

Pious Frauds.—A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing.

Yesterday afternoon a colored man, apparently about 40 years of age, named Thomas W. Cardozo, was arrested at the Postoffice in this city, by Officer Walling, of the Fifth precinct, on a charge of obtaining from the Postoffice, by fraud and deception, a valuable registered letter, addressed to "Samual L. Bennett, Warden of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, of Charleston, S. C.,—Brooklyn." The circumstances which led to the arrest we learn to be as follows:

About a month since, Mr. Samual L. Bennett, a resident of Charleston, and a Warden and Chairman of the Vestry of St. Mark's (colored) Church in that city, discovered that some individual at the North had been falsely personating him, and obtaining, in his name, from clergymen and others, subscriptions in aid of the church above mentioned; and had requested that said subscriptions should be forwarded to the address of "Samual L. Bennett, Brooklyn, N. Y." As the real Bennett had been authorized by his church to make collections for its benefit, he naturally became alarmed and indignant at this proceeding—especially when he found that some person had instructed the Postoffice officials at Charleston to forward all letters addressed to him to Brooklyn.

Mr. Bennett laid the case before the Postmaster of Charleston, and as the matter involved an offence against the postoffice laws, the Postmaster brought the circumstances to the attention of Mr. James Gayler, the vigilant agent of the postoffice department of New York, who took measures at once for the detection of the offender. He ascertained that a short time since a light mulatto, who gave his name as Samual L. Bennett, had attempted to rent a box at the New York postoffice, but being unable to obtain one there—the boxes being all let—had succeeded in securing one at the Brooklyn office. Obtaining an accurate description of this man, Mr. Gayler sent it to the genuine Bennett, at Charleston, who at once recognized it as that of Thomas W. Cardozo, a native of Charleston, who left there several years since, and for a time was engaged in school-teaching at the North, but who had returned after the capture of the city by the Union forces, and remained for a short time, when he again left for the North.

Shortly after this information had been obtained, the registered letter above referred to was mailed at New York, containing a \$5 note, and reached the Brooklyn postoffice, officer Walling remaining on duty there awaiting the arrival of a claimant for it. For several days no claimant appeared; but about 8 o'clock yesterday Caroozo called, demanded and received it, informing the clerk, in reply to the usual inquiry, that his name was Samuel L. Bennett, and signing a receipt in that name for the letter. Taking it into the lobby of the postoffice he opened and read it, and deposited the \$5 note in his pocket. Mr. Walling, who had observed the proceedings, judging that it was time for him to take part in them, accosted the pretended Bennett by his true name of Cardozo, which he at first repudiated, but finally owned, also making a full confession of his misdeeds.

It appears that since September last, he has been applying, by means of circulars, and in person, to the Bishops, clergy, and laity of the Episcopal Church in New York, Brooklyn, Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia, Burlington, Newark, and other places, for subscriptions in aid of St. Mark's Colored Church, Charleston—always in the name of Samual L. Bennett—which subscriptions, when paid, he coolly appropriated to his own use.

In his possession was found a subscription book, on the first page of which was written the following:

CHARLESTON, September 1, 1866.

To the Bishops, Clergy and Friends of the Protestant Episcopal Church:

DEAR BRETHREN:—The object of the bearer is clearly set forth in the circular which will be presented to you.

We have authorized him (Mr. Samuel L. Bennett,) to travel in the Northern States to solicit aid for us in erecting a Temple for the worship of Almighty God.

We beseech you to assist us in this our time of need. Yours, in the bond of Christian fellowship,

J. B. SEABROOK, (Rector.) SAMUEL L. BENNETT.
R. E. DEREEF. R. K. KINLOCK.
ROBERT HOUSTON. SAMUEL O'HEAR.
J. B. MUSHINGTON. JOHN P. GREGG.

J. McPHERSON WHEATON.

A very slight examination rendered it evident that the whole of the above was in one handwriting, and Cardozo admitted that he wrote it (including the signature) himself. Still, it appears to have been done with sufficient skill for his purpose, as it is followed by the (genuine) signatures of two Bishops, (each of whom recommends Cardozo's ostensible object to the favor of the Christian people of his Diocese,) with those of other clergymen—some of them distinguished in the Church—and of a large number of lay citizens, many of them well known gentlemen. Opposite these names are entered sums ranging from \$1 to \$140, amounting in the aggregate to \$2,495, which Cardozo states he has pocketed and appropriated to his own use. Several copies of the "circular" referred to were found in his possession, which he admitted he had procured to be printed in imitation of those used by the genuine Bennett in his *bona fide* efforts for the benefit of the Church.

A complaint was made by Special Agent Gaylor before U. S. Commissioner Jones, and Cardozo was taken into custody by the U. S. Marshal. In default of \$2,500 bail he was committed to the County Jail—the examination of the case being set down for next Tuesday at 10 o'clock before Commissioner Jones.

The penalty of the offence with which he is charged is severe—not less than two nor more than ten years' imprisonment. Cardozo is about one-fourth negro, is a man of good address, and evidently of superior education and abilities, which, it is to be regretted, he has prostituted to so base a use. He is married, has two children, and resides towards the upper end of Fulton Avenue. Of late several fraudulent operators through the postoffice have come to grief. A "job" must be put up "very fine" if Gayler, who is a terror to evil doers in connection with the Department, fails to get to the bottom of it.