

stone residence of the man in question. I had but one alternative, to see him and settle the matter once for all, or to return to my office beaten. For a half hour I walked to and fro before that house. Once I was on the verge of going to the nearest railroad station and buying a ticket for the paternal farm; but I thought better of it, and at length cut the knot by ringing the door bell. A polite servant showed me into his master's library, where I found a middle-aged man writing at a desk.

"Is this Mr. ——?" said I, abruptly.

"I am," said he politely.

"You are the Mr. —— referred to in this notice?" I continued, handing the clipping to him.

"I am," said he, when he had glanced at the slip.

"Are you the Mr. —— who was recently released from Sing Sing?"

He arose from his desk and stared at me. He looked very stern and I thought I saw his hand moving toward a paper weight. Then of a sudden a smile broke out on his face.

"You must be a new man," he said.

"First day," said I.

We had a good laugh together, and he proved to my satisfaction that he was not the man I sought. We parted good friends. The experience was never afterward repeated. I always found a way to avoid such interviews.

Having proved his ability to write simple stories, to judge the value of news and to get at facts, the new reporter generally serves his term in a police court. Here he has a wider field. He is beyond the beck and call of the city editor. The paper is trusting to him to choose from the scores of cases that pass before him each day those that have value as news. Here, too, is his opportunity to break away from the conventional news story and to try his hand at character sketches and dialect. He learns how to persuade the naturally reticent accused that it is to their interest to unbosom themselves that "their side of the story may become known to the public."

By this time our young man is no longer a "journalist." He calls himself a "newspaper man." He has an acquaintance with some hundreds of policemen, he knows the captains of all the police precincts, and all the dive keepers and all the clergymen in the vicinity of the court of which he has become almost an official.