

That evening Smith's ghost was said to have been seen by a Mr. Lyon, who said he had "seen it pass at a short distance without touching the ground". A reward of twenty dollars was offered for the apprehension of the escaped prisoner and the country was scoured far and wide. The escape was particularly embarrassing to the prison authorities as the trial had been set for a day near at hand. The gaoler was intensely annoyed at the turn of events and naively complained, "I felt myself not a little chagrined on reflecting on the circumstances in which I was placed. This feeling became heightened to a most painful degree when I came to understand by Mr. E. Jones, that the villain instead of escaping for his life, and getting out of my reach with all possible haste, had only travelled about ten miles the first night, and was seen lying on some straw before a barn the next morning, having lain there until twelve o'clock in the day". Having purloined a few articles he was hotly but unsuccessfully pursued. A farmer becoming suspicious of him thought "he must be some improper character, which idea was strengthened by the circumstances of its being a time of war. On his examination he answered with so much apparent simplicity that the Justice dismissed him".

When the Court opened the Attorney General arrived "with very unfavourable impressions on his mind", and generally speaking the gaol authorities were under grave suspicion as it was believed that the prisoner was a Freemason and his escape had been connived at.

The Court, having been deprived of the pleasure of trying the nimble Smith, amused itself by finding a Bill against the sheriff and jailer for negligence in suffering the prisoner to escape. Smith, in the meanwhile, was wandering about the country apparently without any definite and obvious plan of avoiding his pursuers. He stole a watch and some spoons, played the fiddle for a group of young folks at one place, and escaped detection by mere accident. It was stated that he assumed the character of the pursuant in quest of the thief, but our genial author does not prove this clearly although he claims to discover deep rascality in all Smith did. As a matter of fact, the prisoner escaped detection for a long time by doing exactly what it was supposed he would not do. Reading between the lines it is plainly apparent that the question of escape did not worry him particularly. He was apprehended at last on the probability of his being a deserter, and when taken before Hon. Judge Saunders promptly said that his name was Smith and admitted that he had escaped from gaol. On being asked how he effected his escape he said "The jailer opened the door and the priest prayed me out". At this point of the story Smith's spectacular career commences, and he began to make history with amazing rapidity.