

West in general—it having the effect for a number of years to drive counterfeiters entirely from our midst.

But I cannot resist relating, in connection with the termination of the case, another incident characteristic of George Smith.

With all his business success, like Dickens' "Barkis," he became considerably "mean," and finally obtained the *sobriquet*, among his friends and acquaintances, of old "Na!" on account of the abruptness and even ugliness with which he would snap out his Scotch "na!" or no, to certain applicants for banking or other favours.

As soon as I had got Craig safely in jail, Messrs. Hunt and Bosworth, who had expended nearly one hundred and fifty dollars in the matter, saw that they had nothing left for their pains save the counterfeit five hundred dollars, and that even was deposited in the hands of the Kane County court clerk; so it devolved upon me to go into Chicago, see George Smith, and get from him, if possible, so much money as had been expended, and a few dollars for my own services.

So I took my trip, after a vexatious delay was admitted to the presence of the mighty banker, and tersely stated my errand. He heard me all through, and then remarked, savagely:

"Have ye nae mair to say?"

"Not anything," I replied, civilly.

"Then I've just this tae speak; ye was not authorized tae do the wark, and ye have nae right t' a cent. I'll pay this, I'll pay this; but mind ye, noo," and he shook his finger at me in no pleasant way, "if ye ever do wark for me agin that ye have nae authorization for, ye'll get ne'er a penny, ne'er a penny!"

In fact, it was hard work for the close-fisted Scotchman to be decently just in the matter, and I am certain the incident has been of service to me during these later years in causing prudence in all such undertakings.

The country being new, and great sensations scarce, the affair was in everybody's mouth, and I suddenly found myself called upon, from every quarter, to undertake matters requiring detective skill, until I was soon actually forced to relinquish the honourable, though not over-profitable, occupation of a coöper, for that of a professional detective, with the result and a career of which the public are fully acquainted; all of which I owe to "Old John Craig" and this my first detective case.