



COUNTRY RIDE.

For it befell in that pleasant summer time, "small birds sing and shafts are green," that T. Burnall started one bright Sunday eve, to see a sick child at an upland farm, some miles from the town. Some miles up the turnpike road he went, and then away to the right, through the ash-woods of Treboose, up by the rill which drips from pool to pool, over the ledges of grey slate, deep bedded in dark sedge, and broad bright burdock leaves and tall angelica, and ell-broad rings and tufts of king, and crown, and lady-fern, and all the semi-tropic luxuriance of the fat western soil, and steaming western woods. It was "a day of God." The earth lay like one great emerald, ringed and roofed with sapphire; blue sea, blue mountain, blue sky overhead. — *Kingsley.*

TWO REMARKABLE FORGERS.

The Bank of England had circulated its notes for more than sixty years before any forgery of them was attempted. A linen-draper from Stafford, of the name of Vaughan, led the way in this at that time new phase of crime; and his example soon had many imitators. In the year 1779 the directors of the Bank of England succeeded in convicting a most extraordinary forger in the person of James Mathison. This man began his career by forging the notes of the Darlington Bank, which fraud being discovered, he immediately escaped to Scotland. There he counterfeited the notes of the Royal Bank of Edinburgh, amusing himself by negotiating them during a pleasure excursion through the country. Soon after he came to London, where a fine day was ready for his genius. He fabricated a great many notes, and travelled from

one end of the kingdom to the other disposing of them. He frequently visited the Bank of England to procure notes, the better to copy them; and his application for notes became so frequent that he became suspected; and on one of these visits a forged note of his own was brought in and presented. The clerk, half in jest and half in earnest, accused him of some connection with the recent forgeries. Further suspicion was excited, and next day he was arrested and taken before the directors, and afterwards appeared before Justice Fielding, when he was recognized as the perpetrator of the forgeries upon the Darlington Bank. The particular forgery he was now charged with was a note for twenty pounds on the Bank of England. He declined to answer the inquiries which were put to him, but in the progress of the investigation his description from the Darlington papers was read to him, upon which he turned pale, burst into tears, and, saying that he was a dead man, added, "Now I will confess all!"

So dexterously had he feigned all the different marks that it was impossible for any one connected with the bank to perceive a difference, and the very handwriting of the cashier and the entering clerk were also counterfeited so cleverly as to preclude a positive discrimination even by those men themselves. The water-mark, too, namely, "Bank of England," was also imitated, and several paper-makers were of opinion that this mark must have been put on in the making of the paper; but Mathison declared that he put it on afterwards by a method known only to himself.

He was tried and found guilty on his own confession, and was executed at Tyburn, on July 28th, 1779. At the place of execution he acknowledged his guilt, and exhorted others to avoid the crime which had brought him to an ignominious death.

In the year 1793, William Wynne Ryland, whose name will ever stand in the highest estimation as a most eminent English engraver, was also executed at Tyburn. The following is a brief sketch of his melancholy history:

Ryland was named after his godfather Sir Watkin William Wynne, who was a friend of his father. Ryland gave early indications of his genius for the profession of an engraver, and was apprenticed to a French engraver resident in London. After the completion of his apprenticeship, Ryland visited the French and Italian schools, and obtained the honorary medal in Paris. On his return to England, he introduced the art of engraving copper plates so as to yield an impression resembling drawings in chalk. He was appointed engraver to George III., who conferred a salary of £200 a year upon him; whilst the queen added one hundred pounds a year more out of her privy purse, as a testimony of her appreciation of his extraordinary genius.

Ryland now entered into business on his own account, and became prosperous; and in addition, he had bequeathed to him some shares in the Liverpool Water Works, which were then worth ten thousand pounds; his business was worth two thousand pounds a year, and his stock was valued at ten thousand pounds. It was supposed that, in order to engross the remaining shares in the Liverpool Water Works, he committed the forgery for which he was executed, which was a bill for two hundred and ten pounds on the East India Company. When Ryland was arrested on the charge, he attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat; and at his trial he had only just recovered from the wound. He denied the charge, and urged the improbability that he, whose fortune, to use his own words, "was a princely one," would commit so base a crime. Great efforts were made to save him; but the laws at that time were extremely severe, especially against bank-note forgers, and he underwent the sentence of the law at that dread place of execution, Tyburn—being the last criminal executed there.

See Address to our Readers, opposite First Page.