

THE OUTCAST

WE had fallen to talking, in the lawyers' room, of the effect of names on character, and my friend, an old counsellor of great distinction, advanced the singular theory that the assassination of Lincoln was directly traceable to the fact that the names of the Booths, father and son, were Junius Brutus and John Wilkes.

"I had a college mate named Brutus," he said after a moment of reflection, "and by a strange fate his life also appeared to have followed the line of historical parallels."

On being pressed for further explanation he told the following story.

"He was a marked man at college, with a force, both of body and mind, which had something of the sheer brute in it," said my friend, with a pull at his pipe, "and with an independence of intellect rather unusual among such gregarious animals as youth.