

# DEATH OF WM. M. TWEED.

## THE EX-TAMMANY CHIEF'S LAST HOURS IN JAIL.

A PEACEFUL DEATH-BED SCENE IN THE LUDLOW-STREET PRISON—FEW OF THE DYING MAN'S RELATIVES PRESENT—HIS LAST WORDS TO HIS LAWYER AND PHYSICIAN—THE CORONER'S INQUEST—A SKETCH OF TWEED'S EVENTFUL LIFE AS A FIREMAN, POLITICIAN, AND PRISONER.

William M. Tweed is dead. The man who, from being an apprentice in his father's chair factory, worked his way into Congress, held many of the most profitable offices the City of New-York had to bestow, ruled Tammany Hall, and for a time exercised greater power over City affairs than any other man has ever done, died in a room in Ludlow-Street Jail yesterday at noon. In the absence of nearly all the members of his family, surrounded by comparative strangers, and without any religious observances, he died, expressing the belief that the Guardian Angels would watch over him. The Coroner's inquest showed that he had long suffered from a complication of diseases that must have been far more painful to him than any physical tortures the State could inflict. The eventful story of his life and death is told in the following columns.

### TWEED'S ILLNESS AND LAST HOURS.

William M. Tweed died in the room in which he had been confined, in the Ludlow-Street Jail, at 12 o'clock noon yesterday. Although he had not been well for a long time previously, yet an immediate fatal ending was not anticipated, and the announcement of his death was a surprise to every one. During the last few months several physicians prescribed for him, Dr. Schirmer giving place to Dr. J. M. Carnochan only a few days ago. A week ago last Thursday Mr. Tweed complained that he was feeling worse than usual, and desired that Dr. Carnochan might be sent for. That physician was summoned, and he found the patient suffering from a complication of dangerous disorders. He had taken a severe cold, which ended in an attack of bronchitis, and that was followed by pneumonia. Besides these he was suffering from cystitis, and his old heart trouble gave him much pain. His pulse became very irregular, and there were marked signs of pericarditis. The trouble with the heart grew worse every day until Thursday, when there was a slight improvement, and toward evening he seemed much better. At 11 o'clock on Thursday evening, when Dr. Carnochan left him, he was breathing easily, seemed disposed to sleep, and said that he felt much more comfortable. At the same time, however, there were symptoms indicating that the heart trouble was worse. Dr. Carnochan gave him an anodyne to induce sleep, and the patient slept for an hour. At midnight he awoke, complaining very much of an acute pain about the heart. His colored servant, Luke, did all he could to soothe him, but he continued restless throughout the night, insisting upon sitting in his chair. The change of position seemed to relieve the pain, and he alternated several times during the night between the bed and the easy chair. The pain in the region of the heart grew worse until about 7 o'clock yesterday morning, when he felt better again, and fell into a comfortable sleep, which lasted for half an hour. At the end of that time, however, he again awoke, complaining of great pain about the heart. His pulse was then very feeble and irregular.

When these serious symptoms appeared Dr. Carnochan was sent for, and he arrived at the jail at about 8 o'clock. He found Mr. Tweed's countenance changed, and his symptoms greatly aggravated. His friends were sent for, and from that time until his death he sank gradually, retaining full consciousness until half an hour before he died. Mr. Tweed's counsel, Mr. Edelstein, arrived promptly in response to a dispatch announcing that his client was dying, and he was soon joined in the sick room by Mr. and Mrs. Douglass, Mr. Tweed's daughter and son-in-law, and Foster Dewey; and Charles Devlin, his bondsman and old-time friend, arrived two minutes too late. He knew that he was going to die, but did not seem discomposed, except by the terrible pain he was enduring. Frequently he pressed his hands to his heart, saying, "Oh, it is terrible, terrible!" and "I am very bad; my heart is paining me terribly." Dr. Carnochan saw that no aid could be given, and no more remedies were administered.

At about 11:30 o'clock it was evident that the end was drawing near. Mr. Tweed beckoned Dr. Carnochan to his side, and said, in an unusually weak voice: "I have tried to do some good if I have not had good luck. I am not afraid to die. I believe the guardian angels will protect me." Dr. Carnochan was so much impressed by the words that he immediately wrote them upon a piece of paper and read them to the other persons in the room. Immediately after saying these few words Mr. Tweed fell into a sort of stupor, laying his head back upon his pillow. In a few moments, however, he partially aroused himself, and said to his lawyer, Mr. Edelstein, some incoherent words about the confinement affecting his health, and, mentioning some names in an almost inaudible voice, said: "They will be satisfied now." After this he again lapsed into a stupor, which the physicians say was not a comatose condition, but merely a deadening of the senses. At a minute or two before 12 o'clock he moved his hand upon the counterpane, as if searching for some one's hand for a farewell. A moment later, just as the jail bells were ringing the noon signal, William M. Tweed fell back upon his pillow dead.

The room in which Mr. Tweed died, and in which he spent the last year of his life, was handsomely but quietly furnished. In his last hours he lay upon a plain but comfortable bed, on which his body remained for some hours after death, clad in a plain white night-dress. He had not altered materially. There was scarcely a change in the face except in the color of the hair and whiskers, which had whitened very much. The great size of his body had rather increased than diminished.

A message was at once sent to the Sheriff's office, saying that William M. Tweed was dead. Word was also sent to the Coroner's office, the law requiring that an inquest shall be held over the bodies of all persons who die while undergoing imprisonment. The corridor of the jail was soon filled with friends of Mr. Tweed and representatives of the press, and the front door was besieged by persons who could not gain admittance to the building. No one was admitted to the room in the first story, opening off the quadrangle, in which the body lay, except officers of the jail, relatives and friends, and the Coroner and his men.

Mr. John D. Townsend reached the jail at about 1:30 o'clock, and was present at the inquest. He said that Mr. Tweed said to Mr. Edelstein a few minutes before the former's death, "Tilden and Fairchild—I guess they've killed me at last. I have tried to do the best I could latterly, but they wouldn't let me. They will probably be satisfied when I am carried out of here to-morrow." Deputy Warden Fitzsimons says that on Thursday afternoon he showed Mr. Tweed a note he had written in reply to a letter of inquiry about his health from a reporter. Mr. Tweed read it and said that it was all right, but added, "Say I am more comfortable to-day."

The news of Mr. Tweed's death spread with great rapidity throughout the City. Before he had been dead half an hour a bulletin in front of THE TIMES office announced the fact, and it was surrounded by crowds all the afternoon, everybody taking almost a personal interest in the death of the ex-"Boss."

Mr. Tweed's last appearance outside the walls of Ludlow-Street Jail was on the 26th of March, when he was summoned to testify in the suit of Charles G. Waterbury, as Assignee of John L. Brown, against the City, before Judge Potter, in the Supreme Court. He took the witness stand when his name was called and read a paper, saying that the City had not kept its promise of restoring him to liberty after the giving of his previous testimony, and that, by advice of his counsel, he declined to testify further till the promise was fulfilled. No effort was made to compel him to answer, and he was taken back to the jail.

Coroner Woltman arrived at the jail at about 1 o'clock, and at once began the inquest. Coroner Croker was also present. It was de-

error, in 1870, he resigned his office as Grand Sachem of the Tammany Society, and Tweed succeeded him, and held control of the society until John Kelly came into power in the organization, after the downfall of the Ring. Then Tweed was in supreme command of the Tammany Society. He was a member of the Young Democracy desired to get control of the society and oust Tweed. On the afternoon of March 28, 1870, the Young Democracy met in force in Irving Hall, and Tweed and his followers entrenched themselves at head-quarters. On motion of Senator Michael Norton, a resolution was passed to the effect that the hall and demand tickets of admission from Tweed. Early in the evening it was discovered that the hall was closed and in the possession of the Police. The doors were closed by a resolution of the Council of Sachems of the Tammany Society, who were the Trustees of the building. It was not until the resolution that the call for meeting of the General Committee for that evening was irregular, and that it had originated with John Morrissey and his associates, and was intended to foment disturbances in the party. The hall was not to be used until peace had been restored in the Democratic ranks. The Young Democracy were compelled to adjourn from Irving Hall, and Tweed remained master of the situation. Mr. Tweed was also the chief mover in the organization of the famous American Club in 1869, and in the erection of the club's elegant building at Greenwich, Conn., which has since come to grief.

**THE RING ROBBERIES.**  
The history of the Tammany Ring, which was the outgrowth of years of Democratic misrule in this City, is so intimately interwoven with Tweed's experiences that to understand the latter it is necessary to give a sketch of the former. The exact dates of the inception of the colossal scheme of swindling it is very difficult to give. Tweed, himself, in his testimony before the recent Investigating Committee of the Board of Aldermen, testified that a "Ring" existed in the Board of Supervisors during his incumbency as a member. The Supervisors' "Ring" was formed at first in 1859, by the Democrats in the board, including Tweed, for the purpose of procuring the appointment of Democratic Inspectors of Election. The sum of \$2,500 was used this day, April 12, 1876.

Deputy Coroner Cushman testified: "I have made an external examination of the body of William M. Tweed, in the Ludlow-Street Jail, April 12, 1876; from the evidence and history of the case, I am of the opinion that the said William M. Tweed died of acute pericarditis, complicated with pneumonia and disease of the kidneys."

The following verdict was then rendered by the Coroner's jury: "An inquisition taken at the Ludlow-Street Jail, New-York, on the 12th day of April, 1876, before Henry Woltman, Coroner; William M. Tweed, now lying dead at the White-Slack, the deceased, was admitted to Ludlow-Street Jail on June 22, 1875, and was readmitted Nov. 23, 1876; for the past six months the deceased has been ailing, and was under the care of a physician; Dr. Schirmer and other physicians attended him, Dr. Carnochan being the last physician in attendance; Mr. Tweed died at 12 o'clock noon this day, April 12, 1876."

As soon as the Coroner's inquest had been concluded, the body was put into the hands of undertaker A. J. Case, of No. 307 Grand-street, and at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon it was taken to the residence of Mr. Tweed's son-in-law, Mr. J. W. Douglass, at No. 63 East Seventy-seventh-street.

**TWEED'S EARLY POLITICAL LIFE.**  
William Marcy Tweed was born at No. 9 Cherry-street, in this City, on the 3d of April, 1823. His father was a chair-maker, and carried on the business in partnership with Hezekiah Bonnell, the firm being Tweed & Bonnell. Young Tweed had few educational advantages, all the learning that served him in after life being derived from the newspapers, of which he was a constant reader. Of books he knew little or nothing. Tweed learned the chair-making trade of his father, and followed it in early life with industry and thrift. He was a hard worker, and soon put himself into comfortable circumstances.

The volunteer Fire Department was in the height of its prosperity at this time, and Tweed, like many other young New-Yorkers, believed that the highest aim in life was to be the leading member of a good company. His ambition was gratified, for he became a fireman of the No. 4 company in 1849, before the Fire Committee of the Common Council, was supplied with a large "double-deck" engine, which obtained for the company the popular name of "Big Six." It was through his efforts, too, that a fine new engine-house was erected at the corner of Henry-street, which still stands, and is occupied by Engine Company No. 15 of the paid Fire Department. At this time Tweed was comparatively prosperous. He and his brother Richard were joint proprietors of a chair factory in Ridge-street, and of a store in Pearl-street. He was energetic in business, affable, generous, an excellent negotiator, and a very popular, being almost worshipped by the members of his fire company, and standing high in the esteem of the entire Fire Department. Some time before his entrance into political life in 1851, he led the "Big Six" Company on an excursion to Canada, visiting all the large cities of the Dominion. "Big Six" returned about for nearly two months, and on this way, was hospitably received everywhere, and, with the notoriety gained through the press, on its return to New-York the foreman and his company were greeted with a grand reception.

Meanwhile, Tweed's business interests were suffering. He was paying much attention to social life, and not enough to his factory. Some of his old friends dated his subsequent downfall in business to the excursion of the "Big Six" to Canada. At any rate, Tweed's fortunes as a chair-maker declined after he became so active in the Fire Department, until he was adjudged a bankrupt, in 1851, although, at that time, he was an Alderman from the Seventh Ward, his popularity as a fireman securing his election to the board. On the expiration of his term as Alderman, he was elected to Congress, serving in that body from March 4, 1853, to March 4, 1855. While in Congress he made no mark. He was in the ranks of the war of 1861, and was more in his element, and more his helper, when he returned, and was immediately put in a local office.

In 1855-6 he was a member of the Board of Education, and was made a Supervisor, representing the Democratic Party, in 1857. He held that office for one year, when the board was abolished, and he was elected to the board and re-elected a State Senator, (1857,) and was re-elected to that office in 1870. From 1863 to 1870 he was Deputy Street Commissioner, his chief at one time being Charles G. Cornell, and at another time Judge W. McLean. He was at one time a candidate for Sheriff, but was defeated, his only important political reverse until the overthrow of the Ring. It was not until he became Deputy Street Commissioner that Tweed exhibited that greed for political power which was afterward such a marked peculiarity of his character. It is said by those who knew him that he could not refuse an office, and would have held any one in the gift of the people. He held three very important positions at one time—Deputy Street Commissioner, Supervisor, and State Senator. As a State Senator he ben his Government, and created his power by the passage of bills which would give him opportunities to make money. Through his instrumentality the bills for widening Broadway and opening Church-street and other streets were passed, and at length he secured the passage of the charter of 1870, under which the Ring was firmly established in power.

As Deputy Street Commissioner, Tweed managed the affairs of the City Government, and he lost no opportunity to make business investments, which added materially to his rapidly-increasing wealth. Thus, the man who was discharged as an insolvent debtor by a decree of Judge G. B. Barnard, of the Supreme Court, on the 5th of October, 1861, before the 10 years afterward, worth millions of dollars. A short time before his failure he lived in a small two-story house in Jefferson-street, near Henry. He afterward lived with his father-in-law, in a more expensive residence, and when he died he was worth \$1,000,000. He lived until he went into his brownstone residence in Fifth-avenue, in 1869 or 1870. In the Tammany Hall Party Tweed was indisputably the master, and his despotic rule over the Tammany Society, when presiding in the General Committee, which presidency, earned for him the nickname of "Boss" Tweed. When a question was to be voted upon, he would neglect to call for the negative votes, and decide in the affirmative; and with a sharp look at the opposing side; and from his decision no one appealed.

When Mr. John T. Hoffman was elected Gov-

ture of money and a corresponding distribution of patronage, the employment of thousands of laborers on boulevards, pipes, and other improvements, and the employment of every ward. Tweed was enabled to crush his political opponents. He also increased his wealth by other means than the reception of the percentages. He bought up an obscure sheet called the *Transcript*, and had it made the official organ for the City and County advertising. Then came the organization of the New-York Printing Company, and for many persons and corporations whom Tweed was in a position either to serve or injure. From this source came dividends of \$50,000 to \$70,000 per year. Hardly less enormous were the profits from the Manufacturing Stationers' Company, which he formed for the purpose of printing stationery to public offices. He compelled contractors to divide their profits with him in street-openings, street-widening, and other improvements, which were constructed on an enormous scale. In all these and other devious ways, and by purchasing property for small amounts in localities which had the prospect of improvements, should be made, he succeeded in enriching himself.

The reckless extravagance and waste of the City's money for the legislative schemes, for the so-called improvements, and for the horde of salaried officials and laborers, though concealed for a time, soon began to create dissatisfaction. The swindlers of the Ring were caught up by means of various issues of stocks and bonds and the creation of a floating debt which never made its appearance in the Controller's statements. Connolly, indeed, seemed to feel so secure in his position that, in October, 1870, he had a very respectable committee, consisting of Moses Taylor, Edward Town, George K. Sistrare, Edgar Schell, and Marshall O. Roberts examine his books. They made a eulogistic report in his favor, commending him for his honesty, &c. This report was used by the Ring as a shield to meet and ward off every attack of their enemies.

They had miscalculated, however, the power of a free newspaper, as they afterward found to their cost. A steady warfare had been waged by the *Times* against the thieves. For a long time the contest seemed a hopeless one; the scoundrels were so strongly entrenched at every point, and the editors were so unable to bring them down, that they were able to do by means of such Judges as Barnard, Cardozo, and McCunn. Fear of the consequences was the only restraint upon them. The attacks were continued unremittingly by the *Times*, and culminated, in July, 1871, in the disclosure of the frauds, by the publication of the extracts from the Controller's books. Tweed and the others now became alarmed, and ordered the destruction of Woodward's tell-tale books and the account books of Ingersoll and the other fraudulent tradesmen. The great armory swindles, the fraudulent pay-rolls and vouchers for the swindles in connection with the new Court-house, were exposed after another. The public were stirred by these exposures as they had not been since the great uprising at the beginning of the civil war, and after various abortive attempts to stop the thieves, the public sentiment finally found utterance at the great Cooper Union meeting on the evening of Sept. 4, 1871, at which the Committee of Seventy was appointed. On Sept. 7 John Foley obtained an injunction restraining the Ring officials from paying out any money or performing any official acts. While the proceedings were pending occurred the robbery of the large number of circulating vouchers from the Controller's office, whereby it was expected the prosecution would be foiled. The device did not succeed. On Sept. 10, 1871, came the resignation of Connolly, and the advent of Controller Green took place. This stopped all further leaks of the City Treasury and paved the way for the arrest of the Ring. By the career of the Ring, so briefly told above, over \$25,000,000 are proved to have been stolen from the City.

**TWEED'S ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT.**  
Early on the morning of Friday, Oct. 27, 1871, Mr. Tweed appeared at his office in the building set apart for the Department of Public Works. The corridors and halls of the building were filled by an anxious and excited crowd, evidently waiting for some unusual event. Mr. Tweed did not busy himself in his office as usual. He was waiting, too. About 1:30 o'clock Sheriff Bronnan entered the office and said: "Mr. Tweed, I have an order for your arrest." "I expected it," replied Mr. Tweed, "but not quite so soon." Sheriff Brennan had just received the papers from Wheeler H. Peckham. The order of arrest was granted by Justice W. J. Learned, of the Supreme Court, under date of Oct. 25. It was based on an affidavit of Samuel J. Tilden, made Oct. 24, and reciting the evidence against Tweed, Ingersoll, Woodward, and Garvey, disclosed by an examination of the books of the Broadway Bank. Mr. Tweed gave bail in \$5,000, his bondsmen being Jay Gould, Benjamin P. Fairchild, Bernard Kelley, Hugh J. Hastings, and Terrence Kelley. Mr. Tweed was to have 20 days to answer to a complaint demanding judgments against him and his accomplices to the amount of \$6,312,000, with interest from Sept. 1, 1870. A few days afterward Tweed told a reporter that the arrest would not impair his chances of election to the State Senate from the Fourth District. He knew his constituency and his tools, evidently, for at the election held on Nov. 7 he was elected by a majority of 10,573 over Rossa and Miller, his opponents, while all other "Ring" candidates were defeated. This triumph brought no enjoyment to Mr. Tweed, however, for he never dared to appear in the Senate. His seat in the Senate was taken by Recorder Judge B. B. Horton, David Dudley Field, and E. W. Stoughton. Judge Bedford decided to commit him without bail, but Tweed's counsel hastily prepared a writ of habeas corpus and served it on the Sheriff, who kindly waited for the purpose just outside the building. The prisoner was released by Judge Barnard, who granted the writ and released Tweed on \$5,000 bail. On the same day Judge Learned, at Albany, refused to vacate the order of arrest or reduce the bail in the civil action.

Tweed resigned his position as Commissioner of Public Works on the 29th of December; the prisoner was released by Recorder Judge Barnard on the 29th of February, 1872. To a man of Tweed's power it was easy to find means to delay the course of the legal proceedings against him. So his case was not brought to trial till Jan. 7, when it was called in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, before Judge Davis. The trial opened on Feb. 20 in a disreputable manner. A few days later a motion for a new trial was granted. The continued examination into the conduct of the Ring revealed still greater depths of villainy, and on the 20th of February, 1873, there were found 15 new indictments against Tweed and his fellow-thieves, naming forgery, conspiracy, larceny, and other crimes against the property of the County. He was arraigned on these indictments May 16, and pleaded not guilty. His trial on these charges was, on June 2, postponed till the October term of the Court of General Sessions, and was then further postponed.

On the 5th of November, 1873, began the trial which ended so disastrously for the great malefactor. It was held in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, before Judge Davis. The trial closed Nov. 18, with the memorable charge of the Presiding Judge. The jury returned a verdict of guilty on all four of the main counts of the indictment. Sentence was deferred until Saturday, Nov. 22, when Judge Davis, in one of the most remarkable discourses of the kind ever pronounced by a magistrate, sentenced Tweed to 12 years' imprisonment at the Penitentiary, and ordered the sentence not to be executed until the 1st of January, 1874. He received the sentence not defiantly, nor even stolidly, but with the air of a man to whom the conviction has come that his power is gone, and only defeat and disgrace remain. When the Judge had ceased speaking, Tweed sank into his chair as though he were dead. He was taken to the Tombs, and remained there till Saturday, Nov. 29, when he was taken to the Penitentiary on Blackwell's Island. It was there that he made

his well-remembered answers to the Warden. "His religion?" "State-man." "What religion?" "None."

Tweed's sentence to 12 years' imprisonment was, in fact, a series of 12 sentences of one year each on various counts of the indictment. In a like manner the amount of the fines imposed, \$12,500, represented the aggregate sum of many smaller fines, ranging from \$250 to each based on one or several of the 250 counts of the indictment. To the general public and to Tweed, apparently, it made little difference whether he was sentenced to 12 terms of one year or one term of 12 years. There was a material difference, however. While the prisoner had served out his first sentence of one year on Blackwell's Island, his counsel applied to the Court of Appeals for his release. They argued that the law affixes to the crime of which Tweed had been found guilty the punishment of a fine and imprisonment for one year; they denied that a cumulative sentence, such as had been pronounced by Judge Davis, was legal, and their client, having served one year, they demanded his release. The Court of Appeals, in June, 1875, rendered a decision sustaining this appeal, and ordered Tweed's release. But the attorneys for the people had anticipated this result, and were prepared for it. The old civil suit against Tweed had fallen through under a decision that it should have been brought by the County and not by the State. But a new suit had been brought in its place, to recover \$6,000,000 of stolen money, under the "Civil Remedy act," passed by the Legislature of 1875, enabling municipal corporations to sue for the recovery of funds appropriated by public officers. Tweed's release from the Penitentiary was, therefore, only preliminary to his reincarceration in Ludlow-Street Jail, where he was shut up June 22 in default of \$3,000,000 bail. On the 8th of October another order of arrest was served on Tweed in another civil suit for \$1,000,000, and the bail required was fixed at \$50,000. When the \$6,000,000 suit was brought his lawyers moved for a bill of particulars. This was granted by Judge Donohue, quashed, on appeal, by the General Term, and this latter decision was sustained by the Court of Appeals on Nov. 16. There then remained, seemingly, no obstacle that could delay the trial of the case on its merits.

**ESCAPE FROM LUDLOW-STREET JAIL.**  
But the old man was still fertile in expedients. He had one left, one more daring and desperate in its nature than notions of counsel. On the night of Saturday, Dec. 4, 1875, he escaped from Ludlow-Street Jail. He was in the custody of Sheriff Conner, and was supposed to be closely confined in the jail. The restraint, however, was merely nominal; it appeared that he had often been outside the jail, attended by keepers. He had gone out in this way on Saturday afternoon, and had taken a drive in the Park, attended by Warden Dunham and Keeper Hogan, of the jail. About 4 o'clock the party drove to Tweed's house and entered it. In a few moments Tweed went up stairs, to see his wife, as he said, leaving the keepers in the parlor. In about 20 minutes they discovered that he had fled. The excitement over the escape was great. A reward of \$10,000 was offered for his capture, and Police officers and detectives all over the country kept a wary eye for the fugitive for weeks. Their efforts were futile, however, and nothing was heard from him till September, 1876, when news reached the State Department at Washington that Tweed was in Vigo, a seaport of Spain. The United States man-of-war Franklin, then about to return home from a Mediterranean cruise, was directed to bring him home. The voyage was long and the delay irksome to those most interested, but, finally, on the 23d of November, the Franklin arrived with her distinguished passenger, who was immediately returned to his old quarters in Ludlow-Street Jail. Some months later, in April, 1877, the romantic story of his escape and capture was published. It was prepared by Mr. Carolin O'Brien Bryant, and told how Tweed had, with two fellow-prisoners, concocted an elaborate plan of escape; how, from the moment of his getting free, he was taken in charge by a gang of desperadoes, conveyed to the Jersey shore, thence to a fisherman's hut on Staten Island, and thence in a coasting schooner to Florida, across to Cuba, and finally to Spain, where he was captured. The story was well told, and purported to be a truthful narrative in all particulars, but the public has never felt quite certain that it was not largely fanciful, except as to main facts.

It was during Tweed's absence, and, according to the published "romance," while he was staying in impenetrable disguise on Staten Island, that the \$6,000,000 suit was decided against him, and judgment entered for that amount. An execution was handed to Sheriff Conner May 11, and on the 13th of September was returned by his constables with the interest of the great Ring thief had taken care to put his stolen thousands or millions beyond the reach of judgments on the very dawn of his troubles. Large transfers of real estate from him to his wife and son were recorded in the Register's office on March 22, 1873.

**EFFORTS TO SETTLE THE RING SUITS.**  
A few weeks after Tweed's return from Spain rumors were circulated that he was about to make a compromise with the City, and give up all his property as the price of his liberty. It was said that Mr. Wheeler H. Peckham was favorable to such a disposition of the case, and that Tweed's counsel, Mr. David Dudley Field, was engaged in perfecting the arrangements necessary to effect a settlement. But these reports were not substantiated. It would seem that Tweed was inclined to change his advisers about this time, and that he had decided upon a new programme of action. New men had gained his confidence. Mr. Carolan O'Brien Bryant became an occasional visitor to his rooms in Ludlow-Street Jail, and, it is said, suggested to him a new path of deliverance. The \$6,000,000 judgment had been obtained against him in the Supreme Court, and he therefore deemed it necessary to try a new mode of settlement. On Dec. 12, 1876, he wrote a doleful letter to Mr. Charles O'Connor, and it was delivered by Mr. Foster Dewey. It is commented upon by the *Register* in a public article published April 4, 1877. In it Mr. Tweed declared that he was "an old man, greatly broken in health, cast down in spirit, and could no longer bear any burden," and that, to mitigate the prospect of a hopeless imprisonment, he would make any sacrifice or effort. He also said that during the trial of his case he had been willing to make any restitution in his power, but that "entanglements with the interests and counsels of others defeated this." Tweed next stated that he hoped "to have any matters affecting other persons restricted to your [Mr. O'Connor's] private direction." He added that he was ready to make any legal counsel. This letter was sent to the Attorney-General Mr. O'Connor, who then prepared to withdraw from the Ring suits. No reply was made to the communication.

In the meantime, Carolan O'Brien Bryant continued his visits to Tweed, assuming, as he declared, that he had the confidence of Mr. O'Connor. He had access to many of Mr. Tweed's papers, and he took some of them away and refused to return them. Mr. John D. Townsend was also occasionally closeted with Tweed, and with the advice of John Kelly counseled Tweed to make a confession in April, 1877. Mr. Townsend forwarded his confession to the Attorney-General, but many of its features were known in political circles before that time. The men mentioned in the confession included William Folger, and other Senators, together with others who were hostile to Tammany. While the public anxiety to hear what Tweed had to say was at its zenith a morning newspaper published what purported to be the confession, one of its editors having previously obtained the facts from Mr. John Kelly. On the same day William Folger, Recorder Hackburn, and others who were mentioned in the statement positively denied all the accusations made against them. While this controversy was in progress the Attorney-General was engaged in carefully examining the confession, and he came to the conclusion that the charges were true, but that the evidence if presented would not be received in any court. Mr. Fairchild accordingly returned the document to Tweed. It was regarded simply as a political document—one intended to damage the prospects of aspirants for office who had no hopes of Mr. Kelly.

The late absence of the Ring suits deprived Tweed of all hopes of liberty. He was to have appeared as a witness against Sweeney, but the latter settled his case summarily. It was then intended that he should testify against Connolly, but judgment was confessed in that case, thus removing Tweed's services unneeded. On the 13th of December, 1877, a committee of five, appointed a special committee to investigate the Ring frauds. The evident purpose of this was to have Tweed repeat his statement, with additions, if necessary. The committee held 20

sessions, during which Mr. Tweed repeated many of the charges which were embraced in the confession, but all his accusations were denied. A few weeks ago Mr. Kelly sent a communication to the Attorney-General appealing for the release of the prisoner, on the ground that he had been virtually punished by his parole; by Mr. Fairchild, but this latter demand for a mitigation and Tweed was not set at liberty.

**THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE SUITS.**  
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