

THE MOST INGENUOUS ALIBI.

BY A BARRISTER.

A gentleman, followed by a groom in livery, rode up to an hotel in the west of England one evening, a little before dusk. He told the landlord that he should be detained by business in that part of the country for a few days, and wished to know if there were any amusements going on in the town to fill up the intervals of time. The landlord replied that it was their race and assize week, and that he would, therefore, be at no loss to pass away his leisure hours.

On the gentleman making answer that this was fortunate, for ~~that~~ he was fond of hearing trials, the other said that a very interesting trial for robbery would come off on the next day, on which people's opinions were much divided, the man himself resolutely declaring that he was in a distant part of the kingdom at the time of the robbery.

Accordingly they went into court the next morning and, through the landlord's interest with the officers of the court, the gentleman was shown to a seat on the bench.

While the evidence was proceeding against him the prisoner had remained with his eyes fixed on the ground, seemingly very much depressed, till, on being called on for his defence, he looked up, and, seeing the stranger, suddenly fainted. Coming to himself, and being asked the cause of his behaviour, he said:

"My lord, I see a person who can save my life; that gentleman," pointing to the stranger, "can prove I am innocent, might I only have leave to put a few questions to him."

The eyes of the whole court were now turned upon the gentleman, who said he felt in a very awkward situation to be so called upon, as he did not remember ever to have seen the man before, but that he would answer any question put to him.

"Well, then," said the man, "don't you remember landing at Dover at such a time?"

To this the gentleman answered that he had landed at Dover not long before, but that he could not tell whether it was on the day mentioned or not.

"Well," said he "but don't you recollect that a person in a blue jacket

and trousers carried your trunk to the hotel?"

To this he answered that of course some person had carried his trunk for him, but that he did not know what dress he wore.

"But," said the prisoner, "don't you remember that the person who went with you from the boat told you a story of his having been in the navy, and that he showed you a scar he had on one side of his forehead?"

During this last question the countenance of the stranger underwent a considerable change. He said he certainly did recollect such a circumstance, and on the man's putting his hair aside and showing the scar, he became quite sure that he saw the same person. A buzz of satisfaction now ran through the court; for the day on which, according to the prisoner's account, the gentleman had met with him at Dover was the same as that of the robbery in a distant part of the country with which he was charged. The stranger, however could not be certain of the time, but said that he sometimes made a memorandum of dates in his pocket-book, and might possibly have done so on this occasion.

On turning to his pocket-book he found a memorandum of the time he landed, this corresponding with the prisoner's assertion. This being the only circumstance necessary to prove the alibi, the prisoner was immediately acquitted, amidst the applause of the whole court.

Within less than a month after this, the gentleman who came to the hotel attended by a servant in livery, the servant who followed him, and the prisoner who had been acquitted *were all three brought back together to the same gaol for stealing passengers' luggage.*

It turned out that this clever defence at the trial was a scheme skilfully arranged by the thief's confederates to obtain the release of their accomplice.

MEDALS FOR INDIANS.

During the American war of independence it was considered politic for England to be on terms of friendship with the North American Indians. Large and handsome medals were therefore struck for presentation to the chiefs or great men of the tribes who had rendered good service to George

III. On the obverse side this medal shows a bust of the king in armor, and with laurel wreath; the reverse side represents an American Indian and a white man sitting together under a tree; the Indian in the act of presenting his pipe to his companion in token of peace and friendship. In the background are Indian wigwams, and above is the legend, "Happy while United." The loop for suspension is significant, being an eagle's wing and the calumet of peace placed crosswise. Many years afterward Mr. Catlin found an Indian chief who was still wearing this medal, and who was particularly proud of the fact that he had kept the king's face bright by wearing it next his skin.—*Chamber's Journal.*

FUN WITH THE PARSON.

Andrew Wallace is one of the oldest and best known residents of this city. Many years ago he was President of the State benevolent boards. It was while he was occupying that place that he met the late Dr. McIntire, superintendent of the Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb. The doctor was a strict member of the Presbyterian Church and orthodox all the way through. Mr. Wallace was a Universalist. "Doctor," said the latter, "you are an educated man and I am not. I want to ask you a question or two. Do you really think that this world we inhabit is round and revolves on its axis once in every twenty-four hours?"

"Certainly," replied the doctor.

"And you believe there is a heaven and—and another place?"

"Assuredly."

"And that heaven is above us?"

"Yes."

"And the other place below us?"

"Yes."

"And the world turns over once every twenty-four hours?"

"Yes."

"Well, doctor, if that is the case, doesn't it occur to you that the spire of your meeting house points to hades about half the time.—*Indianapolis Journal.*

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