

HISTORIC CRIMES and MYSTERIES



By WALT MASON
THE AMERICAN ARAM.

The fame of Eugene Aram, such as it is, promises to be imperishable. Edward H. Ruloff was a far greater criminal than Aram, and quite as great a scholar, and his ignominious death was a comparatively recent matter, yet he is all but forgotten. With the recollection of men now living his name was a household word throughout the country. But there was no Hood to embalm him in song, and no Bulwer to make him the central character of a novel; other murderers came forward and did their deed, and Ruloff's memory died the death.

This remarkable man was born in New Brunswick in 1819 and was a bookworm from earliest childhood. His thirst for knowledge amounted to a passion. He lapped up information as eagerly as a warm dog laps up water. He was an omnivorous reader. Anything in the shape of a book attracted him, and he had the faculty of absorbing everything that was worth knowing in a volume, and then remembering it. His memory was abnormal. In his advanced years he could quote books he read when a child, and hadn't seen since.

The study of languages was his favorite pursuit, and he knew nearly all the tongues of the earth. His knowledge was profound, and it was all acquired without the aid of teachers. Had he been blessed with a moral character he surely would have been numbered among the great men of

son for it has ever been discovered. On June 24, 1845, Ruloff went to a neighbor and borrowed a horse and wagon. The neighbor helped him to lift a large box into the wagon, and he drove away. He journeyed to Ithaca, which town he reached at sundown, and spent several hours in a tavern holding wassail with sundry loafers. He seemed boisterously happy, and the loafers declared him a prince of entertainers. After a while he paid his score, hitched up his horse again, and drove to Lake Cayuga. There he secured a boat, and rowed away with the long box aboard.

The next morning he drove cheerily back to his home, and when the neighbors asked where his wife was, he told them she had gone to Ohio on a visit. This satisfied the neighbors, but it didn't satisfy Ruloff's brother-in-law, who began an investigation, with the result that Ruloff was arrested, charged with the murder of his wife. The body of the victim could not be found, so he was tried and convicted on a charge of abduction, and sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary. He was a good prisoner, and all his spare time was given to study.

Immediately upon his release he was rearrested, charged with murder, but he made such an eloquent speech in his own defense that he was acquitted. But the people didn't want this man at large. They considered him a monster, and as dangerous as a rattlesnake. So he was again arrested, charged with the murder of his own child. He was convicted and sentenced to be hanged.

After his conviction he made a successful effort to gain the admiration and confidence of the jailer's son, a youth named Jarvis. He told great stories of buried treasures to such good effect that young Jarvis helped him to escape, and the two reached the mountains of Pennsylvania, where they led a vagabond life for a year. Then, Ruloff, tired of being a fugitive, away from books and libraries, surrendered to the authorities, and, by means of some legal twists, managed to regain his liberty after a while. This made the people so peevish that a lynching party called at the jail, but Ruloff had disappeared.

His subsequent career for several years was a compound of study and villainy. Sometimes he worked at his great treatise, and at other times he indulged in grand and petty larceny.

On a hot August night in 1870 a burglary was committed in Binghamton. Three robbers entered a store, and, having removed their shoes so they could work quietly, they began ransacking the place. Two clerks who were sleeping in the store were awakened by some slight noise, and they put up a brave fight to save their master's property. They were getting the



"One of the Robbers Drew a Gun and Fired."

this country, but he had nothing of the kind. He was born without a conscience, and crime was to him at once a vocation and a recreation.

As a boy he worked in a New Brunswick drug store and stole things as he needed them. Later he studied law and refreshed himself by various small crimes during his leisure hours. For one of these he was sent to prison for two years, and while locked up he read everything in the prison library. After his release he went to New York state, and located in the small town of Dryden. There he became a teacher in a school for girls, and married one of his pupils, a girl of sixteen years.

W. H. Schutt, a relative of the girl, made a fuss over it, and this annoyed Ruloff greatly, so, to be revenged, he poisoned Schutt's wife and child. This crime was not suspected at the time, and it was only after several years that the facts were known. In his home he was a tyrant and bully, and made life a burden for his unfortunate young wife. His conduct at last became so outrageous that the neighbors rose as one man and talked with some enthusiasm of tar and feathers, so Ruloff removed to the village of Lansing, near Ithaca, where he began the practice of medicine.

Meanwhile he began work upon a book that was to be his masterpiece, and make his name immortal. It was a treatise on philology, and scholars who examined fragments of his manuscripts long afterward, declared that the erudition of the author was simply astonishing. His wife wasn't in sympathy with his work. She couldn't find it possible to love and admire a man who wrote profound essays during the daytime and then burglarized henhouses at night. Perhaps this is why he murdered her. No better rea-

son for it when one of the robbers drew a gun and fired, and one of the clerks fell, mortally wounded. The robbers escaped for the time, but a day or two later a stranger was found limping along the road, and was gathered in. He was soon identified as Ruloff, whose fame was everywhere in those days. Ruloff felt reasonably safe, for his comrades couldn't turn state's evidence. He had seen to that. A few days later their bodies were found in the river. One of them was Jarvis.

Ruloff had a deformed foot, and one of the shoes found in the store was made to fit that foot, so his connection with the crime was established well enough. He was his own attorney at his trial, and the speech he made was a wonderful effort. It was much like that of Eugene Aram; in fact, he quoted Aram to some extent, saying that his days were given to honest toil and his nights to arduous study. His argument was along the line that society couldn't spare him. His great work on philology was approaching completion, and if the world was robbed of that monumental volume, it would be the greatest catastrophe of modern times.

The jury decided, however, that society would be able to struggle along without it, and found Ruloff guilty. He was sentenced to death, and went to the scaffold protesting that civilization was doing itself an irreparable injury. An eminent scientist examined his brain, and announced that Ruloff was by nature a thief and murderer, no more responsible for his acts than a tiger, and no more deserving of pity.

Only the high places in his criminal career have been touched in this account. A complete story would make a book as large as his own volume on philology.

POULTRY HOUSE WITH SHED ROOF

Many Reasons Why This Form of Construction is Absolutely the Best Possible.

MADE SHALLOW FOR PURPOSE

Allows Plenty of Sunshine to Enter, Which is an Excellent Thing for the Chicks—Concrete Foundation a Necessity to Keep Out Rodents.

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to the subject of building work on the farm, for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as Editor, Author and Manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 187 Prairie Avenue, Chicago, Ill., and only inclose two-cent stamp for reply.

By WILLIAM A. RADFORD.

One of the best ways to build a poultry house is with a shed roof. In addition to being fine for the poultry it is also easy to build. The design shown here has a depth of ten feet, which will allow the sunlight to penetrate to the back part of the building. There is nothing that encourages the hens to lay more than lots of sunshine. In the early spring when eggs are out



of sight in price, plenty of sunshine will keep the hens on the job, which means that the man who owns them is paying for a well-lighted house easily out of what they make for him.

It is absolutely necessary to have a concrete foundation, as it is very discouraging to rats and mice to attempt to dig through this material. In this little house the concrete walls are carried up one foot six inches above grade, which forms a very effective barrier against the rodents that think chicken houses form ideal dwellings for them. The floor is also made of concrete, so that the rats cannot burrow up from underneath. The floor should be well covered with straw and the feed can then be scattered through this.

Strong, vigorous hens can only be maintained if they are given plenty of exercise. This is furnished by making them scratch for their meals. The grain that is given to them should be scattered through straw on the floor of the house. It's a great sight to watch a flock of healthy hens make the straw fly when they want a meal. Many poultry men make the floor of lime because they say the concrete wears the claws of the hens.

Burned lime is placed over the ground several inches deep and is packed down hard. Sufficient water is then put on the lime to slake it properly so that it will form a pasty mortar, which is then allowed to dry and harden. This sort of a floor is very satisfactory and also furnishes

facings the south, and this provides good ventilation without causing any drafts, which are very dangerous to poultry. Very little headroom is needed by chickens, so the back of this house is only made five feet ten inches high, while the front is seven feet ten inches. A small place such as this can be kept warm by the poultry.

Poultry houses are often neglected in regard to appearances. There is no particular reason for this except that the building is small and people think that it will not make any difference. The necessary paint to make a nice-looking chicken house can be had for very little money and it can be applied easily in a short time.

The walls are generally made of drop siding, and the inner walls can



be made in several ways. One of the best is with wall board. Wall board is a nonconductor of heat and cold and is also airtight and vermin proof. It makes a smooth, tight wall that can be readily painted with whitewash or crude oil and there are no nooks and corners to harbor the vermin that always get into the chicken house more or less. The walls can also be covered with matched ceiling, which will give a smooth surface that can be easily painted.

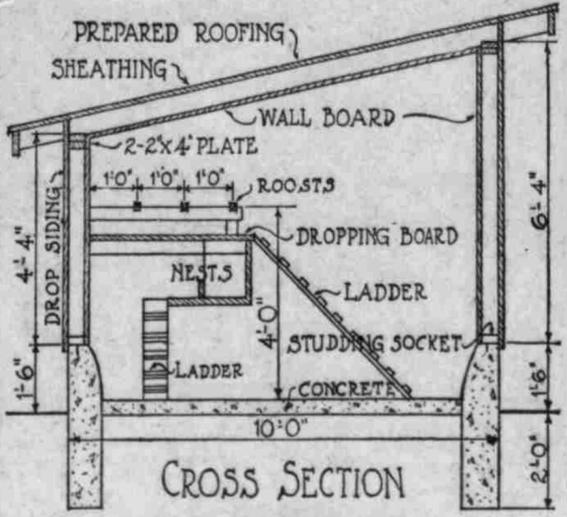
The roof can be made of a sheathing which is covered with prepared roofing. The inside wall is made of

wall board or of matched ceiling the same as the walls.

The roosts are placed in the back part of the house under the roof and are fastened to the droppings board that is placed underneath them. The nests are fastened underneath the droppings board and all the furniture can thus be moved out together when the chicken house is to be cleaned. The darkness that the hens require for laying is furnished by placing the nests under the droppings board. The scratching floor is at the front of the house so that it will get plenty of sunshine.

One end of this poultry house is given over to a feed room where the future meals of the chickens can be kept. This is a handy arrangement and the feed does not have to be carried from some other building to the chicken house. It will be a wise precaution to place a spring on the door between the feed room and the rest of the house so that there will be no danger of the door being left open so that the chickens can get into the feed and eat too much.

Rescued From Epicures.
Miss Marie Sackow of Newton, Kan., and three other missionaries to Liberia, were rescued in December from death at the hands of cannibals by the United States scout cruiser Chester, says the Christian Herald. On account of economic conditions natives among whom the missionaries had been work-



Cross-Section Showing Details of Construction of Shed Roof Poultry House.

lime to aid in the making of egg shells. A floor like this becomes worn in spots and has to be renewed at times, but it is very easy to place lime in the depressions, that are worn by the hens, and put a little water on it.

The chicken house should always be faced toward the south, and the north and west sides should be carefully closed. Chickens have very little body heat, so the house must be carefully protected against the cold. The ventilation cannot be handled in the same way it is in stock barns. Thin cotton is stretched over the windows

and returned to their former cannibal practices. The missionaries were in great danger, since the cannibals prefer the meat of white persons rather than black. The missionaries had been stationed at Jacktown, Liberia, and managed to make their way to Greenville, but could not get a boat to carry them to Monrovia. News of the disturbances was carried to Monrovia by native runners. Shortly after the missionaries reached Greenville the American scout cruiser steamed into the bay, landed 250 native soldiers and took the missionaries on board.

Excuses for Not Being Saved

By REV. JAMES M. GRAY, D.D.
Dean of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago

TEXT—Lord I will follow thee, but—
Luke 9:51

This is what a good many people are saying in their hearts if not with their lips. They know the Gospel plan of salvation. They know they must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be saved, and they know that when they do believe on him with their hearts they will follow him in their life and conduct.

The latter is something they do not wish to do because it means a turning away from things in which they now find profit or pleasure. They do not reckon on the fact that when they truly believe on the Lord Jesus Christ they will receive a clean heart and have renewed within them a right spirit. When a man is thus regenerated he no longer wishes to do the things he used to do and finds it easy to follow Christ.

In their struggle to put off the day of decision they frame various excuses, like the man of the text who, when our Lord said unto him: "Follow me," replied: "Lord I will follow thee, but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at my home." Ordinarily there could be no objection to a man's doing that, but on this occasion the command of Christ was peremptory, and the man's action would determine at once whether he preferred his family to Christ. There comes a time in every man's life when he must decide this question, and determine in the presence of his own soul and in the presence of God whether God comes first or not.

Hypocrites in the Church.
1. Some say there are so many hypocrites in the church, forgetting that there are many hypocrites in the business or profession by which they earn their livelihood, and yet they do not renounce that business or profession.

A good way to meet this objection is to ask whether they think hypocrites will go to heaven? As they will certainly answer, no, then it might be asked whether they themselves can go to heaven without Christ. As they must reply to this question, as well as to the other, in the negative, they will be brought to see that they must dwell with hypocrites throughout eternity unless they become saved.

The inquiry brings to mind the case of a certain man who was always giving this reason for not accepting Christ. And yet his faithful wife heard him cry in the night more than once: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." It is a sad thing for a soul under conviction of sin, to cast away the hope of salvation for so flimsy a reason as the presence of hypocrites in the visible church.

Giving Up or Taking On, Which?
2. Others hesitate to accept Christ because they think they will have so much to give up. But they are ignorant of the fact that the Christian life is from every point of view a gain rather than a loss. You give up sin, but you take holiness. You give up sorrow, but you take joy. You give up death, but you take life. You give up self, but you take God.

D. L. Moody used to tell of a soap manufacturer who was under conviction of sin, but hesitated to accept Christ. He pressed him for a reason, and at last he said it was his business that kept him back. "That soap," said he, "will do everything I claim for it, but the fact is it will destroy the clothes. Now if I accept Christ, I must give it up."

Here was a plain issue which many another man has had to face, but what folly it is to hesitate a moment which way to decide! Moreover, many a man has given up his business for Christ and found afterward that Christ had a great deal better business to give him than he had ever dreamed of; for, as the Bible says, "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come."

3. "I am afraid I won't hold out," is another very common excuse. But the mistake here lies in the fact that the man is thinking of his own strength instead of the strength of the Savior.

There is a Latin motto on the facade of a Y. M. C. A. building in New England that sets this truth before us very tersely and beautifully. The words are "Teneo et teneor," which means, "I hold and am held." It suggests the picture of a strong man with a child in his arm ascending a dangerous cliff. The child is clinging to the man, but it is because the man is holding the child that the latter makes the ascent with safety. In like manner the faith of the believer causes him to cling to Jesus Christ, but it is Jesus Christ that keeps and saves him to the end.

Let us not be afraid to accept him as our Savior and follow him as our Lord.

A Texas Wonder.
The Texas Wonder cures kidney and bladder troubles, dissolves gravel, cures diabetes, weak and lame backs, rheumatism, and all irregularities of the kidneys and bladder in both men and women. Regulates bladder trouble in children. If not sold by your druggist will be sent by mail on receipt of \$1.00. One small bottle is two months' treatment and seldom fails to perfect a cure. Send for Tenn. testimonials, Dr. E. W. Hall, 2926 Oliver street, St. Louis, Mo. Send for Tenn. testimonials. Sold by druggists. **tf**

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Will make the season of 1916 at my barn in Somerville.

TERMS—\$5 per leap, cash; \$8 to insure, payable when mare is ascertained to be in foal or traded.

Not responsible for accidents.

W. S. Newby
Somerville, Tenn.

Hatchie Hall



Hatchie Hall, 912, pacer, by standard J. H. L. 2:08 1/2, sire of Ardell by Idol Wilkes, son of George Wilkes. First dam, Dolly by Buford's Tom Hal, third dam by son of Shy's Tom Hal, fourth dam by Shy's Tom Hal.

Hatchie Hall is a horse of great style and finish, strong, muscular and wonderful stamina and beauty. He has a fine gait and much natural speed. He has many colts in Fayette county, and they every one show strong characteristics of this magnificent horse. He will make the season of 1916 at my barn in Somerville.

TERMS—\$5 per leap, cash; \$10 per season, cash, with return privilege; \$18 to insure, money due when mare is ascertained to be in foal or traded.

Will use every effort to prevent accidents, but will not be responsible if any should occur.

W. S. NEWBY, Somerville, Tenn.

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Will make season of 1916 at Hollywood Farm six miles north of Somerville.

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