

3 o'clock in the morning, east of Bond's switch, we drove into the officers, who had barricaded the road.

We were captured and taken to federal jail at Muskogee. It was nearly a year before they found anything upon which to try us, and finally they convicted me of assaulting Bud Ledbetter, a deputy marshal. In fact it was Ledbetter who assaulted me. Well, I got five years for that, and then beat it on habeas corpus writ later on.

I was tried and convicted for robbing the U. S. mail (which I did not do) and sentenced for the period of my natural life. I received the judgment of the court; my father came to the jail, laboring under great stress of feeling and informed me that my brother and I would be turned free if I would disclose information necessary to capture other men I had ridden with.

I was never more shocked in my life, that my father of all men on earth, whom I held in highest esteem, should put such a proposal to me. I told him I would rather go to the penitentiary and be carried over the gray grim walls by the ants than betray the men who had put their trust in me.

My father's reply was: "Now, God bless you, you are my boy, and I am proud of you," and the dear old man's face cleared like the first ray of sun from behind a storm cloud.

I went to the penitentiary at Columbus, Ohio, and through

the instrumentalities of Senator Mark Hanna and friends in Oklahoma, my life sentence was commuted to five years. I was carried to Leavenworth to fill the five-year sentence for assaulting Bud Ledbetter and was discharged by Judge Thayer of the U. S. circuit court on habeas corpus.

Then I came back to Lawton, Okla., where I took up the practice of law. I married, and it is to her great influence that I owe much of my success. It has been my determined aim to build up and get back, if possible, to where I by nature belonged.

No man will ever know the thousand obstacles in one's path who is endeavoring to fight back from the dead past.

With the honest people's help I shall prove to the world that a man can by an honest purpose and a stout heart, come back and be better material than two-thirds of your public officials, who promise the public reform and then not only betray the people's confidence, but embezzle their money.

(The end.)

A Jew had occasion to sell some eggs to a publican, and, after counting them and paying, the publican found that there was one over. He suggested that it was "thrown in." But the Jew protested that this would never do, so it was agreed that he should have a drink for the extra egg. "What will you have?" the landlord asked. "Egg and milk," replied Solly.