## CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE

stopping me. When I declined, he remarked : "Well, this is bad business, and I realize it as foreibly as you can. If I was rich I should spend my time writing Sunday school bocks and taking care of orphan children, but I can't keep money long enough to enjoy it. 1 and, however, trying to reform. I don't commit one robbery now where I used to commit three, and it really stings my conscience to run off a Government mule. I want to make one big baul, and then I'll live an honest, upright life : indeed, I'll blod myseif to start a reli-glous weekly somewhere f" After some further general talk, he

brought forward a proposition that we should go partners in making the "big hau!" he had alloded to. Numbers of soldiers were being mustered out every week, and most of them received upward of a hundred dollars from the pay-master. Being all from the East, they went home in gangs of from ten to thirty, taking the cars at Weston. To thirty, taking the cars at Weston. To reach Weston from the fort the men had to go three miles up the river, and then cross by ferry boat. Cook's plan was to seize the boat, lock the cabin doors, run the craft up the river a mile or two, and rob the soldiers one by one as they were let out of the cabin. He thought were let out of the cabin. He thought five men would be plenty to do the work, and he kindly offered to let me make one af the number. He seemed to have perfect confidence that I would not "give him away" to the officials, and when I declined his offer he re-flected for a minute, and said : "1" Four days after his yisht to the print-ine office he attempted to carry out the

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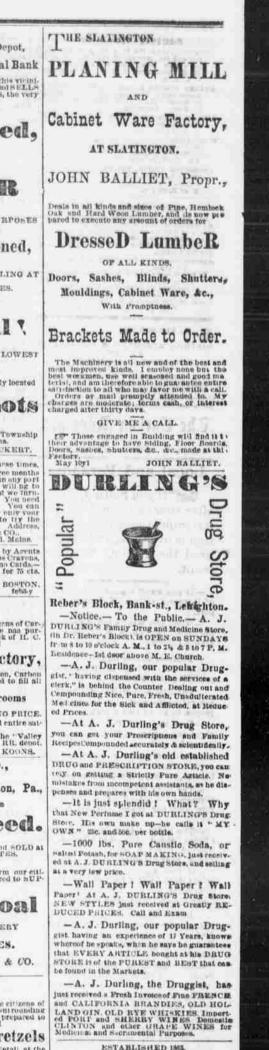
Carriages,

ing office he attempted to carry out the reckless and dangerous project without assistance. As the boat left the Kansas shore just before dusk, the thirteen homeward bound soldiers entered the warm cabin and sat down. Cook lock-ed the door, and then, going up to the wheel house, he presented a revolver at the Captain's head and ordered him to run up stream. It was do or die, and the boat took the new route. The soldiers below scented danger in the move-ment, and breaking down the door they hunted Cook overboard. The water was full of floating ice, but yet he swam 300 feet and escaped the fifty buildes fired from revolvers. I did not see him for two weeks after that. Then he came for two weeks after that. Then he came into the office one day and asked me to take a hand in the robbery of the Pay-master at the post. A ball was to be given in the city next night, and Cook argued that most of the officers at the post would go down. The safe in the Paymaster's office was a small one, and the only guard was a detailed soldier, who acted as clerk and slept in the room where the safe stood This man was to be won over or put out of the way. Cook didn't care which. I told him if he did not at once aban-

don the idea I would certainly give no-tice of his intentions, and likewise gave him to understand that I should not support any of his schemes in any man-Support any of his schemes in any unan-ner, but would, on the contrary, rather aid in bringing him to justice. He agreed to start for St. Louis that very evening, and talked like a man who really meant to do better. But at mid-night the next night he and two others stole the safe, hauled it to the river, and then three miles up stream on ice and then three miles up stream on ice, and broke it open and secured about four-teen thousand dollars in greenbacks. Cook escaped, loosing all his money, while the others were captured, before they had used more than enough to purchase horses with.

Eix months later Cook was leafing around Fort Kcarney, when a soldier identified him. Sixteen cavalry men pursued him as he fled. He was well-armed, and, after riding about ten miles, armed, and, after fiding about ten miles, he dismounted, got sliciter in a buffalo wallow, and it is a plain fact that he beat his pursuers off and took his own time about going. Two or three weeks after that he attempted a train robbery on the St. Jor road, and a year ago a man whom I know was Cook attempted one near Hannibal, having ten men with him, Three or four months ago he wrote me from Fort Scott, Kansas, sending a newspaper item which de-scribed the narrow escape of a horse thief from a party of vigilants. In his





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