Aged Lady's Gold.

Rev. William N. Coffey, pastor of cast suspicion on the other." Shaw streets, Des Moines, Iowa, about it," said Mrs. Magart, in giv- not liking the thing on the face of to her. About a month later he languishes in a cell in the county ing her testimony, "for I trusted it, went to her betrothed and de- wrote such a letter to Miss Reed, of jail. He is charged and has con- him as I do my own son." fessed that he robbed an old lady of her life's savings, amounting to er interesting testimony, was taken \$600. Mrs. Magart, a lady seventy by the committee of church memyears of age and quite alone in the bers, who assembled recently in world, took Coffey to her home as a University Place. He was quesboarder some three years ago. He tioned and cross-questioned and became a minister of the gospel, caught up on his statements on evand the old lady grew to look upon ery hand, but for five consecutive him as a son. She showed him her hours he stubbornly refused to adsavings and exhibited rare coins of mit one of the charges against him. gold She had every confidence in Coffey. He stole the money, but Coffey was preaching the gospel at the kind old motherly lady was ig- Ninth and Shaw streets, he was alnorant of the fact. The minister so making good progress in a three did not steal all the money at once. sided love affair, and the evidence He gradually took a coin, and then the committee had gathered in this another, until the little pile had matter was considered almost disappeared. With the morey he enough of itself to deprive the had a good time. He was engaged young man of his freedom, for a to three different young ladies at time at least. It was brought out one time, and each one of them re- by the committee that, one year ceived a present at his hands. All ago last winter, Coffey went to the three of the young ladies had prom- little town of Farlin, in Greene ised to be his wife. On one of county, Iowa, to assist in a prothem he spent the kind old lady's tracted meeting by leading the singmoney for a diamond ring, and on ing. While there he contracted a the others he spent divers amounts. cold and became quite ill. He was Suspicion pointed to the young taken to the home of a Mr. and man when the loss of the money Mrs. Reed, living a few miles from was discovered. The old lady had Farlin, was cared for and restored every confidence in him and would to health by these kind people. not believe him guilty.

committee. At the close of the ter, Miss Grace, who promised to trial, as the old lady was passing become the wife of Coffey. He was down the aisle, broken hearted and assiduous in his attentions to the crying, the minister—the young lady, and when he oame Opposite Liberal Hall. man whom she had befriended all back to Drake university kept up a these years—threw his arms around lively correspondence with her, and her neck and, weeping bitterly, often went to see her. said:

"Auntie, I stole your money!" ficers who called on her:

mon one morning last summer in believing that his protestations of Mrs. Magart's little parlor, and affection for her were sincere. He Mrs. Magart was busy arranging spent much of his time at her home the room, when she asked him if he while engaged to Miss Bly, and had ever seen a three dollar gold confided to her parents that he piece. In reply to his negative owned a farm in Greene county, answer, she said she would show but that it was in the name of a him one, which she had in her col- certain Reed tamily of that vicinilection of money. They were rath- ty. He took much of the income er a rare thing, and she thought he from his farm, so-called, and left it would like to see one. She went to in the care of the Bly family. Eva well worn lounge in the corner of ery now and then he would state the room to get her money, but that he must go to his farm and given her.

Coffey at once professed the deepest sympathy for her, but when she were not seriously questioned until was quieted, advised her to say during carnival week, last fall, he nothing of the loss.

times. I think it would be better University Place the evening she will execute them promptly, tastefully. State

It was discovered that while Mr. While enjoying their hospitality He was taken before a church he became enamored of their daugh-

It was after his engagement to Miss Reed that he met Miss Letha She told the story about in this Bly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. way to the committee of church of- W. Bly, of University Place, and fell in love with her. Miss Bly al-Mr. Coffey was preparing his ser- so promised to be the wife of Coffey, started back when she opened the look after business matters, and lounge and found it gone. She would get a little money from his burst into tears and exclaimed that so-called income and leave the city she had lost everything, even the for a few days or longer, when he gold pieces her dead husband had went to the home of his first betrothed to visit her.

Coffey's actions in this respect had invited Miss Reed, betrothed "I too have lost money since I number one, to spend the week with have been here," he said to her. "I him in Des Moines. She came, but have lost different sums at different when Mr. Coffey was taking her to

for us to say nothing about it. If arrived, he was startled by an eneither of us spoke of it, it might counter with Miss Bly on the West holidays at his home in Manhat-Walnut street car. Miss Bly was tan, Kansas, he wrote a letter to "So I decided to say nothing with her sister at the time, and, Miss Bly, vowing renewed devotion manded that he accompany her and Greene county. Both letters are in This evidence, together with oth- her sister home. So, under the the hands of the committee of pressing invitation of the two girls, church members which has been he was compelled to allow Miss investigating the case. Reed to find her way to his boarding place as best she could, and he hearts Coffey has, three of them beaccompanied the sisters to their ing accounted for today, but it is home. There he was questioned expected that some of them will by the two girls and their par- rally to his rescue and visit him in ents until they were thoroughly his dark cell in the basement of the satisfied that the young minister county building. was unworthy of further courtesies on their part, and he was peremp- tice court, where the preachtorily dismissed from their home er waived examination and was and released from his engagement held to the grand jury, and his to Miss Bly.

While Coffey was spending the

It is not known how many sweet-

The matter came before the jusbond fixed at \$1,000.



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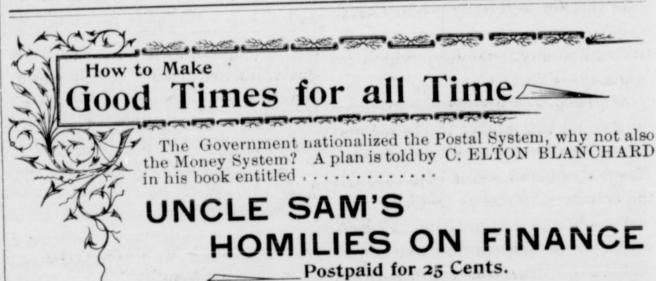
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