

rich without labour, or the disposition to yield to passions—which in weak natures are uncontrollable—are lamentably apparent; and the Detective is required to mingle with the dissimilar, and often desperate, natures, which compose this great army of Law Breakers which now infest the community.

In my extended experience, I have frequently been an actor in episodes which have partaken of the elements of both Tragedy and Comedy, some of them startling in their nature, and with a deep infusion of the pure romance of life; while others have often caused the eyes to twinkle with merriment and the lips to curl with a smile at the humorous side of the various scenes that would from time to time be presented to my view.

In the succeeding pages will be found a series of incidents which will fully justify my previous expressions, and will throw a ray of light upon some of the hidden mysteries which surround the Criminal, but which must eventually present themselves to the intelligent eye of the Detective.

In the narrative of "The Lightning Stealers" will be related the adventures of two bold men who endeavoured, by their knowledge of the science of Telegraphy, to impose upon commercial communities a variety of spurious intelligence; through which, by the aid of moneyed co-conspirators, the innocent and the unsuspecting would be duped, and the unprincipled would largely profit by their duplicity.

The "Edgewood Mystery" presents an entirely different phase of humanity, and deals with the impecunious and improvident mechanic, who murders his friend and the playmate of his earlier days for the paltry gain of a few dollars, or perhaps from a weak yielding to the promptings of the demon of jealousy.