

## A CASE OF KLEPTOMANIA.

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In preparing the following sketch of an interesting case, I have been aided in tracing family history and in elucidating many other points, by the relatives, school-mates and friends of the party in question. I have also been kindly furnished with notes and memoranda, and extended statements from officers, reporters, and Superintendents of the Institutions where the person has been an inmate (some of their language being transcribed verbatim), to all of whom I acknowledge my indebtedness. A. B. C——, the subject of this paper, was born in New England, in 1845. I have traced the history of his paternal great-grandmother, paternal grandfather and grandmother, and maternal grandfather and grandmother, without discovering any insanity, marked peculiarity or very decided neuroses. Two paternal uncles were intellectually rather below the average, and one was very badly afflicted with stammering. Three paternal aunts were fully equal to the average. The family, as a whole, were rather close calculators, disinclined to generosity, and some of their descendants partake notably of the same characteristics. The maternal grandfather, grandmother, uncles and aunts were quite equal to the average in intelligence and free from notable peculiarities. The mother of A. B. was a woman of more than ordinary strength of character, and though somewhat tinctured with the rigid theology of her surroundings, was an estimable, well-balanced woman. The father, however, was emphatically a close, mean, skin-flint; sordid, unsympa-

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NOTE.—Read before the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, Washington, D. C., May, 1878.

thetic, untruthful and grasping. The leading element in his character being avarice. The family of which A. B. was a member consisted of three children, he being the second. His elder brother, a shrewd business man can not be considered a truthful person. Indeed it seems to me he is almost as well developed in deceit as A. B. is in pilfering. His sister is rather peculiar and acquisitive, but not to my knowledge notably so. During boyhood A. B. displayed an acquisitive tendency. It was proverbial among his schoolmates that if anybody lost marbles, pencils, or other articles, they would be found in the pockets of A. B. C——. His mother tried faithfully to break up this habit and as he grew into his teens and had more sense of responsibility, he seemed to control this propensity. In the village academy and his father's office he acquired a good English education including excellent penmanship, and became proficient in book-keeping. When nearly twenty years of age he went West as a clerk. For the first year he was assistant book-keeper after which he had full charge of the books and cash appertaining to a large pork and grain business, and had power of attorney to sign checks for the firm, giving his employers for five or six years entire satisfaction. He was always temperate, never used opium, and all his habits were correct.

According to his own story his duties increased to such an extent that his health suffered, and he was urged to take more out-door exercise. He also asserts that on one occasion he went out and wandered aimlessly about the town, coming to himself at a distance from the store, unable to give an intelligent account of where he had been; and at another time he became dizzy and fell in the street, and that in the autumn of 1870 he worked very hard, and was much troubled

with dizziness. It is alleged by his friends that during this autumn A. B. had a severe attack of typhoid fever, and that the peculiar manifestations soon to be cited were developed after convalescence was established, and by them attributed to the debility resulting from the fever. At this time it was discovered that he was purloining things from the counting-room, usually of little value, such as papers, letters, etc., and the annoyance therefrom made it necessary to dispense with his services, and he started alone for New England, where his father then resided. At Chicago he was detected in stealing the luggage of fellow-travelers and the property of hotels, and was arrested. His friends procured his release, and put him in charge of a young physician, who was expected to prevent a repetition of such misdemeanors, and to accompany him to his destination. Notwithstanding the vigilance of his escort he succeeded in getting arrested three times, and his companion had great difficulty in effecting his release. Indeed, on one occasion he was taken into custody as an accomplice, and both spent the night in the station house. He finally reached his father's, where he spent several weeks, and it is said his morbid depression was at times very manifest. Late in December, 1870, in consequence of indulging in his peculiar propensities, he was arrested in Boston, but was turned over to the Directors of Public Institutions at the representations of his friends, that he might be committed to the Taunton Lunatic Hospital as insane. During his examination he bewailed his unfortunate propensity, and begged to be sent to the Hospital that he might be cured, but he carried to the Hospital at Taunton a gold-headed cane and a pair of gloves, which he had stolen from some of the gentlemen who examined his case. At this examination he stated that he was at times subject to

vertigo, confusion of ideas and a sense of mental fatigue. Two or three weeks after admission to Taunton, on the occasion of a visit from his father, he wished to send home by him what he said was a bundle of summer clothing. Upon examination this was found to consist of old newspapers, magazines, a manuscript which belonged to a fellow-patient, and a card of matches, there not being an article of value in the lot!

In the spring of 1871 he was allowed to go out on parole, and to church in the city unattended. He occupied at this time a room in a ward where keys, locks and bolts were dispensed with, and he was not slow to improve his opportunities of appropriating things which did not belong to him. Various articles of every description were missed from time to time, and suspicion after a while fell upon C——. His parole was annulled, and his father sent for, to whom he confided what he had done with his plunder. Upon prosecuting a search, according to his directions, there were found hidden in the crevices in the stone wall and other similar places, and secreted in the woods, under stumps and among the brush, about one hundred books from their general library in the office, a dozen volumes from the Superintendent's private room, prayer-books and hymn-books from church, old papers and envelopes, shirts, towels, sheets, pillow-cases, etc., from the ward and laundry; brushes, curry-combs, straps, buckles, etc., from the stable; old shoes, bits of iron that he had picked upon the ground; things of value and things of no value; things indestructible and things perishable; all hoarded with equal and indiscriminate care and carelessness, to the amount of an express wagon load. Not being allowed to go on parole again, he continued pilfering from fellow-patients and from the rooms of his ward.

After a residence of about six months he was discharged from the Hospital at Taunton, May 31, 1871, his friends having arranged for him a foreign voyage, which occupied seven months, and during which he caused great trouble by his acquisitiveness. At the completion of his voyage, he returned to his home, where he remained, at times low-spirited and moody, till March, 1872, when he found employment as a clerk in a store in Boston. Here his propensity soon became apparent and he was discharged. By the aid of his friends he secured another place, where he repeated his thieving, which led to steps for his recommitment to the Taunton Hospital; but while the physicians were examining his case at the office of the Directors of Public Institutions, he stole the cane and mittens of one of them and ran away to the West, where he found employment as clerk in a railroad office. This situation gave him opportunity for securing solid plunder, and he sent home, by freight and express, fish-bars, bolts, nuts, old iron, damaged lanterns, and old junk generally, but being caught he was soon discharged.

In April, 1872, the Northern Hospital for the Insane, Elgin, Illinois, engaged as clerk to the Superintendent, at an employment bureau in Chicago, a young man of good address, having excellent testimonials, especially from the before mentioned firm in Lacon, Ills., as to his character, capacity and trustworthiness, who turned out to be the subject of this sketch.

For a time he was punctual and efficient in his official duties, though his demeanor was reserved and in many respects eccentric. He had access both to the Superintendent's and the Steward's offices, carried the mails and made purchases in the city. Soon their mails began to go wrong. Letters written by the offi-

cers were received by the parties addressed, with the post-mark "Boston, Mass." Articles of various sorts, generally of little value, were missed from various rooms. After a time suspicion attached to C——, who, becoming aware of it, decamped suddenly in the night, leaving a very penitent letter addressed to the Superintendent.

Soon after this a letter was received from the father of C——, giving a history of his son's peculiarity, from which he had hoped he had recovered under treatment, and stating that he had received from him a great number of packages containing a great variety of articles, which must have been misappropriated by him and sent home under the influence of his peculiar mania, and which he had caused to be returned in two large boxes. Upon opening these boxes there was found an amazing conglomeration of great and small trash, there being scarcely an article worth stealing, as one might say, among the lot, which was composed mainly of useless scraps of paper, old letters to and from the Hospital, handkerchiefs, old socks, glass tumblers, blank books, stationery, napkin rings, a bed quilt, some small sums in fractional currency, etc., etc.

Leaving Elgin he secured a place on board a vessel in New York; but the captain had his suspicions aroused and terminated the engagement.

He then went to Dansville, N. Y., where he found employment as a clerk, to which he added that of a forwarding agent, sending home several trunks full of clothing, bedding, old papers and trash. He was arrested, but upon learning his history he was sent to his friends in New England. Soon after reaching home he committed some depredation which led to his arrest and committal to the Worcester Lunatic Hospital. He was placed in charge of two officers, who attempted to

convey him to the institution, but he adroitly escaped from them and went home. He was persuaded by his father to quietly accompany him to the Hospital, to which he was admitted October 9, 1872. Having received from C———'s father a resumé of his freaks and fancies, it might be supposed that the officers of the Worcester Lunatic Hospital were so faithfully forewarned as to be thoroughly forearmed. But it is vain to put your trust in attendants, or anybody else, when an accomplished kleptomaniac is in hand.

On January 12, 1873, our record says: "Has not shown his peculiar form of insanity, except by taking all the newspapers he can find about the hall and packing them away between his mattresses and in his bureau drawer." On January 24, twelve days later, is entered: "About a week ago it was found that this man had taken various things from stores on the street, eluding the watchfulness of the attendant—he had been permitted to walk out with an attendant who had been particularly cautioned as to his propensities. There was found stowed away in his room, hidden in his bed, tucked behind his bureau, and in other corners, almost everything one can think of—several nice holiday gift-books, a dozen or so of pocket diaries, confectionery, perfumery and medicines, small bits of leather, old papers, almanacs, pins, pieces of cotton cloth, etc.; things valuable and things valueless, all neatly put up in small packages and marked with his name."

September 20, the record reads: "Have not found anything in C———'s room for several months." On the next day, September 21, the entry in the case-book is: "On examination of the ventilators in C———'s ward, to-day, they were found to be stuffed full of articles of every description, stolen and secreted by him. There were old papers and letters belonging to other

patients, lots of postage stamps carefully folded up in bits of paper, ten dollars in bills, an oil-stone, hammer, screw-driver, and many other carpenter's tools, several bunches of keys stolen while out walking with his attendant, bandages, sheets, and handkerchiefs with the names cut out and the holes sewed up." Not only was there ingenuity displayed in securing these articles, but the ventilators in which they were stored were in the patients' rooms, and he must have carefully watched his opportunity for gaining access thereto. Every ventilator in the ward, except one in a room which was occupied all the time, was full.

On October 9, C——— was suddenly missing, leaving no sign. He went to Providence, R. I., where he was found by the police wandering about the streets at two o'clock in the morning, "looking for work." On his person were found a table napkin, marked Central House, Providence, several new knives, twenty dollars in money, etc. In fact, his boots and pockets were full of every imaginable thing, including the ward key with which he opened the door and locked it after going out, which key he must have secured months before he made use of it.

After this escapade he was much depressed and the general tone of the system seemed to be deranged, with tongue coated, appetite poor, bowels costive and all the indications of a good deal of nervous disturbance. He grew childish in his wants, continually writing to his friends complaining letters full of repetitions, vague statements, etc., begged that these things should not be laid up against him, asserting that he was a gentleman. After a few weeks he improved in general condition, attended entertainments, dressed with the utmost care and faultlessly neat, dancing every time with a sort



of vacant, changeless, demented expression, reminding one of an automaton.

During the twenty-two months of his residence, his general demeanor was varied. At times he would be rather talkative and boasting as if full of important business; would detain the physician by talking of general matters, of the need he had for exercise to keep up his health, of his brilliant prospects as a book-keeper, of his dislike to associate with the common patients, of the fact that he had overcome his failing and would in future be a man, and just as the door was to be closed would bring out several letters which it was very important should be forwarded by the next mail, the time of their reaching their destination being anxiously speculated upon. These letters, by the way, would be written daily to almost all his relatives, asking each one to send him the same things, viz., the illustrated and other papers, pens, confectionery and essence of ginger. At one time I recollect he asked every correspondent to send him a diary, when he had twenty or thirty he had stolen from the book-stores. At other times he was depressed and seemed really to be suffering from disturbed digestion. He spent much time making inventories of the things which had been taken away from him, and in writing and re-writing from memory a sort of diary of his life. At times the air of abstraction made his appearance demented, but he was acute enough in his chosen field.

He was finally discharged July 27, 1874, to the care of a messenger, sent from Illinois by his brother, who represented that he was to be placed in an institution in that State. I am quite confident, however, that he was not taken to any institution. It is certain that he very soon went to California, armed with recommendations from his brother, and obtained employment with

an uncle who knew nothing of his peculiarities, and who occupied some place of public trust, with several clerks under him. C—— played his old game, and nearly cost his uncle his reputation and position. He soon returned to the East, and the next account of him is that he was arrested for stealing at the Marlboro House, Boston, about the middle of March, 1875. His room was found well filled with the usual conglomeration, and he was again sent to Taunton, where he remained seven months, till October 15, 1875. During this stay at Taunton he was very closely watched, and accomplished comparatively little in his specialty. He held himself quite above the other patients, and declined to walk out with them, though making great complaint of indoor life, very like his deportment during a part of his stay at Worcester. He left Taunton in charge of an escort, who was to take him to Oak Lawn Retreat, Dr. McFarland's private institution, Jacksonville, Illinois. On the 18th of October, Dr. McFarland received a telegram from the escort, dated Indianapolis, saying that he would arrive with C—— by the next train, but nothing more was known of him for ten or twelve days. It appears that at Lafayette, a station between Indianapolis and Jacksonville, two trains met, and for a few minutes stood side by side. Suddenly C—— disappeared. Both trains were searched from end to end by conductors and brakemen. The hotel that stood solitary and alone beside the track was ransacked from top to bottom, but no sign of him could be found. The trains moved off, and C——s' attendant was left alone upon the platform, crestfallen, disgusted, and as completely bewildered as a rustic would be at a performance of Signor Blitz.

The manner in which he made his escape, according to his own subsequent story, is characteristic of the

singularly adroit, quick-witted cunning which characterizes both his kleptomania and his numerous escapes from custodians. He first bought a newspaper, which he apparently read in his seat. Then he pretended urgent necessity for visiting the water-closet in the car, handing the paper to his attendant, asking him to hold it till he returned. The attendant saw him enter the closet and close the door after him, and then *of course* looked at the paper. At the rightly timed moment, when the throng was greatest, the lunatic stepped softly out, jumped from the platform of the car to the one opposite, passed into the ladies' saloon, where a lady, luckily for him, was reclining upon a lounge, and saying "Excuse a sick gentleman!" entered the little inner water-closet of the saloon, where of course no one thought of looking for a gentleman.

The full history of his exploits during the next ten days has never been written, but in a general way he was heard from at Chicago; he was at several places in the State of Wisconsin; he was several times in the hands of the police, and was finally overtaken by his attendant at Peoria, Ill., near his home, on his way to a pawn-brokers, laden down with the blankets, bedding, towels, etc., of the hotel at which he had spent the night.

His ten or twelve weeks residence at Oak Lawn was a repetition of his familiar exploits—singular from the adroitness of their perpetration and the general uselessness to him of the articles purloined. Keys slipped out of doors, bolts from agricultural machines and linchpins from carriages were among his favorite plunder. With the exception of this propensity and its attendant falsehood, not the slightest trace of insanity could be discovered by the most practical expert. He was almost exquisitely tasteful and particular in dress; a

thorough gentleman in his manners, an agreeable conversationalist; and so good a writer that his productions were welcomed by the newspapers of the city. His pen was so wondrously prolific as almost to justify Dr. Godding's expression that "there wasn't paper enough in Illinois to feed his marvelously active pen." One of his most amusing robberies while at Oak Lawn was at the office of the newspaper where his productions had been received. He took from the editorial sanctum the whole outer wardrobe of proprietors, editors and reporters, they all the time positive that some one of the staff had been in the room every moment, and the attendant equally positive he had not been out of sight five minutes. The booty in this instance was found some blocks away in an alley, where it must have been taken under the very face and eyes of scores of persons, the perfect noon-day boldness of the act disguising its nature to lookers on. But C—— reserved his great crowning *coup de main* for the expiring year, 1875, when he went out from Oak Lawn in a blaze of climacteric glory. His attendant went to watch-meeting, leaving, as he claimed, his patient's door locked. In the morning C—— was missing, together with nearly a horse-load of clothing, etc., belonging to one and another, the attendant himself a large loser. He turned up in Chicago in a few days, having disposed of his stolen valuables and commenced his peculiar operations, an account of which I transcribe from the *Chicago Journal*:

#### A PRETTY PIECE OF BUSINESS.

A week ago Saturday there called at the residence of Mr. Cameron, 246 Indiana street, a man who expressed a desire to see the lady of the house. He was taken to the parlor, where shortly afterward Mrs. Cameron went to ascertain his business. While he was unfolding this, Mr. George Cameron, a member of the family,

passed through the hall, and glanced in. He did not like the stranger's appearance. Several houses in that neighborhood have recently been robbed by sneak-thieves, and Mr. Cameron thought it might be as well to watch. Retiring to the head of the stairs he waited. After a few moments Mrs. Cameron left the stranger in the parlors, and also went up-stairs on some errand which he had induced her to go, and had scarcely reached the landing when Mr. Cameron saw the man emerge with the bundle, which he deposited on a step outside, and then return. Mr. Cameron followed his mother and informed her of what he had seen. The two went down together, and Mrs. Cameron ordered the man off the premises. He would have gone had not Mr. Cameron barred the way and seized him by the collar. A struggle took place, during which they rolled out of the door and down the steps to the sidewalk, where Mr. Cameron landed "on top," with his knees on the other's chest. A crowd immediately gathered around, and assisted Mr. Cameron in securing his man. People were sent for the police, but no policeman was to be found—of course not, there being trouble—so that Mr. Cameron and a volunteer were obliged themselves to take the fellow to the Chicago avenue police station. On the way he offered his captors his pocket-book and all the valuables he had about him for freedom, which overtures they declined to entertain. At the station he gave the name of A. B. C——. He was searched, and in his pockets were found several books, an album, and a pair of opera glasses, which were promptly identified by Mr. Cameron as being the property of his family; together with many other things, among them two toilet bottles, and two large bottles of German cologne, and a bunch of about one hundred keys, of all sizes and sorts, two being keys to rooms in the Clifton House. Mr. Cameron found that the bundle which C—— had carried out of the parlors, contained his (Mr. Cameron's) overcoat, a new and handsome garment. C—— was locked up, and Mr. Cameron was told to report on Monday, and bring his mother with him, to appear against him at the examination. On Monday they went as ordered, when Mr. Cameron was called aside by one of the officers, who informed him that C—— was a lunatic, and that one of his brothers would be there that day to take care of him, that notice would be given of the examination, and that he need not wait. He went down town to his business. During the day a policeman called at the house and told Mrs. Cameron that C—— was an escaped lunatic from Jacksonville, and that his keeper, who had "been traveling with him," was come to take him

away. Mr. Cameron notified her son, who went to the station as soon as possible, and was there informed that "a man" had taken C—— away. This seemed to him a very curious termination to the business, but having unsophistic confidence in the officers he supposed it was all right. Nothing was said about it for a day or two. Then some of the neighbors who had seen the trouble began asking how it had resulted. The answers they got excited some little indignation. The North Side has suffered severely from thievery of this kind, and very few of the thieves have been caught. That one so palpably a bad one should be suffered to go without even the form of an examination was too much for their good nature. They made Mr. Cameron promise to lay the matter before Superintendent Hickey—which he has done—and an investigation will probably be made. It is difficult to believe that the officers at the Chicago avenue station are so ignorant as to suppose that escaped lunatics and their keepers are in the habit of junketing about the country with pockets full of other people's property and keys to other people's houses; or that a person caught in the very act of stealing valuable goods can properly be allowed to go free without an examination, no matter how crazy he may be, nor how many of his brothers call for him; or that an examination of the prisoner, in such a case, without the presence of the witnesses to his crime, is a valid examination. Mr. Cameron is a credible man. He is employed in the office of J. J. Brooks, assistant chief of the secret service, and trusted by that gentleman.

Immediately after his release at Chicago he was committed to the Central Hospital for the Insane, Jacksonville, Ill., where he now is, or was a short time ago. From the first he has there been pleasant and gentlemanly in his bearing towards the officers. He feels above his fellow-patients, calls them paupers utterly beneath his social station, prides himself upon, and boasts of his travels, his money, the responsible positions he has held and demands superior accommodations and extra attention. The first thing noticed there in the direction of his peculiarities was that he was cutting verses of poetry or sentences of prose from their library books, and carefully folding and secreting the slips. He also took every opportunity of searching the

pockets in clothing of other patients. He went to their county fair in charge of an attendant, stole the entry book and when search was instituted for it slipped it under the arm of a fellow patient, and appeared of course wholly innocent. In January, 1877, an examination of his bureau revealed a collection of almost everything he could get hold of, old newspapers, stumps of cigars, old tobacco quids—he does not use tobacco himself—all nicely rolled up in papers, and marked in his name.

In August, 1877, C—— escaped from the Hospital, and his adventures are told in the following extracts from the *Jacksonville Journal*:

#### STEALING STEEDS.

At an early hour, Tuesday morning, a good-looking, well-dressed, heavy-set man, giving his name as Brown, applied to Jim Mitchell, of our city, for horses and carriage to take him out west a few miles. Jim had other engagements and so took the stranger to Springer's stable. Here he procured a buggy and two nice mares, with which he started off, promising to be back by night. The day and night passed, but neither Mr. Brown nor the team returned. Yesterday morning the proprietors were beginning to be suspicious that something was wrong, when a telegram came from the chief of police of St. Louis, asking if any horses had been stolen from the Park House stables. Further telegraphic correspondence elicited the fact that a man named C—— had arrived that morning and attempted to dispose of a buggy and horses answering the description of those hired out from Springer's, and was now under arrest. Mr. Neely went down yesterday afternoon to identify the property, and City Marshal Sperry will go to-day with a requisition from the Governor for the thief.

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#### C——'S FREAK.

The *Globe-Democrat*, of Thursday, has the following in reference to the arrest of the thief of the team from Springer's stable last Tuesday :

Yesterday forenoon a man named A. B. C——, a resident of Jacksonville, Ill., drove up to the stable of J. P. Mullally, No.

1,325 Broadway, and offered for sale a fine team of horses and a buggy, worth about \$400. Mr. Mullally, ready for a legitimate trade, asked C—— what he wanted for the outfit. The latter replied that \$125 would buy it. This led the stable-keeper to imagine that something was wrong, but determined on making the bargain, if all was right, he told C—— that if he would bring satisfactory references he would take the team. Scarcely had Mullally got the word "references" out of his mouth when C—— took to his heels and ran. Officer Cassidy, who was notified, gave chase, and, arresting the fugitive, took him to the Carr Street Station. There he gave his name and residence, and said that he had hired the team in Jacksonville, on Tuesday morning, and driven directly here. The man's actions showed clearly that he was insane, or playing the part of a crazy man, to shield himself from punishment. The authorities at Jacksonville were telegraphed, which resulted, during the afternoon, in the arrival in the city of Mr. J. Neely, of the firm of Neely & Springer, owners of the horses. Mr. Neely stated that C—— had been an inmate of an insane asylum, and there was but little doubt of his being crazy, though he had been allowed his liberty for several months past. Although there is no doubt in any one's mind here as to the unsoundness of mind of Mr. C——, City Marshal Sperry has procured the necessary papers from Governor Cullom and gone to St. Louis to bring up the arrested man.

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#### C——'S FLIGHTS.

There is certainly a great amount of method in the madness of Mr. A. B. C——, *alias* Baker, *alias* Clark, &c., enough to make police officials who have him in charge keep their eyes well opened unless they wish to lose him. The *Journal* has duly mentioned his theft of Springer's horses and his subsequent arrest in St. Louis. Marshal Sperry's experiences with him *en route* to this city illustrate our opening statement. It seems that Sperry started on his return last Saturday evening, and while passing through Alton the prisoner, though handcuffed, managed to spring from the train. The cars were running at a tolerably rapid rate, but Marshal Sperry got off as soon as possible and made diligent search. He failed to discover the criminal. Sunday morning, about 4 o'clock, a stranger made his appearance at the house of Mr. Wm. Watts, in North Alton, and wished to borrow a file and



some other tools, stating that his wagon had sustained some injury. A file was furnished him by Mr. Watts' man, who noticed that his hands were held together, covered by a sack. This aroused suspicion, and search was soon made, but the suspected individual was not found until about ten o'clock that night, when Mr. Watts and a posse of neighbors succeeded in effecting an arrest, when they found that one "bracelet" had been filed almost off. The man, C—— of course, plead for his life when taken, as he seemed to think that lynch law would be enforced against him. His fears were soon quieted, and he was in due time brought to our city and confined in the county jail. Yesterday he was arraigned before Justice McCullough, and bound over by him under \$800 bond.

Before this action was taken, however, C—— tried flight again. Rushing suddenly out of the magistrate's presence, he bounded down-stairs and ran, as for dear life, to Court street, and east on that street nearly a block, with officers and a great crowd in full chase. Here he was confronted by Officer Gregory. There was no use trying to get past Dick, and soon Mr. C—— was back in the justice's room, and shortly after in Sheriff Dunlap's care. It seems a little strange to take an escaped lunatic through all this process of law, for any jury, when trial comes, will certainly re-consign him to Central Hospital.

After his return he was placed in a ward where he had less opportunity to steal; but when he could do nothing else he would throw towels, brushes, combs, and other articles out the window. In January, 1878, he again escaped by slipping into the porter's closet while on his way to chapel, and, after the coast was clear, making his way out of the house taking suitable outer clothing from hat-tree in the hall. He went to Springfield, Ill., and began his peculiar operations without delay, taking some small things from nearly every place he entered. He was finally detected in stealing from the money drawer of a small grocery, arrested and placed in jail, whence he was returned to the Hospital.

The foregoing is only a sketch of the salient points of a case, which, to those who have had personal

knowledge thereof, has been exceedingly interesting, and vexatious as well. It is brought before the Association in the hope that the key to the whole history may some time be found. If any member is, or should become, conversant with any additional facts in the case, he will confer a favor on the writer and others by communicating them.