BIOGRAPHY OF DR. HARVEY BURDELL.
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We introduce portraits of the two Doctors Burdell, one showing a large development of the passions, propensities, and a gross animal temperament, while the other (John) had a fine, nervous, unsocialized nature. The latter we know for many years as a moral, worthy man. Though he was very nervous, irritable, erratic, and eccentric, there was no malice or revenge in his character. He was a true reformer, and a well-wisher of his race, to promote the health and happiness of which he was possessed, he wrote a work on the structure, disposition, and treatment of the teeth, and a work on the use of tobacco, both of which have been very widely and usefully circulated. He had a strong tendency to debate and controversy, as his works will attest; and as he was inclined to discuss theological questions, he always carried a bible in his pocket to correct those who quoted wrongly, or disputed the accuracy of his own quotations.

As the brothers' names are so intimately and, to some extent unhappily, related in the following sketch, we think our readers will be interested to see the likenesses of both. Harvey's likeness shows a broad, solemn head, with a very heavy face. It is taken on rather too large a scale, and the head is much more elevated than it generally is. This attitude magnifies his forehead and topknot. He was round-shouldered, and carried his head low, and protruded forward. The head of John was very light at the base, and narrow through above the ears, and very small at the back of the neck at the very points where Harvey was very large.

Dr. Harvey Burdell is now a historical character, and if there is a moral in his life or death, it is sufficiently pointed to drive home the ban of conviction without any comment from us. We therefore merely give the following well-authenticated and but too notorious facts in his history and character. The late Dr. Harvey Burdell was born in Herkimer County, in or near Herkimer village, New York, in 1811. His father died before he knew him; while he was yet a child his mother moved to Sacketts Harbor, New York. With her he resided till he was thirteen years old. His mother then turned him into the street, and forbade him ever to return to the house. The boy thus turned forth upon the world at so early an age, felt the thirst of ambition, and was determined, according to his own words, to rise, to become great, to gain gold. Without a profession, education, or means, he looked around him to see what course he should take to achieve his desired success. The press held out the tempting bait, and consequently he went to a neighboring country town and engaged himself as a compositor. He remained there for some years, but before his seventeenth year we find him here studying dentistry in his brother John's office, which was then located on the corner of Chambers Street and Broadway, where Stewart's store now stands; he was of studious habits, and made good use of his time. He went to Philadelphia when about twenty-one years old, and pursued a regular course of study in the Pennsylvania Medical College. He partially supported himself during his studies by the practice of dentistry, and was partially maintained by his brother, John Burdell, of this city. Having graduated in the college at Philadelphia, he returned to this city and entered his brother's office, learning and practicing dentistry during the day, and practicing medicine at night. He expressed himself ready to do any thing or practice any profession to make money. John Burdell soon after marrying, Harry lived in the house with him as a member of his family. Harvey Burdell, after being in his brother's office a short time, opened an office for himself. He was a man of strong feelings and passions; he frequently quarreled with his brother; was very peevish in his transactions, and economical in his dress and habits. With these traits strongly marked, he began to manifest a very licentious and loose character. At last he had a quarrel with his brother, during which they had a severe fight, John alleging that Harvey was too intimate with his wife. Previous to this there was a quarrel between Mr. and Mrs. John Burdell, the latter applying to the proper authorities for a divorce.

Harvey took an active part in his quarrel in favor of Mrs. John Burdell, and against his brother. Mrs. Burdell succeeded in obtaining a partial divorce from her husband; they were separated, alimony was given to her, but she was not permitted to marry again. While Harvey Burdell was pursuing this cause in relation to Mrs. John Burdell, he succeeded in getting his brother to make over all his property to him by a mortgage, at the same time reserving no equivalent for it, and representing to his brother John that property would be safe in his hands; that thereby Mrs. Burdell, who had a suit against him and another party who had an attachment against him, would be prevented from getting his (John's) property. John having been divorced from his wife, made up with Harvey, and joined him in business at 362 Broadway. This arrangement is represented to have been made by Harvey for the purpose of getting John's trade at his office. However this may be, it is certain that they had not been long together before they quarreled; even before that, Harvey would not allow John to put his sign up upon the office in which they were both associated in doing business, so John put up his "signing" on a carriage shed which stood right by the side of the office. John Burdell then attempted to get from Harvey the mortgage of his (John's) property which he had made over to him for safe-keeping, but Harvey refused to give it up, or to give any equivalent for it. John then brought proceedings against Harvey, and sought a quarell between them. John succeeded in getting some of his things away from his brother Harvey, and also receiving means from his brother William, went up to Union Place, at the corner of Fourteenth Street and Union Square, and opened an office there, which he occupied, doing a good business, until his death in 1850. During his last illness, and just before his death, Harvey Burdell got out an attachment against him, by means of the mortgages which he held, and with it and a sheriff went into John's room and took possession of everything he had, even the furniture of his death-chamber, to the very feather-bed from under his brother, leaving him to die on a sofa. Harvey Burdell frequently told of this deed among his acquaintances. The night before John died, Harvey wrote a very peculiar will, which John signed; this will made Harvey the sole executor of his brother's estate, and specified that the property was to go to pay for debts. After his brother's death, Harvey wrote to Mrs. John Burdell, then at the South, informing her of her husband's decease, and requesting her to come to New York. She did so, but has never received a cent of money from the estate of her deceased husband.

When Dr. Harvey Burdell had been seven years at 362 Broadway, he purchased and moved into the house No. 31 Bond Street; he located himself there in May, 1853. The testimony of the dentists who had connection with him, and persons who knew Harvey Burdell, is that he was a mercenary, selfish man, with strong passions; he was easily excited, but was not a man who would be likely to attack another; he would cool down if a person spoke sharply with him. He quarreled with everybody with whom he came in contact; he quarreled with his partners, he quarreled with all his relatives, and had lawsuits with most of them. At the time of his death those of them living in the city were not on speaking terms with him. Honesty was by no means a characteristic of his dealings, and his moral character was far from being above reproach. His reputation among good men was bad—very bad. He was very peevish. When he had a house in Broadway, and part of the time while he was in Bond Street, he rented out the house, keeping one room in it, in which he practiced dentistry, and where he would sleep on a sofa, getting his meals in cheap eating-houses. But when he went into a party, or on a pleasure excursion, he would always bear his part fairly—was then sociable, companionable, and agreeable. He had considerable talents, and spent most of his time in reading, the pursuit of his profession, and money getting. He has been a very licentious man, and had a great many difficulties in consequence of it; his name is found on the books at the Tombs, in the law courts, and he has been known to the head of the police for many years. While living in Chambers Street he was sued by a disreputable woman for non-payment of money alleged to be due to her.

In 1835, or thereabout, Harvey Burdell was engaged to be married to a respectable young lady, but her father positively refused to permit the marriage, at which Burdell got angry, struck the father and gave him a black eye. Subsequently, he was engaged to be married to another young lady, an adopted daughter of a worthy lady and gentleman; the day and hour was set for the wedding, the wedding party assembled, the bridesmaid and the bridegroom were present, the clergyman was ready to perform the ceremony, when Dr. Harvey Burdell entered the room of the old man and told him that before he married the girl he wanted a check for $20,000. The old gentleman told him that if he was marrying his daughter for her money he should have neither, so the wedding was broken up. Subsequently the young lady married the person who was to be groomsmen on the former occasion; he received the check for $20,000. The check on the previous occasion

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was made out for Burdell, and would have been given him immediately after the marriage ceremony was performed; and when he heard about it, he is said to have become greatly excited, and declared that he would never get married.

D. Burdell had a very curious servant girl, called Buddy, who was with him five years at 362 Broadway, and two years at 31 Bond Street, during the whole of which time she never went to bed. He never furnished her with a bed, or any thing to sleep upon. She was poorly clad, and hardly ever had any thing to wear on her feet. He never provided her with any thing to eat, but gave her a small weekly salary, upon which she supported herself, buying her food at the groceries. This is an example of the doctor's penuriousness. The girl could speak four languages fluently—namely, the English, French, German, and Spanish. She had a great passion for studying and learning languages. She was an Irish girl, and a most faithful servant. She frequently saved the doctor from being beaten; for if a fight occurred she would run between him and his assailant and stand there till she stopped the fighting. She slept sitting on a stool in the kitchen below the hall-door, so if any person rang the bell or entered the house at any time of night she would know it and attend them. Yet for all these services she barely received enough pay from the doctor for her subsistence. Dr. Burdell, as before mentioned, was a loose character, and consequently surrounded by such. He generally let his house to persons of bad character. Mrs. Totten occupied his house in Broadway for some time, and he, as usual, had trouble with her and a lawsuit.

About three years ago, Mr. Bulin, whose wife is half sister to Dr. Burdell, took the house No. 31 Bond St.; they quarreled, the parties moved from the house, and have never spoken to Burdell since.

A little over a year ago, Harvey Burdell employed his brother James to build some houses for him in Horlaker County, N. Y., and agreed to give him a certain interest in them, or remunerate him for building them, but a quarrel and lawsuit followed between them. Dr. Burdell also had a lawsuit with Benjamin F. Maguire, a relative to whom he sold the office tools, etc., of John Burdell, at Union Place.

There was a wealthy widow lady of this city who used to visit Dr. Burdell almost every day for two years. On one occasion she called on him in the afternoon to go to the theater with him in the evening. On the way to the theater, she said she would like something to eat, and entered Thompson's saloon and called for what she wanted. Dr. Burdell refused to call for anything for himself, saying that he had been to tea. She told him to call and be decent. He refused; when she called for him. He would not eat; and on coming back for her would neither pay for himself nor her. The doctor is represented by those intimately acquainted with him to have been a very peculiar man. He hated children, and never had any pets in his life except some Guinea pigs. His brother, Lewis Burdell is now in the lunatic asylum on Blackwell's Island, having gone mad from the effects of a nameless habit. Not long since a paper was circulated among the dentists of our city to get money to put the poor fellow in the Asylum. Harvey would not give any thing to put him in there.

The dentists represent that Harvey Burdell never held a high position in the dental profession; that the most respectable portion of that profession would have nothing to do with him; that he was dishonest in his practice; that he has filled twelve teeth in an hour, when an honest dentist could not do that amount of work in less than twelve hours; that he was willing to do any thing for money; that the greatest portion of his patients, while in Broadway, were respectable characters, and that since then all the respectable people who have gone to him were allured by the name Burdell, as John Burdell was a very worthy and estimable man, who understood his profession and was an honor to it. The work entitled "Observations on the Structure, Physiology, Anatomy, and Diseases of the Teeth," which he published in connection with his brother John in 1838, is represented to have been written by John. Another medical work, which deceased claimed to have translated from the French, was translated by Dr. Sidney Doane.

Dr. Burdell was never connected with the American Society of Dental Surgeons. He was proposed two or three times as a candidate for membership of that society, but was never elected. This society expelled a large number of members one year because they used amalgam—a compound of mercury and silver—to fill the teeth with. The parties thus expelled, and others, afterward formed a society, called the New York Society of Dental Surgeons—more popularly known as the Amalgam Society, because they were in favor of using that material to fill teeth with. Dr. Burdell was president of this society at one time. It was under his presidency that the society collapsed, he agreeing to the proposal to break up the society and divide the proceeds among the members.