

specified sum in my money in a certain place at a designated time. "He goes there, and never fails to find the bills. But Yelverson is not seen in the transaction, and in the meantime, I have hidden my samples, as well as the money received by me, which *might* be marked, so that if there should be any treachery, nothing could be proven against me. I have a good deal of Canada trade, and it is all effected in this manner. Old John Craig is never caught napping, young man!"

The last remark was evidently made by the counterfeiter to give me to understand that though he had given me, or pretended to give me, very freely, his valuable confidence, that he was not a man to be trifled with in any particular, and I fully believed this of the man already.

I was satisfied that he had a good deal of the honour which is so frequently referred to as existing between thieves. There is no doubt but that this man always kept his word. In that sense he was honourable. This kind of honour was a necessity to his nefarious business, however, and I fail to perceive, as many sentimentalists do, where the criminal deserves the credit for being honourable when that peculiar quality is only used for the worst purposes, and is as much required by the criminal as the bread he eats.

It was now fully half-past one o'clock, and I suggested to the counterfeiter that we conclude our interview, as some stragglers might happen that way.

"You will be on hand, Pinkerton?" asked Craig, as he rose from the grass.

"There's my hand on it," said I, quietly.

"And you'll bring enough money to take five hundred?"

"I'm certain I can raise that much," I replied. "But see here. Don't you come down through the village again. It will cause talk, and couple you with myself in the village gossip in a way that won't do for me at all."

He agreed with me in this, and I then directed him to take what was called the "upper road" past General McClure's old place, and having got this well fixed in his mind, agreed to meet him at the designated place in Elgin, at about four o'clock, bade him good-by and took my departure.

I hastened towards the village, and saw on my way, just as I was descending the brow of the hill, my counterfeiter friend