

The Detroit Free Press

Detroit, MI

Thursday, May 24, 1894

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PARKE WOULD NOT TALK

**HE WILL EXPLAIN MATTERS ONLY
TO HIS PARENTS.**

**HIS CONVERSATION POINTED TO AN
UNBALANCED MIND.**

**SOME LOVE TROUBLE LED HIM TO
BECOME A TRAMP.**

**Graphic Description of the Closing
Hours of the Pursuit.**

Meridian, Miss., May 23.—(Special.)—After the arrest of James H. Parke, of Detroit, at this place yesterday afternoon, legal complications arose that threatened at one time a detention of the young man for perhaps several days. It seems that Parke, in his wanderings, had become associated with an opium and cocaine fiend, and that they traveled south together as far as Coaling, a small station on the Alabama Great Southern Railroad, at which point Parke was ejected from the train. It was at this place, or, rather, while at Tuscaloosa, only a few miles south of the station named, that Detective Lombard learned of the circumstance, and placed himself in position to inspect thoroughly every train that came north, and through the assistance of the trainmen he was enabled to secure on the first southbound freight the very man who had been traveling with Parke, and from whom he had been separated only a few hours. This man at first declined to impart any information, and it was only through well-laid plans of the shrewd detective that any confession from this depraved tramp of his knowledge of the Detroit young man was extorted. He was told, as already related, that Parke was ejected from the train at Coaling, and that he was then in all probability pursuing his journey southward on foot. In order to remove as far as possible the unwholesome influence of this man, and as a reward for the information obtained, Detective Lombard transferred to him his railroad ticket to Meridian and then started up the railroad track in the direction of Coaling station, expecting to meet his man at almost any time.

He was now almost certain that he had reached the end of a long, fatiguing, and at one time apparently interminable pursuit. He was now certainly within a few miles of the object of his search, but the detective was here doomed to disappointment. His man had succeeded in securing a footing on the blind baggage of another train, and while passing through the dense swamps of the Warrior river the brakeman, who by some means had become apprised of the presence and purpose of the detective, called to Parke in a loud voice: "if you are from New York, jump and flee for your life; a detective is on your track." Without the least ceremony the young man leaped from the rapidly moving train, and with the fleetness almost of deer disappeared among the brambles and brush of the comparatively impenetrable swamps of the Warrior. Returning to Tuscaloosa, Detective Lombard secured the assistance of the chief of police, and the swamps and negro cabins for miles were fruitlessly searched until 10 o'clock at night. Having gone the entire day without rest, and without food of any description, the detective, greatly fatigued and miles away from Tuscaloosa, to which point he must return and renew the search, aroused a family about midnight in an isolated and barely accessible locality, where a frugal meal was prepared and ravenously devoured. Here, too, a conveyance—an ancient and rickety sulky, drawn by a horse hardly able to stand—was secured, and the perilous journey to Tuscaloosa was made. The policy of the detective was to pursue the work he had in hand as quietly as possible and avoid any publicity whatever, but out of the unfortunate circumstances that made it necessary to solicit the aid of the Tuscaloosa chief of police, grew a report that the father of young Parke had offered a reward of \$100 for his apprehension. The hope, therefore, of securing this reward entered the interest of several parties

enlisted the interest of several parties in the search, among them being a young man named Campbell, who, believing that Parke was en route to Meridian, took the first train for this place. It was on this very train that Parke rode the "blind baggage," passing Detective Lombard while watching at the Warrior bridge, three miles north of Tuscaloosa. After a search through the city yesterday, Campbell found young Parke asleep under an old shed at the extreme western corporate limits, and after waiting until he awoke followed him into the city. Along the route Parke conversed with several parties, telling them that he was from Detroit, Mich., and upon getting this information Campbell, of course, felt more certain that he had the man he wanted. Upon reaching the business portion of the city, Officer McCarroll, who had been detailed by the chief of police to handle the case, was called and made the arrest. Now here is where the complications arose. Campbell claimed that he had followed the young man at some expense from Tuscaloosa, Ala.; had traced him through this city and followed him up until he had placed him in the hands of the officers, and that he was, therefore, entitled to whatever reward may have been offered. Detective Lombard appeared and claimed the right to take charge of the young man, for whom he had been searching for weeks throughout the cities of the east and west, stating that no reward for the arrest of Parke had been offered by any one. Still Campbell, unsatisfied on this point, consulted a lawyer with a view of detaining young Parke, under a writ of habeas corpus until the question as to whether a reward was really offered for the young man could be more satisfactorily determined. He was, therefore, held in custody until this morning, when he was released and accompanied Detective Lombard to his room at the Southern Hotel.

The correspondent of The Free Press called at the hotel this afternoon for the purpose of interviewing the gentlemen and obtaining from them such additional statements as would be of interest to the public. Mr. Parke, who had evidently just returned from one of the most fashionable furnishing establishments of the city, was comfortably seated in a rocker, clothed in an elegant and most becoming new suit of clothes, perusing a number of letters which he had apparently just received. Indeed, here was presented a veritable prodigal's returning to his father's house, disrobed of the garb of a tramp and rescued from the slums and debasing associations there found.

He was clothed in the habiliments of respectability and made happy in the assurance of the love and affection of an honorable father, whose concern for the welfare of an erratic son prompted the expenditure of a large sum of money to procure his return to the parental roof under the advice and direction of Mr. Lombard.

Mr. Parke declined to make any statement whatever for publication, both gentlemen holding to the opinion that inasmuch as there is no charge against him the matters which brought about the present unhappy state of affairs could not be of much interest to the public.

Those things, Mr. Lombard said, would be explained by Mr. Parke to his family when he returned home, and they, in all probability, would never be communicated to outside parties. After Mr. Parke had been arrested by Officer McCarroll and before the arrival of Mr. Lombard, he assigned as a reason for leaving home, that he was engaged to marry a young lady of Detroit, and that his father seriously objected to the union. He was so completely infatuated that he felt that he could not live there save in the love of the young lady whom he adored, and rather than run counter so completely to the wishes of his father he

preferred to become a common tramp.

Mr. Lombard, who has made a most pleasant impression upon all with whom he has come in contact here, will leave to-night on the 10:20 o'clock Alabama Great Southern, via Chattanooga and Cincinnati, accompanied by Mr. Parke.

Birmingham, Ala., May 23.—(Special.)—James H. Parke, the wandering son of Millionaire Parke, of manufacturing chemist fame, made quite a circuitous route from the time he left New York until he reached Meridian, Miss. Which of the hundreds of routes leading from the great metropolis Parke had taken was hard to tell at first. Finally, it was learned by Detective Lombard that he had purchased a ticket to Washington. From New York he went to Washington in the style of the average traveler. After that he adopted the plan of the average tramp. From Washington he went wandering about until he reached Cincinnati; when he left that place it is said that he went to Louisville, whence he went to Chattanooga, riding a short distance upon freight trains and upon the blind baggage of passenger trains. Tramping it after the manner of the veteran tramp, he made his way from station to station along the A. G. S. R. R. until he was captured in the yards at Meridian while asleep upon a pile of lumber. To this place from Eutaw he had ridden upon the trucks of a freight train. He had during this wandering tour a bundle of clothes which, most of the time, he kept strapped to his back.

When asked why he left he refused to state the cause, but from what could be gathered from the drift of his conversation and certain allusions, it is thought that it is the result of a case of desperate love. He wanted nothing said of the entire affair, as it was, as he considered it purely a personal one. He looks very much toughened by the tramp he has taken, and from the drift of his conversation one would judge that he is mentally unbalanced, for he spoke in a wandering manner and in broken sentences.