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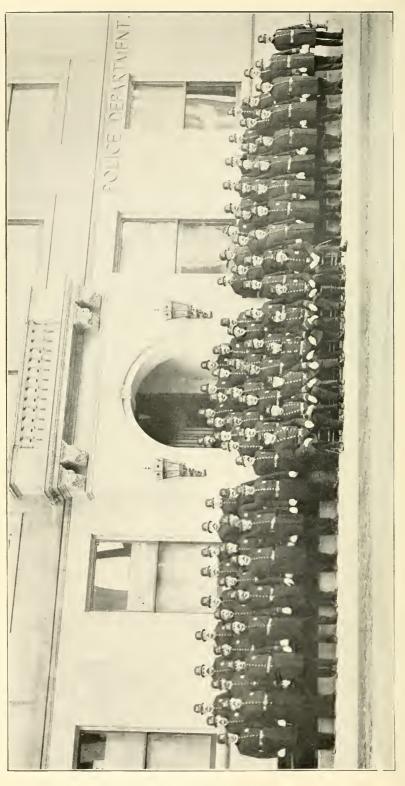
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## HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

# Police Service of Hartford

From 1636 to 1901

### FROM AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES.

THE POLICE FORCE OF TO-DAY.

WITH REMINISCENCES OF THE PAST, INCLUDING SOME NOTES OF IMPORTANT CASES.

By THOMAS S. WEAVER.

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HARTFORD, 1901.



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#### CHAPTER I.

#### THE FIRST CENTURY.

Samuel Wakeman, Constable, the First Police Officer — Duty, Caring for Lost Animals and Lying Children — First Prison House Built for Ten Pounds — Protection Against Indians and Wild Animals.

THE pioneers of Hartford, under the lead of the Rev. Thomas Hooker, were on the ground and beginning preparations for the coming winter, November 9, 1635. The little group of settlers were God-fearing men and women, brought into the wilderness of those days expressly to lead the sort of religious life they chose, and such a community did not feel the need of a police officer. So it happened that there was no officer of the law in Hartford until April 26, 1636, not quite six months after the settlement. Then it was that, in connection with other officers of the new settlement. Samuel Wakeman was chosen constable, and he was the first man to do police duty in Hartford. His duties were not largely connected with caring for the criminal class, for there was none, but in viewing fences, in carrying out orders of the Selectmen, and in seeing that public worship was not disturbed either on Sundays or "lecture" days he was kept fairly busy. The office was by no means deemed to be of small importance, and the oath he took before entering upon his official duties was most solemn and impressive. It read:

"In the Great and Dreadful Name of the Everliving God, I hereby solemnly swear to preserve the Publyke Peace of this said place and Commonwealth and will doe my best endeavour to see all watches and wards executed and to obey and execute



POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

all lawful commands or warrants that may come from any magistrate or court, so help me God in the Lord Jesus Christ."

It was not possible, however, for Samuel Wakeman to preserve order among Indians, and during the very year he was appointed constable a vote was passed to this effect:

"It is ordered that there shall be a guard of men to attend with arms fixed and two shots of powder and shot at every public meeting for religious use with two serfants to see over the same."

Thus it was that the forefathers protected themselves from outside interference by Indians, while Samuel Wakeman, constable, cared for the civic disturbances, such as they might be. Constable Wakeman had some duties to perform which would be decidedly novel to the average policeman of these days. If any person appeared in excess of apparel it was his duty to warn such person to appear before the court, where he would either be fined or reprimanded. He was also under orders to look after all unemployed persons who would not work at rates fixed by the town and see that they were imprisoned, quarters having been provided for them. The community of Hartford in those early days was essentially socialistic, and would be called so in these days, and fixed rates of wages were maintained by the town, and no man could refuse to work for the price and no man could refuse to pay the price to those he employed without incurring the displeasure of the court and receiving punishment. It was no era of idleness, and there was something doing all the time. The early records have many regulations about stray cattle and hogs, and about fences, and the early constables had fully as much to do in the line of warning owners of these animals to care for them and seeing that fences were kept to the proper state as prescribed by the law-making body as in any other line of duty.

It was the duty of the constables of those early days to see that lying children received due correction at the hands of their



PHOTO. BY STUART.
"SQUIRE" BENNING MANN.

Justice of the Town Court.

parents, or to refer their "grievous crime" to the authorities; to collect five shillings fine from all persons who remained away from church; to bring all persons to the magistrate who contemned God's word or His messengers, where they were to be fined five pounds and required to stand upon a block or stand, four feet high, upon a "lecture day" with a paper affixed, saying "An Open and Obstinate contemner of God's Holy Word."

Whipping was a common resort for minor offenses, and it was done at the cart's tail upon a "lecture day," that is, a day other than Sunday during which there was religious instruction. The constables were not required to do the whipping, however, the punishment being inflicted by those who had been publicly corrected themselves. They did not set rogues to catching rogues, but rogues whipped other rogues and probably enjoyed it and considered it as a rebate for some of their own punishments.

Branding was a common form of punishment, and those who were detected and convicted of burglary or robbery in fields or highways had a letter "B" branded upon them, the "Scarlet Letter." If the crime was committed on a Lord's day the criminal was to lose an ear; a second offense entailed the loss of the other ear, and a third offense was punishable with death. Forgery was punishable by the pillory or stocks, and profane swearing by a fine of ten shillings or by punishment in the stocks.

Notwithstanding the great number of petty offenses, which would not be considered as crimes in these times, the community of Hartford did not feel the necessity of a jail until 1640, when a prison house or place of correction was ordered built, and William Rescew received ten pounds sterling for building it. It stood not far from what is now the southeast corner of State and Market Streets, probably on part of what is now the site of the American Hotel. Daniel Garrett was the first jailer.



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ELIPHALET A. BULKELEY.
The First Police Judge in Hartford.

It was necessary in those first years to have special officers to perform police duty in ridding the section of wild animals, and in 1639 Nathaniel Ely and Thomas Hosmer were appointed to "improve men for the killing of woolfs, either by hunting or shotting," and in 1640 Learance Woodward was authorized to "spend his time about killing wolfes," and he was to receive four shillings and sixpense a week for his encouragement, "but if he kill a deer we are to have it at two pense a pound."

The constables were in charge of the "watch" in those days, which was of a different character from the "watch" of later years. It was the duty of the watch not to remain up all night and to assist in preserving order, but to be awake at an early hour and, by the ringing of a bell, to awaken all the householders in the community, and if a light was not seen in any house that had been thus aroused by the bell within half an hour thereafter the householder was subject to a penalty. This made the people an "early-to-rise" community and gave them opportunity to set about their daily toil in ample season to perform a good day's work, winter or summer.

Such were the general conditions of early Hartford and its needs of men to perform police duty, and the first century of the town's existence went on in much the same way. Police duty, not then known as such, was performed by constables, the many laws which tended "to the improvement" were executed by them, the courts caring for the offenders after the constables had presented them. It was on the whole a quiet community, but there was a great deal to do in keeping that peculiar and strict order for which our forefathers were noted.



JUDGE THOMAS McMANUS.

The only surviving member of the first Police Board.

#### CHAPTER II.

#### SECOND CENTURY.

Watch and Patrol to Guard Against Fires — No Powers of Police Mentioned in the First City Charter — Wards and Watches Established in 1707 — First Systematized Effort to Patrol the City.

There is no indication in the records of the second century that the Hartford people felt the need of any further police duty than that afforded by the constables. The French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War, with all the agitation preceding and coming after them, occupied the attention of the people to the utmost, and local affairs cared for themselves very well. At public executions the train bands or militia were called out to preserve order, and on occasions of state these train bands did much the same service that our police of these days performs.

The first charter of incorporation of Hartford as a city, in May. 1784, made no mention of the powers appertaining to a police. The town, which held its power in such matters, continued to elect constables, and they were the officers of the law, for both town and city. There was, however, a City Court organized, and the mayor and two aldermen were constituted its judges. Civic cases came before them. There was a great fear of fires, probably on account of prevailing wooden construction of buildings and of the lack of means to extinguish fires. Consequently steps were taken to organize a "watch" to patrol the city from 10 o'clock at night until 5 o'clock in the morning, "to look out for fires and for suspicious persons." This was the first organized force of men to perform patrol duty in the city.

It was at the State House on March 6, 1797, that the Court



ALBERT C. BILL.

Present Judge of the Police Court.

of Common Council, with Jeremiah Wadsworth, senior alderman, presiding, appointed Major Thomas Y. Seymour and Ephraim Root a committee to draft a by-law for "Wards and Watches." Later in the same day, the committee having performed its duties, the adjourned Court of Common Council met at the house of Joseph Pratt, innholder, and there, amid the genial surroundings of a public house of those times, and undoubtedly cheered and invigorated by such refreshments as this famous landlord knew how to provide, the following by-law was passed:

"A by-law regulating Wards and Watches.

"Be it enacted by the Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council, and Freemen of the City of Hartford in legal meeting assembled:

"That the Court of Common Council for the city of Hartford have power and they are hereby directed as soon as may be to inroll all such male inhabitants of said city who in their opinions are suitable persons to stand watch.

"And the said Court of Common Council shall have power and are hereby directed to divide said city into watch wards, and to appoint officers of the wards and to give said officers such orders as they shall deem necessary.

"And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Court of Common Council shall have authority by themselves or to empower officers of the wards to call out said inrolled inhabitants, at such times, in such mode and number as the said council shall judge expedient, to serve as watchmen within said city.

"And the said Court of Common Council shall have power and authority to make regulations to enable the watch to take up all persons that are out of their houses after certain times of the night, under such restrictions and exceptions as the said Common Council may deem expedient, and to make all other provisions and regulations for the security of said city that said council may deem necessary.

"And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, if any person shall refuse to stand watch when called upon by the said



PHOTO. BY STUART.

WALTER P. CHAMBERLAIN.

Chief of Police from 1860 to 1871, and 1875 to 1881.

Council, or by the officers of the watch wards, under the order of said Council, or to procure a substitute to the satisfaction of the officers of the watch wards, he shall forfeit to said city the sum of one dollar and fifty cents to be recovered by the attorney of said city and applied to the purpose of hiring a watch.

"And all the regulations and orders of the said Common Council made by them under authority given them by law shall be binding and obligatory on all persons living and being in this city."

This action evidently met with the approval of the citizens, as on March 11, following, the Court of Common Council voted to appoint a watch against fire, of four persons. George Goodwin, Timothy Burr, Thomas Y. Seymour, Enoch Perkins, and Daniel Jones were appointed a committee to district the city into four watch wards, and to bring in the names of officers of the wards.

The watch wards were divided as follows:

First ward to be made up of fire wards Nos. 1, 2, and 3.

Second ward to be made up of fire wards Nos. 4 and 5.

Third ward to be made up of fire wards Nos. 6 and 7.

Fourth ward to be made up of fire wards Nos. 8, 9, and 10.

The officers of the wards were James Pratt, Ezekiel Williams, Ashbel Wells, and Richard Butler. They did not perform continuous duty themselves, but drew on the inhabitants, one from each watch ward every night in the week, and from 10 o'clock at night until 5 o'clock in the morning the streets of the city were patrolled. The inhabitants were drawn upon in alphabetical order.

The instructions to the watch were that it repair to the State House and from thence alternately to patrol the several streets carefully and vigilantly, attending to every unusual or extraordinary indications of fire. Any person or persons committing any act to expose the city to danger from fire were to be apprehended and brought before the civil authority, and in case of fire the watch was instructed to call out all the inhabitants.



CALEB L. PACKARD.

Chief of Polics from 1871 to 1875, and 1881 to 1893.

This was the first systematized effort to patrol the city and, while the real object was to prevent fires, the duty was as strictly police duty as that of any of the patrolmen of to-day. It is not at all certain that this patrol was altogether effective, as during the succeeding years the Common Council was often called upon to enact more stringent by-laws to aid in the prevention of fires.



CHARLES D. NOTT,

Captain of the Police Force from 1860 to 1871.

#### CHAPTER III.

#### THE NEW WATCH.

It was to Preserve Order as well as to Look Out for Fires — Wore Long Cloaks and Carried Staff and Lantern — Offenders Handed Over to Deputy Sheriff — Pay \$1 Per Night.

THE watch as provided by the by-law quoted in the last chapter continued in effective service until 1801, when the Court of Common Council, on April 16 of that year, repealed the by-law and enacted a new one, which was broader in its scope and was intended to establish a watch at night for the purposes of preserving order as well as keeping a lookout for fires. This ordinance or by-law was as follows:

- "A By-Law relative to Wards and Watches.
- "I. Be it ordained by the Mayor, Alderman, Common Council, and Freemen of city of Hartford. That the Court of Common Council of said city be, and they hereby are, authorized and empowered to cause a Watch to be kept in and for said city, from time to time, and for such length of time, as said Court of Common Council shall deem requisite for the safety of said city; and for the purpose aforesaid, to cause suitable persons to be employed as Watchmen, at the expense of said city.
- "2. And be it further ordained, That said Court of Common Council be authorized, from time to time, to appoint one or more Watch Wardens, whose duty it shall be to superintend the Watch, and cause the same to be faithfully kept, in such manner, and according to such regulations, as said Court of Common Council shall prescribe.
- "3. And be it further ordered, That said Court of Common Council shall have power and authority to make regulations to enable the Watch to take up all persons that are out of their

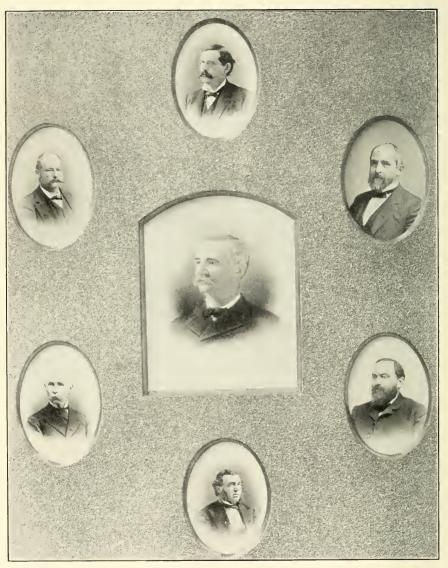


PHOTO. BY STUART.

WILLIAM H. HART. THOMAS GALVIN.

GEORGE ELLIS.

MORGAN G. BULKELEY.
Mayor.

DAVID A. ROOD.

G. WELLS ROOT.
STEPHEN G. GOODRICH.

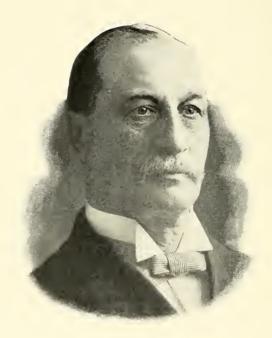
The Mayor and Board of Police Commissioners in 1883.

houses after certain times of the night, under such restrictions and exceptions as the said Court of Common Council may deem expedient; and to make all other provisions and regulations relative to Watches for the security of said city, that said Council may deem necessary.

- "4. And be it further ordained, That if any watchman shall neglect faithfully to keep Watch according to the regulations to be prescribed by said Court of Common Council; such Watchman shall, for every instance of such neglect, forfeit and pay a fine of Two Dollars, to the Treasurer of said city, for the use of said city.
- "5. And be it further ordained, That all expenses that shall be incurred in carrying this By-Law into effect, shall be defrayed by said city, out of taxes assessed and raised according to the regulations of a By-Law entitled 'A By-Law relative to the mode of taxation.'
- "6. And be it further ordained, That the By-Law heretofore made, entitled 'A By-Law regulating Wards and Watches,' be, and the same is, hereby repealed.
  - " Passed in Court of Common Council, April 16, 1801.
- "At a legal meeting of the Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council, and Freemen of the city of Hartford, holden at the State-House in said city, on the 16th day of April, 1801, the foregoing By-Law was read and approved."

The watch as organized under this by-law continued to be the protection of the city for many years, and there are those living, and many of them, who remember these patrolmen as they moved about the streets at night wearing long cloaks, carrying a heavy staff and a lantern, and usually accompanied by a large dog. These men received \$1 per night compensation for their services and were really the first organized and paid patrolmen.

Although the watch as organized in 1801 was on a somewhat different basis from that first organized, it was particularly for the purpose of guarding against fires. It was not until 1812 that the men of the watch were instructed to arrest all offenders



 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Hon}}.$  ALEXANDER HARBISON.  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Mayor}}.$ 

and hand them over to the deputy sheriff or constable. The pay, as we have seen, was \$1 per night, but there were only twelve pay nights in the year, all suitable citizens having to perform duty or provide a substitute. So many citizens did not care to serve as watchmen that they readily contributed their \$12 yearly to some other person, so that it came about that the watch duty was performed by a limited number of men, who depended upon others, and upon voluntary subscriptions and fines for non-attendance to watch duty, for their pay. In 1820 the watch was increased to five men and Jeremy Hoadley was the captain, that is, the man who directed the movements of the watch and saw that a sufficient number of men were assigned each night.



THOMAS A. SMITH.
Police Commissioner.

#### CHAPTER IV.

#### THE FIRST LOCKUP.

Jonathan Hartshorn and His Dog — Curiew Law in Force and All Persons Out after Ten O'Clock at Night Sent to Lockup — Negro Riot in 1824 — \$5 Awarded to an Officer for Bravery, Refused.

THE first lockup was on Meeting House Square, now City Hall Square, but for some years such lockup as there was was in the rear of Jeremy Hoadley's shop, where he made hats. On the morning after arrest the offenders were arraigned before justices of the peace and fined or sent to the county jail, as was deemed best.

Police justices had jurisdiction in minor criminal cases until the establishment of the Police Court in 1851, and grand jurors continued to be the prosecuting officers until a prosecuting attorney was appointed, no longer ago than 1875. The voluntary system of paying for the watch continued until 1822, when the city laid a one mill tax to defray its expenses.

In 1826 the captain of the watch was Jonathan Hartshorn, and he was noted for owning a remarkable dog with the singular name of "Argus," or the spy. This dog seemed to have a gift for police duty, and on one occasion discovered a person in a Main Street alleyway who appeared to be of a suspicious nature. Examination proved the person to be a woman in male attire who had escaped from the State Prison at Wethersfield. She was promptly returned and the dog received the credit for the capture and was regarded as a wonderful animal. "Argus" was afterwards poisoned by some one who failed to appreciate his sagacity; it is supposed by some offender he had detected in some way or other.



ISIDORE WISE,
Police Commissioner.

The powers of the watchman were often arbitrary, and he administered punishment summarily without the interference of a justice of the peace. Josiah Hempstead, who performed day duty only about this time, would arrest some unfortunate, shiftless fellow and, handing him over to a constable or deputy sheriff, would say: "Take him to the workhouse for forty days." This was decidedly summary but also very effective, and the miscreants kept well out of Josiah's way. Curfew tolled at 9 o'clock in the evening and persons out of doors after 10, unless they could give some good excuse, were detained in the lockup until morning. A good excuse was, going for the doctor, returning from other towns, or the necessity of business operations. No other excuses would serve the purpose.

Jonathan Hartshorn, who is mentioned as captain of the watch in 1826, was also entrusted with the guardianship of a negro named Cæsar who was to be hanged for murder. During the night previous to the day set for the hanging, the negro broke out of his cell and, with a heavy iron bar wrenched from his cell door, was in the corridor of the jail, determined to escape. He attempted an attack on Hartshorn, but the captain was a man of splendid nerve and absolutely fearless. He advanced towards the negro and in a stern voice commanded him "Don't you strike! Put down that bar!" The negro hesitated for a moment, quailed, dropped the bar, and was taken back to his cell. For this deed of bravery the city voted Captain Hartshorn the sum of \$5, which he refused to accept, returning it to the treasury, saving that he had but done his duty. Such was the character of men who performed police duty in the early part of the century, fearless, and having a high consciousness of their duty to the public peace.

One of the interesting and sensational occurrences connected with the watch was in 1824, when a negro riot of considerable dimensions occurred in "New Guinea," a locality near



JAMES J. QUINN.
Police Commissioner.

the corner of Front and Morgan Streets. A member of the colored community had in some fracas shot a carpenter's apprentice, named Rial Peaster, in the back, so that he died a few days after. The apprentices raided the house, the negroes resented it, and there was a great disturbance. Gaius Lyman, who was a justice of the peace, read the riot act from the steps of his house, but it had no effect in quelling the disturbance, and the First Company, Governor's Foot Guard, was called out to prevent further outbreak. The Guard remained on duty a day and a night, and, although the apprentices tore down a soap house in the vicinity, owned by negroes, no further damage was done. A negro was arrested for the crime of shooting Peaster, but nothing could be proved against him and the excitement died out.



PHOTO, BY STUART.

EDWARD MAHL.
Police Commissioner.

### CHAPTER V.

# OLD CITY HALL BASEMENT.

Used as a Lockup in 1830 — Prisoners Often Made a Night of It — Reorganization of the Force with Twenty-five Cents per Day Additional Pay — Insignia of Office — Old Time Toughs.

The transfer of the watch to the present police location on Market Street was effected after the building of the old City Hall, which stood on the site of the present police department building, although for some time after the present department was organized the offices of the chief, captain, and lieutenant and the rooms devoted to the policemen were in buildings on Main Street, first in the Union Hall building, corner of Main and Pearl, and afterwards in a building on the corner of Main and Kinsley Streets.

The old City Hall was built in 1830. The land upon which it was built was owned by Christ Church, and it was the intention of that organization to build its church upon it, but there arose a great difference of opinion as to the propriety of the site, and when the city was looking for land upon which to build its first public building the church readily sold the tract and afterwards purchased the site at the corner of Main and Church Streets, where the present Christ Church now stands.

The basement of the City Hall was used as a lockup, the first section being devoted to the purpose having been the gloomy room on the northeast corner, afterwards known as the morgue. It was to this lockup that offenders were taken after arrest, the watch making the arrest returning to his patrol duty. There was a stove in the room for use in the winter, and the prisoners kept warm and enjoyed themselves as best they could



CHARLES G. HUNTINGTON.
Police Commissioner.

under the circumstances. Often when two or three hale fellows well met were confined they made quite a night of it and were much more comfortable than they had been roaming about the streets seeking for mischief to do.

In 1835 there was a reorganization of the watch, more men were put upon patrol duty and the pay was increased to \$1.25 per night. The lockup was transferred from what afterwards became the morgue to the basement room in the south end of the City Hall, afterwards used by the present police department as stables for the patrol wagon, ambulance, and horses. In 1856 the lockup was divided into four cells and so continued in form until 1860. If women were arrested they were detained in the office of the captain of the watch.

In 1837 Westell Russell, afterwards sheriff of the county, was captain of the watch, and his assistants were Watchmen Brockway, Friend, and Holmes. Later, Walter P. Chamberlain was at the head of the watch and had Charles D. Nott and an officer named Wilmoth in addition to the others. The watch met at City Hall Square each night when going on duty and went out in couples. Two left Exchange corner and, going up Main Street, made the turn at the corner of Pleasant Street and, returning, came down upon the west side of the street as far as the Little River Bridge and back again to Exchange corner. The other two went down State Street to Commerce, to Ferry, to the old Deane Tavern, to Morgan and Front, and back through Front Street to State Street to Exchange corner again. During the night the watch rounded up for lunch at the lockup on Kinsley Street. It was then the custom for the watch to rap upon the sidewalk, at given points, with their night sticks, which signified "All's well." This was discontinued after a time, as it gave evil doers knowledge of the whereabouts of the officers and opportunity to commit depredations while the watch was patrolling other parts of the city.



THEODORE NEWTON.
Police Commissioner.

There was no attempt whatever to uniform the watch. They patroled in citizen's dress, well protected from the weather at night, usually carried lanterns and long staffs or "night sticks." After a time each man was permitted to wear a number on his hat, and late in the fifties a many-pointed silver star with the word "Police" in its center was adopted and was the only insignia of office.

The city was indeed much smaller than now, but the little force of night men had all they cared to do in preserving order. A totally different class of men constituted the rough element in those days from that which constitutes it to-day.

Hartford was engaged in commerce by water as it is not now, railroads having made a great change. The river front was often lined with schooners from the West Indies with sugar, rum, and other goods which were in demand, and besides this, in the open season of the year there was a continual procession of lumber rafts from Vermont and New Hampshire forests, bringing down timber which was not only used in this locality but rafted to New York and to other points along the coast. The sailors on the West India fleet and the raftsmen from the upper states were of a hardy but rough sort, and it was often difficult to keep them within bounds. They were given to liquor, and the rum on the fleet was often tapped in the interest of a night's carousal, and between these two classes of rivermen the watch was often busy all night long bringing men into the lockup for misdemeanors.

The east side was particularly lively, as it was in that section that the public houses were located, and it was in them and about the river front where the greater part of the disturbances occurred. It became manifest in the later fifties that the system of watch was wholly inadequate to care for the public peace of the city, matters were going from bad to worse, and although the watch performed its duties as well as possible, the



PHOTO BY STUART.

GEO. N. HOLCOMBE.

Secretary Police Commissioners.

lack of a strongly organized force, with a sufficient number of men to preserve order, led to the final abandonment of the system and the substitution of the present police department, which is to-day very much upon the original lines laid down in the first ordinance providing for its organization.



PHOTO. BY STUART.

CAPTAIN GEORGE F. BILL.

Chief of Police.

## CHAPTER VI.

## PRESENT SYSTEM ORGANIZED.

Council of 1860 Elected With This in View — First Board of Commissioners Come to Grief — Walter P. Chamberlain Elected Chief — Salaries of the Force — Attempt to Place Force in Hands of State.

THE City Council for 1860 was elected with the understanding that some measures should be taken for the organization of a police force in accordance with modern and approved plans. The need of it had been long felt, and immediately after the organization of the Council, Mayor Henry C. Deming being the presiding officer, steps were taken towards preparing an ordinance for the establishment of a police. Of those who were interested in the preparation, only one person is now living, Judge Thomas McManus, recently recorder of the City Court, and a Grand Army veteran well known in all parts of the country. Two ordinances were drafted and submitted to the Council, one by Goodwin Collier, who had already served upon the bench of the Police Court, and by Judge McManus, then a young lawver; and one by David F. Robinson, then the leading lawver of the city and a man of prominence in affairs of the city and state

The aldermen and councilmen did not agree upon either of these drafts, and as a result of this disagreement a compromise was reached by combining the two ordinances, saving from each the features that were thought to have value. After much discussion and several hold-ups by the two boards, the re-drafted ordinance was adopted and, in accordance with its provisions, commissioners were appointed, taking office July 6, 1860. They were Elisha Johnson, Andrew D. Euson, David F. Robinson.



CORNELIUS RYAN,

Captain.

Treasurer Hartford Police Mutual Aid Association.

Goodwin Collier, James B. Shultas, and Thomas McManus. Mayor Deming presided over the board by virtue of his position as mayor. The first meeting of the commissioners was held in Union Hall building, corner of Main and Pearl Streets, and the only business transacted was the drawing of cuts for long and short terms. The long term was three years, and it became necessary that there should be in the first board three classes of commissioners as to length of term. Thomas Me-Manus was one of the short term or one-year men. The members of the Council were so restricted in their votes that it was impossible for the board to be a partisan one, three Democrats and three Republicans being chosen. The Republicans were David F. Robinson, James B. Shultas, Andrew D. Euson, and the Democrats were Elisha Johnson, Goodwin Collier, and Thomas McManus. It was agreed that the Republican commissioners should present to the commission a list of such Republicans as they deemed suitable to serve as policemen, and the Democrats were to present a list of Democrats for police service

The result was that two very long lists came up at the meeting of the commissioners which was to make the appointments. The Republicans handed their list to the Democrats and the Democrats handed their list to the Republicans. The Democrats scratched from the Republican list such names as they would not vote for, and the Republicans treated the list of the Democrats in the same manner, and after the weeding out process had gone so far, the lists were materially reduced. From these lists thus reduced, sixteen policemen were selected, as follows: Horace Billings, Isaac B. Sanderson, Caleb L. Packard, Loren Sidney Cowles, Nathaniel Cushman, William Wallace Hunt, George B. Carey, Arad Benjamin, Horatio F. Teel, William Havens, F. H. Kunze, Elias Litchfield, Lewis Jackson, James R. Sloan, Andrew H. Peck, Henry G. Kilbourn.



WILLIAM F. GUNN.
Lieutenant.

The commissioners then elected Walter P. Chamberlain chief of police, and Charles D. Nott captain. The chief was a Democrat and the captain was a Republican. When it came to the election of a lieutenant there was a division and no choice could be made. Each of the political parties were represented on the official staff, and how to choose the third member without giving it a political bias was a question which the commissioners were unable to decide. Commissioner McManus, after a few days, suggested the name of Charles Brewster for lieutenant, and talked with some of the Republican members of the commission about his name being presented at a meeting of the board. Brewster was a Republican who was well liked, an employee of the Hartford & New Haven road, and in many ways fitted for the place. The name was presented and Brewster was unanimously chosen lieutenant. The force went into service July 11, 1860. The patrolmen were in citizen's dress for the first few weeks, the uniforms not having been made. When the uniforms were donned and the police appeared upon the streets with them on they attracted a great deal of attention, men, women, and children following them up and down the streets as if they were natural curiosities. The establishment of the force justified itself before the close of the year. The increased number of men, over the watch, the better defined round of duties, and the general fear of the force resulted in a great decrease in the number of arrests and the saving of money to the city. The officers of the force received salaries as follows: Chief of police, \$800; captain, \$650; lieutenant, \$650; and the patrolmen received \$600 annually.

The first board of commissioners came to grief in 1861. There was a row on the east side and, as Commissioner Mc-Manus says, a man named John Bresnihan "did what no Irishman is ever justified in doing." He interfered in the fight and the row became general. Policemen Sidney Cowles and John

Senior were sent to the scene of the row, and the trouble was of a character that called for the liberal use of the club. Bresnihan, who was never a principal in the fight, but who was a quiet, well-meaning citizen, was clubbed over the head so severely that he died two days after. There was intense excitement in the city, and the friends of Bresnihan were well supported by the public and reprisals were demanded in the shape of the dismissal of the policemen from the force. The commissioners investigated the case of the men and found that they were justified in using harsh measures, and the policemen were retained on the force, to the intense disgust of the Bresnihan coterie. The result was that the matter was taken to the Court of Common Council and the entire board was legislated out of office.

The change brought about resulted in the following commission: Alonzo W. Birge, Mathew M. Merriman, James B. Crosby, James L. Howard, James B. Powell, and Andrew D. Euson, the last two named having been on the old commission, Powell having been appointed in place of Shultas.

The first fiscal year of the new police force ended in April, 1861, and was for nine months only. During that period the police had made 1,432 arrests, of which 834 were for drunkenness, 101 for theft, 207 for breaches of the peace, and 15 for assaults and other offenses.

The war broke out shortly after this, and Lieutenant Brewster of the force was given leave of absence to enter the service. going out with the three-months men. He afterwards reenlisted and served throughout the war, and on his return entered the police service as a patrolman, remaining for many years. When Lieutenant Brewster went to the war, George B. Carey was chosen lieutenant, but he only served a little less than a year. Caleb L. Packard, afterwards chief of police for many years, was appointed lieutenant in 1862.

The office of the force was No. 289 Main Street, Union Hall

47

building, corner of Main and Pearl Streets, but the lockup was in the basement of the City Hall building.

In 1863, salaries were increased and the list was as follows: Chief of police, \$1,000; captain, \$850; lieutenant, \$750; twenty-two patrolmen at \$700 each, and twenty supernumeraries at \$1.90 per day when on duty.

Politics ran very high in 1862 and there was an attempt on the part of some of the Republicans of the city to take the appointing power from the commissioners and place it in the hands of a board chosen by the State Legislature. The city was strongly Democratic and the state was Republican. Several hearings were had in the old State House, Charles Chapman appearing for the city. The testimony and arguments against the proposed change were so strong that an adverse report was presented to the Legislature and the scheme was dropped, never to appear again.



WALTER W. SMITH,

Detective Sergeant.

### CHAPTER VII.

#### THE POLICE COMMISSION.

Powers Over the Force are Absolute Except as to Appropriations— List of Prominent Citizens who Have Served on the Board—Mayors who Have Presided Over the Commission.

THE police commissioners by ordinance have absolute power over the police force, except that for the necessary funds to carry on its operations it is dependent upon the Court of Common Council. Thus it happens that new equipments, such as buildings, patrol wagons, horses, and all increases of the force, must be approved by the Common Council, because of the additional money needed. The board of commissioners appoints the chief, captain, lieutenant, the sergeants and detectives, and has a general oversight over the conduct of the force. During the forty years of the existence of the police force, many of the best-known and ablest citizens of Hartford have been called upon to serve on the board of police commissioners, and it is of interest to look over the lists and see what manner of men they were. All of them are remembered by persons now living, and a great many of them are still esteemed citizens of the city whose services have been highly appreciated. The commissioners serve without compensation:

#### LIST OF COMMISSIONERS.

1860 — David F. Robinson, Goodwin Collier, Andrew D.
Euson, Elisha Johnson, James B. Powell, Thomas McManus.
1861 — Alonzo W. Birge, Mathew M. Merriman, James B.
Crosby, James L. Howard, James B. Powell, Andrew D. Euson.

1862-3 — Mathew M. Merriman, James B. Crosby, James L.

Howard, James B. Powell, Andrew D. Euson, Hawley Kellogg. 1864 — The same.

1865 - Mathew M. Merriman, James B. Crosby, James L.

Howard, Hawley Kellogg, H. K. W. Welch, Thomas McManus.

1866 - Mathew M. Merriman, Hawley Kellogg, H. K. W.

Welch, Thomas McManus, James B. Crosby, Thomas T. Fisher. 1867 — The same.

1868 — Mathew M. Merriman, William M. Charter, H. K.

W. Welch, Thomas McManus, H. H. Barbour, T. T. Fisher. 1869-70 — Mathew M. Merriman, William M. Charter, H. K.

W. Welch, Thomas McManus, F. A. Marcy, H. W. Conklin.

1871 — H. K. W. Welch, Thomas McManus, F. A. Marcy,

H. W. Conklin, Ferris W. Cady, Henry C. Beckwith.

1872 — F. A. Marcy, H. W. Conklin, Ferris W. Cady, Henry C. Beckwith, John L. Bunce, George G. Sumner.

1873 — Ferris W. Cady, Henry C. Beckwith, John L. Bunce, George G. Sumner, H. W. Conklin, William Hamersley.

1874 — Ferris W. Cady, Henry C. Beckwith, H. W. Conklin, William Hamersley, Samuel F. Jones, Stevens Rogers; John T. Peters, secretary.

1875 — Ferris W. Cady, Eugene L. Kenyon, Samuel F. Jones, Stevens Rogers, David A. Rood, Charles W. Cook. 1876 — The same.

1877 — Ferris W. Cady, Eugene L. Kenyon, David A. Rood, Charles W. Cook, J. B. McDonnell, John Allen.

1878 — Ferris W. Cady, Eugene L. Kenyon, J. B. McDonnell, John Allen, David A. Rood, Henry Corning.

1879 — J. B. McDonnell, John Allen, David A. Rood, Henry Corning, George G. Sill, Lewis E. Stanton.

1880 — David A. Rood, Henry Corning, George G. Sill, Lewis E. Stanton, G. Wells Root, George Ellis.

1881 — David A. Rood, Thomas F. Galvin, G. Wells Root, George Ellis, George G. Sill, Lewis E. Stanton.

- 1882 David A. Rood, Thomas Galvin, G. Wells Root, George Ellis, William H. Hart, Stephen Goodrich.
- 1883 David A. Rood, Thomas Galvin, G. Wells Root, George Ellis, William H. Hart, Stephen Goodrich.
- 1884 Linus B. Plimpton, Joel R. Holcomb, G. Wells Root, George Ellis, William H. Hart, Stephen Goodrich.
  - 1885 The same.
  - 1886 The same.
- 1887 George Ellis, Joel R. Holcomb, Stephen G. Sluyter,
- G. Wells Root, L. B. Plimpton, Stephen Goodrich.
  - 1888 George Ellis, G. Wells Root, Joel R. Holcomb, L.
- B. Plimpton, Stephen Goodrich, P. H. Quinn.
  - 1889 George Ellis, Oland H. Blanchard, Joel R. Holcomb,
- L. B. Plimpton, Stephen Goodrich, P. H. Quinn.
- 1890 George Ellis, Patrick H. Quinn, Stephen Goodrich, Oland H. Blanchard, Joseph Schwab, William A. Moore.
- 1891 Oland H. Blanchard, George Ellis, Joseph Schwab, William A. Moore, Patrick H. Quinn, Stephen Goodrich.
- 1892 George Ellis, Arthur F. Eggleston, Joseph Schwab, William A. Moore, Henry Osborn, Stephen Goodrich.
- 1893 George Ellis, Arthur F. Eggleston, Henry Osborn,
- M. Bradford Scott, Henry E. Hastings, William A. Moore.
- 1894 George Ellis, Arthur F. Eggleston, Charles S. Davidson, William A. Moore, Henry Osborn, Judson H. Root.
- 1895 Charles S. Davidson, William A. Moore, Henry Osborn, Judson H. Root, Phineas H. Ingalls, Miles B. Preston.
- 1896 Henry Osborn, Judson H. Root, Phineas H. Ingalls, Thomas A. Smith, William B. Davidson, Meigs H. Whaples, George N. Holcombe, secretary.
- 1897 Phineas H. Ingalls, Thomas A. Smith, William B. Davidson, Meigs H. Whaples, Henry Osborn, Charles H. Lawrence.
  - 1898 Phineas H. Ingalls, Thomas A. Smith, William B.



GARRETT J. FARRELL.

Detective Sergeant.

Davidson, Henry Osborn, Charles H. Lawrence, Meigs H. Whaples.

1899 — Isidore Wise, Thomas A. Smith, James J. Quinn, Meigs H. Whaples, Henry Osborn, Charles H. Lawrence.

1900 — Thomas A. Smith, Isidore Wise, James J. Quinn, Edward Mahl, Theodore Newton, Charles G. Huntington.

The mayor of the city is *cx officio* president of the board of police commissioners but has no vote in the appointment of officers of the force. The mayors of Hartford who have, like McGregor, "sat at the head of the table" in the commissioners' room are

Henry C. Deming, 1860-1.

William J. Hamersley, 1862-3.

Allyn S. Stillman, 1864-5.

Charles R. Chapman, 1866-71.

Henry C. Robinson, 1872-3.

Joseph Sprague, 1874-7.

George G. Sumner, 1878-9.

Morgan G. Bulkeley, 1880-7.

John G. Root, 1888-9.

Henry C. Dwight, 1890-1.

William Waldo Hyde, 1892-3.

Leverett Brainard, 1894-5.

Miles B. Preston, 1896-9.

Alexander Harbison, present incumbent.

### CHAPTER VIII.

# CHIEF WALTER P. CHAMBERLAIN.

Was a Member of the Old Watch — First Chief of the Department — Captain Nott in Service with Him — Benning Mann First Clerk of the Police Court.

The police force entered active service July 11, 1860, as has been seen. The chief of the force was Walter P. Chamberlain. who had served previously on the watch. He entered into the work of organizing and discipline of the force with energy, and for a small force, as it was in those early days, it was remarkably efficient under his direction. Chief Chamberlain was a man of bright and acute intellect, shrewd, and thoroughly confident of his powers. He was a "self-made man," and as is the nature of that class of men was dominant and energetic. He was the chief of the force in every sense of the word. In the year 1871 there arose strong opposition to his administration of the office, and owing to some indiscretions the police board suspended him from office and he was succeeded by Chief Packard, November 10 of that year. Chief Chamberlain, however, had influential friends working in his behalf, and in 1875 the city election turned in some sense upon his being recalled to the service and to his position. In April of that year, after Mayor Sprague had appointed the new members of the police board, Chamberlain had a majority of that board in his favor. Chief Packard was asked to resign and Chamberlain came in again as the head of the force. His second term of service in that capacity begun April 24, 1875, and he served for six years. The change in the service which brought Chamberlain back to the head of the force was commented upon with decided vigor

by the newspapers of the city, political feeling running very high. He remained six years in his second term and was succeeded by Chief Packard in actual service, although Gershom B. Hubbell was appointed his successor by the police commission but did not accept the position.

## CAPTAIN CHARLES D. NOTT.

The first captain of the police force was Captain Charles D. Nott, and he was closely identified with the first term of Chief Chamberlain, resigning at the time of the latter's suspension in 1871. Captain Nott was also a member of the old watch before the police was organized on its present basis, and was a competent officer. He did not again enter the service after his resignation in 1871, but carried on a livery stable for many years on North Main Street. He is living on Avon Street, in feeble health, as he is quite an old man, but continues to take an active interest in affairs.

#### BENNING MANN.

A history of the police service of Hartford which did not mention Squire Benning Mann would fail of its mission as a history. He was a lawyer in the days when it was the fashion to call every lawyer "Squire," and in his office on State Street was justice of the peace and presided over the Town Court before the Police Court was organized. His partner was Richard G. Drake, and the stereotyped sentence given to Mr. Drake for entry (he was clerk of the little court) was "Seven dollars and costs, Mr. Drake." The Police Court was organized some few years before the police system, with Eliphalet A. Bulkeley as its first judge. Benning Mann was appointed its first clerk and for many years held the office. He was a courteous, dignified man, "one of the best," as those who remember him all say, and left an indelible impress upon those who were concerned in the administration of justice in the court of those early days.



JAMES P. CARTER.
Sergeant.

#### CHAPTER IX.

# POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

Old Union Hall Building Occupied for Ten Years—Afterwards at Kinsley and Main Streets—Special Prison Building Erected—Kinsley Street Station and Interesting Facts about Its Inmates.

The first police headquarters in the city, as has been stated, was in the Union Hall building at the corner of Main and Pearl Streets, the site now occupied by the Connecticut Mutual Insurance building. There were rooms on the second floor well adapted to the purpose, and the chief and officers had one section and the patrolmen the other. This was a daylight headquarters only, however, as the office was closed at night and prisoners taken to the station house on Kinsley Street. The cells in the lower part of the old City Hall had been abandoned, and when the police force was organized in 1860 a small building had been erected to the west of the City Hall which had nine cells and a room in the upper story for the convenience of the night officer, who was usually the captain of the force.

For about three years the headquarters continued in the original location, when they were moved to the Pearl Street side of the same building on the first floor, where the rooms were convenient to the public and much better every way. These rooms continued to be the headquarters until about 1870, when a change was made. Meantime the City Council, February 23, 1867, had passed a resolution requesting the police commissioners to consider the desirability of removing the offices from Pearl Street to the station house on Kinsley Street. This was reported upon adversely by the commissioners and nothing

further was done about it. The Union Hall building was afterwards torn down and the material used in building what was for some years the Union Hall Hotel at the corner of Farmington Avenue and Flower Street, and is still used for hotel purposes.

After ten years occupancy of the location at Pearl and Main Streets the department headquarters were fixed at the north corner of Main and Kinslev Street, up one flight. This was nearer the police station proper, and was for this reason more convenient. The office of the chief of police was in the corner room, directly over what is now the shoe store of I. Samuels & Company, and the rooms for the patrolmen were on the opposite side of the hallway, in what is now the office of Sidney E. Clarke, lawyer. The offices were not long in this locality, as it became apparent that it would be much better for the entire working outfit to be together, and within close touch of the prison section of the station house. Therefore, on January 20, 1870, the commissioners were authorized to take such action in relation to the enlargement of the station house as would make it convenient for the entire force. The cost was not to exceed \$0,000, and the contract was awarded to S. E. Haskell.

The office was on the lower floor in front and remained there until the department moved into the present commodious station. Before it was occupied for headquarters it had been the prison proper and there were nine cells, five on one side of a central hallway and four on the other. The cell at the west corner was larger than the others and was known as "No. 9," and was for women. Here the women arrested were locked up together and took care of themselves. The prisoners in the cells had no care whatever after they were locked up, as there were no officers to look out for them.

Shortly after the establishment of the headquarters on Kinsley Street the panic of 1873 swept over the land, and there were

hundreds of people out of work in the city and many roaming through the country. The room directly over the chief's office, which was quite a large one, was set apart for lodgers, and it was full every night. One night the record gives 153 persons as remaining there for the night. There was a long bench running around the room, made of hard boards, about five feet wide, and upon the soft side of this bed hundreds and probably thousands of unfortunates took their rest undisturbed by the continuous racket of the roughs who were rounded up, and perfectly oblivious of an atmosphere that could be cut with a knife and which was dense enough to suffocate an outsider coming in from out of doors, who had never struck anything of the sort before.

The door of this lodgers' room could not be opened from the inside, and once the lodgers were locked in behind it there they remained until they were turned loose in the morning. Captain Cornelius Ryan, who was on duty during the period, in charge of the station nights, was often called upon to straighten out the turmoil. One night there was an unusual amount of noise and disturbance above, and the captain stealthily crept up the stairs and quietly opened the door, just a crack, to see what was going on. Two of the lodgers were stripped to the waist in the center of a ring formed by the joining of hands of the other lodgers and a first-class bout was going on under Oueensbury rules, showing that hard luck and hard times had not discouraged the sporting element. Almost instantly the gas was turned out and the whole situation was dark. Another time the captain went up to care for a burly big fellow who was "snaking" the sleepers from the bench upon the floor. He caught the man just at the door, and, hitting him a sound blow under the jaw, laid him flat upon the floor. That instant the door closed and Captain Rvan found himself inside with the gang and unable to get out. There was no other officer in the



B. L. UMBERFIELD,
Sergeant.

office below, and he was forced to remain until the relief came in and let him out. He commanded the situation, however, and there was no trouble, the example he had made of his man being good enough to last until after he was released.

There were many changes in the police station and many enlargements from time to time, until the present prison block with its fifty-four cells was finally made a part of the present police station system.

There were at least two attempts to tear down the City Hall and build a station house on its site before the final one succeeded in 1897. Chief Packard, when he was in charge, after a fire which had burned off the roof of the main building and of the prison house, had a plan made by Lewis Young and it came near to being adopted, but sentiment in favor of the old City Hall and much talk about the "grand simplicity" of its architecture preserved it for a few years. It was materially remodeled in its interior and the main hall given over to the patrolmen for a drill hall, and continued to be used for that purpose until the building was torn down. During Chief Woodbridge's short term he had plans made for a new station, but they were given no consideration.

#### CHAPTER X.

# CHIEF CALEB L. PACKARD.

Night Watchman in 1855 — One of the Original Sixteen Policemen — Lieutenant in 1862 — Twice in Command of the Force — Afterwards Almshouse Superintendent.

CALEB L. PACKARD, for fourteen years and a half chief of police of the city of Hartford, has been in the service of the city or county as an officer of public order for over thirty-six years, a longer period than any other man who has been connected with the police department. He entered the service of the city in 1855 as a member of the night watch, Westell Russell being captain at the time. When the present police department was organized he was appointed one of the original sixteen policemen and served as patrolman, often acting as detective in citizen's dress, for one year and a half. He was appointed lieutenant of police January 2, 1862, and from that time served as an officer of the force until his retirement by resignation, January 6, 1803, with the exception of six years, beginning June 1, 1875, when he served as first deputy sheriff under Sheriff O. D. Seymour. On the suspension of Walter P. Chamberlain as chief, in 1871, and the retirement of Captain Charles D. Nott, Lieutenant Packard was the only officer of the force, and the duties of chief devolved upon him temporarily. For a few weeks he conducted the affairs of the force in this manner. and November 10, 1871, was appointed chief. He remained in the office for three years and a half, and, changes having been made in the political and personal makeup of the commission under Mayor Sprague's administration, he was asked to resign, and Walter P. Chamberlain, who had been suspended from the office of chief, was reinstated. The change was the subject of much adverse comment by the newspaper press of the city. The date of his resignation was April 24, 1875.

A report of the proceedings of the commission in a contemporary newspaper is not without interest. After the board met, Chief Packard was called into the room and Mayor Sprague said to him that there was a disposition to make a change in the head of the department, and that it was desired to make his retirement as satisfactory as possible.

Chief Packard inquired what the change was for, and asked if it was because of incompetency, inefficiency, neglect of duty, or immoral conduct.

No answer coming from any member of the commission. Chief Packard said: "I consider this a gross injustice."

Commissioner Jones, on behalf of the commission, then said: "No one makes any charges against you, but it is the desire of the board and of citizens that a change should be made."

After some further conversation, Chief Packard turned to Clerk Peters of the commission and asked that his resignation be written, and he then signed it, saying as he did so: "I say again, gentlemen, that this is a great injustice. Right will prevail and justice will meet all men. Good night."

The following June Mr. Packard was appointed first deputy sheriff and served for six years, as we have seen, his office being with Sheriff Seymour in Hills block.

Walter P. Chamberlain was again installed as chief of police, and for six years was at the head of the force. Troubles came upon his administration again, and his resignation was called for. It was given, and the police commission was again entrusted with the choice of a chief. After several ballots, in which Mr. Packard received three votes, the board, by a vote of five



PHOTO. BY STUART.

JOHN F. BUTLER,
Sergeant.

to one, chose Gershom B. Hubbell, then a well-known citizen, a Republican, superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company's Hartford business. After several days' consideration Mr. Hubbell declined the election, and the board was again in a position to elect a chief. Some work had been done by the friends of ex-Chief Packard, meanwhile, and he was again chosen chief, April 4, 1882. He was called into the room of the police commission and requested to assume the duties of the office at once. He immediately proceeded to the police head-quarters and assumed control, Captain George F. Bill, temporarily in charge, turning over his duties to him.

Chief Packard continued in charge of the force for eleven years, making his total term of service as chief fourteen years and a half.

Another change came January 1, 1893. The commission was in session, and after a discussion of several burglaries which had taken place upon the Hill, Chief Packard was called into the room and his resignation was asked for. He inquired what the reason for the demand was, as upon a former occasion. The reply was: "The reason is in the request." The resignation was handed in, and Chief Packard's career with the department was closed.

His immediate successor was Jabez L. Woodbridge, who served for seven months, and was then appointed warden of the State Prison, his retirement from that position and the reasons for it being fresh in the recollection of the people.

A tribute of the esteem in which Chief Packard was held by the entire police force was the presentation to him a few days after his retirement of \$110 in gold, the address being made by Captain George F. Bill, between whom and Chief Packard there has always been a warm friendship. Every member of the police contributed to the purse.

Mr. Packard was appointed to the superintendency of the

almshouse June 6, 1893, and served in that position for four years. He now resides at No. 13 Suffield Street, and he has the respect of the community.

Chief Packard was born in Hartford in 1832, and during his youth was nine years on a whaling ship. His experiences at sea gave him abundant courage, and he often had occasion to manifest it during his career as a police officer of the city.

## CHAPTER XI.

#### FINE NEW BUILDING.

One of the Best in the Country. With Everything Modern and Convenient
— White Pressed Brick and Ohio Limestone Construction — Offices,
Court Room, and Drill Hall — Morgue and Stables.

The police department building in Hartford is one of the finest structures devoted to the purpose in the New England states. It is on the site for many years occupied by the old City Hall, for a long time identified with the police department, and presents an attractive appearance. Its front occupies the entire block from Kinsley Street to Market Street, and, as the building sets well back from the street line, it commands a large open space, making it easy of access from all directions. It was formally occupied by the police department October 13, 1898, after an inspection by the police commissioners under the personal direction of Commissioners Phineas II. Ingalls and Henry Osborn, the building committee, and of John J. Dwyer, the architect. The corner-stone was laid September 19, 1897, and its erection progressed with little interruption.

The construction is of Connecticut granite, obtained from quarries on the Sound, for the basement, and above the basement line it is of white pressed brick with Ohio limestone trimmings. It has three capacious floors beside the basement, and is equipped with all the necessary rooms for the comfortable transaction of business. The principal entrance to the main office is on Temple Street. The office is a very large room with a long desk at the west side, behind which is installed the police telegraph apparatus and the working desks for the officer in



JOHN CREEDON, Sergeant.

charge of the work during the different periods of the day or night. The "blotter" desk is at the south end, and persons arrested are brought in from the covered patrol wagon way to the desk, where the usual entries are made. On the east side of the room is a tablet containing the names of the mayor of the city, the commissioners of police, and the building committee having charge of the construction, together with that of the architect.

On the Market Street front of the building there, is a line of rooms devoted to the officers. In the northeast corner are the chief's reception room, his private office, and bathroom. Next south is an office for the captain or the lieutenant in charge when the chief is off duty. Still further south is a room for the sergeants and detectives, while at the southeast corner of the floor is a handsomely furnished room for the use of the commissioners. This room is finished in mahogany. Just west of the commissioners' room is a well-furnished room which serves as a lounging room for the patrolmen when they are waiting to go out upon duty. At the extreme south end of the office is a vault for the police records.

There are two entrances on the Market Street front, the north entrance leading to the upper floor and the Police Court room, and the south entrance to the office and convenient to the commissioners' room. The court room is spacious and well ventilated, and along the second floor are rooms which are used for officers connected with the Police Court. At the south end of the second floor are rooms which are for dormitories to be used for reserve policemen or for any other occasion which makes it necessary.

The drill hall occupies the third floor and is one of the most spacious and airy rooms in the city. There are no pillars to obstruct it in any way, and the whole floor makes a beautiful hall, not only for drills but for the annual ball given by the Police Mutual Aid Association. The ceiling decorations are artistic and in harmony with good taste.

The basement is provided with a large locker room, where the men keep their uniforms or such clothes as they may need when not on duty. There are four shower baths in the basement and a number of wash basins. A morgue is provided for at the Temple Street side of the building.

The stable for the horses, patrol wagon, and ambulance is at the west of the south section of the building, and the prison block is independent of the building, in another edifice, having been used before the present building was erected. There seems to be little room for improvement in the building, and its practical workings are such that the officers and men are provided with the best modern conveniences for the transaction of the business of the department.

The first public gathering in the building was on the occasion of the grand dedication ball given by the Police Mutual Aid Association, April 3, 1899.

The woman's prison connected with the new department building is commodious, cheerful, as prisons go, and has all modern improvements. It is on the second floor of the Kinsley Street side of the building, directly over the barn. It is made up of eight cells around a semicircular open space lighted from overhead and well ventilated. It has all the necessary sanitary arrangements, and many of the wrecks picked up on the streets never find a better place for a night's lodging.

The matron in charge of this department is Mrs. Louisa D. Hubbard, who was the first woman to be appointed to the position, and has served since January 1, 1894. She has a comfortable suite of rooms in the front of the building for her own use and lives in the building. Her duties are to care for the women prisoners as they come in, search them, keep the record, and prepare them for a decent appearance when they come into the

court room the next morning after their arrest. They must be clean, their hair combed, and their clothing in good condition.

Often there are days when no woman is arrested, and then again there may be a raid and numbers of them are brought in. The largest number ever arrested in one night was in 1899, when forty-two women were in Mrs. Hubbard's charge. This was for a short time only, as the greater number of them were able to procure bail for their appearance in the morning.



PHOTO, BY STUART,

P. J. FINLEY.
Sergeant.

#### CHAPTER XII.

#### SOME OLD TIME STORIES.

Captain Cornelius Ryan's Recollections — Difficult Caring for Prisoners — Tendency to Fight — Wheelbarrows and Express Wagons to Carry Prisoners in — Captain Ryan's Bout with Soldiers.

Ix this year of the new century the police commissioners ask of applicants for promotion questions about the streets and buildings, the ordinances, and their knowledge regarding first aid to the injured. But if there had been an examining board in the early days the men would have been asked to explain what they knew of the art of self-defense, or rather how they could handle the human weapons of offense. There were many knockouts in those days, although it was before the time of Professor Sullivan's hitting methods. Fitzsimmons' short-arm hook had not been discovered, and the solar plexus punch was unknown.

Citizens now frequently comment on seeing two policemen together. Under the present system it is not necessary for them to go in pairs, but under the old it was absolutely essential. If a policeman ventured to do duty in the lower wards alone in the early days he would have been in the repair shop before night. The old Fifth and Sixth Wards were the banner ones for police duty, and four men for Commerce Street, from Pleasant to Sheldon Streets, were not thought too many, one-fourth of the entire force. When a man was arrested, the first thing he would do would be to fight. There was no patrol wagon, no ambulance, and no telephone to use for calling help. It would be one man fighting against another, and there were

always plenty of roughs to pitch into the police, who were regarded as common prev by the fighting men. Therefore the advantage of traveling in pairs will be seen, although it furnished a precedent for all time.

The day men did not carry clubs, but their fists were as hard as night sticks. The night men had those twenty-inch locusts, and they knew how to use them. Enterprising manufacturers had not produced the cocobolo club or the ones covered with leather or rubber, which are warranted to deprive a man of his senses in the most pleasant manner possible. For years the firms who cater to the police trade have been trying to invent a club that will knock a man out without hurting him or breaking the scalp, and they have not been very successful. These humane views will surely result in having every patrolman provided with a sponge and a small bottle of chloroform which he is to administer to the man who resists. When that time comes, women ought to make good officers. Some of the Police Court judges did not like the way in which the policemen had to handle the men, and in time the commissioners ordered clubs for the day as well as the night men.

As there were no patrol wagons, a policeman had the choice of carrying an obstinate prisoner, procuring a wheelbarrow, or sending for a wagon in the neighborhood where the arrest was made. There is a Hebrew policeman in New York called Ajax who never sends for a patrol, no matter how heavy his prisoner is, as he can pick up anybody under half a ton weight. The lightweight prisoners who were found unconscious from liquor or blows were often carried by the old Hartford policemen. Wheelbarrows were somewhat more in demand, and if a wagon was handy it was pressed into service, "commandeered," as they say now. Once two policemen caught a man that was much wanted. He refused to walk, and a wagon was secured. The policemen took hold of the shafts and the weary walk to the

prison was begun. They drew up before the prison in style, and when they started for the prisoner he was gone. The thought comes whether the horseless vehicle to come will be as satisfactory to the prisoner as the one of old. Wagons fell into disrepute after this incident, as the wheelbarrows were found to be more trustworthy.

At present no one is more familiar with the work of those days than Captain Cornelius Ryan. He joined the force September 3, 1861, and he had not been in uniform long before he was in the thick of the more important fights that the troublesome men waged upon policemen. He has a watch that caught the point of a knife intended for his heart. His heart continued to beat, but the watch stopped ticking and was ruined. The knife cut through four thicknesses of clothing, but it did not get through the watch. The thrust was delivered on a dark stairway, and the officer did not know how near death he was until he wanted to find the time.

Local prints have from time to time contained various articles about some of the hard arrests made by the captain, in which he came out ahead. But there was one occasion when he received a good beating and was confined to his bed for several days. At present if an officer is asked to do duty at the Union station he is very glad of the job, as it is regarded as easy work. During the time of the Civil War the manager of the road asked the chief to send Officer Ryan down to the depot to do duty. The officer said he would go if the railroad would pay for his clothes. He knew how much fighting he would have to do, and he figured on having his clothes torn off about once a week on an average. The railroad agreed to buy the uniforms as fast as they were destroyed.

One afternoon a Massachusetts regiment stopped over a train at the depot. One of the soldiers was a Springfield desperado of gigantic stature. He tried to pick a fight with the



PHOTO, BY STUART.

THEO. DIETRICH,
Acting Sergeant.

men standing in the waiting-room, but he was let alone. There was a woman waiting for a train, and the soldier's language finally became so bad that Officer Ryan told him he would have to stop. The soldier let fly a swinging blow that would have given him possession of the depot if it had landed. But the officer dodged and by a combination blow and a movement of the foot sent the bully across the room, falling heavily. That took all the fight out of him, and he was as meek as a lamb when he was conducted to one of the cars by Ryan. He walked up the steps, and as Ryan started to turn around and walk away, the soldier kicked him squarely in the jaw with all his force, and he wore heavy shoes. The blow dazed the officer, and for a few minutes he was partly unconscious.

When he recovered he went into the car, took the big man by the collar, and dragged him part way out of the car. Then he was set upon by the carload of soldiers, and was pounded unmercifully. He was lucky to escape with his life. The conductor sent the car up the track to avoid further trouble. The manager of the road said that if he had been there he would have held the train until the desperado was captured, if the regiment was detained a week. It was learned afterwards that the man had a bad reputation in Springfield and had committed a number of crimes.

That was the one time when the captain was worsted. Perhaps his best single-handed arrest was when he conquered Jim Coburn, a brother of Joe Coburn, and himself a pugilist of some importance, having a powerful frame and a degree of science nearly equal to his more famous brother. A colored regiment came here from the war, and the men had but little knowledge of money. A gang came up from New York, and they found a number of easy victims. One night there was a shooting affray in a hotel on Central Row, and Coburn was concerned in it. There was a lot of excitement over the case, and an immense

crowd of people collected. Officer Ryan found Jim Coburn on the street and placed him under arrest. He did not know who he was at the time. Coburn resisted and was knocked down. He got up and was downed again. This was repeated once more, and then Coburn had enough. When Ryan learned who the man was he was rather frightened, as he did not imagine he could cope with such a well-known professional bruiser. He told him he would have to go to the lockup, and if there was any more resistance, the next time he went down he would not be able to rise again. Coburn submitted quietly. In later years, Ryan saw Coburn in his place in New York, and the pugilist said he entertained no hard feelings over the manner of his arrest.

The class that the police feared the worst in those days was composed of several women who were fully as desperate fighters as the men, and more difficult to manage, as the police would not use their clubs on them. Some of them made as much trouble for the police as the Carrie Nations do to-day for the rum-sellers. There was one in particular who managed four policemen at once, on an average, although if she was drunk or sick, two men might arrest her. One officer was called to her home on Pleasant Street one night, as she was making a disturbance. He was surprised that she submitted so quietly, and was congratulating himself upon having such an easy time when, without any warning, his cap was pulled over his eyes and the virago's nails were imbedded in his cheeks, causing the blood to flow in streams. The fighting women then were really powerful, and would feel disgraced if they had to protect themselves with hat pins, the principal resource of the present-day Totties and Lotties who defy the police.

There was one woman who would have proved a bonauza for a manager of burlesque. She was five feet eleven inches tall, and weighed fully 225 pounds. She was as strong as she

was big, and an ordinary man had absolutely no show in a contest with her. One Sunday afternoon it was necessary to arrest her, and one of the policemen detailed for the performance was Horace Billings. She was taken from a house on Front Street and was walked up the street, a large crowd following. as it was expected she would make trouble. But this Amazon was not in a fighting mood that pleasant Sunday afternoon, and she used her wits, rather than her fists, to annov the police. She asked one officer to release her arm for a moment, and, as she had behaved so well, he willingly complied. From her waist fastening she withdrew one small pin, releasing all her clothing. The woman folded her gigantic arms and smiled sweetly upon the officers, knowing that with all her great strength she could not have been half as successful in combating them as she was by withdrawing that pin. Finally a woman rushed out of a house with a blanket, it was thrown about the woman, she was picked up and carried to the prison on the shoulders of the police.

An old officer says that the men had more fun in one night in the old days than they have in six months now. The work was different, the conditions were changed, and they entered into their duties with a zest.



PHOTO, BY STUART.

M. O. LIEBERT, Acting Sergeant.

### CHAPTER XIII.

#### DANGERS OF THE SERVICE.

Jim Brennan, One of the Early Toughs, Who Nearly Killed Officer Crane
— Charles Pape Badly Cut by a Sailor Thief—Attempt to Kill
Supernumerary Flanigan—Officer Maloney's Narrow Escape.

No Hartford policeman has been killed during the performance of duty, but there have been many narrow escapes, in which good fortune or timely assistance have preserved the life of the officer of the law. One of the earliest cases of assault upon a policeman was when the station house and police headquarters were separate. It was then the custom for patrolmen to take their prisoners to the station house, lock them up, and then report to headquarters. Captain Ryan, at that time a patrolman, was walking down to the station house one day when he met a man named Crane, who said to him: "Hurry up; my brother George (who was a patrolman) has Jim Brennan in the lockup, and he may give him trouble." When Ryan reached the station, Brennan, who was an ugly fellow, had Patrolman Crane against the wall, with his hands upon his throat. The officer was limp and near the point of being choked to death by Brennan's grip. Rvan gave Brennan a stiff blow under the jaw that lifted him in the air and threw him to the floor unconscious. Crane fell with him in a limp, almost lifeless heap. Brennan was dragged to a cell and locked up before Crane gave any sign of consciousness, but he came to himself after a while, having come as near to being killed outright as any policeman in the service. Brennan was a hard man, and over twenty times the police had severe struggles with him. He agreed, finally, to leave town and go to New York, where he had relatives. His

fare was paid on the boat and he was shipped for the metropolis. He got into a row on the boat, and at the dock in New York was arrested. The New York Herald, telling the story of the arrest, said that it took seven policemen to take Brennan from the boat to the station house. He came back to the city after a few months, his head being a complete map of scars made by the clubs of the New York policemen. His clubbing seemed to have taken the life out of him, and he was after that a quiet, peaceable citizen.

Probably the worst cutting a policeman received here had a German named Charles Peape for a victim. He was eating his evening meal at his home on Village street one night when a neighbor came in and said her clothesline was being robbed. The officer left his supper and hurried out of the house, reaching the yard in time to see a man climbing over a fence. He followed and caught the man by one leg. The thief, who was a sailor, turned and cut Peape with his sailor's knife the width of his chest. The wound was so deep that a man could insert his hand. Peape recovered and Hartford policemen caught the sailor on the highway near New Haven. The man had walked to that city.

An attempt was made to kill Supernumerary John F. Flanigan October 13, 1900, by a man named John Dolan, who was wanted for robbing a blacksmith named Riley. Flanigan got track of his man near the New England road roundhouse and surprised him. Dolan, who gave the name of Joseph Crawford when he was brought in, drew a revolver and threatened to fire if the policeman stepped nearer to him. Flanigan did not quail, but continued to approach. Dolan fired three shots which just grazed Flanigan, and the fourth wounded him in his left arm. It was Dolan's last chance, however, as Flanigan had reached him, and with his club hit him on the head, sending him to the ground in a heap. A crowd gathered about after Dolan

had been felled and were anxious to make demonstrations against the man, but Flanigan said he could care for him. He was taken to the station in the patrol wagon. Flanigan's wound was dressed, and he recovered in a short time. Dolan was sent to prison for fourteen years. Within a few days after this occurrence, Flanigan's bravery was rewarded by his promotion to the position of regular patrolman.

William Carrier, a desperate man, was beating his wife in a place on Asylum Street, March 4, 1897, when Officer James Maloney tried to arrest him. He turned upon the officer, and lifting a heavy demijohn struck it with full force between Maloney's eyes, well up on the forehead. The officer was for a long time in the hospital, but finally recovered. He carries an ugly scar deep in his forehead, and while his general health is good, he is troubled often by the seriousness of the wound. Carrier went to State Prison for four years for the crime, which came very near to being murder.

Some years ago Officer Maloney met with a singular and most painful experience while arresting a burglar from Springfield. The burglar drew a handful of Cayenne pepper from his pocket and threw it full in the officer's eyes. The burglar was held by Maloney until aid arrived, however. It was many weeks before the officer was able to return to duty, and to-day he remembers the suffering even more intently than he does the fearful blow from Carrier's demijohn.



PHOTO. BY STUART,

HERBERT E. TINKER.

Secretary Hartford Police Mutual Aid Association.

## CHAPTER XIV.

# EARLY PICKPOCKETS.

First Gang Held up in Hartford at General Lyon's Funeral — Some Who Swung Around the Circle" with President Andy Johnson.

THE first pickpockets that were ever arrested in this city were captured by Chief Packard, then a policeman, in 1861. The body of General Nathaniel Lyon, who was killed in a skirmish in Southern Missouri, was en route to Eastford, in this state, and immense crowds gathered to meet it at the various railroad points through which it passed. The crowds proved to be an attractive field for pickpockets, and a gang of them traveled just ahead of the train bearing the body, and at points wherever there was any special ceremony reaped a rich harvest. The body arrived here and was detained at the old Union station until a special train could be made up on the Hartford, Providence & Fishkill road for Willimantic, from whence it was to be taken to Eastford. There were many people gathered in towns, and complaints were coming into the office of the chief of police of pockets having been picked. Officer Packard and "Sid" Cowles were ordered to do detective work, and as a result a party of nine pickpockets was cooped up in the smoker of the train going East. At a given signal, and aided by other officers, seven of the party were captured. About the other two there were not enough indications to show that they were of the gang, but they were shadowed all the way to Willimantic and conveniently lost themselves in the crowd. One of the two was the chief of the gang and had with him the handbag which contained the "swag." The seven were held for a few days, but

86

evidence not being sufficient to convict them, although they acknowledged that they were pickpockets, they were allowed to go, escorted to the station and shipped to New York. One of the seven arrested was the notorious Johnny Wilson, a professional well known in all the large cities, but who had never before known the hand of an officer. The New York *Herald*, commenting upon this, said that it was a singular thing that a noted criminal had to go to the "rural city of Hartford" to first feel the hand of the law.

When President Andy Johnson was "swinging around the circle" and was on his way from Boston, where he had been present at the dedication of the Masonic Temple, to Washington, he stopped in Hartford at the Allyn House, and there was a great crowd following the party. Officer Packard, then a lieutenant, went to Springfield to meet the train, and on the way down was seated with a former officer of the Boston police force, who seemed to be very much determined to entertain him in conversation. The result of the trip was that nine pickpockets were held up and remained in the police station until after the Presidential party had left town. Among those arrested was the same ex-police officer of Boston, who was in with the gang, his special province being to inform the other scoundrels of the movements of the police.

### CHAPTER XV.

#### THE BEVINS CONSPIRACY.

A Jersey Tough Hired to Kill Thomas O'Neill — An Accomplice Shot Dead in His Tracks — O'Neill Escapes — Dennis Cahill's Flight to Canada, Arrest and Sentence. — James Bevins a Fugitive from Justice.

ONE of the most remarkable crimes ever attempted in Hartford marked the winter of 1869-70, and in its development had many interesting aspects. James Bevins, a night watchman at the old Woodruff & Beach foundries, a man well thought of, industrious, and thrifty, having accumulated a property amounting to some \$18,000, quarreled with his brother-in-law, Thomas O'Neill, a locomotive engineer on the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad, over the disposition of property in which the family was interested. Bevins determined to get rid of O'Neill by the convenient method of hired assassination. He employed a hard-looking customer from New Jersey named Dennis Cahill to do the job, and Cahill had a man with him named Patrick O'Brian. O'Brian was made an assistant watchman, and boarded on Sheldon Street, not far from Main Street. Cahill was found a boarding place near the corner of Grove and Commerce Streets with a Mrs. Parker, where he could be in easy communication with Bevins, the principal in the crime, but who was not to take an active hand in the affair. O'Neill. in some way, had become aware of the plot, and was in fear of his life. Another brother-in-law, Thomas O'Hara, espoused the cause of O'Neill, and it was his habit to meet the engineer as he left his locomotive, about 10 o'clock at night, and escort him to his home. One night in December, a dreary, rainy



PHOTO. BY STUART.

JAMES H. NAYLOR, M. D.,

Police Surgeon.

night, as O'Hara and O'Neill were going home up the railway tracks and had reached the vicinity of the Walnut Street crossing, they were attacked by Cahill and O'Brian. O'Hara fired his revolver and one of the hired assassins, O'Brian, dropped dead in his tracks. During the scrimmage, Cahill was also wounded in the wrist.

O'Hara and O'Neill went to the police station and told their story to Chief Chamberlain, and Captain Ryan, then a patrolman, was detailed to arrest Bevins. He was a personal friend of the man and could not believe that such a crime could be laid at his door, and it was one of the most painful duties that had ever fallen to his lot. Bevins was brought to the station and locked up, and Lieutenant Packard was detailed to find Cahill. He was a marked man, carrying a bad scar across the lower part of his face, the result of a burn, and as he was about the streets in the cold weather wore a muffler to conceal the scar. Lieutenant Packard had the assistance of "Sid" Cowles, one of the best-known policemen of those days, and together they scoured the east side in search of their man. They first found O'Brian's boarding place on Sheldon Street, and from a boy in the house learned that O'Brian was not in the was dead from O'Hara's shot), that Cahill often called upon him, and that he boarded at Mrs. Parker's on Grove Street. Mrs. Parker was roused up, and the doors of the house were guarded by the officers. Mrs. Parker went to the room occupied by Cahill and found him in bed, having fled from the scene of the attempted murder to his boarding place. He was arrested, and the next morning there was a great deal of excitement in the city. Bevins and Cahill were brought before the Police Court, and evidence was such as warranted their being held, and heavy bonds were fixed, with the expectation that they could not secure them. Friends of Bevins, however, did not believe that he could be guilty of such a crime, and he readily found bonds, and he had so much influence that he also procured bonds for the ill-conditioned Cahill, who was an entire stranger in the city and charged with one of the most heinous crimes.

As was to have been expected, the men were not anxious to meet trial in the Superior Court, and both skipped their bonds. Bevins, it is understood, made his bondsman good and went across the Atlantic to Ireland, where he remained for some years. He was afterwards, some fourteen years after the crime, recognized on the streets of St. Louis by a former shopmate. It is believed that he returned to Ireland, and that he is now living there, if living at all. Cabill went to Canada and was located there after correspondence with the police authorities of Montreal. Chief of Police George F. Bill, then a patrolman, was detailed to go to Montreal and arrest him. He found his man in the house of a citizen named Flannery in the village of Point St. Charles, a suburb of Montreal. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Packard had gone to Washington to secure extradition papers from the government to bring Cahill home for trial. On his way from Washington to Montreal he stopped in this city, and all the witnesses in the case were taken to Montreal with him, as the custom of Canada was to have a case proven against a man before he could be extradited. An ex-mayor of Montreal was counsel for the Hartford authorities. Cabill was found guilty. It then became necessary for Lieutenant Packard to go to Ottawa and get the complementary papers to complete the forms of extradition from the Canadian government. On the way his train was stuck fast in a snow storm and he was thirtysix hours bound up by the heavy snow.

It happened that about this time there was a great deal of Fenian excitement in Canada, and the Fenians objected to any Irishman being taken from Montreal to this country, and made threats that Cahill would not be allowed to leave the city. The mayor of Montreal said that Cahill should be extradited if it

took all the troops in the city to aid the Hartford officers. After the papers were secured, Lieutenant Packard and Officer Bill quietly brought their man over the line and to Hartford, where in less than four months from the time of the assault upon O'Neill he was tried, convicted, and sentenced to twelve years in the State Prison, Judge Sanford, who was the presiding judge, saying as he pronounced sentence: "You have had a fair trial, and it seems to the court that the jury could have found no other verdict, and that you are justly convicted." The crime charged was conspiracy to murder: The intended victim, Thomas O'Neill, died in this city March 27, 1901.

The ex-mayor of Montreal was paid \$480 for his services as counsel for the Hartford officers.



ALBERT M. ROWLEY, M. D., Police Surgeon.

## CHAPTER XVI.

The Patrol Equipment and Electric Wagon — Ambulance and Telegraph Service — All Modern and First Class — Bicycle Squad.

The patrol wagon system was begun by the police department in 1886, and has been of the greatest advantage to the force. Previous to its inauguration, as will be found by other references in this sketch, the patrolman making an arrest was obliged to get his man to the station as best he could. Sometimes it was by taking him there forcibly after a struggle in the street. but more often an express wagon was subsidized into service and the prisoner was taken along at freight rates. This system was of great disadvantage to the orderly conduct of the police business. It not only created an unusual stir in the vicinity of the arrest, but it took the officer from his beat during the time he was taking his prisoner to the station and coming back to it, leaving it without any protection whatever. The patrol wagon is equipped with a driver and an office man is detailed to go with it in order that the prisoner may be cared for without the officer on the beat leaving his territory unprotected.

The patrol wagon was drawn by two horses from its installation until the present season, when the commission recommended and the Common Council voted an appropriation for the purchase of an electric patrol wagon, which is now in process of construction. Meanwhile the drivers, Officers O'Brien and Hayes, are practicing on a temporary vehicle which is being used as a patrol wagon. It has proven to be much more rapid in service, is easier gotten out upon the road, and bids fair to be a permanent improvement of importance. The charging outfit and a specially constructed elevating apparatus for taking

out and renewing the storage batteries are fixtures in the stable connected with the police department building.

The first and only ambulance in the city is in charge of the police department, and is drawn by horses. It is called nearly every day for accidents and for conveying sick persons to the hospital. It has been of the greatest service to the department, as it enables the officers to get injured people immediately on the road to the hospitals and places where they can receive proper care. A surgeon accompanies each ambulance call.

The police early took advantage of the telegraph system and has an excellent service, covering the entire area of the city. It is the well-known Gamewell system, and during the past few years has been greatly improved by the modification of its stations from the old-time houses on street corners to the modern call box, mounted on a standard. The stations are so arranged that the patrolmen send in the record of their duty to the main office, where it is entered from the tape on the time book, but wagon and ambulance calls can easily be made, thus bringing every part of the city within instant touch of police headquarters.

During the open months of the year a bicycle squad is detailed to patrol the streets, prevent scorching, and aid in preserving order in case of fires. Bicycle scorchers have a wholesome dread of this squad, and it has proven to be one of the indispensable equipments of the force.

The duties of a patrolman are not wholly concerned with making arrests when occasion demands. He has a great many things to look out for, and his knowledge of the city and of the beat under his patrol should be very intimate. He is required to know all the residents upon his beat, and to be aware, to some extent, of their habits of life, and to thus be able to have a watch upon suspicious strangers who come into the neighborhood. He must report all violations of state laws or of city ordinances, and his familiarity with these enactments must be sufficient for him

to understand when such are violated. He has the care of the sidewalks and must see that they are unobstructed and are in condition for pedestrians, and, if not, the owner is to be notified to see that they are in proper condition. In the winter season he is entrusted with seeing that the ice and snow are cleared from the walks, and is required to report to all owners or residents when a sidewalk is in dangerous condition, from being slippery. This is for the purpose of preventing injuries and also of preventing suits against the city for falls upon such walks.

If his beat is the business section he is entrusted with the care of the stores, the alleyways, and the hallways. If a store is not lighted, or presents any unusual appearance after dark, or if the door is unlocked, the owner is to be notified; hallways, alleyways, and areas are to be kept free from intruders, and all persons are expected to be orderly while on the streets.

In case of accident to anyone on his beat, the patrolman is to care for the person until an ambulance or a surgeon can be summoned, and sick or dving persons upon the street also come under the same care. In case of severe injury by assault, the medical examiner must be summoned, and the assailant arrested. In court, when a prisoner he has arrested appears before it, he must testify to the circumstances that led to the arrest, and oftentimes is required to tell of the record of the prisoner as a disturbing element, or as a law-abiding citizen, as the case may His testimony is not only required in the Police Court, but he may be required to attend the higher courts, weeks or even months after the arrest of the prisoner, to tell what he knows and remembers of the case. This tends to the development of memory, and many of the patrolmen can tell of matters that came under their special notice to the minutest detail even years after the occurrence. At fires a squad of policemen under a sergeant is on duty and they have charge of the fire lines and keep all outsiders, or those not connected with the property or



PHILIP D. BUNCE, M. D..
Police Surgeon.

with the work of the firemen, outside of these lines. Notable instances of this sort of service will be remembered by those who saw the Park Central Hotel fire, the big fire of the Averill building, and of the Kennedy building a few years ago, where the police performed severe duty for many hours during the most inclement winter weather.

The patrolmen who have special assignments, such as the railroad station or at street corners where there is much passing and many street cars moving, have a great deal of work to do, and literally care for the lives of many people every day, who rush ahead without paying attention to what is in their path, or who become confused in crossing streets where teams and cars are moving in opposite directions. Any person watching the patrolman on duty at the corner of Asylum and Main Streets will see that he is remarkably well occupied and that he is of great assistance in preserving life and limb.

### CHAPTER XVII.

## JAMES WILSON'S CRIMES.

Most Notable Criminal of His Time Held up in Hartford. — Jail Breaker, Burglar, and Horse Thief — Splendid Physical Courage and Daring — His Murder of Captain Willard and Attempted Suicide.

THE most noted criminal, in many ways, that ever found his way to Connecticut jails, her State Prison, and finally to the gallows, was James Wilson, a man of Western origin, supposed to have served terms in Ohio under the name of Dave Kently, which was undoubtedly his right name, as his partner in crime in the West was a brother of that name. He made his escape from the Ohio penitentiary through a large ventilating pipe, served time in Sing Sing until he had the luck to escape from that institution, and began operations in New London, in this state, in 1851, where he committed a burglary for which he was sentenced to six years in the State Prison under the name of John Marshall. On the night of November 1, 1868, the store of Brown, Thomson & Company was entered and robbed of nearly \$2,000 worth of silks, and the police force was put on the job the next day. Two days after, two men having suspicious articles in their possession were detained in Meriden by constables of that city, and Officer George F. Bill went to Meriden and the two were brought to Hartford. One gave his name as James Wilson and the other as Charles Retscolf, although he was generally known as Restof, his real name being Charles Foster, the alias being a transposition of the letters of his real name. Wilson and Retscolf pleaded guilty at the next term of the Superior Court to the burglary, but Wilson was afterwards

tried on charges of burglary in Farmington and Norwich, the indictment presenting him under the name of James Wilson, alias "John Marshall." He was sentenced to seven years for the Brown & Thomson burglary and to nine years for the other burglaries. Retscolf was sentenced for seven years. Wilson, while he was in prison in the fifties, made two attempts to escape which were foiled, and showed himself to be a generally all-around sharp and dangerous fellow.

Wilson proved to be just as intractable during his second term, but opportunity for escape was not abundant, and he put up a scheme which included in its workings one of the foulest murders ever committed in the state. Wilson was aware of the habits of Captain William Willard, the warden of the State Prison, and although never having received any but the kindest treatment from the warden, laid a cold-blooded plan to kill him, apparently knowing that he would then be transferred from the State Prison to the county jail to await trial for the murder, and hoping that he could find some means of escape from the jail. Sunday afternoon, August 14, 1870, Warden Willard was making his usual round of Sunday ealls upon the men, talking with them, and giving them words of encouragement, when he was notified by one of the guards that Wilson wanted to speak to him. Captain Willard went to his cell door and Wilson passed out a slate between the bars, upon which was written "Warden Willard. Turn the slate over." While the warden was intent upon the slate, Wilson, who had been allowed a cane because of his lameness, and had managed in some way to obtain possession of a small penknife, which he had attached to the end of the cane with the blade open, stabbed the warden through the bars, the knife entering the abdomen. Captain Willard tried to pull the cane away from Wilson, and in the struggle the wound was made still more dangerous, but the cane caught about the bars with the crook in its handle.



РНОТО. BY STUART.

CHARLES S. STERN. M. D.,

Police Surgeon.

Captain Willard called to a guard, saving "Wilson has cut me," and, after being taken to his office, died in a few hours. Wilson was taken to the county jail, from which he did not escape, as he had evidently planned, and was tried by the Superior Court at the ensuing September term, the jury finding him guilty of murder in the first degree, and he was sentenced to be hanged. He addressed the jury in his own behalf, the address being one of the most irreverent and defiant bits of cheap oratory ever inflicted upon a jury. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court, but no error was found, and Wilson was put in close confinement October 9, 1871, preparatory to his execution on the 13th of the same month.

However remarkable the career of this man has been in the annals of crime, it remained for the last act in the tragedy to eclipse all the rest and give to him a record for daring and pluck, as well as defiance of officers and law, that has had no equal, in this state at least. The night before he was to be hanged he attempted his own life by thrusting a small wire into his breast with the intention of reaching his heart. His strength failed him, and he was discovered before he was able to accomplish the deed. He was hanged the next morning, and, feeble as he was from his unsuccessful attempt at suicide, showed the utmost grit and determination at the end. He was a thorough villain from start to finish, and had unusual daring.

#### 102

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### A GROUP OF THREE.

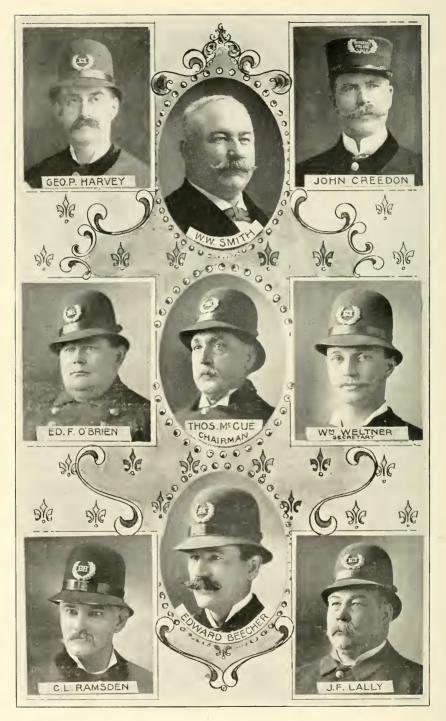
Michael McDonald, Forger on Local Bank—"Jimmy" Lyons, Well-Known Professional, Gives Himself up After Twenty Years of Liberty and Crime—Murder of Ira Bliss in Burnside.

In the winter of 1868-9 a stranger registered as Henry Stanley at the Allyn House, and for a few weeks lived in fine style, having opened a large account in the Hartford Trust Company. It developed, after a little time, that the stranger was none other than Michael McDonald, a well-known crook. In company with another crook, Ed. Hills, he had made a deposit for a small amount in the Sturtevant Bank of New York. and bought a draft of that bank on the Trust Company. The draft was raised from its original amount, a small sum, to \$5,000, and \$4,800 was drawn from the Hartford company before the forgery was discovered. McDonald was located in Montreal, and Chief Walter P. Chamberlain and Officer George F. Bill were detailed to go to that city and get him. He was secured, and came to trial in the March term of the Superior Court, 1869. He was sentenced to State Prison for five years. He afterwards went to England, where he served time for an attempt to bribe a turnkey to aid in releasing his brother George McDonald, one of the Bidwell gang that made the famous attempt at forgery on the Bank of England. He died there. Ed. Hills, who was in the forgery, was afterwards arrested for a crime in New Jersey, and also did time.

One of the noted professionals in the country was "Jimmy" Lyons, a burglar who was often rounded up, but seemed to have luck on his side in escaping the clutches of the law. Lyons was

103

arrested in 1868 for a burglary committed in Granby, and in connection with his pal, Peter Allen, was tried, under the name of Samuel O. Rogers, convicted, and sentenced to a term in State Prison. He was remanded to jail over night for sentence in the morning, and during the night both he and Allen, whose alias was Spencer, made their escape through the connivance of a "trusty" named Curry. The bars of their cell doors were forced with a jimmy provided by Allen's wife, and the instrument also forced the door open into the vard, from which escape was comparatively easy. For twenty-two years the Hartford police kept a lookout for Lyons, hoping that he might again turn up in the clutches of the law somewhere, and that they might be able to get hold of him and put him where he belonged, in the State Prison. April 28, 1890, he was arrested in Boston by Inspectors Cogan and Barry, having in his possession nearly \$3,000 worth of set and unset diamonds. Requisition papers were secured from Governor Bulkeley, and Chief Packard went to Boston to get him. Lyons had good counsel, who secured for him a continuance of the case until May 1st, and bonds were fixed at \$3,000. Chief Packard, who was accompanied by Jailer Fenn, saw Lyons in court and absolutely identified him. The first bail commissioner summoned would not grant bail, but the second did grant it, and Lyons went his way, taking with him the \$3,000 worth of diamonds that were returned to him when bail was accepted. Lyons had a marvelous career, the most interesting part of which was his marriage to the daughter of a prominent Boston family during the progress of some of his most daring criminal operations. He was divorced from his wife as soon as his character was learned, her father paying him a handsome sum to get rid of him. He operated in this country and in Europe, and served a term of seven years in Scotland for larceny from a hotel, showing up in this country soon after, and beginning operations again. Lyons had quite



BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARTFORD FOLICE MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION.

a "pull" with private detectives in Boston for a long time, and was comparatively safe in his operations. He was a gentle-manly fellow of fine appearance, but was easily identified by a scar between both eyes, and a tattooed ship, eagle, and crucifix on one arm, and a flag and two hearts on the other. His case was called in the criminal court in this city for over twenty years.

At last, in 1890. Lyons, pursued and haunted by officers from nearly all the Eastern states, entered into negotiations with Samuel Jones, now deceased, who was his counsel at his trial in this city, gave himself up to the authorities, and was sentenced to State Prison for two years at the December term of that year. He served his term and left the state, and he is now reported as having died.

A crime which shocked the entire community of the state was committed in Burnside, February 21, 1873. Ira Bliss, a man over seventy years old, was the station agent of the railroad at that point, and it was his custom to remain until about 9.30 in the evening to await the clearing of all trains and care for his accounts.

On the evening in question he was suddenly set upon by two roughs, young villains who were bent on robbing him. Bliss was coming from the station, and the ruffians, supposing that he had money with him, crept up behind him and accosted him. Bliss said "Good evening" to the men, and they asked him the road to Rockville. He pointed it out, and in an instant was struck down by a blow from a billet of wood one of them carried. Bliss was robbed, a watch and \$11.75 being taken from his pocket. Mr. Bliss' wife, not seeing him at home at the usual hour, notified some of the neighbors of her fears for his safety. A search was instituted, and about 2 o'clock in the morning Bliss was found by the roadside meconscious from the blows he had received upon his head. He remained uncon-

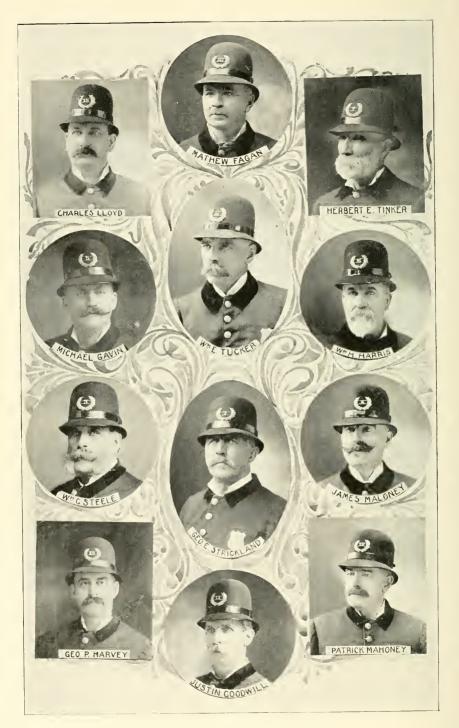
scious for three days, until he died. Tracks were found leading from the vicinity of the crime, and they were traced through the snow until they became confused and were lost. Suspicion fell upon John Dynes, a village loafer of unsavory reputation, and a Burnside citizen named Elmer overtook him the next morning on the street and asked him to ride into Hartford with Elmer took him to the police station in this city, and he confessed to the crime, implicating Oscar Graves with him. Officer George F. Bill was detailed upon the case and found Graves at his boarding house on Howard Street and he was arrested, although he drew a revolver on the officer. Graves was but eighteen years old. He confessed to striking the first blow on Bliss' head, but said that the only motive was to stun him so that the two might take what Bliss had in his pockets. Dynes struck other blows. They were bound over to the Superior Court, and at the June term the jury disagreed, standing nine for conviction and three for acquittal on the charge of second degree murder. At the September term following, the men pleaded guilty and were sentenced to prison for life.

#### CHAPTER XIX.

## TWO NOTED MURDER CASES.

Conspiracy Against Travelers Insurance Company Included Murder of Angeline Stewart — Story of the Murder of Joseph Jackson in Canada by William Richards — Hartford Police in Both Cases.

ANGELINE STEWART, a handsome child twelve years old, was murdered in Hudson, N. Y., in December, 1867, for an insurance of \$5,000 placed on her life with the Travelers Insurance Company of Hartford. The circumstances were peculiar, and revealed a depth of depravity in those who committed the crime unparalleled. Joseph Brown, a painter, of this city, and his wife, Josephine, conjointly committed the murder, and Brown was hanged for his part of it, and it is likely that the woman, who was probably the instigator of the crime, would also have been hanged but for the prejudice in the state of New York against hanging a woman. The woman was brought up by Judge Phelps of Granby, but did not prove to be worthy of the care bestowed upon her. She came to this city and led a life of disrepute, but finally married Brown, a weak-minded man, who was completely under her power. The two went to Columbus, O., and became acquainted with a widow named Stewart, the mother of the victim. They professed to be much attached to the child, and begged that she be allowed to go East with them, as it was their intention to settle in Hudson, N. Y. The mother reluctantly consented. On the way East, Brown and his wife stopped in Dayton for a time and took out a policy of \$5,000 (accident) on the child's life. They had lived in Hudson but a short time before their house was discovered to be



PATROLMEN.

on fire. No one could be found about the premises, it appearing afterwards that the woman had gone to a hotel near by, and that Brown had also gone out somewhere. The fire was extinguished, and in the pantry were discovered the remains of Angeline Stewart, the child, badly charred. There was an investigation, and Dr. Carney, a physician and detective of Boston, took the case up for the Travelers. He became convinced that the child had been murdered before the fire, by the fact that the blisters on the uncharred flesh were filled with air, and not with water, as would have been the case had the flesh been living flesh. Evidence of blows on the head were also discovered. Meanwhile Brown and his wife had left Hudson, and at Westfield, Mass., had sworn out a claim for the value of the policy before a justice of the peace, and it had been forwarded to the office of the company in this city. It became apparent, shortly after, that the couple were not in Westfield, and the Travelers applied to Chief Packard for their arrest. Officer Frank Flynn and another member of the force were detailed to go to Granby to find them, as it was suspected that they were there. They were found at Judge Phelps' house and brought to the station here in sleighs, being kept separate all the way in. The weather was severe, and the trip made by the officers was a remarkable one in many ways.

At the station Chief Packard questioned them separately, but got nothing from them. They were locked up in cells near each other, and an officer put into another cell to listen for developments. Chief Packard also "kept tabs" on their conversation with each other through the spy window of the station. The next morning he had enough evidence in hand to confront them, and they confessed the crime. They were taken to Hudson and tried, Chief Packard being on the witness stand against Brown for four hours. He was hanged, the chief being present at the execution. The woman was tried some time

later and got off with a cheap jail sentence. From their confession it appeared that after the girl had been killed with an axe she was fixed in a chair in the pantry, kindling wood placed about her body, kerosene poured upon it, and fire was set in such a manner that the two had time to escape before the great blaze was seen. The woman was strikingly handsome, but had the spirit of a fiend. It was said that she danced on the platform of the gallows upon which her husband was to hang. She was a morphine fiend, and thoroughly deprayed. The Stewart child lies buried in Granby.

The little village of Abercorn, in the province of Quebec, was the scene of a most brutal murder in July, 1881. Although the crime was not discovered until the following spring, the murderer was brought to justice, and escaped the sentence of death on the gallows by committing suicide in the jail in Quebec. In the early summer of that year, William Richards, a man over forty years old, came across from Birmingham, England, to engage in farming or blacksmithing pursuits, whichever came most convenient, in this country. He was on the steamer Montreal and was landed in Canada. On the same steamer was a young man in feeble health, but possessed of some money, who was in search of employment in a new climate for the betterment of his physical condition. The two became acquainted, and the vounger man, Joseph Jackson, seemed to rely upon Richards, who was a powerful man and knew much more of the world than Jackson. To Richards the younger man confided his possession of money, and from that moment the two were not separated. They applied for work at several places, but could obtain none together. Near Abercorn they met a farmer and asked the way to the station. They were told, and the way led through a patch of woods. Richards returned through that patch of woods alone several hours after, and when asked where his companion was said he would be along shortly. Nothing further was thought about the matter. Richards came to this vicinity, and obtained work at the Charles M. Beach farm in West Hartford in August following this incident. During his stay there he brutally beat a fellow employee, John B. Bromley, and served two months in the county jail for the crime. He afterwards went to Waterbury, where he worked in the Farrell foundry. The spring following, two boys passing through the patch of woods near Abercorn station found the body of Jackson, badly decomposed, with the skull crushed in, but sufficient evidences were remaining to identify it. High Constable H. D. Pickel of Sweetsburg, P. O., worked up the case and was satisfied that Richards did the deed and was in this section. He applied to Chief of Police Packard and the man was traced and located. John O'Malley, then a supernumerary on the force, went to Waterbury to aid in identifying the man, as he had worked with him on the Beach farm. At the foundry, Richards was handcuffed on one hand and immediately put up the other, showing that he had been there before and knew what was wanted. A number of articles belonging to Jackson were found in Richards' possession, and some of his clothes. There were some poetical works with the fly-leaves torn out, but enough remained to show that Jackson had once owned them. Richards was taken to Quebec, tried, found guilty, and sentenced to be hanged. He was a hard man, and had served two terms in English prisons for highway robbery, one of five and one of eight years. He had a married daughter living in West Hartford, and while he was in Waterbury had sent for his wife and younger children to come to this country. Richards cut his throat with a penknife about 3 o'clock of the morning on which he was to have been hanged, and was found dead in his cell. There was no possible motive for the crime but robbery. The working up of the case and the location of the man was a piece of fine detective work, the latter part of which was to the credit of the Hartford force.



PATROLMEN.

#### CHAPTER XX

# A CLEVER CONFIDENCE WOMAN.

Martha Stiles, alias Robbins, Wallace, and Howe - Swindling College Graduates a Successful Scheme with Her - Romantic Career of Adventure in Operatic, Theatrical, and Lecture Successes, but Always Crooked.

ONE of the cleverest confidence women in the country, with a long record of shady adventures, was rounded up in this city by the police, Sunday evening, August 19, 1894. Word had been sent to Chief of Police Bill from Worcester and Springfield that a woman calling herself "Wallace" and several other names had been doing the professional men of those cities out of various sums, and the probabilities were that she was then in Hartford. During the day, complaint came in that a woman calling herself "Robbins" had visited some professional men in Hartford and had obtained sums of money. She reported to Dr. W. T. Bacon, whom she had visited, that she was stopping at the Hotel Heublein, and surely enough she was found to be registered there. After notifying Dr. Bacon and other gentlemen who had been victimized by the woman to meet the police at the hotel, in order to identify her, Officers Umberfield and Johnson were detailed to make the arrest.

The woman came down to the parlors when called for, and seemed surprised when she met the officers. Dr. Bacon recognized her, and she returned to him \$25 she had received from him only a few hours before. She complained of feeling ill, but was taken to the station and locked up, charged with obtaining money under false pretenses. Mrs. Robbins, as she called herself, proved to be Martha Stiles, a native of New

Hampshire, belonging to a good family, but who had preferred the life of an adventuress to one of respectability. She married Edward R. Howe, likewise an adventurer, and the two had a varied career in all parts of the country. They lectured, gave operatic performances, securing school children for their choruses, and at one time were members of the Modjeska Theatrical Company, and Mrs. Howe in her younger days posed as the "Drummer Boy of Lookout Mountain," claiming that she had enlisted under the name of "Homer Mortimer." She imposed upon many Grand Army Posts in this way, and made a good deal of money, but her style of living used it up rapidly. After her marriage with Howe the pair operated in nearly every large town in the country, originating a clever scheme of swindling, which must have kept them remarkably busy in securing information, and proved them to be shrewd and keen-witted.

Immediately after arriving in town the pair would separate and make various calls upon college graduates, telling some story of distress or misfortune, and representing themselves to be relatives of some classmate of the graduate. The appeal was successful to a marked degree, and probably two out of three calls would bring money. In this city, "Mrs. Robbins" told Dr. Bacon that her pocket had been picked on the train from Springfield, and that she was the sister of Mr. Ferry, a classmate of the doctor's, then living in California. After she had left the doctor's house he analyzed her stories and, finding discrepancies, complained of her to the police. The couple had been in the city a year previous, and made some money, but this time the woman was on a lone hunt.

She was decidedly clever in concealing the money she had obtained, \$85 having been found done up in her back hair. At the September term of the court she was sentenced to two years in jail, after a plea of guilty. She professed herself a fatalist and attempted no defense. She was about forty-five years old,

tall, dressed in conventional black, was thin, and had a sallow complexion. She possessed a marvelously winning speaking voice and fine presence, and hundreds of college men have yielded to her swindles, and are out of pocket. Even while in jail she could not resist the temptation to be crooked, and after having earned "good time" lost it all by violating the rules and trying to send a letter out by a prisoner who was released. Howe did not appear in the city during her imprisonment. It is understood that she went to New Jersey from the jail here, and that family friends were to care for her in the future. She was not a well woman, and her "professional" career probably closed with her experiences in this city.



PATROLMEN.

## CHAPTER XXI.

#### GUINAN BOYS' FATE.

Distressing Story of Lost from Home, of Searching Parties, and Final Discovery in a Freight Car Suffocated - Intense Excitement and Sympathy of the Public.

THE most distressing incident which ever came under the notice of the Hartford police had whatever nothing to do with crime, but was of such a character that the heart of every parent in the city was touched to its very depths. Thursday afternoon, July 26, 1894, the three boys of Mr. and Mrs. James Guinan, Raymond, aged nine; Leroy, aged seven, and Freddie, aged four, were playing about the yard near the family home on Broad Street, not far from the railway tracks. They were not seen alive after about 3 o'clock of that day. Late at night the children were reported to the police station as missing, and an attempt was made to find them. No traces of them could be found. The next day, Friday, the railroad cars along the line were searched, and reports having reached the police that three boys had been seen in the south meadows, Friday night a large force of men, under police direction, hunted the meadows with lanterns, but still nothing could be found of the missing ones. Saturday's search was equally fruitless, and the distress of the parents and the interest of the community was most intense. There were many theories, but none of them proved to be tenable.

Sunday morning, Chief of Police Bill made up his mind that the boys must be in some of the freight cars on the sidings not far from the home of their parents. Policemen Charles Mantie

and Mark Grady were detailed to make a thorough and systematic search, and, accompanied by John Whitmore, foreman of the repair shop of the railroad company, examined and unlocked all the cars standing on the tracks. Upon arriving at Caboose No. 12, which had been newly painted and was on the sidetrack near the north wall of the tracks, Mr. Whitmore tried the key in the door and was surprised to find it unlocked. Inside the car there was nothing apparent, but there was a strong odor, indicating that perhaps the bodies of the boys might be there. A clothes closet used by the trainmen was found locked. and the door was broken open. There, in a heap upon the floor, were the three little fellows, entombed, their arms wound round about each other, suffocated to death in an air space twenty-eight and one-half inches deep, twelve inches wide, and five feet high. The intense heat of the three days had turned the bodies absolutely black, and there were more distressing circumstances connected with the tragedy than any which had ever come to the notice of the police. The bodies were removed to the morgue, where autopsies were performed by Medical Examiner Horace S. Fuller, Dr. John O'Flaherty, Dr. C. C. Beach, and Dr. Griswold. The finding was that the children died from accidental suffocation.

The most reasonable theory connected with the tragedy was that the boys, familiar with the railroads and cars, their father having been a locomotive engineer, had entered the caboose to play a game of cards, cards having been found scattered upon the floor of the car, and that, hearing a noise, and knowing that policemen arrested tramps for playing cards in cars, supposed that a policeman was after them, and rushed into the closet, which, having a spring lock upon the door, closed upon them. In their efforts to relieve themselves of heat and to get away, the lads had stripped off their clothing, which was found at the bottom of the closet. There was intense excitement after the

discovery of the children, and crowds flocked to the police station all the afternoon and evening. It was the most heart-breaking tragedy in the history of the city, and it was none the less tragic because of the fact that the children were undoubtedly dead before they were reported as lost, and that the caboose was within a stone's throw of the home of their parents.



PATROLMEN.

## CHAPTER XXII.

### A BLOCK OF FIVE.

Hartford's Only Chinese Murder — New York Pickpockets Rounded Up - Henry Chase, Jailbreaker and Enticer of Young Girls - A Gentleman Burglar.

CHARLEY LEE, a Chinaman, was murdered in June Lee's laundry in the basement of one of the Asylum Street blocks below Ann Street, April 19, 1891. It appears that Charley Gong, who had several other Chinese aliases, had a grievance against Lee, who had secured, as he thought, the publication of an article in one of the daily newspapers which had, as he claimed, ruined his business. Gong went into the laundry of June Lee on the evening of the day mentioned and found Charley Lee and June playing a game of fan tan in the rear room. Gong immediately drew a navy revolver and fired three shots into his enemy. Lee was instantly killed. Gong walked to the police station and gave himself up, saving that he had shot a man, and that he hoped he was dead. He entered a plea of not guilty in the Police Court the next morning and was bound over to the Superior Court. At the September term of that court he pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree, and was sentenced to State Prison for life. Throughout his confinement in the county jail he appeared to be the most happy person imaginable, satisfied that he had made things "even" for the attack on his business by Lee. He often expressed himself as highly delighted with the job.

A gang of twenty or more pickpockets came up from New York to do the races at Charter Oak Park in September, 1897,

but through the foresight of Chief of Police Bill they did not operate. A New York detective was on hand, and as fast as the men appeared they were spotted and arrested. Six of the men found rest in the station house September 2, the first day of the meet, and the others returned to New York. They were a precious lot of professionals, every one of them having done time previous to their coming here, and every one of them is now doing time in some prison in the Eastern states. They were George O'Neill, alias "Ed. Conners"; John Mackey, alias "Paddy Irish"; Daniel Magill, alias "Dave Norton"; Robert Willington, alias "Chinese Teddy"; Joseph Hussey, alias "Red Hurley"; Thomas Coleman, alias "Thomas Geoghegan." The officers connected with their arrest were Sergeant Walter Smith, Detective Garret J. Farrell, and Officers Lloyd, O'Malley, and J. F. Sullivan.

A successful jail-breaker and a villain whose special crime was the enticing of young girls from home for immoral purposes was Henry A. Chase, in whom the police were interested for a period of several months in the winter and spring of 1897. Chase enticed a young school girl fourteen years old from her home, and for some months no traces were found of him such as would lead to his arrest. Sergeant Walter Smith was on the case, and tracked him until he was at last found in Plymouth, where he was detained by a constable and locked up. Sergeant Smith went to Plymouth after him, but when he got there a big hole in the cell where he had been confined showed that he had flown. The girl had disappeared. Another long chase and tracking located him in Springfield, where he had still another young girl with him. He was tried at the June term in 1897, and was sentenced to State Prison for four years and to jail for one year. After he had served his term at the State Prison, for some reason there was a miss of calculation between the officers and the sheriff and Chase was set free. He was recaptured and

taken to jail for the remainder of his sentence, but escaped in six months, and is now believed to be in South Africa. He was an expert worker in wire, and easily found his way about the country plying his trade. He had served terms in jail and in State Prison before he was rounded up for the crime above related. The girl whom he enticed away was supposed to have been murdered by him, but it is known that she was not, but was deserted for another one after a few weeks. She is believed to be living in New York.

A gang of burglars, Jacob Nudic, a rag peddler, Felix Alenikoh, and a man named Shapira, were interested in the burglary and arson of a store in Marlboro in the winter of 1891. They loaded a wagon full of goods from the store and drove to Goodspeed's landing, where the goods were shipped to this city. The building was fired and burned to the ground, and no one would have known of the burglary but for the fact that a rubber boot was found not far from the store. This set the officers at work, and the trio were arrested. Shapira stabbed himself in the abdomen while awaiting for the preliminary hearing and died two days later in the hospital. Nudic and Alenikoff were sent to prison for four years. Sergeant Walter Smith had the working up of the case.

In the early part of October, 1898, the house of Mrs. Juliette Sumner, No. 11 Myrtle Street, was entered by a burglar and a quantity of silverware and other articles stolen. No immediate clue was found to aid in the arrest of the burglar, but on October 9 a man calling himself William E. Travis was arrested in New York by detectives of the force of that city. It appears that he had been given away by a pal who had come to grief, and an investigation showed that he lived in a respectable locality on Schermerhorn Street in Brooklyn, and had always passed for a commercial traveler. His wife and her mother were unaware of the character of his business, but it soon developed that



PATROLMEN.

he had been one of the most successful second-story burglars and operators in the country. Among some of the silverware taken from him were articles bearing the name of "Sumner," and Detective Farrell was sent to New York to identify them if possible. This was easily done, and after a contest made by Travis he was finally remanded to this city for the first chance at him, although he was wanted in other places for burglaries. He was brought to Hartford October 18 and held for the Superior Court for trial, and at the following term was sentenced to State Prison for nine years. His name was found to be Rudolph Busch, although he was married under the name of William E. Dalton. He was a gentleman in his tastes and appearance, a reader and student of the best literature, and a man who would have made a fine place for himself in society but for the "crook" that was in him. He is regarded as at the head of his profession, which he will not pursue for some years, as there are many other complaints against him in various parts of the country when his sentence shall have expired at Wethersfield. His plan of operation was to steal valuables that were easily portable, and they were either melted up and sold for their bullion value, or, in case of jewelry, sold under the pretense that he was a traveling jeweler. He made the business very profitable. His wife was as much surprised as any one when the true character of the man was revealed.



PATROLMEN.

# CHAPTER XXIII.

#### THE GRISWOLD CASE.

One of the Celebrated Criminal Trials of Recent Times in Connecticut — Singular Circumstances surrounding the Crime of Arson, of which Dr. Griswold was Convicted and Sentenced for Ten Years in State Prison.

One of the crimes in Hartford which created unusual excitement in the city and throughout the state was the burning of the Woodbridge building on Main Street, where the Sage-Allen building now stands. The fire occurred on the night of March 14, 1895, and the large stores of the Charles R. Hart Company, William G. Simmons & Company, the photographic rooms of Mrs. Lloyd, and the dental office of Dr. Malcolm Griswold were burned out, the loss being very heavy. There were many circumstances about the fire that looked suspicious, and the police investigation fixed the fact that the fire was incendiary beyond a doubt. Suspicion was directed against Dr. Griswold, who had not been remarkably prosperous in business, largely on account of his habits and neglect of his profession. No special action was taken immediately, except to watch for developments, and they came along rapidly.

In making out his schedule of property destroyed for the fire insurance company, Dr. Griswold called in the aid of Fred C. Jackson, who had been studying dentistry in his office. Jackson did not like the inventory, as he knew it to be false, and told Dr. Griswold that the insurance people would suspect him of setting fire to the place. Dr. Griswold then went over the matter, and incidentally mentioned some photographs that had been

saved from the wreck and sent to his private box in the post office. These were old-fashioned photographs, purporting to be of Mrs. R. N. Thane, but in reality were of Mrs. Virtue Drake of Pine Meadow, with whom Dr. Griswold was carrying on a clandestine correspondence. Jackson pointed out that the postmark on the envelope containing the photographs was earlier than the hour of the fire. "That is the one loop-hole left open," said Griswold, and he confessed to the crime of setting the building on fire, to Jackson. Jackson informed the insurance men, and Officer O'Malley arrested Griswold, and he was heard before



PATROLMEN.

the Police Court on the Saturday afternoon succeeding the fire.

Dr. Griswold was held in \$15,000, which were furnished after a few days, and the most sensational trial ever known in the history of Hartford county was that of his case at the June term following, the court being in session on the case from June 11 until July 29. The jury was out twenty-seven hours, but could not agree. The following September the case was tried again, and Griswold was found guilty and sentenced to ten years in the State Prison. He was smitten with paralysis after a short time and has been in the prison hospital since then. An effort was

History of Police Department, Hartford, Connecticut. 129 made to secure his release by the board of pardons, but it did not avail.

Burglars have had peculiar experiences in the houses of clergymen in this city. In 1885 the house of the late Rev. Dr. Gage, pastor of the Pearl Street Congregational Church, now the Farmington Avenue Church, was entered by John Gillespie, one of the most daring of the professional talent in the country. Dr. Gage attacked the burglar and held him until assistance arrived, and the man was sentenced to the State Prison at Wethersfield. He had done time frequently before, and after his release went to Massachusetts, where he was arrested and, under the habitual criminal act, is now serving a sentence for twenty-five years. Gillespie was a remarkable prisoner, in that he had absolutely no friends. He never wrote or received a letter while in the prison at Wethersfield, nor did any one ever call upon him as a friend. He was alone in the world, and his life was spent in preving upon society, such of it as he passed outside prison walls.

July 27, 1897, the house of the Rev. Joseph H. Twichell on Woodland Street was entered by Charles King and Horace B. Winters, young men. Mr. Twichell's son held them up and they were arrested, and have just about completed their term in State Prison for the crime.



PHOTO, BY STUART,

F. T. COWLEY. EDWARD BEECHER.

J. H. HURLEY. M. C. FOLEY. A. M. ROWLEY. JAMES P. MORAN. J. J. JORDAN.
L. P. LACEY. JOHN M. HENRY. J. H. NAYLOR. E. F. O'BRIEN. *Manager*. W. F. TOBIN.
G. W. BUTLER.

Hartford Police Baseball Team.

#### CHAPTER XXIV.

#### POLICE ATHLETICS.

Members of the Force Who are Experts in Many Lines of Sport, Oarsmen, Bicyclists, Boxers, and Sprinters — The Police Baseball Team and its Victories.

Policemen take naturally to athletics. It is a part of their business, and they get paid for it. The reader may think that some of the bluecoat heavyweights are not athletic. Perhaps they are not, but it is not safe to tackle them. The police commissioners have fixed the age, height, and weight of candidates for the force. Our future policemen will be vouthful, of good height, and proportionate weight. In the past few years the age limit has been reduced from thirty-five to thirty years, and at a recent meeting it was proposed to have the height five feet eight inches, which is a half inch over the present standard. This caused the mayor to remark that the board had "cut off their vears and wanted to add to their legs." It will be seen that it is the intention of the police board to have policemen who have the making of athletes. Each applicant is physically examined by a police surgeon. It may interest many who have admired the huge and powerful frame of Sergeant Butler to know that when he was examined by Dr. H. S. Fuller he was declared to be without a blemish, and the experienced surgeon was unable to find an unsound spot on him.

On a succeeding page will be found something about some of the athletic triumphs of a few members of the force. Much of the work was done before the men became regular policemen. Of course, it is understood that a policeman does not have

# 132 History of Police Department, Hartford, Connecticut.

the time to train for professional events. It is doubtful if the board would grant a man a month to train for a fight with some slugger whose name is a household word, nor could he have a leave of absence for the summer to play with a ball team. But the commissioners encourage athletics so far as they do not interfere with the work of the department, and promote the physical welfare of the individual. A man who has been in professional sports for a dozen years ought to have a level head,



PART OF THE POLICE FORCE IN 1889.

an even temper, and excellent judgment, all great qualities for a policeman.

The police building is equipped with shower baths, a large hall for drilling, and a good gymnasium containing sufficient apparatus. Flying rings, parallel and horizontal bars, a horse, boxing gloves, punching bag, medicine ball, Indian clubs, dumbbells, chest weights, rowing machines, etc., can be used at all hours. At the annual meetings of the Police Mutual Aid Association an amusement committee is elected and this com-

mittee often looks after athletic enterprises. The committee is composed of Chief George F. Bill, Edward F. O'Brien, John Erving Palmer, Charles L. Ramsden, and John F. Sullivan.

In recent years the public has had an opportunity to witness the prowess of the department's baseball team, the undisputed champions of New England, and by the close of the coming season the team expects to be the champion police team of the United States. Some of the enthusiasts declare that when the next history of the department is written the team may be looking for Old World honors and make a tour of the globe looking for fresh teams to conquer.

That the public was enthusiastic about the fine record made by the team last season is evidenced by the sale of tickets for the game played here between Hartford and Worcester police. This game was for the benefit of St. Francis' Hospital, and after the expenses for entertaining the visiting team had been paid the sum of \$558.90 was handed over to Bishop Tierney by the committee for the hospital. The bishop complimented the team for its supremacy in the national game and thanked the committee for the large sum contributed to a worthy cause.

It is unnecessary to mention here the many games won by the team, including contests with such strong players as the Morse Business College and the Hartford Street Railway teams, or to give accounts of the games with the police departments of other cities. The standing of the police teams in New England at the close of last season was as follows:

		Won.	Lost.	P. C.
Hartford, .		4	I	80.0
Worcester, .		I	I	50.0
New Haven,		0	I	0.00
Bridgeport,		О	2	00.0

Among the numerous athletes in the department may be mentioned George C. and Frank A. Heise, who excel in general gymnasium work. They have many medals won at Turner-

# 134 History of Police Department, Hartford, Connecticut.

fests. If the department ever gives an exhibition, the Heise brothers will begin the program on the horizontal bar with the giant swing.

William Weltner is the best all-around athlete in the department and won distinction on the Connecticut river when a member of the Hartford Rowing Club, of which he was secretary for some years. As a single sculler and in the eight he did good work. He is also a clever boxer and can put the light shot, and



PART OF THE POLICE FORCE IN 1889.

in 1891 he won the all-around amateur championship of Hartford.

Sergeant John F. Butler won the amateur heavyweight boxing tournament in Boston one year. He has handled the 56 with skill, and for a heavy man is probably the fastest 100-yard runner in the country. He once defeated an editor of the Hartford *Courant* in a fifty-yard sprint, and was willing to retire after gaining such a reputation. During the warm season he covers the right garden for the Police B. B. C.

John M. Henry has been in at least one hundred fifty-yard races with the best men in the country, and was never defeated at that distance. He has been in many 100-yard events and was beaten but twice. At one time he was open to all comers at either distance. One of his most famous races was his sprint with Mike Tiernan when both were members of the New York ball club. Mr. Henry guards the second bag on the police team.

James P. Moran, the backstop of the ball team, formerly played on the Hartford professional team, and is considered one of the best boxers in the department. He is easily the best catching policeman in the country.

Dr. James H. Naylor, the pitcher of the team, is one of the police surgeons, and he learned to locate the slab when in college. It was due to his efficient twirling that the team had such a successful season last year. He is a good batsman and a first-class base-runner. He can also play other positions satisfactorily.

Dr. Albert M. Rowley, another police surgeon, has played third base on the team, and his good all-around work at the base, with his fine batting and daring base-running, was of great help to the team.

"Cap" William Tobin, the first baseman, was at one time considered the best man in that position in the country. That he has not forgotten his old habit of gathering the ball, no matter how thrown, was evident by his work last season.

Edward Beecher, the left fielder, is the best baseball player that ever gave up the diamond for the little locust club. He has played on several National League teams, and was always a free hitter. In Pittsburg, Washington, and other places he was a great favorite. Now when he steps up to the plate the crowd usually cries "Home run!"

- G. W. Butler, center field, is a six-footer like his brother, the sergeant, and has made a good record as an outfielder.
- L. P. Lacey has done well at the difficult position of shortstop, and he can take his turn in the box.

Among the substitutes who have done good work may be mentioned J. J. Jordan, F. T. Cowley, J. H. Hurley, Frank S. Young, and M. F. Foley.

Edward F. O'Brien, the manager of the team, directs the team from the bench. He looks after the bookings of the team and has full charge of its finances. His treatment of the opposing teams has been commended by the various departments.

In closing this brief record it is fitting to say that one of the best raids made by the department in recent years was due to the fine bicycle riding of J. M. Henry and L. G. Melberger, expert wheelmen, who by their good riding were able to catch a violator of the law who had long defied the police. J. M. O'Mally, George H. Sterzing, and J. H. O'Mara are members of the department who have won many road races. Henry Hart has considerable reputation as an amateur boxer.

# CHAPTER XXV.

#### MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS.

Brief Sketches of Mayor Harbison and Commissioners Smith, Wise, Quinn, Mahl, Newton, and Huntington.

## MAYOR ALEXANDER HARBISON.

ALEXANDER HARBISON, mayor of the city and president ex officio of the police commission, is a native of County Armagh, Ireland, and was born in 1842. He came to this country with his father's family in 1849, and has since that time lived in Hartford. He was early in the employ of Abraham Rose, the newsdealer, but attended school at the South School and at the Hartford Public High School, relinquishing his studies in the latter institution on account of trouble with his eyes. He then entered the employ of A. L. Simmons, a marketman near the Main Street bridge, and continued until 1861, when the grocery firm of Harbison Brothers was formed, Hugh Harbison being the partner. After continuing for twenty years, the firm sold out, and Mayor Harbison entered the real estate business and paid some attention to brick making. He was afterwards general agent for the New York Life Insurance Company, and maintains his connection with that company at the present time. He was alderman for four years, and during the mayoralty of Henry C. Robinson was president of the board and often presided over the deliberations of the police board at that time. He was afterwards a member of the Board of Councilmen, and was president of that board for two years. He has been a member of the Republican State Central Committee for fifteen years and of the town and ward committees for twenty years. He made the run for



PHOTO. BY STUART.

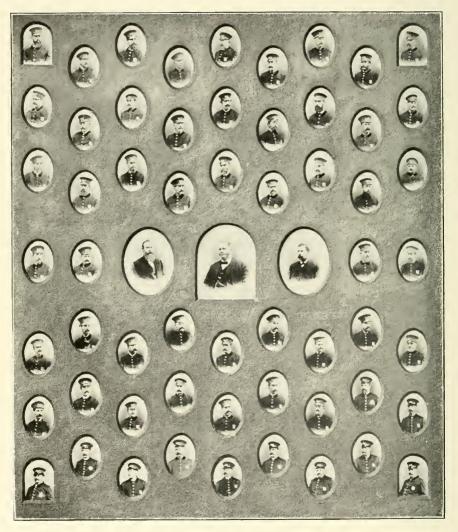
POLICE DEPARTMENT IN 1868.

state senator in 1876 against Charles M. Pond, but was defeated. He was candidate for mayor in 1876 against the late Joseph H. Sprague, William J. Hamersley running as an independent citizens' candidate. Sprague was elected. He was again candidate for mayor in 1896, but was defeated by Mayor Preston. In 1900 he was for the third time candidate for mayor on the Republican ticket, and was elected by the majority of 3.157, being the first mayor to carry every ward in the city.

Mayor Harbison is particularly well known among the harness racing men of the country, and was secretary and afterwards president of the Charter Oak Park Association, and has started horses at the races at that park for fourteen years. He has also started horses on all the tracks from Maine to Kentucky, and has been a member of the committee on rules of the National Trotting Association. It is doubtful if any citizen of Hartford is so widely known or has more personal friends in various parts of the country. His acquaintance with all classes of people in Hartford is something remarkable.

## THOMAS A. SMITH.

The senior member of the police commission is Thomas A. Smith, whose appointment was made in April, 1896, to fill the vacancy caused by the election of Commissioner Miles B. Preston to the mayoralty, his appointment having been made by that gentleman. Mr. Smith served for the first two or three years on the commission as auditor of accounts, but during the later years of his service has been on the committee of building and supplies, the immense amount of detail that naturally comes into the business of the department going through his hands. He was a member of the board of councilmen in 1880 and 1886 and served in that capacity well. His length of service has made him unusually familiar with the workings of the department, and his knowledge of police matters in general is second to that of



PHOTO, BY STUART.

no man outside of the actual working force. Commissioner Smith is a native of Hartford, educated in the city schools, and has been in business for many years just north of the bridge on Main Street. He is of the wholesale and retail butter and egg house of Kingsley & Smith, and is a progressive, active man of modern ideas and greatly interested in all matters pertaining to the municipal government.

#### JAMES J. QUINN.

James J. Quinn is the only representative of the legal profession on the present board of police commissioners. He is a Democrat in politics. Commissioner Ouinn was born in Hartford in 1865. He attended the public schools of the city, and in 1887 was graduated from St. John's College, Fordham. He then entered upon the study of law and was admitted to the Hartford county bar in 1891. The same year he was appointed clerk of the City Court and held the office continuously until 1899. He lias frequently declined nominations for political office, preferring to devote his time fully to the practice of his profession. Commissioner Oninn was appointed a member of the board for three years by Mayor Preston in 1899. As a member of the board's committee on rules and discipline he has rendered the city valuable service. He was instrumental in establishing civil service examinations as requisite to promotions on the force, and he has always favored the adoption of the most modern standards and progressive measures in the handling of the department. Commissioner Ouinn is a prominent member of the Order of Elks, the Knights of Columbus, Knights of Pythias, Ancient Order of Hibernians, and Order of Foresters.

#### ISIDORE WISE.

Isidore Wise, acting president of the police commission, was appointed by Mayor Preston in April, 1899, to fill out an unexpired term, and has been an important member of the board.

He is on the building and supplies committee, and headed the special committee for the purchase of the electric patrol wagon. Mr. Wise was born in this city, November 19, 1865, and was educated in the public schools. He entered the dry goods business as cash boy, and has worked himself up to the senior and managing partnership of the well-known department house of Wise, Smith & Company. He began business in the Cheney building, under the firm name of I. Wise & Company, but his success warranted the building of a special store for his largely increased business. Mr. Wise has been interested in politics locally, in state, and in national matters. He served two terms in the board of councilmen from the old Seventh ward, and was alderman from the old Seventh and the new Third, having important committees. He has been thrice delegate to Republican state conventions, and was an alternate to the National Republican convention in 1000 which nominated McKinley and Roosevelt. He is a member of Lafavette Lodge, A. F. and A. M., of Pythagoras Chapter, R. A. M., of B. H. Webb Council, Royal Arcanum, and trustee of the Congregation Beth Israel on Charter Oak Avenue. Commissioner Wise is a hard-working, painstaking official who believes that success in public affairs consists in conducting public business in the same manner as private affairs are conducted, economically and at the same time progressively.

#### EDWARD MAHL.

Edward Mahl, appointed police commissioner on the Republican side by Mayor Harbison for two years, to fill the unexpired term of Commissioner Whaples, resigned, is a man whose energy and trained capacity for business had already accomplished much for the welfare of the city. He served eight years as councilman from the old First and Seventh Wards, and was president of the lower board one year. In 1898 he was elected alderman

from the Seventh Ward and served for two years. Both as councilman and alderman he was a working member of various important committees, and it is safe to assume that few men possess a more thorough practical knowledge of matters pertaining to the government of the city. Commissioner Mahl is one of the most prominent Masons in Connecticut. He is past master of St. John's Lodge, No. 4, F. and A. M.; past eminent commander of Washington Commandery, No. 1, K. T., and most excellent master of Hartford Council, Princes of Jerusalem, Scottish Rite Masons. Commissioner Mahl is a native of Norwich, Conn., and one of six brothers, all of whom are held in high esteem as business men and citizens.

#### CHARLES G. HUNTINGTON.

Charles G. Huntington was born in Hartford. After graduating from the Public High School he found employment in the office of the Connecticut River Banking Company, subsequently becoming bookkeeper. In 1808 he entered the employ of the Pope Manufacturing Company and is now superintendent of advertising for the Columbia sales department of the American Bicycle Company. He has never held any elective political office, but has always devoted a good deal of attention to matters of public concern, and especially to such as pertain to the public schools. From 1804 to 1807 he was chairman of the Northwest school district committee, and during his administration the school was changed from a semi-country school to a thoroughly graded school and provided with every convenience found in the larger schools of the city. In 1809, having changed his residence to the south end, he was chosen a member of the South school district committee. In 1900 he was appointed a police commissioner for three years by Mayor Harbison. Mr. Huntington is a Democrat in politics. Two years ago he was a candidate for alderman from the Seventh Ward and came within a few



PHOTO, BY STUART,

J. E. PALMER. C. L. RAMSDEN.

ED. F. O'BRIEN. CAPTAIN GEO. F. BILL. J. F. SULLIVAN.

Amusement Committee of the Hartford Police Mutual Aid Association.

History of Police Department, Hartford, Connecticut. 145 votes of election, although the Seventh is considered one of the Republican strongholds of the city. He is a member of Hartford Lodge, No. 88, F. and A. M.

#### THEODORE NEWTON.

Theodore Newton, whose three-years term as police commissioner dates from April 1, 1900, is a native of Colchester, Vt. He came to Hartford as a young man in 1863 and soon established himself as a builder. During the last thirty years he has probably erected as many dwellings and business blocks in this city as any other man in his line of business. His son, Burt L. Newton, a member of the board of school visitors, is associated with him under the firm name of Theodore Newton & Co. Mr. Newton served one term as a Republican councilman from the old First Ward, but has never been an aspirant for political honors. He has, however, always evinced an active interest in public affairs, and his advice and counsel have been frequently sought by those holding civic positions of responsibility and trust. The action of Mayor Harbison in appointing him a member of the police board met with widespread and cordial approval entirely irrespective of partisan political considerations. Commissioner Newton is a member of several Masonic bodies, including Washington Commandery, K. T.

#### CHAPTER XXVI.

#### CHIEF OF POLICE GEORGE F. BILL.

Early in the Service — Veteran of the First Heavy Artillery — Holds a Commission for Gallant Conduct, Signed by Abraham Lincoln — Many Years Captain of Police — Detective with a Wide Knowledge of the Criminal Profession.

CHIEF of Police George F. Bill came to Hartford a young man in 1852 and entered the employ of Hunt & Holbrook, shoe manufacturers, and was interested in the old volunteer fire department soon after being here, having joined the old Neptune Engine Company and serving in that company from 1854 to 1861. On the Monday morning following the attack on Fort Sumter he enlisted for service, forming a company of light artillery. This command, for some reason, was not accepted by the government, and with those of the company who wished to follow him he began the formation of an infantry regiment to be known as Colt's Regiment, and encamped on Colt's Meadow. This in turn was not accepted, and he joined the Fifth Connecticut Volunteers, and was encamped on the old Campfield where the Stedman monument now stands, until the regiment entered the service, October, 1861. In 1862 he resigned his commission as first lientenant and re-enlisted in the First Connecticut Heavy Artillery Regiment, which became the most famous of all the artillery volunteer regiments in the service, serving in the most critical innetures of the war with marvelous ability, its marksmen being equal to any big gun handlers in the world at that time. He remained in this command until the close of the war, holding a commission as first lieutenant. He was brevetted captain by President Abraham Lincoln, the commission setting forth that the honor was conferred for "gallant and meritorious services in the defense of Petersburg." The commission was signed by Mr. Lincoln, and is one of the most cherished treasures the chief has in his possession.

Captain Bill returned to the city at the close of his service with the First Heavies, and again entered the employ of Hunt & Holbrook. He was appointed policeman, July, 1867, and served first as patrolman, then as roundsman, in which latter position he performed duties similar to those of the sergeants of the force at the present time. He then was appointed detective, and for some years was successful in this most difficult work. He obtained a wide knowledge of crooks who were often in the city during race week or on occasions of public gatherings, and was connected with a great many of the noted cases that have been under the jurisdiction of the Hartford police. He was appointed captain in 1873, and during his term of service in that capacity was in charge of the ruins of the Park Central Hotel, February 18, 1888, until the last of the twentythree bodies were taken from the wreck and no further signs of fatality were found. This service was most arduous, in a storm of rain and snow, with conditions that were most harrowing.

He was appointed chief of police November 6, 1893, and has since filled the office with dignity and ability. The force under his direction has good discipline, and the city has been comparatively free from professional criminals. It has become a proverb with the "talent" that to come to Hartford is to invite arrest, and many well-known criminals have been rounded up in this city under Chief Bill's direction. He is a shrewd judge of human nature, and has an intuitive sense which enables him to circumvent violators of the law before they know it.

As an executive officer he has fine control of the men under him, and the routine of the office is as smooth in its workings as that of any first-class establishment in the country. He is prompt and efficient in the service of the city, and personally receives hundreds of complaints each week which he causes to be investigated to the foundation. The unwritten and unrecorded service of the chief of police is even more important than the service which finds its way into the public press.

#### OFFICERS OF THE FORCE.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Group of Experienced Men in Charge of the Workings of the Force — Long Service on the Force and Faithful to Duty — Good Executive Ability.

THE police force has been extremely fortunate in its minor officers, as well as in the ability of its principal chiefs. The men who are now connected with it as officers have had long experience in the actual work of the patrolmen, in detective service, and in all the many duties that pertain to an officer of the public peace which call for judgment, patience, and courage.

#### CAPTAIN CORNELIUS RYAN.

Captain Cornelius Rvan is the oldest officer on the force, his commission dating October 3, 1861. He will be entitled to wear eight service stripes on his sleeve the coming October, showing forty years of continuous service on the police force of Hartford, a record of which any man might well be proud. Captain Ryan came to this city in 1849, and was employed at the well-known foundry of Woodruff & Beach on Commerce Street. After twelve years in that foundry he joined the police force and has been in actual service since. He has been connected with many important cases, and in the early days of the force was often in the midst of serious trouble maintaining order, the rougher element not having been trained to respect an officer of the peace as it does now. Some account of his experiences will be found in other pages of this sketch of the police which will be well worth reading. He was commissioned lieutenant in 1873, and on the accession of Chief Bill to the head of the force became captain. His hours of duty are from 4 in the afternoon until 12 at night, and he attends to his duties with all the earnestness and vigor of a much younger man. Personally, Captain Ryan is one of the best-natured of men, overflowing with humor and reminiscence. He is a closely-built, wiry man and in his prime was a hard one for the toughs to handle, as many of them learned. He has a wide acquaintance with police officials in many parts of the country.

#### LIEUTENANT WILLIAM F. GUNN.

Lieutenant William F. Gunn entered the police service February 16, 1886, and early proved himself a capable and conscientious officer. When the efficiency of the force was added to by the establishment of the office of sergeant he was one of the original four to receive the honor. The duties of the sergeants in the Hartford force are somewhat different from those of the larger police forces in the country, where they are largely deskmen in precincts. Here they perform the duties of roundsmen and attend to many other duties beside. On the advancement of Captain George F. Bill to be chief, Sergeant Gunn was promoted to the lieutenancy of the force and has proven to be an excellent officer. He has charge of the force from midnight until the chief returns to duty in the morning, and frequently has the most trying duties to perform. He is a quiet and unassuming man, who attends strictly to business, and while his work is almost wholly during the hours while the city sleeps it is of the first importance. His commission dates November 3, 1893.

When Lieutenant Gunn was a patrolman on duty in Asylum Street, some years ago, he discovered a man breaking into one of the stores, and came down upon him and took him in. He proved to have as fine a set of burglar's tools as one need to carry, and a singular fact about the whole matter was that he was

#### 150 History of Police Department, Hartford, Connecticut.

laughing at the arrest as though it was a good joke. It was afterwards ascertained that he was a detective in the employ of the Pinkertons, working on a murder case in Bristol, and had got some clue to his man, which he was working out under the guise of a professional burglar.

#### THE SERGEANTS.

When sergeants were added to the force there were only four, but during the present season the Common Council has



PHOTO, BY STUART.

AUTOMATIC POLICE GUN.

made provision for six, and there are also two acting sergeants, and they are all kept busy in the lines of their duty.

#### SERGEANT CARTER.

Sergeant James P. Carter is the ranking member of these officers, his commission dating August, 1892. He entered the service August 5, 1889, and has proved himself an intelligent and reliable officer, having the esteem of the community. He is a remarkably modest and quiet man, but knows his duties thoroughly and attends to them well.

#### SERGEANT SMITH.

Sergeant Walter W. Smith's commission as patrolman dates November 4, 1871, and for many years he was one of the best-known officers of the force. He was commissioned sergeant November 6, 1893, and was soon after detailed as detective sergeant, and in that capacity has had a great deal to do with many important cases entrusted to his care, as may be noted by reference to other parts of this historical sketch. He is painstaking and persistent, and has a great deal of native shrewdness to aid him in his peculiar work.

#### SERGEANT UMBERFIELD.

Sergeant Burton L. Umberfield began duty as a patrolman May 20, 1889, and for some time prior to his appointment as sergeant was deskman at police headquarters during the day hours. His commission as sergeant dates July 27, 1897. He is well known, and is an excellent officer, going about his business in a straightforward, unassuming manner.

#### SERGEANT BUTLER.

Sergeant John F. Butler entered the service April 19, 1893, as a patrolman, and was for some time on the State Street beat, where he became familiar with some of the hard life of the city. He was made acting sergeant some time before his commission was given him. He is one of the largest men on the force, finely proportioned, and has an enviable reputation for courage and downright pluck. He is often at the head of the police platoon on parade days. His commission dates May 8, 1900.

#### SERGEANT CREEDON.

Sergeant John Creedon began service as patrolman January 16, 1893, and for a few months prior to his appointment as sergeant was acting sergeant. His commission as sergeant was issued February 7, 1901, and was the first to be issued under the civil service examination adopted by the police commission.

#### 152 History of Police Department, Hartford, Connecticut.

#### SERGEANT FINLEY.

Sergeant Patrick J. Finley was a patrolman May 20, 1889, and served as such until he was appointed sergeant by the commission, February 7, 1901, under the civil service examination and entered upon his duties immediately.

#### SERGEANT FARRELL.

Garrett J. Farrell was appointed detective sergeant March 11, 1901. He has been on the force since 1893, and early in



ELECTRIC POLICE PATROL.

his career as a patrolman evidenced ability in the line of detective work, and for some years previous to his appointment as sergeant had been detailed on detective work. He has had a fine experience in the work for so young a man, and his daily duty requires an amount of shrewdness and knowledge of human nature that is not always easy to find in an officer.

#### ACTING SERGEANTS.

Theodore Dietrich was appointed acting sergeant February 7, 1901. His commission as patrolman dates November 6, 1893. He has been an east side officer and is thoroughly familiar with that locality, and has been called upon to do much detective work. He is a trusted man in important matters, and is reckoned as a good officer, thoroughly competent and reliable.

Mitchell O. Liebert was appointed acting sergeant February 7, 1901. His commission as patrolman dates from January 14, 1897. He has shown himself to be an exceptionally intelligent officer, and his promotion to acting sergeant was under the civil service examination rules that have been recently adopted by the commission.

#### COURT OFFICER TINKER.

Herbert E. Tinker, the court officer, entered the service as patrolman, August 25, 1873, and for eleven years was the officer on the City Hall Square beat, and consequently is very well known. He has been for several years detailed as court officer. and his duties are the care of the prison during the day, the presentation of the prisoners before the Police Court at its sessions. and the supervision of the transportation of prisoners from the police station to the jail, accompanying the "Black Maria" to the jail with the necessary commitment papers. He has charge of the prisoners who are sentenced to pay fines, and sees to their discharge after the fines are paid, and looks out that they are not free prematurely. He keeps the record of the court for the police department. Officer Tinker served in the First Minnesota Volunteers during the war for the Union, and prior to his coming upon the police force was night clerk at the United States Hotel. His duties are very exacting and oftentimes trying in their nature.

#### CHAPTER XXVIII.

#### ROSTER OF THE FORCE.

Officer Strickland Bears the Oldest Commission as a Patrolman — Some of the Well-Known Patrolmen.

HARTFORD has reason to be proud of its police force. It is made up of men selected for their intelligence and physical con-



POLICE PATROL.

dition, and their tenure of office is so fixed that they become thoroughly familiar with the city, its people, and its needs for protection. This policy brings the force up to a very high average of excellence, and Hartford is a city of good order. While it is often the fashion to complain of all public institu-

155

tions, that being the privilege of all citizens, those who complain of the police have, as a rule, small idea of the great undertaking of handling a large force of men, who in turn care for the peace of the city. If all men were peaceful and law-abiding there would be no need of any police at all, but they are not, and the perplexing circumstances that often surround a patrolman in his duty cannot be appreciated by the average citizen. A day and a night in the police office and a day and a night on an east side beat, passed in observation of the actual workings of the establishment and its individual officers, would be a revelation to those who complain.

This sketch of the force is intended as a general description of its workings, and it has been impossible to even point out the individual efforts of the members of the force. Life is too short to tell so long a story as it would make. It is sufficient to say that the men are conscientious in their work, and that results prove this assertion.

It is fitting, however, without discriminating in any way, to make a few allusions.

The oldest patrolman's commission is held by Officer George E. Strickland, who has served thirty years on the force, having been commissioned as supernumerary in 1870, and promoted to the regular force in 1871. He is an army veteran, and followed Sherman in the march to the sea. He had his struggles with the toughs of those days of the early force, and in recent years has been known as a guardian of Bushnell Park, where he has for some time been a great favorite of the children. He is at desk work in the office just now. His reminiscences are always enjoyable.

Some of the patrolmen are as well known by public appearances in other fields of endeavor. Officer Steele is drum major of the First Regiment Band (Colt's), Frank Heise is one of the best trombone players in New England, and is frequently heard

with pleasure. His brother George is also a musician and a band man. The two bear a striking resemblance to each other. The Sullivan brothers, John and Peter, are so often mistaken for each other that they are frequently identified by citizens only by the numbers of their shields. Officer G. Herbert Peck is the heaviest man on the force. Officer Ahearn is the tallest man of the force. Officer Felix Quinn has for some years been identified with the east side, and is mighty well known to many of its residents. Supernumeraries Edward W. Hayes and Edward F. O'Brien are drivers of the patrol wagon, and will soon be installed on the seat of the new automobile that is to substitute the horse and wagon patrol. The full list of all members of the force, with the date of their appointment, follows:

Chief of Police, George F. Bill, December 25, 1867.
Captain, Cornelius Ryan, October 3, 1861.
Lieutenant, William F. Gunn, February 16, 1886.
Sergeant, James P. Carter, August 5, 1889.
Sergeant, Walter W. Smith, November 4, 1871.
Sergeant, Burton L. Umberfield, May 20, 1889.
Sergeant, John F. Butler, April 19, 1893.
Sergeant, John Creedon, January 16, 1893.
Sergeant, Patrick J. Finley, May 20, 1889.
Acting Sergeant, Theodore Dietrich, November 6, 1893.
Acting Sergeant, Mitchell O. Liebert, January 14, 1897.

#### PATROLMEN.

George E. Strickland, November 4, 1871.
William E. Tucker, December 4, 1871.
William L. Steele, December 4, 1871.
James Maloney, June 4, 1872.
Michael Gavin, November 11, 1872.
William H. Harris, April 9, 1873.
Herbert E. Tinker, August 25, 1873.
Edwin Johnson, September 4, 1876.
Mathew Fagan, March 1, 1876.
Justin Goodwill, July 4, 1881.
Patrick Mahoney, November 11, 1881.

George P. Harvey, November 16, 1881. Keron Mallov, November 16, 1881. Charles H. Lloyd, June 19, 1882. Thomas McCue, November 10, 1884. Michael Gaffey, March 15, 1886. Charles A. Schiller, May 20, 1880. William Tobin, May 20, 1889. John O'Malley, May 20, 1889. Albert M. Case, May 22, 1889. James F. Lally, August 5, 1889. John E. Palmer, December 22, 1889. Felix Ouinn, April 13, 1891. John F. Sullivan, July 28, 1892. Edward J. Langrish, July 28, 1892. Charles E. Ramsden, July 28, 1892. Peter A. Sullivan, January 7, 1893. George E. Heise, January 7, 1893. Mark Grady, January 7, 1893. W. W. Whitehead, January 16, 1893. Edward Beecher, January 16, 1893. Charles E. Russell, February 18, 1803. James J. Noonan, April 19, 1893. Benjamin G. Schulze, April 19, 1893. John O'Sullivan, April 19, 1893. Garrett J. Farrell, June 6, 1893. Frank Santoro, November 6, 1803. Frank P. Gearv, November 6, 1803. Charles Mantie, November 6, 1893. John T. McDermott, November 6, 1893. James Dunn, November 6, 1893. Edward J. Dillon, November 6, 1803. Homer A. Hogaboom, November 6, 1893. John Flannery, March 6, 1894. Arthur McLeod, March 6, 1804. James J. Hennessey, March 6, 1894. William O. Brown, March 6, 1894. G. Herbert Peck, March 13, 1894.

John J. Burns, September 17, 1894. James F. Havens, September 17, 1804. Terrence W. Brazel, October 15, 1894. William H. Marshall, February 18, 1895. John T. Fagan, October 21, 1895. Frank A. Heise, January 14, 1897. John Sheehan, January 14, 1807. John P. Flynn, January 14, 1897. Stanley J. Riley, January 14, 1897. William Weltner, January 14, 1897. William Florence, January 14, 1807. Thomas J. Gunning, January 14, 1897. James Morgan, January 14, 1897. Edward H. Costello, January 14, 1897. Edward T. Losty, January 14, 1897. Patrick Doran, January 14, 1807. Edward English, January 14, 1807. Edward J. Farrell, January 14, 1807. John E. O'Brien, January 14, 1897. Thomas J. Pillion, January 14, 1807. James J. Flynn, January 14, 1897. Michael Finley, February 7, 1808. Thomas J. Elwood, February 7, 1898. Daniel T. Mallov, February 7, 1898. Frank S. Young, February 7, 1898. Frank H. Trask, February 7, 1898. Sprague W. Edwards, February 7, 1898. Joseph Graff, February 7, 1898. William J. Redmund, February 7, 1808. Andrew J. Williams, February 7, 1898. Charles F. Nichols, December 4, 1808. James P. Moran, October 2, 1899. John Flannagan, October 15, 1900. J. A. Callahan, April 2, 1901. M. J. Dooley, April 2, 1901. D. B. Ahern, April 2, 1901. W. M. Dower, April 2, 1901. L. G. Melberger, April 2, 1901. John M. Henry, April 2, 1901. E. F. Babcock, April 2, 1901.

H. L. Hart, April 2, 1901.

#### SUPERNUMERARIES.

Edward F. O'Brien. Arthur H. Torrey. John C. Bogue, Judson Dunlap, John E. Borgeson, John J. Jordan, Charles H. Brooks, George H. Sterzing, William J. Moran, James M. Connolly, Arthur Prutting, John H. Watson, Antonio Notine, Daniel M. Keleher, John W. McGrath, Edward J. Relihan, Patrick Sheehan, John P. Duffy, Samuel G. Adams, Joseph W. Rogers, William J. Pendergast, William Luckingham, Martin P. Leany, James Rilev, William E. Hogan, John H. Hurley, George W. Butler, Axel L. Carlson, James H. Vail. James A. Corrigan, Seymour E. Hilton, Edward W. Hayes, James J. Powers, Michael D. Connors. William J. Sullivan, James W. Allen, William T. Meany, Louis F. Hogan, Albert L. Thomas, Frank T. Cowley, Lawrence J. Lowe. John J. Butler, Daniel P. Broderick,

Robert L. Myer. James M. Francis, Olaf Mathewson, John L. Dorsey, Patrick I. White, T. Charles Tredean. John M. Sayres, Fred. S. Kendall, J. W. Miller, John M. O'Malley, Timothy Killiard, Herbert A. Ouintard, James A. Shea, John R. Murphy, George K. Marvin, Charles P. Flynn, James H. O'Mara, Patrick J. Mannix, John J. Malone, Mark Keefe. Otto E. Frost, William H. A. Conlon, Patrick J. McCarthy, Otto M. Martin, George M. Hetzell. Lawrence P. Lacey, Simon Freund, Patrick F. McKee. James L. Roper, Patrick Movnahan, Harvey C. Bacon, Patrick M. Quinn, James A. Tracy, James J. Tiley, George M. Cadwell, James H. Clarkin, Jacob I. Beizer, James T. Heffernan. Thomas Nagle, John F. Roach, Morris C. Folev. Charles F. Koenig.

#### CHAPTER XXIX.

#### POLICE MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION.

Successful Voluntary Organization for Relief of Policemen's Families — Has Distributed \$8,800 to Widows and Orphans — Sources of its Income.

THE Hartford Police Mutual Aid Association is one of the important humanitarian accessories of the police department. It gathers together, by dues, by entertainments, and by the anmual ball given in the large drill hall of the police building, funds to be distributed at its annual meeting to the widows and orphans of deceased policemen. Nearly all of the members of the force belong to the association, and each member is assessed at \$6 annually for the first three years of his membership, and \$4 annually thereafter. By this means and by such means as have been outlined above the fund has reached the comfortable sum of nearly \$12,000 now on hand in addition to \$8,800 already distributed to its beneficiaries. Occasionally the association receives contributions from citizens who are interested in the police or who have been personally benefited by its protection, such as caring for houses during the summer vacation and rendering other service in the line of police duty.

The association was organized April 1, 1880, with absolutely nothing in the way of funds but prospects. The officers were: Walter P. Chamberlain, then chief of police, president; Frank L. Martin, vice-president; Cornelius Ryan, treasurer, a post which he has continuously occupied; George F. Bill, secretary.

The present officers are: President, Chief of Police George F. Bill: treasurer, Captain Cornelius Ryan; secretary, Herbert E.

History of Police Department, Hartford, Connecticut. 161

Tinker; trustees, Sergeant Walter W. Smith, Sergeant John Creedon, Thomas McCue, James F. Lally, Edward F. O'Brien, William Weltner, George P. Harvey, Charles L. Ramsden, and Edward Beecher.

One of the brilliant events connected with the history of this association was the dedication ball given April 3, 1899, when the great hall of the new department building was open to the general public for the first time, and the entire police building was overflowing with the friends of the police and of the association. The occasion was one long to be remembered. Mayor Preston, with the members of the city government, members of all the commissions, and many of the prominent citizens of Hartford were present with their ladies, and the social character of the occasion, the general good will of the brilliant assembly, and, not the least, the fine addition to the treasury of the association, made the event one of the most notable happenings in the annals of the police department.

#### CHAPTER XXX.

The Police Court — It had an Existence Ten Years Before the Police Department was Organized — List of Judges — Present Judge, Albert C. Bill.

THE Police Court is an independent organization, upon its own basis, and not in any way connected with the police department, except that it must naturally be in the closest possible touch



POLICE AMBULANCE.

with it. It was organized in 1851, nearly ten years before the Common Council established the police ordinance and took cognizance of all cases brought before it by the old watch or by constables that arrested persons for crimes or misdemeanors.

The court is a state organization, and the judge is appointed by the legislature after nomination by the county representatives. It has no cognizance of any civil cases whatever, and its jurisdiction of action in cases of theft is limited by the amount of property taken, having no jurisdiction above \$50. Crimes upon the person are taken cognizance of, but jurisdiction is only for minor crimes. The court may hold for the Superior Court any person over whose alleged crime it has no jurisdiction.

The judges of the Hartford Police Court have been able men, many of them having gone into positions of greater and wider usefulness, but of scarcely more responsibility. The first judge of the court was Eliphalet A. Bulkeley, many years a leading citizen of Hartford, founder of the Ætna Life Insurance Company, and father of ex-Governor Morgan G. Bulkeley, General William H. Bulkeley, and Mrs. Leverett Brainard, all holding large places in the affections of the people of the city.

Other judges of the court, and something about them, are given in the following paragraphs:

Goodwin Collier, who served as judge from 1855 to 1859 with interims, was one of the best-known lawyers of the time, and it was to his discernment of the needs of the city that the Common Council owed its consideration of the police ordinance. He drafted the first ordinance, as has been stated heretofore, and in connection with other suggestions incorporated it became the foundation for the service.

Elisha Johnson was judge in 1861 and 1863 and served with great acceptance. Judge Johnson is still remembered by many of the younger generation of the city as a man of tall, commanding figure, and he was for a long time a force in the affairs of the city, although he held no public office except to serve as councilman during two terms.

Samuel F. Jones was judge in 1866, and is one of the bestremembered criminal lawyers in this section of the country. He was connected with more famous cases than any man of his time. He died but a few years ago. 164 History of Police Department, Hartford, Connecticut.

Monroe E. Merrill held the office of judge in 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, and 1876, and was a man universally respected.

Harrison B. Freeman was the first judge of the court after the two-years term was established, and served in 1871-1873. He is a well-known lawyer and a man of public affairs, a grad-



BLACK MARIA.

uate of Yale, and for many years has been judge of probate for this district, a most responsible place.

Arthur F. Eggleston served four years as judge of the Police Court, from 1877 until 1883. He is a lawyer of splendid abilities and fine reputation, and has been for many years state's attorney for Hartford county. The criminal class has a wholesome dread of his searching and critical examination of the charges against it, and the court terms are materially shortened

by the fact that prisoners had rather plead guilty than stand an open trial under his tremendously energetic prosecution. Notwithstanding his apparent severity he is one of the kindesthearted of men, a true friend, and a man whose acquaintance is well worth the having.

William F. Henney served as judge from 1883 to 1889, and his scholarly abilities added lustre to the Police Court bench. It was his fortune to have some unusually remarkable cases before him, and his opinions as handed down from the bench were strong documents. Judge Henney afterwards served as city attorney, and is a well-known lawyer, interested in corporation practice.

William J. McConville was on the Police Court bench from 1800 to 1803. He had previously been through the clerkships of the legislature, and since his term as judge expired he has been city attorney and interested in municipal affairs. He is one of the best known of public officials, and his opinion has been called for in innumerable cases as to the construction of ordinances and acts. He has the esteem of those associated with him in the business of the city and has hosts of friends.

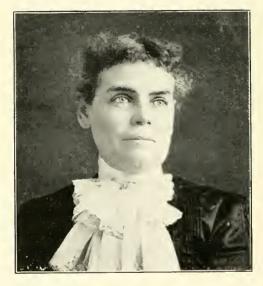
Sylvester Barbour was judge of the court for one term, covering the years from 1893 to 1895. He is one of the well-known old-time lawyers of the city, and was esteemed as a conscientious judge.

#### JUDGE ALBERT C. BILL.

Albert C. Bill, the present judge of the Police Court, is a native of Hartford, born September 29, 1863. He early went to Enfield with his parents and was educated in the high school of that town and the Hartford Public High School. He studied law with Judge Charles H. Briscoe of Enfield, and was admitted to the bar May 26, 1886. He was appointed clerk of the Probate Court January, 1887, and served for two years, when he was appointed clerk of the Police Court, serving from July 1,

#### 166 History of Police Department, Hartford, Connecticut.

1889, until April 1, 1893. He was then appointed assistant judge of the Police Court, and for two years was associated on the bench. In April, 1895, he took his seat upon the bench as judge and has served three full terms, his fourth term beginning April 1, 1901. Judge Bill is prominent in Masonic circles, a member of Lafayette Lodge, and of the various higher degrees of Masonry, and a member of Charter Oak Lodge, Odd Fellows. He is of the firm of Bill, Tuttle & Dickenson, and enjoys



LOUISA D. HUBBARD,

Matron.

a large law practice. He has had many important cases before him during his long term on the bench, and has the reputation of being just and fair in his decisions. His judicial office is conducted with much dignity and he has brought about many reforms by his action upon the bench. His treatment of Sunday drunkenness and of the railroad tramp and trespasser has been salutary, and the city is no longer overrun with criminals of this sort. The position of a police court judge is not an enviable one at the best, but Judge Bill makes of the court a tribunal which is thoroughly respected by the people and is a wholesome deterrent of the criminal classes.

The assistant judge of the court is Arthur F. Perkins, who is on the bench when Judge Bill is detained by any reason. Judge Perkins sees many days of service during the year and has his share of the important work of deciding upon the degree of punishment meted out to offenders. He has been a member of the Common Council, where he was useful to the citizens, and is a successful law practitioner of the firm of Perkins & Perkins, his father, Charles E. Perkins, president of the State Bar Association, being the head of the firm.

The clerk of the court is Robert C. Dickenson, who was formerly clerk of the Probate Court. He is of Bill, Tuttle & Dickenson, a prosperous law firm having a large business and representing many interests.

The prosecuting attorney for the Police Court is J. Gilbert Calhoun of the younger generation of lawyers in the city, a man of much force of character and abundantly able to represent the people before this beach.

The assistant prosecuting attorney is Harrison B. Freeman, Jr., one of the best-known young lawyers of the state, a graduate of Yale, and now serving his second term as representative in the General Assembly from the city of Hartford. He is a member of the judiciary committee and chairman of the important House committee on constitutional reform.

Bennett H. Pepper is the messenger for the Police court, and is one of the best-known minor officers in the city. He has served in this capacity for many years, and a session of the court without his presence would be an anomaly. He is an amateur florist of much success, and is reckoned as one of the best-posted men on the art in the city.

HE compiler and author of this sketch presents it as a fairly comprehensive story of police protection of Hartford from its earliest days. Necessarily many things have been omitted, but enough is told to give an outline of the growth of the system, of the present workings of the force, and some interesting reminiscences of noted cases are given in detail, which may serve to reveal the efficiency of the men who have been engaged in preserving the public peace.

For many courtesies the writer is indebted to Judge Thomas McManus, of the first board of Police Commissioners, to Chief of Police Bill, to Ex-Chief Packard, to many members of the executive officers of the force, and to efficient aid in searching records in the Connecticut Historical Society's library, in the Halls of Record, and the files of the Superior Court.

The chapter on Police Athletics has been written by W. D. Freer, the well known sporting writer of the Hartford *Courant* staff.



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#### Sealskin and Persian Lamb Jackets,

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1851

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The

1901

# Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company

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Issues ENDOWMENT POLICIES to either men or women, which (besides giving nine other options)

#### Guarantee

when the Insured is Fifty, Sixty or Seventy Years Old

To pay \$1,500 in Cash for every \$1,000

of Insurance in force.

Sample policies, rates, and other information will be given on application to the Home Office.



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JOHN M. HOLCOMBE, Vice-President.

CHARLES H. LAWRENCE, Secretary.

WM. A. MOORE, Ass't Secretary.







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Have at all seasons of the year the largest and most select line of

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and Imported Novelties at most reasonable prices.

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CHARLES DILLON.

Insure your property in the.... Hartford Fire Insurance Co.

of HARTFORD, CONN.

Has a Capital of One and One-quarter Million Dollars.

Has Total Assets of over Eleven Million Dollars. Has a Net Surplus of over Three Million, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars.

Has paid over Sixty-eight Million Dollars in Losses.

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#### SILAS CHAPMAN, Jr.,

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## National Fire Insurance Company,

of HARTFORD, CONN.

Capital \$1,000,000 Assets \$4,851,789.34



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JOHN R. BUCK. HENRY C. JUDD. CHAS. H. BRISCOE, RALPH H. ENSIGN. J. M. ALLEN.

FRANCIS T. MAXWELL. Byron A. Simmons. JAS. P. TAYLOR.

JAMES NICHOLS, President.

B. R. STILLMAN, Secretary.

H. A. SMITH, Assistant Secretary,

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The ...

## Connecticut Mutual

## Life Insurance Company

1846 - - - 1901





N the fifty-five years of its work almost 98 per cent. of the premiums paid by policy-holders have been paid over to their beneficiaries or returned to them.

What has been so returned and what is held for the protection of present policy-holders as net or ledger assets aggregates \$263,502,899.67: 127.57 per cent. of the total premiums received.

These results have been accomplished at an average expense rate of only 8.9 per cent.

It is an unmatched record; and THE CONNECTI-CUT MUTUAL is as thoroughly prepared for the good work of the future as it has at any time been for that of its unequaled past.

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JOHN M. TAYLOR, Vice-President.

HERBERT H. WHITE, Secretary.

DANIEL H. WELLS, Actuary.

Statement of the Condition of the

## ETNA INSURANCE COMPANY

#### Hartford, Conn.

on the 31st day of December, 1900.

$C_{\epsilon}$	ash Cap	oital,						\$4,000,000.00
R	eserve,	Re-Insu	rance	(F	ire),			3,329,848.78
R	eserve,	Re-Insu	rance	(In	land),			96,349.13
R	eserve,	Unpaid	Loss	es (	Fire),			352,114.35
R	eserve,	Unpaid	Loss	es (	Inland	),.		79,995.55
0	ther Cla	aims,						189,034.88
Ð	Cet Sur	plus,	•	•	•			5,309,951.03
T	otal As	sets,		•	•		•	\$13,357,293.72
SURP	LUS a.	s to Po	licy I	Hold	ers,			\$9,309,951.03

\$88.243.132.93

WM. B. CLARK, President.

LOSSES PAID in Eighty-two Years.

W. H. KING. Secretary. E. O. WEEKS. Vice-President.
A. C. Adams, Henry E. Rees, Assistant Secretaries.

DICKINSON, BEARDSLEY @ BEARDSLEY, Local Agents, 664 Main and 65 Pearl Streets.

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Insurance Company J.G. BATTERSON, of Hartford, Conn.

President.

#### Life, Accident and Bealth Insurance.

More than

\$42,643,384

Have been Distributed to POLICY HOLDERS at a Less Cost than by any other company in the world.

#### EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY POLICIES

Protecting Owners and Employers against STATUTORY LIABILITY.

NO ONE CAN AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT THEM.

 ASSETS,
 .
 \$30,861,030.06

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 .
 26,317,903.25

 Excess Security to Policy Holders,
 4,543,126.81

FRED R. LOYDON, State Agent for Connecticut, HARTFORD, CONN.

Insurance Policy you will take, see a representative of the

## Hartford Life Insurance Company

. . of HARTFORD, CONN.

THIS STERLING COMPANY issues every desirable form of up-to-date policy contract.

Its Industrial Policies are especially liberal and complete. The premiums are collected monthly. The policies are in IMMEDIATE FULL BENEFIT and vary in amounts from \$17 to practically \$1,000.

**Ene Hartford** has paid **\$20,000,000** 

to policy holders and beneficiaries.

Buy a Hartford Life Policy and

you get The BEST.

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CHAS. H. BACALL, Secretary.

The a

## Hartford Trust Company

Organized 1868.

Capital \$300,000

Undivided Profits \$191,212.40

RALPH W. CUTLER, President. CHAS. M. JOSLYN, Vice-President. FRANK C. SUMNER, Treasurer.

#### Transacts a General Banking Business

Authorized by Law to act as . . .

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TRUSTEE, GUARDIAN,

RECEIVER, ASSIGNEE.

## Connecticut Trust and Safe Deposit Company

Corner of Main and Pearl Streets

Capital \$300,000

Surplus \$300,000

BANKING BUSINESS — Conducts a General Banking Business. Accounts opened and Deposits received subject to check at sight. Accounts solicited. Also

SAFE DEPOSIT VAULT—The most capacious and impregnable in the city. 1,000 safe boxes for rent at from \$10 to \$100 per annum, according to size.

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IOHN P. WHEELER. Treasurer. HENRY S. ROBINSON, Secretary. HOSMER P. REDFIELD, Ass't Treasurer.

♥ ESTABLISHED in 1822 ♥



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HARTFORD, CONN.



Hartford, Conn.

Company



A. G. McILWAINE, Jr., President

IAMES WYPER. Secretary

# Scottish Union and National Insurance Co.

#### of EDINBURGH

# Statement of United States Branch January 1, 1901

Statutory Deposit,		\$200,000.00
Reserve for unpaid losses,		239,965.58
Reserve for unexpired risks,		1,655,789.26
All other liabilities,		97,267.00
Net Surplus,		2,024,054.89
Total Assets January 1, 1901,		4,217,076.73

#### Trustees of Funds in United States

John R. Redfield Lewerett Brainard Morgan G. Bulkeley

#### J. H. BREWSTER, Manager

The Geo. B. Fisher Co., Resident Agents, 197 Asylum St.

# Phonix Insurance Co.

of HARTFORD, CONN.

January 1, 1901

CASH CAPITAL . \$2,000,000.00

ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR FIRE	LOSSES				
\$5,583,494.25					
as follows:					
Cash on Hand, in Bank, and with Agents					
State Stocks and Bonds,					
Hartford Bank Stocks,					
Miscellaneous Bank Stocks,	448,527.00				
Corporation and Railroad Stocks and Bon					
County, City, and Water Bonds,	313,900.00				
Real Estate,					
Loans on Collateral,					
Real Estate Loans,					
Accumulated Interest and Rents,	36,985.87				
Total Cash Assets	\$5,583,494.25				

LIABILITIES

Cash Capital, . . . \$2,000,000,00 Reserve for Outstanding Losses. 253,062.15 Reserve for Re-Insurance. . . 2,087,882,17 NET SURPLUS, . . 1.242.549.93

Total Assets. .

\$5,583,494.25

Surplus to Policy-holders. \$3.242,549.93

Total Losses Paid since Organization of Company

846,636,289,10

D. W. C. SKILTON President EDW. MILLIGAN. Secretary

J. H. MITCHELL, Vice-President IOHN B. KNOX. Ass't Secretary

LOVEJOY & SPEAR, Managers Western Department, Cincinnati, Ohio HERBERT FOLGER, Manager Pacific Department, San Francisco, Cal. J. W. TATLEY, Manager Canadian Department, Montreal, Canada

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> The CONNECTICUT BUILDING and LOAN ASSOCIATION Hartford, Conn.

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Capital \$650,000

J. H. KNIGHT. President W. W. JACOBS. Vice-President

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LESTER L. ENSWORTH, Iron Merchant.
ELISHA C. HILLIARD, Woolen Manufacturer, Buckland, Conn.
JAMES H. KNIGHT, President.
RAPHAEL BALLERSTEIN, of R. Ballerstein & Co., Importers Millinery Goods.
LUCIUS F. ROBINSON, of Robinson & Robinson Attorneys at Jaw Robinson, Attorneys at Law,
Asa S. Cook, President Asa S. Cook Co.
Francis A. Pratt, of the Pratt & Whitney Co.
RIENZI B. PARKER, Treasurer Hartford

Life Insurance Co.
WILLIAM B. CLARK, President Ætna

WILLIAM B. CLARK, President Zetta Insurance Co. John R. Hills, Contractor and Builder. Robert W. Huntington, Jr., Secretary Connecticut General Life Insurance Co.

#### Surplus \$220.000

C. D. RILEY, Cashier W. S. DWYER. Ass't Cashier



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Every facility given Depositors consistent with sound and conservative bankina



#### Safe Deposit Vaults

Unsurpassed for security and convenience

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Capital, \$525,000

Surplus and Profits, \$460,000

Deposits, \$3,000,000

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ALFRED SPENCER, Jr. President

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PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION at Buffalo

# Hartford National Rank

Incorporated in 1792 as Hartford Bank

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Capital, \$1,200,000 Surplus, \$600,000 Deposits, \$3,250,000

Oldest Bank in the city, and one of the oldest in the United States Its resources and past record quarantee security to depositors Courteous attention and efficient service assured to all its patrons

NEW ACCOUNTS SOLICITED Whether Small or Large

Safe Deposit Accommodation for Customers

HAROLD W. STEVENS, President W. S. BRIDGMAN, Vice-President

FRANK P. FURLONG, Cashier

W. S. ANDREWS. Ass't Cashier



# ecurity Company 62 Pearl Street Hartford, Conn.

Incorporated 1875

Capital, \$200,000

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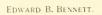
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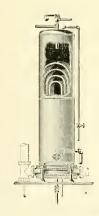
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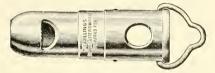
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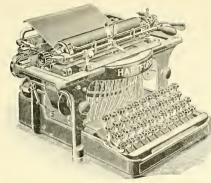


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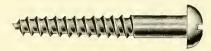
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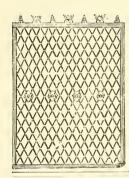
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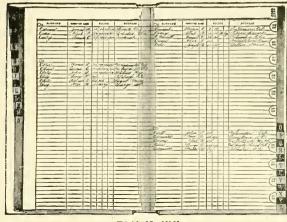
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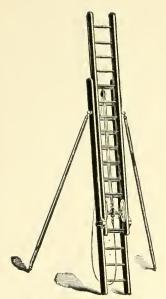
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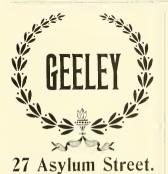
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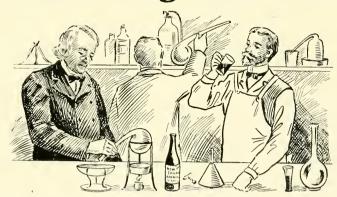
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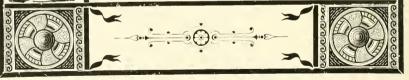


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#### Index to Advertisements.

Α	PAGE.	F	PAGE.	M PAGE.
American Hotel,	xlix	First National Bank,	xi xvi	Mildeberger, Henry D., xiv Markham, Daniel A., xv
Allyn House, American Bicycle Co.,	xl ii	Freeman, Jr., Harrison B., French, H. A.,	xxvi	Mix & McKone, xv
.Etna Insurance Co.,	vi	Fisher & Suisman,	xxix	Malthie, Theo. M., xv
Etna National Bank, The	xi	Furrey, Ervin L.,	xxxix	Marvin, L. P. Waldo xvii
Etna Indemnity Co.,	xıii	Furrey, Ervin L., Fien, M. & Katz, Foster, A. L. & Co., Fuller, E. A. & W. F.,	xliii	Mills, Hiram R., xvii
Austin Organ Co.,	xxvi	Foster, A. L. & Co.,	xliii	Merrow Machine Co., The xxix
Atlantic Screw Works,	XXVII	Fuller, E. A. & W. F.,	xliv	Moore, Robert xxxi
Acme Machine Screw Co. TI				McManus, J. C. & Sons xxxviii McIntyre & Clarkin xlii
Amidon, F. S.,	XXIX	Brewery, Franzen, F. W., Frobel & Mücke, Frieble The L. T. Co.	xIviii	McIntyre & Clarkin xlii
-Hitna Brewing Co.,	xlvii	Franzen, F. W.,	17	McClary, John xliii
Alexander & Elmer Co.,	liv	Frobel & Mucke,	li l	7
В		Prisole, The L. T. Co.,	1111	Murphy, Robert 1
D 711 t. C-	:	G		National Fire Insurance Co., iv
Brown, Thomson & Co.,	iv	Garvan, Edward J.,	xvi	National Assurance Co., viii
Ballerstein, R. & Co., Broughel, Jr., Andrew J.,	xiv	Gates, Andrew F.,	XVI	National Exchange Bank, xiii
Bullard, Herbert S.,	XV	Goslee, Henry S.,	xvi	New Madison, The xlv
Buck & Eggleston.	XV	Garvan, P.,	xxix	Narragansett Brewing Co., xlvi
Bill, Tuttle & Dickenson,	xvi	Geeley's, Gundlach, E. & Co.,	xliv	New England Brewing Co., xlvii
Burdett, Chas. L.,	XVI	Gross, Hyde & Shipman,	xliv	New Method Laundry, hii
Brainard, Austin,	XVII	Greenberg, Leon,	1	O
Bennett & Brott,	xvii	Gladding, Curtis P.,	lii	Orient Insurance Co., iv
Billings & Spencer Co., Th	e xxii	Н		O'Flaherty, Hugh xv
Beach, H. B. & Son,	XXIII	Hartford Fire Ins. Co.,	iv	Ott & Hartleben li
Brewer, C. S. & Co., Buellesbach & Rick,	xxvii	Hartford Life Ins. Co.,	vii	Р
Burr Index Co., The	XXVII	Hartford Trust Co., The	vii	Phonix Mutual Life Ins. Co., iii
Bishop, C. C. & Co.,	xxxvii	Hartford National Bank,	xii	Phoenix Insurance Co., x
Britton, R. D. & Co.,	xlix	Hungerford, Hyde, Joslyn		Parker, Francis H., xiv
Bosworth, S. B.,	xlix	& Gilman,	XV	Pearce, G. Hazard xvii
Burgess, H. C.,	xliii	Holcomb & Pierce,	xvi	Perkins Electric Switch Mfg.
Balf, The Edward Co.,	xliv	Hartford Woven Wire		Co., The xx
Besse, P. & J.,	xly	Mattress Co.,	XX1	Palmer, H. W. & Co., xxxiii
Bond, H. S.,	xl ii	Hartford Typewriter Co.,	v.viii	Parsons Theatre, xxxvi
Berry & Cosgrove, Brainerd, H. B.,	xlvi liii	The Hartford Machine Screw C	XXIII	Q
Blakesley, Harley M.,	liii			Quinn, James J., xvii
	****	Hatch & North Coal Co.,		R
C		The	xxviii	Ripley Art Co., The J. C., xxxix
Connecticut Mutual Life		Hartford Electric Light Co		Rice & Baldwin Electric Co., xlv
Insurance Co., The	v	The	XXVIII	Ropkins & Co., xivi
Connecticut Trust and Safe		Hartford Coal Co.,	xxviii	Ryan, J. B., S
Deposit Co	viii	Hartford Carriage Co Th		
Connecticut Building and		Hartford Paving and Con-	XXX	Scottish Union and National Insurance Co., ix
Loan Association, The Cooley, Francis R., Coogan, John W., Coogan, 2d, J. T., Clarke, Sidney E.,	X	struction Co., The Hartford & N. Y. Transpo	To AAA	Security Co., xii
Cooley, Francis R.,	xiii	tation Co., The	xxxii	Stoner, George J., xiv
Coogan, John W.,	XIV	Hartford Storage Co., The		Stanton Lewis E. xiv
Clarke Sidney F	XIV	Hass, L. B. & Co.,	xxxiv	Scharton, William R., xiv Shepherd, Forrest xv Sperry & McLean, xiv
Case, Bryant & Case,	xvi	Hills & Fox,	XXXVI	Shepherd, Forrest xv
Capewell Horse Nail Co. Tl	ne xviii	Horsfall & Rothschild,	XXXVI	Sperry & McLean, xiv
Colt's Patent Fire Arms		Hartford Box Co., The	XXXVII	Stearns, Henry Stuart xvi
Mfg. Co.,	XIX	Hills, C. S. & Co.,	xxxviii	Scott, Frederick A., xvii Smith, Bourn & Co., xxiii
Carleton Foundry Co., The		Hart, The Chas. R. Co., Hansel, Sloan & Co.,	XXXIX	Smith, Bourn & Co., xxiii Slate Machine Co., Dwight xxv
Cushman Chuck Co., The	XXIII	Heublein G F & Co	xl	Strickland & Shea, xxvi
Cheney Brothers,	XXIV	Heublein, G. F. & Co. Hartford, The	xli	Southern New England
Curtis, D. J. & Son,	XXXI	Hills & Marchant,	xlii	Paving Co., XXX
way. The	xxxiv	Hartford Wire Works,	xliii	Scoville, W. H., xxxi
Central New England Rail way, The Case, Lockwood & Brainar	d	Hart & Hegeman,	xliii	Spencer, George F. & Co., xxxiii
Co., The	XXXV	Hartford County Mutual	-1-	Simons & Fox, XXXVI
Clapp & Treat,	xxxix	Fire Ins. Co.,	xlv	Sisson, T. & Co., xxxvi
Chamberlin & Shaughness		Hartford Opera House, Hirth, Joseph,	xlv	Stuart, Photographer xxxviii Sage, Allen & Co., xxxviii
Clapp, John B. & Son,	xliv	Henning, Otto.		Smith & McDonough, xxxix
Collateral Loan Co., Connecticut River Bankins	xlv	Henning, Otto, Hartford Steam Boiler Ins	pec-	Scott & Smith, xlii
Co.,	xlv	tion and Ins. Co.,		Sigourney House, x!iii
Crowley, W. L.,	1	Inside bac	k cover.	Soby Cigar, xliii
Crowley, W. L., Case, C. H. & Co.,	hii	J		Strant, C. H. & Co., xliv
Crocker's,	lii	Jewell Belting Co.,	XX	Smith, M. B., T
D		Johns-Pratt Co., The	xxi	The Travelers' Ins. Co., vi
Doty, S. C.	xiii	K		Taylor Lumber Co., The
Doty, S. C., Dime Savings Bank,	xiii	Kelly Brothers,	3	Edwin xxvii
Davis, L. B. & Son.	vvi	Koch's Gus	xxxi li	Tucker & Goodwin, xxxii
Dwyer, J. J., Dunham Hosiery Co., The	xxxiii	Koch's, Gus, Kibbe Co., The E. S.,	XXXII	Tucker's Sous, E., xxxii
Dunham Hosiery Co., The	XXXIV	L		V
Dom Hotel, New	XII	Levy, Josiah W.,	xvii	Van Name & Co., Veeder Mfg. Co., The xlv
Duffy & O'Brien,	xlii	Libby & Blinn,	XXX	Veeder Mfg. Co., The xlv
Dwight, H. C. & Co., Deming, Wesley E.,	xlv	Lincoln, Seyms & Co.,	xxxii	W .
Diamond & Clark,	xlix liv	Long's Hotel,	xli	Williams, Alfred & Sons, i
_	11 V	Dangaon, 1,	xlv	Woodford & Ripley, x Williams, Harry R., xvii
E		Lynch, F. P.,	i	Williams, Harry R., xvii Whitney Mfg. Co., The xxvii
Ensworth, L. L. & Son,	xxvi	Lane, J. G., Lawler, Thos.,	li	Watson, Jackson & Co., xxxi
Empire Steam Laundry,	XXXVII	Leschke & Pletcher,	lii	Watson, Jackson & Co., xxxi Windsor Hotel, xli
Electric Vehicle Co.,	lvi		lii	West, A. B. & Co., xlii

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