

## THE MESSENGER.

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BY

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### The King of Swindlers.

#### A Man Who Has Acquired More Than \$1,500,000 by Fraud.

The Veteran Plin White at His Old Tricks in Boston—He Plays the Confidence Game on His Landlord and a Money Lender.

[Correspondence Cincinnati Enquirer.]

Plin white has spent the past winter in Boston. It is hardly necessary to add that the veteran king of swindlers has enjoyed the best of everything at the expense of other people, and that he has taken away with him several thousand dollars which his smooth tongue has talked out of the owner's pockets. The old man's genius for fraud, which it is known has enabled him to acquire more than \$1,500,000 dishonestly, is in nowise dimmed by advanced years, and the best proof of his power is that, even with the facts before them, some of his victims refuse to believe him to be what his record shows. The publication of that portion of his history which has already come to the knowledge of the police will probably bring to light other victims.

Mr. Ivory Hazleton went to the district attorney yesterday with these facts: In September, 1885, Hazleton opened a large boarding house at 1 Lyman street. Within three days Plin White applied for a room and board, which were given him. Hazleton and his wife were captivated by White's gentlemanly deportment. After a sojourn of a few weeks White began talking of his fabulous wealth, which he said, was tied up in western mines, farms in different parts of New England, and railroad stocks and bonds. For this reason and because he was engaged in lawsuits in different parts of the country, he said he was at times temporarily embarrassed. On such occasions he would request the loan of sums of money ranging from \$20 to \$50, which was invariably advanced by his obliging landlord. It did not take White a great while to get the confidence of Hazleton and his wife and also of John W. Tuesley who had money to invest.

About a month ago White represented to Hazleton that in order to carry out some project in which he was engaged it would be necessary for him to have \$4,000. "I am unable to raise the money," he said, "without paying a ruinous rate of interest. Neither do I want to hypothecate some very valuable stocks now in my possession in the open market. Now I have here \$5,000 worth of bonds of the Chicago, Burlington, Quincy and Lehigh Valley railroads, and also some stock in the same roads. You take these bonds and certificates of stock as collateral and let me have all the ready money you have on hand. As an inducement to let me have this money I will also put you in possession of a splendid farm in Vermont.

It may seem strange to you that I offer you such inducements, but this money is very much needed by me just at the present time, and will enable me to save other valuable property which might otherwise be sacrificed."

Only too glad to accommodate such a man and urged on by his wife, who even now has unbounded confidence in White's integrity, Mr. Hazleton handed over \$3,033.25, taking the alleged bonds as security. So great was his confidence that he did not even open the package, which undoubtedly contained what are known by the police as "con. bonds" but threw them carelessly into his desk, congratulating himself that he was in a position to help such a man save his property from the hands of unscrupulous sharks.

White next approached Mr. Tuesley, to whom the same glittering prospects were held out. That unsuspecting individual became so excited over the opportunity that he had opened up that he jumped eagerly at the bait. Taking every dollar of the money he had saved he proceeded to the residence of his sister, in the Bunker Hill district, accompanied by Hazleton and White for the purpose of borrowing all the ready money she had. The woman easily fell into the trap and pooled her earnings with her brother's making the sum of \$850, which was given to White, both Tuesley and his sister regretting that they did not have more to give him. As security for this loan Tuesley took a demand note for the amount without indorsement, and White's verbal promise that he would give him within a week \$3,000 worth of railroad bonds and stocks or as soon as they were released from the hands of the persons into which they had fallen.

Within a day or two Hazleton began to grow suspicious of his new lodger, as he had failed to pay a five week's board bill, although he was several times asked for the money. When Hazleton was out on business White asked Mrs. Hazleton to allow him to look over the package of stocks and bonds he had given her husband as security for the loan, saying that he thought he had given him too much security. Mrs. Hazleton not suspecting anything wrong, handed over the package and White took it to his room. When her husband returned and was informed of what White had done he at once made up his mind that his lodger was about to "skip." Entering White's room, Hazleton locked the door behind him, put the key in his pocket, and announced his intention of killing him unless the money was at once repaid. White tried to laugh the landlord out of his determination, but seeing that he meant business drew from his pocket an envelope which was filled with bills, and handed Hazleton \$1,000 in money and two checks for \$1,000 each, which drawn by White's brother Edward and made payable to Plin White. He was then permitted to go, all the time assuring Hazleton that no harm was intended. Even after this, White so far again won Hazleton's confidence that the landlord advanced him at different periods sums of money aggregating \$208.25, as security for which he has a demand note dated April 6. Hazleton next tried to induce Tuesley to take back his money but Tuesley laughed at the idea. "Why," said he, "Mr. White is the soul of honor. I would trust him with every dollar I have in the world, so confident am I that he is above suspicion. "His confidence

was somewhat shaken yesterday when White failed to appear with either the \$3,000 worth of stocks and bonds or the \$850, although he still believes that White will ultimately pay.

Plin White is a well preserved man of about 70 years. His appearance is more than ever calculated to inspire confidence. He has cultivated to perfection that peculiar saintlike and benevolent air that leads everybody who meet him to believe he must be a retired clergyman. He first made his appearance in 1849, and at that time made a national reputation as a swindler. During the California gold fever in 1849-'50-'51 he perpetrated swindles in gold dust which netted him \$400,000, with which he escaped to Europe. To escape arrest he has crossed the ocean sixteen times, and from 1851 to 1885 he was arrested four times in New York city alone. While in jail in that city he swindled the sheriff in whose charge he was at the time out of \$20,000. A few years later he went to Kansas City and opened a mammoth dry goods store, obtaining in New England, New York and the West goods to the amount of \$275,000. These goods were shipped to Kansas and Missouri, where they were sold in auction and commission houses for cash. After exhausting all of his Western chances he turned up at the "Hub" for a second time, where he obtained \$16,000 from a prominent business man. At St. Paul he swindled Samuel Mayall out of \$9,000 and Mayall's brother John and another man who went into business with him out of \$100,000. In 1862 White obtained \$111,000 from Lock Winchester without giving him anything in the way of security. Soon after that he went to St. Paul, and in June, 1868 deserted his wife there and returned to New York. In 1874 he obtained \$33,000 worth of goods from J. M. Shelley & Co., of Kansas City, and while negotiating with Shelly & Co., his partner Eben Mayall who was the head of the house with which White was then connected in Denver, driven to desperation by his rascally transactions committed suicide. White then fled to Europe, but came back to Canada where he fell in with another well known swindler named Fiske, and they fleeced the Canadians out of thousands of dollars. He stuck Alderman Libby of New York to the amount of \$100,000 and Nathan C. Platt a maiden lane jeweler, to the amount of \$20,000. While in Boston two or three years later White swindled Mr. Clinton Lowell, Allen G. Lovel, and M. Linwell out of \$20,000. From Albert H. Dolliver, 29 Sixth avenue, New York, he obtained \$1000. He afterwards moved to Vermont and cut a big swath as a real estate dealer.

White is a bigamist two of his wives having lived in Boston at one time. The police think White has gone to Vermont. A search is being made for him.

### NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned that he will make application at the next session of the general assembly of the State of Louisiana for the passage of a relief bill for amount due him for making a duplicate assessment Roll of the parish of St Martin for the year 1883, the original of which was destroyed by fire in the Sheriff's office during the month of May 1884.

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