

a cheque on a bank where he had no funds. The explanation he gave of his manner of acting was as follows:—"It is really possible that at the time I had no money in this bank, but they had only to present the cheque at a neighbouring bank. . . . When Vanderbilt gives his cheque it is honoured at all banks, whether he has money there or not." We do not know if this defence is the same as he gave before the court, but of one thing we are certain, he was condemned.

Whilst in the penitentiary he entertained everybody about his fabulous wealth, his gold mines worth millions, about his wonderful inventions, to such a degree that he became a source of disorder. "Had it not been for the short time he was to remain here," the warden wrote us, "it would have been necessary to transfer him to an asylum."

After leaving the penitentiary this same delusion continued until his second arrest. Relying on the testimony of the expert, the authorities had him transferred to an asylum. In April, 1899, he wrote a letter to a friend promising him six million pounds, if he would aid him in escaping.

We have little doubt but that at the time of his first condemnation J. N. G. was a lunatic, and he should have been sent to the asylum instead of being committed to the penitentiary.

Case No. 11. Summary. Epilepsy, ambulatory automatism; 15 times condemned to the common jail. Irresponsibility.

John M. . . . . was condemned for being drunk on August 29, 1892, to 15 days in the common jail. This was the first of a series of fifteen commitments for drunkenness, vagrancy or assault, fortunately ending in a convulsive attack a few days after his last commitment to three months in prison, the 4th of November, 1895. This convulsive attack, followed by phenomena out of the ordinary, at length gave a hint, and we were immediately ordered to proceed to a mental examination of the patient.

John M. . . . . was 52 years of age, and a cooper by trade. He originally came from Newfoundland, but was a resident of Montreal for the past 26 years. He was a good workman, father of seven children, all well brought up, and until the 29th August, 1892, he had never committed an offence. Though he sometimes used alcoholic liquors, he never abused them; in fact, he was never drunk. He denied any family history of insanity or nervous disease. He showed a slight facial irregularity, the right side being a little more developed than the left.

For five or six years previous the first symptoms of his sickness manifested themselves by loss of consciousness, followed by a crisis of maniacal excitement, afterwards, at intervals of more or less duration, by convulsive crises and loss of consciousness, all or nearly all accompanied or followed by morbid phenomena.