

A DOUBLE CONFESSION

The Singular Case of a Pair of Lovers

By JOHN R. OGELVIE

One of the questions as to what is and what is not allowable in the legal profession that laymen are not apt to understand is whether it is honorable for a lawyer to defend a client who has confessed himself guilty of the crime with which he is charged. One of the reasons why this is not only allowable for an attorney, but is his duty, is that the confession may be false. Many persons have labored under a hallucination that they have committed a crime of which they are entirely innocent.

I had a very singular case of this kind when I was practicing, before I went on the bench. A young man was accused of forging his uncle's will. He was heir-at-law to the property involved by reason of relationship to the testator. But several years before the will was drawn one was executed leaving the property to a woman who was his housekeeper. It was this housekeeper, Anna Blake, who accused the beneficiary under the second will with having forged his uncle's name to it.

Arnold Jefferson, my client, when I came to confer with him about his case, asked me whether I would defend a person who confessed himself guilty. I said that I would, whereupon he told me that in order to prevent his uncle's property from going out of the family and secure it for himself he had forged his uncle's name to the second will.

I was somewhat staggered at this, for if I proved him innocent I would divert the property from the channel in which the testator intended it to go and deprive the real owner of it that it might go to a criminal. I piled the young man with questions as to how he had come to perpetrate such a crime, and he told me that he was in love with a girl whom he would like to marry and did not consider himself able to do so without this property. Besides, he believed that his uncle was intending to leave it to him at the time of his death.

If I declined to take the case and he could get no other lawyer to do so the judge would assign him counsel. Therefore I proceeded with it, though reluctantly, for it is not pleasant for a conscientious lawyer to defend a man who has admitted his guilt. I would content myself with trying to get my client off with as light a sentence as possible.

There was a chance for the young man in this—experts in chirography would be called who would compare the signature to the will with Jefferson's handwriting. These experts are apt to differ in such matters. The plaintiff called the most prominent one of the lot, who declared that my client must have written the signature to the will. I employed another expert, who testified that he could not have written it. But unfortunately the five experts called four testified that there were certain strokes in the signature that were to be found in Jefferson's writing.

There were two signatures of witnesses to the will Jefferson was charged with forging. One of these persons, Edward Bronson, was dead; the other, Silas Ormsby, was not to be found. They were supposed to be myths, and the plaintiff's attorneys, though they had no proof that the defendant had written their names, threw out a broad hint that he had done so.

The case looked so desperate that I advised my client to produce his confession and throw himself on the mercy of the court. By this means he might secure a light sentence, whereas if he persisted in denying his guilt in the face of such conclusive evidence he would very likely get a heavy one.

He said that he would think the matter over. This was after court adjourned on Saturday, and I feared I could not keep the trial in progress more than a day or two longer. And as the case stood Jefferson was sure to be convicted. Sunday evening I received a call from a young lady, Miss Dora Wentworth, who turned all my expectations awry. She told me that it was she, and not Arnold Jefferson, who had committed the forgery.

I felt it incumbent upon me to subject her to a searching examination to get at the truth. She said that she was the person whom Jefferson was engaged to marry. He had been all a lover should be until about the time his uncle had died and no will was found leaving the property to him. Then she told him that a will would be found if she had to write one herself. This, she added, she had done.

I asked Miss Wentworth if she would sign a written confession to this effect, and she said she would. So I asked her to write it. Before she could again see Jefferson I went to the jail and, showing him her confession, asked him why he had made a false one himself. He seemed a good deal agitated at seeing the matter laid down in black and white. Then he burst out passionately:

"I didn't believe when she threatened to do this thing that she would be so desperate. Nevertheless when the second will was found I feared she had written and signed it. Preferring to suffer myself rather than that she should suffer for her crime, I have stood in the breach. And I propose before the court and the world to continue to stand in the breach. I

still claim what I have claimed—that I concocted the will, signed my uncle's name to it and put in the names of witnesses who had no existence."

Here was a mixed up affair, and no mistake. A pair of lovers were each claiming to be guilty, and solely guilty, of a crime. Which was the innocent, which the guilty one? I had nothing by which to decide. I thought of the experts. Should I submit this new feature of the case to them? What would it avail? A preponderance of their evidence had proved Jefferson guilty. They could not be expected to go back on their former evidence by declaring that Miss Wentworth committed the forgery. I could get other experts who had not yet been brought into the case, but if they declared that Miss Wentworth had done the writing it would only prove expert testimony to be worthless.

Here I paused in my cogitations, for I was struck with an idea. I might produce Miss Wentworth's confession in court. It would probably be regarded a ruse to save her lover. But suppose I could get experts to testify that her handwriting had in it the characteristics of the forged signature. I could at least save my client. The same evening I acted on this thought, and, though I had difficulty in finding even one expert who had not been called in the case, he had as good a reputation for skill in his profession as any of the others. To my surprise, he told me there was no doubt that Miss Wentworth was the guilty party.

That settled my course for the future. The next day when the court opened I produced the second confession and the affidavit of the expert in chirography that in his opinion the confessor had forged the signature to the will in question.

There was a great deal of confusion in what followed in court. The legal aspect of the case had entirely changed. Two different persons had confessed to have written a signature that could only have been written by one. After consultation with their client the plaintiff's lawyers took the ground that the second will was invalid because there was a confession on the part of the beneficiary under it that he had forged it. Therefore, the property going to Anna Blake under the former will, she had no interest in further criminal prosecution. They asked for an adjournment of the court and proposed to me that if my client would sign away all claim to his uncle's property they would drop the prosecution against him and so far as they were concerned would not prosecute Miss Wentworth.

I declined the proposition on the ground that it was impossible to prove either of the lovers guilty. But they, feeling confident that the chancery court would give their client the property under the earlier will, dropped the matter, and Jefferson went forth a free man.

My own solution of the problem involved in the two confessions was that Jefferson, being disappointed in inheriting the property, signified that the marriage could not take place. This threw in the way of Miss Wentworth a temptation that she could not resist. She concocted a later will, but her lover in order to save her from the consequences of her crime when criminal proceedings were commenced confessed himself guilty. Nevertheless I was not certain as to this or anything concerning the parties or the affair in which they were concerned. That either one or the other or both were guilty I did not doubt, but this opinion was rather based on the evidence than on the bearing or appearance of either of them. I could not throw off an impression that Jefferson was a fine fellow and Miss Wentworth was a lovely girl. And had not each attempted to relieve the other of the burden by a confession?

The matter of the inheritance was still in the chancery court when one day I received a letter from a man in Australia. I had that day received an invitation to the wedding of Arnold Jefferson and Dora Wentworth. I put the letter in my pocket and said nothing about it till I attended the wedding, which took place in a little church with no attendants except my self. Indeed, it had not been expected that even I would accept. When the clergyman who performed the ceremony came to the words "With all my worldly goods I thee endow" and the groom had repeated them I called a halt and produced the letter I had received from Australia. It read as follows:

Have seen in an American newspaper reference to the case against Arnold Jefferson. I was an intimate friend of the late William Jefferson and was one of the witnesses to a will he made a few weeks before his death. I return to America soon on business and will call upon you too long after you receive this.

Never shall I forget the look that passed between the bride and groom. Each had believed the other guilty of the forgery, but each had forgiven the other on account of the sacrifice involved in the act. A few rapidly spoken words passed between them, there was a quick embrace, and the ceremony proceeded. But they were both too much affected to make the responses intelligently.

The same day I stopped all proceedings in the chancery court as to the Jefferson will pending the arrival of the Australian. In due time the confessed forger inherited the property, enjoying it with his confessed forger wife.

If before handling this case I had quailed of conscience in defending a criminal who I had every reason to believe to be guilty I certainly never had afterward. Our system of jurisprudence is based on hundreds of years' experience and should be followed unflinchingly.

THE EYE OF GENIUS.

And the Strain of the Nervous System Due to Defective Vision.

Much was made in the newspapers some years ago of the part had eyes have played in the lives of great musicians and writers. What was called "the eye of genius" was illustrated in many portraits, notably the Lenbach paintings of Richard Wagner, in which one eye droops and is surrounded by concentric wrinkles of pain. The great composer's sick headache and insomnia, his shattered nerves and fits of violent temper, were attributed to eye strain. The diagnosis has since been accepted by his biographer, Ellis, himself a physician. Similar if less conclusive cases have been made out to explain the lifelong suffering of George Eliot, Browning, the Carlyles, Darwin, Huxley, Herbert Spencer, Balzac, Taine, Nietzsche, Tschakowsky and others.

The straining of the nervous system due to defective vision is to be found among all who use their eyes in work near at hand. "The eye of genius" is as common among typesetters and proofreaders, reporters and typewriters, bookkeepers, lathe workers and seamstresses as among the master spirits of music and letters. It is, in fact, more common, for whereas the fortunate few are able to choose their time and place of labor, to find rest and recuperation when they need it, the many are held fast to long hours and endless days, with the result that they become hopeless, nervous wrecks and go blind or mad.—Metropolitan Magazine.

THE ART OF FELTING.

It Was Developed Long Before the Weaver Was First Known.

Felt is a fabric formed without weaving by taking advantage of the tendency of hair and wool to interlace and cling to each other. Antiquarians state that the art of felting was developed long before the weaver was first known. Felting antedates the Christian era by many centuries. Authorities state that the felting quality of hair or wool results from the natural structure of the material. The hair of most animals is noticed to be more or less notched or jagged on its surface. This is the more apparent when an examination of the material is made by the aid of a microscope. In some animals there appears to be a set of barbs on the hair, and these barbs are so placed that the tip of each points to the end of the hair.

It follows that when a number of hairs are pressed together those which lie in the opposite direction to each other will interlock with the barbs of the hair surface and resist an effort to tear them asunder. When the hair has a natural tendency to curl the interlocking process which is called felting is more easily accomplished.

Although the felting property is possessed by wool in a special degree, other animals have it in their covering. This is true of the goat, ox, hare, rabbit and beaver.—New York Sun.

Early Manuscripts.

The type of letters in early manuscript was the same as that of those used on the earlier metal plates and wax tablets. All letters were capitals. Minuscule, or small lettering, as opposed to the majuscule, was invented in the seventh century. Before its invention there was no spacing between the words. There was no punctuation unless possibly some mark between sentences. When cursive writing came into general use, about the beginning of the tenth century, the art was practiced by only a few highly trained scribes. This continued all through the middle ages. The scribes were artists, and they carried their art to a high degree of perfection. Many of the manuscripts of that period are very beautiful specimens of handwork and as perfect as print.

The First Lesson of an Arab Boy.

The very first lesson which an Arab baby learns when he begins to talk is to keep facts to himself. It does not sound very friendly put in that way, but it saves a deal of trouble. Foreigners do not understand Arabs. They ask them pointed questions and receive peculiar answers. They construe the answers to please themselves and come away to tell the world that the Arabs are a nation of liars. They are not a nation of liars. Perhaps if they should tell the foreigners to mind their own affairs and let them and theirs alone the foreigners would understand them better.—Exchange.

Strength.

"Some scientist has declared that there is as much strength in three eggs as there is in a pound of beef-steak," said the observer.

"Well," replied the actor, "I met an egg once that would have eliminated the other two eggs from that proposition."—Exchange.

On Principle.

Bert (nervously)—I heard pa tell ma he was goin' to flog me on principle after prayers tonight. What's principled, Billy? Billy—I think it's somewhere at the back, Bert. The last time he flogged me on principle I had to sit sideways for more'n a fortnight.—London Tit-Bits.

One Way to Look at It.

"A man always gets on easier by taking his wife's advice."

"Yes," answered Mr. Meekton. "When things turn out badly there isn't so much said."

A busybody is always malevolent.—Latin.

PAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

The Frontier prints the News.

FARM LOANS. See R. H. Parker

Fresh Bread at the O'Neill Bakery.

Subscribe for The Frontier, only

1.50 per year.

Wanted—A girl at McMillin & Mar-

key's bakery. 23-tf.

Try our pickles, they are fine.—San-

itary Meat Market. 16-tf.

Special knee pant suits at \$1.69

at Wysocki's closing out sale.

Now is a good time to subscribe for

The Frontier, \$1.50 per year.

Rugs, mattings and solid linoleum,

at—Fisher Furniture & Hardware Co.

Dr. Corbett will be in his O'Neill

office as usual beginning September

30. 12-tf.

P. J. Biglin can supply you with

any kind of soft coal you want. Prices

right. 14-tf.

Just received a barrel of sweet

and dill pickles.—Sanitary Meat

Market. 16-tf.

Buy your underwear now at

Wysocki's closing out sale, and save

money.

For Sale—Barré Plymouth Rock

Cooker—Mrs. A. L. Souser, route 1,

O'Neill. 22-tf.

For Sale—New house, barn and fuel

house and four lots, east part of town.

—David Riser. 23-2pd.

Fine Candies and Hot Chocolate.—

McMillan & Markey's Bakery and

Candy Kitchen. 22-tf.

Try Frank and Vince Suchy's tailor

shop for French Dry Cleaning. Their

work can't be beat. 1-tf.

Special overcoat sale next week

at Wysocki's closing out sale. Boys

overcoats at \$2.00.

For Sale—House and two lots, with

barn, coal house and a cement cave.—

Address box 554, O'Neill. 22-7-pd.

For Sale—House and lot one block

east of the school house. Terms

reasonable.—D. W. Cameron. 9-tf.

Wanted—At Hotel Evans girl for

dining room and chamber work. Also

a dish washer. Good Wages. 19-tf.

I have in a car that best flour

made and will sell it dead cheap while

it lasts. I need the money.—Con Keys

Wanted—To borrow \$2,000 on real

estate, for from two to five years.

For particulars enquire at this office.

Don't overlook the bargains at

Wysocki's closing out sale. Every

article in the store at reduced

prices.

Big reduction on paint for [the next

thirty days; we sell the best brand of

paint sold.—Fisher Furniture & Hard-

ware Co. 20-tf.

A good and comfortable four

room house with hall and good

cellar for rent. Enquire of J. J.

McCafferty. 23-1-pd.

At the lowest interest rates, I have

plenty of Eastern money to loan on

Farms and Ranches.—R. H. Parker,

O'Neill, Nebr. 46-tf.

Special next week! 1000 pairs of

children's shoes, all sizes. Worth

up to \$2.50. Wysocki's closing out

sale price 59c.

See Miss Cora Potter for nursing or

housework by the day. Can be found

at her residence, one door north of

Parnell Golden's. 23-2pd.

We sell the Buck heating stoves,

and we guarantee them to burn hard

and soft coal or wood and give satisfac-

tion.—Fisher Furniture & Hard-

ware Co. 20-tf.

Lost—On Sunday morning, Nov. 17,

between the Catholic church and the

west side of town, pair of double lense

glasses. Finder please leave at this

office and oblige.

We do French Dry Cleaning in our

shop of all ladies and gentlemen's

garments. Nothing but first class

work turned out. At Frank and Vince

Suchy's tailor shop. 1-tf.

Don't waste your money buying

strengthening plasters. Chamber-

lain's Liniment is cheaper and better.

Dampen a piece of flannel with it and

bind it over the affected parts and it

will relieve the pain and soreness.

For sale by all dealers.

Strayed, from my place, 7 miles

northeast of Chambers, brown pony

with white face, small bunch on

knee, weight about 800 pounds.

Reward for information leading to its

recovery or return to—E. J. Mully,

Chambers, Nebraska. 17-tf.

"It is a pleasure to tell you that

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is the

best cough medicine I have ever used,"

writes Mrs. Hugh Campbell of La-

vonla, Ga. "I have used it with all

my children and the results have been

highly satisfactory. For sale by all

dealers.

Stolen—From my buggy on the

streets of O'Neill Monday evening, a

gray cloth overcoat and a black horse-

hide robe lined with green plush. A

liberal reward will be given any person

giving any information leading to the

discovery of these goods.—Joe Mc-

Nichols. 23-2.

George McCloud, who has been

running a blacksmith shop in Page

for the past three years has opened

up the old Church shop, north of

Fishers Furniture store, and is now

prepared to do all kinds of blacksmith-

ing. Good work guaranteed. Give

trial. He can please you, in price and

work. 22-3

Is your husband cross? An irrita-

ble, fault finding disposition is often

due to a disordered stomach. A man

with a good digestion is nearly always

good natured. A great many have

been permanently cured of stomach

trouble by using Chamberlain's

Tablets. For sale by all dealers.

The boy's appetite is often the

source of amazement. If you would

have such an appetite take Chamber-

lain's Tablets. They not only create a

healthy appetite, but strengthen the

stomach and enable it to do its work

naturally. For sale by all dealers.

"There could be no better medicine

than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

My children were all sick with whoop-

ing cough. One of them was in bed,

had a high fever and was coughing up

blood. Our doctor gave them Cham-

berlain's Cough Remedy and the first

dose eased them, and three bottles

cured them," says Mrs. R. A. Donald-

son, of Lexington, Miss. For sale by

all dealers.

Tristan d'Acunha is a Tiny Oasis in a

Wilderness of Water.

When Napoleon was sent to St. Helena

it was thought that the loneliest

place on earth had been assigned to

him as a prison. But St. Helena is

1,400 miles nearer a continent than is

Tristan d'Acunha. Many hundred of

miles of ocean lie between this is-

land and its nearest neighbor, Tristan.

In short, it is a tiny oasis in a bound-

less wilderness of waters, go from it in

which direction you will.

It is a rocky and cliff girt little isle,

with a solitary mountain 1,000 feet

high rearing itself from the midst

of this lonely speck of rock and earth

yet there lives a community seem-

ingly happy in their isolation from all

the rest of the world. They are farm-

ers, cattle raisers and shepherds. In

the valleys of the island are fertile

fields, where potatoes mainly are