KING OF VILLAINS

Forger, Thief, Ex-Convict and Eight Times a Bigamist.

A MAN OF MANY, MANY NAMES.

Something About the Career of One of the Most Remarkable of Modern Scoundrels—He Has Operated Elsewhere.

There are a great many things which go to show that A. Bently Worthington is not an ordinary man. For instance, most people (that is, ordinary people) are satisfied with one set of names—generally three, sometimes four. But Mr. Worthington has not contented himself with a meager trio of cognomens, nor yet with a quartet. Oh, no! If the newspaper reports come anywhere near the truth, his whole collection of names (he has used different sections of it in different sections of the country) is something like this: Samuel Oakley Crawford, Eugene Bouvier, Samuel Walton, Eugene Bonner, M. Bonnateau, Horace O. Wood (also Arthur and W. D. Wood), Arlington Buckingham Wadsworth and A. B. Ward. What the "A. B." in the last of the names means can only be conjectured. Perhaps it is "Artful Beat," species "dead."

He is not only a man of many names, but he is a man of many and various professions according to a letter purporting to have been written by a former law partner of his in Grand Forks, D. T.

THE BEGINNING OF HIS CAREER.

Some time in 1848 Samuel Crawford, of Saugerties, N. Y., was gladdened by the news that a son had been born unto him. The youthful scion of the Crawford family was christened Samuel Oakley and lived in Saugerties until February, 1864, when he enlisted in the Union army. After the close of the war he returned to his native heather for a year or two, and is afterward said to have graduated from the Columbia law school. Among the young men of the thriving village of Saugerties Samuel early strove to lead. He pretended to have studied for the ministry, having, he said, become a licensed Methodist preacher in New Jersey. Little confidence was placed in his assertions, however.

MRS. PLUNKETT. MR. PLUNKETT.

It is said that his first business venture was made as an insurance agent in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Then he located in Albany, N. Y., where he married a telegraph operator. His career there was pyrotechnic and brief. He was arrested and convicted of false dealing, and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary. After serving one year he was released, and Albany and his Albany wife knew him no more.

In 1878 a man known as Eugene Bannerton married a well known actress in Toronto, Canada. It is said that Bannerton and Crawford were the same man, and that he had not gone through the formality of getting a divorce from his Albany wife before he wedded the actress. The happy couple were members of the same theatrical company until the close of the season, when they settled in New Lisbon, Wis. There the husband became the prominent lawyer of the town and everybody liked him. There, too, a little daughter named Kate came into the world and the Bannertons were as happy as possible until the lord and master had borrowed all the money that he could, had forged notes, etc., at wholesale and—disappeared. His wife was deserted and destitute, but like the brave little woman that she is, she went on the stage again and stayed there until she had actually earned money to pay all her dishonest husband's debts. Then she sued for and obtained an absolute divorce.

IN THE SUNNY SOUTH.

In December, 1885, a man registered at a hotel in Charleston, W. Va., as S. O. Crawford, with two women, who, he said, were his sisters. He leased a fine estate and went into retirement for a few months because, he said, his health was bad. Early in 1886 he began to go out in society, and charmed all who met him. An extensive coal operator named Dana was interested in a large tract of timber land. Crawford offered to sell the land, and went to New York for that purpose. When he returned to Charleston he showed a contract for its sale. Dana gave him money to go to Washington and buy off a man who had an option on the land. On his return he showed a receipt. Dana then gave him $5,000 to go to Nebraska and buy an undivided interest in the land of a Mr. Miller. That was the last that was heard from him for some time. It is needless to say that the receipts and the contract for sale were forged and that Crawford had gobbled the cash.

Mr. Dana investigated and found that Crawford had a sister living at Dorchester, near Boston, and that the two women who were here with him were not his sisters. One was a Mrs. Sargent—the name she went by—and the other her sister, Miss Louise Jenkins. He took them to Charleston in order to secure a divorce for Mrs. Sargent, whom he was to marry. It turned out that he was playing them, as the divorce showed by Mrs. Sargent proved to be a cunning forgery, like all Crawford's papers. It was found he had a law office under the Parker house, Boston; that he was out of funds and had to do something to raise a stake, so he made love to the woman and got her to furnish him a year's living by the promise of divorce and marriage. She put all her money in his hands, and with the year's support he came out $1,000 ahead.

A. B. WORTHINGTON.

A. B. WARD.

Crawford left Charleston March 10, 1886, shortly after which he married a young lady in Griffin, Ga., whom he swindled out of about $30,000. He took the lady to Europe on a wedding tour. Upon his return to Griffin he proposed starting a bank and had everything arranged, and went to Cincinnati to purchase a banking outfit. The next heard from him was at Spokane Falls.

The story goes that the gentleman of many names turned up in Providence, R. I., Oct. 18, 1887, and lived there until Nov 26 of that year. He said he hailed from the City of Brotherly Love and was a newspaper man. He made friends rapidly, giving the name of A. B. Ward. It was not long before he was much sought after by society and he met Miss Emma Perry at a swell reception. She was the daughter of George Perry, a well known resident of aristocratic Elmwood. Four days after this meeting he proposed marriage and was accepted by Miss Perry. They were married one day after her twenty-first birthday, when she came into a fortune of $15,000. After the financial matters of the bride had been settled up they mysteriously disappeared.

HIS CAREER IN DAKOTA.

In December, 1887, a man calling himself Arthur B. Ward turned up in Grand Forks, D. T., with a young wife. He showed letters ostensibly from United States senators and representatives, and was known as "general" in a few weeks. During the presidential campaign he turned his energies to stump speaking, and so successfully fooled the politicians that he was sent on a speech making tour through Indiana by one of the big political parties. In the meantime he had opened a law office, and as he was a fluent speaker and of agreeable presence, he soon had a large practice.

He lived like a prince and found time to borrow large sums of money from his many friends. All at once The Herald came out with the startling announcement that Ward's previous life had not been wholly blameless, and hinted that at one time he had been known as Wadsworth. The effect was electrical. Gen. A. B. Ward vanished, leaving his young wife (nee Miss Perry, of Providence) in a delicate condition, and totally unprovided for, and also leaving hosts of mourning creditors. His disappearance was the biggest sensation that the territory had had in years. He went from Grand Forks to Winnipeg, and from Winnipeg to Montreal, thence to New York.

For some years there has lived in the latter city a couple named Plunkett. They were Christian scientists of the most scientific sort, Mr. Plunkett being the editor of a magazine devoted to his creed. A man calling himself A. Bently Worthington, but who was in reality none other than the hero of this truthful tale, turned up at the habitation of the Plunketts and became enthusiastic in the study of Christian science. Before long it was evident that Mr. Worthington had usurped the throne formerly occupied by Mr. Plunkett in the affections of the latter's wife. Soon it was announced that, according to the particularly free and easy notions of the Christian scientists, Mr. and Mrs. Plunkett had decided to separate, and not long afterward, without taking the trouble to have the separation from her former husband legalized.

Mrs. Plunkett stood up with Mr. Worthington before a few friends and announced that they were originally created for the especial purpose of living together, and that they proposed to do so, whether or no. This particular brand of free love was just a shade too much for Mr. Plunkett's faith, so he sued for an absolute divorce.

In a few weeks the New York papers began to gradually expose Worthington's record, and he made a full confession, with many ruffles and frills, in which he said that he had been saved by Christian Science and went on in the same strain at great length, remarking incidentally that he should not flee from punishment. In the meantime he fled. He is said to have married eight separate women in his villainous career.

A Queer Design for a Bank Note.

Probably one of the queerest devices ever put on a bank note, a check or a letter head was used in Devil's Lake, D. T., in former

DEVIL'S LAKE BANK NOTE HEAD.

days, when the city was not so large and thriving as it is now. Here is a cut of this curious device, with the following description: A sheaf of wheat stood upright, with a ribbon for a band, and on the band was inscribed, "No. 1 hard. In hoc signo vinces." Above the sheaf was a silver dollar resting on its edge, the reference being to the uniform price of $1 a bushel for wheat in those days. Upon the dollar was presented an outline of the lake. Above the dollar stood Beelzebub with tail revealed, holding scales in one hand and pointing with the other to the exact location of the city on the lake. The motto, "Give the devil his due," completed this odd device. This was printed upon the bills of the bank, and soon after the issue was out there came a letter from a national bank in Philadelphia, inclosing ten new crisp national bank notes, and asking to have them exchanged for bills of the Bank of Devil's Lake. This artistic tribute, however, to his Satanic majesty has long since gone out of fashion.

Life in Pizen Creek.

Col. Whipsaw (of the Rattlesnake ranch, addressing Bill Chaparejo, of the Dead Hoss ranch, whom he never saw before, as they stand together before the bar at the Two Orphans saloon)—Stranger, I kem down ter town on perticular business. I heered that Bill Chaparejo said I was a liar, and I am looking fer him to shoot him on sight.

Bill Chaparejo (unacquainted with Whipsaw)—Shake, stranger; I'm on a sim'lar errand. I'm tryin' ter find that Col. Whipsaw that I heerd ser he kin lick me. I shall shoot him on sight, too. Let's have a drink and look fer ther two sneaks tergether.

[Have several drinks and keep up the search for each other all night without accomplishing anything.]—Texas Siftings.

The Diary of a Bacchanalian.

10 p. m.—Went to bed, but not to sleep.

10:30 p. m.—Got up to get another night cap at the corner.

3 a. m.—Went to sleep, but not to bed.—Town Topics.

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Just received—new seeds for fall planting. Will buy and sell hay, grain and choice seeds.—T. C. Armstrong, 63 E. Second South.

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HORSEMEN

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A Full Line at 50c.; Regular Price, 75c. to $1 per yard.

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