

(who was found guilty of 'uttering' the forged document only) escaped with twelve and six months' imprisonment respectively.

The literary frauds case was in its own way not less remarkable than the prosecution of Miss Smith. No more impudent series of deceptions has been practised upon the public in recent years than that of which Sir Gilbert Campbell, William James Morgan, David Tolmie, Charles Montagu Clarke, Joseph Sidney Tomkins, and William Henry Steadman have just been found guilty. The history of their misdeeds has all the interest of a romance, is as full of double intrigues and ludicrous situations as a seventeenth-century play, and possesses, besides, those occasional touches of tragedy without which the highest dramatic effects can never be attained. Yet the central plot was a very simple one; and although the *personnel* of the actors changed from time to time during the progress of the piece, it was repeated in every scene with remarkable fidelity. The mode of operation was as follows: A company was started with a pretentious name and a glowing prospectus. At one time it was the City of London Publishing Company (Lim.). Then the Authors' Alliance came on the stage. Next the Literary and Artistic Union was founded. Then came the Artists' Alliance and the International Society of Literary Science and Art. The ostensible objects of these various associations differed, as their titles indicate, but their primary objects were the same. The chief end of them all was to put money in the purses of the promoters. For the attainment of this end a number of devices were adopted. Authors were induced to submit their manuscripts to the society engaged for the time being in working the literary fraud, and to make sundry payments on the distinct undertaking that the manuscripts in question would be published under its auspices; but the manuscripts were not published and the sums paid were never returned. Exhibitions of pictures were organised and carried out on similar principles, although in one case a lady who had subscribed a guinea to the enterprise had a picture sold and received 15s. as the purchase-money. Then a series of concerts, which paid tolerably well, was set on foot. Finally, there were wholesale issues of invitations to artists and authors to join the Artists' and Authors' Alliances, and the International Society of Literary Science and Art, which arrogated to itself the right of granting diplomas, degrees, and graduation hoods and gowns to its members. The profits realised by these artistic, musical and literary efforts were not accounted for, and the presumption is