

A Strange Story.

"Are you Dr. Lane, sir?"
"I am."

The question was asked and the answer received by a Mail man one day last week. The reporter had journeyed over the hills and dales of Wyandotte county to see Dr. Lane, and had found him at his residence, not far from the little trading point known as Braman Hill, seven miles from Wyandotte. Dr. Lane had been seen in order that his personal testimony might be secured in regard to a certain case in which he was an actor, the details of which are almost of a supernatural order.

In the summer of 1869 a man named Mitch Cherry lived in Labette county, near to a little town called Elston. Elston was founded by a number of persons who, for the greater part, came from Olathe. The new town was settled by Judge Buris. Elston is now deserted. The site has been turned into fields. Soon after the settlement a dispute arose as to who possessed a title to the land on which Elston was laid out. The town company claimed that they owned the property, while certain persons who claimed to be or were connected with the original owners opposed the town company. Finally the case was brought into court. There it was acrimoniously carried. Mitch Cherry was interested on one side of the case. Among the witnesses, whose testimony was of extreme importance to one side, was the county surveyor, a man named Davidson.

Davidson was a bachelor. He lived about two miles and a half from Elston. One afternoon in summer Davidson was in his field. He saw Cherry approaching. Cherry came up and called Davidson to the fence. Davidson obeyed the summons. After some conversation Davidson made an appointment to meet Cherry in his (Cherry's) house on that evening. About the hour of dusk Davidson entered the house. It was a rough primitive structure. After Davidson had crossed the threshold and had the door closed on him all consciousness of what had passed vanished from him. The next lucid moment that came upon him was five months afterward on the wharf at San Francisco. How he came there he knows not. He came to his senses while being brought to a police station by a policeman. The officer had found Davidson sitting or lying on a pile of goods. Accosting Davidson to know what he did there, the policeman was surprised to find that the man was wandering, disconnected replies, indicative of a disordered mental condition. Then the policeman took the surveyor in charge. It was the shock of arrest that aroused all the latent mental energy of the man. At the station house Davidson told his unaccountable story. He was supposed to be mentally deranged. When found Davidson had no money on his person, and his clothes were worn. He communicated with his friends in Labette county, received money, and returned to his old home, where he now is. Mr. Davidson's health was permanently impaired by the experience through which he had passed. He converses freely on the matter, but does not attempt to explain it. Of the period of time, the five months intervening between the evening on which he entered Cherry's house and the day when he was arrested in San Francisco, he remembers nothing.

Train Robbery.

NEW YORK, September 6.—A daring and well planned train robbery was perpetrated at daylight this morning on the Pennsylvania railroad near Hackensack bridge, three miles from Jersey City. A western bound freight train, in charge of Conductor James Docherty, was boarded by five tramps at the eastern approach of the bridge. The train had stopped at the signal switch before reaching the bridge, when the robbers sprang into the caboose. A desperate encounter took place. Docherty realized the situation and resisted the attack. He was alone at the time, the two brakemen being in the forward part of the train. The tramps knocked him down and demanded the keys. These he refused to give up. He shouted for help, when the men threatened to kill him. His son, who was acting as brakeman, heard his father's call and went to his assistance. As the young man neared the caboose one of the robbers told him to stand off, at the same time firing a revolver at the son. The noise of the shot brought the other brakeman and the fireman of the engine to the scene. Conductor Docherty was all this time struggling with the thieves. When assistance arrived the robbers became frightened and fled. Word was sent to Jersey City for help, and a squad of policemen were detailed to capture the robbers. At 8 o'clock two of them were arrested in a shanty at East Newark by Policeman Speer and Detective Christman of the railway company. Their names are Charles Hendricks and James McGuire, of 213 East Eighteenth street, this city. Young Docherty was dangerously wounded in the hip joint. He was taken on the train to St. Michael's hospital, Newark, where he is now lying in a very low condition. Detectives and policemen are scouring the meadows in search of the other robbers.

A gentleman, his wife and son left their home in a carriage, in Michigan, on

the 10th day of May to visit friends in Paterson, N. J. They were twenty-one days in reaching Bergen County, stopping at hotels over night after each day's journey. They will soon start homeward, changing their route, however, so as to get all the variety possible.

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