

entered the coach; and at the same time requested the driver would not let any of the 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 did not make 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 recognizing 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 undiscovered and even unsuspected for a length of time, and afterwards made his appearance in Upper Canada, in the character of a gentleman merchant from New Brunswick, with a large quantity of smuggled goods from New York, which he said was coming on after him in wagons. These, he said, he intended to dispose of on very moderate terms, so as to suit purchasers.

Here he called upon my brother, Augustus Bates, Deputy Postmaster, at Wellington Square, head of Lake Ontario, and informed the family that he was well acquainted with Sheriff Bates, at Kingston, and that he called to let them know that he and his family were well. He regretted very much that he had not found Mr. Bates at home, and stated that he was upon urgent and important business, and could not tarry with them for the night, but would leave a letter for him. This he accordingly did, properly addressed, and in good handwriting; but when it was opened, and its contents examined, no one in the place could make out the name of the writer, or read any part of the letter! It appeared to have been written in the characters of some foreign language, but it could not be decyphered. This was another of his characteristic eccentricities, but his intention in it could not be well understood.

He did not appear to make himself particularly known to the family, nor to cultivate any further acquaintance with them, but proceeded thence to the principal boarding house in the town, and engaged entertainments for himself and thirteen other persons, who, he said, were engaged in bringing on his waggons, loaded with his smuggled goods. Having thus fixed upon a residence for himself and his gang of waggons, he then called upon all the principal merchants in the town, on pretence of entering into contracts for storing large packages of goods, and promising to give great bargains to purchasers on their arrival, and in some instances actually received money as earnest on some packages of saleable goods, for the sale of which