

PROFESSOR LEURIO

The Man With Two Natures—Learned Professor, Murderer and Professional Burglar.

(By S. A. ASHRE.)

It will be remembered that in 1868 the University of North Carolina passed from the control of Governor Swain and the old trustees into new hands.

Early one morning in the winter of 1869-70, when I was living in Pender county, a stranger came to the door and asked if he could have breakfast.

After some days I noticed in a newspaper that one of the professors at Chapel Hill had disappeared. He was a Northern man—one who had a considerable reputation for learning.

His learning was great, particularly in his special line, which was philosophy, and he deplored to his last breath that the world should lose the value of his devoted work in his studies.

The other day in looking over my old papers I observed an old magazine—The Journal of Psychological Medicine, for October, 1871, and wondering why I had preserved it, I found it contained an address being medico-legal notes made by Dr. George Barr, in New York, on the case of Edward H. Ruloff.

While in jail waiting for his trial, he made the acquaintance of a young man named Jarvis, and of his mother, who was the wife of the jailor; over both of whom he obtained a powerful influence, and by their aid he escaped, and found his way into the hills of northern Pennsylvania.

In 1868, as Professor Leurio, he attended a convention of philologists at Poughkeepsie, and offered his book for the approval of the members.

But, as learned as he undoubtedly was in language, he was besides a good lawyer, although never admitted to the bar. He was particularly well versed in the law applicable to the trial of criminal cases, and in the rules of evidence.

But few men have had so distinctly two such diverse natures as Ruloff. He says of himself that when about sixteen, although not college bred, he

revenge, jealousy, and distrust. Impelled by violent explosions of passion, he was capable of committing any criminal act—burglary, arson, murder, would all be rejoiced to carry on his operations and to remove obstacles to his success.

Apparently, it was this man who disappeared from the University; and, at the call of his old confederate, whom indeed he had led into a life of crime, was making his way to New York, when he dropped into my house, to ask for breakfast.

Such is an account of a man whose life history recalls Eugene Aram; but there is also a parallel with Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

In his habits, as Prof. Leurio, 190-23 Ave., New York, he was amiable, quiet and retiring, laboriously studious, and he was on friendly footing with all the children of the vicinity, for whom he always had a pleasant word, and oftentimes brought them presents of toys and candies.

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the river, falling into a hole of deep water. Ruloff was caught, confessed—and, after conviction, was sentenced to death.

He prayed for a respite until he could complete his book; and as there was a suggestion of insanity, a commission was appointed to examine him. This move he denounced, declaring that he was entirely sane.

As a man of not only two careers, or vocation, a learned professor and a professional burglar, Ruloff was remarkable; but what is still more remarkable is that he had such diverse natures, amiable, gentle and affectionate towards children on one hand, and a violent brute, taking the lives

of his wife and child as well as of strangers, without any compunction whatever.

Prof. Webster of Harvard, had about 1853 been convicted of the murder of one of his personal friends from whom he had borrowed about \$1,500, which he could not repay.

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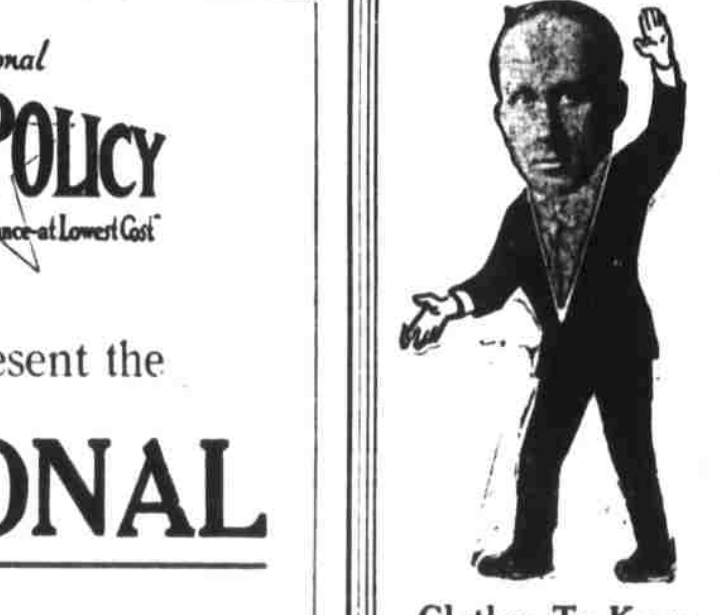
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