

# RULLOFF.

## THE MAN FIEND.

### The Philologist and Assassin—The Story of His Career—An Unbroken Life of Crime—The Suspected Murderer of Wife and Child.

### The Professor and Tutor of Wick-edness—The Intellectual Mid-night Robber—The Slayer of His Fellow Men and the Gallows' Victim.

A more startling history has probably never been worked out in mortal man's life than that connected with a murderer now under sentence of death in New York State, and to be executed to-day, May 18, by name Edward H. Rulloff, alias Leurio, Howard, Dalton, etc. etc.

The story of his career awakens the most lively interest, not so much from the fact of its final act being a murder—for more bloody, more deliberate murders, and murders with more malice aforethought than this one have probably been committed—but from the fact that the murderer was himself a man of the greatest intellect and the most thorough education, who could, had he been so minded, have pursued a far different course in life.

His final crime was murder while in the act of committing a robbery, which, in our present social condition, is only too common. Notwithstanding his great learning and intelligence he had so closed his mind to perceptions of moral right, that he was capable of far greater crimes even than this. Though he is not guilty in the eye of the law of a greater offense committed on a former occasion, yet the moral certainty is that he deserves to rank with the most beastlike, heartless, and cold-blooded murderers, under most unprovoking circumstances, of the murder of his own devoted wife and child—the deed being done in the most methodical and workmanlike manner. But the traces of this deed he, by his great cunning, was so able to cover as to render legal proof impossible. This crime was committed twenty years ago, since which time the man has been living for much of the time in intercourse with his fellow-men. But neither through himself or otherwise has the slightest legal proof been given of his guilt, nor will such probably ever be found, though the man is undoubtedly guilty. He was, however, tried, found guilty, and served a sentence on another minor charge; but he would be loathe to-day from the clutches of the law were it not that the course of his choicest him to the commission of the later and, if such a term can be used, less revolting murder for which he has been found guilty, though with the greatest difficulty, and sentenced to die.

The man was certainly able to have filled a position of trust and honor, and to have acquired wealth in a legitimate way. But his great learning was not united with any question or influences of moral right and wrong, and consequently, after looking about the world, and perceiving that the greatest scampers were the most successful to all appearances, while the most deserving were generally the least in the world's esteem, the question of success in life, unimpeded by notions of right and wrong, resolved itself into a mere mathematical problem, to be solved according to fixed laws. Of course to such a mind there would be but one answer. He deliberately abandons a more honorable life, and one which is the most in accordance with his own peculiar tastes, and substitutes for it a life of crime as the shortest road to what is most desired in life, happiness. The example shows conclusively the great necessity of educating not only the mind but also the conscience, for without the latter the results of education may be a curse instead of a blessing. The mind that by superior education is endowed with great intelligence and is able to master any problem which may be presented to it, if it be governed by a man who is a villain and who cares not how the mind works, is made the more dangerous in proportion as it is the more educated. Its education only makes it the master of all the means of wickedness, and its maneuvers are the more to be feared, as it is more able by numerous methods unthought of by others to cover up the deeds of wickedness and so escape punishment at the hands of men.

That this life was not altogether to his liking is shown by the fact that never in all his criminal life did Rulloff desert his first choice, study. The particular bent of his inclination was the study of languages, mainly for his own sake, and his researches in this department are deep, thorough, and learned. The most comprehensive title that can possibly describe his character is this:—Rulloff, philologist and murderer.

### HIS FIRST APPEARANCE.

The scene of his principal adventures was in the interior of New York State. The place where the last murder was committed was the little city of Binghamton, in Broome county, New York, but he had been only too well known in the neighborhood of the towns of Dryden and Ithaca, in Tompkins county of the same State.

His first appearance was sixteen years ago, when he arrived in Dryden, and said that he was a native of St. John, N. B.; that there he had been a clerk in a hardware store, and had come to New York for the purpose of getting into more remunerative or larger business. In that city he met, according to his story, a Mr. Gouraud, a teacher of a commercial school, who promised that after giving him a course of instruction in book-keeping, penmanship, etc., he would guarantee him a situation; but Rulloff, in his phrase, found Gouraud a "humbug," who took his money as long as he had any, and then failed to comply with his agreement.

It was afterwards found—that D. S. Bates, a trial for murder—that Rulloff was punished in St. John by two years' imprisonment for stealing from his employer, before coming to New York. This was ascertained by a clergyman who went to St. John. Hence Rulloff entered upon his career of crime, so far as is now known, probably before he was twenty years of age. He is now, according to his own account, fifty-one.

At Dryden his story elicited a good deal of sympathy on the part of a family named Schutt, and also of others. It was suggested by a neighbor of Mr. Schutt that Rulloff should teach a select school a few months afterwards. The impression of the young man was that he was worthy in all respects. He seemed to have good habits and few faults. Of his pupils were some members of the Schutt family, two or three of the younger children, among them Harriet Schutt, who was then not more than sixteen. Rulloff, according to his statement, was twenty-three. Almost from the beginning of the school he began paying attentions to Miss Schutt. When the purpose of marriage became manifest, the Schutt, who, as we hear from all sources, were people of much intelligence and high character, used their influence to prevent it. Rulloff had given no satisfactory account of himself; he had no reference such as was fair to expect. But the result was that the marriage took place, the family at last reluctantly consenting. Immediately after his marriage Rulloff began the course of ill-treatment of his wife which afterward deprived him of the confidence and respect of all except her who was most immediately concerned. She clung to him, making no complaints. One cause of ill-feeling on the part of Rulloff grew out of the fact that he was a botanical doctor, having gained his knowledge of medicine from the reading of medical books, and that Dr. William H. Bull, a relative and intimate of the Schutt, was a regular physician, a graduate of a medical college in New York. These men held discussions as to the relative merits of the systems, and Rulloff quarrelled with Bull and asked that the family should close their doors against him. The antipathy existed before Rulloff's marriage. The Doctor being a cousin of the Schutt children, was not debarred their friendship at Rulloff's bidding. They did not see that Rulloff's personal dislike should disturb family relations. The result was that Rulloff assumed jealousy of him, and whenever opportunity presented, by familiar greetings between the young people, there was an outburst of anger on the part of Rulloff that rendered the life of the wife extremely unpleasant.

### THE TREATMENT OF HIS WIFE.

His cruelty towards his wife continued to increase, and it is said that on one occasion she was pounding pepper in a mortar, and her husband told her she was not making it fine enough. She made a slight remonstrance, whereupon Rulloff seized the iron pestle and struck her on her forehead, knocking her back several feet. He finally threatened to desert her, but by the intercession of friends the two resolved to live along together. It was not long after when the Schutt family, with whom they were living at the time, heard a woman's shriek up stairs, and hastening up they found the ingenious wretch Rulloff with a bottle of poison in his hand, and his wife shrinking into one corner, holding a pillow before her mouth. She begged them not to blame her husband, and even went and embraced him, saying, "My dear Edward, you are mine forever, whether we live together or not." Rulloff threw the phial out of the window, and thus the affair ended. It was not very long after when, one afternoon, the same thrilling voice was heard up in the chamber where the young husband and wife slept. All that were in the house ran up stairs, and then they came upon about the same scene again, except that this time the wretch had a dose for himself as well as his wife. But neither were administered.

Matters finally came to such a pass that the literary doctor, clerk, schoolmaster, student, farmer, and cannibal was turned out from under his father-in-law's roof. But he had been given only a short time when his suffering wife, with that incomprehensible love and devotion, left all her friends and relations, and went to seek the companionship of her cruel husband. She found him at Lansing, a place about as far up the lake from Ithaca as Dryden is distant from the same place. It was now the spring of 1845, a year and a half after the marriage. Rulloff and his wife had lived together, boarding, for some time, and it seems had now hired a small house and farm to work for themselves. Rulloff had also been gratifying his old love for poring over musty books and searching out strange theories, and had formed a system of phrenology. He had even written a lecture on this subject, and was engaged to deliver it at different places during the coming season. A child was born to him one night in the month of April.

### THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HIS WIFE.

The last time that the wife and child of Rulloff were seen was on a dark, stormy night, the 23d of June, 1845. The woman was devoting her attention to the little babe, getting it ready to be put to bed. Rulloff had gone over to see his neighbor, Thomas Robertson, a farmer who lived directly opposite. There was a road-crossing at this place, and Robertson lived on one corner and Rulloff on another. He asked Mr. Robertson's daughter, Olive, to run over and keep his wife company until he came home, as she might be afraid. The girl went over and found the woman with her babe, apparently fearing no harm. Olive stayed until 9 o'clock, and at that time Rulloff came in. He began mixing something in a cup. Olive asked him what he was making. "Tea—composition tea," he said. The girl soon after went home. The doors of both houses were soon closed and the lights went out. That day Rulloff's wife had been over the way, and borrowed some articles to assist her in doing her washing. The two women had a short neighborly chat, and Rulloff's wife returned, got everything in readiness for doing the washing, when, for some reason, she concluded that she could not wash until the next morning. The tea which Rulloff prepared he proposed to give to the child. Mrs. Rulloff objected, saying that the babe was not ill, and needed no medicine. Rulloff urged that it would be good for the child, and even for herself. But the medicine was not given while the visitor remained.

On the next morning Mr. Robertson, who arose early, observed that the shutters of Rulloff's house were tightly closed—a very unusual circumstance—but he thought nothing of it. Later in the morning, not far from 9 o'clock, Rulloff came out and went to the house of his neighbor and asked him to let him take a horse and wagon, saying that his (Rulloff's) wife's uncle had called in the night, and his wife and child had gone with him to Mott's Corners. In order to make room for his wife and child, the uncle was obliged to leave a large chest at his house. The chest he desired to take to the uncle. Mr. Robertson, who never denied Rulloff anything—having acquired for him a very friendly feeling—after harnessing the horse and put it at his disposal. Rulloff drove to his own door and attempted to load the chest. Mr. Robertson, standing in his own door, saw that Rulloff was unable to accomplish the work, and went to his assistance. Mr. Robertson found his end of the chest very heavy, but it was loaded by the two into the wagon. He also brought out a flour sack half filled with something, and put

it into the wagon alongside of the chest. Rulloff then took his seat and drove away. Not far from his house he came up with some children going to school; he invited them to ride, and they got in, almost filling the wagon. They laughed and chatted, and Rulloff whistled and sung, and it was a rare scene of animation. So they went on, the fun often uproarious. But Rulloff did not go to Mott's Corners. He drove direct to Ithaca, and thence to the inlet of Cayuga Lake. There the wagon stood, with the chest in it, during the day. Rulloff was absent. He was not noticed. When evening came on the wagon moved down the inlet towards the lake, but from that point trace of it was lost.

Rulloff was not observed by any person until about ten o'clock of the next day, when he returned with the wagon and the same chest. It was an emigrant box. On Rulloff stopping at his door a son of Mr. Robertson approached to take the horse, and Rulloff took hold of the chest to lift it out. The boy said, "Let me assist you." He at once noticed, on taking hold of the chest, that it was empty. Rulloff went into the house, and the boy drove away with the horse. The shutters remained closed. After this the wife and child were never seen again, nor were their bodies or any portions of them ever found. With this want, technically known as the *corpus delicti*, a verdict of "guilty of murder" could not be legally obtained, no matter how strong the circumstantial evidence might be. The only thing for which he could legally be tried under this circumstance was for the abduction of the child, and for this, as will be seen, he served a sentence of ten years.

### WHAT WAS IN THE CHEST.

Though it was impossible to prove what had been the disposition of the bodies of the murdered woman and child, the family of the Schutt's ascertained positively, for themselves, that Mrs. Rulloff was not alive. The chest which went to the "inlet" contained the body of Mrs. Rulloff; it was wrapped with untempered wool, which was passed through the ring of a heavy iron mortar, weighing twenty-five pounds, which Rulloff possessed. The wrapping was such that the bones were covered by the wire in such manner that none of the large ones would be likely to become loosened in years, if ever. The consummate tact of the murderer was thus proved. Had his management otherwise since then been as effective he would never have reached the gallows. The child was, in like manner, attached to flat-irons. Together they were sunk in Cayuga Lake, whence subsequent dredging was wholly unavailing to bring them up.

The associate counsel for the defense of Rulloff at his first trial for abduction has since given additional information relating to the killing of Mrs. Rulloff. This gentleman afterwards refused to engage in the defense of Rulloff at the second murder trial, owing to the facts which had come to his knowledge. According to these facts it appears that the killing of Mrs. Rulloff was not by strangulation, as was reported, but by Rulloff knocking her senseless. He then raised a board in the floor, opened a vein or veins and bled her to death. In opposition to this statement we may say that the cellar of the house extends under by far the greatest part of it, and close measurement would be necessary to prevent letting the blood into the cellar. But Rulloff may be supposed equal to the work. This account, which is said to come from a private confession made by Rulloff to his counsel, goes on to say that the cries of the child caused Rulloff to "repent," and that "he shed tears." This, of course, is Rulloff's story, or one of them, and should be so accepted. It is added that he saw no way of concealing the murder, except by killing the babe, and that he did this by strangulation and bleeding also. The account ends by the statement that he rowed out upon Cayuga Lake and sunk the bodies, as already described.

Those who choose to do so may believe that Rulloff was surprised in his bloody work by the cries of his child.

It was well known that Rulloff was in the habit of inquiring about the depth of Cayuga Lake and of sailing on it in a small boat.

### THE DEPARTURE OF RULLOFF.

In the afternoon of the day on which he returned, Rulloff came out of his house with a bundle under his arm, and passed Mr. Robertson's garden, where Mr. Robertson was at work. Rulloff spoke to him in a careless way—"Bye, Mr. Robertson, bye; don't be alarmed if you don't come back in two or three weeks. I and my wife talk of going on a visit between the lakes" (that is, Cayuga and Seneca Lakes). He added jocularly, "Please don't let any man carry away our house while we are gone." He then walked away.

Rulloff went directly to Ithaca, procured a horse and wagon and drove back to his own house late in the night of the same day, and took the chest he had left away from his own house, without the knowledge, at that time, of any person. He drove to the stage office in Ithaca, where he left the chest. The stage started for Geneva at four o'clock in the morning, and he, with his chest, was on board. On that passage he registered his name as John Doe. He was seen by a relative of the Schutt family in a stage at a point not far from Jacksonville, a place not far from Geneva. The chest was seen, and there was no passenger except Rulloff. He was finally traced, with his chest, to Ovid, where he crossed Seneca Lake, and then to Crooked Lake; up that lake to Hammondport, and then by stage to the Genesee Valley Canal. Here the trace was lost wholly at that time. We should say, however, that the chest was taken to Chicago, as is now well established.

### FAMILY COUNSEL.

A few days passed, when one of the Schutt family, whose members knew nothing of the absence of Rulloff, was sent by the parents to Rulloff's house with some furniture. This was done to show the interest of the family in his welfare, and a desire to encourage him to do better than he had done; but the doors were locked, information was gained of the absence, as was supposed, of Mrs. Rulloff, her child, and her husband, and the furniture was necessarily taken home again.

Two or three weeks had now passed, and suspicion arose, particularly in Ithaca, that Rulloff's absence was more significant than Robertson, or even the Schutt family, thought it. People passed by the house, and then began to imagine that its closed shutters concealed all sorts of spirits and dreadful shapes. They were afraid to pass it during the night time; and even the sheriff, when he came to break into the house weeks after Rulloff had left, brought a posse of nearly fifty men.

Finally a man from the village went to the house, forced open the shutter, and looked in. He saw enough to convince him that Mrs. Rulloff had made no preparation for a journey; and he communicated his strengthened suspicion to the Schutt brothers, who were living in

Ithaca. This was the first cry of murder. The brothers went in haste to the place with the Sheriff, broke open the house, and were convinced that something was wrong, though they refused to share in the suspicion of murder. They knew of Rulloff's violent temper, his threats, etc., but thought him incapable of killing his wife and child. There lay everything just as it was left on that fateful night. The clothes which were to have been washed the next day were lying where the hand of the lost woman had left them; the table was partly covered with dishes, just enough for Rulloff to breakfast with alone that morning.

The Schutt brothers returned to Ithaca the same evening, and as they sat discussing the matter in the closed store of one of them, suddenly Rulloff himself entered. He was greeted warmly, and one of the brothers advanced to him and said, "Doctor, I am so glad to see you. Where is your wife?" He answered promptly, "Between the lakes." "How very strangely you manage," said the brother. "Why," he added, "the people here have been talking about your murdering your wife." Rulloff laughed, merely answering, "Have they?" Then the brother invited him up stairs to a sleeping room. But little was mentioned further about the report of the murder. Rulloff said that he and Harriet had been having a fine time between the lakes; that they had made many pleasant acquaintances, etc. In the morning Rulloff went to his wife's father, in Dryden, eight miles from Ithaca. Mr. and Mrs. Schutt had heard nothing of the slight suspicions that had been aroused in Ithaca. They received him kindly and inquired concerning his family. Here he placed his family farther off. He said his wife and child were in Madison, Lake county, Ohio. The object was to prevent easy inquiry. He went on to say he had engaged a school in that place, and spoke of the beauty of the scenery; how well his wife was pleased with the prospect there, and that he had come back after his furniture, household goods, etc. He said, also, that his wife wished his sister would come out with him. Mrs. Schutt, however, in the course of earnest conversation, became convinced and at once said that Rulloff had committed murder. Her woman's intuition was the first to fathom the mystery, probably having feared such a thing before from the threats of the man. She expressed to her son Henry her thoughts. The son then demanded of Rulloff that he should show him, beyond all doubt, where his sister was. Rulloff became abusive; went immediately to the barn, and took out a horse to go to Ithaca. A sister, who was at home, took this occasion to visit Ithaca, and Henry decided to follow with another horse.

### HIS SECOND FLIGHT AND CAPTURE.

On Henry's arrival at Ithaca he called on one of his brothers, and, bursting into tears, said, "That wretch has murdered our sister." Rulloff drove to William Schutt's house with the sister, and Rulloff had been there but a short time when some six or seven of the first men in Ithaca called on him, and said to him that his wife had very mysteriously disappeared from her home, and asked him to make some explanation of the matter. He declined to say much about it, suggesting that it was none of their business. They then said to him plainly that unless he convinced them fully of the whereabouts of his wife they would detain him. He turned to one of the Schutt's and asked, "What shall I do?" He was in reply told he had better write a letter to his wife and give his promise to remain there until an answer from her could be obtained. This he promised faithfully to do. The gentlemen then retired. Rulloff began writing the letter. He did not suit himself at first, and tore up several drafts of rejected letters. Time was thus wasted and night came. Then he gave E. Schutt a letter, which he was to mail and to show it beforehand to the gentlemen who called at the house. The letter was written in care of a Mr. Deputy to his wife in Madison county, Ohio. It was a pleasant and affectionate note. Mr. Schutt went immediately to the post office, showed the letter, according to arrangement, and it gave entire satisfaction. They were inclined to dismiss their suspicions. The letter was mailed. Not long afterwards the sister came hurriedly to the post office to say to her brother that Rulloff had left the house and ran down the street. This, of course, produced no little excitement. It was regarded as proof of Rulloff's guilt. A warrant was issued for his arrest, and very many started in pursuit. He had gone in the direction of Auburn. In a short time a gentleman arrived from that direction with a horse and wagon, and made the singular statement that on his way he had seen a man who seemed to be coming rapidly towards him, but as he approached he saw the man was going towards Ithaca. The wagon passed the man, and afterwards stopped for the purpose of watering the horse. The stop was long enough to allow the man to come up; but nothing more was seen of him.

The fact was communicated to the brother, E. Schutt, who comprehended at once that Rulloff had practised the ruse of turning back while he was endeavoring to make his escape, and thus without detection hoping to reach the first train that passed westward from Auburn. The steamboat running down Cayuga Lake did not arrive at Auburn in season for this train, and Mr. Schutt thought at this time and said that in all probability Rulloff's wife was at Madison, as he had stated, and that he would endeavor to reach there, letting the officers follow him, with the warrant of arrest, at their convenience. Desiring, however, to see that this was true, Mr. Schutt decided to take a horse and wagon, accompanied by a driver, and go across the country to Geneva, not doubting he should find Rulloff on the train. His theory proved correct. On the arrival of the train he looked through it, but did not see Rulloff; yet he went on by the same train and sent the driver back. At the next station Rulloff got off to take a drink of water, as he said, and coming back to get on the train, the two were in full sight of each other. This was a moment of excitement and doubt. Mr. Schutt questioned whether he should get off and endeavor to arrest Rulloff, but he thought it better to remain, and if Rulloff did not get on he could leave the train at any place. Now, on making a search of the train, Rulloff was found among the German emigrants. He seemed much annoyed at being discovered. Mr. Schutt said to him, "How strangely you have conducted!" and demanded to know why he did so. He replied that they acted so like fools at Ithaca that he would make them all the trouble he could by going where his wife was, and let them come on to see how he had fooled them. He then said he would go directly to where she was in company with the brother. On arrival at Buffalo the two remained during the night at the hotel. Mr. Schutt called for a room with two beds. Rulloff was so lame from his walk to Auburn that he could scarcely get up stairs, and entering the room he took off his stockings and showed his feet. They were blistered and

very sore. He said he had run the whole distance from Ithaca to Auburn (not far from forty-five miles) in the night.

Early in the morning there was a boat going up the lake that would land at Ashtabula on the way to Madison. The two walked to the boat and went on board. There was an immense crowd, and Mr. Schutt worked his way through it, Rulloff following; there he escaped. When this was observed there was no time to search in the crowd or to get off. The wheels were already moving. Rulloff was not on board. Mr. Schutt was now satisfied that Rulloff was guilty. He studied upon Rulloff's movements, and made up his mind that Rulloff, being a German and speaking the German language, would come on with emigrants on board would be due in Cleveland on Sunday morning, and that he could go to Madison, make full inquiry, and then take stage and arrive at Cleveland ahead of the emigrant boat, the Wisconsin. At Madison nobody had heard of Mrs. Rulloff, and there was no such person as the man in whose care Rulloff's letter had been directed. Mr. Schutt had not expected any other result, but made the visit for satisfaction to himself and his friends. He rode all night, and reached Cleveland; the Sheriff procured a warrant of arrest against Rulloff; an officer was assigned to assist Mr. Schutt at the boat landing. Position was taken on high ground where the passengers could be watched, but Rulloff was not seen.

But at a dining saloon near by, behind a great dry goods box, Rulloff was discovered by Schutt and pointed out to the officer. Rulloff denied his name. Mr. Schutt directed his arrest and he was taken into custody. In the presence of officers Mr. Schutt informed Rulloff that on condition of receiving satisfactory information of Mrs. Rulloff proceedings would be stopped. He gave no information, but consented to return to Ithaca with Mr. Schutt as preferable to remaining in irons in Cleveland.

Mr. Schutt and Rulloff set out for home on a steamer, whose captain, a rough man with a great heart, had cordially promised to assist Mr. Schutt in guarding the prisoner. The officer who led Rulloff off to the boat accompanied him to the deck, as he said, to have a little talk with him alone. They had remained for some time, when Mr. Schutt grew somewhat weary and joined them. He found that Rulloff had so worked upon the credulity and sympathy of the officer, who, for his experience and ability, was named after "Old Hayes," that the officer, as he confessed afterwards, was about to permit him to escape. This was a remarkable instance of Rulloff's power. The officer admitted, with exhibition of much chagrin, on the occasion of a subsequent visit by Mr. Schutt to Cleveland, that he was thoroughly and completely deceived for the first time in his life, and he described minutely the manner in which Rulloff set about deceiving him. On going on the upper deck Rulloff immediately grasped his hand and said:—"My friend, it is all right; my wife and child are living. You see I am a poor devil. Look at me! My wife's family are wealthy and proud, and despise me only because I am poor. My wife loves me and I her, and we have concluded to leave her family and go where they will know nothing of us." Rulloff showed intense emotion, and the officer was so impressed with the feeling that he was honest and truthful and an injured man, that Mr. Schutt had some difficulty in convincing him otherwise, as the officer acknowledged. When the admissions were made the officer expressed his opinion of Rulloff in these words:—"I could wretch that lives!"

Leaving Cleveland with the prisoner, a strong room was procured and Rulloff was locked in it. After the boat had passed out into the lake some ten or twelve miles—it was not long until arrival at Buffalo—Mr. Schutt visited Rulloff's room; Rulloff asked if he could not go with Mr. Schutt to the upper deck and have a talk. Mr. Schutt assented, and sending Rulloff ahead of him, the two walked up. They seated themselves beside the pilot-house, and entered into a free conversation, in which Mr. Schutt, in earnest words, put the facts before him:—"You came into our family in poverty and distress; you were kindly, very kindly, received; in the end you have married my sister; and your conduct has been such as not to account for, not even yourself. I was the last one to believe you guilty of murder. I am now entirely satisfied that you are guilty. What can you say for yourself?" This is the most curious bit of conversation in the entire history of Rulloff's connection with the family was brought out. Rulloff had no answer, except that he proposed to jump overboard. Mr. Schutt replied that that was perhaps the best way to conclude the matter. He added that he thought Rulloff too great a coward to do this, which proved to be the fact. "Now, sir," said Mr. Schutt, "I want you to go down to your room immediately. You may hope to get away, but you need give yourself no such comfort." He marched ahead of Mr. Schutt, and was again locked in his room.

At Buffalo the captain and his men guarded Rulloff while Mr. Schutt obtained a warrant from the police authorities. The court being in session he was constituted an officer, and formally took Rulloff into custody, though he held him so far without authority. An officer was also assigned to assist. Rulloff was put on the train, and the officer took from his pocket a pair of handcuffs which had been given to Mr. Schutt to put on Rulloff's wrists. Rulloff objected; he said he was a subject and piteous appeal to Mr. Schutt, but received reply that deceptions enough had been practised; that he must go to Ithaca without further chance of escape. The irons were put upon him. The passengers who came on the train in this car, and were stationed in guarding the prisoner. The train arrived at Cayuga Bridge in the morning before daylight, and upon Rulloff's complaint that the irons galled his hands Mr. Schutt acceded to his request to remove them. Rulloff was taken to the prison, but this was not accorded. As the omnibus in which Mr. Schutt and Rulloff were seated approached the Clinton House in Ithaca, the streets were instantly crowded with people. The excitement in Ithaca was intense. What might have occurred if it had been permitted to grow, or a word of encouragement had been given, is a matter of speculation. Rulloff was taken in charge by the officers and removed to the jail.

### HIS TRIALS.

Rulloff was tried, not for the murder of his wife, but for abducting his wife and child. He was found guilty and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment at hard labor in the Auburn State Prison. Before that term had expired an indictment was found charging him with the murder of his wife and child. No sooner had the keeper of the State Prison got through with Rulloff's services than the old sheriff of Tompkins county stood ready to grasp him again. He was taken back, tried on an indictment for the murder of his daughter, and found guilty. A bill of exceptions was made by the prisoner, and with his usual astuteness, he contended that having been found guilty of the abduction he should be held liable for the murder of his wife and child. The case was argued on appeal before Justice Balcom, Mason, and Gray, of the Supreme Court. Each delivered an able opinion, but Justice Balcom differed with the other two. He held that no person could be found guilty of murder without the *corpus delicti* being fully proven. He said that, according to all the evidence that had been found, the child might still be living. In 1860 the case came up again before Justice Knox,

who decided that no person could be either convicted or acquitted on a trial which was an application for discharge on habeas corpus, as was the case in the old trial. The prisoner here appeared as counsel for himself, as he had done before. He was sent back to jail, from which he finally freed himself, and started anew on his mysterious and guilty career.

During the trial for murder, a man named Richard K. Swift, of Chicago, came to Ithaca as a witness. By this man it was ascertained that Rulloff had been in Chicago in 1845, and had left some important evidence of his crime behind. It appeared that Rulloff had got short of money in Chicago, and had pawned off his trunk, the one he took from Ithaca. He got \$25 on the trunk, and as he did not return it, was opened. In it was found a lot of books, one of them being a Hooper's Dictionary, marked E. H. Rulloff. There were also a lecture on phrenology and a book of tracts. Rulloff gave his name as John H. Reville to the pawnbroker. This testimony was afterwards very important in identifying the prisoner on the subsequent trial for the second murder.

### HIS PURSUIT AFTER LEAVING THE PRISON.

After freeing himself from prison Rulloff appears to have devoted himself both to science and crime with renewed energy. While serving his sentence in prison he had such an influence over the jailers that he was allowed to take pupils, and one of them, the head jailer's son, he afterwards made the companion of his crimes. The poor boy was led away by the nature scoundrel, and finished his martyrdom while aiding in the perpetration of the robbery which led to the murder for which Rulloff is now sentenced. On leaving the prison he organized a band of thieves and robbers, which operated very successfully for a time. He pursued his philological studies, and in June, 1860, he appeared before an ethnological society in New York for the purpose of explaining a theory of language which he had invented, and which he claimed was a royal road to philological learning. He offered his manuscript to the society if he should receive in return the sum of \$500,000. No purchaser, however, appeared.

### THE FINAL ACT.

A portion of the robber band which Rulloff had organized commenced operations in Binghamton, N. Y., about August 1st. They were a small inland city of about 15,000 inhabitants, with no public patrol either by night or day. Here three of the band, Rulloff, a man named Dexter, and young Jarvis, the jailer's son, attempted to rob a store on the corner of Water Street and the Chenango river, and in the attempt murdered one of the two clerks there employed, who slept upon and were guarding the premises.

About 9:30 o'clock in the morning of August 1st the night clerk of the American Hotel heard the cry of murder, and ran into the street, meeting almost at the door one of the clerks in the employ of Halbert Brothers, named Gilbert S. Burrows, who was frightened or excited, and out of his wits, and said that his fellow-clerk, Frederick W. Mirrieu, had been murdered. The man was so greatly disturbed that hardly anything coherent could be learned from him. As it happened, the Chief of Police (a leader with no followers) was sleeping at the hotel, and was hastily aroused, and started to do so. Here it was 2 o'clock in the morning; there was no regular police to be called out; men were all in bed, so he ran to Fireman's Hall, near by, and set the bells ringing.

The bells rang and the crowd immediately gathered from their beds and gathered at the hall, wondering what all the racket was about. There they learned the news, and instantly formed themselves into bands and went as pickets all about the neighborhood to prevent the escape of the villains. The crowd was large, and almost unbroken. Others went over to the store and there found the body of the murdered boy (he was hardly more than eighteen years old), lying on the floor, shot through the head, and lying in a vacant lot, a little below the sidewalk, so that every body might see the signs of a most terrible struggle. The tops of stools which had been torn from their stands in the desperate fight were scattered about the floor. There were marks of four bullets in the walls and upon the stairs leading to the place where the night clerk had slept. The door was open and cut through with centre-bits. Silks and goods lay strewn upon the floor; but nothing was found of the villains save some bits, and a shoe peculiarly formed.

Through the night the crowd gathered, and it was supposed that the murderers had entered and attempted to ford it, for it was shallow. But there was no trace of them. Morning dawned, and there was a more frightened village than Binghamton when the women and children heard the dreadful news. Business was forgotten, and save for the gathering crowds in the streets, where terrified women with pale lips whispered to each other of the dreadful deed, the city was almost deserted. Boys tried to look untrifled, one might imagine have thought that the day was the Sabbath. The search continued for three days, traces being found here and there, but nothing more. All that the bodies of two drowned men were found in the shallow water, and the faces and bodies of the two were battered and maimed so that they were hardly distinguishable as those of human beings. The boys had dealt them many and heavy blows, and as good a fight as ever occurred before a woman battle had done. On these bodies were found burglar tools and various other articles, showing plainly enough that they had done the work. The two were taken from the stream and laid on boards in a vacant lot, a little below the sidewalk, so that every body might see that morbid curiosity, born of terror and horrible fascination, which leads men and women to crowd to such scenes, brought all the inhabitants of the city to the spot. Women crowded men and children in their arms, and men, too, might have said to tell that they had seen the murderers, whose flight from justice justice itself had arrested.

### THE ARREST.

While the coroner's jury was sitting on the case of these bodies thus found, a man was arrested under most suspicious circumstances. He was one section of the grand jury, and stationed about the city were watching at night they saw this man lurking behind a train of cars, but when the train had passed they were unable to find him. A man who had seen the guards and taken them for a presbytery present on robbing the train, and was sitting in a door at night watching them. He noticed a shadow more deep than was explainable under ordinary circumstances near some outhouses. He approached, pistol in hand, and dragged out an object on the ground, and there it was Rulloff. Being summoned before the coroner's jury, he said that he had never seen the bodies of the drowned men before, nor had he the slightest notion of who they were. He had adopted the plan of appearing as a simple, half-witted person.

Rulloff was permitted to depart, and certainly lost no time in doing so. But before he had left town he was identified by Judge Balcom as a man who, under the name of Edward H. Rulloff, had been tried by him some years before for some crime (at the coroner's inquest the man had given his name as George Williams), and the judge said that if he was really Rulloff he would have a deformed foot. He was arrested about a month after the robbery, and before some crime (at the coroner's inquest the man had given his name as George Williams), and the judge said that if he was really Rulloff he would have a deformed foot. He was arrested about a month after the robbery, and before some crime (at the coroner's inquest the man had given his name as George Williams), and the judge said that if he was really Rulloff he would have a deformed foot.

### THE FINAL TRIAL AND SENTENCE.

The trial was immediately commenced, but it was found very difficult to secure a verdict of guilty, because there was nothing but circumstantial evidence, and this was combated very successfully by the more than keen prisoner, who aided his counsel very materially in his defense. The surviving clerk was able to identify the drowned robbers but not their companion Rulloff, nor could he say which of the three fired the shot. The evidence rested mainly upon the fact which tried the deformed foot. Rulloff having lost a toe by frost. It had been noticed at the coroner's inquest that the man always refused to let one foot be seen, continually putting one forward and keeping the other continued on the second page.