

THE PINKERTONS.

AN OUTLINE OF THE LIFE WORK OF
ALLAN PINKERTON.

A ROMANTIC AND EVENTFUL CAREER.
—FOUNDING OF HIS GREAT
AGENCY.

RAPID GROWTH IN STRENGTH AND
IMPORTANCE—ITS SERVICE DUR-
ING THE WAR.

AT HIS DEATH, THE GREAT DETECTIVE
LEAVES WORTHY SUCCESSORS IN
HIS TWO SONS.

HOW THE NATIONAL AGENCY IS CON-
DUCTED BY WILLIAM AND ROB-
ERT PINKERTON.

[For THE DETECTIVE, by Clarence P. Dresser,
of the Chicago Inter Ocean.]

There is always much that savors of the intensely thrilling and romantic, as well as of the pathetic, associated with the life work of a great detective. What secrets are his to unravel, what masks for him to tear off from faces that have their double significance, what a knowledge of the impulses that move men, and the acts which they do, is a veteran detective possessed of. And rarely it is that you find the man who has the qualifications that would ensure success in this branch of work. First; sterling integrity, unbounded perseverance, courage, nerve, a suavity of manner that will win friends on all sides, and a keen insight into human nature. On the surface possessing a nature at once guileless and open, in reality quick to detect the slightest clue, and always keeping the feelings under such control as to adapt them to any place or situation. That the readers of THE DETECTIVE may read of one who has ever been eminent in his profession, the following sketch has been compiled.

Allan Pinkerton, the founder of the famous Pinkerton Detective Agency, was born August 25, 1819, in the Gorbals, Glasgow, Scotland. His first employment was as an errand boy for a print-maker named Neal Murphy. His father was named William Pinkerton, and was a Sergeant of the Glasgow police. He died from the effects

of injuries received while making an arrest, when Allan was a small boy. The family being quite poor, Allan and his brother Robert were early sent out to make a living for their mother and themselves. After remaining in Mr. Murphy's employ from the time he was nine until he was thirteen years of age, Allan was apprenticed to Wm. McCauly as a cooper, and there learned the coopers trade. He worked at this trade in various parts of Great Britain, until the year 1842, when he was married to Miss Joan Carfrae. Previous to his marriage, although quite young, Allan had been prominently identified with the Chartist movement in Scotland, and matters were made so warm for him, that the day after his marriage he took his bride and a few other possessions, and sailed for America. The voyage proved a tempestuous one, and the vessel was eventually wrecked on Sable Island off

the coast of Nova Scotia. Mr. Pinkerton and his wife were saved, together with most of the passengers, although many of the household goods, etc., they had on board were lost. The rescued passengers were eventually taken to Quebec and Montreal, from whence Mr. and Mrs. Pinkerton went to Chicago, arriving in that city in the year 1842. Through the kind efforts of Mr. George Anderson and Mr. Robert Fergus, the former a tobacconist, and the latter a printer, Mr. Pinkerton succeeded in obtaining employment at the cooper's trade in Lill's brewery where he earned fifty cents a day. He did not remain here long, however, but removed to Dundee, Kane county, Illinois, where had just been established a new scotch settlement. This was before the day of railroads to Chicago, and he was compelled in order to get his product to the markets, to transport it there in wagons. Through

friends he was soon enabled to establish a cooper-shop. He quickly became known as a man of positive convictions and absolute fearlessness, and he was specially prominent because of his radical opinions on abolitionism. He was one of the first free-soilers in the state and his house at Dundee was the hiding place for many fugitive slaves shipped there via the underground railway, by Dr. Dyer, L. C. P. Frerar, James H. Collins and other noted abolitionists then living in Chicago. A couple of years after he had gone to live in the country, Mr. Pinkerton accidentally discovered traces of a gang of counterfeiters who were operating near Dundee. Being commissioned as a Deputy Sheriff for the occasion, he worked the case carefully, and finally one day he made a raid on a little island in the Fox river near Dundee,

and there captured the entire gang of counterfeiters with all their plant. The capture created much comment at the time, because of the skill and daring which Mr. Pinkerton displayed, and ever since the island has been known as "Bogus Island." The fame he obtained from this exploit resulted in his being appointed one of the regular deputy sheriffs of the county. He soon became noted for his success in tracing and capturing horse-thieves, and this led to Sheriff Church, of Cook county, appointing him one of his deputies. He held the same position under Sheriff Bradley, who succeeded Church. In 1850 at the solicitation of General George B. McLellan, then with the Illinois Central R. R., Mr. Turner of the Chicago & Northwestern and Mr. Jno. I. Tracey, of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific road, Mr. Pinkerton established a private detective agency in Chicago, which has since be-

Allan Pinkerton

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ALLAN PINKERTON.

come known as the Pinkerton National Detective Agency. At this time he had as a partner Mr. Edward H. Rucker, a well known attorney of the city. The agency as started, gave its entire time to the service of the three roads above mentioned, and received all its compensation from them. Mr. Rucker only continued in the firm a short while, and after his withdrawal Mr. Pinkerton continued the agency alone, and never after had any partner in this business. Starting with a half dozen men, the business grew rapidly until the war broke out. Among the early acts of President Lincoln was the appointment of Mr. Pinkerton as Chief of the secret service division of the War department. The country is well informed of the valiant and invaluable service which Pinkerton and his able staff rendered the Government during those trying days. Well remembered is the trip that Pinkerton made in 1861 with President Lincoln from Harrisburg to Baltimore, when a plot had been discovered which contemplated the President's assassination. During Mr. Pinkerton's absence in the army he left his agency in the hands of competent managers, and at the close of the war returned to Chicago determined to extend his working ground, and with this in view, in the winter of 1865 he established a branch at No. 66 Exchange Place, New York, with Francis Warner as Superintendent. In the summer of 1866 he established another branch at No. 45 South Third street, Philadelphia, of which Robert J. Linden, was Superintendent, while Geo. H. Bangs (since deceased) was made General Superintendent, the whole business being directly under Mr. Pinkerton. Mr. Warner was afterward transferred to the Chicago office, and remained its Superinten-

dent until about three years ago, when he resigned to accept the Special Agency of the American Express Company. While living in Dundee, Mr. Pinkerton had five children born to him, of whom his two sons, William and Robert are the only survivors. After removing to Chicago, five other children were born, of whom the only survivor is Mrs. Joan Chalmers, the wife of Wm. J. Chalmers, a prominent manufacturer in Chicago. Allan Pinkerton lived to see the business he had established with half-a-dozen men, in a then, obscure city, grow into national prominence, and the small force of employees developed into over three hundred "regulars" with many "specials". A rule of the founder of the great detective agency, was to never operate for reward, but for a stated "per diem" which was paid whether he was successful or not. He claimed that much better and more honest work could be obtained from detectives who were working with the certainty of receiving fair remuneration for all their exertions, rather than for reward, and a positive rule of the agency was, to never operate in divorce suits or family affairs. In 1861 William A. Pinkerton, then a boy of 15 or 16, having joined the army, was taken by his father into the secret service division. He had the same work and no more favors, than did the other employees, his father being determined that if he came to the front, it must be by virtue of his own merits, and due entirely to his own ability. Robert A. Pinkerton, the youngest son, came into the business as an employee in 1866, on the same basis as had his brother some years before, and showed the same natural

aptitude and ability. Allan Pinkerton died July 1, 1884, leaving a large estate, including much valuable real estate in Chicago, and two stock farms in Iroquois county, Illinois, known as the "Larch" and "Catalpa" which are noted all over the state. On these places Mr. Pinkerton had expended much time, while a fortune had been devoted to beautifying and improving them.

In his will, he left all his real estate and other property to Mrs. Pinkerton (since deceased), the proceeds of his books to his daughter, and his great detective agency to his two sons.

The latter at once proceeded to extend the business by establishing a branch office in Boston, at No. 40 and 42 Court street, with Mr. John Cornish as Superintendent. Early in 1886, a branch office was established in the Tabor Opera House building, at Denver, with Mr. Charles O. Eames, Supt.

Both of these agencies have proven very successful, and the Pinkerton National Detective Agency as it stands to-day, has a list of about 750 regular employees, and besides that, has from 300 to 400 specials. At the present writing the

The conduct of the business is in the hands of Messrs William A. and Robert A. Pinkerton, the former with headquarters at Chicago, taking immediate charge of the western business, and the latter with headquarters at New York, being in immediate charge of the eastern work. The offices of the chain at present are as follows;

Boston, 40 and 42 Court Street, John Cornish, Superintendent.
New York, 66 Exchange Place, George D. Bangs, Superintendent, Wm. J. Loader and Henry Julian, Assistant Superintendents.

Philadelphia, 45 South Third Street, Robert J. Linden, Superintendent, E. J. Dougherty, Assistant Superintendent.

Chicago, 191 & 193 Fifth Avenue, David Robertson and John C.McGinn, Assistant Superintendents.

Here also is the headquarters for Pinkerton's Police Patrol, or uniformed force, which however is in no wise connected with the detective service. It is officered by, Patrick Foley, Captain, John H. Cleary, First Lieutenant and George Hay, Second Lieutenant.

Denver, Tabor Opera House Building, Charles O. Eames, Superintendent.

The offices are all fitted out with a most complete set of photographs of rogues from all parts of the world, and with all the improved weapons and appliances which would assist in the detection of criminals of all grades. To the student of human nature, no place could possess more interest for a day's study than the picture gallery

and cabinets, at Pinkerton's famous agency.

The Chicago Herald in a recent sketch of the Pinkertons said. "Turning to the detective side of the business, one may best judge, not only of the work upon which these men are engaged, but of their capacity, for carrying it on by reviewing, in brief, some of their performances. Among the celebrated cases on record at the Chicago office is the work of breaking up the Farrington gang of train robbers, in which the Pinkertons take special pride. These desperadoes were the predecessors of the James gang. Levi and Hilary Farrington, William Toler and James Bartram were killed in various attempts to capture them, while William Tabor and William Barton were captured and sent to the penitentiary. Another noted case is the arrest of Edward Johnson, Matt Maginn, alias Pittsburg Matt, Henry Johnson and John Woods, for the robbery of Express Messenger Brady in Texas in 1873. The Pinkertons also take to themselves the honor of breaking up the Sam Bass and Collins gang of train robbers, whose operations extend from Wyoming to Texas. This case shows the capture of Pipes and Herndon, and their conviction to life terms, and the killing of Sam Bass, Billy Henry, and Joe Collins at various times in attempts to capture them; also, the killing of "Arkansas" Johnson, and a complete breaking up of the whole gang.

While William A. Pinkerton was in England in connection with the robbery of the Third National Bank of Baltimore, in 1873, he discovered the presence there of the Bedwell and McDonald gang of forgers, and reported them to the English police, but the latter declined to take any steps at that time toward apprehending them. Three months later it was discovered that they had swindled the Bank of England out of a million of dollars.

The American end of the case was placed in Pinkerton's hands, and through William A. Pinkerton McDonald was arrested on his arrival in New York before leaving the steamer upon which he crossed the Atlantic, and a large portion of the money recovered. He also overhauled Austin Byron Bedwell in Havana, Cuba, intercepting him on his way back to Mexico. Both

were extradited and sent back to England. George Bedwell, the other brother, was afterwards arrested in Edinburg, Scotland, and Edwin Noyes Hills, the other member of the gang, was arrested in London. These men were all tried at the Old Bailey, London, and received life sentences.

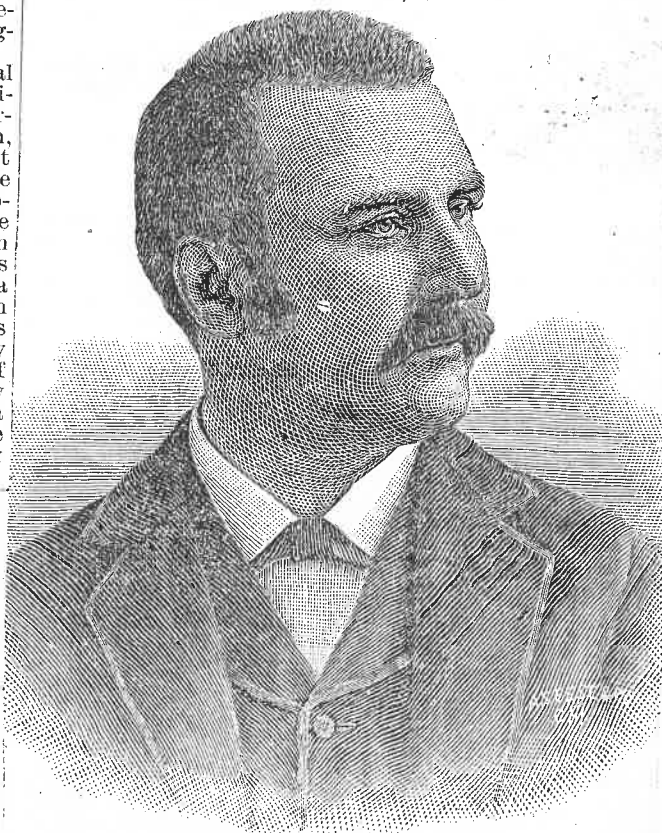
A later case on record is that of the Kewanee, Ill., bank robbery. Two men had entered the bank and seized the cashier and lady bookkeeper, overcame them, gagged them and secured them in the vault, and then carried off the money. In a few weeks after the occurrence the Pinkertons located and arrested Ed. Welsh, one of the men who made the assault, in the western part of New York State. This arrest was made by Robert Pinkerton and he brought Welsh to Chicago. Through his confession Pinkerton learned that while the lady bookkeeper made a noble resistance the cashier had allowed himself to be easily overcome, being in the conspiracy. He proceeded to arrest the conspirators, viz.: Pratt, the bank official, at his home; Tot J. Donkle at Butte City, Montana, and Dr. Scott at St. Louis. The stolen money was nearly all recovered. The men all pleaded guilty and went to the penitentiary, where they now are.

The Eastern division, under Robert A. Pinkerton has a record which they point to with great pride. It is that of the celebrated Molly Maguire case, where they succeeded in getting the now well-known detective, James McParlan, an operator in the secrets of the order, in their own employ, and through him securing the evidence by which twenty-seven members of the gang were hanged for murders committed in the coal regions of Pennsylvania, and more than fifty others, for various crimes, sent to the penitentiary. They claim that through their efforts the organization was broken up. Another record in the Eastern office gives an account of the capture of the Northampton, Mass. bank burglars, and the recovery of \$1,500,000. This case was under the personal supervision of Robert A. Pinkerton; also the arrest and conviction of the Wellsboro, Pa. bank robbers; the arrest and conviction of the celebrated lock expert, Proctor, who had fitted keys to safes all over the United States, and stolen \$40,000 from the office of the United States Express Company at Susquehanna, Pa.; the arrest, with ample evidence to convict, of Mother Mandelbaum, the notorious receiver of stolen goods in New York City. She had been thirty-five years in the business, and had boasted that the police were not able to trap her. The Pinkertons got fifteen or twenty good cases against her, but she put up an exorbitant bail, and escaped to Canada, where she now lives. The Pinkertons have also been successful in organizing several classes of business men and manufacturers into associations which operate for the prevention of crime as well as for the protection of the exclusive character of their business. Several years ago professional thieves and robbers made a specialty of follow-

traveling jewelry salesmen, steal trunks at depots, or in hotels, and getting away with the plunder. This had become very common. Finally, at the suggestion of William A. Pinkerton, the wholesale jewelers formed an association under the state laws as the "Jewelers' Protective Union." This union comprises every large jewelry house in the United States which employs traveling salesmen. Since the organization was effected there have been but five of such robberies, and in every instance the thieves have been arrested, the property recovered, and the criminal sent to the penitentiary. The motto of the association is: "No compromise with thieves." When a salesman is robbed he is instructed to telegraph the facts to the nearest Pinkerton agency, and as the latter has the exclusive work of the association, the offenders are looked after without delay or regard for costs. The fact that this class of crime has almost entirely disappeared is pointed to by the Pinkertons as an evidence, not only of their sagacity in capturing criminals, but also as proof that their methods are salutary in preventing such offenses. The marked success in this department has led to the formation of another association, called the Jewelers' Protective Alliance, for the purpose of protecting jewelers against robberies in country jewelry stores. In such cases, as the merchants are mostly without means, the manufacturer or wholesale men have to bear the losses. The Pinkertons represent this association, and they claim that the results have been the same. There have been put six of such robberies since the association was formed, and in each case the thieves have been caught and convicted. In addition to these and several other similar associations for which the Pinkertons act exclusively, they are engaged by the Pullmans to look out for professional and seak thieves on the Pullman cars all over the country. They claim that previous to the arrangements thus made Pullman car robberies were frequent, while since there have been but two on all of the Pullman lines, and in both instances the offenders have been caught and punished. The motto of the Pullman's says William A. Pinkerton is to punish a thief at any cost.

kind and holds him to the plan authorized to the letter, unless he receives the best of reasons for changing it.

Robert A. Pinkerton, the general superintendent of the Eastern division, the younger of the two, is perhaps just a little taller than William, but is not nearly as stout, and will not weigh more than 175 pounds. He wears a mustache and a closely cropped growth of side-whiskers, which he does not allow to extend more than one inch below the ears. In all his movements he is quick, bordering a little on the nervous, but, like William he is in constant application upon his work, and keeps himself intimately acquainted with all the details of every case in hand. It is safe to say that the two men referred to have a more extensive acquaintance with the criminal classes of America than any other persons now living."



ROBERT A. PINKERTON.



WILLIAM A. PINKERTON.