

CHRISTIAN WILSON, ABDUCTOR.

SOME ACCOUNT OF HIS CAREER—NEAR THE END OF HIS ROPE.

Christian Wilson, alias Sylvester Wilson, alias W. S. Franklin, who has had a criminal record of over fifteen years as a swindler, abductor of young girls, and bully, is under arrest, as was stated in yesterday's TIMES, on a charge of abducting Elizabeth Sunderland, a sixteen-year-old girl of Binghamton. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has undertaken to prosecute the charge against him. Agent Stocking of the society said yesterday that there was sufficient evidence to cause Wilson's conviction.

Wilson is forty years old, and is from the West. He was left an orphan when still quite young, and was adopted by the Rev. Hugh Atkinson of Humboldt, Neb. At the age of twenty he started a scurrilous weekly paper, and was soon arrested on charges of blackmail. His adopted father went on his bond for \$2,000. As soon as Wilson was released he ran away, the bond was forfeited, and Mr. Atkinson had to sell his home to pay the \$2,000.

In 1873 he started a similar paper in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was arrested for sending obscene matter through the mails. Then he turned labor agitator of the Anarchistic type, and got up what were called "bread and blood meetings," which were broken up by the police. He then printed and issued obscene, blackmailing publications, and swindled the printers out of their pay.

During the Centennial year he showed up in Philadelphia, where he opened a ticket-scalping office and was soon arrested for forging tickets. He managed to evade justice, and the following year opened a ticket-scalping office in Camden, N. J., and this place was raided by the police on charges that Wilson had forged tickets. Five forged passes were found in his trunk. The man himself was arrested in New-York and taken back to Camden. He was tried three times, the jury disagreeing every time.

Wilson then came to New-York, and in 1879 organized two female baseball clubs, which he called the American Brunettes and the English Blondes. At this time he first came under the attention of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Some of the girls were not older than fourteen or fifteen years, and the society found that one of the girls had been abducted from her home. Wilson was indicted by the Grand Jury, but was never tried.

He kept the ranks of his players full by advertisements offering positions at large salaries to girls who wanted to go on the stage. He became known over the country as a dishonest and corrupt man, and was often arrested on charges of abduction, but generally managed to escape through some technicality, and when convicted paid his way out. As he usually swindled every one who had any financial dealings with him, he managed to have plenty of money. He would advertise for a Treasurer or advance agent, and whenever any one applied Wilson would require him to deposit several hundred dollars as security, promising the victim a big salary. At the next town he would discharge the Treasurer on some pretext, and keep the money that had been deposited. When he got into trouble on account of the girls he would try and get out of it by bullying.

He will be taken to the Harlem Police Court for examination to-morrow afternoon, and will probably be held to await the action of the Grand Jury.