

have learned the sad history of many cases thus removed in previous years, under similar circumstances, the friends being moved to action in every case either by prejudice, ignorance, or sympathy, these sentiments over-riding their judgment, as some have themselves confessed. In many instances the friends have said they were encouraged by the stories of discharged insane, sensational literature, and unjust attacks on asylums. In one case thus removed the patient, a woman, reached home with her husband in the evening, met her children and seemed to be happy. In the night her husband missed her from the bed, and going to the kitchen in search of her, he found her lying there dead, she having cut her throat with a butcher knife. Another, a man, thus removed, drowned himself in a cistern within two days after. Another case, a woman, drowned herself in a cistern within a few days after her return home. Another case, after returning home set fire to a barn, burned up a large amount of material and live stock, and when the fire was fully under way, threw himself into the burning ruins. Another who was discharged on a bond approved by a Judge, committed suicide directly after his return, by hanging himself."

Now we venture to say that there was not one of the preceding cases detailed by Dr. Gray, of which any asylum superintendent would not most gladly be rid, could he conscientiously or humanely make the discharge, for of all classes of the insane the suicidal are the most perplexing to all in charge of them; but it is a sad fact that insanity in families is not confined solely to the one member, whose asylum confinement becomes unavoidable. The difference is often but in degree, and in fact there are many asylum patients who evince more sense than their visiting relations. Hardly has it ever happened that a man has placed his wife in an asylum, or a woman her husband, without being severely censured by some *friendly* neighbours, neighbours

who, perhaps have never stirred a finger, nor ever would do so in emergency, to help the accused. Such is the friendship of that pseudo-christian charity whose signal virtue is the confession of other people's sins.

Dr. Gray mentions the case of one James B. Silkman, who was a patient from the 21st May to the 18th of August, 1882, and was taken out on a writ of *habeas corpus* granted by a judge of a court 150 miles distant, and on his order duly discharged. Dr. G. states that "Dr. S. A. Russel," one of his assistants, "who had had constant observation of Mr. S. during his stay in the asylum, gave sworn testimony to the court to Mr. S.'s insanity during his residence in the asylum, and at the time of his discharge by the court."

Pshaw! Dr. Russell—what did he know about insanity, or about James Silkman, in comparison with the learned Judge of Poughkeepsie? What could Russell know or learn in three months' daily observance of Silkman that should override the intuition of a judge? Dogberry said that "reading and writing cometh by nature," why not then the knowledge of insanity, even despite of nature?

If we have been rightly informed this said J. Silkman has again turned up, but subsequent to the date of Dr. G.'s report, and through his benevolent intervention and the politeness of the Poughkeepsie mandarin, two or three other Utica patients have been ordered out. The evidence given by the relatives of these patients, as well as that by the asylum physician, showed as clearly as human and reliable testimony could do, that they were still insane, and one of them a very dangerous lunatic; but the Poughkeepsie Dogberry said he knew better. Verily, the wisdom of Law is very deep, ten thousand fathoms below reach of our sounding lines! Oh, that Judge P. were here "to write himself down an —!" But be it remembered that he is — not a goose.