

MORE CHEMICAL FORGERIES.

Arrest of Two Operators—How One of Them Has Been "Roped" Into the Business—Examination Before Justice Dowling.

An arrest of forgers has been made by detectives Elder and McDougal that will be regarded in Wall street with considerable satisfaction.

Lewis Van Eton has long been known in the down town business circles as a broker, with a reputation for making and spending money rather rapidly and freely. He once carried on business in William street rather extensively, and last summer astonished the visitors at the hotels at Lake Mahopin by the splendor of his style of living, and his determination not to associate with any one in so insignificant a social position as clerks in public offices, and even went so far as to desire the landlord of one of the hotels to give orders for guests of that character to leave the hotel. Van Eton is a native of Belgium and about forty years of age. He was notorious some time ago in consequence of charges brought against him for seduction by several women. A woman named Kate Price was particularly active among his persecutions. She was ultimately sent by his representatives to Blackwell's Island.

Ferris appears to have been a victim to some extent of the plotting of Van Eton, if the facts sworn to in the following affidavits are to be relied upon:—

On the 31st of May they disposed of a \$100 five-twenty bond at the office of Fisk & Hatch, receiving a check on the Fourth National Bank for \$113 in payment. The check was payable to J. Payson. On the 22d instant the same persons sold two fifty-dollar government bonds to the above firm, giving the name of William Muller and securing in payment a check on the Fourth National Bank. The first check was presented at Security Bank on Friday, altered to \$4,000, and was passed to the credit of an account recently opened in the name of James Robinson. The forgery was discovered at the Fourth National Bank, and Fisk & Hatch were notified. Captain Keiso was placed in possession of the facts, and detectives Elder and McDougal detailed to unravel them. On searching Van Eton at police headquarters, on Saturday evening, the check for \$113, issued on June 2, was found altered to \$7,000, in the name of J. Robinson. The checks had been operated upon with acids.

THE EXAMINATION.

The prisoners were brought before Justice Dowling yesterday afternoon, and the facts, as given above, sworn to by a number of witnesses. Ferris made the following statement, in the form of a sworn affidavit:—

In the year 1862 I was in business at Hilton Head as a speculator in dry goods, boots and shoes, &c. Whilst there I became involved, and in New York, where I had come to purchase more goods, I was arrested by my creditors as an absconding debtor and was locked up in Ludlow Street jail, where I became acquainted with Louis M. Van Eton, who was also a prisoner there on some charge. I was detained in jail about fourteen days, when my creditors bought a store for me at Crawford, N. J., where I remained seven months; but as I had an offer to go to Tennessee I gave up the store and took the position of superintendent of the workshops of the Northwestern Railroad at Johnsville, Tenn. I returned to New York, and after being here about four years, while I was employed as agent for the National Insurance Company, No. 176 Broadway, I met with Van Eton for the first time since I met him in Ludlow street. He inquired of me what I was doing, and said, "You can do better." This was in April, 1870. He promised to start me in business in Wall street as a broker, and I gave up my position as agent of the insurance company. He promising to do this for me, I anxiously waited its coming, but from time to time he would give me United States five-twenty bonds of 1865, of fifty dollars and \$100, to dispose of, which I did, receiving the payment for them in currency. Van Eton found fault with me for taking money for them, instead of a check, and made some remarks which I did not like. After this, when I sold bonds I received checks. He told me not to have the checks made out in his name, as he was in no good repute in Wall street, and he did not wish any one to know that he had money. I asked if I should get them in my name. He said, "No; that would not do," and told me to get them in any name I could think of. I got them in the name of J. Pierson, William Miller, William Slade and Myer. I am not sure of the first named. On May 31, 1870, I sold \$100 five-twenty 1865 United States bond to Fisk & Hatch and received a check payable to J. Pierson, Elizabeth, N. J., for \$113; on June 2, 1870, I sold to Fisk & Hatch two \$50 bonds, five-twenties, 1865, and received a check payable to the order of William Miller, Westfield, N. J., for \$113. I have been at Van Eton's house, at 334 West Thirtieth street, on several occasions; he has also called on me. He always represented himself to me as being a very wealthy man, owning a house, coach, horses, &c. I did these transactions for him on the supposition that he was going to do me a kindness in placing me in business. I always gave the check or sums as I received them to him, he being near me, outside, as soon as I had sold them.

In default of \$10,000 bail both defendants were committed to answer.

ALTERED CHECKS AGAIN.

The Forgers in Possession of a Dangerous Secret in Chemistry—How they Swindle Bankers—Scrutinize your Bank Checks and Know from Whom you Take them.

Yesterday morning, Louis Van Eeten and Josiah S. Ferris were committed by Justice Dowling on a charge of forgery. On the 31st of May Van Eeten and Ferris sold a \$100 five-twenty to Messrs. Fisk & Hatch, receiving in return a check on the Fourth National Bank of New York for \$113, payable to the order of J. Pearson of Elizabeth, New Jersey. On the next day the same persons sold to the same firm two fifty-dollar bonds and received a check for \$113, payable to the order of William Miller of Westfield, N. J. The first check, altered to \$4,000, was presented for payment at the Security Bank, Broadway and Pearl street. Mr. Charles E. Orvis, the paying-teller, knowing that skilfully altered checks were afloat in large numbers, sent the check to the Fourth National Bank for verification. The officers of the latter bank sent to Fisk & Hatch, and they on examining their books found that it had been altered from \$113.

When Van Eeten was searched in the Police Central Office the second check was found hidden in his hat. It had been altered from \$113 to \$7,000, and made payable to J. Robinson. The alterations had been admirably executed in both cases, some chemical process unknown to bankers having been employed.

The prisoners are connected, it is believed, with a gang of forgers who have been operating successfully for some months past in this city and in Chicago. Van Eeten is a Belgian, about forty years of age, and is said to have carried on business as a broker at one time in William street, but to have failed through the persecution of certain women who followed him from place to place, and had him frequently arrested. He is married and lived in good style in Thirtieth street. Ferris is an American, resides in East Fifteenth street and has a wife and children.

Van Eeten and Ferris were arrested late on Saturday night by Detectives Elder and McDougall. Mr. Charles E. Orvis, the paying teller of the Security Bank, has probably saved that institution nearly \$11,000 by the exercise of a little prudence.

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS.

Before Recorder Hackett.

A WALL STREET BROKER CHARGED WITH FORGERY—

THE JURY LOCKED UP FOR THE NIGHT.

The only case tried in this court yesterday was an indictment for forgery in the third degree against Louis M. Van Eeten and Josiah S. Ferris. Ex-Judge Stuart defended the accused, who appeared to be a respectable and intelligent man. The testimony for the prosecution showed that, on the 2d of June, a person (who turned out to be Ferris) called at the office of Fisk & Hatch, No. 5 Nassau street, and sold a five-twenty bond for \$113, for which he received in payment a check signed by the firm, he representing himself as William Miller, of Westfield.

Officers McDougal and Elder, of the detective squad, followed Ferris and the accused through a number of streets, and saw him converse with Van Eeten in Cedar street and walk towards Broadway. McDougal saw Ferris pass something to Van Eeten, who opened a package disclosing a red-colored book, and then roll it up again. The defendant got into a Seventh avenue car, followed by the detective, who saw him open the book, in which he perceived a check similar in size and appearance to the one in question. He was traced to a house in Thompson street, and upon the next day the detectives watched until Mr. Van Eeten was seen to leave in the morning and to ride down to No. 335 Broadway, where the parties were arrested. Van Eeten was searched at the Police Headquarters, and the check given by the paying teller of Fisk & Hatch for \$113, which was altered to \$7,000 and made payable to J. Robinson instead of William S. Miller, was found in the lining of Mr. Van Eeten's hat.

Assistant District Attorney Fellows moved that a *nolle prosequi* be entered in the case of Josiah S. Ferris, whom he desired to use as a witness. The motion was granted, and Mr. Ferris proceeded to testify that he became acquainted with the accused in 1862, but had not seen him till last April. On the 2d of June he sold a one hundred dollar bond at the office of Fisk & Hatch and received a check for \$113, payable to the order of William S. Miller, which he handed to Mr. Van Eeten. He (the prisoner) gave him instructions to get checks made payable to parties out of town, assigning as a reason that he had trouble in Wall street before and did not wish the parties to know that he was interested in selling bonds. He (Ferris) knew nothing about the alteration of the check.

Judge Stuart subjected the witness to a severe cross-examination, but the main facts proved in the direct were not shaken.

Counsel for the defendant then called Mr. Van Eeten, who said that he did not know how the check came into his hat; that when he was arrested at the office in 335 Broadway he called to see Mr. Ferris on account of certain moneys that he had deposited with him for the purchase of stocks, and that Ferris owed him \$13,000.

Mr. Francis H. Ammedon, the foreman of the Grand Jury, and other distinguished citizens were called to testify as to the previous good character of the accused.

The prosecuting officer called Wm. S. Miller, who testified that he was in the office at 335 Broadway talking with Mr. Van Eeten about purchasing stock in a mail transportation company when the detec-

tives arrested him (Van Eeten): Ferris and a man by the name of B. F. Bowman were present.

Charles E. Orvis, the paying teller of the Security Bank, was called and testified that a man by the name of J. Robinson opened a small account in their bank on the 24th of May; he gave his address as 335 Broadway, and on the 2d or 3d of June a boy presented a check for \$4,000 from Robinson, which he refused to pay; it was an altered check drawn by Fisk & Hatch; Robinson has disappeared; the witness stated that Van Eeten expressed a wish to open an account with him and gave some references, but the bank not deeming them satisfactory the account was not opened.

Judge Stuart made a logical and effective argument upon the testimony, claiming that Ferris, who was watched by the detectives in the passage way of the office and seen to enter it and come out again, placed the altered check in Mr. Van Eeten's hat, and that the unquestioned good character proven by the accused was sufficient to generate a doubt of his guilty complicity in the alleged forgery.

After a lucid and elaborate charge by the Recorder the jury retired at half-past four o'clock to deliberate upon the case. His Honor waited one hour, and having received a communication from the foreman stating that it was impossible for them to agree, the Recorder said that he felt it to be his duty to keep them together for the night. He accordingly left the office after giving the necessary order to furnish refreshments for the jury.

Edward Mosher, who was convicted during the