

PREFACE

VII

"Booming Logs" treats of a subject as novel in its conception as it is interesting in its development, and the Lumber interests, which suffered largely from the operations of dishonest men, were protected through the vigilance and daring of the attaches of my Agency.

In the numerous sketches which are here presented, almost every degree of Crime, and every variety of Criminals are depicted. Their multifarious schemes for possessing themselves of the wealth of others—their brilliant exploits—their daring and recklessness in the pursuit of their nefarious callings, are attempted to be fully shown and intelligently depicted.

The wonderful achievements of these men who live beyond the law and without the pale of civilized and honourable society are detailed from actual experiences and from an intimate knowledge of the participants in the events which are now made public; and should the sad results which invariably follow a life of sin and crime—the surety of punishment, and oftentimes a violent death—exercise an elevating influence upon those before whom these pages may come, and, by the influence of terrible examples, inculcate the lesson of obedience to law and the pursuit of an honourable calling, I shall be rewarded by the consciousness of having performed my duty to humanity, and in upholding the supremacy of the Ordinances of Society.

ALLAN PINKERTON.

CHICAGO, November, 1880.