

BETRAYED BY HIS THUMB.

Most Extraordinary Circumstantial Evidence in the Express Robbery Case at New Orleans.

EXPERT CARVALHO A GENIUS.

Cashier Gurney's Theft of \$22,500 from a Package of Money Proven by His Tell-Tale Thumb Marks on the Seal.

STUDIED BY MICROSCOPE AND CAMERA

Method of Identification
Unearthed What Seemed
Impenetrable
Mystery.

The astonishing testimony of David N. Carvalho, of this city, in the trial of Cashier Gurney, of the American Express Company, at New Orleans, last week, surpasses anything in the narratives of Sherlock Holmes, the English criminal detective, whose achievements in fiction made the reputation of A. Conan Doyle. Nowhere in the fascinating literature of criminal detection has a great crime been traced to its source from so small a clue, and nowhere in the writings of Poe, Gaboriau or Conan Doyle have ingenuity, pains-taking industry and originality of method so marvelously illustrated what a powerful aid may science be to justice.

Indeed the testimony which has now been put in against the prisoner at the New Orleans Criminal Court has opened up an entirely new branch of criminal detective science. The linear markings on the human thumb are shown to be individual, and the testimony of the past week has raised the matter of their decipherment from a theory to a science.

The facts briefly stated are these: On the morning of Oct. 15 \$22,500 was found to be missing from a safe containing \$50,000, sent from the Bank of Commerce, of this city, to the Whitney National Bank, of New Orleans.

The loss was discovered in the office at New Orleans of the American Express Company, and there was no clue to the thief, except a false one, which led the detectives a fruitless search.

THE EXPERT SUMMONED.

Then an expert in handwriting was called in. He began work upon the express envelope containing the key of the safe, which it accompanied, and discovered certain marvellous coincidences, one of which was apparently designed to cast suspicion on the guilty man so as to enable him to prove his innocence. But he was identified by the expert through a faint impression of his thumb left in the wax of a broken seal and compared with a subsequent impression of his thumb. Finally from three other points in the envelope his guilt was established.

The money-safe and the key therefore, which was in a separate envelope, arrived at the New Orleans office of the express company at 11 o'clock at night on Oct. 14, 1893. Gurney, in his official capacity, tore open the envelope in the presence of another officer of the company, opened the safe, glanced at the contents, and remarked: "This package is in — bad order."

He threw the torn envelope in the waste-basket, and remarked that the money ought to be counted. Then he remarked that it might be unsafe to count so large a sum late at night, in which the other employee agreed, and, recovering the envelope, locked it in the office safe. He was left alone in the office, arrived there late the following morning, and when the money was counted the loss was discovered. The trial began at New Orleans on Wednesday before a jury of six men, in accordance with the Code Napoleon, which prevails in Louisiana.

The officers of the company and the detectives first directed their attention to the mysterious breaking of the metal seals on the safe containing the \$50,000. It is an unusual thing for the metal seals on a money safe of this kind, carefully guarded all the way by trusted express messengers and constantly in their view, to be broken while in transit. There appeared to be no doubt that the metal seals were missing when the safe reached St. Louis. But the envelope which accompanied the safe and contained the key had not been tampered with, according to the testimony of the express messengers. Thus it was that, while the safe and the envelope were turned over along the route from one express messenger to another and carefully receipted for at each transfer, when a statement was also made by the messengers as to the condition in which each was received, yet no suspicions were entertained that money had been taken from the safe, which all knew to contain a large amount of money.

So large was this amount known to be, and so careful were the messengers of the express company to guard the property which had been placed in their charge, that on several of the "runs" between Buffalo and New Orleans the safe was concealed under piles of mail pouches and ordinary express packages, in case a band of train robbers should "hold up" the train. It is now believed that in some of these changes, when bags and boxes were being piled on top of the safe or taken therefrom, the metal seals were accidentally detached and broken. Nevertheless, the absence of these seals when the loss of the money was discovered at New Orleans was naturally the first suspicious circumstance which attracted the attention of the company officials and detectives.

ON THE WRONG TRACK.

But this, as it was afterwards learned, at once threw them on the wrong track. The investigation was concentrated on the "run" after the safe had left Cleveland until the absence of the seals had come first noticed. Every man who had come in contact with the safe during that time was brought before the detectives of the company and examined. The most minute facts were gone into. The suspicious fact that a brakeman got into the car at Cleveland and got out at Toledo was carefully investigated; the brakeman was hunted up, his ante-



EXHIBIT B—Magnified photograph of the middle seal from the violated envelope, showing the thumb impression of the man who stole the money.



EXHIBIT C—Wax impression from Gurney's thumb, from a magnified photograph. For identification by the strip method it can be cut where the lines are marked and then pinned on Exhibit B at the exact spots marked A and B. By lifting the separate strips the characteristic lines from both impressions may then be compared.

cedents were taken and his movements previously and for some weeks following were carefully noted.

A horde of detectives worked upon the case. When the train had stopped and the door of the express car had been left open all the attending circumstances were investigated, the names of those people who had been in or near the car, the number of minutes which elapsed while only one messenger had been in the car, the length of time the safe had not been in view, its position in regard to the door, noises heard by the messengers, unusual facts which had distracted their attention from the safe, whether or not it stood in the light—these and a thousand other facts were noted, investigated and put together in the hope of forming a chain of evidence which should fasten the crime upon the thief.

In a case of this kind, of course, the express company, and not the consignor or the consignee, must bear the loss, and the \$22,500 was made up by the American Express Company. But it is a rule of this company, and, indeed, of all express companies, to investigate such matters to the bottom, to hunt the rascal down and send him to prison if he can be found. In nearly all the States and over various county lines, where responsibility may easily be thrown off by one District-Attorney to another, the express companies are compelled to maintain a system of criminal-hunting of their own. It was in this way that the search for the thief was prosecuted in half a dozen States, but only in vain.

In his office, on Broadway, in this city, looking down upon the City Hall Park and removed thousands of miles from the scene of the crime, the theft of the money was fastened upon the prisoner by Mr. Carvalho, the modern Sherlock Holmes, who had already proved his genius as an expert in handwriting in

line, which hitherto has consisted in the main of unearthing forgeries in wills, deeds and other documents. But, being pressed by the company to undertake the work, he soon had his sympathies enlisted and his enthusiasm aroused. How well he succeeded has been shown by the evidence he has given in the case, and which was sprung upon the defense as a complete surprise. Mr. Carvalho not

BAGG
GAGE

The mysterious letters on the right and left seals. How the mystery was solved.

only indicated Gurney as the criminal—he fastened the crime upon him from the evidence of the envelope in four different and distinct ways. Not once, but four times, did the torn paper envelope reveal to the eyes of the expert the criminal, the place where the robbery had been committed and the time at which the money had been extracted from the safe.

EXAMINED AGAIN AND AGAIN.

The envelope had been examined again and again in the course of the long and rigorous detective investigation. It bore the names of the express messengers along the route who had receipted for it and who had each identified and recognized the other's signature. It was torn off at the end in accordance with the custom of the agents of the company in opening such envelopes, so as to leave the seals intact, and Gurney had so torn it open in the presence of another employee.

A money envelope had been used to contain the key, as it appears there are no special envelopes for safe keys. From the fact that the money was in the safe and not in the envelope, the latter was not stitched. Three seals had been put upon it in the office. These seals were made in the peculiar shiny brown wax only used by the American Express Company in the money-order department of the New York office. Each of these wax impressions had been stamped with a seal bearing the words, "Out Money N. Y.," in block letters, the whole of the impression covering an oval space a little smaller than a silver half dollar. One seal was in the centre of the envelope and one at either end, in the places marked upon the money envelopes for the seals.

The envelope was made of manila paper and had a gummed edge, although it was subsequently discovered that this gum had not been used in sealing. Only the wax seals held the flap down. But these three seals were large enough and strong enough for the purpose, and they fastened the envelope securely. When the money was missed it was discovered that the seals had been tampered with. It was obvious to everybody who looked at the three seals that the wax had been broken and remelted.

A singular coincidence had developed, as soon as the detectives got to work, which, when taken in connection with the mysteriously missed metal seal of the safe, enormously strengthened the theory that the robbery had been committed between Cleveland and St. Louis. One or more of the express messengers at the latter point testified that the envelope when it came into their possession was in bad condition, and that the seals appeared to have been tampered with. Yet a messenger further along the route told the detectives, as he has since testified on the stand, that the envelope was in excellent condition when it reached him and the seals intact. Nevertheless, there

end, cutting the twine.
Key are in go



its or address this package,
and sealed.

Condition of the seals when the envelope left New York.

many disputed will cases. But it was not until after all the other detectives had exhausted their ingenuity in explaining the mystery of the broken seals that Mr. Carvalho was called in. He went to work on a new line of investigation—the envelope containing the key to the safe—and followed it to a brilliant success.

Gurney's story respecting the envelope, in fact all he said regarding his part in the receipt of the money, was perfectly satisfactory to the officers of the company and the detectives. He had opened the envelope in the presence of another employee of the company, as required by the rules, he said, and when the money was counted, also in the presence of an employee, the loss was discovered. These were the facts when the case was put in the hands of Expert Carvalho to push, unaided, to some result. He announced after examining the envelope that such work was out of his

COXEY'S MARCH ON WASHINGTON.

Bodies of Idle Men Send Word They Will Join the Columns of the Invading Army.

THE RIGHT OF PETITION DEMANDED.

'Marshal' Carl Browne Tells of the Brigades, and How the Idea Originated.

Nothing else in recent years in this country so well illustrates the truth of the assertion that no theory or belief can be so insane as to find no supporters among men as J. S. Coxe's plan of invading the national capital with an army of the unemployed on May 1, for the purpose of compelling Congress to institute reforms which will bring about a reorganization



J. S. COXEY, LEADER OF THE COMMONWEALTH ARMY.

of a society "as it should be." Those unfamiliar with the magnitude of the preparations or the intent of the promoters cannot but regard the project as the wildest flight of a visionary theorist, and do not believe there are enough fools in the country to constitute a very considerable army for the fun to be had in an overland march from Massillon, O., to Washington. Unless there is considerable evolution of feeling among those at present desiring to become "Commonwealth" recruits, the general public will be much surprised, the recruits say, at the size of Coxe's band of crusaders when they start on their march on Easter Sunday.

From many quarters of the country comes intelligence of the organization of bodies of men who expect to join the invading column at some point along the proposed route, or at the grand round-up at the Capitol steps in Washington. Many members of the People's party believe this crusade will inaugurate the millennium at once, and are its most enthusiastic supporters and promise to become the majority contingent of the Coxe brigade. The official indorsement of the plan by the American Federation of Labor has induced labor organizations throughout the country to consider the matter more seriously than they would otherwise have done and many will join in the procession.



CARL BROWNE.

In discussing this feature of the march Coxe said the other day: "I hear from all over the country that men are going to Washington. It does not matter how they get there, so they get there. Their presence will be an object lesson Congress cannot ignore, and our bills will be passed. The right of petition is a failure. No matter how numerous signed petitions may be, when sent to Congress it is almost immediately pigeon-holed. But they cannot pigeon-hole 200,000 men, and with the hunger of the nation right under their noses, they will be very likely to do something."

THE CHIEF MARSHAL.

At the headquarters, Coxe's home near Massillon, Carl Browne, the "Wild West Artist-Journalist," of Callistoga, Pa., is as busy as a major-general in charge of a great campaign. He has been commissioned Chief Marshal of the Commonwealth, and by virtue of his office becomes seer, prophet, organizer, general manager and press agent. Coxe saves all the details of the proposed invasion. Recognizing that order is God's own law, Browne proposes that the procession shall be massed in a kind of Salvation-Army-Labor-Day parade style. It will be composed of troops; these to be federated into companies; companies to be federated into communities and communities into cantons. Each division will be officered by marshals, wearing proper badges of designation.



PRESIDENT COXEY'S BADGE.

The procession will be equipped with all the "pomp and circumstance of war," save the bearing of arms. The official banner will be borne in the advance guard, alongside the Stars and Stripes. Thus marshalled, and with its standards flying, the Commonwealth expects to start out on its mission on Easter morn. It will travel by easy stages and go into camp at night. The route is through Canton and Alliance, O., New Castle, Leaver Falls, Pittsburg and Uniontown, Pa., thence by the old National Road through Cumberland and Hagerstown, Md., to Washington. At each camping place Coxe will explain his good roads and non-interest bearing bond bills, and Browne will exhibit his financial panorama, and draw cartoons on local and national subjects, a la Th. Nast. Coxe

KUMFURT SHOE CO.

28 EAST 14TH ST., near University Place. 241 6TH AVE., between 15th and 16th Sts.

165 to 171 Grand Street, Corner Centre Street.

CONTINUATION OF OUR Great Bankrupt Sale.

UNAPPROACHABLE BARGAINS IN FINE SHOES FROM THE BANKRUPT STOCK OF L. JOSEPH, OF NEWARK, N. J.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

SHOES OF THE BEST QUALITIES AND LATEST STYLES WE ARE SELLING AT LESS THAN HALF THEIR REGULAR COST. NO SUCH SACRIFICE OF FINE SEASONABLE GOODS HAS EVER BEEN MADE IN OUR EXPERIENCE. THIS BANKRUPT STOCK, WHICH WE BOUGHT FOR LESS THAN 50 PER CENT. OF ITS REAL VALUE, IS COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF THE NEWEST AND LATEST FASHIONS OF FINE FOOTWEAR.

SPECIAL LOTS.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE MARKED AT PRICES RIDICULOUSLY LOW IN ORDER TO CLEAN OUT ALL REMNANTS OF LOTS FROM LAST WEEK'S SALE.

LOT A—BROWN'S BEST FRENCH DRESSING, WORTH 15c PER BOTTLE, AND 15c BLACKING BRUSHES.

2c. EACH.

LOT B—MISSES' 35c RUBBERS, WITH HEELS.

11c. PER PAIR.

LOT C—LADIES' PLAIN CROQUET STYLE RUBBERS, WORTH 40c; CHILDREN'S FINE KID AND GOAT BUTTON BOOTS, WITH-OUT HEELS, SIZES 1 AND 2 ONLY, WORTH 50c.

17c. PER PAIR.

LOT D—SIZES 2 1/2 AND 3 OF LADIES' FINEST QUALITY BUTTON BOOTS, WORTH FROM \$2.00 TO \$2.50; MISSES' FINE BUTTON BOOTS, WORTH FROM \$1.50 TO \$2.50; ALL MARKED.

73c. PER PAIR.

SHOES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

CHILDREN'S KID SPRING-HEEL BUTTON, SIZES 5 TO 8 AND 9 TO 11, WORTH 75c. AND 85c.

OUR PRICES **35c. AND 45c.**

CHILDREN'S FINE KID SPRING-HEEL BUTTON BOOTS, WITH PATENT TIPS, NEWARK PRICE \$1.00.

OUR PRICE **60c. PER PAIR.**

MISSES' FINE KID BUTTON BOOTS, WITH PATENT TIPS AND EXTENSION SOLES, NEWARK PRICE \$2.00.

OUR PRICE **\$1.24**

CHILDREN'S AND MISSES' FINEST HAND WELT DONGOLA KID BUTTON, WITH PATENT TIPS, B. C. & D WIDTHS, SIZES 8 TO 10 1/2 AND 11 TO 2; NEWARK PRICES \$2.25 AND \$2.75.

OUR PRICES **\$1.40 AND \$1.65**

BOYS' FINE SEWED, LACED AND BUTTON SHOES, SIZES 11 TO 2 AND 3 TO 5.

OUR PRICES **89c. AND 99c.**

THESE ARE REGULAR \$1.25 AND \$1.50 SHOES.

BOYS' FINEST SEWED LACED SHOES, SEAMLESS UPPERS, STYLISH AND SERVICEABLE, SIZES 11 TO 2 AND 3 TO 5.

OUR PRICES **\$1.20 AND \$1.45**

NEWARK PRICES ON THESE SHOES WERE \$1.75 AND \$2.25.

great precautions to prevent the army becoming a gang of hoodlums, and will permit no thieves or fakirs to accompany it. "In fact," said Coxe the other day, "we desire no one to join who does not thoroughly understand our objects, or is not thoroughly patriotic in his motives. Should any one violate the law at any point en route, we will be the first to turn him over to the officers. With our march there can be no police interference. We will be a law-abiding body, going to Washington in pursuit of a lawful object—the right of petition."

A World representative had an extended interview with Carl Browne a few days ago. He was asked to relate the inception of the movement, which he did as follows:



BADGE FOR HIGH PRIVATES.

"One dark and rainy night during the holidays of 1891, while Brother Coxe was driving from Massillon to Paul's Station, four miles north of Massillon, he floundered about in the muddy ruts of the road, and, when about half way home, he suddenly had an idea—that the only way to get a good road system was for the Government to build it, and for Congress to exercise its constitutional right to make money and pay for it. Thus three birds would be killed with one stone—a good road system, plenty of money and plenty of work for the idle. The next day he wrote a petition embodying these ideas. In February, 1892, he attended the formation of the People's party at St. Louis, as a delegate from Ohio, and through Mr. John Seitz, of the Committee on Resolutions, his ideas were embodied in the resolutions, but not in a manner satisfactory to Brother Coxe. In July of the same year he was a delegate to the People's Party Convention at Omaha, and tried to get his ideas incorporated into the National platform, but Ignatius Donnelly, Chairman, told him there were about seven hundred other propositions to be considered in advance of his, and that there was small prospect of having it adopted, and it was not.

"He went to the State convention of the People's party of Ohio, held later, where he was successful in having it incorporated into the platform. During the same year he secured a great many signers to his petition, which he sent to Congressman Warwick, McKinley's successor. Warwick, entirely misunderstanding the principles of the plan, wrote Brother Coxe that Congress was in no mood to make such a large appro-

LADIES' DEPT.

WE OFFER THIS WEEK MANY NEW LOTS OF LADIES' SHOES AND OXFORDS, LATEST SPRING STYLES, AT FIGURES WHICH REPRESENT MUCH LESS THAN THE COST OF MANUFACTURE.

LADIES' GENUINE IMPORTED TURKISH SLIPPERS, ASSORTED COLORS, GOLD AND SILVER EMBROIDERED, REGULAR PRICE \$1.00. THE BALANCE OF JOSEPH'S STOCK AT

37c. PER PAIR.

LADIES' KID PATENT TIP OXFORDS, SUEDE OXFORDS AND SLIPPERS; SHOES WORTH FROM \$1.25 TO \$2.00; ALL MARKED

73c. PER PAIR.

LADIES' KID PATENT TIP BUTTON SHOES, WOULD BE GOOD VALUE AT \$1.50.

95c. PER PAIR.

LADIES' FINE KID AND CLOTH-TOP BUTTON, PATENT TIP, FRONT LACE AND BLUCHERS, NEWARK PRICES FROM \$2.00 TO \$2.50. OUR PRICE,

\$1.15 PER PAIR.

LADIES' FINE KID BUTTON BOOTS AND OXFORD TIES, INCLUDING LATEST STYLES OF BOTH BLACK AND RUSSET GOODS; ALSO FINE THEO TIES, IN WHITE KID, RED GOAT AND DONGOLA KID, SHOES WORTH FROM \$2.00 TO \$3.00. OUR PRICE,

\$1.49 PER PAIR.

AN IMMENSE ASSORTMENT OF THE FINEST GRADES OF LADIES' WELT SHOES, IN FRENCH DONGOLA AND CLOTH TOP; ALL STYLES OF GOODS THAT RETAILED IN NEWARK FOR FROM \$4.00 TO \$6.00 WE HAVE MARKED

\$2.97 PER PAIR.

MEN'S DEPT.

WE NAME A FEW OF THE MANY BARGAINS TO BE FOUND IN THIS FINE STOCK. IT INCLUDES GOODS BY SUCH MAKERS AS BURT, FREEMAN, CLAPP, STRONG & CARROLL AND MANY OTHERS. THE PRICES WE HAVE MARKED ON THESE SHOES WOULD NOT COVER THE COST OF THE MATERIAL.

MEN'S FANCY VELVET AND GOAT SLIPPERS, \$1.00, \$1.25 AND \$1.50 GOODS. ALL MARKED

69c. PER PAIR.

MEN'S SEWED LACED BALMORALS, JOSEPH'S \$2.00 LINE. ALL MARKED

95c. PER PAIR.

MEN'S FINE CALF CONGRESS AND LACED SHOES, REGULAR \$3.00 GOODS. OUR PRICE,

\$1.87 PER PAIR.

MEN'S FINE PATENT CALF SHOES, MANY STYLES, IN LACED, BLUCHERS AND CONGRESS, NOT REGULAR LINES, BUT NEARLY ALL SIZES AND WIDTHS OF \$5.00 AND \$6.00 SHOES. ALL MARKED

\$3.24 PER PAIR.

People's Party Convention in Ohio again, but, for some unaccountable reason, the convention refused to incorporate the idea into the new platform. Coxe attended the silver convention at Chicago in 1893, where I met him for the first time, being myself a delegate to the convention from California. I had been making speeches for the People's party, illustrating them with panoramic pictures. When he learned this, Coxe at once conceived the idea of making a picture campaign of his good roads idea, and invited me to come to Ohio, which I did. During the fall campaign of 1893 I was Coxe's guest while making addresses in the neighborhood. Coxe frequently accompanied me, and occasionally gave a talk himself.

"After election day Coxe said to me: 'Why go back to California? Here is the battlefield. Take up my road plan, it will solve the whole question. You have time to agitate it; I have not. As you cannot earn anything to pay your expenses while doing the work, I will furnish you all that you require.'

"I agreed to do this, and took up my home in the Coxe household as one of the family and went to work. I made pictures which were lithographed and sent out by the thousands. Coxe and I jointly prepared a mass of literature, which, with numerous letters, was sent out. Editors were interested and in the mean time I went here and there making speeches and illustrating our plans with humorous cartoons. In a short time a veritable boom set in. Letters from people of every political party came in every mail and labor organizations began to indorse the idea. I attended the convention of the American Federation of Labor in Chicago last December to get its indorsement. I succeeded beyond our most ardent expectations. I had, while in Chicago earlier, attempted to organize the workmen, to march to Washington to prevent the passage of the Sherman repeal bill, but the late Mayor, Carter Harrison, suppressed the movement in its infancy by sending policemen, who clubbed the men away. On my return to Chicago I was warmly received by the workmen. I proposed to Coxe that he allow me to remain in Chicago and organize his army there. He insisted that I return to Massillon, which I did.

Browne is a Theosophist. In explanation of the singular manner in which he and Coxe were brought together he said: "I believe that a part of the soul of Christ happened to come into my being by reincarnation. I believe also that another part of Christ's soul is in Brother Coxe by the same process, and that is what brought us together closer than two brothers. As all the chemical elements of a human being, as science proves, go back into their various reservoirs of nature at the death of a person, and are used over again in the birth of other persons, why may not soul-matter be used over again? This is on the line of reason and not





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NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 1894.

ADAMS & CO. EASTER OFFERINGS

We have purchased from Herrmann's well-known Broadway Theatre, for presentation to our customers during the coming week, fifty thousand tickets for Reserved Seats for its first-class continuous performance, from 12.30 noon to 10.30 P. M. Every customer will receive a Complimentary Reserved-Seat Ticket, good for any day of the week, on condition that they are presented before 1 o'clock each day.

IN OUR LADIES' AND MISSES' CLOAK and SUIT DEPTS.

will be found complete lines of the most fashionable creations for Spring at prices beyond reach of all competition.

WORTH 12.00, AT 8.98. Ladies' Tailor-Made Paddock Suit, made with long, close-fitting paddock coat of covert cloth, half lined with silk, should be \$17.50, at 12.98.

WORTH 5.00, AT 3.48. Ladies' China Silk Waists (like illustration) in black, blue and cardinal, throughout trimmed with lace.

WORTH 2.75, AT 1.98. Ladies' Shirt Waists in fine quality Japanese Wash Silk, in a large variety of handsome patterns, made with yoke and turnover collar and cuffs, should be \$4.00, at 3.98.

WORTH 5.00, AT 3.48. Ladies' China Silk Waists (like illustration) in black, blue and cardinal, throughout trimmed with lace.

WORTH 2.75, AT 1.98. Ladies' Shirt Waists in fine quality Japanese Wash Silk, in a large variety of handsome patterns, made with yoke and turnover collar and cuffs, should be \$4.00, at 3.98.

BLACK AND COLORED SILKS

in every weave, color and tinting. Prices beyond reach of all competition.

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Price. Includes 'COLORED SILKS, All New Silks and Special Values'.

BLACK DRESS GOODS, All New Black Suitings and Special Values.

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Price. Includes 'BLACK SILKS, extra quality' and 'BLACK SATIN DUCHESSE, with white sprays'.

IN COLORED DRESS GOODS

We've got everything that's new, stylish and desirable. Prices beyond reach of all competition.

Large table with 2 columns: Item description and Price. Includes '40-inch ALL-WOOL DOUBLE CHAIN STORM SERGES, in all the new spring colorings'.

Advertisement for Ladies' Hosiery. Includes illustrations of gloves and stockings. Text: 'We are now showing our importations of Ladies' French Kid Gloves in all the new Spring colorings...'.

Advertisement for Ladies' Hosiery. Includes illustration of a stocking. Text: 'Three Remarkable Bargains in Ladies' Hosiery. 7,500 pairs of Ladies' Lisle Thread Hose...'.

SUPERB Millinery Display MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY OF THIS WEEK.

OPENING of our TRIMMED MILLINERY, latest PARISIAN NOVELTIES in PATTERN HATS and BONNETS and ENGLISH ROUND HATS, supplemented with a wealth of DAINTY and EXCLUSIVE creations in EXQUISITE designs from our own workrooms.

Flowers, Feathers and Imported Novelties. We've got 700 Ladies' Hats (like illustration), one of the prettiest shapes of the season; handsomely trimmed. As an open bargain, instead of their real value—\$5.00 each—we will sell them at 2.98.

Illustration of a hat with price tag: \$5.00, \$2.98.

Illustration of a hat with price tag: At .49 Each.

Illustration of a hat with price tag: .25 Each.

Illustration of a hat with price tag: .49 Each.

Illustration of a hat with price tag: Now at 2.48.

Illustration of a hat with price tag: .39, .49, .69 & .98 each.

RIBBONS 1/2 PRICE.

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Price. Includes 'Nos. 16 and 22—Satin and Gros Grain black double faced Satin and fancy striped Moire'.

Muslin and Silk Underwear.

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Price. Includes '1 lot of Ladies' Muslin Chemises, nicely trimmed with lace'.

CORSETS.

W. B. Corsets, in black, gray and white, all sizes, worth 2.50, at 1.19.

B. ALTMAN & CO.

Have now on sale additional Spring Importations of

HIGH CLASS LYONS SILKS

For street, carriage and reception wear, which include the latest effects

in Taffetas Antique, Quadrille, Pointille, and Barre. Also

Cnenc Printed, together with

complete lines of American Manufacture in exclusive designs, at prices to insure attention.

To-morrow, Monday,

A large variety of most desirable designs in

PRINTED CHINA SILKS

48c., 58c., 75c.

18th St., 19th St. and 6th Ave. (18th St. Station Elevated Road.)

was at the outset almost a certainty that the robbery had been committed between Cleveland and St. Louis, but, as has been said, this theory was searched to the bottom without disclosing anything further.



Wax impression from the thumb of Inspector McLaughlin. at either end of the envelope. The wax had evidently been remelted and then impressed with a new and unknown seal. A curious fact about this was that the letters were reversed, showing that an engraved sign of some kind which had not originally been intended for a seal had been used in hastily re-sealing the broken wax.

CORSETS.

W. B. Corsets, in black, gray and white, all sizes, worth 2.50, at 1.19.

a seal ring, would naturally seek to set up a false clue by casting suspicion on an innocent man. It is beyond the bounds of reason to suppose that a man committing a robbery of the kind, and being so concerned with the evidence of his crime while standing his ground to maintain his innocence, would be such a fool as to imprint his own initials on the broken seal of the express envelope he had robbed. Yet, here plainly stamped in the wax of the violated seal were the three initials of an employee of the company, through whose hands the envelope had passed. Of course, when Mr. Carvalho came to think about it, that was a very strong argument in favor of the innocence of Mr. Gurney. It showed, moreover, that the thief, whoever he might be, was a man of ordinary intelligence and foresight, to look so far ahead as the time when the seals should be investigated under the microscope, and to provide himself before the robbery with the three initial letters of an agent of the company upon whom suspicion might easily be cast.

DID HE FORESEE IT?
But, now, in view of the subsequent discoveries, the question is raised, Did Gurney foresee all this and deliberately cast suspicion upon himself when he had the envelope of its contents? Was it part of his elaborate plan for the robbery of the money to secure the advantage of being first falsely suspected and then to triumphantly prove his innocence by producing his seal ring? Did he foresee that the fact that he would be so suspected would be a strong presumption of his innocence, and believe that the audacious plan to put his own initials upon the seal might be the means of forever diverting suspicion from himself?

If so, it was one of the boldest schemes ever put into operation. Under ordinary circumstances no doubt, it would have been successful. Mr. Gurney bore an irreproachable reputation for integrity, and even when the strongest facts were subsequently discovered, his employers were loath to believe him guilty. He could easily establish his innocence by the production of his own seal ring, the plan of the real culprit to falsely accuse an innocent man would then be perfectly clear, and the company would have to apologize to Mr. Gurney and might indeed increase his salary in order to soothe his injured feelings. This is a length in criminal ingenuity which even Gaborian and Conan Doyle never dared to penetrate, for where in fiction is the forger, thief or bank robber who casts suspicion upon himself in order to prove his innocence?

The seal on the right hand side of the envelope first received the careful attention of the expert. He examined



ASA G. GURNEY.

die to the grave the skin impressions of the thumb and finger remain the same with each individual. A comparison of two forefinger impressions made after a lapse of fourteen years showed thirty points of agreement and none of disagreement.

Out of eight cases of this kind where the Bengalese had given their finger impressions to Sir William Herschel in 1878 and again in 1892, there was a total of 125 points of agreement, and in not a single point did the fingers disagree, ex-

shadow to the hollows in the wax and changed the whole surface. Therefore, Mr. Carvalho was compelled to turn his photographic camera upside down, to place the wax impression directly under the light and to photograph them as they lay face upward on the table.

When that work had been accomplished the task of comparison was taken up. It will be seen from the configuration of the lines on the envelope seal that but a small portion of the thumb was pressed against the wax

longed study to a student, was sufficient to warrant the arrest of Gurney, much less to satisfy the scruples of a jury and secure his conviction. Mr. Carvalho said: "Wait a while; I have not finished work upon the envelope which I had already told so much. But had I finished with the work on the seals. Now he was prepared to make a general examination of the envelope and study it in its other parts. The result of this study was even more convincing, if not more astounding, than what had already been disclosed. It was discovered that again, and in an entirely unsuspected quarter, Mr. Gurney had left damning proof of his guilt upon the envelope.

It will be remembered that Gurney, in accordance with a rule of the company, had torn off the end of the envelope in the presence of another employee. One of the first conclusions that Mr. Carvalho reached when he came to examine the paper of the envelope was that the wax had been melted by a burning match held close to the seals. This was shown by remnants of carbon disclosed under the lens of the microscope, while the paper was discolored by smoke in one or two places. Mr. Carvalho discovered that the torn edge of the envelope was burned. The seals had been melted after the envelope had been opened by Gurney.

Here, then, was the elucidation of the mystery. Gurney receives the envelope and the safe in good condition; he compares with the rule of the company, and opens the envelope in the presence of an employee by tearing off the end; left alone with the safe and the envelope during the night, he determines upon the robbery; after stealing the \$22,500, he locks the safe, puts the key back in the envelope and decides to "fix" the latter so as to divert suspicion from himself. With this purpose in view, he breaks the seals, remelts the wax with a match, and reseals the whole, using the baggage master's badge, and pressing the middle seal with his thumb. The following morning, with another employee, he counts the money, the loss is discovered, and the violated seals noticed for the first time.

Nobody but Gurney had possession of the envelope from the time he tore off the end until the loss of the money was discovered. The burned edge of the torn envelope proved that he alone could have broken and remelted the seals. The examination of the envelope had reached this satisfactory point when an-

afraid of being seen taking it from the express office, where he remained that night after all other employees had left. From the changes in temperature it had undergone in transit and the long and rough journey, the money package in the safe arrived at New Orleans in a broken and damaged state, and Gurney had said to one of the officials that night that it was "in damned bad order." That, perhaps, gave him the first idea of the robbery, and the sight of the disordered pile of bills, together with the knowledge of his being alone for a time in their possession, is believed to have excited his cupidity and made him a thief.

At the preliminary hearing Mr. Antidel, general manager of the company, testified that the first he heard of the robbery was from a telegram received Oct. 11 from Mr. Nosier, the general agent at New Orleans. He immediately started for that city; but at St. Louis was met by a messenger, who handed him the envelope which played so important a part in the proceedings of last week. J. P. Colemar, assistant paying-teller of the National Bank of Commerce of New York, who placed the money in the package, said there was \$10,000 in \$5 bills, \$30,000 in \$10 bills and \$10,000 in \$20 bills. W. A. Roberts, an employee of the New York bank, described how he delivered the package to Receiving Clerk George B. Tole, who is employed in the Money Order Department of the New York office. J. S. Truman, H. H. Smith and Messengers Bennett, Gerry and Gaudiers, from New York, described how the money was put in the safe and the key in the envelope Oct. 11 and both taken to the train. L. Saunders, Thomas Flood and William Carpenter told how the envelope was carried as far as Cleveland, O., the envelope being transferred from one to another at the same time. Messenger Bennett, by the way, swore that the envelope in evidence was not the one that passed through his hands.

MESENTERS' TESTIMONY.

The safe reached Cleveland Oct. 12, when Flood swore that it was still sealed with wire. Messenger Griffiths, running between Cleveland and St. Louis, was sure the seals of the envelope were in good condition when it left his hands. He it was who testified that Brakeman Bishop got into the car at Cleveland and rode to Toledo. At St. Louis the safe and envelope were turned over to Albert Schapperkotler. A. F. Grandlich, running between St. Louis and Du Quoin, Ill., said there were no seals on the safe when it came into his possession.

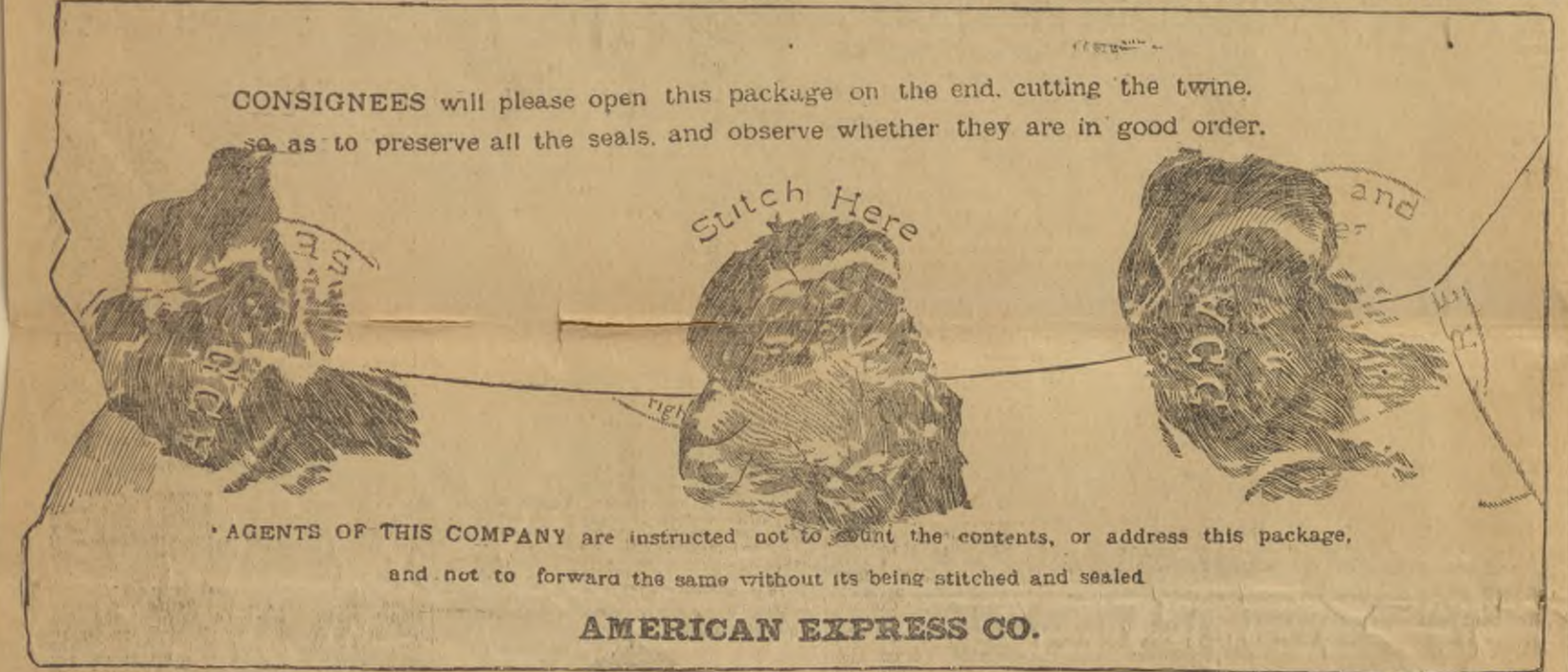
At Du Quoin Lawrence Karzendofer received the safe and envelope. He put chicken-coops on top of the safe to conceal it. When the train arrived at New Orleans this witness and Messenger Wilson took the safe to the express office. J. S. Truman, who examined the safe at Cairo, Ill., said that the safe was sealed at the time. Messenger Wilson said he received the envelope from Doyle at Cairo, Ill., and that he examined the seals upon it and found them "in good order." The train arrived at New Orleans two and a half hours late and he and the special guard took the safe to the office, and he said that the seals on the envelope were in good order when it left his hands.

F. M. Pierce, assistant money clerk at New Orleans, checked off the run. He took the envelope containing the key and placed it in the office safe. Gurney then tore open the envelope and, taking out the key, opened the safe. It was then nearly 11 o'clock at night. Gurney lifted up the box of money and remarked: "This package is in damned bad order." He at first said the money should be counted, but immediately added that he did not think it safe to handle so large an amount so late at night. Pierce acquiesced, and Gurney then took the package and placed it in the safe.

The next morning Gurney called Pierce's attention to the broken seals. The red wax seal on the box of money was broken. G. F. Nosier, general agent of the company at New Orleans, counted the money and found it \$22,500 short.

General Agent G. F. Nosier first learned of the condition of the package the following morning, when Gurney arrived late at the office. Mr. Nosier then said the money should be counted, and when this was done only \$27,500 was to be found. Gurney said Mr. Nosier was the only person besides himself who knew the combination of the safe in which the money had been kept that night.

Gurney had been five years in the employ of the company and received a salary of \$1,500 a year. He is a tall, athletic-looking man, about twenty-eight years of age, with blue eyes, rosy cheeks and brown hair. He dresses well and carries himself jauntily. The photographic enlargements of the thumb-marks, which Mr. Carvalho took with him to New Orleans, included one from the thumb of Inspector McLaughlin, of this city. He said that he has used a half-inch objective in the compound microscope, enlarging twenty-eight times and by areas 784 times. The charge of the company for shipping the money from New York to New Orleans was \$50.



AMERICAN EXPRESS CO.

EXHIBIT A—The express envelope (full size), from which Gurney's guilt was established in four different ways, showing the condition of the seals when identity, the mysterious letters on the left and right seals, the unbroken con-

each letter separately under the microscope and then compared them with the three letters of the seal on the opposite side of the envelope. The letters of the seal on the right hand side were A G G, while those of the seal at the other end of the envelope were G A G. Mr. Carvalho discovered that while the two Gs on each seal were made from a different letter, yet the two Gs on one seal were identical with the two Gs on the other. On the other hand, the A on each seal was made from a different letter. This showed that the thief, in resealing the envelope had used the same two Gs, but a different A on either seal.

Then another discovery was made. It was found that the seal whereby these letters had been impressed in the softened wax had evidently been of metal and was straight on top and bottom, as there was a faint, straight line on either side of the letters. Mr. Carvalho studied over this problem day and night. He began to wonder what kind of a sign had been used in making the impression. He came to the conclusion that both false seals had been made from the same metal plate and that it bore a word containing these letters in sequence: A G G A.

From that it was but a step to the words baggage and baggage master, which are stamped upon metal strips for the coats and hats of railroad employees. Nobody about an express office is without a badge of this kind, and suspicion would thus be not only attracted away from Mr. Gurney, but away from all the express employees and cast upon railroad workmen. Railroad workmen, by the way, had been under suspicion between Cleveland and St. Louis, when the theory that the safe had been robbed between these points was entertained. Now, it is in connection with this baggage master's seal that one of the conclusive points against Gurney has since been developed.

When he was arrested upon the facts subsequently discovered from the internal evidence of the envelope, his premises were searched and the identical baggage master's badge from which the impress was made was found in his house, concealed. The fact that it was the same badge was established by some of the peculiar brown wax remaining in the crevice of the letters. The letters on the badge and on the seal were also matched.

AN IMPORTANT ENVELOPE.

All of this, however, was subsequent to the main and principal work done upon the envelope by the New York expert. When Mr. Carvalho got through with the seals at either end of the envelope, the slight suspicion under which Gurney had rested had been dispelled and nothing had yet been found to fasten suspicion upon anybody else. Putting these two seals then aside, Mr. Carvalho went to work upon the seal in the middle of the envelope. This was the one containing the impress of a man's thumb. Mr. Carvalho examined it minutely under the microscope, enlarging each feature several times and scrutinizing every detail. He photographed it and "threw up" the photograph, magnifying the thumb mark twenty-eight times.

From the shape of the envelope and from experiments which he conducted he was convinced that the thief had tried to use the baggage master's badge upon this seal also, but, failing to get an impression because of the softness of the wax, had squeezed the softened wax with his thumb in order to make it stick together. Under the microscope, and when enlarged by the photographic lens, it was shown that the left hand side of the right thumb had been used.

Mr. Carvalho, as an expert in all matters of identification, was, of course, familiar with the work of Sir William Herschel in India, where the impress of the thumbs and fingers of natives have been taken and registered by the Government of Bengal. The Special Sub-Registrar of Foorthy, Babu Ram Gail Bannerjee, who is in charge of these finger-mark impressions, collaborated with Francis Galton, a fellow of the Royal Society, in the production of a work on the subject, which was published by Macmillan & Co. last year, and which goes with much detail into the positive method of identification which this system furnishes. It has been shown by this work and by the long series of experiments upon which it was based that not only are no two thumb or finger impressions alike in their linear marks and capillary ridges, but that the passage of time develops no change, and that from the cre-

cept where cuts had meanwhile been made in the skin. The average number of points of agreement in these eight cases was more than fifteen.

In China, too, this system of identification has long been in use. Mr. Carvalho wrote at once for information on the subject to China; the officials of the Celestial Empire replied courteously that they had a staff of clerks compiling statistics for him, but the statistics failed to arrive in time for use in the trial. Attention was also called to the fact that finger-mark identification in a case where two children had been exchanged at birth furnished Mark Twain a basis for the plot of the story of "Pudden Head Wilson," now running in the Century Magazine.

But all this was largely theoretical. Elaborately as the theory had been built up and illustrated, there was no record of the system having been put to practical use as an aid to justice in bringing a criminal to the dock in an Anglo-Saxon court. It was not, therefore, known what questions an ingenious counsel might put to a witness in cross-examination to break down this theory, nor what class of expert testimony might be called to accomplish the same result. From a scientific standpoint, however, the theory that the markings on the skin of the thumb and fingers form the basis for a certain and positive means of identification appears to be irrefragable and sound.

The capillary ridges of the skin at the ball of the thumb or finger encircle in nearly every case either a whorl or a loop, whose shape, size and relative position differ with each individual. A microscopic examination of these ridges, then, shows that they come to each other, divide to rejoin or continue as two and join each other in a strange and unaccountable way. Sir William Herschel, Francis Galton and others who have investigated and written upon this subject, have never found two thumb marks even faintly resembling each other under the microscope. In thousands of specimens no two are ever found alike in the distance of the capillary ridges from each other and in their direction and number and the forms into which they separate.

THUMB-MARKS TELL.

It is laid down by both of these scientists that thumb-marks form a means of identification more positive even than a photograph of the face or measurements of the human form—the systems which are followed by detective bureaus and police officials in France, England and the United States. The general method whereby finger impressions have been taken is by means of printer's ink. That was the plan followed by Sir William Herschel, and it is the plan now followed in China. An impression in wax, however, possesses many advantages over one taken in ink, as it shows not only the surface markings, but the configuration of the skin in the gutters between the ridges.

It was thus that Mr. Carvalho saw that the thief who had opened the envelope and, extracting the key so as to steal the money, left an infallible clue behind him when he carelessly sealed the wax on the middle seal by pressing it down with his thumb. It was as accurate a clue to identity as if the thief had left his photograph on the envelope. Enlarged microscopically, photographed and studied painstakingly and thoughtfully, the "finger-mark" faint and careless as it seemed to be, was the key to the mystery.

Mr. Carvalho decided to make it the base of his operations. He asked the officials of the American Express Company for a wax impress of the right thumb of every man through whose hands the envelope had passed. He did not ask for the names, but carefully refrained from learning them. When these wax impressions were turned over to him each bore a number corresponding to the name of the express officer who gave the impression, and these names were retained by the company. Seven red-wax impressions were given into his hands. They were the thumb marks of seven men who had had possession of the envelope between New York and New Orleans.

The examination of these impressions, so as to enable a comparison to be made between them and the thumb-mark on the envelope, was a most laborious piece of work. Each had to be enlarged by photograph to a uniform size with the enlarged impression from the seal. The mere photographing of the wax impressions was a difficult task, as it was found by the expert that the light striking at a different angle gave a new

while it was warm. The whorl or loop which was the centre of the thumb-marks did not show, and its relative position had to be guessed at. Several days were devoted to the expert to each of the seven thumb impressions which had been placed in his hands. He resolved to proceed by what is known as the process of exclusion.

When he came upon a thumb whose character was so different from that indicated by the envelope seal that no point of resemblance could be found, no matter which way it was turned, it was cast aside and marked off. More than one of the seven wax impressions bore a superficial resemblance to the markings on the envelope. These were carefully put aside. Two of the wax impressions were obviously impossible to match with the envelope seal, having an altogether different character. Three of the remaining impressions were also thrown aside, but only after laborious work. The two remaining seals bore a resemblance.

The first of these which the expert took up and studied under the microscope day after day, trying it first this way and then that, fitted so well that he put it aside temporarily. The other seal fitted in many particulars. But when subjected to the rigorous test of being compared in separate strips it failed to identify, and was so discarded.

The remaining seal, put aside temporarily, was now taken up. In the impression on the envelope seal a ridge appeared near the centre and suddenly came to an end. The same was the case with the corresponding ridge in the red wax impression taken for Mr. Carvalho. Again, towards the left-hand side of the impression on the envelope the ridges parted in two different directions. This corresponded with a triangular space in the red-wax impression. Again, there were ridges which formed little loops and islands alike in both impressions. The test of cutting the enlarged photographic copies into strips for more thorough comparison was one which put the identity of these two thumb impressions beyond peradventure. The expert first flattened out the copy of the envelope seal on a drawing-board.

MAKING COMPARISONS.

Then, when he had ascertained approximately and as nearly as possible the exact trend of the lines of both, a copy of the red wax impression corresponding in size was superimposed upon the picture of the envelope seal and pinned down at three of its corners. It had previously been cut with a scissors centre, and still holding together at the upper end. These strips were then carefully lifted one after another and the lines at the edge examined to see if they would correspond exactly. The identity of the two thumb marks when thus compared was marvellous. Every line joined accurately.

Where there was a broken ridge in the one it appeared also in the other. The size of a hair's breadth did not separate the lines of one from the lines of the other. Junctions of the ridges and enlargements of the perspiratory pores appeared equally in both. The same minute secret, only apparent to the microscope, was seen in both, and the direction, size and general character of the ridges and gutters were identical. There could no longer be a doubt that both had come from the same hand. The individuality of the man who had resealed the violated envelope was written in the wax. The three in his eagerness to hastily close the envelope, had indelibly registered his identity in the seal. Long and laborious work with the microscope only made the identification the more complete. At last Mr. Carvalho was able to announce that the clue to the mystery had been found. He read off the number of the red wax impression from which he had worked and asked an official of the American Express Company who was the man from whose finger it had been taken. The reply was: "Asa G. Gurney, Chief of the Money Order Department at New Orleans."

"Impossible!"
"Gurney is the man."
"He is a most trusted employee. He is above suspicion."
"The mark of his thumb is on the broken seal. He is the man."
Again the official of the company protested his confidence in Gurney. But this had to weaken in the face of the evidence which the expert had to show as the work was explained. The microscope exhibited the identity of the finger marks. Then the question came up whether such evidence, however much it might be convincing after pro-

other discovery, equally as convincing and surprising was made. By an examination of the seal at the right-hand side of the envelope, the expert discovered that, as a matter of fact, it had never been broken, although it had been resealed with the match. The other two seals had been broken, as was evidenced by the breaks in the wax. The seal at the right was whole and entire, as it had originally left New York, although its surface had been melted. In connection with the curious shape of the money envelope, this established this very important fact—that by reason of an extra flap of paper on the inside it would have been impossible to remove the key without breaking all three of the seals. In other words, the envelope proved that the key had not been taken out at the top, for that would have been impossible unless all three seals were broken. The breaking of the seals had therefore been merely a "blind" to divert suspicion, and the key could only have been taken out to open the safe where Gurney had torn off the end.

It was proved that even if the seals had been broken and remelted in transit, yet from the condition of the right-hand seal the key could not have been taken out of the envelope except as Gurney took it out—through the opening he had made in the end. In connection with this the interior of the envelope was interesting. It was found to be stuck together with muckilage, and there were marks of the lead-pencil which the thief had used when he pried open the flap. The muckilage was in a place where it never could have been put except through the opening made by Gurney at the end, for the unbroken seal at the right hand prevented its being put in at the top of the envelope. This was evidently another part of the "blind."

What then was the result of the work of the experts? Summed up in a few words, what had the envelope disclosed? What could it be made to prove in court as it proved to a logical, reasoning mind? Gurney was convicted by the internal evidence of the envelope in four ways, thus:

1. By the identification of the thumb marks.
2. By his possession of the baggage master's badge, as afterwards found in his possession, wherewith he had impressed the melted seals.
3. By the burned edge of the torn envelope, showing that the seals had been melted after he had torn off the end and while he alone possessed the envelope.

By the unbroken seal at the right-hand side, which proved that the key had not been taken out at the top, but must have been removed through the torn end.

The position of the muckilage found on the inside of the envelope might be cited as a most convincing proof of guilt. It will be remembered that the envelope was not wet on its gummed edge when sent from New York, and no muckilage had been used upon it. The thief had inserted muckilage at the torn end as part of what he supposed would be mutilation that would confuse the most expert and cunning of detectives, but he only established the fact, if it needed further proof, that the mutilated seals were a fraud. These were the facts which led to the arrest of Gurney.

When the convincing evidence which the expert had extracted from the envelope was laid before the officials of the American Express Company, they took an immense confidence in their old and trusted employee, and telegraphed to New Orleans to have him taken into custody. He retained able counsel and prepared for a stubborn fight, stoutly maintaining his innocence. As soon as Mr. Carvalho had identified Gurney as the man through whose examination the thumb marks detectives were set to work to collect evidence as to his connection with the safe and the envelope. A mass of corroborative evidence was thus obtained, and it was sufficient at the preliminary hearing before Judge Adams in December to warrant his being held in \$10,000 bail, without disclosing any of the evidence of the New York expert, which has only now come out for the first time. The outside evidence thus collected is interesting as disclosing the known facts about Gurney's operations, together with the manner in which the \$50,000 had been transported.

A curious question, by the way, has been, Why was the thief satisfied with \$22,500 when he might as easily have taken the whole \$50,000? The belief in New Orleans is that the whole amount was such a bulky package that Gurney was