

yoad, thinking the pursuit was so over, when the house was surrounded by ten or fifteen men, and I was put in prison. A singular thing occurred, which I think was the cause of my being taken. About 9 o'clock the night I robbed the drover, as I was riding along very rapidly, to get out of the reach of pursuit, I saw standing across the road a beautiful horse, as white as snow. His ears stood straight forward, and his figure very beautiful. I never before saw so white a horse. When I approached within six feet of him, he disappeared in an instant, which made me very uneasy, and made me stop at a house near that all night. My seeing him was the cause of my pursuers reach. I think this white horse was Christ, and that he came to warn me of my sins, and to make me fear and repent. Well my trial came on, and I was sent to the penitentiary for eight years.

After I had served five years, I was dismissed for my good conduct. When I went to bed that night after I got out of the penitentiary, it appeared to me that the Almighty had brought me out, as he did Daniel out of the fiery furnace. I started for Baltimore, where I worked six months very steady at the tailoring business. I left Baltimore for Albany, N. Y. and was in great distress and poverty and fell to bad courses again. I here met with an old hand that I knew. He offered to share if I would join him. I told him I would go, so he bought two horses, and we armed ourselves with a pair of double barreled pistols, and a dirk each. We started across the Green Mountain towards Boston; here we met two men from New-York going to Canada. We left Boston in company with them, and crossed into Canada, and after travelling 70 or 8 miles, we robbed them. We took from them \$4,000 almost all in English guineas. My share amounted to \$300 guineas, and 137 dollars. We kept them in the woods till dark, when we bid them "good bye," and rode off as fast as we could, towards Canada, but then turned and went to Ballston Springs, where we said some time.

I started for the City of Washington, where I stole a horse I had stolen from the governor of New-York. I fell in company here with a man that had stolen a horse, and who said he was so well known, he could not dispose of him. He begged me to dispose of him, and the consequence was that I was apprehended, and lay in goal several months, when I was released on condition that I should join the army, and was five months under the command of Colonel Carberry. I had no other duty than to be on guard the President's every day. But they soon found work for me of another sort. Word was left for me one day that there was a challenge for me; there was a regiment of militia at George Town, and they left word that they had a man that could whip me, or any man that belonged to colonel Carberry's regiment. I said to them I could whip any man that belonged to their regiment, or ever belonged to it, and they might chose their man, and send him out. In a minute they chose their man, and sent him out with a second. I did not pull off my jacket. We ended the battle by his crying enough. I did not mind the word of the Lord now, though every day his spirit was crying out to me and I was so full of wickedness at this time, that, as God is my witness, I had a mind to deliver up the President to Admiral Cockburn some night or other, to be taken aboard their vessel; I mean the British vessels, for they lay in the Patuxent, and I could have got him aboard from seven o'clock in the evening till daylight, if I could only have seen the British to communicate my scheme to them.

As I had got very tired by this time of the army, I took a very brisk, smart young fellow to my colonel, and told him he would take my place but the colonel told me, he would as lief have me as four common men; then I tried colonel Beal, but as they would none of them let me go I hired a horse and gig in George-Town and started off immediately for Annapolis. I broke the gig on the road, and lodged at the house of a minister. It was Sunday the next day and as I could not get the gig mended that day, I staid with him.—He treated me with great respect, and as I had an epaulette on my shoulder; he took me for an officer and called me captain. I got the gig mended the next day and started for Annapolis, where I sold the gig and horse to a stranger, and purchased a gold watch. I went from Annapolis to Baltimore, and from there to New-York, where I staid all winter. I went then to Philadelphia, and in a short time, made a robbery on the road that leads from Chester to the Lancaster turnpike. In the tavern where I stopped at, there were a couple of men, that looked like rich Germans, and had waggons with them. It was on a Saturday night. I stole into their room, and took from one of them \$1,800 in bank notes. After this I was once more in Baltimore, a short time and put up at the stone tavern in Bridge-street, Old Town. I sold to a negro trader, a black boy, that I had purchased in New-York, by the name of Harry, about 12 years of age. He was a free born boy, born in New York and I bought him a waiter, but he did not tell me he was free when I bought him. I do not know where this boy is now, but I wish that some good man could find him and have him restored to freedom. I feel very sorry that I sold him, for I had plenty of money

at the time, and the tears ran down his cheeks like water.

I married a young girl, seventeen years of age, of very good figure and respectable connexions, who had been brought up in New-York in a good style and well educated. I wish this book to serve as a caution to the young girls who read it, to be particular how they choose a husband, and pray that some angel would tell them, what road their husbands will be likely to walk in. When I married this young girl, I had a good deal of money, and never expected to leave the innocent young creature in the sorrow that is now opened before her. Soon after, I bought a horse and gig and took my wife on to Boston. Afterwards, I sent her in her friends in New York, telling her I had a good deal of business to settle. The fact was, I found my money was almost gone, and that I would have to replenish my pockets by another robbery. I robbed a man at tavern 3 miles from Boston, of \$20. In Princeton N. J. I robbed the trunk of a merchant who was on his way from North Carolina to New York, of \$30,000, and started for Philadelphia, but was apprehended next day. I was tried at Summerville court-house, and sentenced to the State's prison for five years. After I had served twenty four months, I got a pardon and was discharged for my good conduct.

[We close by giving a full account of the mail robbery, as the circumstances are known to be pretty nearly correct, as this was the crime of which he suffered the punishment of death.]

When I was discharged from the State's prison in New Jersey, (where as I said before I was confined for robbing the \$30,000 in Princeton) I went to Philadelphia, where I fell in company with a man by the name of Alexander, an honorable fellow; and at last the idea occurred to me of robbing the United States' mill Alexander approved of it, and agreed to join me.

I also persuaded a young man, whose name I do not mention, to have the man that was teaching him a trade; and I told him I could make more money in two days on the highway, than he could make at his trade in twenty years; and I got him to join with me in this scheme for robbing the mail. We took a small pistol and a dirk and left Philadelphia on the Sunday morning.

These two new robbers had lost much confidence in us; they had never seen any such a robbery before, and one was so very young. I was afraid his resolution would fail.—On Wednesday night, two or three miles on this side of Haver de Grace, I made them help me to build a fence across the road, before the mail passed that was on its way to Philadelphia from Baltimore. I wanted to take both the Northern and Southern Mails; but the young man threw away the rope, that we were to have tied the drivers with; it was easy to take both as one. I told the young man it would be the same come, and we might as well be the best paid; and as to the tying of the drivers, and the guard, if there was one, it would be easiest to take a couple of ladies out of the stage at the stage house. However, to stop me from it, he threw away a great deal of the rope unknown to me till the very night; and we had scarcely enough to tie one party. The two mile pass in that place an hour or two apart, and when the mail some there that had left Baltimore on its way to Philadelphia, the fence was made so strong that no horses could be driven across it. I took the lantern burning on the stage, and two men in the stage. The driver let the horse come up to the fence, and they stopped; I told my men not to be alarmed, that the one was the driver and the other the guard. I ran up very quick, that they might not have time to get out their arms. I was soon alongside of the driver, and told him we were two different times not to fire on us.—The young man with us, had fallen back; I could not see whether they had arms. The driver spoke and said he had no arms; I asked the other if he had; he said no! My other man had come up by this time, and I told him to get up and search if they had any arms. Our was a passenger; he had one pistol and it was loaded. I told Alexander to bring both of them down. They came down, and I stepped on the passenger, and told him not to be scared, that he should not be hurt, and that if he had 10,000 dollars with him, he should not have a cent taken from him: I told him all I wanted was the South-Carolina mail;—that these gentlemen held so many blacks, that the loss of a \$19 dollar note would not hurt them; that I should be obliged to keep them until I got the money out of the mail. I told the passenger I was sorry I did not know he was coming that evening, for I would have waited till another night. We took them into the woods, and Alexander tied him and the driver. I was bringing down the stage and had the mail in. I threw the large mill off, and had it open, and we went to breaking open the letters. The passenger spoke, and laid the rope hurt his arm.—the young man unloosed him, and took the letters that had been broken open, and carried them for me to set on and keep him warm.—He was much pleased with the young man, and said he was much of a gentleman. I told him I was not afraid to let him be untied, that I knew he would not runaway; that he knew now what kind of men highwaymen were. I found one letter that had a black seal, and I threw it to the driver, and told him I would not break it open, and I told him too I did not want to rob the Baltimore mail, but the South-Carolina.—After we had got all the money out of the mail, and were ready to start, Alexander tied the two men to the hind part of the wagon; it was my wish that it should be done, though it was contrary to my feelings to do it myself. Alexander had some gin in a half pint bottle; I begged him to keep it for the driver and passenger, for they would be cold; but it was like trying to keep a child from a honey comb. Before we left the two men, I went and felt the rope on the passenger's arm, and he said it would do, as much as to say it would not hurt him. I asked him if I might look at his watch to see the time of night; he said yes, it was near two o'clock, and we had been near three hours breaking open the letters. I told him his watch was an elegant one, and put it back into his pocket; he said it was a family piece, and thanked me for my politeness. I told him from his appearance, I expected he was a merciful, and had perhaps \$50,000 in his trunk that was still on the stage, but I would not take it. He made no answer, and I left him. I had told the driver, I had some gin for him in the evening, and tried to keep it for him, but could not; but if I found any change, I would give it to him, to get him something to drink, when he got to the tavern next morning. I told him I would give him some large money, if I thought he would keep it; he said he should give it up. When I was coming away, I gave him one note of \$10, to tell me which was his swiftest horse; he told me, and I mounted him, and we started for Baltimore. We left the horses after riding 16 miles from the road, expecting they would think we had rode clear off with the horses and we should have a very good chance to get to Baltimore safe. When it came daylight, we counted the money; it was all in bank notes almost; and came to \$6,900 dollars I had \$500 for my share, for I had the most, because I had stood in all the danger, and had done the robbery mostly myself.—The second night after the robbery was committed, we got to Baltimore. When it came daylight, we parted; Alexander was to meet us at ten o'clock. The young lad and I got breakfast and went to buy some clothes, in a shop where they kept ready-made clothes. The young lad is my brother. I had bought one plaid cloak lined with crimson silk at the price of 35 dollars, and one coat in the style of an officer's at the price of 75 dollars ver-

ry dashy, and a number of small articles to the amount of 30 dollars more. When two men, whom the owner of the shop had sent for suspecting that we were the mail robbers, came in and apprehended us. We were taken before the court examined and sent to gaol.

The circumstances of our trial and our sentence are already known. For the last fourteen years of my life I have been a highway robber, and have robbed on a larger scale and been more successful than any robber either in Europe or in this country, that I have ever heard of; but I have the consolation of reflecting, that I never killed or wounded any man, and that no man's blood is upon my head.

FROM THE AMERICAN DAILY ADVERTISER.

KIDNAPPING.

Mr. Poulsen—An atrocious case of Kidnapping was tried last week, in the Quarter Sessions for the county of Philadelphia. As I was not in Court, during the trial I can give no account of it. But the sentence of the Court, which was delivered by Justice Rush, I have been informed contains the principal outlines of the evidence laid before the Jury that convicted the prisoner. A copy of this sentence I have procured from the Judge, and now inclose it, with a request, that you will give it a place in your paper, and oblige

A SUBSCRIBER.

Sept. 29th, 1813.

William Young—You have been convicted, by a Jury of the country, of seducing and conveying from the Township of Moyensing, into the State of Delaware, three persons of color, viz John Wood, John Derden and Benjamin Bennett, with the intent to sell and dispose of them. The crime is most remarkable, as you also, are a man of color. These persons it should seem, had told some of their acquaintance, you had employed them to cut wood in the state of Delaware, and that they were to be well paid for their labor. It is now twelve months since they went with you, in a Shallop, to the state of Delaware, for the purpose just mentioned. You came back in the same shallop, in three days, bringing with you, eight or nine cords of wood. But to this day, Bennett, Derden and Wood, have never been heard of. Upon your return to the city without them, your appearance in the world was soon changed. You were better clad, and had the command of more money, than when you conveyed these unfortunate men to the State of Delaware. Bennett it seems, had lived in the same house with you; and to a friend of his, who, suspecting every thing was not quite right, enquired what had become of him, you replied, he was confined in the work house; and that you had sent the Captain take him to Gaol. This was false. You also asserted, that Wood and Derden, had left the shallop they went down in, and were coming up in another. This was also false.—You declared, in the presence of the Alderman who committed you, that you were the only person of color, in the Shallop, when she went down river. This also is false. A man in another Shallop that laid alongside of you, for several hours, swore he saw you, two colored men, and a black man on board with you. Where are these men, I ask? It must be in your power, if they have not been improperly disposed of, to give some account of them. You are bound to say, where you left them—in what place, and to mention the names of the persons they were engaged to work for. They went with you, under your protection, and in your employ. In the short space of three days, you returned to the city, with several cords of wood, but without them, and fraught with lies and inconsistent tales with respect to their fate. It is indeed too probable, you do not yourself know, at this time, where they are, or what has become of them. Considering all circumstances, it is to be feared, some inhuman master in the State of Delaware, stood ready to receive the victims, and has carried them, ere now, to the banks of the Mississippi, to the utmost verge of Georgia, or even to some island in the West Indies, where they may be at this moment suffering under the daily lash of a merciless master.

Your crime, Young, is very great. On account of cutting wood, and a promise of liberal wages, you perfidiously decoyed these men, into an adjacent state; and have, in all probability, consigned them to slavery and wretchedness the remainder of their lives. In many cases the Law of Retaliation is founded in strict justice; and the most consummate wisdom; and on the present occasion, there would be no violation, however it should be, of a state of servitude for life, equally galling and severe, with that you have brought upon your fellow-creatures.

For the sake of money, you have revetted the chains of the most cruel bond-slaves upon them, and robbed them of every happiness on this side the grave. For my part, I verily believe, the sin of instigating, is the greatest that can be committed, except murder; and that any punishment that can be inflicted, short of hanging, would be the just retribution of a deed of such complicated wickedness.

In your case, the Law of Pennsylvania has provided a punishment, altogether inadequate to the offence—While it punishes a man who steals a Horse, with hard labor for seven years, it imposes for stealing a Man, a fine of one hundred pounds, and hard labor not exceeding one year. Whatever may be the inequality in those laws, shall it be thus continually maintained. I now propose to pass the sentence, which the Law has prescribed for your offence.

The prisoner was then sentenced to pay a fine of one hundred pounds, and to hard labor for one year, for secreting and carrying away each person, making in all, three hundred pounds, and three years at hard labor.

ALBANY, SEPT. 24.

His Excellency Governor Clinton, and the Hon. Steven Van Rensselaer, two of the Circuit Commissioners, left this city on Monday last for Utica. It is the intention of these gentlemen, we understand, to be present at the approaching cattle show and fairs in several of the counties in the western district—commencing at Watertown, Jefferson County, on the 28th inst.—Several other gentlemen of distinction from this city, it is also said, will attend these interesting exhibitions.

*Threshing Machine.*—A threshing machine, lately invented in England, was put in operation last week, at the seat of the Hon. Stephen Van Rensselaer, of this city, in presence of a number of gentlemen, and seventy-five sheaves of wheat were nearly threshed in 12 minutes. We understand this excellent machine, and a new invented Flax Machine, will be in exhibition at the ensuing fair at Cooperstown, on the 6th of October.

We learn that the government have determined to establish a naval department in the Hudson River, near Newburgh. The situation is highly advantageous for such an establishment, and will afford the most safe situation for the purposes intended.

By the completion of the northern canal in this state, now in rapid and successful progress, a vast and inexhaustible quantity of every thing pertaining to ship building, can be readily obtained; the forest which now covers the immense tracts of our country bordering on Lake Champlain, in the state of Vermont, as well as in this state, together with other advantages, will afford facilities and resources which could not be exceeded in any other section of the Union.—Col.

NEW YORK, SEPT. 29.

*Cashier.*—The public, and more especially the officers of banks, should be on their guard against an infamous forged lately practised in this city, by altering the face of bank-checks. The first attempt was made on the Merchant's Bank last week, for six thousand nine hundred dollars, which succeeded, as appears by the advertisement of the Cashier in yesterday's paper. A second, of the same nature, but met with less success was made upon the Bank at Jersey City. The following are the particulars:

A young man of genteel appearance, dressed in a blue coat, white vest, and white pantaloons, presented to the cashier of the bank at Jersey City, a check, drawn by himself on the bank at Elizabethtown, for ninety hundred dollars, endorsed on the back by the cashier of the Day.

The check being for so large a sum, the cashier of the Jersey City Bank hesitated about paying it. Upon which the young man, with an appearance of great indifference, said it was a matter of no moment, whether it was paid there or not, and taking back the

check, observed he could get it done in New York. Yesterday forenoon he made the attempt upon the Bank, but, luckily for that bank, a vague suspicion prevented them from accepting it; and strange as it may seem, no effort was made to detain the fellow.

On investigating this piece of knavery, it turns out that the rogue deposited in the first place in the bank at Elizabethtown \$90, and then drew a check for the sum, and got the cashier to certify on the back—"Good for the within sum." In drawing the check, he had taken care to write the word *ninety* so as to leave a sufficient space between that and *dollars* to add the word *hundred*, after he had got his check certified to be good; thus changing it from *ninety* dollars to *ninety hundred* dollars.

At the foot of the check where the figures are placed at the left hand, shewing the amount drawn for, the 90, by adding 00, is changed into 900. Such a forged check might easily be prevented by the cashier's particularizing the amount for which the amount is good, instead of merely certifying, as has been the practice, "good for the amount." After the steed is stolen, says the proverb, the stable is locked.

This same fellow lodg'd at the widow Vanderbilt's Staten-Island, one night last week, and after the family had retired, rose, broke open a trunk belonging to Mr. Vanderbilt, and robbed it of between fifty and sixty dollars in specie—he then hired a black man to take him in a skiff over to Bergen point, and made his escape. Police officers would do well to keep a sharp lookout.

It appears by the annexed letter from Gen. Gaines, the Governor, that measures have been adopted by the national government for the protection of our southern frontier, against future incursions from the neighboring hostile savages.

HEAD-QUARTERS,

FE. HAWKINS, SEPT. 23.

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's communication of the 22d instant, and reply have to observe, that I have taken measures to concentrate upon this part of the southern frontier, recently invaded by the savages, such of the disposable regular force of my command as can be most speedily drawn to that point. I have reason to believe this force will reach its destination by the middle of next month, and that it will be sufficient to repel any number of India Warriors that may be likely to approach that frontier.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your Excellency's ob't serv't,

EDMUND P. GAINES.

Copy of a letter from Lieut. Col. Aruckle, commanding at Fort-Gadsden, to the Agent for Indian Affairs, dated 31st August, 1812.

SIR—Within a few days one hundred and eight of the hostile Indians from near Sativaunee, surrendered themselves at this Post; those who have surrendered late, in all about three hundred, I have ordered into the nation, and to report to you. They are in a most wretched condition, and will be at Fort Gadsden about the 16th next month. I shall make provision for them until the first of October, or until I hear from you, or some arrangement is made for them, provided it may be soon. The Indians who lately surrendered, brought with them twenty-nine negroes, men, women and children. Eighteen of them appear to belong to different persons in the Floridas, and eleven are claimed by Indians.

I am Sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. ARBUCKLE,

Lieut. Col. Comdg.

MILLEDGEVILLE, SEPT. 22.

General Gaines has arrived at Fort Hawkins, where, we understand, he will fix his head-quarters for the present. The hostile Indians are surrendering at discretion, and in large numbers. Our informant states, that 300, who had given themselves up, were according to the Chatahochee, under Lieut. Col. Wickham.

JUDGEMENT OF DEATH.

RICHMOND, SEPT. 25.

On Saturday morning last, about eleven o'clock, Robert Gibson, alias Carlton, was brought before the circuit court of this county, for the purpose of hearing sentence pronounced against him by Judge Breckinridge, for the wilful murder of John M. Peartree, in July, '17, near this city; he having been thrice convicted, by different juries, of murder in the first degree; (the two first verdicts set aside in consequence of some formal proceedings.) Many persons attended to witness the painful, and, to the honor of Richmond, now ceremony of the law. When the judge directed the sheriff to bring in the prisoner, a general agitation appeared to be produced and a strong sensation of feeling and surprise was excited in almost every countenance. The prisoner's presence, however, was not calculated to strengthen and confirm those feelings. He stood before the court with a countenance by no means prepossessing; his face was pale and haggard; his eyes sunk; there expression contracted cold and cheerless; not a ray of feeling shot forth from the not a tear of repentant remorse abiding their unmeaning vacant stare