

eye: "Beware of pickpockets! A stage coach destined for this city and full of passengers, a few evenings since, when one of the passengers rang the bell, and cried out to the driver to stop his horses as his pocket had been picked of a large sum of money since he entered the coach; and at the same time requested the driver would not let any of the other passengers get out of the coach, it being dark, until he, the aforesaid passenger, should bring a light, in order to have a general search. This caused a general feeling of pockets among the passengers, when another passenger cried out that his pocket book had also been stolen. The driver did as he was directed, until the gentleman who first spoke should have time to have procured a lamp; but whether he found it or not remained quite uncertain. But no doubt he found the light he intended should answer his purpose, as he had not shewn his appearance in any other light. However the passenger who really lost his pocket book, which although it did not contain but a small amount of money, thinks he shall hereafter understand what is meant when a man in a stage coach calls out *thief*, and that he will prefer darkness rather than light, if ever such an evil joke is offered to be played with him again."

As he was continually changing his name as well as his place, it was impossible always to identify his person, especially as few persons in the United States were personally acquainted with him. The difficulty of recognising him was not a little increased also by the circumstances of his continually changing his external appearance; and the iniquitous means by which he could obtain money and change of apparel, always afforded him a perfect facility of assuming a different appearance. In addition to these circumstances also, as a feature of character which no less contributed to the difficulty of identifying him, must be taken into account his unequalled and inimitable ease in affecting different and various characters, and his perfect and unembarrassed composure in the most difficult and perplexing circumstances. To the identity and eccentricity therefore, of his actions, rather than to our knowledge of the identity of his person and name, we must depend, in our future attempts to trace his footsteps and mark their *characteristic prints*.

On this ground, therefore, there is not the shadow of a doubt that the robbery committed in the stage coach, and that the *originality* of the means by which he carried off his booty, pointed with unhesitating certainty to the *noted character* of our narrative. After this depredation in the coach, with which he came off successful, it would appear that he bended his course in disguise through the States of Connecticut and New York, assuming different characters, and committing many robberies and depredations undiscovered and even unsuspected for a length of time, and afterwards made his appearance in UPPER CANADA, in the character of a

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