

NEW YORK POLICE MORALS.

The Corrupt Practices of the Force—Interview With One Who Knows The System.

The police investigation, which is to be resumed next month, has so far shown a strangely demoralized condition of affairs in the Police department of this city. The connection of captains and sergeants with the operations of panel houses and other infamous places, and of the plundering of unfortunate women under threats of hauling them to jail and having them sent to the Island, were sufficiently well established to indicate that the police force of New York sadly needs overhauling and reorganization. A *Herald* reporter called yesterday on Mr. David J. Twohey to get his views of the workings of the panel house system and the identification of the police therewith. Mr. Twohey has given considerable attention to this corrupt feature of the police method of dealing with a notorious criminal practice. He was instrumental in securing from the Legislature the appointment of the present Investigating Committee, after persistent efforts during two sessions at Albany.

Reporter—You are the gentleman who took the lead in bringing about the police investigation by the legislative committee?

Mr. Twohey—Yes; after [the present committee commenced its labors I stood in the background till what I long ago asserted was proven by other witnesses. In 1874 I made a somewhat lengthy argument before the Legislature upon police outrages and abuses, and the Senate thereupon appointed a committee to investigate and report. That committee did nothing, however. Last Spring I made a second appeal, and finally the present committee was appointed. It is earnestly at work, and I have no doubt will yet succeed in astonishing the public by its revelations, though it has thus far only touched the rim of police rottenness, and revealed nothing but what has been long known to myself, and most of it to every intelligent citizen and every Police Commissioner and police magistrate in the city.

Reporter—How did you come into possession of this information in reference to panel thieves and police rascalities?

Mr. Twohey—I sought the information with reference to preparing a work on the social evil. Much of it came through personal observation. I was also aided by a pretty large general acquaintance throughout the city. Information of police derelictions, outrages and villainies of various kinds came to me in such increasing numbers that I was appalled. At length the whole matter seemed to be so important that it engrossed my entire attention, and I set myself earnestly to work to find out whatever I could in reference to it, and do what I could to root out the evils. I learned that in many cases the police were aiding and protecting criminals instead of crushing them; that police captains and detectives were intimate with panel thieves, banco players, immigrant swindlers, burglars, receivers of stolen goods and all sorts of confidence operators, and for no other purpose of course than to share in the profits of villany. The amounts of money stolen in some cases are almost incredible. For instance, I knew one gentleman who lost \$17,000 in a panel house, and I remarked to a panel thief that I supposed that was the largest haul ever made at the panel. He smiled and enlightened my ignorance by saying that he took \$63,000 from one man. The thief divided with the Captain and detective of the precinct. And for two weeks the detective had the victim "walking down Broadway" and up again, asking him concerning every conspicuous woman he met, "Is that her? Is that her?" the detective knowing all the time where the woman was concealed. The man never recovered his money and the thief lost his share in a faro bank. Though many of the facts I state to you are not susceptible of legal proof, all the information I have received was given without any suspicion of publicity or any motive for reserve.

I give you another example among many to show how utterly the thieves are at the mercy of the police. An influential man lost \$3,500 in a panel house. The Captain of the precinct warned the thief that there would be trouble, and that he must restore the money. It was given to the Captain. The

thief met the victim in the streets a few days after, and pretending to be a detective, asked him if he had got his money. He replied that he had not. The thief then went to the Captain and demanded half of it, as it was not restored. The Captain responded by threatening him with State Prison, broke up his panel house and drove him out of the ward.

A panel thief paid to a police captain half of the "squeal" (the money stolen in one house), and the captain's share was \$13,000 in less than one year. There were five other houses of the same character in the precinct at the same time, and the same captain was reported to have bought a brown stone front as the fruit of his economy. I could give you other instances almost innumerable, including the game of the "injured husband." In playing this women entice solid, elderly men to their rooms to be surprised by the male thief, to whom the dupe pays his money to save himself from attack and exposure. Within a few days a receiver of stolen goods paid a policeman \$500 as hush money, and this is a common transaction. I knew of a woman whose home had long been the resort of thieves, and whose husband is now in Sing Sing prison. Private watchmen, janitors and private and official detectives in Wall Street were in the habit of visiting her house to consult with the thieves about "putting up jobs" for robbing stores and banks. These officers were also in the habit of arresting the thieves, even when they were innocent, for the purpose of blackmailing, and their wives or women had to raise the money for their release. The officers in such cases pretend they have a private despatch in relation to some country robbery and describing the man they arrest. This is what is called "standing a man up." On one occasion this woman was obliged to give a detective a silk dress valued at \$1,000, which her husband had stolen, and the dress is now worn by the detective's wife.

Another police exploit is to send up some innocent thief when a robbery has been committed, and thus do a double stroke of business by dividing the spoils with the real thief, at the same time getting credit for making an arrest. To show the fraternal intimacy between certain police officials and thieves I may say that I heard it from three different sources, and believe what I heard, that a well-known police captain was present at the wedding of a notorious panel thief as an invited guest. A landlady informed me, that on the 1st of January she sent the captain of the precinct \$100 in an envelope. This is another part of the police revenue system, well understood, and explains how these landladies contrive to say, if questioned, that they never paid the Captain any money. The smaller houses pay by the week to the captain's detective, who goes around with a passbook like a landlord or any other collector. And while the captains or detectives thus come down upon the landlady the patrolman finds means to levy upon the street walker.

Another mode of replenishing the police purse, which was once in favor in the Twenty-ninth precinct, was for the captain to call upon first-class houses of the *demi-monde*, representing that a visitor to the house had been robbed of \$100, \$300 or \$500, according to the supposed ability of the house to pay, and demanding restoration. The landlady, to escape arrest and notoriety, would hand over the money.

Another way for increasing police perquisites, practised by a former captain of the Twenty-ninth precinct, was to play the role of magistrate in his station house, and taking what he could get from the poor street walker in the way of a fine, discharge her without further ceremony. The gamblers, of course, and even the theatre ticket speculators, have to pay a police tax for their privileges.

Reporter—What do you think of the work of the committee?

Mr. Twohey—I may say that so far it has proved the truth of what I asserted in my argument before the Legislature, and that it has furnished material for bringing to trial several police captains, whose cases are now before the Commissioners. But the committee has an immense work before it. It has to inquire into police appointments obtained by fraud and passing medical examination by proxy, into paying for appointments and the appoint-

ing of unnaturalized men and convicted criminals to the force. It will have to inquire concerning policemen who live in houses of prostitution, violating all the rules of the police manual, either through ignorance or wilful disregard. It will also have to look after the number of captains who at every election convert their commands into electioneering machines, and it should learn the causes of the exodus of witnesses likely to be wanted in the present investigation and into the savage abuse of prisoners in the station-houses by clubbing, kicking, drenching and other ingenious modes of torture.

Reporter—What do you think of the trials at Police Headquarters?

Mr. Twohey—I know the facilities of the police for getting witnesses to swear to anything and their aptitude for swearing to anything themselves. In many cases the complainant at Police Headquarters finds the tables thus turned upon him, till, from being complainant of an outrage, he becomes defendant of his own reputation, however good it may previously have been.

Reporter—What do you suppose will be the result of the committee's investigations?

Mr. Twohey—Necessarily, though not immediately, a thorough reorganization of the Police Department, for the people cannot much longer endure the present state of things. Many of the witnesses most essential to the effectiveness of this investigation are persons so completely in the power of corrupt policemen that they remain in the city only by their sufferance. And this is one of many reasons why the thorough purification and reorganization of our police force is of more importance than any other duty in which municipal reformers can engage.—*New York Herald*, August 18.

U. S. Supreme Court Decision.

UTAH—JURISDICTION OF THE PROBATE COURT.

Washington, Aug. 17, 1875.

Frederick T. Perris et al. vs. Wm. G. Hingley et al.—Error to the Supreme Court of the Territory of Utah—Upon this question the court decided as follows, Mr. Justice Miller delivering the opinion—

The suit was an action on a promissory note for \$1,500 brought by plaintiff in error and plaintiff below in the Probate Court of Salt Lake County. He recovered a judgment in the Probate Court. The case, coming into the District Court of the Third Judicial District, was reversed on the ground that the Probate Court had no jurisdiction of such a suit, and this judgment being affirmed on appeal to the Supreme Court it is brought here by writ of error to that Court. The single question in the case is whether the Probate Court had jurisdiction to hear and determine such an action, and this must be decided by a construction of the statute of the Territory and the provisions of the act of Congress organizing the Territory. The act of Congress under which Utah was organized as a Territory provided for a Supreme Court, district courts, probate courts and justices of the peace, and distributed the judicial power among them. It gave to the Supreme and district courts a general jurisdiction at common law and in Chancery, and limited and defined the powers of the justices of the peace. It declared that the legislative power should extend to all rightful subjects of legislation not inconsistent with the constitution of the United States or with the organic act. The act of the Territorial Legislature conferring on probate courts a general jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases, both in Chancery and at common law, is inconsistent with the organic act, and is therefore void.—*N. Y. Herald*.

INFORMATION WANTED as to the whereabouts of August Leonhard, of New York City, who left New York about five years ago, and was last heard of at Gold Hill, Nevada. Any person possessing information in regard to him will receive the thanks of his widowed mother by communicating same to the Editor of the DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City.—[Nevada and California State papers, please copy.]

By Telegraph.

AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, 30.—In the suit of Nathaniel B. Hall, vs. the California Bank, Judge Brady, to-day, granted the plaintiff an attachment against the bank's property in this State, to recover \$15,000, deposited with the bank.

The well known publishing house of Lee and Shepard, of Boston suspended payment on Saturday; this suspension involves the New York firm of Lee, Shepard and Dillingham. This morning the acting partner of the house, Mr. Dillingham, made an unconditional assignment to Jas. Mills, the publisher, of No. 645 Broadway. A private telegram received from Boston, this morning, gives the liabilities of the senior firm at \$1,000,000, but Miller and other prominent publishers, who are well informed in regard to the business of the house, say that the sum involved will not exceed \$330,000, and that they will probably be able to pay 50 cents on the dollar. The New York branch is a comparatively new concern, while Lee and Shepard are two-third owners, the remaining share being owned by Dillingham. The debts of this house amount to about \$150,000. Miller, the assignee, took possession of the establishment, and after making a liberal allowance for bad debts and the depreciation of the stock, he estimates that the concern will pay its debts in full. The parent house of Lee and Shepard was established in 1863, and did a very successful business up to the time of the Boston fire, in which it lost more than \$100,000. They made a determined effort to recover themselves, but owing to the general stagnation of trade, have been at length forced to suspend payment. The event causes general regret, as the firm, though young, was the most popular in the trade.

WASHINGTON, 30.—The Secretary of the Treasury has decided that hewn pine timber, commercially known as squared or sided, is subject to duty at the rate of one per cent. per cubic foot, and not 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, as heretofore held by the department.

The Treasurer and Express Companies have settled the questions concerning the transportation of national bank notes, by agreeing on a basis of 37 cents per thousand dollars.

BOSTON, 30.—Yesterday, at Hopkinton, a boy named Morris Ryan, aged sixteen, started down stairs with a loaded gun, intending to shoot a cat, when his sister Mary, aged fifteen, who desired to save the cat's life, caught her brother by the shoulder to pull him back; at the same time two other sisters, younger than Mary, came to the head of the stairs. In the scuffle between Morris and Mary, the gun went off, killing Mary and one of the other sisters; a third sister was wounded in the arm, and Morris was wounded in the leg.

SAN FRANCISCO, 30.—The funeral of Ralston, to-day, was the most imposing ever witnessed in this city. The services were conducted at Calvary church, which was crowded to its utmost capacity; and decorated with flowers and funeral wreaths. A concourse of citizens, numbering probably twenty thousand, gathered around the church. After the services at the church a procession, consisting of a battalion of cavalry, three regiments of infantry, a battery of artillery, the templar lodge of Odd Fellows, clergy and hearse, with the following pall bearers—R. F. Morrow, Wm. Burtling, D. O. Mills, H. P. Wakelee, William T. Coleman, Geo. H. Howard, Wm. Sharon, D. D. Colton, S. M. Watson, William Alvord, John O. Earl, Louis A. Garnet, M. Livingston, Thos. Bell, Geo. S. Dodge, Peter Donahue, Col. W. H. L. Barnes, Hon. Ogden Hoffman, Hon. Cornelius Cole, W. K. Vandervice, W. K. Dietrich, A. A. Cohen, Charles Clayton, Company C. 1st Infantry, and a guard of honor. The hearse was followed by the clerks of the Bank of California, regents and faculty of the University, members of Chamber of Commerce and of the S. F. Stock Exchange, Pacific Stock Exchange, members and friends of the family in carriages, officers and employees of the manufacturing concerns in which the deceased had been interested, and a concourse of citizens numbering thousands brought up the rear. The services at the cemetery were conducted according to the rites of the Odd Fellows. The streets on the route of the proces-

sion were lined with people, and there was a great gathering at the cemetery.

A prominent banker reports that the immediate cause of the demand, by the directors of the Bank of California, for Ralston's resignation, was the discovery, by the directors, during the investigation, of a lot of bills receivable from irresponsible parties, aggregating in the neighborhood of a million dollars, with no collaterals. It is also reported that it was the intention of the directors to have subsequently called Ralston into their counsels, to avail themselves of his intimate knowledge of the business of the bank.

It is reported that some heavy stock brokers and others, who have borrowed large sums, in one case amounting to half a million dollars, for the benefit of the Bank of California, securing their own bills payable with stock of the bank, are likely to become heavily involved, as the stock of the bank can't be given away at present.

Collection day is thus far progressing with a mutual feeling of accommodation among business men.

The deed of Ralston to William Sharon conveys all his property, real and personal, wherever found, in absolute ownership, with a right to dispose of the same on such terms and prices as he deems best, and to apply the same and the proceeds thereof, and of the property hereby conveyed, to such purposes and uses as said William Sharon may, in his judgment, deem best for our joint and several interests.

The board of supervisors, yesterday, met with closed doors, but it has transpired that a heated discussion arose, and a policy of taking no action with regard to the resolutions in memory of Ralston was adopted, with only one dissenting vote.

The flutter among the distillers and revenue agents here is in consequence of the presence of special revenue agent Clark, who is examining into affairs on the coast. On Saturday evening the deputy collector at Antioch, Contra Costa County, seized Jost's distillery and 26,000 gallons of spirits, valued at fifty thousand dollars, on a charge of the illicit manufacture of whiskey.

At the request of the comptroller of the currency at Washington, Dr. Linderman, director general of the U. S. Mint in this city, has made a thorough examination of the books and assets of the National Gold Bank and Trust Co., and has found everything in a satisfactory condition; he will report the same to the comptroller. The bank will be left free by the government to manage its own affairs.

A number of cases have been reported to-day in which commercial paper has gone to protest, in some instances on prominent firms, but no disposition has been shown to take any action on the protests, or to push the endorers, and in a majority of the cases the notes have been partially paid and renewed.

The Merchants' Exchange Bank does not open this morning, in accordance with the almost positive assurance of the secretary given yesterday; it may possibly do so during the day, but that will depend on the success of negotiations now pending. The officers are apparently somewhat less confident of immediate resumption than yesterday, but say that any delay is merely temporary.

The National Gold Bank and Trust Co. is still closed, and is unable to say when it will resume, but says the outlook is favorable.

Sharon was interviewed this morning with regard to the statement credited to him that the Bank of California would resume business, and he stated in reply to a direct question—"We are moving heaven and earth to reopen, and it is possible and not improbable that the bank will resume, there is a reasonable probability of it." In reply to a question as to the rumour of an over issue of stock and the substitution of worthless paper in envelopes which had contained collaterals, and other fraudulent proceedings, he said—"I know nothing about it, I have not been amongst the clerks or in the vaults." Bell, one of the directors, in reply to a similar question this evening, said—"I know of nothing of the kind."

Sharon is credited with the statement that, unless something unforeseen turns up, the directors of the Bank of California will make no statement, but that the bank will resume business. An attorney stated in the rooms of the Bar Association, to-day, that one of the direct-