BUFFALO'S MYSTERIOUS GUEST.

HUGH COURTENAY ARRAIGNED BEFORE THE POLICE COURT AND DISCHARGED.

The Buffalo *Commercial Advertiser* of Saturday says: "Hugh Courtenay has left the city, and the vexed question of his identity is as far from being satisfactorily settled as ever. We yesterday gave an interesting report of new developments in the case, including the letter of Mr. George A. Haines, of Boston, and the telegram from Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, both of which go to show that Courtenay is Lieut. Conyngham A. Denison, a relative of Baron Londesborough. Superintendent Byrne yesterday afternoon received a second communication from Mr. Haines, inclosing a photograph of Denison, which is a very good likeness of Courtenay. The young man was again taken before the Police Court yesterday afternoon and discharged. His case was called for examination about 3:30, Mr. Benjamin Folsom appearing in his behalf, and Mr. Henry W. Box for Dr. Tuthill, of the Tifft House.

Dr. Tuthill was the first witness called, and testified in substance that Courtenay came to the hotel Jan. 2, and registered as 'Lieut. Courtenay of London.' That when first spoken to about his board-bill, he replied that he expected a remittance from England. The bill, up to last Saturday night, amounted to $325. Witness also testified that he was ready to accept the proposition of Courtenay's friends to settle.

Justice King said Dr. Tuthill had a right to do this, and he [the Justice] had a right to discharge the prisoner under the circumstances. But he held his position for the protection of the public, and he must have some proof that Courtenay was what he represented himself to be, or else he should arraign him as a vagrant.

Mr. Folsom then called as a witness Courtenay's friend and benefactor, Mr. Henry J. Gate, who testified that he became acquainted with Courtenay the day of his arrival here. Mr. Gate then produced two telegrams to Courtenay, one purporting to be from his sister, and the other from his uncle, the Earl of Devon. They were shown to the Justice, and being claimed by the witness and prisoner's counsel as private, were returned to the former. A letter from Mr. Wesley Harper, of Harper Brothers, New-York, was also produced, in which the writer stated that he was a fellow-passenger of Hugh Courtenay on board the steamer Abyssinia last Autumn.

Justice King said he had seen nothing yet to convince him that Courtenay was not a vagrant.

Mr. Box said it was true that he appeared for Dr. Tuthill, but he wished to say on behalf of the prisoner that the charge upon which he had been brought before the court had been dismissed. He would ask the Justice if on any previous occasion when a person had been brought before him under the Hotel law, and the matter had been settled, he had gone beyond that—strained a point—in order to see whether or not he could hold the party for vagrancy. The charge upon which Mr. Courtenay had been brought before the court having been withdrawn, he failed to see why the court should go beyond that in his case more than in any other.

Justice King said the law of vagrancy included idle persons hanging round saloons or hotels. However, it was frequently the custom to order such persons out of town within a certain time. He then told Courtenay to stand up, and asked him who he was. 'Hugh Courtenay,' was the reply. In answer to further questions by the Justice, Courtenay said that he was a relative of the Earl of Devon, was not the son of his game-keeper, and had never been the Earl's valet.

He was then discharged from custody on the understanding that he would leave town within twelve hours. Courtenay appeared quite pleased with the result of the proceedings, and left the court-room with his counsel and Mr. Gate.

Courtenay left for New-York on the late train last night, with the purpose of sailing next Tuesday for Southampton. The necessary funds, it is understood, were furnished him by Mr. Gate. And thus the curtain drops upon a very singular case.

In 'summing up' the case there are two little points which may be stated, as follows: If the young man is really the son of an English gentleman, no matter whether his name is Denison or Courtenay, his experience of the past week has been a severe penalty for his folly and recklessness, and he has doubtless learned a lesson which he will not so on forget. On the other hand, if he is a common impostor, (which we do not believe,) he has learned a lesson of another kind—the necessity hereafter of giving Buffalo a wide berth."

The New York Times
Published: February 28, 1876

A Bogus Lord.

HOW AN ADROIT SWINDLER DUPED PROMINENT AMERICANS UNDER THE MASK OF A TITLE—HIS CAREER AS TOLD BY THE LONDON POLICE.

Superintendent Walling yesterday received from the police authorities of London the following letters relating to an expert swindler who, under the guise of an English nobleman, has floruished in many cities throughout the United States :

No. 4 WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON,
4th MARCH, 1876.

SIR—I have to transmit an abstract giving particulars respecting an imposter who, there is reason to believe, is now or has been lately in the United States, and as he has been in several instances successful in obtaining money from citizens of the United States I think it necessary to forward the information respecting him that you may if you think fit circulate the particulars to the police of the large cities in the States. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

D. LA WALMONDIEU, Assistant Commissioner.

To the Chief of Police, New York.

THE SWINDLER'S HISTORY.

In the London *Times* of Monday, March 23, 1874, appeared the following caution :—

The public are cautioned against a young man who, by wrongfully representing himself to be Hugh Leslie Courtenay, a son of the Hon. and Rev. H. H. Courtenay, has obtained money from various persons in America and London, Paris and the south of France. He also represents that he has been in the English Navy and he has the above name with the letters "R. N." on his luggage. The above facts having come to the knowledge of the said H. H. Courtenay, he hereby cautions the public that the young man is not his son, but an imposter. H. H. COURTENAY.

MAMHEAD, DEVON, March, 1874.

From subsequent inquiries made by the Metropolitan police the following particulars were obtained:

In January, 1874, this man obtained by false pretences a quantity of goods from various tradesmen in London, in one instance by representing that he was acquainted with the son of Mrs. John Hanson Thomas, Baltimore. He stated that he was known to Mr. VanBuren in America (an intimate friend of Mr. Fish), an American gentleman of the firm of Morton, Rose & Co., bankers, London.) Mr. Fish when seen stated that he believed Courtenay to be known in New Orleans and at the Union Club, New York. At the latter place he was believed to have swindled a resident named Maynard, address unknown. Courtenay by false pretences obtained a sum of money from J. J. McKinnon, an American judge, who was a fellow passenger from New York to England, per White Star steamer Republic, in December, 1873. He introduced himself to Mr. McKinnon as the son of the Rev. H. H. Courtnay, of Mambead, Devon, and said that he had recently left Her Majesty's ship Niobe on the North American station. In June, 1874, he appears to have been in Melbourne, and then wrote to the Hon. and Rev. H. Courtenay saying he had assumed his son's name, and had while in America obtained from a Mr. Dombilee the sum of £20. Immediately prior to going to Melbourne he was in Calcutta, representing himself as Lord Courtenay.

In October, 1875, the impostor made his appearance at Savannah, Ga., obtaining introductions to various families there by representing himself as the nephew of Lord Devon. Mr. T. A. F. Whyte, box 79 Post Office, Savannah, apprised his Lordship of this. On February 5th, of the present year, a letter was sent to the Hon. Miss Courtenay, Powderdam Castle, Devon, by Mr. Henry J. Gate, Buffalo, N.Y., saying that Courtenay was there representing himself as the nephew of the Earl of Devon; that he was entirely without means, in debt to his hotel to the amount of £50, and in imminent danger of being arrested and sent to the States Prison as an impostor.

On the 8th of February a letter was sent by Mr. Berkeley Mostyn, of No. 142 East Eighteenth street, New York, to the Earl of Devon, to the effect that in September, 1874, Courtenay and Mr. Mostyn were fellow passengers in the steamship Abyssinia from Queenstown to New York; that during his journey he represented that he was nephew to the Earl and that his father was a clergyman holding livings in Devonshire and Ireland. On reaching New York they parted and Mr. Mostyn saw no more of him until the 2nd of the following November, when he said that he had received a letter summoning him to join his father, who was seriously ill in Ireland, and by this falsehood obtained $60, for which he gave his I O U.

This is not the only instance in which Courtenay has obtained money by the false statement that a dear relative was seriously ill at home and that he had no time to get remittances.

Hugh Leslie Courtenay was of the following description in June 1874:—Age, twenty-one years; height, six feet two inches; slightly built, faint mustache, heavy eyes, bronzed complexion, speaks with American accent, well dressed, gentlemanly appearance. He has stated that he entered the Royal Navy as a midshipman at the age of fourteen years and spent most of his time at sea till attaining the age of twenty-one; that he was on the Galatea in all her cruises under His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh; was stationed in the West Indies and during his naval career performed a long journey through the United States accompanied by his brother officers. No officer of the name of Hugh Leslie Courtenay was borne on the books of the Galatea during her commission, and no one of that name held a commission in the Royal Navy during the period spoken of by him. F. N. WILLIAMSON, Superintendent Detective Department, Metropolitan Police.

March 4, 1876. *N. Y. Herald.*

AN ENGLISH ADVENTURER IN AMERICA.

Despatches to the *New York Herald* relate the tardy running to earth of the notorious English adventurer who, under the pseudonyms of "Lord Courtenay," "Sir Harry Vane Tempest," "Lord Devon," "Lieutenant Dennison," and half-a-dozen other choice titles, has been victimising society right and left for the past ten or twelve years. To give the story from beginning to end, it seems that early last spring a young Englishman who called himself John Reginald Talbot turned up in Newark. Thanks to a strong letter of introduction signed by a well-known New York society man, Talbot gained the *entrée* into some of the best houses in Newark.

A FASCINATING SWINDLER.

His manners were agreeable, he dressed well, and seemed to be well educated. He had evidently travelled a good deal, for he related stories of his adventures in various portions of the globe. He soon became popular among the young people in Newark, and no social gathering there was complete without him. The fact that he was constantly referring to his titled relatives in England did not militate against him, for "he did it in such an unoffending way." His offer to give letters of introduction to England's upper tendom to any Newarker who was going across the water completely disarmed all lurking suspicion that he was other than he pretended to be.

BUT HE WAS FOUND OUT.

A rumour, however was flying about Newark, early this present December, that John Reginald Talbot was none other than Hugh Leslie Courtenay, with many aliases, who has figured in police annals on both sides of the "herring pond." A lady who recently returned from Europe is responsible for the exposure. She thought she recognised Talbot on the street and at Trinity Church as a "Lord Courtenay" whom she met on an ocean steamer in 1875. She communicated her suspicions to a friend, an investigation was instituted, and in Inspector Byrnes' office was found a photograph which was recognised as being that of Talbot.

AND HIS POLICE RECORD TRACED.

On the back of the photograph the following record appears:—"No. 1,370; name, Hugh P. Courtenay; alias, Lord Devon; crime, forgery; age, twenty-five; colour, white; birthplace, England; read, yes; write, yes; married, no; build, slim; height, six feet two inches; weight, 154; hair, light brown; eyes, gray; nose, regular; face, thin; complexion, ruddy; arrested by Officer Dusenberry; date, November 30, 1880; remarks, three moles on left forearm." Inspector Byrnes told the gentleman who was investigating the case that he would send a detective to Newark, who knew Courtenay, to see if he and Talbot were the same man. As the gentleman was leaving, he told the inspector that he and Talbot went a few weeks ago into the Hoffman House, where Talbot introduced him to a man who he said was one of Inspector Byrnes's staff. This turned out to be the officer who arrested Courtenay.

A PROTEAN HEART-BREAKER.

Talbot entered America under the name of Arundel in 1874, when the Scotland Yard police sent his photograph and description to the New York authorities. In the fall of 1875 he first showed up in his crooked work in this country at Toronto. In Detroit he was Lieutenant Dennison, of Her Majesty's Sixty-fourth Regiment, and in Rochester Ray Reid. Toward the close of the year he was found at the Tift House in Buffalo as Lord Courtenay, son of the Earl of Devon. He borrowed money right and left on prospective remittances from England. While in Buffalo he became engaged to a young lady, and the engagement was only broken when his true character came to light in the Buffalo Jail. He then went to Europe, and returned in September, 1879, under the name of Hugh Courtenay. On the steamer he became acquainted with a Mrs Floyd, of Philadelphia. When the steamer reached the wharf in this city, Mrs Floyd went ashore, carrying a satchel which contained money and diamonds worth several thousand dollars. "Courtenay" politely relieved Mrs Floyd of the satchel, and disappeared with it.

SOME TASTY LITTLE VENTURES.

On August 10, 1880, under the name of Marcus De La Poer Beresford, he presented at the Loudon Bank, Salt Lake City, a draft for £150 on the firm of Ransom, Bouverie and Co. He was given 200 dols. in money and a draft for 470 dols. on Morton, Bliss and Co., the New York agents. It was soon discovered that this cheque was a forgery, but he had left the city, and was not heard from again until November 30, when one of Inspector Byrne's men met him on Astor-place. He was locked up to await the action of the Salt Lake City authorities. At the same time a charge of obtaining money under false pretences was brought against him by Albert G. P. Speyers, a Broad-street broker, from whom he obtained 100 dols. on the pretence of being an English lord about to return to England. The name he had then borrowed was that of Mr Charles Pelham Clinton.

"WILL TAKE YOU IN."

Talbot was subsequently taken to the Jefferson Market police-court, where he was identified by many people as the man who had swindled them under different aliases. It came out that he was known in San Francisco as Sir Harry Vane Tempest, and at Portland, Me., as Lieutenant Dennison. At the last named place he gave away many photographs of himself, taken in the uniform of an English officer, with the following verse at the back—

The Bible is my engineer,
It points the road to heaven,
If you'll repent and turn from sin,
The train will surely take you in.

In Boston he was Sir Hugh Courtenay. In Richmond, Va., he was Pelham Clinton. At Galveston, Texas, Charles Claude Montague Bertie. At Buffalo, Robert Raymond Arundel. As Charles Pelham Clinton he is wanted in Montreal, Canada, for a little confidence game there.