

wealthy St. Louis clothing dealer, out of \$5,000, will soon be lodged behind the bars of Fairfax county gaol. The Commonwealth Attorney of that county has been informed that Howard is in Montreal, and is now in communication with the police authorities of that city with a view of his detention until government officials can secure the co-operation of the State Department in securing extradition. Negotiations to that end are now in progress, and the Fairfax authorities are confident that Howard will be brought to trial. There is said to be a strange story of alleged hypnotic influence connected with the affair. Howard is an Englishman about 60 years of age, of good education, and when he went to St. Louis represented himself as an officer of the Eleventh Lancers of the British service. He told many stories about experiences in India, and started in St. Louis an order with Eastern rites, styled "The Wisdom of God," into which he initiated Mrs. Specht and her daughter. The Spechts a few years ago purchased the historical county seat of Col. Henry Mason, a contemporary of Washington's. Howard soon appeared on the scene, and, it is charged, acquired complete hypnotic control over Mrs. Specht, who fell in with Howard's plan to establish a college of occultism at Gunston Hall. Mr. Specht and his sons were unable to stop Mrs. Specht from aiding Howard's schemes financially, until they forced him to flee for fear of arrest, in connection with a \$5,000 note which Mr. Specht had given his wife, and of which it is charged Howard became possessed.

The case was tried at Perth, the county seat of Lanark county, and a verbatim report of the trial is here reprinted:

REPORT OF THE TRIAL.

(Special to the Star.)

Perth, Ont., April 27.—One of the most interesting libel suits which has ever occupied the attention of a Canadian court is in progress at the spring assizes of Lanark county here, before his honor, Sir William Meredith. The plaintiff is Granby Staunton Howard, of Carleton Place, Ont.; defendants, Graham & Company, of Montreal, publishers of the Montreal Daily Star.

The case is interesting in many ways, some of the proof brought out so peculiar and startling that it was hardly possible to believe the sworn testimony. The case revealed the fact that Carleton Place has at present the honor of being the residence of a most peculiar individual, about whom and whose teachings a great deal was written in the American papers a few years ago. This is the plaintiff in the case, who is known in the neighborhood as "Dr." Howard, though he has no license as a medical practitioner in Canada. His ostensible means of subsistence is a patent medicine business; but according to the testimony of his own friends, he devotes a great deal of time to the study of the philosophies of the East and to the dissemination of knowledge about the occult sciences. It is to his connection with these things and the influence he obtained, partly

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