morning, James L. Ruffin, Brummy Bay-

less and Sam Simmons were in the Chief's office. The package was transported by Brummy to the office of the Chief and transported back. The loss in transportation was two thousand dollars hereabouts. A certain police officer was seen shortly afterward handling money very freely, in a gambling house on Race street.

There was no discipline of the force on that occasion, except of officer Hachi who arrested McCartney and took a memorandum of the money found on his person. Hachi was scolded at by his superiors and changed from a day-beat on west Court street, to a night-beat in the mud at "Goosetown," near Fairmount. McCartney managed to return a few weeks after and secure all was left of the fifteen hundred dollars of his money in the hands of the local police. Such were the men McCartney boasted he could manage and had managed many a time and place. He trusted that the greed of men would always be stronger than their sense of duty and so he was always ready to connive even at the theft of his cash, if parting with it opened the door to outside air and liberty. He generally had cash for those who could be bought, plates and coney for the Secret Service and when they failed *promissis*, which to his honor he generally kept.

Detective Egan was much disappointed at the escape of McCartney from the Cincinnati jail, when he felt assured he had so nearly secured the game he had so eagerly been in pursuit of; but he returned to St. Louis under order, still bent upon the capture of the great jail breaker, at least determined to overtake him and make his acquaintance. After a time Egan found out that McCartney was at Venice, Illinois, a small town opposite an island in the Mississippi river where McCartney's friend Fred, Biebusch hid when he had fled from Cincinnati very quietly, was not expecting an official call of any sort; but John Egan one of the most effective Operatives of the Secret Service dropped in upon him unceremoniously and made him a prisoner, before there was time even to think of an effort to escape. It is a difficult thing to capture a man like McCartney, still more difficult to hold him and convict him. When such a person is taken, comparatively little is done, unless the plates, tools and facilities of the counterfeiter are taken with him. If there is counterfeit money in existence, it will get into circulation, even if the maker be in states prison. If there are counterfeit plates not captured, they will be printed from, no matter how many engravers suffer the penalty of the law; consequently Secret Service Operatives and all good officers, have been kept active for large sums of counterfeit money and for any thing

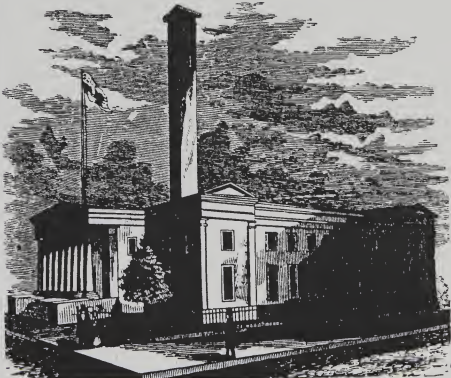
such stuff can be manufactured from, or printed by. Astute and powerful coney men, take advantage of these facts, and when brought fairly to terms, surrender false bills, plates, tools, etc., etc. in consideration of a release. It is for the proper officials to detect these things, for a man like McCartney can sometimes redeem himself in a manner that makes his compromise immensely to the public interest. McCartney in this way now offered Eagan a large amount of counterfeit plates, dies etc., among which were complete sets of plates for all denominations of the National Currency, from fifty cents to fifty dollars; also sixty thousand dollars in counterfeit all ready to be thrown into circulation and afterwards offered fifty, sixty and even eighty-five thousand dollars of counterfeit money, for his release. All these offers were declined and the prisoner was taken to St. Louis, and thence to Springfield, Illinois, and committed to the jail from which he escaped in 1866. There he was left in charge of the United States Marshal, who took such care to have extra guard, that another flight from the old prison seemed to the official mind absolutely impossible. It was at this time that Chief H. C. Whitley had an interview with McCartney in the cell of the latter. As the chief turned to leave, the prisoner exclaimed in great good humor! "You won't leave me here I suppose Colonel?" "Yes for the present, you are safe here now," was the answer of the visitor. "O I can get out of here easy enough," said McCartney, "I have done so before, and I can do it again!" The Chief expressed his dissent, but McCartney, inquiring Whitley's hotel and room, promised to return his call at ten o'clock that evening. The Chief smiled at the jest, as he considered the appointment, went to his rooms, engaged in writing and entirely forgot the whole matter. Ten o'clock came and the busy Chief wrote one—just a few moments after, there came a courteous rap upon the door. "Come in" said the Chief, when to his vast astonishment, in came John Peter McCartney, with a smile and his quiet: "Good evening Colonel!"

Whitley was nonplussed, he sprang up, drew his revolver, seized McCartney's arm and cried: "McCartney, how are you here?" "O put up your shootin' iron, Colonel," said the strange visitor, "I merely called to pay my respects. Come! I am going back of course," and together the two men returned to the cell, in which McCartney subsequently remained quietly enough. He never explained how he got out large at this time, but spoke of it as one of his "little jokes" "just to show that some things could be done as well as others." McCartney was a man of nerve,

cool, daring and even desperate courage; but he was a person of intelligence and cool calculation as well. He felt competent to deal, in one way and another, with the local Western police, but as we have seen, recklessly risked life and limb to escape from what he correctly considered the more stable, potent and formidable authority of the Federal Courts at Washington in time of war. He was not averse to taking risks, but was unwilling to do so unless there was a chance of success. He early tried to make terms with the Secret Service, and does not give a very favorable account of the Operatives with whom he came in contact.

Exactly how much to believe of his statements may be a matter for consideration, but some of his testimony is corroborated, and it is patent to the well informed that the Secret Service has not always been as fortunate as now in the incisive judgment and moral stamina of its Chief and the integrity of its Operatives. McCartney acquired the involvement reputation of always having money and always being ready to pay bribes; so while he made himself a criminal leech and gorged through his operations upon the circulating medium of society, he was himself beset with a gang of parasites, devoured alive by official vermin, equally felonious and more base than the professional crooks they made it their business to foster and plunder. "I really wanted to get out of the coney business," said McCartney; "but I couldn't see my way. I found everybody down on me; government officers, police, lawyers, all hands. I could have no posse anywhere, no matter what I was about. Detective _____ and his crew I knew. They didn't want me to quit the coney. They were the make and had a soft thing of it. They put up jobs on me continually and cheated me with false promises. They said if there were no counterfeiters, there would be no work to detect. I had promised my wife I would quit, but they wouldn't let me."

Then Chief H. C. Whitley put Operatives Applegates, Lonergan and Eagan on his trail, McCartney was tracked, watched and hunted down as never before, his consciousness of this aroused his apprehensions, and when he found that Eagan had unexpectedly taken him, and that bribes, promises, compromises and all offers were refused, McCartney for the first time in his life seemed to lose his head, "and for a time fell into something like a panic. Chief Whitley considered the occasion favorable for a heavy blow at the whole coney business, and as he became acquainted with McCartney, he found reason to believe the prisoner was in certain ways worthy of confidence. Acting upon these



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convictions, the Chief renewed the negotiations refused by Eagan; he found McCartney quite communicative, and an odd familiarity grew up between the officer and the counterfeiter. McCartney gave Whitley valuable information, and it is significant of the relation between the two, that the coneyman went through the process of taking the name of a bank out of a bill and inlining another bank's name, in the presence of the Chief for that official amusement and edification.

Once during the winter McCartney was allowed a visit in his cell from his wife. After her departure a small bar of lead was found on the prisoner. Once before he had escaped by means of a key made out of the tin foil from his tobacco wrappers. The bar of lead melted in the same way or pressed into shape, would have served the same purpose. By arrangement Whitley and McCartney were to go to Decatur, Illinois, about this time, where the latter had buried some queer he was willing to deliver to the officer. As they were going from the Sangamon county jail to Springfield depot McCartney said he would like to see his wife, who was in town, before they left. "Go and see her," said Whitley; then naming the time the train left, he added: "Meet me at the depot." They went to Decatur together promptly, for McCartney having seen his wife, came back on time as promised. He acted in a similar way on the journey and at Decatur took the chief into a cornfield and there dug up and turned over several tin cans containing over sixty thousand dollars in well made counterfeit bills and a set of five dollar counterfeit plates upon western national banks. This and his prisoner, Whitley took back to Springfield, Illinois, where McCartney re-entered his cell. Not long after the same couple took another journey, going to St. Louis, Missouri, from which city they walked out into the country some six miles to an old house, under which McCartney crept and brought out several sets of dies for gold and silver coins which he had made and hidden there, having in view a private mint when convenient. The travel was then continued to Cincinnati, Ohio, where McCartney found and gave up some five thousand dollars more of counterfeit bills, with several parts of unfinished plates for counterfeits. To end their excursion the two got again to Springfield, Illinois, one to re-occupy his cell once more in jail, and the other to report the "big pull" to the Treasury Department.

Shortly after this, through the influence of chief Whitley, McCartney was released on five thousand dollars bail, as required by the United States Court, until called for trial. A part of this bail is said to have been supplied by ex-Chief Whitley

himself, and is further reported to still stand against him. McCartney being at large with a dangerous case pending against him, not anxious to present himself for trial, but sought to effect some arrangement by which his services to the government would be accepted by the authorities in expiation of the crimes of the past. Through his wife, always a trusty messenger, he sought communication with Eagan and proposed to meet that officer in a retired place and put in his hands a large amount of counterfeit plates, &c. McCartney stipulated however for conditions, one of which was that he should be exempt from arrest or any personal molestation for the time. After considerable diplomacy it was agreed that Eagan and McCartney should meet in an out of the way cornfield at midnight. To this meeting Eagan was to come unarmed, guided by Mrs. McCartney. McCartney was to meet him in the darkness and armed; but promised to do no injury unless imposed upon by some attempt at treachery. Under these circumstances McCartney was to make proposals for submission to Chief H. C. Wiley, which, if accepted, would involve the surrender to the Secret Service of a large amount of counterfeit bills, plates, &c., &c.

The meeting took place according to programme. Unarmed and alert Eagan took his nocturnal ramble with the handsome, discreet Martha. McCartney was first at the trysting place. As Eagan came near, two men, in McCartney's interest, escorted him, with arms in their hands, to where McCartney was on the further side of a fence. The men with loaded weapons covering the detectives stood by him during the meeting. McCartney presented a musket across the fence at the breast of Eagan, and thus unable to see each other they discussed their business. McCartney offered upon conditions already indicated, to place in the hands of Eagan certain valuable and desirable counterfeit plates of different denominations, as well as counterfeit bills, to the nominal value of at least fifty thousand dollars. Eagan expressed himself unable to make promises of any kind, but engaged of course to forward the proposals made, in his report to head-quarters. With this of course McCartney had for the time to be satisfied. The meeting broke up and Eagan returned in safety from his "skittish" adventure.

These negotiations were a genuine case of diamond cut diamond, and in the end, for a wonder, McCartney had the worst of the affair. The officers were looking to the suppression of counterfeiting; McCartney to his own safety. The diplomacy of Eagan was absolutely necessary, not one but McCartney could control and sur-

render the immense amount of crooked property he offered for his ransom. McCartney was a leader, and one acknowledged by the class with whom for so many years he associated. He became notorious in this way and yet a great deal of money was expended for a long time vain to secure his arrest and the suppression of his business. He was systematic in all his operations. "I always had bogus money in plenty," he asserted, "when others had none at all. And thus I controlled the market for "coney" you see, very frequently. They had to come to me if they could not get the right man (and I had a choice) with counterfeit bills by wholesale, for I engraved and printed the notes or wrought the dies myself." Moreover he kept his own counsel and whatever arrangements he made, conducted them upon his own personal responsibility. He repudiated the idea of association with others in his business, but could when disposed almost sweep the country clean of counterfeit plates, counterfeit money and various material.

The secret service was compelled to deal with this man, for only through him could they obtain the goods and appliances, the destruction of which was absolutely necessary to the safety of the public. Shortly after the meeting between Eagan and McCartney in the cornfield McCartney, who constantly gave occasion for proceedings against him and had any number of old cases unsettled, was again arrested. At this time, to gain a release, not the general exemption he had demanded, he made a surrender of all the counterfeits and materials he had confessed a knowledge of to Eagan. The plates, tools, &c., were numerous, and the counterfeit money amounted to over sixty thousand dollars, nominal value. The midnight negotiation resulted in the surrender of crooked property prepared by McCartney, but not at all upon the terms which he had proposed, but instead, such as were highly pleasing to the operatives who had been concerned in the dangerous adventure.

During February, 1871, McCartney was arrested and taken to Louisville, Ky., with William Alexander, alias Lyon, the same who the year before had been captured with Mrs. McCartney at Portland, in the same state. The United States Attorney at Louisville had a case against McCartney, growing out of the Portland business and some other items. He had passed in Kentucky as "Judd" and as "Miller." He lay in jail at Louisville for some time, but finally got bail in the city and was released from custody. When his trial in Louisville came on, he was duly put in an appearance, but the severity of the situation became fearful of the

probable result and ran away forfeiting his bail. For some time his whereabouts were unknown, but he was in Canada at Windsor, and other places, judiciously keeping under cover.

While in Windsor at this time, McCartney excused several pieces of work which are proof of his dexterity and artistic patience. Procuring a Bank Note Detector, wherein the vignettes, numbers and other members of notes were nicely printed, on thick paper, for the instruction of bankers and others, he, by use of a fine piece of silk, placed in position the pieces he cut from the book so as to form the body of a note, filling in and connecting the parts and details through extra devices and touches of marvelous accuracy and finish, then cutting the paper away from the back of his work to half the thickness of a bank note by joining the face and back manufactured or built up a handsome bill. He made several of these prodigies and masterpieces. It was tedious and pains taking work, but it occupied his hands and gave employment to a restless mind at a time when he was a fugitive with no time to lose to busy himself about. Since the manufacture of these notes above described, the publication of such *fac similes* of notes or parts of notes has been by law prohibited.

In the year 1873, McCartney having got into practice by his amusements in Canada and some other work, celebrated himself as an engraver. Between the months of June and November of that year, he was busy among his counterfeit plates preparing for an improved imitation of the Twenty dollar United States Treasury Note. He so thoroughly perfected his arrangements, appliances and facilities, that with the help of Tom Banoni, he put out his next issue of these counterfeits, they were readily passed in all quarters and became recognized among all classes of experts as the crowning effort of McCartney's genius. During the autumn of 1874, McCartney operated through Minnesota and other Western states, in his old style and was very successful.

On December 1st, 1874, one George Albert Mason, alias W. W. Wats, alias "Whiskey" Mason, of Toronto, Canada, informed Chief Washburn of the Secret Service, that a man named Captain Judd, said to be an old counterfeiter, was to be at Burlington, Iowa, with a bundle and that he, Mason, was to meet Judd, at a certain hotel. Chief Washburn, who had then in Chicago, Illinois, instructed Operative P. D. Tyrrell, then just appointed, to proceed with Mason and one Bloomfield, to Burlington, Iowa. On arrival there, Mason met George Rankin, alias Hoosier, who informed Mason that the party had not yet arrived from Texas and finally

agreed upon a meeting of all parties at a certain house in St. Louis, Missouri. Operative Tyrrell returned to Chicago, Illinois, and reported to Chief Washburn, who immediately telegraphed his instructions to Operative Duckworth, then of the St. Louis District. On the evening of December 10th, 1874, Mason accompanied by Bloomfield, met Captain Judd and George Rankin, alias "Hoosier" in the hotel, corner of Sixth and Market streets, St. Louis. There Captain Judd made a trade with Mason for a satchel, supposed to contain several thousand dollars the bundle of Mill, alias Doctor Parker, then in the Eastern Penitentiary, in Chicago, which he had been committed under the name of Edwards, being arrested and convicted in Philadelphia that year. To get at the contents of the satchel Judd commenced melting some lead which had been run into the lock of the same. At this point Mason with the help of Bloomfield undertook to arrest Judd and Rankin on account of the United States Secret Service, from which he held authority. A general fight ensued, during which Bloomfield beat a retreat by jumping squarely through the door of the room, breaking out two of the panels of the same as he went. Mason was of sterner stuff, a large but active man, he placed himself before the broken door, completely blocking the passage out and with his revolver pined Captain Judd about the legs, body and arms, with repeated shots. Captain Judd fought desperately and using a knife, seemed determined to cut a passage to freedom through the body of the obstinate Mason. The noise of the fight of course alarmed the house and soon, much to the relief of Mason, the inmates were called, who rushing in arrested all parties in the room. The three, Mason, Judd, and Rankin, were each badly wounded and it was considered advisable to take them all to the hospital. Mason knew the man he undertook to capture and had laid with himself by the caps, only as "Captain Judd," even Chief Washburn, who came to St. Louis at the time started for Chicago, again in ignorance of the identity of the wounded prisoner. The Chief however received an intimation, which induced him to send to St. Louis hospital, a person who calling upon that worthy four days after his capture, at once recognized in Captain Judd, alias that he, Mason, was to meet Judd, at a certain hotel. Chief Washburn, who had then in Chicago, Illinois, instructed Operative P. D. Tyrrell, then just appointed, to proceed with Mason and one Bloomfield, to Burlington, Iowa. On arrival there, Mason met George Rankin, alias Hoosier, who informed Mason that the party had not yet arrived from Texas and finally

finding who they had in charge, the authorities placed a double guard over the crippled counterfeiter and as soon as their wounds were healed they were conveyed to cells in the county prison of St. Louis. Mason was discharged from custody, being recognized by Chief Washburn. Several of the confederates of McCartney, were captured in the St. Louis District soon after his committal and by the time the New Year of 1875 had been well celebrated the jail held a large and distinguished company. McCartney had been badly cut up by Mason's bullets and the first of February he was limping about his cells on crutches; however, as Mason did not expect to get the full value through McCartney's brains, his mind was as keen and his courage as great as ever.

At three o'clock in the morning of February 5th, 1875, an alarm was given in the St. Louis jail, and when the officers of the prison learned the cause, they found that six of the most notorious and desperate of their prisoners had escaped from their cells and got away through a hole in the brick wall of the jail. The party of fugitives consisted of Pete McCartney, alias Holmet L. Wilmer, alias Captain Judd, George Rankin, alias Hoosier, Justice Rogers, James Rittenhouse, John Banoni and James Hall. The prisoners had by some means opened their cell door during the night, seized the night watchman, bound him and gagged him, and then thrust him into cell Number 17, which had been occupied by Rogers and George Rankin. The prisoners then soon cut a hole in the wall, and through the opening disappeared and escaped custody. There is a reliable tradition, that in one way and another, that hole in the brick wall cost McCartney three thousand dollars in good money. Considering the price he was accustomed to pay for similar accommodation, the opening was cheap, according to its size and the quantity and quality of what went out there!

The gang of fugitives scattered and McCartney being lame, disguised himself as an old woman and took the cars in open day, southward for Texas, where a rendezvous had been agreed upon for the band upon a certain day, at the town of Dennison. Having found it impossible to share before leaving jail, McCartney as an old woman, was forced to bundle up his face completely. A kind old creature took her seat beside him and sympathetically asked the "renowned" king of the fakers, "What compelled to forego her acquaintance and got rid of her by a story of his affliction with the mumps, which he assured her he was sorry to say, were contagious and dangerous to persons of their age. Rogers and Hall walked nearly across the State of Missouri, before they dared take the

ever he had a chance."

ners for Texas, to which McCartney journeyed swiftly and in comfort. The gang convened as agreed at Dennison, Texas. They were first seen and reported together at Dallas, Texas, at six in the afternoon, February 20th, 1873, from whence they then all took train for Sherman in that state, Rogers located in Dennison, McCartney in Dallas, arrangements were made for the thorough working of that section, the company were rejoined by their families from all directions and began in earnest. They soon got "into a bad row of stumps" for all that, McCartney and several of his shovers and friends fell variously into the hands of different officers, United States Marshals, Sheriffs, etc. There was a great deal of wrangling over questions of jurisdiction, possession, precedence and one thing and another: much confusion and as usual when McCartney was concerned, charges of bribery and corruption. The end of the whole course of action was arrests, arrests, transfers, escapes, re-arrests, elopements, captures and get-odds, what that finally the arrested parties were stripped of all their cash, the State lost its prisoners, officials lost temper and reputation, and some of the best men lost their positions which were their means of living. There has been a great deal said and much written upon these affairs in Texas in 1873, and in the heat of discussion contradiction has obscured the real facts. In elucidation of the matter, we present as the briefest and most succinct statement, the following letters, which in consideration of their official origin, are entitled to credit.

BREMONT, TEXAS,

Hon. Blanford Wilson, Washington, D. C., April 25th, 1873.

Dear Sir—McCartney and four more confederates first appeared in our District, M. Feb 20, at Waco where they passed counterfeit money and were pursued into Coryville Co. there captured, and sent for the retaliatory actions of the Sheriff they have been secured. The other three confederates, he hid the prisoners against us; took McCartney into the mountains and his confederate and returned them chased. McCartney with confederates were loosed. No McCartney at Waco, with passing counterfeit money. His confederate companion to where he was captured, with \$2,000 in counterfeit money.

On Saturday Deputy U. S. captured McCartney at Plana, he was secured, ironed and put in Dallas jail. On Monday Marshal Purnell ordered his local Deputy at Dallas, A. M. O. C. to telegraph to Waco, Deputy U. S. to capture McCartney for trial and commitment. At night on the 16th, I received a joint telegraph from you and the Attorney General, Dallas, Texas, as directed I have the prisoner identified and removed, as soon as the writ was presented, which they have not yet been.

On Tuesday the prisoner McCartney in compliance with the Marshal's orders as above, was taken from Dallas jail, handcuffed and shackled, and sent out the cars in charge of M. O. C. Evans, Deputy Marshal with Mr. J. L. Duckworth, and they got

to this place with the prisoner near midnight, here they had to enhance cars and stop, they took the prisoner to a hotel and took his iron off. Duckworth told Calahan to take the prisoner to a room of which he ate breakfast, some hour or two before the prisoner was laid back to a room and allowed to lie down without being ironed and sitting on the iron bed. Calahan laid asleep. I do not know how long they slept, but presume so, and the prisoner ran or walked away, without being ironed. I find no charges or corruption about it, but at Fremont, Md. at Fremont, Md. I was strained to report the most gross and aggravated services of a petty, ever met, in both M. O. C. Evans and J. L. Duckworth. If these officers Duckworth was coming to Waco to present writ of habeas corpus, the authorization writ of return, McCartney has not yet been captured, made, the Sheriff of Coryville and his Associates are bound over, and will await our orders as to prosecution for the previous escape of McCartney.

United States Attorney,
Eastern District of Texas.

We also give the following:
Department of Justice,
Office of the Solicitor of the
Treasury Department,
Washington, April 25th, 1873.

Hon. Geo. H. Williams,
Dallas, Texas.

Dear Sir—Yours of the 13th instance enclosing copy of duplicate from the U. S. Marshal for the Western District of Texas, alleging the escape of McCartney from the custody of the Sheriff of Coryville, Secret Service Division of the Treasury Department, has been received.

In reply I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of telegram received last evening from A. J. Evans, U. S. District Attorney for the same District and on the same subject, I requested Mr. Evans to direct the Attorney for the same District and file a copy of the telegram with you as applicant, and find it directly contradictory of the telegram of the Marshal to you.

The custody of McCartney was not at any time surrendered to the agents of the Secret Service Division. The latter were sent there in any way changed with the responsibility of his safe removal nor does it appear that McCartney escaped while en route to St. Louis. The facts already stated in reply are in full and complete answer to the opposite; I do not desire in this communication in case of a fuller and more so in the absence of the U. S. Marshal in the absence of the case. The escape was as reported by you. It seems however from this telegram clear, that the escape was as reported by you. It is difficult to see how it is possible that he was responsible for the safe keeping of McCartney, yet, inasmuch as he was present with his outlandish and shackles, and failed to advise them to be replaced, after the occasion for removal had passed away, and besides the circumstances as stated above, I have directed the Chief of the Service to cause his prompt removal from the place.

It will be for you in view of all the facts, to say what action you shall be taken in reference to the escape. I am Sir Very Respectfully,
BLUFORD WILSON,
Chief of the Treasury.

Not long after his escape from Calahan and Duckworth at Bremont, McCartney was again run down, captured and lodged in jail at Austin, Texas. He was subsequently transferred to Tyler, Texas, for request of his attorney, he became necessary to take the prisoner back again to Austin jail for safe keeping. He was taken

in charge by Deputy United States Marshals Allen and Blood, and for greater safety his irons were kept on his hands and feet. When some distance on the journey, as all parties were seated quietly in the railroad car, McCartney suddenly sprang from his seat, and as he sprang his shackles fell off and with a bound like a panther he was out on the platform of the car forward; there he stopped, out the alarm cord and instantly plunged off the train. The cutting of the alarm cord caused temporary delay and hence when the train came to a stand still, it was far away from where McCartney had sprung out. Beside, he this time was free from iron and had made a fair jump, struck the soil of Texas like a steel spring and hence acted off like an antelope. This was the last act of the drama of McCartney in Texas, in which the principal actor consented to appear. He had been arrested and allowed to escape for "positively the last time" in that state.

This last railroad adventure was in May 1875. Almost superhuman but needless efforts were made in the district to recapture McCartney. United States Marshal Purnell offered ten thousand dollars for the re-arrest of the fugitive counterfeiter and all Texas went wild with excitement over the subject. At Austin, Texas, during June, 1875, Deputy United States Marshals Allen and Blood were indicted and arrested for voluntarily and corruptly allowing the escape of McCartney from their train and their custody. The Marshals gave bonds and being tried soon after, were acquitted. And so another mysterious escape was added to the many in which the Great American Briber had been conspicuous already.

During October, Chief Elmer Washburn received a telegram from Indianapolis, Indiana, asking, "What reward would be paid for Pete McCartney?" An answer was telegraphed back stating that one thousand dollars would be paid for the arrest of McCartney, and the chief waited with impatience, directions as to when, where, and to whom he should have the pleasure of disbursing that amount of funds of the United States on that account. But there came no notice of arrest of McCartney, and the money, nothing more was communicated. Anxious to learn any news about McCartney, the chief telegraphed twice to know why the amount of reward had been asked of him. To neither of these telegrams was any reply received before the money was secured still more peculiar, a Special Operative was sent to Indianapolis in pursuit of information. Though a competent person, the special found the subject too dark for him, he could learn nothing regarding McCartney and no more of the

telegram. It seemed very queer.

Not many weeks afterwards a party was arrested in Cincinnati, engaged in showing counterfeit bills of the McCartney manufacture. This person was convicted in short order and was a receiver of stolen goods in the Hamilton county jail. He gave information that having in October, 1875, been concerned in a burglary, he had taken his plunder to Indianapolis, Indiana, and offered to sell the same to a pawnbroker known to him as a receiver of stolen goods. This pawnbroker, to keep "solid" with the police, that he might safely do some heavier business, gave the application then in hand to the force, and the burglar was arrested. At the time he knew whereabouts McCartney was, and secured his own release by telling the police where they could find him. They expected to get the ten thousand dollars reward offered by Marshal Purnell. When the burglar had thus given up his booty, he then turned to the room in the hotel while the police took McCartney from outside. McCartney's valise contained a large sum of counterfeit bills, which the burglar was arrested for passing. The telegraph message that McCartney was for him was shown McCartney, as was learned subsequently, when he offered twenty-five hundred dollars for his freedom. He did not have the amount with him, but sent by agreement with his captors, to Illinois for it. The money was sent to the police in this affair, and they were at a loss what to do with McCartney while they waited for Mrs. McCartney, to whom her husband had sent to raise the money and come to him. They tried to get him into the county jail, but without success, and the chief papers, but the jailer refused to com risk, and they guarded their prisoner elsewhere for three days. Then Martha McCartney came, with all the money she could raise at short notice, a little less than the ten thousand four hundred dollars. The prisoner threw in his gold watch to make up the amount and again was free. Several persons shared in the ill-gotten plunder taken from McCartney, but the lion's share remained with the principal trio who had him in custody.

It took the operatives of the Secret Service some time to gain full information about the above case and when the knowledge had been acquired it was of but little use; of the corruption of some of the local police had been learned before the time McCartney was known to be pushing his trade in counterfeit money, his bills being plenty. But he had become quite wary and fortune seemed to favor him for a season. McCartney himself has told the story that about the middle of August, 1876, he was sitting at dinner in the din-

ing hall of the Gibson House in Cincinnati, when Marshall Purnell, who last time received his share before had over ten thousand dollars in Texas for him, came in and sat down right opposite at table. McCartney said he was taken with the nose bleed all at once, or pretended to be, and suddenly left the table, but it was a ticklish place to be in, and but for a newspaper he happened to have in hand to cover his face, he thought Purnell would have taken him back to Texas at once.

During 1875, after his departure from Texas in the spring or early summer, McCartney was operating in the north, although traveling and giving attention at the same time to the wants of whole gangs of queersmen in the middle and western states. Though in possession of five farms in Illinois, on one of which, at Neoga, Cumberland county, his wife and three children lived, and though still retaining his accommodations at the home of Missouri Rittenhouse, at Osgood, Indiana, McCartney was compelled by the nature of his pursuits to have a secure stopping place in the East. He had a home made for him by Wauack Hammond and his wife, the latter being housekeeper. Hammond had served one term in the penitentiary for an express robbery committed near Seymour, Indiana. He belonged in Osgood, Indiana, and his wife was a daughter of Mrs. Clarissa Lee, a sister of Lyle Levi and Missouri Rittenhouse, Mrs. Hammond's maiden name having been Florida Lee. "Blood is thicker than water."

Though keeping himself outside prison walls, after his first term, up to time, Hammond had the reputation of a robber, gambler and con man of the most adroit character, and was supposed to have been hand in glove with the criminal horde that dominated the country around Seymour, Indiana, for a series of years, and which was only broken up when the "Reno boys" were killed by a vigilance committee.

Early in the year 1876 McCartney was at work in Illinois; he was captured by the local authorities in one of the towns in that state and "shaken down," that is, plundered illegally of his ill gotten cash and unnoticably turned loose. This was a chronic trouble with McCartney, and while it gave him his chance for criminal life, it was terribly expensive and became irksome from monotony and repetition. In February, 1876, McCartney, with one Shepherd, alias Charles Walters, alias Walter Scott, was canvassing Cincinnati, Ohio, "a city where things were manageable," as has been recorded. In passing McCartney's bills, Walters was arrested and committed. With characteristic fidelity and nerve McCartney "stood by his pal"

and did all mortal man could do for his release. At considerable personal risk, he appeared and re-appeared in the city and hovered around for months, spending both time and money in sagacious efforts in behalf of his comrade. At one time he placed twelve hundred dollars in the hands of a secret party to effect Walters' escape. How McCartney would have succeeded, could he and his old acquaintances on the city police been left to fix things, there is little doubt; but as it was, the best efforts of all concerned were hampered by the meddling curiosity of Estes G. Rathbone, an operative of the secret services. Walters was held for more than six months, and then his bail was reduced to one thousand dollars. This amount McCartney at once supplied, and it was put up by proper parties, when Walters was released. Having released his condotiere at last, McCartney joined forces with him and the two promptly shook from their pilgrim feet the dust of the metropolis of Ohio.

Having lost so much time and spent so much money, McCartney and Walters were anxious to redeem their somewhat damaged fortunes. Their next movement was toward the rising sun. They visited New York City, Richmond, Virginia, Washington, D. C., and Parkersburg, West Virginia, beside places of less note, in all of which they were zealous, yet discreet in laboring to promote prosperity by adding in their own way to the volume of the currency. They then journeyed west again over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The departure west was hastened, because McCartney, who was an excellent judge, conceived they had gone "dropped on," that is recognized by some detective and that they were "shadowed," that is, followed and watched. He even imagined a certain gentleman who took train with himself and Shepherd, alias Walters, alias Walter Scott, was an Operative of the Secret Service, an emissary of the troublesome Chief James J. Brooks. So impressed was McCartney with this idea, that about the time the parties entered Ohio, he and his comrade "shook," that is, dodged away from the supposed Operative and saw him no more.

Happy in having got rid of their suspicious fellow passenger, the conemen sped homeward toward Neoga, Illinois, where a mortgage upon one of his farms, and McCartney's immediate attention. Everything seemed peaceful around and all seemed prosperous before the "King of Koniackers" and his "Chancellor," but yet upon the authority of McCartney's subsequent positive affirmation there was riding beside them all the way to Carterly unsuspected, another pettinacious mar-

plot, a second agent of James J. Brooks, a duplicate of the secret service officer who had purposely got delicately "given him a dollar" as they entered Ohio. "The first fellow was a blind," said McCartney, "his shadowing was a ruse, when we shook him I was thrown off my guard somewhat, and as the second man was very quiet, he staid by us to the end."

Whether McCartney was correct in his supposition, none but the Operatives or Officers of the Secret Service could have decided. It is the nature of the Secret Service not to be communicative of matters not essential for publication. The careful reader will follow up the trail from his own conclusions, as to whether the grand results which immediately followed, were as the newspapers of the day reported, the incidents of an accident, or the legitimate and logical result of skill, patience and perfect organization.

On Wednesday afternoon, November 22nd, 1876, two well dressed travelers, of plain but respectable appearance and good manners, arrived at Richmond, Indiana, and put up with their luggage at the Neoga House, during the afternoon they were on the streets part of the time around town somewhat, and about seven o'clock in the evening, the younger man started to do a little shopping. He went first to Thomas Nestor's grocery and bought three plugs of chewing tobacco, for one dollar and tendered a twenty dollar bill. This the clerk "a good man, often examined by gaslight, declared "O. K." and gave nineteen dollars change. Rejoining his elder companion on the street, the purchaser of the tobacco, took his friend to the saloon of Frederick Rost, where they both drank at the bar. In payment, the young man offered a twenty dollar bill. Rost sent it into Lichtenfeld's saloon for change, where the bill was declared counterfeit. The strangers seemed painfully surprised at this information, but paid other money for their drinks.

In the saloon at this time, was a young man named Perry Scott, who concluded, oddly enough, that the two strangers were professional conmen and shovers. Scott sent word by Howard Ridge to Marshal Louis O. Shafer, and followed the men with the bill up the street. At Erie Reynold's store, one of them bought a pair of shoes, tendered a twenty dollar bill and took seventeen dollars and twenty-five cents in change. Further up the street, the young man, bought vinegar bottles and tendered another twenty dollar bill, and took nineteen dollars and twenty-five cents in change. The travelers then came to Gilbert's shoe store and there one of them went in and selected a pair of shoes. It seemed a point with these men, that the eldest

should keep on the street and meet out of sight and to have a little conference after each purchase. To Mr. Gilbert a twenty dollar bill was also offered, which he declared counterfeit. The younger man asked him with an expression of annoyance, to lay the shoes aside for him, until he could call for them later and stepped out into the street once more.

Meantime something had happened. Marshal Shafer now seems to have been most fortunately at hand and exceedingly alert, from the time the two good looking travelers reached Richmond, had come down at the call of Howard Ridge and appearing to have made up his mind before him as to his duty, arrested the elder stranger very quietly at McLaughlin and Russell's bakery, opposite Gilbert's shoe store, into which bakery, the traveler had gone to await his comrade. When the young traveler left Gilbert's the Marshal with the friend from the bakery on his arm, confining his attention to the elder hand upon his shoulder, urged him to make one of a party to visit the Mayor of Richmond! The travelers made some objection to this, but the Marshal would accept no excuse and a little further on, invited a policeman to join the party and thus concluded his company to the hospitalities of a Richmond calaboose!

On the person of the captives was found two thousand seven hundred and thirteen dollars, which Mr. William Coffin of the Richmond National Bank, decided to consist of eight hundred and sixty dollars in counterfeit bills, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three dollars of genuine money.

Among the counterfeiters were several good imitations of fifty dollar bills of the United States Treasury, greenback series, issued in 1869, with thirty two counterfeit bills, counterfeit bills of United States Treasury Notes, of the first issue of greenbacks, while the rest were counterfeit bills of the five dollar bills of The Traders National Bank, of Chicago. The twenty dollar bills were excellent, but the five's rather poor imitations in comparison. Beside, the travelers carried a lot of valuable watches, jewelry, etc. They gave their names as Boland and Carter, but when brought before United States Commissioner Wesley Thumley, November 24d, 1876, they received examination and gave their names as Charles Lang and Henry Boland, the latter being the younger. Charles Lang, was held to answer before the United States Court, in the sum of two thousand dollars, which he was reduced to fifteen hundred dollars and the last amount, he offered to deposit. His request was refused and his committal ordered. The bail of Boland was fixed at fifteen hundred dollars, for want of which

he was also sent to jail. That night, Lang, still disposed to trade, offered Marshal Shafer, seventeen hundred dollars, for a small steel saw. To his credit the Marshal had no hardware to sell, under such circumstances.

Early the next morning of November 23rd, the luggage of Lang and Boland was brought for examination from the Avenue House and found to contain four thousand dollars in counterfeit bills, similar to those found upon the prisoners. It was also found, that they are "Richmond" men, from Parkersburg, West Virginia. It was arranged to take the prisoners to Indianapolis, Indiana, for safe keeping and trial and Marshal Shafer made provision according to orders.

In the meantime, Secret Service Operative Estes G. Rathbone, located O'Connell already been stated in Cincinnati, Ohio, seeing an account of the arrest of Lang and Boland reported in the telegrams of the Cincinnati Commercial, newspaper, conceived that he knew them for other things they called themselves. He telegraphed in cipher his suspicions to Chief James J. Brooks and was instantly instructed to proceed to Richmond and identify the parties under arrest, if possible. Rathbone telegraphed the officers at Richmond to hold their prisoners, until he could see their faces and then throw himself into the fast train and was off after his telegram, fast as the wheels could take him.

Rathbone arrived in Richmond, Thursday night, November 23rd, but did not see Lang and Boland, until Friday morning, November 24th, when Marshal Shafer and Chief of Police Harney removed them from jail to the train for Indianapolis. The Cincinnati Operative, in the course of long and useful service, has acquired the sobriquet of "Reluctant Rathbone" and on this occasion was true to his record, whatever he discovered, he gave no sign, but joined the party for Indianapolis in the most common place style possible. When safely arrived at their destination, Rathbone took Shafer and Harney into his confidence and quietness was none other than his great satisfaction, he recognized in the old man called Lang, one for whom he had searched high and low, for nearly a year and in pursuit of whom, he had spent five thousand dollars. Charles Lang, he assured them, was none other than the notorious "Pete McCartney," the most dangerous coneyman of America or the world, disguised for the time, by wearing a full beard. Shafer and Harney, are said to have been "fairly doubled up with astonishment," but they kept their own council and not a dozen words concerning the news, until they had attended the proceedings before the United States Court, came

out, the following day, in the Indianapolis Journal. The prisoners, as soon as they arrived in Indianapolis, were taken before United States Commissioner Bixby for preliminary examination and sent to jail in default of two thousand dollars. Lang and Boland, fifteen hundred dollars for Boland. The officers then went directly before the Grand Jury and about four o'clock in the afternoon, four indictments were returned against Charles Lang, alias Andrew Long, and Henry Boland, alias Walter Long, under which names, they were at once arraigned in the United States Court, before Judge Gresham.

The accused were represented by General Thomas W. Bennett, late Governor of Idaho, the legal gentleman who had defended them at Richmond. When called upon to plead, the prisoners, by their counsel, asked time to consider. McCartney was not accustomed to such rapid proceedings; much can be done in time, as he had often proved; but, of time he had been able to secure little for reduction. Rathbone had baffled him in Cincinnati, and here in Indianapolis, his energy and activity had inspired a kind of legal whirlwind, which set with irresistible force toward the doors of the penitentiary. Rathbone had been thanked for his assistance in making up the papers of the case; besides McCartney realized, that behind these Officers and these Operatives, there was an able and determined Chief. In Marshal Shafer he had found, at last, a honest man he could get by wares of; he had been able to secure, but of time he had seemed a lost art; his iron, his guards, the place, all forbade the thought of escape; the fates seemed to have turned against him finally, and there was nary from the star of hope, nothing left but to make if possible, terms with destiny.

After long hesitation, the prisoners both decided to plead guilty to the Court, in one indictment, though praying that the sentence be reserved until Tuesday of the following week, November 28th. The petition was granted and on being informed of the true identity and character of the culprit, Judge Gresham ordered the Marshal to iron them heavily and put them, under a strong guard, in the government building; he also gave Rathbone permission to place a guard of Secret Service men over them. They were accordingly taken together and placed in a strong room, that Friday night, November 24th, with a guard of four trusty men over them.

The news of the dilemma of McCartney, flew like lightning over the country, as it was known that he was the possessor of the tin and twenty dollar counterfeit plate on the Treasury Note, outside the vaults, of Secret Service Division of the Treasury

Department, there was intense anxiety among the whole community of quakers and shovers in general. Quite a number of his associates came and sought to see McCartney, hoping to get some piece to steel upon which more than all else, was based the success of every coney man in the business. But whatever plea was made, no one was allowed access to the prisoners, except McCartney's wife and she was so closely watched by the ever present guards, that any collusion was impossible.

The room of the United States District Court, at Indianapolis was densely crowded, when on Tuesday, November 28th, 1876, John Peter McCartney and Shepherd, alias Charles Walters, were brought before Judge Gresham for final sentence. McCartney is known in the records of the Court, only as Charles Lang, Boland, alias Andrew Long, and Walters as Henry Boland, alias Walter Scott; under these names they were arraigned and pleaded guilty and under these names, sentence was passed upon them. The prisoners were brought into Court shackled together by the wrists and were presented to the Court by the District Attorney, who read the indictment against them, upon which they had plead guilty; the charge being; having passed a twenty dollar counterfeit United States Treasury Note, upon one John Eggenmeyer of Richmond, Indiana. The District Attorney then stated the circumstances of the arrest and the large quantity of counterfeit money found upon the persons of the prisoners at the time they were taken. He also stated to the Court, that the man Lang or Long had been identified as Pete McCartney, the most notorious and daring counterfeiter in our history. He also proposed offering testimony, as to McCartney's character and previous career. Major Gordon who appeared as counsel for the defendants, objected to the introduction of proof of their former character, assigning strictly legal grounds for his protest in the case.

Major Gordon then proceeded and made an eloquent plea for mitigation of punishment, asking that the culprits have room for reform, rather than endure the full penalty and rigor of the law. After Gordon's address, Judge Gresham asked the prisoners if they wished to say anything before sentence was passed upon them? To the inquiry of the Judge, McCartney replied; "Not for myself, may it please your Honor; but for this young man," pointing to his associate Walters. The Court then ordered their irons to be removed and that the prisoners stand before the bar. His Honor then addressed McCartney, as follows: There is little hope for reform

for a man who has run your course, down, not often reform. You are a man of talent and courage, and of years and therefore, I repeat, there is little hope of reform. It is my duty to sentence you to fifteen years at hard labor in the state prison, North, and to enter a fine of five hundred dollars.

During the time the Judge addressed him, McCartney stood unflinching, but when the Judge named the term of imprisonment, a slight drooping of the eye, gave token of his consciousness of the severity of his punishment. The Court then turned to the younger prisoner and proceeded to pass sentence. It is to the credit of human nature, that even in his hour of ruin and doom, McCartney was not forgetful of the misfortunes of his younger cousin, as it shown by his earnestness and force of purpose, he interrupted the Court and exclaimed,

"Your Honor! All the stories against him are false; he is the victim of circumstances, when handed over to me, he didn't know me. He isn't to blame. Hard times, destitution and the wants of a family, have driven this young man on to the business and I hope and trust that in view of these facts your Honor will be merciful. Judge Gresham interrupted McCartney, saying: The prisoner has more than ordinary capacity for crime, as is shown by his association. The Court therefore entered a fine of one hundred dollars and sentences him to ten years at hard labor, in the state prison, North." Walters accepted his fifteen year punishment, with the same firm demeanor as his leader and the chief apostle and the two condemned men were then removed from Court to close confinement in custody of the United States Marshal, who immediately began preparations for their removal to the prison at North, which had been assigned for so many long years.

The sudden disappearance from Indianapolis of the large number of known coney men who had convened in that city during the proceedings against McCartney and Walters, excited the apprehension of some desperate conspirators to release the sentenced men and the marshals and secret service men were in dread of some successful raid which might be attempted somewhere along the route between Indianapolis and Michigan City, the place where the "tin and conspiracy" was located. At four o'clock and twenty minutes in the afternoon of the day of their sentence, Tuesday, November 28, 1876, McCartney and Walters, in charge of nine able and determined men, took the train north from Indianapolis, for Michigan City. The guard consisted of five Agents of the United States Marshals, under command of captain Will David; also Messrs. E. G. Rath-

home and F. C. Tuttle, of the secret service operatives, with Col. George Parker and H. C. Adams.

Dauger was autographed, and the "fitting" and wrecking of the train considered probable. Hence the guard was a number one, and as reliable in quality as large in numbers. To these extraordinary precautions it may have been due that the night passed quietly, the train ran regularly, and that the whole party arrived at Michigan City in due season and without accident on the morning of Wednesday, November 29, 1876, just one week from the day of his last arrest at Richmond. During the whole night of the journey McCartney conversed freely with those about him, regarding his business, and the incidents of his varied and active life, yet he communicated little that was entirely new, which the detectives would have been pleased to learn. He professed to regard his case as hopeless, but proposed good behavior in prison, on, though claiming to be incapable of hard labor through ill health, still he declared in all ways he would do his best. Since his sentence was in effect for life. On arriving at the penitentiary McCartney became dreadfully pale and when the prison doors closed on him he for the first time gave way almost to despair. He heaved a profound sigh as if his heart were broken, his eyes turned glassy, like one convulsed. He struggled for composure, but his talk became rambling, in his manner incoherent to a pitiable degree. "In five minutes of time one who was present, he grew in looks ten years older." Walters kept up an appearance of calm indifference, in striking contrast with the manner of his older associate. During the forenoon the heads of the train were slaved and in the course of the day they were assigned their numbers, made acquainted with their duties and became established as inmates of the penitentiary.

When ordinary men are immured in prison, to serve long terms of years, it is as if the grave had closed over them; the felon is dead in law, even his wife is released from her duty as such, just as if he were buried. McCartney was not an ordinary man and when he disappeared suddenly, it was as if some great wreck had gone down at sea, the waters tossed and were troubled, while ruin engulfed smaller craft around. Moreover, in his own way and time, he sought for freedom, and beside, when that hope failed, found means to reach out from it. Having tombs and strike a powerful blow at once and at the very hearts of those he conceived had wronged and outraged him.

McCartney had always been a man who kept his own confidences and when he was sentenced, no person in the world knew

where he had hidden the counterfeit plate of the famous twenty dollar Treasury Notes. When McCartney was arrested at Richmond, Indiana, Wednesday, November 29, 1876, Wanck Hammond, in the town, was not.

He not only managed to escape himself but took away with him for safety a trunk belonging to McCartney containing as Hammond knew, a large amount of counterfeit money and some plates. After McCartney had been confined in Michigan City, Hammond, as he had agreed with McCartney, somehow turned all this crooked property over to Mrs. McCartney in the most straightforward manner. Describing this trunk full of materials for a new property, McCartney managed by letter to instruct his wife to retain and care for the whole lot, expecting after a while to make its surrender conducive to his pardon. Of all these things, Martha McCartney, now in law a widow, made safe parcels and "planted" them on her farm at Neoga, Illinois.

Beside the extensive unencumbered lands he left his family when he was imprisoned, McCartney left his wife about ten thousand dollars one way and another in cash. With her experience, capital stock, plates and "cooney," Mrs. McCartney could have done a great business as a wholesale manufacturer and dealer among the cooney men far and near, who groaned in spirit and would not be comforted, because of the lack of the money they had some twenty. It is to be remembered to the woman's credit, whatever may be charged hereafter, that she gave no place to temptation in this direction, but managed her farms, cared for her three children, and lived quietly without offense to any for some time. While all this had been going on in Neoga, at his homestead, McCartney concocted and nearly carried out a scheme which gave the officials at Michigan City prison a first-class scare and furnished the newspapers an item of immense sensation. The history of the matter was embodied by telegram as follows: "Michigan City, Ind., April 28th, 1877.—Charles Lang, alias Pete McCartney, the notorious counterfeit, made an unsuccessful attempt to make his escape from the prison here last night, about nine o'clock, but was detected by the night guard. He had sawed off three of the bars to his cell door, and after the guard had passed along his tier of cells and to the second tier above, Lang got out on a quiet walk down to the outer door of the cell house. While opening the door the guard saw and at once went for and found him standing between the wooden door and the iron grating. When asked what he was doing, he simply said he was going out. It had made himself a pair of pants out of one of his blankets and

ad a knit shirt over his striped one. Lang has served but six months of his fifteen years sentence."

"McCartney at his old tricks," observed those who read the news, and the general public took no further note, but it compelled greater rigor in the confinement of the prisoner, for the risk had been excessive. So great was the severity considered requisite, that he complained of injury to his health. Still there must have been humanity and indulgence in some respects to the great jail breaker; he was permitted to write and allowed to hear from his family. Eye and ear were the only means from Neoga, was such as to afflict him more than ever the hardships of his imprisonment. It is probable there would have been less freedom of correspondence allowed had there not been a hope that somehow he or some one addressing himself would reveal something of importance regarding for instance the twenty dollar plate.

At Neoga, Illinois, for years past, there has resided and practiced a certain Dr. Lewis H. Mason, a physician and musician of the McCartney, and when McCartney was imprisoned, he having already been trusted professionally in the most delicate matters and consulted on affairs of life and death, became naturally enough the complete confidant and general adviser of the especially tried and lone woman. Under the circumstances the true character of Dr. Mason became manifest. He became enamored, as he told her, of the charms of Martha, and by the exception of some circumstances, swayed her to his amatory purpose. Having separated from his own wife and family, he, it is said, consorted and cohabited with Mrs. McCartney continually and finally sought to secure a divorce himself, so that he might be free to marry her as he was accustomed, in their hours of dalliance, to ascribe to the ardor of the passion kindled in him by admiration and love of her. Meantime Mrs. Mason gave the illicit lovers little trouble, and she was not at all true to the whole intent of her husband, which they affirm was to fascinate and marry the counterfeiter's wife and get possession of her property, and then return by reverse process to his first darling with undiminished love and lots of money. However, this may have been, Mrs. McCartney lavished, it is said, much cash, as well as tenderness, upon the supposed to be double dealing man of medicine, until at last the matter became a public scandal. Over the walls of his cell were not thick enough to keep it from McCartney, and when he learned this of the mother of his children, she who wasted upon her lover the money he had won by crimes which sent him to rot in prison, he was aroused to bitter jealousy and driven almost to literal madness.

Brooding moodily upon the subject, in the

stern solitude of his cell, McCartney realized the force of that passion which inspired the Scotch poet, Robert Burns, when separated from his well-loved fiancée, Jean Armour, as expressed in his Lament:—

"Oh! can she bear so base a heart,
So false a man may be unsworn!
As from the fondest lover part,
The plighted husband of her youth!
And live in peace and amorous
Her way may be through rough distress!
Then who her pangs and pains will soothe
Her sorrow, fears, and ceaseless tears?"

He wrote reproachful letters to his wife, and when he found there was neither change nor reformation, he yielded his mind to gloomy suggestions of revenge, and developed a morbidness of mind, which he carried to the United States courts, and the most earnest work of the best men of the secret service in furtherance of his purpose.

Highly gratified as Chief James J. Brooks, Operator E. G. Rathbone, Operative F. C. Tuttle, and all concerned, were, and had a right to be, over the conviction and imprisonment of McCartney; pleased as they were at the failure of his bold and well-planned attempt at escape, still these worthy gentlemen, in looking at the man, and with the coyness, there was one question unanswered which vexed their souls, and every day grew more and more pressing and important. What had become of the plate for the counterfeit twenties? Until this was decided, there could be no peace, no dream of safety, and to the solution of this problem Rathbone gave a deal of intelligent work and observation. Of course the people at Neoga were carefully watched, but little was to be expected, except of some escapades and proposed matrimonial recombinations. McCartney had expected that with the "goods" he had left in her possession and the "floods property," his wife would purchase his release, at least make a faithful effort to do so. When the time for the kind was attempted, that his handsome Martha had "gone with a handsomer man," his resentment overcame his reserve, he determined others should not enjoy either riches or freedom, and he was right, or wrong, counterfeiter and prisoner, though he might be! He intimated to certain persons his disposition, and finally, during the year 1878, denounced Martha Ann McCartney and Dr. Lewis H. Mason of Neoga Illinois, as counterfeiters, thieves and having in their possession a large amount of dangerous material, the "plant" he had left behind him when compelled to quit the business.

Mrs. McCartney was from that time very closely "shadowed" by Rathbone and his agents; a proceeding she was much too experienced and acute not to become fully aware of almost immediately. As the watch upon her grew closer and closer month after month, McCartney became alarmed. She had informed Dr. Mason of her possession of the counterfeit plates and places, which

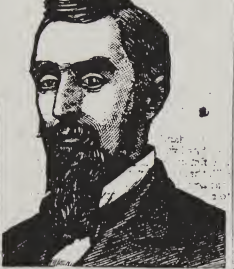
knowledge he kept as a "professional" secret; no one else except McCartney and perhaps Wanck Hammond were aware of the facts, yet she was fearful the plant would be found and that trouble would come of the discovery. Accordingly she planned for greater safety, and her action implies that she was not so forgetful of her husband's claims, at least in the matter of property as may have been imagined. In the emergency she applied to "Jake" McCartney, a cousin of her husband, living in the town of Enea, not many miles from her own farm in Neoga. On November 10th, 1878, Jake McCartney visited Martha McCartney at her own home. They then had a private interview, and Martha told Jake that she had some plates that Wanck Hammond had left with her, which she wished him to take charge of and bury them, and never dig them up, or never let anybody know about them or have them except herself and Peter her husband. Jake accepted the custody of the plates without examination, leaving them for a time in the place pointed out to him by Mrs. McCartney.

Taking the matter into consideration, Jake McCartney, for his own reasons, concluded to turn the plates over to other hands, and early in the New Year, 1879, he communicated the information Martha McCartney had given him, to Operative E. G. Rathbone, of the Secret Service. Without delay Operatives E. G. Rathbone and W. W. Hall followed the lead of Jake McCartney to Neoga, and there, on or about January 21st, 1879, Jake dug up the great plant which was at once taken possession of by the Operatives mentioned and conveyed to Chicago, Illinois. The plates included the famous McCartney plate for printing counterfeit twenty dollar Treasury notes and twenty-one thousand dollars of counterfeit made from it; beside one thousand dollars in counterfeit of the five dollar bills of the "Traders' National Bank, of Chicago, Illinois." The satisfaction of Chief James J. Brooks and the whole Treasury Department over the capture of this plate, and "the accompanying documents," is readily to be imagined.

On January 29th, 1879, Dr. Lewis H. Mason was arrested by Operative E. G. Rathbone, at Hackleman, Indiana, and taken to Chicago, Illinois. Nothing like counterfeit money was found upon him, however. He was indicted for passing counterfeit money, upon evidence furnished by the government. Martha McCartney was arrested at Neoga, Illinois, February 12th, 1879, and held, being charged with having in her possession "metal plates" for printing counterfeit twenty dollar Treasury notes.

The trial of Dr. Lewis H. Mason began in the United States Court at Springfield, Illinois, March 21, 1879. The principal witness was John Peter McCartney, who was brought by *habeas corpus*, from prison

at Michigan City, Indiana, to give his testimony. He stated that he had known Mason since 1871, and that through Lizze Philibeck he made his acquaintance at Neoga, Illinois, and subsequently learned he was engaged in the same business as himself, that of making and passing counterfeit money. McCartney also gave an account to some extent, of his own operations, and declared that in the early days of October, 1878, Dr. Mason had been with him at Decatur, Illinois, and that there, on the sixth or seventh of the month, Mason had taken from him several counterfeit twenty dollar bills, which Mason passed upon different parties. William Meiderneyer, Peter Hoffman, William Dennis and William Skelley, all of Decatur, Illinois, testified that they knew Mason to be the man who, on the days named, or thereabout, passed counterfeit twenty dollar bills upon them, or in their presence, at Decatur. Secret Service Operatives, E. G. Rathbone, W. W. Hall and Will Nichols, with Emily McCartney, Jake McCartney and Martha A. McCartney, testified to facts already stated in this narrative.



DR. LEWIS H. MASON.

The case seemed decisive against the accused, when the defence was called and Dr. A. Richardson, Captain M. A. Ewing, John Wells, Dr. Beagan, Mrs. M. Harts and Luke Vaughn with Dr. Mason himself, all of Neoga, Illinois, testified. The defence proved absolutely that Mason had, at the time stated, been in Neoga, absorbed in the practice of his profession as a physician and could not have been out of Neoga anywhere for twenty-four hours, from October 3d to October 16th, 1878. The District Attorney announced that he desired to call several

witnesses in rebuttal, but they had not yet arrived from Decatur. The Court thereupon adjourned.

John Peter McCartney was turned over to the Indiana Deputy Marshals and taken back to the State of Indiana at Michigan City. Evidently his thunderbolt at Mason had failed of its purpose, fallen almost harmless to the ground, yet McCartney's wife had testified upon her husband's side and it was reported that something like a reconciliation between them had grown out of the better understanding born of explanations in the case. Though foiled, baffled and stripped of his treasury and facilities in the Coney line, it is probable McCartney went to his cell in a softer mood and better state of mind than for many months before. There, in prison, he still remains, short of his power for evil, growing rapidly old. Hard, indeed, must be the hearts would add to his punishment, even with his record before them. There are basic virtues in the crooked nature of the old man, and now it cannot be mere sentimentalism to hope they may grow upon him with his years, and if never here, why then that in a world where treasury notes are not legal tender, he may develop to the man he might have been, instead of the old man he was. "There is little hope of reform," said Judge Gresham, passing sentence. It is pleasant to remember there are other courts and another Judge. Before Him all hearts are known and the question: "Who maketh you to differ?" finds a just and final answer. There is always some hope of reformation.

All the witnesses for the defence were to the former good character of Dr. Lewis H. Mason, besides proving an alibi in his behalf, the case against him ended in his favor by a verdict of not guilty, given at Springfield, Illinois, March 22, 1879. A second indictment then pending, was finally settled by a *nolle pro*. Whether the original case was one of mistaken identity, of malicious falsification, or the two combined, has not yet been made clear. At all events the doctor established an alibi, so complete and based on such professional incidents and by such unquestionable evidence as secured an acquittal. The government witnesses were wholly mistaken either at the time of the transactions or as to the identity of Mason. McCartney and the government officers say the mistake was as to person. Be this as it may, the verdict as to the jury could not be other than "not guilty" on the evidence.

For this breach of conjugal duty Dr. Mason was severely punished. Though having a character the peer of any man's for years, he fell into disorder and disrespect, and finally was entangled in such a web that but for the sympathy of old friends and the faithfulness of his brothers, who had some money and one of whom was a lawyer, he would, under the evidence produced against him, have undoubtedly been sent

to the penitentiary. It was a terrible ordeal, a fearful danger, moreover the cash spent was about two thousand dollars. It is said that Doctor Mason has been forgiven by his prepossessing and attractive wife, and they and their son of some seven years constitute a happy family. "All is well that ends well."



MRS. MARTHA A. MCCARTNEY.

In the United States Court at Springfield, Illinois, Martha A. McCartney pleaded guilty to the charge of having in her possession a plate from which to make counterfeit money.

On motion of the District Attorney James A. Connolly, sentence was suspended, and the prisoner discharged on her own recognizance in the sum of five hundred dollars. Two other indictments against her for having and circulating counterfeit money, were dismissed. This compromise of her case was effected in pursuance of an agreement by which Martha A. McCartney, the best informed person in the world upon such matters, now out of prison, is to give up all the information in her possession regarding the persons formerly connected with her husband, John Peter McCartney, in making and passing counterfeit money. There are several cases pending, in which her testimony is of exceeding importance, and there is not an intelligent queersman in the country but realizes the increase of danger to himself and all his partners since John Peter McCartney's dark-eyed wife, the Queen of the Konickers, has thus "given hostages to fortune," placed herself under binding obligation and joined hands and brain with the Secret Service Division of the United States Treasury Department for their utter extermination.

THE DESPERADO COUNTERFEITER;

MAN OF MYSTERY;

ROBBER AND MURDERER;

MILES OGLE,

ALIAS

GEORGE W. OGLE, Alias J. F. OGLEBY,

Alias GEORGE W. WILSON.



MILES OGLE.

The capture and conviction of John Peter McCartney, soon after the appointment of James J. Brooks to be Chief of the Secret Service Division of the United States Treasury Department, was the first great and successful blow in the war of extermination, which that competent and energetic officer has ever since directed against the allied forces of the criminal fraternity of American Counterfeiters. When McCartney was immured in the Indiana state prison, North, at Michigan City, in that state, the ablest and most competent crime lawyer left outside of prison walls was Miles Ogle, whose desperate life and crafty adventures with those of his relatives and partners, are the subject of the succeeding pages.

Miles Ogle was born in 1841, in the

state of New York, of German parentage. The name of his father was George Ogle and there were two sons, Miles Ogle and John Ogle, who both followed the same course of life and appear together in this comprehensive record. The Ogle family moved West at an early date, being a roving tribe and first became known to the detectives in the year 1862. In that year, George Ogle the father, procured a flat-boat and embarking on the Ohio River, at a point near Cincinnati or further up the stream, with his wife and two sons Miles and John, started toward the Mississippi upon an expedition in which plunder seems to have been the main important object. At Portland opposite Louisville, Kentucky, the family party were arrested, but discharged for want of evidence. At Rockport, Indiana, still further down the river, they were again suspected of robberies and an attempt was made to arrest them. As the officer came on board the boat, Miles Ogle, then a young fellow about twenty-one years of age, pointed a gun at the intruder's breast and shot him dead. For this, Miles was sentenced to five years imprisonment in the Indiana state's prison, South, at Jeffersonville in that state, a penalty which the offender fully served out. It must be supposed there were palliating circumstances in this case, or the extreme penalty of the law for murder would have at once cut short the criminal career thus ominously begun.

Having finished his term of five years in the Indiana state's prison, Miles Ogle proved himself a worthy scholar of the school from which he graduated. He almost immediately joined the Indiana "Reno gang," a combination of bandits and scoundrels which for years was the terror of all Southern Indiana and actually subjected and tyrannized over whole counties in the most audacious and lawless manner. In 1868, Miles Ogle, Frank Reno and Mike Rogers, were guilty of robbing the safe of the Treasurer of Mills Co., Iowa, and were convicted and committed to Sydney Jail in that county, from which they all presently escaped.

In 1868, Miles Ogle, Frank Reno and Mike Rogers, besides the Reno brothers, who were finally lynched, included many hard characters, such as Lyle Levi, Jefferson Rittenhouse, Mike Rogers and others. Lyle Levi was the "boss" shover for Pete McCartney for a long time and Jeff Rittenhouse was the husband of Mazura or Missouri Rittenhouse. Lyle Levi's sister and mistress of the Lyle headquarters at Osgood, Indiana, were McCartney as "the best friend she had on earth," came often to arrange matters for many of the "mystery" doersman of the time. It is not at all surprising that McCartney and Ogle should become acquainted and that in 1868 and 1869, the

two worked in partnership, Ogle residing at Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he engaged in the constant manufacture of counterfeiters of the five dollar United States Treasury Note, of the greenback variety, issue of March 10th, 1863, and of the Twenty Dollar United States Treasury Note of the greenback variety of the issue of March 10th, 1862, from plates then just finished by the deft hands of "Professor Joseph Woods" in his true character as John Peter McCartney.

Through his operations in partnership with McCartney, Miles Ogle became known to the Operatives of the Secret Service Division, the Treasury Department up to that time having no definite information respecting his criminal propensities. Miles Ogle married Ida Johnston, a daughter of George Johnston, Senior, the son of Charles Rhodes Johnston, now over eighty years of age. The patriarch Charles lives about three miles from Indianapolis, Indiana, and was the father of Charles Rhodes Johnston, 2nd, some thirty-two or thirty-five years of age; of William Rhodes Johnston, now twenty-five years old; of George Johnston Jr., aged seventeen, of Ida Johnston aged fifteen and three sisters, namely: Ida Johnston aged twenty-nine or thirty, now Mrs. Miles Ogle, Laura Johnston and Lizzie Johnston the two last being some nineteen or twenty years old.

During a part of 1869 and 1870, "Pete" McCartney was as has been recorded in his biography, at Rolla, Missouri, where Miles Ogle also located with McCartney and did the printing of the counterfeit five dollar United States Treasury Note, from McCartney's plates already described. Ogle stole seventy-five thousand dollars of these notes from McCartney and put them in the hands of dealers and shovers in Cincinnati, Ohio. McCartney was driven away from Rolla by the intrusion of officers of the law, as noted in "Dye's Government Counterfeit Detector" for August, 1870, page forty-second. The partnership of McCartney and Ogle broken up, no settlement being effected and Ogle was next seen in Philadelphia, Pa., where he was known to those whose business it was to observe him, as the alleged manufacturer of counterfeit notes. Still in 1870, a raid was made upon the place on Seventh street, where Ogle was said to carry on his criminal industry. When the Operatives of the Secret Service entered the premises where the "mill" was supposed to be, they found a press, a marking machine, ink, pot and scraps of bank note paper. The evidence that counterfeiting was carried on there was strong but not positive, meanwhile the proprietor of the illicit material escaped the vigilance of the Operatives and found

green fields and pastures new in a distant part of the commonwealth.

In 1871, Miles Ogle was arrested under the name of George W. Wilson, at Pittsburg, Pa., on a charge of indictment and the bill was found against him for counterfeiting, in October of that year; the charge against him being the making and having a plate for printing counterfeiters of the five dollar United States Treasury Notes, and passing bills of that character. The man was committed to jail and so getting at large, he kept out of sight and forfeited his bonds, the Honorable Court not having the satisfaction of seeing his countenance for several years. The fugitive was described as a large stoutly built man, now thirty years old, six feet high and weighing two hundred and thirty pounds, of generally prepossessing appearance, with an intelligent look, his speech slightly Teutonic and his manners those of an educated German. His hair was a dark brown and exceedingly thick and he wore his whiskers carefully trimmed around his face. He made a good subject for a picture and the illustration at the head of this article is a good engraving from an excellent photograph of him. It is to be regretted that the temperance in his habits, drinking quite freely, a thing which damaged his looks and depraved still more his disposition; just as intoxication affects whoever is betrayed into an infatuation of that kind.

There was a great difference between "Pete" McCartney and Miles Ogle. The first although exceedingly shrewd and quick-witted was sometimes reckless, seeming in some cases to almost enjoy being involved in danger, because of the chance it gave his genius for trickery, bribery and sharp practice, in getting the best of his enemies his German blood, was more phlegmatic, careful and secretive. The man would have made a first-class diplomatist, had his destiny called him to such a position. Something interesting in illustration of his traits of character and method of management, will appear in the proper place further on in this narrative. As might have been expected, the whereabouts and whatabouts of Miles Ogle, for a time after he forfeited his bail at Pittsburg, Pa., in 1871, have not become matter of official record. From those who were his comrades in crime and from their customers, comes the very probable report, that he did not trouble himself with distant travel, but applied his mind to the same pursuits as before, just as though courts and law had become a mere "voidance" of no effect" in his sagacious case.

However on the twelfth of March, 1873, Miles Ogle was again arrested in Philadelphia, Pa.; for having engraved a set of

plates for printing counterfeiters of the five dollar United States Treasury Notes; for having the same in possession and for altering and providing counterfeiters of the five dollar United States Treasury Notes. He was taken before the United States Commissioner and after examination held for trial in default of twelve thousand dollars bail. May 23d, 1873, the prisoner was taken to Pittsburg, Pa., to be tried on a charge of counterfeiting, under the name of George W. Wilson, on an indictment already mentioned as found against him in 1871, on which he had forfeited his bail. Ogle remained in Pittsburg jail, until October 19, 1873, when having surrendered to United States Marshal George Swoope, one set of copper plates, in four pieces, for printing counterfeiters of the five dollar United States Treasury Notes and a set of steel plates, in two pieces, for printing counterfeiters of the "Spenser Head" variety of the fifty cent Notes of the United States Fractional Currency, with a large amount of counterfeit money, he was admitted to bail, upon the understanding that he was to give aid in detecting the crime in which he had been discovered to be an expert.

Ogle persuaded District Attorney Swoope that the revelations he made of the manner of counterfeiting, would enable the government to put an end to that crime at once and forever, "a consummation devoutly to be wished," but one even yet unattained, and as appears from recent developments, as far removed at present as ever. Still that wretch Ogle, who contented in this way had great value doubtless at the time, and moreover he pledged himself to assist effectually in the apprehension of several distinguished counterfeiters and criminals then abroad and active in various parts of the country. Swoope admonished Ogle to quit his criminal career and to keep his promises to the authorities, to all of which the culprit faithfully and solemnly pledged himself, whereupon he was released on bail October 18th, 1873. The information given by Ogle at this time led to the arrest of several notorious quakers and reprobates and subsequently he worked for a considerable time in co-operation with the officers of the government, but finally withdrew from that honorable association and was presently again involved in mystery.

Migrating from Pittsburg, Ogle moved west and took up his residence first at Cincinnati, Ohio, and next at a place in the country not far from that city, in the vicinity of a town or village called Cheviot. There he rented a small farm and kept a country variety store, but whether petty agriculture was his avocation or sufficient to monopolize his attention and fully employ his talents, the reader must

peruse the succeeding paragraphs to discover. Chief H. C. Wintley and Col. Snelbaker were at one time close upon his track, but just as they got him fairly located, he took the alarm and fled to parts unknown. Ogle was again seen in Cincinnati soon after Bill Mills and Romain Lohrer were sent to the penitentiary, though not implicated in any new crime.

Sometime about August, 1876, there appeared a new counterfeit, of the denomination of ten dollars, on the Richmond National Bank of Richmond, Indiana. Soon after, another counterfeit of the same denomination was issued, on Lafayette National Bank, of Lafayette, Indiana, and in November of the same year still another, on the Muncie National Bank, of Muncie, Indiana. The three counterfeit bills were evidently from the same plates, the variations in the names of the banks and their locations being created by artistic changes in the title lines of the work. Experts and Operatives of the Secret Service considered these bills the handiwork of Miles Ogle, but he was so well under cover that no one could find him, and so carefully arranged was his method of operations, that it seemed impossible to discover from what source came the great quantities of these counterfeit pieces which were rapidly thrown into circulation.

A plan was at one time arranged, by which the famous Henry C. Cole, the counterfeitur, whose record appears in the March issue of "Dye's Government Counterfeit Detector," was to be made instrumental in locating Ogle, and the "expedition" was accordingly given by Cole himself, affording an insight into the manner in which Ogle conducted his affairs and definitely marks his character in more than one respect. Cole declined to take money from those who urged his departure upon this errand, but understood that he should be protected from unpleasant consequences, if by any means captured with the disreputable company he sought. It was known to Cole that one John McKernan, then living as a tavern keeper at McKernan eighth East Front street, Cincinnati, Ohio, had long been a sort of guardian of Miles Ogle, led to him at this time an application was made. Cole being a first-class county man was of course treated with distinguished consideration, but the manner of his reception shows too plainly what would have befallen an ordinary mortal under similar circumstances, had there been the least occasion given for suspicion of his purpose.

Cole related to confidential parties that having arrived at Cincinnati, Ohio, and seen John McKernan, he was very anxious to time, to satisfy those to whom he was introduced, as to his purpose in seeking

Ogle, and was taken by night, a long and rough ride over country roads, some forty miles from the city, to a lonely place which he could not recognize. There he was admitted into a closely guarded house and introduced to Miles Ogle in the presence of a number of large, rough looking men, fellows to whom he carried knives and pistols they carried were as familiar and ready as their glasses and soup spoons. Cole confessed himself abashed at the nature of his reception by such company. He was a brave man, but if ever any one had reason to be intimidated, "Harry" C. Cole need not have been ashamed of his uneasiness. It was not his style however to be taken aback by circumstances and whatever the conditions, did not intend to conduct a business interview under duress or fear. He took his measures accordingly and the result justified his coolness and decision.

One of the persons present at the above meeting states that Cole after the first few minutes of general conversation upon different subjects, said: "If I were a long and troublesome journey, gentlemen, to reach this place, My object was to have a little conversation about business with my friend, Mr. Ogle. I am not in the habit of talking private matters in the presence of people who are strangers to me. None can have any reason to fear me, I am here alone, a slight, weak, delicate, unarmed man. Mr. Ogle himself could crush my life out between his thumb and finger, in a moment. Why, then, meet all you sold me here be around, as if like so many bears and lions, but waiting a sign to tear me to pieces and devour me. If I can see Mr. Ogle alone and confidentially, I will satisfy him, but I have no business with any crowd, and if I cannot be allowed my own way, I shall have to take the road back to Cincinnati, whichever-ever you send me. But I shall have wasted all my time and expense money in that case and nobody will be any way better off or richer for my coming."

The rest of Cole's talk was done to Miles Ogle alone and what was said betwixt the two men is not to be related. Neither of them has been communicative in that respect. When Cole returned from his journey, he informed those who inquired, that he had seen Ogle; would not say what he was doing and utterly refused to state where he met him. Cole nevertheless dropped the matter, but is to the risk incurred by those who undertook to travel the road he had just been safely over; but beyond this and a vague hint or two, the distinguished questioner was silent. As unsatisfactory as all this was, nothing more seems to have been accomplished until a change

took place in the Management and Operatives of the Secret Service.

In July, 1876, James J. Brooks, became Chief of the Secret Service Division, and soon after the Operatives at Cincinnati, Ohio, were superseded by Estes G. Rathbone and F. G. Tuttle, and these two immediately set sharply to work to rid their district of the ever active counterfeiters who had so long infested that part of the country. On November 23d, 1876, "Petey" McCarmey, "The King of the Koniackers" was arrested at Richmond, Indiana, and returned through the energy of Operative Rathbone, captured for fifteen years Wednesday, November 29, 1876, in the Indiana state's prison, North at Michigan City. The next principal party was supposed to be Miles Ogle and much time and considerable money was spent in efforts to discover his hiding place. At last it came to the knowledge of the Operatives that Ogle had been seen to visit the tavern of John McKernan, No. 84 East Front street, Cincinnati. They obtained an accurate description of their man from headquarters and John McKernan was supposed to more than a month, at the end of that time their diligence was repaid by a sight of Miles Ogle as he came to McKernan's place. When Ogle left the tavern of his old friend, he was followed to an extensive livery stable kept by "J. F. Oglesby" on the east side of Freeman street, between Wade and Liberty streets in the same city.

Ogle was then shadowed to a residence Number 243 Poplar street, which was found to be occupied by his brother-in-law William Rhodes Johnston. There Ogle also made his home, at least he was there whenever it suited his purposes. It was found that J. F. Oglesby the proprietor of the livery stable on Freeman street near Wade street, was none other than Miles Ogle himself, nor was this the only business in which he was active. While the officers were shadowing him, he was detected in making sales of counterfeit money at Brighton flats or Mill Creek bottom and also with John McKernan at his tavern on East Front Street. From the first of September, 1876, to the 12th, of November following he was at his livery stable almost continually. On the last day named he disappeared. It was afterwards learned that on November 9th, 1876, Miles Ogle rented a house near the Fair Grounds on Friend street, at Columbus, Ohio, where his wife remained a number of days, but finally broke up as he assumed to have "business East." His wife presently sold the household goods and removed to follow the uncertain fortunes of her husband. It was supposed the Ogles used the Columbus house for some part of their counterfeiting

operations, as several jars which had contained specimens were found on the premises after their departure.



WILLIAM RHODES JOHNSTON.

Early in January 1877, Miles Ogle again appeared at his usual haunts in the city of Cincinnati. He had been closely shadowed since September, 1875, and evidence accumulated sufficient for his conviction for passing and selling; he could have been arrested any number of times, but the capture was postponed in order to discover where he made the bills he dealt in and so secure at once, the man, his tools and machinery, stock in trade and confederates. Carefully as the watch on Ogle had been kept, he seemed to have become uneasy and his guardians became apprehensive lest he should slip away from them after all. On Saturday evening, January 6th, about five o'clock, Operatives Rathbone and Tuttle saw Ogle leave his home on Poplar street, from which he proceeded on the line of Railroad, across the Timanus Bridge to Brighton farms or Mill Creek common or bottom, not far from the Brighton House, near the drove yards at Brighton Station, on the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railroad. Ogle had been traced to Brighton Station before and was known to have his bootle carriers and customers among the drovers who congregated at the yards and at the Brighton House.

When Ogle had got well along in his tramp towards Brighton farms, his brother-in-law William Rhodes Johnston, came

out from between two freight cars of a train which stood upon the railroad track and joined company with him. It became evident to the Operatives who followed that something important was about to occur and their hitherto careful observation was quickened by absorbing interest. The game had become a deep one and experts on both sides were engaged in the movements. Ogle always exceedingly cautious and ever alert, was evidently extra watchful and in a dangerous mood, while his companion, keen as a weasel, observed with sharp-eyed care every sign which might indicate danger. For all that, like well-trained professionals, they kept up an appearance of carelessness and to an ordinary observer would have seemed two free and easy comrades, out on a happy stroll, for exercise, and amusement.

Presently Ogle and Johnston left the railroad track and turned towards a point on the Common where a large elm tree stood. It was impossible to follow them further without detection and Rathbone and Tuttle came to a stand between the freight cars, just as Johnston had hidden himself, some few moments before. Daylight was fast turning to darkness and the forms of Ogle and Johnston soon became lost to distinct view, amid the fast growing shadows of the uncertain landscape. Obscurity favors concealment, but it favors skilled observation as well and taking their own method, the Operatives became satisfied the men they watched, were engaged in the nice business of raising a plant; a piece of work which, regardless of the seeming sense of the harvest, has nothing to do with agriculture or horticulture, but consisted in digging out of the ground what a plainsman or half-breed Indian would call a "cache" or deposit of some sort. In this case there was small reason to doubt, that the package they lifted from their excavation contained counterfeit money or the means of making the same, very probably both the one and the other together.

Ogle and Johnston started upon their return, and when they reached the Railroad once more, Johnston carried a round, light heavy valise they had acquired possession of since passing that way some little time before. The two men were more on their guard than ever and as the smaller, Johnston, walked on with his burden, the almost gigantic Ogle strode beside him, with a look which gave warning to all who knew him or mistrusted his business! If Ogle had been a common man, he would have been arrested then and there, for Rathbone and Tuttle were among the cars upon the track where he came upon it. But the Ogle who stood an officer's height, when a mere boy and who kept a

body guard of cut-throats, as Ogle had discovered, was not the character to provoke a duel, with man to man, in a locality in which he had more friends by far, than the officers of the law could hope to rally before somebody was killed. As manslaughter was not the mission of the Operatives, it is no reflection upon their courage, but a compliment to their discretion, that they let their men pass for the time and planned to capture them both alive and secure the bootle without butchery.

Having managed so as to meet Ogle and Johnston when they came upon the Railroad and made their own observations, the Operatives were not without anxious to escape observation of themselves in return. Rathbone and Tuttle got behind the cars and soiled their hands, faces and clothes, then in the coolest style, began to work at the cars, this way and that, as if the most faithful and preoccupied of all the many brakemen or porters of the C. H. D. B. & O. R. Co.'s line! Ogle came close upon Rathbone's hand upon his hip, but taking the latter for what he seemed to be, passed him with but a glance under which however the Operative thought outwardly imperceptible, was most keenly conscious of the true nature of the situation. Ogle and Johnston directed their steps toward the little Miami Railroad depot in Cincinnati, to which they were followed by Rathbone and Tuttle, the Operatives taking care that the men they followed did not separate or part with the mysterious valise which they carried. At the depot named, Ogle and Johnston purchased tickets for Philadelphia Pa., and presently took the 8.25 P. M. Pan-Handle train for Pittsburg Pa. The Operatives, once more transformed, as to appearances, into the same plain men, were not to awake they had followed thus far, and in close proximity the four started on their journey eastward.

It will be remembered that Miles Ogle had been admitted to bail by District Attorney Swoope at Pittsburg, Pa., October, 1873, upon conditions. These conditions Ogle had not forgotten, and he had not forgotten. The circumstances supplied a ready-made "case" against him and the Secret Service Operatives were sagacious enough to know and realize all the advantage to be gained by a capture in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, especially as they only surmised the nature of the "evidence" they might find upon the persons of Ogle and Johnston, or in the valise to which the last party gave such careful attention. After the train left Steubenville Station, which is near the western end of the line of Pennsylvania's main line, and towards described as "an old man and young one" approached the brakeman and one of

them slipping a fifty cent "seep into his hand, told him to get them down when they crossed the line into Pennsylvania. The brakeman did as directed, when the train had reached a point near Collin Station, on the P. C. & St. L. R. R., and then Operative Rathbone, the young man aforesaid, walked over to where Ogle sat apart from Johnston and extending his right hand as if to an old acquaintance, said in a friendly manner, "How do you do, Mr. Hall?"

Ogle extended his hand to shake, when, quick as a flash of light, Rathbone grabbed the proffered palm with his right hand and seized Ogle's other hand with his left. Ogle started as if an old acquaintance, which he tried to get to his hip for his revolver in his pantaloons pocket. Though called "young," Rathbone at this time weighed about one hundred and ninety pounds, all meat, and was described as "just about as full of pluck as any one could be." Greek met Greek, but the Operative had the advantage, and, beside was dexterous. When he brought his left hand into action, it held a nice pair of steel hand-cuffs and before the passengers in the same car realized there was anything unusual going on, Miles Ogle was arrested and sitting quietly in irons. It had been a long, tedious, painstaking, pursuit, but the object warranted the effort, circumstances compelled the course taken, and the Secret Service man was amiable enough, when at that time for procedure was asked and the nip and tuck of the desperate game demanded swiftness and courage.

While this had been going on, Operative Frank C. Tuttle had gone over to where William Rhodes Johnston was, about four seats to the rear, and presenting his revolver at the head of the latter, who was on the "Hands up" affected his capture without any trouble, by dint of that plain and simple argument. Johnston, who was a slight, dapper gentleman, submitted to be ironed without opposition, all the more quietly as he saw his stalwart chief suddenly brought to bay and a helpless prisoner in the hands of the enemy.

The Operatives then searched the person of each of the prisoners. Ogle was stuffed full of counterfeit money, having a package in every pocket of his clothes. There was about two thousand dollars of the stuff upon him, mostly in the Richmond, Lafayette and Muncie ten dollar counterfeit bills he had been suspected of manufacturing. The Operatives also took from Ogle a book of bank checks and when this was found he said: "You will find a little money there to my credit;" meaning he had money in the bank named on the checks, and this was the only word

to speak during the entire train, except some trifles to be taken account of by the conductor, and of no account in any charge against him. While the search was going on the train ran into a tunnel and when it came out one of the passengers found a speedy roll of counterfeit bills near the seat occupied by Johnston; this money was a package he managed to throw away during the moments the train and all concerned were in the dense darkness of the underground passage. The valise which had been dug up at Brighton flats was found in the hands of Johnston when Operative Tuttle came upon him, as has been related. Johnston saw Rathbone when he had hands upon Ogle, and having instructions from his leader to throw away the valise in case of arrest, began breaking the window of the car and would have dung his baggage out upon the roadside but for the quickness of Tuttle in making the capture. During the entire proceedings young Johnston spoke never a word, and the observing passengers sent to the newspaper statements that the four men seemed to have a perfect understanding of each other and went through the whole business as if it were a set piece in a drama and had been rehearsed any number of times.

The search being over and the valise taken possession of a warrant for their arrest was read to the prisoners and an Operative sat down beside each of them until the train arrived at Pittsburg, Pa., on the morning of January 28, 1877. Upon reaching the city at the Union Depot, the four men left the cars quietly and took a carriage up Grant street to Seventh avenue, down the avenue to Smithfield street and so on to the Robinson House, where they took rooms and having their breakfast sent up to them, made themselves safe and comfortable for a short time. The newspapers noted the arrival of the mysterious party from the sudden activity of the officials in the United States Court, inferred an affair of importance. Ogle at once sent for Thomas M. Marshall, Esq., who had been his lawyer before District Attorney Swoope, in 1873. To Mr. Marshall both Ogle and Johnston entrusted their case, having every reason to rely upon his skill and faithfulness in their very critical circumstances.

The Operatives then ordered a carriage, which having arrived, the prisoners were taken to Dabb's Photograph Rooms 174 Liberty street, where the photographs were taken from which the engravings of Ogle and Johnston which appear on these pages have been reproduced. By about eleven o'clock, A. M., the party with

their baggage consisting of one valise and a quantity of personal effects appeared in the Government Building and were taken to the office of the United States District Attorney, Henry H. McCormick, where some important disclosures took place.

The valise which had been taken with Johnston, was acknowledged by Ogle to be his property and he tried to create the impression that the bearer of the same, was ignorant of the nature of its contents. It was a stout valise or portmanteau, tied with cords and coated with asphaltum, to keep out water. The contents were a set of plates for printing counterfeit ten dollar National Bank notes, on the Richmond, Lafayette, Maniac, and about forty other National Banks of Indiana. The original Richmond counterfeit engraved plate was part of the lot, with the border and centre back of the same, the red seal from the circular plates, for the numerous changes above mentioned. Also a set of plates for printing counterfeit fifty cent Notes of the United States Fractional Currency, bearing the "Dexter Head;" with fifty-two electrotypes from the same, for printing such currency in sheets. Beside counterfeit money of the ten dollar National Bank Notes and fifty cent currency, to the nominal amount of \$5,775.50. Thus the Secret Service Division was placed in possession of all the plates for printing counterfeit ten dollar notes, either the Treasury or National Banks. The counterfeit money found in the valise, with that taken upon the prisoners, amounted to nearly eight thousand dollars. Soon after the interview with District Attorney McCormick, the prisoners were taken before United States Commissioner Gambel, where they waived a hearing, and were committed to jail, for trial at the February term of the United States District Court, in default of \$20,000 bail required from each of them.

Having concluded their business in so satisfactory a prompt manner, Operatives Rathbone and Tuttle returned at once to Cincinnati, Ohio, and arrested John McKernan and his wife Bridget McKernan, the head of an extensive and long active gang of shovers, old friends of Ogle and heavy buyers of counterfeit money from him. McKernan was caught through the discoveries of detective Thomas McGowery, who became familiar with the Rittenbergs, Levi, Lee, family at Osgood and vicinity and getting into their dangerous confidence, followed up the business with such shrewdness and courage, that Operative Rathbone not only was enabled to lay hands upon all these parties for good cause, but saw them safely landed at last in prison under various sentences, a few months

after Ogle and Johnston were safe in jail at Pittsburg. Ogle when in the hands of Rathbone at Pittsburg, in order to make capital and was favor, sold that Operative that near wide of the street had been dug up on Brighton flats there was another "plant," he having buried several thousand dollars of counterfeit money by the old elm tree which was a feature of that landscape. As soon as they had completed the business growing out of the arrest of the McKernans and their party, Rathbone and Tuttle went out to Brighton flats and located the plant from the directions they had received. There was however an overflow at the time from the Creek, over the dam, which prevented them from digging thereabout. When the flood subsided they went out again, but this time the sod was hard frozen. They however secured the services of an expert—with a pickaxe, in an Irishman from McLean avenue, who after considerable hard work, dug him a wooden bucket and a large can. The spot where these were found, was about half a mile north of Brighton Station, near the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railroad tracks.

The Operatives at once took possession of the bucket and can and prepared for a return to town, paying the laborer a dollar for his trouble. They had parried the Irishman's inquisitiveness by the statement that there were great quantities of jewelry buried there and when the deposit was actually found, the mind of the laborer was fairly upset. He would not leave his employers, but demanded a half of the treasure trove. The Operatives then told him in good faith, the bucket and can contained counterfeit money. Thus the imaginative Irishman's theory refused to believe and insisted that he was entitled to at least one-quarter of the prize, whatever its character. To satisfy him, the Operatives advised the Irishman to leave his tools in a safe place and come to headquarters with them and see the money in the bucket and they agreed to do, still insisting upon the injustice done him by their refusal to make a division in the matter. He started to accompany them and at Harrison avenue they got in Number 13 green car of the Baymiller street line of horse cars, while he went into a bar room, as the Operatives supposed to leave his pick and shovel for safe-keeping.

In a moment the car started down town and was followed by a big burly policeman named John Shatzman, who boarded it and taking a seat alongside of Rathbone demanded in a very forcible manner, to know what was in the tin vessels between his feet. The Operatives told him the facts and showed him their Commis-

sions; Shatzman was inexorable however and insisted upon taking them before Superintendent of Police Colonel Wood. The Operatives thought it to be taken in it and at the Ninth street station house, took their bucket and can to a safe place and opened them before Colonel Wood, when they were found filled with counterfeit of the fifty cent Notes of the United States Fractional Currency of the "Dexter Head" Series. Of course the Operatives were at once courteously dismissed and taking their prize to headquarters found they had \$5,510.00 of fifty cent currency notes of the Ogle manufacture; the same having been buried by him. This last count raised the amount of counterfeit money taken with Ogle, to \$14,216.50, in all one hundred and ten counterfeit plates were captured in the same connection and over three hundred persons criminally implicated and brought to punishment first and last.

The Grand Jury found true bills against Miles Ogle and William Rhodes Johnston, charging them with having in possession the counterfeit plates and money already described and a time was fixed for the trial, which took place at the February, 1877, Term of the District Court of the United States for the Western District of Pennsylvania, held at Pittsburg. The case was one of peculiar interest and one of the most important of its kind ever tried. His Honor Judge Wintrop W. Ketchum presided at the sessions; Henry H. McCormick, United States District Attorney and Assistant United States District Attorney George C. Wilson, conducted the prosecution; while Thomas M. Marshall, Esq., appeared for the defendants.

The case was opened for the government by District Attorney William C. Wilson, who, stated to the jury what he expected to prove. Estes G. Rathbone Operative of the Secret Service, was the first witness called; Frank C. Tuttle also an Operative of the Secret Service was next examined. In giving sworn testimony testified substantially to the facts of the arrest of Ogle and Johnston as detailed in the foregoing pages. The case of Ogle was hopeless from the beginning, but Mr. Marshall made the best terms possible for such a hardened offender and tried faithfully to do so to the young man Johnston. On February 23rd, 1877, Miles Ogle was found guilty of the charge against him, and sentenced to confinement at hard labor in the Western Penitentiary at Allegheny Pa. for the term of eight (8) years and to pay a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). William Rhodes Johnston was convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment and to pay a fine of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00).

THE MAN THAT BROKE JAIL;

—THE—
NOTORIOUS COUNTERFEITER

—AND—
DESPERATE BURGLAR;

JOHN OGLE,

(BROTHER OF MILES OGLE.)

ALIAS

TOM HAYES, ALIAS ROBERT M. RANKIN,
ALIAS GEORGE IRWIN, ALIAS JOHN OYNE,
ALIAS LEWIS NOSE, ALIAS JOHN HAWKINS.



JOHN OGLE.

The original of the above illustration, belonged to a family, celebrated in the annals of crime and bore a character in keeping with his origin and relationship. Of George Ogle the father and Miles Ogle the brother, of this man, a sufficient description has been given; enough to say, that in all their wrong doing, John Ogle was a partner at times and while lacking the deliberate skill and cunning, which belonged to his brother Miles, was his equal in hardihood and quite as much a reprobate deserving condign punishment.

George Ogle trained his children to crime and John was not a backward pupil of his parent. He accompanied the family in the raid for plunder made by

them down the Ohio River in a flat-boat in 1862, which is fully described in the sketch of Miles Ogle and shared doubtless in the robberies which several times caused their arrest at different towns along the river. It is not charged however that he imbrued his hands in blood, as his brother did during the excursion. After the above trip was broken up and Miles Ogle sent to prison, for killing the officer who attempted to arrest the family at Rockport, Indiana, John Ogle began a course of greater independence. In 1864, he was arrested in Southern Indiana, for robbing a store. He was found guilty of this burglary and sentenced to five years imprisonment in state's prison at Jeffersonville, Indiana, which punishment was duly inflicted and served out.

The next exploit of John Ogle, resulted in his capture in Cairo, Illinois, with \$2300 of counterfeit money upon his person. He and the officer making the arrest exchanged several shots at the time, but John Ogle was overpowered at last and captured. From this arrest, he by some means managed to escape, but not long afterwards was re-captured in Pittsburg, Pa., but again contrived to get at large in a very ingenious and audacious manner. He knew, he told the Operatives and Officers, where there was a big "plant" of counterfeit money and material, coin, plates and like articles, buried at Oyster Point, Maryland, and this he proposed to show the Secret Service Operatives, in consideration of proper favor to himself. One of the Operatives was sent with the prisoner to visit the place where the counterfeit material was supposed to be hidden, but on the way there, John Ogle is reported to have very dexterously jumped from the car "through the window" and so once more set himself at liberty. He was next arrested at a place near Holivar, Tennessee, January 8th, 1872, with five hundred dollars of counterfeit money in his possession. He was convicted upon charges based upon this fact in the State Courts and sentenced to ten years imprisonment. He escaped from jail February 21st, 1872, and contrived to liberate two burglars who took their departure with him as boon companions on his sudden journey.

In 1872 John Ogle was indicted in the United States Court of the District including Cincinnati, Ohio, for having in possession and passing counterfeits of five dollar bills. Pending trial he was released on five thousand dollars bail, which he forfeited and left the neighborhood of that city, for parts unknown. On February 18th, 1873, a man giving the name of Thomas Hayes, was arrested at Cairo, Illinois, for dealing in and passing counterfeit money. He escaped from custody

March 10th, 1873. It was soon well understood that "Thomas Hayes" was but one of the numerous aliases of John Ogle, the whole transaction being perfectly in keeping with his established character and eminently worthy his fast growing notoriety at the time. John Ogle was re-arrested March 14th, 1873, in Pittsburg, Pa., from whence he was taken to Springfield, Illinois, convicted and sentenced to five years in the Joliet, Illinois Penitentiary, where he served his full term. As the liberated man walked out of the penitentiary at the expiration of his time, he was touched upon the shoulder by United States Marshal Thrall and invited to make one of a party to visit Cincinnati, Ohio, to answer to the old charge which had been pending against him since 1872, an indictment already noted in the opening of this paragraph.

The prisoner was tried at the October, 1877, term of the District Court of the United States, for the Southern District of Ohio, held at Cincinnati, his Honor Judge Philip B. Swing presiding and Channing Richards, District Attorney, prosecuting. On November 20th, 1877, after a full hearing, John Ogle was found guilty of the crime charged against him in the indictment found in 1872. His Counsel thereupon filed a motion in arrest of sentence and for a new trial, which motion was fully argued November 26th, 1877, and finally overruled by the Court and on December 10th, 1877, the Court sentenced John Ogle to confinement at hard labor in the Ohio Penitentiary at Columbus, Ohio, for the term of five (5) years.

A Marshal then took the prisoner in charge, and conducted him back to the County Jail. Some painters were at work in the building, and the overalls and hickory shirt belonging to one of them lay on the floor in the corridor of the jail near where Ogle had been left. Quick as thought a plan of escape was devised. Donning the painter's suit, and taking a paint-bucket in one hand, Ogle coolly walked down stairs. As he approached the gate opening into the jail office, he signalled with the paint-bucket that he wished to get out. The Turnkey opposing he was one of the painters, opened the gate, and Ogle walked out through the office and past Captain Davlor and several who knew him, to the street. He then proceeded leisurely up Syracuse, paint-bucket in hand, and turning west walked over to Price's Hill and then down the River road through Sedamsville and Riverside.

By this time night was coming on, and the divesting himself of the painter's suit, he made for Lawrenceburg. There he found a way to get across the river, and striking

across the counter he finally brought up at Lexington, Kentucky, and engaged as a stone cutter. While here the City Marshal received a letter and photograph from Washington, Indiana, stating that a man was wanted answering very closely to Ogle's description. Ogle knew that he was not the right party, but feared that if taken to Washington, he would be brought against some of the Cincinnati or Chicago detectives, who were keeping a close lookout for him. He accordingly left the town very quietly between two days, and made his way to Memphis, Tennessee, and in one way and another to get together \$15, and one night in company with several other men, visited a house of ill-fame. The party drank a good deal, and finally got to quarrelling, when John Ogle threw a beer glass at one of the other men, causing a great deal of noise in the street. He was arrested, but while being marched to the Station-house it occurred to him that it would probably take all of his fifteen dollars to settle the matter up. It would be better, he thought, to make away from the officer and get out of town, and this he did.

His next stopping place was Hughes' Point, Tennessee, where he worked for some time as a carpenter. Then he went back to Brandenburg, Kentucky, and on May 28th, 1878, robbed a boot and shoe store of \$200 worth of goods. These were carried to Louisville, Kentucky, and offered at a second-hand store for forty dollars. While the sale was being arranged, Officer Harden came upon the scene, and placed Ogle under arrest on suspicion. The next day the goods were identified by their proper owner, who also recognized Ogle as the man whom he had noticed in his store several times on the day before the robbery. Ogle first tried to get out of the station house, and failing in that made an effort to escape from the Court room during his preliminary examination. Fearing a term in the Frankfort Penitentiary, which he seems to have specially dreaded, he gave out that he was wanted in Cincinnati, Ohio, and in order to stimulate the officers to take him there he falsely stated that a reward of two hundred dollars had been offered for him in that city.

Operative Rathbone of the Secret Service was telegraphed for, and the prisoner being committed to his charge was taken back to Cincinnati and placed once more in the County Jail. As the sentence he was due time taken to the state's prison at Columbus, Ohio, and committed to serve out his sentence. As but a little over a year of his time has expired, it is probable the biography of John Ogle, for some time to be exceedingly monotonous dull and uninteresting.

THE PET OF THE CONEYMAN

—AND—

FELON ARTIST OF THE WEST.

The Counterfeit Engraver.

BEN BOYD.

ALLAS

B. WILSON, alias B. F. WILSON, alias
CHARLES MITCHELL.

BEN BOYD.

Benjamin Boyd, alias B. Wilson, alias B. F. Wilson, alias Charles Mitchell, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1834, where his mother and sister still resided in 1875, and were counted quite wealthy. His father was an engraver, and Ben learned the art at an early age, serving one year with an engraver named James Edward Smith, then and now a citizen of good repute in Cincinnati; also improving as supposed by the observation of his parent's skill and finishing by taking instructions of Nat. Kinsey, a cutter of superior ability in Cincinnati, who was in the habit of working for Stephen Payne, Doc Gorman and that class in various parts of the country. Kinsey cut the fine one hundred dollar "greenback" counterfeit plate in 1864, bills from which defied detection by the

most experienced tellers and best experts. Kinsey was arrested at last, while engaged in engraving a plate for printing counterfeit ten dollar bills and served a long term, since which, so far as is known, he has given the public no trouble. While still an apprentice and not twenty-one years of age, Ben Boyd engraved his first counterfeit plate on the State Bank of Ohio, in his father's house at Cincinnati, before the war of the rebellion.

Young Boyd soon became acquainted with such men as Peter McCartney, John B. Trout, Nelson Driggs, Bill Brannon, Dr. Milton Parker, of Nauvoo, Illinois, Bill Mize, Mrs. Roberts of Cincinnati, and J. Marpole of St. Louis, Missouri, Louis Sleight, Charles Hathaway, John Frisby, or "Frisbie," Lou. Dohlmann and others, and among them found criminal associates, many active years.

In 1865 Ben Boyd was arrested with Pete McCartney, at Mattoon, Illinois, and both of them committed to jail in Springfield, Illinois. About the same time Ed. Pierce and Allie Aikman or Ackerman, two of McCartney's dealers, the woman being his wife's sister, were arrested at the Everett House in Springfield, Illinois, by Operative John Eagan. In a traveling basket taken with the couple, Operative Eagan found twenty-five thousand dollars of representative money, in fifty dollar, twenty dollar and ten dollar counterfeit bills of United States Treasury Notes and five thousand dollars of representative money, counterfeit of the fractional currency. Pierce was convicted and sent to Jefferson penitentiary for fifteen years, while Operative Eagan turned the woman over to Operative C. P. Bradley of Chicago, Illinois. Ben Boyd managed to release himself from arrest and finally secured the freedom of Allie Aikman or Ackerman, by surrendering a plate, the property of McCartney, for printing counterfeit bills of the fifty dollar United States Treasury Notes, series of 1863. Ben Boyd had for some time been very attentive to Miss Aikman or Ackerman, and soon after their release they were married at Marine City, St. Clair county, Michigan, Boyd being then 33 years of age. Almiranda Aikman or "Ackerman," as the family has been called, was the daughter of an accomplished pair of counterfeiters and the step-daughter of John B. Trout, a well-known and desperate coneyman, once the terror of the whole Mississippi Valley, now in the Kentucky penitentiary, serving out his one year term of imprisonment for counterfeiting. By this marriage Boyd became the brother-in-law of Peter McCartney. Of Boyd, McCartney acquired additional skill in engraving, and the two did a heavy business in counterfeit money as partners. Boyd and his

wife resided at Decatur, Illinois, where he was known as Charles Mitchell; at Des Moines, Iowa, where he passed as B. F. Wilson, and at La Clair, Illinois, Clinton, Illinois, and Fulton, Missouri, where he called himself B. Wilson. He finally purchased some property at Prairie-du-Chien, Wisconsin, where he and his wife made their home and still retain possession of the place. Boyd has no children.

Boyd engraved plates for printing counterfeit bills of the fifty dollar United States Treasury Notes, Series of 1863, for the Sleight and Frisby, or "Frisbie" gang of counterfeiters, but not having delivered them, they were sold to Peter McCartney, who during February 1865, surrendered them to assist the release of Operative E. B. Pierce and Miss Almiranda Aikman or "Ackerman," the woman Boyd afterwards married, as has already been related. In 1866 Boyd engraved the plates for counterfeit bills of the Twenty Dollar United States Treasury Notes, Series of 1862, which plates were owned jointly by Ben Boyd, Peter McCartney and John B. Trout, and captured by the Secret Service Operatives during 1866. In 1869 Boyd engraved plates for counterfeit bills of the United States Treasury Notes, Series of 1862, which were worked by Joseph Kincaid, alias Joe Miller, James Burdell, alias Charles Hanwood and Ben Boyd himself. These plates were captured by the Secret Service Operatives, at Greensburg, Indiana, during February, 1869. Boyd also engraved the celebrated plates for printing counterfeit bills of the five dollar bills on the "Traders National Bank" of Chicago, Illinois, (one of the finest counterfeit bills ever issued) afterwards changed to the "First National Bank of Canton, Illinois," "First National Bank of Aurora, Illinois," "First National Bank of Peru, Illinois," "First National Bank of Paxton, Illinois," and two false notes, purporting to be on "The First National Bank of Cecil, Illinois," and the "First National Bank of Glenwood, Illinois," there being no such banks of Cecil or Galena. All these plates were captured by the Secret Service Operatives, in the possession of Nelson Driggs, a partner of Boyd, at Centralia, Illinois, October 21st, 1875.

In 1859 Boyd was arrested at Davenport, Iowa, being charged at the time in engraving plates for printing counterfeit money, for Jim Vessey and Charlie Hathaway, who were in Springfield, Illinois, although the Hathaway family lived at Fort Madison, Iowa. Boyd being convicted, was sentenced to two years at the penitentiary of the Iowa penitentiary at Fort Madison of the same state. After his release from the Iowa penitentiary, Boyd removed to Springfield, Ohio, and operated there for Sleight and Frisbie. He soon after went

to Decatur, Illinois, where he had a residence at the time of his marriage in 1865, as noted in preceding paragraphs. From this time on, for a number of years, the case in the criminal calendar to which the deeds of Boyd entitled him, remained vacant; he was sagacious, wary and fortunate in his selection of partners; besides his skill made him servicable to the entire fraternity of coneymen, all of whom were interested in his success and safety. The counterfeiters from the plates made by Boyd were in extensive circulation for years, the Illinois fives were especially current. It was Boyd, also, who manufactured the fifty cent Lincoln vignette counterfeit plate and he is considered the best letter on steel in the country or the world. The source of these bills was a subject of diligent inquiry by Government officials and a kind of dissolving view was obtained of the same in Canada, St. Louis, and elsewhere, now here and now there. After a time, the talents and activity of Boyd, as well as the ability and wealth of his partners, became known to the Treasury Department and the Secret Service Division came to recognize the importance of breaking up the combination of which the skill of Ben Boyd was the heart and soul. On October 31st, 1875, the work was committed especially, to Operative Patrick D. Tyrrell of St. Louis, Missouri, who was left very much to his own discretion in the matter, being told by Elmer Washburn, then Chief of the Secret Service, that his success would break the backbone of counterfeiting in the United States.

Thus directed and stimulated, Tyrrell began business in a way he considered prudent, and in June, 1875, had located the parties and secured an interview with Orison, one of the operators, with Driggs, will appear in the succeeding sketch of him; but at present the relation follows the fate of Ben Boyd, who was also brought under watch at the same time. About the 30th of June, 1875, Ben Boyd was arrested at his residence at La Clair, Iowa, to Fulton, Illinois, at which last place under the name of B. F. Wilson, he rented a large frame house, situated on Prairie street, and belonging to D. Reed. Soon after this removal to the new place, Tyrrell commenced work and arrangements were at once made by Tyrrell, for a conference with his Chief. Accordingly Elmer Washburn, Chief; and James J. Brooks, Assistant Chief; with John McDonald, Operative of the Secret Service Division of the Iowa penitentiary at Fort Madison, arrived at Lyons, Iowa, October 19th, 1875, when a consultation took place between them and Operative Patrick D. Tyrrell, who met them there by appointment.

The plan developed was to capture Ben Boyd and Nelson Driggs, his partner, at the same time, and in order to give Chief Washburn time to reach Centralia, Illinois, where Driggs and much material was located, it was decided to defer the raid until October 31st, at the block A. Chief Washburn then started for Centralia, Illinois, to superintend active operations there, leaving his reliable A. assistant, Chief Brooks (now himself Chief), and Operative McDonald, at Fulton with Tyrrell, to co-operate in the arrest of Boyd. Promptly at about 11 A. M. of the 31st, the men were on hand at Fulton, each ready for the special duty assigned by their joint arrangement. It had been decided that Tyrrell should lead off, by entering the front gate and going round to the back door. Brooks was to follow Tyrrell, McDonald coming about a hundred feet in the rear, was to direct his course to the front door. This would bring each of the men into the position required and ready for action at the same moment. This was carried out with military promptness and precision, as might be expected from the character of the men engaged. When Tyrrell, who knew the premises, was about a hundred feet from the front door, a man drove up in a carriage and in a loud tone asked if "B. T. Wilson lived there." This was imagined by Tyrrell to be a signal, in some way contrived to alarm the inmates of the house and likely, at least, to arouse them to notice the surprise party intended in their honor. Calling to Brooks to hurry up and keep a sharp eye on Tyrrell, he walked swiftly to the house and entered it by the back door. While making his approach in this manner to the premises, Tyrrell saw a man escape from the house, who he supposed from his general appearance was Nat Kinsey, the engraver already mentioned, of whom Boyd acquired the better part of his skill as a counter. There was nothing against Kinsey at the time, at least nothing regarding which the Operative had instructions, so the fugitive was allowed to pass unchallenged, lest any delay on his account should defeat in some way the grand object of the expedition.

Passing through the kitchen into the dining room, the Operative met Mrs. Boyd, who intercepted him, and although she had never seen him, nor had any reason to suppose him a Government officer or anything of the kind, still caught him by the collar of his coat and undertook to detain him. Seizing her sharply by the wrist, Tyrrell at once freed himself and called upon Brooks to take charge of the woman, which the Assistant Chief then did as now quick as the wind. Tyrrell did with the utmost promptness. Tyrrell being re-

lieved of Mrs. Boyd, turned quickly toward the adjacent stairs when as discovered Ben Boyd at the top of them in his shirt sleeves and just about to step down. Boyd paused an instant as he was confronted by Tyrrell, when the Operative ascended the stairs briskly and at once arrested him. "Who are you," said the prisoner, with considerable emotion. "United States Detective Tyrrell," answered the Operative. "I have heard of Tyrrell then put the irons on the prisoner without objection or opposition, and stepping to the front window began rapping upon it as a signal for McDonald to come round by the rear and relieve Brooks. The signal being obeyed, Brooks went upstairs and took charge of Ben Boyd, while Tyrrell commenced a thorough search of the premises, of which Brooks and Boyd were witnesses above stairs and McDonald and Mrs. Boyd on the first floor. In the room up stairs from which Boyd doubtless came, just before Tyrrell saw him, the Operative found every evidence of the occupation of the counterfeiter, and there without question, Boyd was at work when the agents of the law invaded his habitation. The room contained a convenient work bench, covered by a large quantity of engraver's tools, among which lay a genuine bill upon the National Bank of Dayton, Ohio, of the denomination of twenty dollars, and near by a partly engraved plate for counterfeits of the same. In the front room up stairs Tyrrell found a dry goods box of large size, which he emptied, and found not only a lot of old clothes and rags, but in tipping the box about, however, one of the boards of which it was made dropped out and revealed a mortise in the lumber, from which fell a plate engraved for printing the centre back of counterfeits of twenty dollar National Bank Notes, of which the border or rim to match was the unfinished plate on Boyd's work bench.

Leaving Brooks in charge of Boyd upstairs, Tyrrell went down and commenced investigations on the first floor. He asked Mrs. Boyd if there was any money or anything of the kind, but unwilling to give information on that point, but when pressed, with an intimation that it would save trouble if she answered the question, she said she would reveal nothing without consultation with her husband. The Operative told her he would give her half an hour to consider the matter, and left the house and going to the railroad depot telegraphed in cipher to Chief Washburn what had been accomplished at Fulton. While Tyrrell was upon this errand, Boyd took occasion to offer McDonald a thousand dollars, if he would let her take what she wanted into her possession and keep the matter secret. This

McDonald, like in most men and good alike, refused. When Tyrrell came back, McDonald told the liberal offer had been made him. Mrs. Boyd wanted to go and get the money alone, or in company with McDonald, but this Tyrrell would not permit. After a great deal of hesitation, she led the way to the bedroom and went to a box near the window. The box was of considerable size and had a cleat nailed across the end of it contrived to serve the purpose of a handle. There was nothing about the box, outside or in, to indicate that it contained money, but upon investigation, by opening the box, the handle or cleat described was discovered to be hollow, and in the cavity of the same was found seven thousand eight hundred and twenty-four dollars and seventy-five cents in good money, made up of three one thousand dollar notes with other small bills and a few pieces of twenty-five cent fractional currency. In breaking the box the money came out.

While Tyrrell was at work upon the box which proved so rich a treasury, the Operative shrewdly divined that Boyd very astutely endeavored to divert his attention from a smaller box near by, which she cunningly tried to conceal, when she supposed he was fully occupied with the larger one. Mrs. Boyd, as if quite by accident, carelessly threw a piece of carpet over the small box, as if it were of no consequence. But the movement did not escape the notice of the quick-witted Tyrrell, and after he had secured the money and counted the amount, he turned his attention to the smaller box which Mrs. Boyd seemed so anxious to conceal. He broke it up into small pieces, and did not expect from the general appearance that either the box or its ruins contained anything. In this, however, he was mistaken, for upon closer inspection one of the boards was found to be mortised, and in the cavity thus made were two well executed plates, the front and back of a set for printing counterfeits of the one hundred dollar "greenback" United States Treasury Notes. These plates were stuck together, face to face, with putty, and covered with some kind of varnish in proper composition to keep them from rusting. But for the acumen and thoroughness of Operative Tyrrell, these plates would have remained undiscovered. Tyrrell also found six copper and four steel plates in his box, two of which were large plates intended for counterfeiting United States bonds, two for duplicate titles, and the rest for counterfeits of the "Dexter Head" and "Stanton Head" fractional currency. This last lot were discovered wrapped up in an old linen summer coat, between the beds where

Boyd and his wife were in the habit of sleeping. A number of found plates or engraver's tools were found, and a small box of such tools in a dilapidated condition fit for work. The search was made very thorough and involved considerable labor. As Brooks and McDonald were detained with the prisoners, Tyrrell had to work unaided, and the business gave him active employment for about six hours.

During all this time Assistant Chief Brooks had been closeted above stairs, with the man whose hand guided the facile burin which made the marks of a criminal on the plates he had taken possession of. The successful search for the plates, was a task demanding no little shrewdness and patience; but an attempt to fathom the mind of a criminal like Ben Boyd, was, under the circumstances, an enterprise of no inconsiderable magnitude and discretion. These qualities, were not wanting in the custodian of Ben Boyd, and the counterfeiter was induced to be communicative. Boyd made certain clear and unequivocal statements, to the effect that he had engraved the plates found at this raid six times, he had engraved some fifteen other plates, for other parties. He also stated it took him eleven months to engrave the plate of the Traders Bank of Chicago, Illinois. He admitted, too, that he had engraved plates for printing counterfeits of the fifty dollar United States Treasury Note, Series of 1863, from which he printed and sold, about six thousand pieces, representing some three hundred thousand dollars. Thus what had long been a great mystery of felony, was cleared up, the evidence being complete in regard to Ben Boyd and information gained, which became of great use in still other operations against similar offenders, at other times and elsewhere. What Chief Washburn and his men had been about, at the other end of the line, in Centralia, Illinois, during these hours, is stated in the annexed account of Nelson Driggs.

The three officers, Brooks, Tyrrell, and McDonald, conducted their prisoners Ben Boyd and Almiranda Boyd, to the Fulton Railroad Station, taking with them the various articles and means of identification they had captured. They all left Fulton on the four o'clock P. M. train, for Chicago, Illinois. As they were seated in the train, Brooks and Tyrrell being with the prisoners, Boyd began a conversation with Tyrrell, by remarking: "Tyrrell, you are not long for the Section, are you?" Tyrrell replied: "No; not long, why? Anything the matter?" Boyd assumed a very cunning style and responded: "Oh! I thought if you were an old member of the Service, you would take the property now in your possession and get it out of the back door. "But that is not my

of a long business," said Tyrrell. "Benjamin Boyd became reflective regarding the different original issues of such men as Brooks, Tyrrell and McDonald, and his mistrust, in being compelled to keep honest company.

Finding his attempts at bribery and corruption unavailing, Boyd began negotiations of a different nature for his own benefit. Unwary of the comprehensive character of the movement which involved in the coils, Nelson Driggs, as well as himself, he volunteered some statements in regard to his relations with that famous capitalist and manager among conyemen and suggested that the testimony of a partner and an engraver, would be heavy against a principal counterfeit, should such an one be arrested and brought to trial. To all of Boyd's talk in this direction, Tyrrell made answer that he had no power to promise anything, but if a prisoner said anything, which might result in the conviction of another party, it might have some effect in favor of such a witness, with the authorities. Boyd then made some further explanations, which were taken down and examined him; but what he subsequently did, upon the understanding arrived at as above, will appear in a succeeding paragraph of this narration and also in the account of Nelson Driggs to follow. Without any other incident of note, the party arrived in Chicago and the prisoner was to be examined. The good money Tyrrell captured, was at Boyd's request, deposited in the Fidelity Savings Bank and in due time, turned over to the charge of his legal attorney and counselor.

An examination was held October 27th, 1875, before United States Commissioner Phillip A. Wayne of Chicago, Illinois, and Ben Boyd bound over in the sum of thirty thousand dollars, to await the action of the Grand Jury. Almiranda Boyd his wife, was bound over in the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, to await the action of the Grand Jury also. They were retained, and both defendants were committed to the Cook County jail, in Chicago, Illinois. While they were confined there, an attempt was made to break jail. A counterfeiter named Edward J. Wright, alias Lee, alias Dommett of Richmond, Indiana, was engaged in the affair and a pattern for some keys found upon another prisoner was said to have been so made by the especial skill of Ben. Boyd. At the October, 1875, term of the United States Court for the Northern District of Illinois, held in Chicago, Ben Boyd was committed for engraving counterfeit dollar plates for counterfeiting National Bank Notes; also for engraving plates for counterfeiting the fifty dollar United States Legal Tender Notes, Series of 1869,

"Henry Clay Head" also for engraving plates for counterfeiting the five dollar bills of the Traders' National Bank of Chicago, also for engraving plates for counterfeiting the fractional currency of the United States, of the denomination of fifty cents, the "Stanton Head" and "Dexter Head" series, and an unfinished plate for counterfeiting the hundred dollar United States Treasury Notes. A true bill was found against Almiranda Boyd and the defendants were held for trial. At the November 1875, term of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, held at Montgomery in that state, Ben Boyd was indicted for dealing, passing and having in possession counterfeit money.

The trial of Ben Boyd and Almiranda Boyd, occupied the attention of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, held in Chicago, Illinois, January 19th, and 20th, 1876. The Court Room presented an animated appearance, when it was understood the case of the distinguished counterfeiters was about to be called. Boyd as he appeared in Court, did not answer to a very favorable degree. "Boyd" was a spectator at the time, "is not a well-favored man by any means. Indeed he might be accused of most crimes in the calendar and his appearance would stand him in poor stead. His forehead is one of the prominent features, very much more conspicuous by the arrangement of his hair which is straight and wiry looking, and combed behind his ears. His eyes are dark and rather small, and have a look of weakness, which is evidently the result of the profession he has followed so long. The ears are rather thick and sparkle in them every now and then, which betokens the dangerous character of the man.

The worst feature of the face is the nose, which is an indifferant pug, altogether out of proportion to the bony forehead. The lips are rather sensuous and firmly compressed, even when the face is in repose. Boyd with all these unpromising characteristics, is dressed unbecomingly, and has the general expression which is supposed to denote the criminal of the Bill Sykes order. The prisoner is however, to judge from what his counsel said, far removed from that noted woman-beater. Boyd and his wife are according to Gen. Stiles showing, very loving towards one another, and his wife who is a tall genteel-looking lady, made desperate efforts to protect him at the time of their arrest.

The Court opened at ten o'clock A. M. After the transaction of some business of minor importance, the case of Benjamin Boyd and Almiranda Boyd, was called.

Messrs. Bangs and Burke appeared to prosecute, and Messrs. Stiles and Talley, represented the defendants. Considerable time was spent in examining jurors. By a quarter past eleven, twelve men, "sufficiently good and true" to pass upon the merits of the case, were obtained and the prosecution began its attack. Mr. Bangs addressed the jury for the Government, giving as the text which he was prepared to prove a candid and careful general statement of the facts compiled in this account of Ben Boyd and his doings, and claimed that Almiranda Boyd was, in all that, an accomplice, who had not as yet established her pretended character as the wife of the prisoner.

General Stiles followed with a long speech for the defense, in the course of which he said they would prove that Almiranda Boyd was the prisoner's wife, and could not be punished for protecting her husband and anything which might go to connect her with her husband in crime, was simply what any other loving and dutiful wife would have done under the circumstances. The possession of the plates was admitted, but claiming the endeavor to show that another counterfeit engraver, named "Kinsey" had prevailed upon Boyd to engrave the plates, with the object of giving them away to the Government, as soon as the work was advanced enough to prove conclusively the intent to counterfeit. In this way Kinsey sought to obtain pardon for his own past offenses. There had been thrown around the prisoner a net work of circumstances which seemed strong against him, but which would when unveiled, place his client in a different position and be impossible to prove that prisoner engraved the plates in his possession; the further prosecution could go, was to prove possession. It was not charged that the one hundred dollar plates had been used, and the fact was, they never had been used, and after the Government obtained possession thereof. [Laughter.]

The defendants attracted much notice throughout proceedings from a large crowd of spectators, and during the eloquent reference of General Stiles to her case, Mrs. Boyd became much affected and shed tears freely often quietly hiding her face in her handkerchief.

The first witness examined was Patrick D. Tyrrell, for the Government, who gave the Court in the most clear and straightforward manner, a succinct narrative of all the particulars of his operations as an agent of the Government, in the detection and arrest of Ben Boyd and his wife, substantially as given in the preceding pages. Witness undertook to state what Boyd said to him, but it was ruled inadmissible.

The second witness was Mr. G. J. Voreck, bank note engraver, who passed upon the plates found in the prisoners' possession. His evidence was purely technical.

The third witness was James J. Brooks, Assistant Chief of Secret Service. His evidence was mainly corroborative of that of the first witness. Mr. Brooks was not allowed to state admissions made by Boyd. The fourth witness was Operative, John R. McDonald, of Secret Service and the only new point brought out by him, was the offer of Mrs. Boyd to give him a thousand dollars, as has been related.

This manner of testimony made the case strong for the Government and pending further proceedings, the Court adjourned to ten A. M., the next morning.

At a succeeding session of the Court, the evidence being closed, and all arguments heard, his Honor the judge, directed the jury to find Almiranda Boyd not guilty; she being the wife of Ben Boyd, it was her duty to obey her husband and protect him. Boyd was found guilty and remained for sentence, to Cook County jail, in Chicago, Illinois, the sentence of imprisonment from which he had been brought into Court. Prisoners counsel gave notice of a motion for a new trial.

On February 7th, 1875, Operative, Patrick D. Tyrrell conducted Ben Boyd, from the Cook County jail, to Springfield, Illinois, where he and his wife were both used as witnesses for the Government in a very important case, the particulars of which are part of the history of Nelson Driggs. Tyrrell returned Boyd to the place from which he had taken him for the above-named case, and on February 12th, 1875, General Stiles argued a motion for a new trial, which the Court upon consideration denied; but taking note of the fact that Boyd had become a witness for the Government, as already stated, his Honor the judge was pleased to mitigate the sentence. Boyd was then condemned to serve a term of ten years imprisonment in the Joliet (Illinois) penitentiary, and to pay a fine of one hundred dollars and costs of Court.

The conviction and imprisonment of Ben Boyd, and the breaking up of his business with Nelson Driggs, was a heavy blow to the trade of a host of conyemen in the West and South. They could, of course, get the queer, but they were to buy "next the plate," so, having to longer of middlemen, the profits were small, the "trade" mostly poor, and the money very great. Every means was used to prevent the conviction of Boyd, and when he was at last imprisoned for ten years, all sorts of devices were employed to effect his release or secure for him a pardon. Among these enterprises, was one which

From its chaste character and the particular of its purpose, occasioned a natural excitement and a world of speculative controversy, so that its mention here seems requisite and proper.

During the winter of 1876, there was organized at Lincoln, Illinois, under the lead of a St. Louis counterfeiter of distinction in his nefarious life, a gang of desperadoes and gladiators, for the purpose of stealing the remains of President Lincoln, from their resting place in the monument erected to his honored memory, with the intention of concealing them and holding them for ransom; the body of the noble President to be restored only in consideration of humanity for the ransom, the payment of two hundred thousand dollars in money and the pardon of Ben Boyd! The date for this dastardly outrage to be consummated was for reasons carefully considered by the conspirators, fixed on the Fourth of July, 1876. In March, 1876, a woman of the town of Springfield, Illinois, reported this scheme to the police and it was in consequence for the time abandoned.

Eight months after the capture of Boyd, "George" or Irvin White, another counterfeit engraver was arrested in New Jersey, and then the koneakers of Chicago and St. Louis, who supplied the small dealers from Minnesota to Texas, could get no "stuff" worth having. The only plate which could be worked from at the time was "the Richmond, Indiana, ten," from which bills on the Lafayette, Indiana Bank were being printed. But "the Richmond tens" were so well known as to be absolutely worthless and unpassable, while "the Lafayette tens," etc., from the same plate were so badly printed, on account of the worn condition of the plate, that to pass them was almost sure conviction, unless the shover was prepared to put up money to save trouble, when any shopkeeper was too critical and inquisitive. Peter McCartney was still at large and active, and Charles F. Ulrich released from the Ohio penitentiary. But McCartney was inclined to monopolize, and the freedom of Ulrich was not generally known among conyemen, nor was there any certainty he could be induced to engage anew in crime. Ulrich was well accustomed, as was understood, to "big strikes" and heavy backing, and would not work with the men of smaller means and more moderate ambition. Under all these circumstances the release of Boyd became to a large number of resolute and crafty men a desperate necessity.

What all these things had to do with the matter is uncertain, but it would seem the plan abandoned in March, 1876, was revived, for on the night of November 7th, 1876, a bold attempt was made by a

counterfeiter named Jack Hughes, and another outlaw named Terrence Mullen, to rob the grave of President Lincoln. Through a detective named L. C. Swegles who had been employed by Operative P. D. Tyrrell, a Secret Service had become informed of the rascals' intention, and when Hughes and Mullen, with Swegles in their company and confidence, entered the monument by filing off the staple of the lock, Chief Elmer Washburn, Operative Tyrrell and several men of Pinkerton's detectives were on hand waiting for the thieves. Hughes and Mullen lifted the lid from the sarcophagus and began to lift the coffin from its resting place. As the party in waiting were closing in to capture the violators of the grave in the accidental discharge of a pistol gave the alarm, when Hughes and Mullen effected their escape leaving their tools behind them and tramping their way across country for a distance, finally arrived safe at the place from which they had started.

In less than two weeks, on November 17th, 1876, the two men were arrested in a saloon No. 294 West Madison street, Chicago, Illinois, and lodged in jail at Springfield in the same state. The arrest was brought about by the instrumentality of Operative Tyrrell, who followed the matter up with persistent energy, and through a trial ended May 31st, 1876, John Hughes and Terrence Mullen were convicted on the charge of attempted grave robbery and sentenced, to the limit of the law, for one year to imprisonment in the penitentiary at Joliet, Illinois. This whole nefarious affair was brought to light through the efforts of Operative Tyrrell to capture Jack Hughes on charges of passing counterfeit money, a pursuit Hughes had followed for a dozen years and at which he had become notorious, but had been remarkably successful in eluding arrest. The consequence of these movements has been reported, but when Hughes was immured for grave-robbery, the charges of passing counterfeit money were in force against him, so that when one year later his time was up at Joliet penitentiary, Operative Tyrrell knew where to find this man better than ever before, met Jack Hughes as he came out of prison and arrested him on the former charge. The prisoner was tried May 28th, 1878, and, on abundant testimony, sentenced for three years to the prison he so recently had been about to leave, where he and Ben Boyd will many other dangerous characters still remain, the community being safe from their deprecations, through the ability and praiseworthy faithfulness of the officers, Operatives and detectives named in this history of Ben Boyd and his confederates.

THE SEXAGENARIAN CROOK AND MERCHANT QUEERSMAN THE Magnate of Money Making

NELSON DRIGGS.



NELSON DRIGGS.

Nelson Driggs, alias David Downs, alias J. L. Watson, alias Captain Jones, alias Captain Nelson, alias George Baker, alias Watkins, alias J. T. King, alias W. E. Jones, alias William Jones, alias F. Belden, alias Nelson D. Riggs, was born in Scotland, Great Britain, the first year of the nineteenth century, according to his own recent statement of his age, although he has told a different and older story, by which he would be a number of years younger. A Scotchman by virtue of his lineage, this man of many names and indefinite age, inherited all the hardihood, "canine" shrewdness and intelligent persistence which characterize his race and have made them successful and celebrated throughout the world, in every avocation, pursuit and art of civilization.

Unfortunately the integrity supposed to be especially Scottish (the tradition of which, even the recent developments, as to the City of Glasgow Bank villainies, has

not quite destroyed) did not descend in the blood and bones of Nelson Driggs. He was neither a Bruce, a Wallace, or a Douglas; much less a John Knox, Robert Burns, or Walter Scott, of Abbotford. In his the tact and dexterity of his ancestors became craft and cunning, "scotch thrift" intensified to avaricious greed of gain, and the international spirit of his people turned into an Ishmaelitic disregard of what code he violated, or what community was levied upon by his well planned and thoroughly managed swindles and frauds.

To such a man the crime of making and passing counterfeit money in the United States of America offered attractions such as will be understood by those who intelligently read and consider the conditions and causes inciting thereto, as stated in the first few paragraphs of the precellent biography of the notorious Peter McCartney. (First published in "Dye" Government Counterfeit Detector," August, 1879.)

In person, Nelson Driggs stands five feet six inches high, is of rather stout habit of body, bordering on corpulency, and weighs about one hundred and seventy pounds. His general appearance indicates a respectable, well-to-do farmer of speculative habits. He has a dark complexion and generally has worn a full beard and moustache. The greater part of his three score and ten, or even more years of life, have been spent in the criminal vocation of counterfeiter, and in that career he has acquired national notoriety. A score or more of years before the establishment of our present system of National Banks, half a generation before the commencement of the civil war in the United States, Nelson Driggs was in close connection with Jerry Cowden, Oscar Finch and other counterfeiter dealers of New England and New York city, and subsequently traded and operated with Tom Congdon, alias Harry Bentline, Spencer Brookway, Frank Gleason, Frank Elliott, Lou. Melvin, and others, and the yet unconvicted parties now controlling the original plates of the Tannqua and Hanover fives, from which recent issues have appeared on various banks, by change of title lines, and retouches of the plates here and there.

It is reported among the gray-haired veterans of the cause that the Driggs family came to New York with people from Bridgeport, Connecticut; that their ostensible business was for a time that of boatmen between Buffalo on Lake Erie, and New York and Jersey Cities; that a brother of Nelson Driggs, who bore the title of "Captain" Driggs, kept a hotel in the southern part of Jersey City, where "Nelson" Driggs and many another queersman had for year after year a hiding place,

house of conference and regular exchange for counterfeited money, forged bonds and every kind of crooked or criminal financing. From New York and its vicinity, Driggs is stated to have extended his enterprise to the West, gradually abandoning his trade in the East, and finally becoming best known in the section including Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa and southern Minnesota. Not an engraver himself, he was the patron of cutters like Nat. Kinsey and Ben Boyd, the partner of Pete McCartney and the associate of a nameless host of first-class crooks and queersmen.

Other men have misused great talents in the work of corrupting the currency, but as the great Field Marshall of this war upon the Commonwealth, the well informed historian will recognize Joshua D. Miner of New York City, Frederick Biesch, of St. Louis, Missouri, Pete McCartney and no less the subject of present consideration, Nelson Driggs. In comparison with these men, even Henry C. Cole, notwithstanding recent large operations, is a mere jobber and peddler, too, though not named as such, in the above, but was certainly brought to grief in his old age, yet all too soon for the achievement of such success as they years ago made their own.)

Miner, as reported, was from the first a "high toned" speculator, when measured by the standard of the day. The failure of the Democratic republican government, in the corruption of New York city politics, enabled such as he to long keep their fingers in the public purse. J. D. M. was a favorite contractor, and hence his capital, ready for men like Thomas Ballard to work with, or use in bribery and corruption, when apprehension for crime came and political patinship and social influences were altogether not quite powerful enough to utterly pervert the ends of justice. And so it happens that Tom Ballard, despite his repeated and desperate attempts at suicide, passes the long days of his thirty years' sentence in the precincts of the penitentiary, while the capitalist who prompted his crime shared equally in the guilt and absorbed the lion's portion of the plunder, is yet a man at large among men, a citizen, and probably an influential political skill, who rides unquestioned without scorn, whenever he will, in Central Park.

Justice is blind—at least her eyes and her images are—and so is chance, as we saw, lest any should too hastily conclude the money to be so desirable, a safeguard always, it may be noted that in the last great affair of Cole, Ulrich and Ott, the poorest and the richest alike are punished, and the only peer of Ballard escapes. And still, some people are not happy!

Like Pete McCartney, Nelson Driggs began his career of crime very low down in the rudiments and "at a period of time of which the memory of man runneth not to the contrary." The particulars of his ancestry and antecedents, which he commenced as the timid shover of a few small bogus coins, or a single cheap counterfeit bill, gained, perhaps, by accident, have not become of record and are unobtainable, unless through much trouble. They are unimportant, except as they might illustrate anew the well understood causes of crime, to which he would probably be no exception at all—any more than thousands who have journeyed over a road like his line in life.

"The love of money is the root of all evil," and with Driggs, avarice seems to have been a passion.

The public history of Nelson Driggs begins about 1840 or 1845, when he was living in Freeport, Ohio, as a well-to-do merchant, the owner and manager of an extensive general variety store, which almost monopolized the trade of five counties. He was then regarded as a very respectable man of business, but used so much counterfeit money that he was compelled at last to leave that part of the country, which he did, after placing his mercantile business and store property in the hands of a relative. Sometime in the winter of 1843-4 Driggs was arrested in Chicago, Illinois, and thirty thousand representative dollars of well-done counterfeit notes on the Canal Bank of New Orleans, Louisiana, were found in his possession. On charges based upon the above facts he was convicted and sentenced for ten years to the Illinois penitentiary, which at that time was still at Alton in that State. He was received at the State's prison, according to this sentence, March 3, 1855. At that time he stated he had no parents living, was single and forty-five years of age. Nelson Driggs managed to serve but one year and a half of his ten years' sentence, being pardoned out by the Governor of Illinois, August 12, 1856.

The effects of misplaced clemency were soon evident, for in the same year he was convicted, with the help of John Sleight of Nauvoo Illinois, and John Frisbie, a notorious coveynman, managed the combination of counterfeiters known as the "Sleight and Frisbie gang." This corps of crooks had for its capitalist Nelson Driggs; its engravers were Nat. Kinsey and his pupil graduate, Ben Boyd. With the five named already, were associated, more or less directly, Pete McCartney, John Veasey, Charlie Harkway, Milton Parker, alias Doc Parker, Lot, Dolman and others. Dolman was shot and killed by Chief of Police Harrigan, at Spring-

field, Illinois, in 1866. Doc Parker was arrested and convicted in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1874, under the name of Edwards and committed for a term to the Eastern Penitentiary at that place. Driggs had his headquarters as "outsider man" of the Sleight and Frisbie troupe at Metropolis, Illinois, not far from Cairo, at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Sleight and Frisbie subsequently removed to the Mormon city of Nauvoo, Illinois, where the brother of Frisbie was killed in a quarrel and fight on a boat. During the war of the rebellion Sleight and Frisbie were arrested, and being taken to Washington, D. C., were held in confinement for some time in the "Old Capitol" National Prison. Louis Driggs is now dead, and Frisbie living "on the square" in the State of Wisconsin.

On March 7, 1861, Operative John Eagan, then looked upon as one of the most competent men of the Secret Service Division in the West, added to his reputation by effecting the arrest of Nelson Driggs at the house of John Roe, on the north side of Morgan street, between Eighteenth and Nineteenth streets, in the city of St. Louis, Missouri.

Session and on the premises were found two hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars, representative money, in counterfeit bills of the bills of various State Banks, twenty-one full sets of counterfeitets of State Bank plates, besides printing presses of different kinds, a supply of several kinds of inks, and bond paper enough to have made counterfeitets of millions of dollars. The establishment was arranged and fitted up to enable its operators and managers to manufacture counterfeitets of the bills of thirty nine different banks. William Operative Eagan, who was accompanied by Sergeant Frances and Officer Dick Barry of the St. Louis police, was still in the house, having Driggs under arrest, his nephew, Henry Guthrie, alias Henry G. Henry, a young fellow eighteen years of age, entered the house with a valise, which, upon his arrest, was found to contain twenty five thousand counterfeitets of the one dollar bill on a bank at Cadiz, Ohio, and six hundred dollars in gold. Materials to raise bills were also found in a trunk in the house, and nothing was lacking to convince the agents of the Government they had broken up one of the most dangerous "mills" ever run upon this continent.

In consequence of the arrests and capture described, thirty-nine separate indictments were found against Nelson Driggs and he being allowed to plead guilty on a single count, was, on September 21, 1861, convicted and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in the Penitentiary of Missouri. From thence he was pardoned out

during the year 1869 by Governor Fletcher, having, however, already suffered punishment which should have been sufficient to have secured to him a cure from any desire for further experience in the same direction! Henry Guthrie, Driggs' nephew and bondle carrier, being arrested with him, as stated, was also convicted and sentenced to State's prison for six years; but before his term expired he was set at liberty through the clemency of Governor Gamble. Soon after the release of Driggs from the Missouri penitentiary, he went to Louisville, Kentucky, and for a short time engaged in his former business, but was successful in no kind of goods. In this pursuit, at this time, he experienced the difficulties apt to trouble those once committed to crime. Either because the life of honest, or at least ordinary, commerce lacked excitement, or because it was not as profitable as he desired, Driggs presently returned to St. Louis and hunted up Ben Boyd, who had during Driggs' imprisonment in Missouri, become the brother-in-law and friend of Pete McCartney. Driggs and Boyd being old acquaintances had no reason for so much mutual explanation and negotiations; the work to be done was to replace the means of money manufacture, swept away by the ruthless Operative Eagan in 1861. Boyd was the man whose skill could accomplish all this, and while Driggs for capital was an outside manager, the latter was a certainty of immense profits if detection could but be avoided.

Resolved upon a new course of crime, the two worthies went, in November, 1871, to the Mormon city of Nauvoo, Illinois, and there took up their residence with their former partner and confederate, Louis Sleight. The use made of the advantages thus obtained, become evident in the history of immediately succeeding years.

Under the name of George Baker, Nelson Driggs was indicted on the October 1873 term of the District Court of the United States for the District of Iowa, held at Des Moines of that State, for passing a counterfeit of the five hundred-dollar United States Treasury Notes upon the Citizens' National Bank of Des Moines, Iowa. He was indicted under the name of William Jones, at the October (1874) term of the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Minnesota, for passing counterfeit money upon one Henri Rochot, a jeweler of St. Paul, Minnesota, and was indicted under the name of Nelson Driggs, at the June (1875) term of the District Court of the United States for the Northern District of Mississippi, for passing counterfeit money, to wit: Selling to Operative Charles E. Anclist two counterfeitets of the fifty dollar United

States Treasury Notes, series of 1869, on the 17th day of March, 1874, at Grand Junction, Mississippi, was indicted under the name of Nelson Driggs, at the November 1875 term of the Circuit Court of the United States for the Middle District of Alabama, held at Montgomery, in that State, for conspiracy, together with George W. Simpson, Benjamin B. Bowers, Samuel R. Neill and two others, to commit an offense against the United States, by publishing and uttering counterfeit money.

In March, 1874, Nelson Driggs was married to one Gertrude Stadfeldt of Dayton, Ohio, and in forming his domestic relations, like Pete McCarmey, Ben Boyd and many others who might be mentioned in the same order, illustrated the tendency of certain criminals to ally themselves with individuals of their own particular class and type, thus uniting to a great extent their co-operation in the ties of consanguinity and family relationship, while perpetuating in the line of hereditary descent, the evil qualities developed in their own felonious lives. Driggs married into a notorious family of counterfeiters, just as McCarmey and Ben Boyd did. The father of Gertrude Stadfeldt, now Mrs. Nelson Driggs was Nicholas Stadfeldt and her mother Barbara Stadfeldt. Gertrude had a sister Mollie and a brother Charlie.

Driggs formed acquaintance with his future wife, while she was serving a term in the Hamilton county jail in Cincinnati, Ohio, for passing counterfeit money, she became a printer of counterfeit notes for her husband, and every member of her family named beside has become notorious for dealing in the same, and all and each of them have served terms of imprisonment for that crime.

The nephew of Mrs. Nelson Driggs, named Nicholas Korn, alias Long, was arrested in the company of her husband at the time of the final capture of the latter, and a large quantity of counterfeit money was found upon his person. Korn was convicted accordingly, and sentenced to seven years imprisonment and to pay a fine of one thousand dollars. Charles Stadfeldt, her brother, was arrested at Cincinnati, Ohio, during January, 1876, for conspiracy with Nelson Driggs and Nicholas Korn in making and having in possession counterfeit money, and having in possession certain counterfeit plates. Charles was convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment in the Joliet (Illinois) penitentiary, and to pay a fine of one thousand dollars. Charles Stadfeldt traveled two years with Forepaugh's Circus as a side show proprietor. During September, 1874, he moved to Eddyville, Iowa, where he went by the name of Charles Belden; he afterward

resided at Clinton, Iowa, under the name of Tom Miller; then at Centralia, Illinois, as Charles Shafer and at the time of his arrest with Driggs, as above stated, he was known as Charles Lewis. He acted for a long time as a traveling agent in disposing of the counterfeit money manufactured by Driggs, and was remarkably successful in avoiding detection.

Early in the year 1875, the counterfeiting operations of Nelson Driggs, Ben Boyd and the Stadfeldts, with their especial co-workers, became the subject of particular consideration at the Treasury Department. In consequence, Elmer Washburn, Chief of Secret Service Division, issued his directions as noted in the account of Ben Boyd, and on February 5, 1875, charged Operative Patrick D. Tyrrell with the apprehension and conviction of the parties named, and the suppression of their nefarious manufacture and traffic. The work of Operative Tyrrell has been noted in the preceding pages, but it is requisite, in order to be continuous, to revert now to recall his course of proceeding preliminary to his demand for assistance and the co-operation of others in the final and decisive action.

In locating and working up the case of Driggs and Boyd, Operative Tyrrell was left, under the rules of the service, quite to his own discretion in view of the importance of the business entrusted to him. Following secretly and cautiously such clues as were obtainable, Tyrrell first met Nelson Driggs in June, 1875, at or near Keokuk, Iowa, finding he had been residing under the name of David Downs at Eddyville, Iowa, with an old brother-in-law Charles Stadfeldt, alias Charles Belden, etc. In the latter part of this same month of June, an old gentleman, giving the name of J. K. Watson, rented two houses in Clinton, Iowa, one of which he occupied with his wife and the other, which was about half a mile distant, and on the opposite side of the Northwestern Railroad track, and almost the last house on the street, was half dozen persons, apparently in the employ, interest or care of the kind old gentleman, Mr. Watson. For reasons best known to himself, Operative Tyrrell was close observer of the establishment of these two dwellings and was at once aware the first was the abiding place of no less important person than Nelson Driggs, under the alias of J. K. Watson, the other the residence of Driggs' father, mother, brother and sister-in-law, and one of the relatives, viz. Nicholas Stadfeldt, Barbara Stadfeldt, Charles Stadfeldt, Mary or Mollie Stadfeldt, at that time Mrs. Clinton, wife of Henry Clinton,

of Warsaw, Illinois, and of Nicholas Korn alias Long, her nephew.

The Stadfeldt household gave themselves the name of Shafer to their neighbors at Clinton, Iowa, and Tyrrell commencing his watchfulness, found the reason for their desecration, in the fact that they had in their house a regular "mill," or manufactory for counterfeit money, of which they presently gave evidence by getting out a small batch from the celebrated old plate for counterfeiters of the two dollar bills on the Tractor National Bank of Chicago, Illinois. An important capture could have been effected then and there, both of persons and the material for evidence, but the object was to break up the whole gang, of which Ben Boyd was the "cutter" was as important as all the rest. Boyd was not then located, and it was not until August 11, 1875, that the patient Operative learned of that skilled engraver's hiding place. On that day, Nelson Driggs was "piped" or traced to La Clare, Iowa, where in a stone house on the banks of the Mississippi river he called upon Ben Boyd. After this a watch was kept, both in Clinton, Iowa, and La Clare. Driggs again visited Boyd and once Boyd returned the compliment by a journey to see his friend Driggs.

As the plates these parties were well known to possess were almost as much of an object as themselves, everything was done that could be accomplished by watchfulness, to learn where the precious pieces could be found, but nothing in structure occurred until the night of 18, 1875, when Nelson Driggs opened three boxes, and taking them and three heavy trunks, went with his wife to the Revere House, where they had supper and took a room as if for the night; but at midnight took the train for Chicago, Illinois, where they put up at the Hatch House, and on the 18th again moved, this time to Dixon, Illinois; thence to Decatur, Illinois; thence to Centralia, Illinois, where they arrived September 21, 1875, and went at once to a residence which was found to be occupied by Charles Stadfeldt, alias Shafer, at the Hatch House, Illinois, about the 25th of August, 1875, and being known in Centralia as a St. Louis "drummer," that is a commercial traveler and salesman by sample on order.

On September 23, 1875, the three boxes mentioned as part of the baggage of Nelson Driggs on his journey to Centralia, Illinois, and which Operative Tyrrell learned weighed four hundred and forty pounds, were taken from the freight depot to the residence of Charles Stadfeldt on First Street, at that time. The contents of these heavy packages were sup-

posed to be materials and appliances for making counterfeit money, and doubtless a very important capture could have been made at this time also. But the capture of Nelson Driggs and his broodier carrier, and a quantity of material, was no more than John Eagan had done at St. Louis in 1861. There were other managing men of capital beside Nelson Driggs, as lawless as he, and the capture and destruction of all the crooked material and appliances in existence would be but a trifle to the quakersmen, as long as the creative genius and imitative aptitude of such artisans as Ben Boyd were at the service of any one who would pay their wages liberally.

To convict Boyd and thus get him into prison and out of mischief, he must be taken at his illicit work, or at least surrounded by absolute evidence of his occupation. At his stone house on the banks of the Mississippi at La Clare, Iowa, he had not betrayed himself as desired, until the 20th of September, 1875, when Driggs was migrating from Chicago to Centralia, Illinois, Ben Boyd as related in the preceding history, moved, his household furniture to Fulton, Illinois, and there, with his wife, Almiranda Stone, as a faithful guardian, established himself; but during the remainder of the month gave no sufficient token of being actually engaged in criminal engraving.

Thus when Driggs and Stadfeldt paraded their solid boxes of material for making money, under the eyes of the Secret Service Operatives, through the forests of Centralia, Illinois, the observers were compelled to remember Ben Boyd and keep their greedy hands off the contraband plant and passively look on, while the manufacturers set up their mill without suspicion of the latent crime of their neighbors took in each and all of their proceedings. In October, 1875, Boyd got to work, and as there was experienced watchfulness over affairs in Fulton, as well as in Centralia, his industry was soon known to more persons than the inmates of his house, or his confederates elsewhere.

Then as has been stated in the account of Boyd, Operative Tyrrell reported progress; then Elmer Washburn, Chief of Secret Service, James J. Brooks, Assistant Chief, and John McDonald, Operative, conferred with Tyrrell at Lyons, Iowa, and the arrest was decided upon to take place at 9 A. M., October 21, 1875; by which time Chief Washburn could complete arrangements and be ready in Centralia, Illinois, to arrest Driggs being the work he took upon himself; Assistant Chief Brooks, Operative Tyrrell and Operative McDonald, being left at Fulton, arrested Ben Boyd and captured a num-

ber of the plates, with a large sum of money as recorded. Chief Washburn made his way safely, and on time, to Centralia, Illinois, and there meeting Operative Estes G. Rathbone, Operative Frank C. Tuttle, and Operative Hurr, arranged the work to be according to the plan.

At the hour fixed upon, J. A. M. October 21, 1875, the four officers just named, surrounded and entered the house on First North Street, Centralia, Illinois, occupied by Nelson Driggs and the Stadtfeld family. There they arrested Nicholas Stadtfeld and his wife, Barbara Stadtfeld, two aged German people, about seventy years old, unable to speak English. Mrs. Nelson Driggs, formerly Gertrude Stadtfeld, a nice, quiet-looking woman about thirty years old, daughter of Nicholas and Barbara, and their son Charles Stadtfeld, the reputed commercial traveler from St. Louis. In the house were found a printing press, a numbering machine, a lot of engraver's tools, and other details of counterfeiting material, but nothing of consequence in the way of counterfeit money and none of the important plates expected. Moreover Nelson Driggs was missing, and the result seemed at first somewhat of a disappointment and a comparatively barren victory.

But on the same day, October 21, 1875, Chief Washburn managed to arrest Nelson Driggs about two miles south of Odin, Illinois, for "manufacturing, dealing in, and having in his possession counterfeit money; also, a press, numbering machine, engraver's tools, and other counterfeiting material"—the same equipment which he had at Centralia, Illinois. In company with Driggs and arrested with him at this time, was the nephew of Mrs. Driggs, Nicholas Korn, upon whose person was found a large amount of counterfeit money. On the following day a quantity of counterfeit money, to the amount of one hundred and seventeen thousand four hundred and thirty-seven and a half representative dollars, was captured in the heavy woods, about seven miles north of Centralia, Illinois, where Nelson Driggs had concealed the same just before he was taken into custody.

On the 25th of October, 1875, Operatives Rathbone, Tuttle and Hurr, arrived in Springfield, Illinois, having in their charge Nelson Driggs, and the prisoners arrested at Centralia, Illinois, on the twenty-first of the same month. The prisoners were lodged in jail and refused to converse with any one. The jail at Springfield, Illinois, not being counted entirely safe, the Operatives stood guard day and night over the prisoners, relieving each other at intervals. With the party came the printing and numbering machines, etc., with a lot of bank-note paper cap-

tured at Centralia, also the counterfeiters of fractional currency and bank notes already enumerated. The plates, from which these and other counterfeiters had been printed remained undiscovered at the time, and Chief Washburn staid in Centralia, Illinois, and organized a search for the same.

The comfort of the prisoners was provided for by forwarding their trunks and a plentiful supply of clothing, and their preliminary examination postponed. Chief Washburn being summoned to Chicago, Illinois, to attend the examination of Ben Driggs and Almiranda Boyd, ordered in that city to take place October 27, 1875. The counterfeit plates supposed to have been in the possession and use of Nelson Driggs, fifteen in all, were found October 29, 1875, where he had buried them, about five miles north of Centralia, Illinois, in a cornfield by the side of the road. On the same day an examination was held before United States Commissioner L. B. Adams, at Springfield, Illinois, where Nelson Driggs was held for action of the grand jury, and committed to jail in default of bail fixed at the sum of forty thousand dollars.

On November 13, 1875, an information was filed against Nelson Driggs for counterfeiting, at Des Moines, Iowa, by Operative Patrick D. Tyrrell, and a warrant issued but not served, the accused being already in custody. The four indictments before mentioned as having been found against Nelson Driggs, were all pending while he awaited the action of the Grand jury, at Springfield, Illinois. Had there been a failure to indict Driggs by the Grand Jury, the warrant procured at Des Moines, Iowa, would have been served and prosecution urged to the conviction of the prisoner, on the charge made by Operative Tyrrell, or some one of the various pending indictments.

At the January (1876) Term of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, held at Springfield, in that State, Nelson Driggs was indicted for having in possession and concealing counterfeiters of United States Trade Bank Notes and Bank Notes, to wit: First. The counterfeit money captured as hereinbefore stated. Second, For having in possession certain notes engraved and printed in similitude of certain National Bank Notes, to wit: Counterfeit notes on the First National Bank of Aurora, Illinois; First National Bank of Canton, Illinois, and the Traders' National Bank of Chicago, Illinois. Third, For having in his control, custody and possession, certain metallic plates, to wit: The counterfeit plates found at the time of his arrest as herein described.

The said Nelson Driggs was brought to

trial at the same term of the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of Illinois, his Honor, Judge Samuel H. Treat, Jr., presiding, and District Attorney J. P. Van Dorsten prosecuting. The principal witnesses for the government, aside from the officers and operatives concerned, were Ben Boyd and Almiranda Boyd, his wife, produced in court under charge of Operative Tyrrell, February 7, 1876, from Cook County (Illinois) jail, to prove the engraving and sale to Driggs of the original plate for printing counterfeiters of the five dollar bills of the Traders' National Bank of Chicago, Illinois, which first made their appearance in May, 1874, and the engraving of transfer plates by which counterfeiters were issued of the same denomination of bills, upon the First National Banks of Canton, Illinois; Paxton, Illinois; Peru, Illinois; Aurora, Illinois; Galena, Illinois; Chicago, Illinois, and the Merchants National Bank of Chicago, Illinois.

It was established that Nelson Driggs was the sole owner of the above plates, that he caused them to be engraved and secured the printing of two hundred and twenty-five thousand representative dollars from the original plate, which vast amount of counterfeiters he controlled and directed into circulation, this note being officially declared "the most successful counterfeit ever issued."

There was produced as property found in the possession of Nelson Driggs, "one copper-plate press and bed complete; one numbering machine made by the makers of an engraver's eye-glass; one engraver's tool; one roll of bank note paper; two boxes containing ink and materials for ink; four plates for printing National Bank Notes; one plate each for title and signature for National Bank of First National Bank, Aurora and Peru, Illinois; ten fifty dollar United States Treasury Notes, series of 1869; twenty-three thousand, six hundred and forty-seven fifty cent United States Treasury Notes, Series of 1862; two hundred and fifty cent United States Treasury Notes, Dexter Head; five faces of Dexter Head; thirteen thousand six hundred and thirty-nine five dollar notes on the Trader's National Bank of Chicago, Illinois; thirty-four five dollar notes on the First National Bank of Aurora, Illinois; fifty-one five dollar notes on the First National Bank of the First National Bank of Canton, Illinois; five thousand five hundred and thirty-two five dollar notes on the First National Bank of Illinois; one thousand seven hundred and thirty-eight five dollar notes on the First National Bank of Illinois. Being the press,

type, tools and materials captured at Centralia, Illinois, in the residence of Nelson Driggs and the Stadtfeld family, October 21, 1875. The bills and notes, amounting to one hundred and seventeen thousand four hundred and thirty-seven and a half representative dollars. The counterfeit money captured in the woods, October 22, 1875, and the plates dug up and captured October 29, 1875, as already described.

The said Nelson Driggs was found guilty on five counts in the first indictment and all the counts in the second indictment. On the 4th day of February, 1876, and on the 8th day of February, 1876, he pleaded guilty to two counts in the third indictment. He was therefore sentenced as follows: On the first indictment, to ten years' imprisonment in the Illinois penitentiary at Joliet in that State, and to pay a fine of six thousand dollars. On the second indictment to two years' imprisonment in the same penitentiary. On the third indictment, to ten years' imprisonment in the same penitentiary and to pay a fine of one thousand dollars.

The female prisoners taken with Driggs, to wit: his wife and Mrs. Barbara Stadtfeld were both discharged under the same rule of jury as a wife freed Mrs. Boyd when Ben Boyd was convicted.

Driggs is restive in prospect of his long sentence at his time of life and occasionally employs influences, once potent, now weak and lame, to obtain Presidential pardon. But recently an attempt was made in this direction, based upon the statement that the aged sinner was sick and nigh unto death. Pending Executive consideration of his case, a visitor reported Driggs walking the corridor of the prison, in a plump and healthy condition, telling good stories and laughing heartily at his own self-glorification.

But for the close watch kept on such matters, as in this case, by the Secret Service Division, through which the Department of Justice is fully advised of every move, the motive power used and the character of the criminal, in whose behalf the movement is made, pardons would be much more frequent than they are at present. The men most familiar with the case of Driggs can see no reason for leniency in his case, other than that he may earn by good behavior.

Driggs is possessed of considerable wealth, which his shrewd caution and lack of faith in the average human nature by which he was surrounded, induced him to refuse to trust to the control and management of any other person. His wife, living in quiet seclusion at Dayton, Ohio, with her child, subsists solely on money regularly remitted from her incarcerated husband and provider.

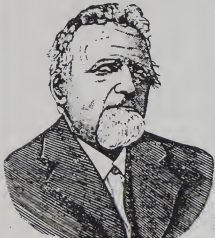
THE GREAT SOUTHWESTERN KUNIKNER.

Fifty Arrests, but Few Convictions.

A PRINCE OF MONEY MAGIC.

"THE INVULNERABLE,"

FRED. BIEBUSCH.



FRED. BIEBUSCH.

The discovery of America and the emigration from Europe and the rest of the world to this continent, are the most important phenomena of human history. These causes created commerce, expanded the sphere of statesmanship and developed civilization. As to who were the native Americans, there is uncertainty; even the red Indian is said to have made his advent from Asia. Anything like exclusiveness seems illogical; but while commerce, religion, science and art have sent their representatives here, the new world has received from the old more than an average number of the desperate and criminal.

The reason for all this may not be discussed at present, but the fact manifest in the more than half piratical voyages of the time of Columbus, has been evident ever since and is to-day as palpable as then. Doubtless the bitter must be taken with the sweet, in the ordinary course of events, but while we welcome a Koenig or Carl Schurz, there is no reason why

should not resent any foreign policy of police which seeks to evade the responsibilities of government, and undertakes to abnormally corrupt our populace by consigning to our ports, as to some penal colony, the unmanageable outscouring of their semi effete and detective social and political systems.

Since the first settlement of the United States of America, all shades, kinds and degrees of crossmen and rogues have at various times, from the earliest, crossed the seas, seeking in this great field of progressive action, room and opportunity for the exercise of their perverted talents and nefarious arts. Among them all, not one, it may be safely said, brought to the land of their adoption more dangerous capacities for multifarious crime, or a more determined and persistent purpose to use them, than Fred Biebusch, a German, born in Prussia in 1833, who emigrated to this country in 1844, and beginning his career within twelve months, has continued his work as a counterfeiter, burglar, briber and malefactor in general, until the very latest dates. In his course, this man has deserved the titles given at the head of this writing; he became known as "the great Southwestern Kunikner" years ago, has been arrested over fifty times, but convicted on but two occasions. Being "a prince of money magic," he managed to escape so often that the officers of the law denominated him "the invulnerable."

The whole life of Biebusch has been devoted to crime. His principal pursuit has been the exacting one of a wholesale dealer in counterfeit money. To that his time, his arts, his genius, have been devoted, yet he has found leisure to act as a receiver of stolen goods, and the embezzling factor and financier of burglars and thieves. He furnished the engravers of counterfeit plates with capital, he helped produce the plates, he bought the ink, paper and every material for the printers of counterfeit bills, and found the right men to act as his agents and shovers in general, by whom such notes were everywhere circulated. The career of this notable character, has been marked by unequalled success, for over thirty years his traffic as a queersman has been steadily followed, and his high line of operations, alike vast, bold and profitable, were extended over the whole country from Illinois to Texas.

Biebusch was twenty-one years of age when he arrived in the United States, and developed into a broad-shouldered powerful man, wearing a heavy crop of the whiskers generally, and making a fine appearance. He was an active and distinguished criminal almost from the day of his arrival, and in a quarter of a century

his operations were practically unchecked.

In 1850 Biebusch was keeping a liquor saloon on Third street, St. Louis, Missouri, called the War Eagle, which was frequented by river men of the most respectable class, steamboat officers and the like. It appeared to be a jolly good fellow and had a fine trade. Somehow or other, however, he fell under suspicion, and one day the police made a raid on his place, when in the back part of his saloon, buried in the walls, they discovered an immense amount of all kinds of stolen property, including jewelry and silverware. There was said to have been a sack full of watches among the plunder. It then became evident Biebusch had been keeping a general fence house. He was arrested, of course, but equally, of course, in some way avoided punishment.

The history of Fred Biebusch, as a counterfeiter is a romance of crime, the record of a wonderful man, as cool and subtle as he is daring and unprincipled. His personal headquarters were established permanently in St. Louis, Missouri, but his agents were secretly active throughout the whole Mississippi Valley. Personally he dealt only at wholesale, negotiating with extreme caution, for the transfer of very large amounts of his goods at once. He individually received the good money in such cases, but the counterfeiters reached his customers by the hands of other—women, children, or the boodle carriers—constantly in his service. Over all these people the great dealer kept the sharpest watch, he generally managed to involve them in monetary obligations to him, or count of some of their misdeeds, he never trusted them or any one too implicitly. The only parties in his confidence were those bound to him by interest, or held in his control by fear. Like the owl, he preferred night to day for his out of door movements and transactions, and was withal so shrewd and cautious that he avoided detection year after year while every one who knew him was certain of his guilt.

Before the present system of National Banks was established Biebusch distinguished wonderfully, through his speculation in counterfeit bills of the former State institutions. He did no manufacturing in those days, but from his place in St. Louis he jobbed out the goods produced upon various banks all over the country by Nelson Driggs, Piper, Sleight, and others, who sent out hundreds of thousands of representative dollars through this agency. From these manufacturers Biebusch then received heavy commissions, for he stood between them and the small dealers and had the whole traffic reduced to a system, which avoided danger and saved trouble

through his management. In this way Biebusch accumulated a large capital, with which he began to manufacture counterfeit money on his own account. He is not an engraver or a printer himself, but procured the help of those who were in each of these branches. He formed a partnership with the famous Pete McCartney, for whom he at first acted as an agent, receiving quite often one hundred or two hundred thousand representative dollars at a time, which he generally soon distributed and sold for circulation, in Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Kansas and the Territories. Biebusch and McCartney were distinguished by a resemblance in character, and when they joined their resources of talent, energy and money, they formed a strong and exceedingly dangerous combination. McCartney engraved the plates and superintended the printing of the counterfeit money, while Biebusch busted himself in wholesale dealings in the same and received the income of the firm for division.

Fred Biebusch was also at times the confidential "outside man" and manager for the engravers Ben Boyd and Bill Shelyer. He did the plates produced by these lads, he supplied them with money and hired them to cut plates for counterfeiters he had struck off himself. From being always "next the plate," Biebusch came to be the partner of McCartney, who made splendid plates, and finally the owner of others equally good from the hand of Ben Boyd, as was as a matter of fact his work in the same line. His profits had been large before, but after this he amassed wealth with great rapidity. The record of this man's progress and eventual success in his management of the various affairs in which he was interested for three decades of years is curiously interesting. In general, it may be observed, that whatever positive skill, sharpness, ingenuity, or the ready outlay of money could accomplish, he would always in his case of need perform. The extent of his profitable traffic made him rich, and after the first few years he could at any time control very large sums in ready cash. Biebusch was from an early date constantly persecuted by the police, and frequently arrested. For many times he was in the hands of the local authorities, he was always "bled" but never convicted, in consequence of such captures, he came to consider them quite matters of course in a business of this kind, and contrived to escape by bribes and rounds, or by trying promptly and openly to avoid arraignment before the courts, the air of a legal tribunal being an atmosphere he held in utter detestation.

By this time he was sometimes taken in hand by officers who had his conviction

a case not like others, official "shives," making arrests simply in order to punish their prisoner. When he found it impossible to "fix things" so as to keep out of court, Biebusch was by no means discouraged. He always kept on his feet, and was imprisoned at once, in any amount, and the moment he was released made his own mental analysis of the case, and looking cunningly about to see what could be done, went methodically and diligently at work to find out the cause of procedure and defeat the ends of justice. His first care was to find who were the witnesses upon whose testimony the Government relied for his conviction. Then he sought out the names of all the parties liberally and sent them away on long journeys from St. Louis, until his trial should be over. When the day for his trial came, Frederick Biebusch would answer in court and defiantly challenge proof of the charges against him. Then the Government officers would suddenly discover they had no case, their witnesses having disappeared with the evidence. But this scheme could not always be made successful; then the dispenser of gifts invaded the precincts of the court itself, and bribery crept nearer the bench. More than once Biebusch had his brief arguments with mercenary District Attorneys and has been saved by an unexpected *notte prosequi* entered just at the nick of time, by which the condemnments were left imposed upon a proser if not a wiser man. Indeed, it was not wisdom, but immunity he purchased on such occasions, and whatever he paid and whoever received the money, he followed up his illegal violation with renewed vigor, and at the cost of each release thus expensively obtained. No man in the United States, not even McCartney, ever so thoroughly or successfully tested the power of money in overthrowing or compounding criminal cases. He escaped so frequently and so readily, and by means so well understood, that it was not uncommon on his release from custody to hear officers and others inquire, as a kind of standing joke: "How much did Biebusch put up this time to get out of quod?"

We read in the Bible, that "The wise man seeth the danger afar off and provideth for it." Whether Biebusch made a study of that volume is doubtful; but proverbial just quoted is certain. Conscious of the liabilities of his position, he was always on the alert and took every precaution to insure his safety in any dilemma in which he might become involved. The title of "Great Swindler" and "western Koniacker," was a source of pride to him. He enjoyed his distinction all the more because it was a matter of fact

by which he had largely profited; yet, as he boasted, during all these years neither Government officials or local authorities had been able to give the slightest legal proof of his complicity in the business. For witnesses of other counterfeiters were imprisoned. Although hating the courts and all their surroundings, Biebusch made it his business to know everybody in office, either police or magistrats, even judges, politicians and Statesmen. However he found out the name of a United States Senator or Governor of a State, down to the "flattest" member of the police, was accessible to corruption, he made a note of that man, and as circumstances favored, or sooner or later bought himself "friends at court," by subsidies against the time of need. When arrested on one occasion, he had in his possession notes of hand on call for money loaned to prominent citizens of St. Louis, to the amount of sixty thousand dollars. He thoroughly understood every defect, flaw and weakness of the laws and the method of their application, and was ready to take any and every advantage, fair means or foul; moreover, he seemed to have been a person who could point out to him harm completely at his command, by means of his use of the money he won by his desperate games of felony.

When the United States Secret Service, originated as a war measure by General Scott, had fulfilled the important duties imposed upon it during the civil war, it was continued as an essential part of the Treasury Department, especially charged with the suppression of the making and passing of counterfeit money.

Biebusch regarded the United States Secret Service Division with apprehension from the hour he became aware of its organization. Confident from long continued excess of his ability to deal with the ordinary police and local officials, he saw in the new agency of the Government a mysterious foe, with whose plans and methods he had no acquaintance.

Considering the matter, he concluded Secret Service men were but as other men, and in his usual manner approached several operatives here and there, cautiously inquiring who could be bought when occasion required. He gained information, and after paying a handsome retainer to those he considered influential, kept on in his work and quietly relied upon his new found friends to treat him with studied neglect, or be of use if others stirred up trouble. Subsequently he was arrested, and a number of letters were found in his possession from different operatives of the Secret Service, some as at first organized, who had been overlooked when the money went around, offering for a consideration to stand by

him and help him escape the grasp of the law whenever wanted. It is unnecessary to add the ranks of the force have, since then, been well wooded of such avaricious traitors.

After the suppression of the rebellion, and the end of the war, Colonel H. C. Whitley having been appointed Chief of the Secret Service, that Division of the Treasury Department was thoroughly reorganized, with an especial view to the duties which would devolve upon it in time of peace. It was resolved that such knaves as Biebusch, McCartney, Bill Gurney, John Hart, Tom Hale and other notorious counterfeiters, should be brought to justice without delay, and the rascally trade they so pertinaciously followed broken up and, if possible, exterminated. Vigorous measures were accordingly taken against that class of criminals, the more distinguished being selected for the critical consideration of Operatives detailed for express and particular attention to their personal case. The District including St. Louis was placed in the charge of Operative John Egan, said to have been one of the best men in the Division, now in private business. Egan made the connection about him a subject of much solicitude; in fact, they and their doings were never off his mind. Accordingly, in the year 1865, Frederick Biebusch, after an uninterrupted career as a counterfeiter and crossman for more than a score of years, was arrested in the City of St. Louis for selling counterfeit money. So often had this occurred before, that the news seemed to excite no unusual interest, and neither Biebusch nor the average official, much less the public, anticipated anything more than the usual routine fare, the regular jobbery and robbery, and then the release of the prisoner—to retrieve his expenses by fresh activity in issues of counterfeit coin, treasury notes or bank bills.

Biebusch, after examination, promptly gave bail in a large amount and began his old tactics of evasion, spitting away witnesses, bribery and the like, but there was an unexampled energy and good fortune in the prosecution, indicative of new men and original methods. A very early day was named for trial and the case pushed with certainty and speed. During proceedings it became evident the accused had great wealth, on a term of which was notes of hand on call for sixty thousand dollars from prominent citizens of St. Louis, said notes being found in his possession. As has already been stated, "The Invariables" had been established on his weak spot, he was denied time for his customary devilities, and in consequence convicted and sentenced for ten years to the Missouri penitentiary. There he remained just half as many months, being then pardoned out, through some strange influence, by the Governor of the State.

Thus restored to liberty, Biebusch resumed his old business, and during the next or four years was arrested four times, but on each occasion promptly convicted, having learned, as it would seem, to adapt his old tactics to the new emergencies. It was his boast that he "could paddle his own canoe in safety forty-nine times out of fifty, and not be least liable to venture. But the sixtieth time came at last, and he found the breakers too much for even his navigation. In February, 1869, Biebusch was again arrested by the Secret Service, on another charge of uttering counterfeit money. Under direction of Chief H. C. Whitley, "a job was put up" upon the old counterfeiter and evidence against him secured by the "stool pigeon process." An agent named McCabe was supplied with marked money, and with that bought a quantity of counterfeit stuff from Biebusch, who was thereupon arrested and the marked money found in his possession. In this way the operatives made a strong case for the Government. Biebusch was held for trial in twenty two and dollars bail, which he promptly gave and then proceeded with cunning and energy, by the liberal use of money after his old method, to prepare for court. He adroitly managed to buy every witness for the Government, and had everything nicely fixed before October, 1870, when the trial came on.

Everything looked fair for another escape, but about these times, Chief H. C. Whitley came upon an engraver in New York city by the name of William Shelley, detecting him in making a plate for printing counterfeit bills. Having been caught upon such work, Shelley was induced to confess he had of late come from St. Louis, Missouri, where he had done other work of the same kind, and that the former and the present pieces were no less a person than Frederick Biebusch. There was seen the benefit of a National Service; it was a move in advance of all Biebusch expected. Shelley had been sent away, but he was found and taken back again. On the day of trial Biebusch entered the court room, defiant and bold as ever, but met there an apparition, before which he was struck dumb with astonishment. The Government placed William Shelley upon the stand as a witness. The moment he saw him there, the courage of the prisoner, became confusion. Shelley told a straight-forward story and the guilt of the prisoner became evident. At the last moment Biebusch escaped from the court

room, fortifying his heavy hall and disappeared. But the Secret Service pursued Chief Whitney and his men upon the trail, and within a week Operative John Eagan, aided by Chief McDonough, and his men of the St. Louis police, recaptured the fugitive, who was then committed to prison without bail.

When Diebusch fled from court, as stated, a close watch was set upon his wife, who was followed wherever she went. She was presently traced to Cape St. Vrain, in the Mississippi River, opposite the town of Venice, Illinois, above Bissel Point. There Mrs. Diebusch was observed to meet her husband in a cornfield, from which he retired to a miserable hut some distance off in which he had taken shelter. The hut was surrounded by a dozen men, and as the refugee refused to come forth and surrender, several shots were fired to intimidate the desperate man now fairly at bay. These, of course, Diebusch returned in kind; then the hut was set on fire. Diebusch rushed forth, being smoked out of his hole, and started off on the run. Some half dozen shots were fired at him without effect, and he continued his flight. Coming to a high fence he mounted that obstacle, but when fence he mounted that obstacle, but when about to spring off beyond, was grappled, dragged down and secured. Once more before court Diebusch was tried on five separate indictments before Judge Treat. Sholey's testimony convicted his embezzler, and on December 14, 1870, Frederick Diebusch, then forty-seven years of age, was sentenced for fifteen years to the Missouri penitentiary.

Of this term he served but five years, when he was once more set free by a pardon from the Governor of Missouri. As before when free, Diebusch resumed his old trade and it is said to have been for some time past in addition, the only dealer in first-class burglar tools in the West. The Secret Service Operative having discovered ample reason for sharp suspicion of Diebusch, orders were issued that he should be observed closely. John Eagan, his former captor, having retired from the force, Operative P. D. Tyrrell was transferred from Chicago, Illinois, to St. Louis, Missouri to manage the matter. At the Missouri term of the United States Magistrate Court, held at St. Louis, Missouri, Diebusch was indicted, but no warrant was issued, as it was feared he would hear of it and secrete himself. The evidence against him was complete, but as officers had become implicated, the arrest was deferred until proof could be found against the entire party concerned. It was presently discovered that Diebusch gave signs of leaving the vicinity of St. Louis, and the capture was ordered to come off on Wednesday, October 22, 1870.

The men selected for the work were Operative Tyrrell, Deputy United States Marshals Seost and Wheeler, with Sergeant Sumner and Officer Weigman of the St. Louis police.

Diebusch was arrested at a tavern called the Seven-Mile House, a distance out of the city of St. Louis, where his family resided, having moved there two weeks before from 2233 Suddard street, St. Louis, he having recently acquired the property by foreclosure of a mortgage for two thousand five hundred dollars, which he held upon it. Diebusch was in his yard when taken, berehanded, looking at the evening sky—star gazing, quite unobtrusive. The capture was quietly effected, and the prisoner brought by carriage to the St. City Police station, where he was searched, and two hundred and twenty-nine dollars and forty-nine cents, in gold money found on his person, but nothing to implicate him. As he never carried contraband goods of any sort, some were contraband the parties taken that night expected the parties taken that night were Andrew Jackson Thomas, alias "The Preacher," and Annie Thomas, his wife, also a negro hostler named Jack Sullivan, Reinhard Dose, the German lander of the Sheridan Exchange, and two young fellows, William Whalen and Harry Wong.

The next day, Thursday, October 21, 1870, a gang of seven counterfeiters were arrested in And cws Court, Missouri, and a quantity of spurious coins, with moulds, dies and other appliances were taken in connection with the captured party. Taken in connection with the party were in St. Louis, the last mentioned a determination to break up the private mints in that district, a necessary thing, as the amount of false coin had become a nuisance to the district.

At the present writing all the accused are retained in custody. "Miss" Annie Thomas having been admitted to bail in the sum of three thousand dollars, upon examination held Saturday, November 1, 1870. Compared with Diebusch, the other parties are, perhaps, insignificant, though the Thomas couple are suspected of having a crooked record of interest and importance. As to Diebusch, he still has money and strong backers, and although nearly sixty, is in full possession of all his faculties. He will, no doubt, make a tenacious and characteristic defense and may possibly again get clear, but considering the ability of Operative Tyrrell, the thoroughness of Chief James J. Brooker, and all the circumstances, it is probable whatever the present event, the offenders will after all be made to pay the full price of their evasion in the hands of the law. The parable about the pitcher, which, though coming often safe from the well, was broken to pieces at last.

THE SEPTUAGENARIAN SURVIVOR

OF

THE OLDEST OF THE COUNTERFEITERS.

The Cutter Who Fell From Grace

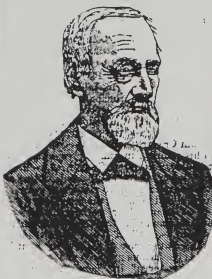
IRVINE WHITE,

ALIAS

GEORGE IRVINE WHITE, alias G. J.

WHITE, alias GEORGE WHITE,

alias CHARLES WHITE.



IRVINE WHITE.

The Septuagenarian survivor of the oldest of the counterfeiters, Irvine White, was born in Trenton, New Jersey, in the year 1809, where he resided, during the early years of his life and learned the art of an engraver on wood as H. M. Snyder, late of Van Pigny & Snyder, North American building, corner Seventh and Chestnut streets, a master who, when an apprentice, worked with White and was aided by him to acquire some part of the skill and dexterity which by the achievement of the most finished style has made the success of his present well-known establishment. White was a genial man, interested in everything going on about him, and always ready with a hint or a touch in everyone's assistance.

In those early days, conviviality was the rule, and White, though not what could be called intemperate, was somewhat irregular in his habits; enough so to cause some uneasiness to his very respectable wife. But such things were common to the time among the class to which he belonged, and the more the pity, are not obsolete anywhere, even now. The good wife had cause for anxiety, for probably, through his good nature and indulgence in occasional inebriety, White was brought acquainted with his evil genius in the guise of manufacturers of counterfeit money. To bring the matter down to a modern date; shortly after the counterfeiters of the one hundred dollar bills of the Philadelphia Bank made their appearance throughout the country at once, the bank's good sense discriminating its ineffectiveness of the local official police here and there, organized in the absence of anything like a National Secret Ser-

vice a century ago, and now entirely superseded and obsolete.

The ancestors of Irvine White are said to have been natives of New England, where they and their relatives bore an historical and honored name. The subject of this sketch certainly had all the practical talent and versatility peculiar to the wide-spread progeny of New England, and aside from his proclivities to a criminal use of his skill and dexterity, was not without the better and brighter traits of character significant of his race and original breeding.

Taught to engrave on steel, "George Irvine White" was well known in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, thirty or more years ago as an engraver on wood as well on steel having become less in demand. As a wood engraver, White was a bold and effective, but not a fine workman, judged by modern standards. In fact, this work was in a degree out of his line, and some might be somewhat surprised to see for a long time had enough to do and made good wages, though not doing as well as when engaged in the more artistic execution of his subjects in steel. He was an intelligent operator, and to this day is kindly and in pity remembered by such expert engravers on wood as H. M. Snyder, late of Van Pigny & Snyder, North American building, corner Seventh and Chestnut streets, a master who, when an apprentice, worked with White and was aided by him to acquire some part of the skill and dexterity which by the achievement of the most finished style has made the success of his present well-known establishment. White was a genial man, interested in everything going on about him, and always ready with a hint or a touch in everyone's assistance.

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vice, an "Association for the Detection of Counterfeits."

The first tradition of "George White," as he was called, as a cutter of the counterfeits, relates to a time as early as 1830, when he was employed by a gang including Ben Pratt, Hans Warner, Sam Ramsay, Marshall Bill Cregar, Tom Condon, Minnie Price and other active queersmen of the time, to engrave plates for printing counterfeit bills of the old State banks.

During August, 1860, Chief Joseph M. Wood of the Philadelphia Detectives, received a letter dated Camden, New Jersey, from one William Barton Tarr, a well-known counterfeiter, professing penitence and offering aid in arresting parties about to foist a new issue of counterfeit bills upon the public. Chief Wood was an energetic officer, honestly ambitious of great work, especially in the suppression of the crime in which he found Tarr was a proficient expert, well acquainted with the queersmen and generally in their confidence. Convinced of the invaluable use it might be, Chief Wood secured the cooperation of Tarr, who in that way really did the State some service, and for some time gave no reason to doubt his faithfulness. The Chief was presently made aware that certain "big guns" in the city of New York were engaged in the manufacture of a plate for printing counterfeit bills of the five dollar bills on the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank of Philadelphia, the said plate to be finished early in June, 1861. The men at work upon this plate, and who, with their associates, held the possession of some fifteen or twenty pieces of work of like nature, were a person named Moseley, as well known as "Moses," alias Allen, his full name being reported as Reuben Moseley, and "George Irvine White." At this time the notorious "Minnie" Price, whose pseudonym was Manassah Price, kept the Star Hotel, at the corner of Nineteenth and Poplar streets, in the city of Philadelphia, which house was the headquarters of all the coney trade, the haunt of the queersmen for hundreds of miles around. The rest of his made from the plates engraved by Moseley and White were dealt in, wholesale and retail, and there the specie basis was provided in any quantity of bogus coin.

It was the purpose of Chief Wood and of Tarr his aid-camp, to capture all these parties, plates and materials, and for a time success seemed almost assured through their "stool pigeon" and other operations. Tarr being provided with money from the Associated Banks, and Woods private fund, they proceeded to purchase the new plate and had paid sixty dollars toward the price of the same. On Wednesday, November 5, 1860, the night

before the election of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, there was a gathering of the craftsmen of Philadelphia, to receive their shares of a bundle of counterfeit notes to come from New York city that evening, and be shovled into circulation amid the excitement of the ensuing twenty-four hours. The bundle was to arrive on the ten P. M. train from New York, and the shares were to be given out at the Star Hotel one hour later. The hour came; the bundle came; the shovers, peddlers and dealers came, the package was opened, the distribution began, and just then, there also came Chief Wood with a party of his officers, all prepared to "bid high" for the bundle. The guests of the Star Hotel who could escape left its hospitalities through back windows, sentries, and any unusual way, Minnie the proprietor setting the example. The counterfeit bills were thrown on the roof, in the back yard, anywhere, everywhere, to get them off their persons. The premises were searched, a number of prisoners taken, a large amount of counterfeit bills captured, and an account taken of either the plates from which evidence, Price being arrested soon after, was convicted at last and sentenced in the Spring of 1861 to three years confinement in the county prison.

None of the culprits taken at the Star Hotel, were the principals or engravers most wanted, and Chief Wood, who had already taken the redoubtable "Colonel" J. B. Cross, the forger, "Colonel" William Cregar, the famous counterfeiter and his comrade in sin, the veteran Robert Ridley, alias Bob Cooper, as well as many lesser desperadoes and outlaws, made every effort to reach an outlet. Moseley and White, the engravers, as well as secure their partners with the plates and material they were known to have and use. Chief Wood was a student of the great science of "How to do it," and his operations gave offence presently to a number of interested gentlemen. Cross, Cregar, Ridley, Price, Moseley, and White had their friends in positions where any honest man would have grieved to find them; even about the courts and among the police, and Chief Wood became aware he was watched, hated, and hindered by persons among those who should have been his untiring assistants.

About the middle of May, 1861, Tarr was arrested by Deputy United States Marshal John Jenkins, on a charge of complicity with Jake Zimmerman, a noted false coiner, and others. Tarr protested his innocence, but appearance was made against him and he was committed to prison for trial. Chief Wood's confidence in his man was shaken, the more so as Tarr was more communicative than nec-

cessary, at all events the schema for the arrest of Moseley, White, and their partners, was brought to naught through the arrest and the prisoner's freedom of speech regarding the affair. There was much talking and writing upon the subject, but the amount of money actually pleased were the counterfeiters, their sympathizers and confederates, whereabouts located. The action of the Chief was much misrepresented by the newspapers of the day, which in their ignorance of the facts, assumed an air of virtuous indignation, quite sensational and highly amusing to the well-informed. Whatever motive may have influenced those who broke up the arrangements of Chief Wood, the effect was to put the men he had been in pursuit of on their guard, induce them to change their quarters and secure their safety.

During the month of November, 1861, the counterfeiters of the five dollar bills of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank of Philadelphia made their appearance, being from the plate upon which William B. Tarr had already worked. In the course of negotiations to entrap its engravers. Among the material captured at the time Jake Zimmerman and William B. Tarr were arrested May, 1862, was a plate for printing counterfeit bills of the five dollar bills on the Farmers and Mechanics Bank of New York. This plate, according to Tarr had been intended for Moseley's manipulations to perfect the same, but being captured, as it stated, was for a time unheard of; it was incidentally referred to six months after in the newspapers as one of the Banks of North America and having been with the plate for the counterfeiters on the Farmers and Mechanics Bank of Philadelphia, caused to be engraved by Chief Joseph M. Wood, in his efforts to arrest the makers. The inaccuracy of the quotation as to the Bank of America plate, was less than the untruthfulness of the statement of its origin, or that of the other. Very strangely the Bank of America plate reached Moseley and White after all, at least, in 1863 counterfeit five dollar bills corresponding with the captured plate were put in circulation. It was odd, but it showed how the old thing worked" sometimes, almost twenty years ago.

William B. Tarr and Jake Zimmerman were convicted and sentenced for four years. Before his resignation, November 1, 1861, Chief Wood turned over the whole mass of information acquired regarding Moseley and White to one of the principal officers of the police force of New York city. The two engravers were at the time described as follows: "Old Moseley, of Moses, who engraves the name of Allen, after an old engraver of that

name who died some time ago, a mixture of a gentlemen in appearance and address. He is of medium height, fairly well built, about sixty years of age, quite gray, usually wears a goatee about three inches long, dresses in black, sports a cane, wears a large ring upon the little finger of his right hand, displays a heavy gold vest chain attached to a gold watch, and is very free and pleasant in conversation." His first name was supposed to be Reuben, and it was thought he was the same person as in Philadelphia for some time of feigning some twenty years before; that party having been known by some of the same marks, and answering the name of Reuben Moses or Mosey. Of George Irvine White was written: "George White is another of this party. He is about the age of Moseley (a mistake), taller and not so stout. He is gray also, but patronizes the hair-dye—no whiskers; smokes a great deal, drinks often, is more sedate and less talkative than his partner."

Sometime in 1864 the Philadelphia combination of counterfeiters was broken up. Tom Condon inducing White to work for him and his New York associates. This change took "the plate" away from the Philadelphia, and compelled them to buy of Condon and Co. their new counterfeit, paying a commission for the same above and in cost. In his rage at this Ben Pratt after a time gave information to Deputy United States Marshal John Jenkins, of Philadelphia, against Condon and White, the result of which will be read in succeeding paragraphs.

About that time the police of New York city became too much occupied with business connected with the slaveholders great rebellion and the civil war, to find time for attention to men who were doing no worse, or more important business, than making a few score thousands of so of counterfeit dollars now and then. The business grew into proportions, demanded attention after a time, even amid the din of war, and it finally received due regard and consideration from that "Secret Service" the exigencies of war brought into existence. In the plate work of New York and any other genius in their line enjoyed a long immunity, pushed their business, helped the Treasury Department inflate the currency to the best of their ability, believed in the war for the Union, or anything else which kept the authorities busy, and persuaded themselves most fully that "the good time coming so long upon the way," had at last arrived according to promise.

During 1867 White was arrested, in a raid made by the Operatives of the Secret Service upon an establishment in Cesar street, New York city. He was arrested and displayed a sign inscribed: "Bently & Co., Bank Note Engravers and Printers."

White was the only person found upon the premises, but it was ascertained that the agent of the firm of Bently & Co., was Henry T. Condon, alias Harrison Bentine, alias Tom Congdon, alias H. B. Condon, alias Grand Duke, the able manager and capitalist of a gang of New York counterfeiters, in whose employment White was originally engaged. Upon the evidence secured at this time, White was subsequently convicted and sentenced to Sing-Sing penitentiary, in the State of New York, for five years, which term of confinement he served out.



HENRY T. CONDON.

Henry T. Condon is a descendant of a family said to have been residents of the city of Bridgeport, Connecticut, at one time, after which he banished the great eastern cities, while other members of the family, including his brother, Charles Timothy Condon, removed to Western Pennsylvania, where they engaged in farming. Charles T. Condon was, however, subsequently induced to return to New York, where he became associated with his brother and his confederates, and thus earned himself a place in this history. Henry T. Condon became one of the successful coneyman of his generation; he was associated as such men as Nelson Briggs, Spencer Brockway, Frank Gleason, Jerry Cowden, Hank Elliott (the bond forger), Lou Martin, Andrew Robertson and others even now active as the successors of Henry C. Cola, having by fraud obtained possession of a fraud, in order to multiply frauds, dis-

ating the changes from the plate of the now well known "Tamagna" Name might be added here, but lest too much light awake the bats of the cave, the author directs the reader to a page where the account of the parties here referred to is certain soon to appear, the United States Secret Service Record, Official Summary of Arrests, published only on pages thirty-four and thirty-five of "Dye's Government Counterfeit Detector." Henry T. Condon married a sister-in-law of the wife of Spencer Brockway and has a daughter some twenty years of age, a graduate of that most excellent institution, "Yassar College for Women," at Poughkeepsie, in the State of New York.

Sometime in 1896 a gentleman engaged in the United States Treasury Department, a son-in-law to White, was the owner of a small property in Vineland, New Jersey. The health of this son-in-law failed and he was compelled to leave the Treasury Department, after which he resided in Vineland. In that beautiful and prosperous town, White and his wife came to live with their children and there they remained, up to the time when White was actually committed to Sing-Sing penitentiary. The whole family were much respected in Vineland, where nothing was known of the criminal pursuits of White. The old man left many samples of his art in the town, and earned some money honestly; he was considered "a regular old deacon" there, though fond of a dram. But matters went ill with the companionable engraver and the household where he made his home; the son-in-law became a consumptive, there were three grandchildren, bright little people and all girls, so the hand of poverty took hold of the three generations at once.

At this time, that successful apprentice of Messrs. Gilbert & Gayon, of Philadelphia, the H. M. Snyder already mentioned as receiving valuable hints in his art from White, had become a partner of that celebrated engraver, the late Mr. Van Ingen. There was a carpenter named White at work off and on at jobs about the establishment, and one day Mr. Snyder discovered the carpenter was the son of White, the single child of his father's place of residence, Mr. Snyder sent him work from time to time, which White engraved at Vineland. When the son-in-law of White became sick, night unto death, he was moved to the city of Philadelphia, where he died, and would be made a great deal more comfortable, and there he presently died. The family was broken up, White moved to Philadelphia himself and for a time still worked more or less as an engraver on wood.

What crooked and secret work White may have done for Condon while living

in Vineland, or while working, off and on, for Van Ingen & Snyder, in Philadelphia, is uncertain. He used to be absent part of the time from either place, and his family on such occasions assumed unable to say where he went. We have given the facts of his life as they appeared to his honest neighbors at Vineland, and to his fellow craftsmen in Philadelphia, and as they seemed to continue from 1860, or thereabouts, up to the time when his commitments to Sing-Sing penitentiary, some time after his arrest in New York during 1867.

After the expiration of his term of imprisonment at Sing-Sing, White returned to Philadelphia, took up his residence at Twenty-third and Market Street, and again went to work for Van Ingen & Snyder, leaving his place in the same room with the junior partner of the firm; yet Mr. Snyder remained in ignorance of White's episode in Sing-Sing, and the experience was the more probable for his courtesy and kindness had made him popular long before. The habits and deportment of White at this time were perfectly regular and commendable; it was reported he had joined an Episcopalian Church, and that he worked in a most unassuming way of life seemed in no sense unworthy of such a pious profession and dignified relation. The bearing of White was always such as to command respect for his talents, in proof of which it may be stated that at one time he was employed as Superintendent and Teacher of the Department of Wood Engraving in the "Pennsylvania School of Design for Women," corner of Merrick and Filbert streets, Philadelphia. It is an interesting fact that one of his pupils there, was a grand-daughter of his own lady partner, who inherited all the better traits of her ancestry and acquired a degree of skill which proves at once her aptitude and his early and faithfully continued tuition.

At the time when White resumed work for Van Ingen & Snyder, as above stated, he was growing old and found his sight fail him when steadily used. Moreover, he was behind the modern standard of wood engraving, as progress and improvement therein had been very rapid. It became difficult to find just the work White could be kept on with profit to his employer. If it were only steel he could have turned his hand to, the chance would have been better, as the wood work was with him only a kind of makeshift art. However, when the printing went on pretty well between Master Snyder and Workman White, and perhaps would have done so until now, but for something like an accident. In answer to some, perhaps, critical remark made to White by Mr. Snyder one day, White was so needlessly

unrespectful that Mr. Snyder looked upon somewhat sharply, whereupon the old engraver, taking offence, or having a more profitable job in view, gathered his tools and left the establishment, to the unselfish regret of his employers, who supposed they knew the difficulty he would have in making a living.

His old employer is still inclined to believe that, but for this aggravating incident, White would have kept honestly and industriously to his work in his pay as long as he was able to guide a tool. However, in a short time White fell from grace, if indeed he had been in grace. He once more took up the burin for his former fellow and still superintendent, H. T. Condon, and moving to a house near the Baltimore depot in Philadelphia, and then afterwards to Camden, New Jersey, proceeded, after a reasonable time, several pieces of work, imprints from some of which are still in fraudulent circulation and are still that old as White was at the time, his eye had not lost its keenness nor his hand forgot its cunning, when he set himself down in secret and on the smooth surface of the fine steel he loved to work, wrought on the complete device of a cipher, and set the counter plate, therewith the presses of Condon should multiply the issues of first-class counterfeiters. Such was the work the veteran counterfeiter, unchecked by the memory of his half a decade of years at Sing-Sing, set himself diligently about month after month, his way from Condon more liberal than Van Ingen & Snyder could afford for honest work on wood, and his independence greater. What the result of all this labor came to be shall be at once related in the language of H. T. Condon, alias Harrison, Tom Congdon, H. B. Condon, Grand Duke, was arrested June 28, 1876, by Chief of the Secret Service Division, Elmer Washburn, Assistant Chief, James J. Brooks, and Chief Operative Henry B. Curtis, at New York, and sent to Williamsburg, New York, for manufacturing and having in possession counterfeit five dollar notes of the National Bank of Castleton, New York; Merchants National Bank of New Bedford, Massachusetts; First National Bank of Northampton, Massachusetts; Hampden National Bank of Westfield, Massachusetts; counterfeit United States fifty-cent fractional currency notes "Dexter Head," and for having in possession counterfeit engraved plates for printing the above described notes."

When the Secret Service officers made their raid upon Condon, he, with his brother Charles, who superintended the printing branch of their criminal business, were actually at work at their respective occupations. In the room was a press

ation which there were three separate pieces of counterfeit money, the top notes of which were still fresh and green with the ink used in printing them. On the floor were several bundles of these counterfeit notes wrapped in damp clothes, and stretched across the room on wires hung a large quantity of counterfeit five dollar National Bank Notes in an unfinished state. In the room was a box with a stone cover, under which was a lighted gas jet, on the cover lay a steel plate recently inked, with the words "The Castleton," Castleton, New York, engraved upon it. There were also found in this room a small hand-press, and on it a steel plate engraved with the United States Treasury seal covered with red ink, and engraved on this same plate was the coat of arms of the State of Rhode Island. On a table near by were two piles of counterfeit National Bank Notes on the National Bank of Castleton, New York. Under the door-sill of the scuttle-room on the upper floor were found concealed one set of fifty-cent "Dexter Head" plates; one black border plate for a five dollar National Bank Note; one face plate for the same; title plates for the Merchants National Bank of New Bedford, Massachusetts; First National Bank of Northampton, Massachusetts, and Hampden National Bank of Westfield, Massachusetts. These plates together made the sets complete, with the exception of the five dollar back centre plate, which was captured the following day from Irvine, alias George White, the engraver of all these plates, and a co-worker with the Condrons in their nefarious business.

It has been stated that the above capture was effected by shading Charles T. Condron to the "mill," and that he being somewhat deaf, was more easily followed. Among the counterfeit money taken at the time was a lot of eighty thousand representative dollars, excellent counterfeiters of the five dollar bills of the Highland National Bank of Newburgh, New York, all of which being destroyed, none of the kind ever obtained circulation. The persons captured in this connection were Henry T. Condron, Charles Timothy Condron, Irvine White, Rans Warner, Eli Fields, G. W. Jenkins and Edward Griffin, White being taken at Camden, New Jersey, the next day, and Edward Griffin on June 29, 1876, at No. 45 Wilson street, Brooklyn, New York.

Henry T. Condron was arraigned for trial on the tenth day of July, 1876, and pleading guilty to the offence charged against him, was sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor in the Kings County (N. Y.) penitentiary for a term of ten years and to pay a fine of seven hundred and fifty dollars.



CHARLES TIMOTHY CONDRON.

Charles Timothy Condron, who was engaged with his brother Henry in the business of manufacturing counterfeit money, and herein referred to, was tried July 10, 1876, plead guilty and was sentenced to the Kings County (N. Y.) penitentiary for a term of five years, and to pay a fine of seven hundred and fifty dollars.

Irvine White, alias Charles White, was arrested in Camden, New Jersey, June 27, 1876, by Operative Henry R. Curtis, for engraving and having in possession plates for printing counterfeit money. He was immediately indicted for engraving and having in possession plates for printing National Bank Currency, to wit: All the plates complete for printing a skeleton five dollar National Bank Note, and the title plates of the Merchants National Bank of New Bedford, Massachusetts; First National Bank of Northampton, Massachusetts; Hampden National Bank of Westfield, Massachusetts; Third National Bank of Providence, Rhode Island; the National Bank of Castleton, New York, and the Highland National Bank of Newburgh, New York, also all the plates necessary for printing the "Dexter Head" United States fifty-cent currency notes.

On the 10th of July, 1876, White plead guilty to the charges set forth in the indictment against him, and was sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor in the Kings County penitentiary for the term of ten years, and to pay a fine of one thousand dollars.

AN OLD TIME FORGER AND ARISTOCRAT.

LAW FOR THE MAN

AND

LAW FOR THE GENTLEMAN.

THE GREAT CRIMINAL CASE WHICH BROKE THE BACKBONE OF BRITISH CRUELTY.

HENRY FAUNTLEROY,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY, LONDON, ENGLAND,
NOVEMBER 30, 1824.

The station in society which was occupied by this unfortunate gentleman, together with the long established respectability of the banking-house in which he was a most active partner, and the vast extent of the heartless forgeries which he committed, gave to his case an intensity of interest, which has rarely been exceeded.

The apprehension of Mr. Fauntleroy took place on the 10th of September, 1824, when he was taken into custody on a warrant, issued in consequence of information being lodged at Marlborough-street police office, that it had been discovered that in the month of September, 1820, stock in the three per cents, to the extent of 10,000, which stood in the name of himself, J. D. Hulme, and John Goodchild, as trustees for Francis William Bellis, had been sold out under a power of attorney, to which the names of Mr. Fauntleroy's co-trustees, and of one of the subscribing witnesses, had been forged. The name of the firm with which Mr. Fauntleroy was connected was Marsh, Stracy Fauntleroy and Graham, and their banking-house was situated in Berners-street, where they enjoyed no inconsiderable portion of public patronage; and the apprehension of Mr. Fauntleroy, on one charge, no sooner became generally known, than, on inquiries being made, it was found that he had, under similar circumstances, sold out stock to the enormous amount of 170,000, since the year 1814, the whole of which he had converted to his own use. The most extraordinary degree of interest, in consequence, exhibited, and the public, unconscious of the degree of mischief

which might be apprehended, became so alarmed that a run on the banking-house took place, which was checked by a suspension of payments, and eventually by a commission of bankruptcy.

Meanwhile Mr. Fauntleroy's private character and conduct became the subject of general comment in the newspapers, and exaggerated accounts of his depravity of habit were published. He was described as a licentious libertine, and as a deep and determined gamester, and it was alleged that his extravagance knew no bounds. His private life was also inquired into, and it was found that he had been married to a young lady of respectable family named Young, by whom he had previously had a child; but that after his marriage he had never lived with his wife; and it is not a little remarkable, that it was for a forger, by means of which his wife's family was defrauded, that he underwent the final dreadful sentence of the law.

His trial took place at the Old Bailey, on the 30th of October, 1824, when he was indicted for forging a power of attorney for the transfer of stock in the three per cent. consols, to the amount of 5,000, with intent to defraud Frances Young. As early as seven o'clock in the morning the doors leading to the court-house were thronged with persons anxious to obtain a glimpse of the prisoner; and on the arrival of the judges, before whom the unfortunate gentleman was tried, every corner of the court was filled with spectators.

The Attorney-General was employed to conduct the case for the prosecution, and in his opening address to the jury, he described the prisoner as the active partner in the house of Messrs. Marsh & Co. Mr. Fauntleroy, the father of the prisoner, had become a partner in that firm, at the period of its establishment, and had continued so up to the time of his death, which took place in 1807. The prisoner was then admitted into the concern, and became a most active member in carrying on its extensive transactions. In the year 1815, Frances Young, of Chichester, a customer of the house, lodged in their hands a power of attorney for the dividend of £5,450, stock, invested in her name in the three per cent. consols. The dividends were regularly handed over by the banking-house; but it was found, that soon after the period mentioned, another power of attorney, authorising the prisoner to sell the stock, was presented to the bank, and the sale was effected by him. To this power the prisoner had forged the names of Frances Young, and of two witnesses to it. But the most extraordinary part of the case was, that among the prisoner's private papers, contained in a chest, in there had been found one in which he acknowledged his guilt, and adduced a rea-

in for his conduct. The Attorney-General then read the paper, which presented the following items, &c.:—De la Place, £1,500, three per cent. consols; E. W. Young, 5,000, consols; General Young, 5,000, consols; Frank Young, 5,000, consols; H. Kelly, 4,000, consols; Lady Nelson, 11,994, consols; Earl of Ossorv, 7,000, four per cents.; W. Bowen, 9,400, four per cents.; — Parkins, 4,000, consols. Sums were also placed to the names of Mrs. Picham, Lady A. Blythe, W. R. and H. Faulstichy, and Elizabeth Faulstichy; and the learned gentleman observed, that all the sums were added together, and the sum total, 120,000, appeared at the foot of this list in the prisoner's hand-writing. The statement was followed by this declaration:—

"In order to keep up the credit of our house, I have forced powers of attorney for the above sums and parties, and sold out to the amount here stated, and without the knowledge of my partners. I kept up the payment of the interest, but made no entries of such payments in our books. The Bank began first to refuse to discount our acceptances, and to destroy the credit of our house: the Bank shall smart for it."

The Attorney-General then called his witnesses, who confirmed in every point his statement of the case.

On being asked what he had to say in his defence, the prisoner read from a paper the following address:—

"My lord, and gentlemen of the jury,—Overwhelmed as I am by the situation in which I am placed, and being uninformed in what manner I ought to answer the charges which have been alleged against me, I will endeavor to explain, so well as the poignancy of my feelings will enable me, the embarrassments of the banking-house in which I have been for many years the active and only responsible partner, and which have alone led to the present investigation; and although I am aware I cannot expect to free myself from the obloquy brought upon me by my anxiety to preserve the credit and respectability of the firm, still I trust that an impartial narrative of the occurrences will obtain for me the commiseration of the well-disposed part of the community.

"Anticipating the Court will extend its indulgence to me, I will respectfully submit such observations as I think will tend to remove from influenced minds those impressions, which, with sorrow I say, must have been made upon them, by the cruel and illiberal manner in which the public prints have untruly detailed a history of my life and conduct; hoping therefore I may deserve your compassion, and although I may be unable to justify my proceedings, and secure my liberation, by

a verdict of the jury, yet they may be considered, in the mercy of the court, and a discerning public, as some extenuation of the crimes with which I stand arraigned.

"My father established the banking-house in 1792, in conjunction with Mr. Marsh, and other gentlemen. Some of the partners retired in 1794, about which time a loss of 20,000, £ was sustained. Here commenced the difficulties of the house. In 1796, Mr. Stracy and another gentleman came into the house with little or no augmentation of capital: In 1800 I became a clerk in the house, and continued so six years; and although during that time I received no salary, the firm were so well satisfied with my attention and zeal for the interest and welfare of the establishment, that I was handsomely rewarded by them. In 1807 my father died; it then succeeded him; at this time I was only twenty-two years of age, and the whole weight of an extensive, but needy, banking establishment devolved upon me; and I found the concern deeply involved in advances to builders and others, which had rendered a system of discounting necessary, which we were obliged to continue in consequence of the scarcity of money at that time, and the necessity of making further advances to those persons, to secure the sums in which they already stood indebted. In this perplexed state the house continued until 1810, when its embarrassments were greatly increased, owing to the bankruptcies of Brickwood and others, which brought upon it a sudden demand for no less a sum than 170,000, the greater part being for the amount of bills which our house had either accepted or discounted for those parties said to have become bankrupts. About 1814, 1815, and 1816, from the speculations with builders, brick-makers, &c. in which the house was engaged, it was called upon to provide funds to the extent of near 100,000, to cover the losses which would otherwise have visited it from those speculations. In 1819 the most responsible of our partners died, and we were called upon to pay over the amount of his capital, although the substantial resources of the house were wholly inadequate to meet so large a payment. During these numerous and trying difficulties, the house was nearly without resources, and the whole burden of management falling upon me, was driven to a state of distraction, in which I was wholly unrelieved from my partners, and almost bereft, I sought resources where I could, and so long as they were provided, and the credit of the house supported, no inquiries were made, either as to the manner in which they were procured, or as to the sources from which they were derived.

In the midst of these calamities, which were not unknown to Mr. Stracy, he retired to England, and continued in France, on his own private business, for two years, leaving me to struggle as well as I could with difficulties almost insurmountable. Having thus exposed all the necessities of the house, I declare that all the money temporarily raised by me were applied, not in one instance for my own separate purposes or expenses, but in every case they were immediately placed to the credit of the house in Berners-street, and applied to the payment of the pressing demands upon it. This fact does not rest upon my assertion, as the transactions referred to are entered in the books now in the possession of the assignees, and to which I have had no access since my apprehension. These books, and will confirm the truth of my statement; and to whatever account all the sums may be entered, whether to that of stock, or of exchequer bills, or to my own private account, the whole went to the general funds of the banking-house, which have never been doomed to suffer the stigma of all the transactions; but tortured as I have been, it now becomes an imperative duty to explain to you, gentlemen, and through you to the world at large, that the vile accusations heaped upon me, known to be utterly false by all those who are best acquainted with my private life and habits, have been so heaped upon me for the purpose of loading me with the whole obliquity of those transactions, from which, and from which alone, my partners were preserved from bankruptcy, which would have been crimes I never even contemplated, and acts of profligacy I never committed; and I appear at this bar with every prejudice against me and almost prejudged. To suit the purposes of the persons to whom I allude, I have been represented as a man of prodigal extravagance; prodigal indeed I must have been, had I expended those large sums which will hereafter be proved to have gone exclusively to support the credit of a tottering firm, and a miserly man, which was actually created by the drafts of two of its members to the amount of near 100,000. I maintained but two establishments, one at Brighton, where my mother and sister resided during the season—the expenses of which to me were not more than 400, per annum, and one at Lambeth, where my two children lived, from its very nature private and inexpensive, to which I resorted for retirement, after many a day passed in devising means to ward off the consequences of the present litigation. The dwelling-house in Berners-street belonged solely to my mother with the exception of a library and single

two-room. This was the extent of my expenditure, so far as domestic expenditure is concerned: I am next accused of being an habitual gambler, an accusation which, if true, might easily account for the diffusion of the property. I am, indeed, a member of two clubs, the Albion and the Stratford, but never, so far as my bill of play in either, at cards or dice, or any game of chance; this is well known to the gentlemen of these clubs—and my private friends, with whom I was more intimately associated, can equally assert my freedom from all habit or disposition to play. It has been as cruelly asserted, that I fraudulently invested money in funds to answer the payment of annuities, amounting to 2,300, settled upon females. I never did make any such investment; neither at home nor any funds. I never did, nor have I any investment; nor is there one shilling secretly deposited by me in the hands of any human being. Equally ungenerous, and equally untrue it is to charge me with having lent to loose and dissipated persons large sums which are to be repaid, and never will be repaid. I lent no sums but to a very trifling amount, and those were advanced to valued friends. I can, therefore, at this solemn moment declare, most fervently, that I never had any advantage beyond that in which my partners participated in any of the transactions which are now questioned. They indeed have considered themselves as partners only in the profits, and I am to be burdened with the whole of the approbrium, that others may consider them as the victims of my extravagance. I make no excuses, but view with a view to criminate others, or to exculpate myself; but borne down as I am by calamity, I will not consent to be held out to the world as a cold-blooded and abandoned profligate, ruining all around me for the selfish gratification of vice and sensuality, and involving even my confiding partners in the general destruction. Gentlemen, I have frailties and errors enough to account for. I have sufferings enough, past, present, and in prospect; and if my life were to be miserable, I would rather be silent in silence; though I will not endure the odium on my memory, of having sinned to pamper delinquencies to which I never was addicted. Thus much has been extorted from me by the fabrications which have been made, and which my annuity gives me that very public from whom the arbiters of my fate were to be selected. Perhaps, however, I ought to thank the enemy who besieged the prisoner with his slanders, that he did so whilst my life was spared to retaliate on him, and that he was not taken to the grave, to which he would hurry me, had I closed at once on my answer and my forgiveness. There is one subject

more connected with these charges to which I am compelled to advert, and I do so with great reluctance. It has added to the other charges made against me, lest the world should think there was any vice in which I was not an actor. I have been accused of acting treacherously towards the female who now bears my name, having refused to make reparation until threatened by her brother, and of having deserted her at a moment when she had the greatest claim on my protection. Delicacy forbids me entering into an explanation on this subject further than to declare, that the conduct I adopted on that occasion was uninfluenced by the interferences of any individual, and arose, as I then considered, and do still consider, from a laudable and honorable feeling on my part; and the lady's brother, so far from coming forward at the time alluded to, was on service in the West Indies. Could all the circumstances be exposed, I feel convinced that every candid man would applaud my determination; and I feel satisfaction in saying, that the lady in question, has always been, and still is actuated by the best feelings towards me. I have now to apologise to the court for having entered so much at length into the statement of my unfortunate case, and, in conclusion, I have to express my perfect confidence that it will receive every favorable consideration at your hands; and I fully rely that you, gentlemen of the jury, will give an impartial and merciful decision.

The unfortunate gentleman having completed the reading of the document, sat down and wept with much agitation. Seventeen gentlemen of the highest respectability were then called, and they all stated their high opinion of his honor, integrity, and goodness of disposition, and that he was the person whom, of all others, they would have supposed incapable of a dishonorable action. During their examination the prisoner buried his face in his handkerchief, apparently anxious to conceal his features from the jury.

In summing up, the judge told the jury, that as the evidence did not show the forgery to have been committed within their jurisdiction, they, being a London jury, would have to decide on the count for uttering; and after twenty minutes' consideration they returned a verdict—Guilty of uttering—Death.

Every exertion was used by Mr. Fauntleroy's counsel, his case being twice argued before the judges upon points of law; but both decisions were against him, and on the 30th of November, 1824, his execution took place. The number of persons assembled on the fatal day was estimated at nearly one hundred thousand! Every window and roof which could command

a view of the dreadful ceremony was occupied, and places from which it was impossible to catch a glimpse of the scaffold were blocked up by those who were prevented by the dense crowd before them from advancing further.

At a quarter before eight o'clock, the sheriffs arrived at Newgate, and proceeded immediately to the prisoner's room. The prisoner gently bowed to them on perceiving that they were present, but made no observation. Besides the Ordinary of Newgate, the Rev. Mr. Cotton, there were the Rev. Mr. Springett and Mr. Baker with the prisoner, the former of whom had remained all night.

Mr. Fauntleroy was dressed in a black coat, waistcoat and trousers, with silk stockings and shoes. The demeanor of the unhappy man was perfectly composed. His eyes continued closed, and no emotion was visible in his countenance. His appearance had undergone little or no change since the trial. The necessary arrangements having been completed, the sheriffs moved forward, and Mr. Springett and Mr. Baker each took hold of one of the prisoner's arms; and thus accompanied, he followed the sheriffs and the ordinary. He never turned his head to the right nor the left till he reached the foot of the steps leading to the scaffold; and the moment he appeared the vast crowd took off their hats. In less than two minutes after the criminal ascended the platform, everything was prepared for his execution. Mr. Cotton now placed himself before the prisoner, who stood with his face towards Ludgate Hill, and commenced reading the passage—"O Lord God, most Holy! O Lord, most mighty! O holy and most merciful Saviour! deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death. Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;" towards the conclusion of which the trap-door fell, and the unhappy man died without a struggle.

An almost universal sympathy was excited in his favor, in consequence of the melancholly termination of his career; but many had but too powerful reasons to mourn the crimes of which he was guilty, depriving them as they did, in many instances, of every shilling of what otherwise would have been comfortable competencies.

Thus was a great legal reform brought about and the progress for which justice and humanity so long plead in vain became possible by virtue of the spirit of caste. The common people might go home and the legislators and executives of Great Britain remained indifferent, but when the law wrung the neck of a gentleman, they awoke to consideration of the subject, and treated it as a thing of consequence.

PREMIUM UNITED STATES COINS WANTED.

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DATE.	Dollars.	Half Dollars.	Quar. Dolls.	Dimes.	Half Dimes.	Cents.	Half Ct.
1793.....	15 00	1 00	75
1794.....	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	25
1795.....	75	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	25
1796.....	2 00	1 00	1 00	1 50	1 00	50	1 00
1797.....	2 00	1 00	1 00	1 50	1 00	50	1 00
1798.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	.....	.....	.....
1799.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	.....	.....
1800.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	.....	.....
1801.....	1 50	1 00	1 00	2 00	50	.....	.....
1802.....	2 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	.....	55
1803.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	90	.....
1804.....	15 00	.....	1 00	.....	.....	1 00	.....
1805.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	.....	.....
1806.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	.....	.....
1810.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	.....
1811.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	.....
1813.....	.....	1 00	75	.....	.....	.....	.....
1822.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	.....	.....	.....
1823.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 00	.....	.....
1827.....	.....	.....	3 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
1828.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1832.....	2 00	.....	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
1833.....	2 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1837.....	2 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1840.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00
1841.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1842.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1843.....
1844.....
1845.....
1846.....
1847.....
1848.....	1 50
1851.....	5 00	1 00
1852.....	2 00
1854.....	3 00
1856.....	Nickel	50

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"Mr. John S. Dye, editor and proprietor of the
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following important letter, dated Philadelphia,
November 1, 1877, viz:

"In the dispatches to the Associated Press
from the city of New York yesterday, I was
greatly surprised to find what is termed a list of
'Dangerous Counterfeit Bills,' and to be compli-
ed by the members of the Bankers' Association of
that city. The list names some thirty coun-
terfeits, sixteen of which never had an existence,
except in the imagination of the compiler. Who
object the Association can have in placing the
false array of counterfeit bills before the public can
better be understood by reading the list which
is published in the New York Herald."
Union National, Washington, D. C., Nov. 9, 1877.

"The Ohio reproduced from the above letter,
the whole of it, and the names of all copies of
the National Bank note that day and the
same letter, by direction of the Hon. Secretary,
of the Treasury, was reproduced in all the prin-
cipal journals of the United States."
—Editor.

(over.)