

A QUAKER DETECTIVE.

We were five passengers in all; two ladies on the back seat, a middle-aged gentleman and a Quaker on the middle, and myself on the front. The two ladies might have been mother and daughter, aunt and niece, governess and charge, or might have sustained any other relationship, which made it proper for two ladies to travel together unattended. The middle-aged gentleman was sprightly and talkative. He soon struck up an acquaintance with the ladies; towards whom, in his zeal to do, he rather overdone the agreeable—bowing and smiling and chattering over his shoulder in a way painfully suggestive of the time of life, of a "crack" in the trick. He was evidently a gray lothario. The Quaker wore the uniform of his sect, and confined his speech, as many a parliamentarian would save his credit by doing, to simple "yeas" and "nays." As for myself, I merely an invariable rule of the road to be taken by a looker-on and listener. Towards evening I was aroused from one of those reveries into which a young man, without being a poet or a lover, will sometimes fall, by an abrupt query from the talkative gentleman: "Are you armed, sir?" "I am not," I answered, astonished, no doubt visibly, at the question. "I am sorry to hear it," he replied; "for, as I am responsible for the safety of the ladies, several hours in the night, and we must pass over a portion of the road on which more than one robbery is reported to have been committed."

"I did so, but not one of the stolen articles could be found. "He must have got rid of them in the coach," the gentleman suggested, and immediately offered to go in search. "Stop!" thundered the Quaker, tightening his grasp. The man turned pale, and struggled to release his arm. In an instant one of the Derringers was leveled at his heart. "Shir a hand or foot, and you are a dead man!" The Quaker must have been awfully excited, so completely to forget both the language and the principles of his persuasion. Placing the other pistol in my hand, with directions to fire on the first of the two men that made a suspicious movement, he went to work on the lothario, from whose pockets, in less than ten minutes, he produced every item of the missing property, to the utter amazement of the two ladies, who had begun, in no measured terms, to reprobate against the shameful treatment the gentleman was receiving. The Quaker, I need scarcely add, was no Quaker at all, but a shrewd detective, who had been set on the track of a band of desperadoes, of whom our middle-aged friend who didn't look near so middle-aged as he felt, was the chief. The robbery had been already planned. The leader of the gang had taken passage in the coach, and after learning, as he supposed, our defenceless condition, had given the signal to his companions by throwing out the scrap of paper, already mentioned. After the unexpected capture of the first robber, it was attempted to take the booty by force, but, by the way, the second, still believed to be unsuspected, who, counted on being able to make off with it at the next stopping place. The result was that both, for a season, "did the State some service."

From 1865 to 1872 they have continually and unvaryingly been engaged in the same principles; and they hereby reiterate and reaffirm the resolutions of their State Conventions held in 1865, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 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