

A Lunatic Abducted from the County House and Sold as a Substitute---"Con." Garvin's Case---Mrs. Garvin's Adventures.

Mrs. Garvin is a poor, hard-working woman, who resides on Fourth street, near Adams street. Her husband has been dead for several years, and she has supported herself and an only son—a foolish, half-witted chap—Cornelius, or "Con," as she calls him, by her own industry. She is well known to the officers and employees of the different Banks on First street—having been engaged in cleaning their offices for several years. "Con," unable to take care of himself, had been in the habit some months since, of wandering about the streets until a late-hour in the night, when he would be taken in charge by the Police, and locked up in the Station House for safe keeping. Generally, his mother would be in the Station House, sometimes until two, three and four o'clock in the morning, awaiting his coming. One day, "Con" was met in the street by a recruiting officer, who, for the sum of \$2, induced him to don one of Uncle Sam's uniforms, and conveyed him to the Albany barracks. One or two days' experience, however, convinced the officer that Con. was poor material for a soldier, and he was accordingly "turned loose." By an advertisement in the city papers, signed by Mrs. Garvin, the officer discovered Con's residence, and sent him home—to the great joy of his yearning mother. She soon after placed him in the Marshall Infirmary (insane department) for treatment, but after six months he was discharged as being incurable. He was thereupon placed in the County House, where he remained until about six weeks since.

And here commences the first of the poor woman's suffering on her idiot son's account. On the 6th of September last, he was abducted from the County House, taken to New York, and there sold as a substitute, for the sum of \$400. Mrs. G. has just returned from a three weeks' stay in Washington, Alexandria and New York, in search of her "poor Con,"—but without learning any reliable information regarding his whereabouts. But she has the testimony of a member of the regiment into which he was mustered, as to the truth of the statement regarding his abduction and sale. Her story indeed is one of painful interest. We give the particulars as far as is consistent, for the entire transaction is now in the hands of a Government officer, who will probe it to the bottom and will make the guilty suffer.

On the 6th of last September, Mrs. Garvin learned that her son had suddenly disappeared from the County House. Upon inquiring, she was informed by Mr. Keeper Taber that the boy was missing, but he was unable to give any information in regard to the manner of his escape from the premises. He had no coat on at the time, as his mother recovered his overcoat in his apartment. She immediately abandoned her home, and commenced a thorough search for the wanderer. She followed the river banks for days, thinking that he might have been drowned, and that she would recover his body.

Being unsuccessful, the idea occurred to her that he might have again fallen into the hands of some unprincipled recruiting officer, and accordingly she visited Albany for the purpose of examining the barracks. In Broadway she met with an officer, to whom she related her story, and her business at the barracks. From him she learned that a boy answering to her description of Con. had passed through Albany on his way to Riker's Island as a soldier. Without waiting for further information she left for New York, and from thence proceeded to Riker's Island. Arriving there, she informed the officer commanding, Gen. Jackson, of the object of her visit. From him she learned that Con. had been mustered into the Fifty-second New York regiment, as a substitute, only a few days before, and had departed with the regiment for Alexandria. She remained on the Island one day and night, searching the different camps and hospitals for some person who could give her further information regarding Con. Meeting with no success, she at once determined to go to Washington, and lay her case before the President and Secretary of War. She was advised by Gen.

Jackson, however, to return to Troy, and procure well authenticated certificates of her son's lunacy, which would be alone sufficient to effect his release. This she did—procuring certificates of the desired nature from Mr. Harrison, of the Marshall Infirmary, and Dr. James Thorn, both of whom had known Con.

With an energy that never flagged, she then set out for Washington, where she arrived on the 15th of October last. She called upon Judge A. B. Olin, Captain J. W. Armitage, and Captain William McConihe, all of whom gave her letters of recommendation to the authorities. Here we will let her tell her adventures in her own way: "Judge Olin, God bless him, gave me a fine letter, an' with it I wint to see ould Lincoln. Whin I called at the front door, a man who tould me that he was the President's Secretary, asked me what I wanted. I tould him me sthory, and he said that justice must be done you, Mrs. Garvin. Here's a note to the War Office. I thanked him, and then inquired for the War Office, which I soon found. I gave the man there me note, and tould him me business, but he only humbugged me. I again wint to see Lincoln, but could n't get a peek at him—och, it's very hard to see the ould fellow! The Secretary gave me another note to the War Office, which made the fellow there trate me decent. Whin I tould me story—how my poor crazy Con. had been—sold from me—he said: 'When you get home, take a pistol and blow the man's brains out, that sold him!'—an' faith, I'll do it yet! He telegraphed to Alexandria to know if poor Con. was in the Fifty-second regiment, an' got an answer saying that he was not. I thin got a pass to go to Alexandria meself, to see after me lad. I wint there, and found the Colonel of the Fifty-second regiment, who trated me kindly. An' I ses, 'It's I that's glad to meet you, Colonel; do you know anything about a poor crazy boy of mine, named Con. Garvin, who was sould for a sojer?' He examined his books for a while, and then he tould me that Con. was in his regiment as a substitute, but that on the road from Riker's Island to Washington, one hundred of his men got strayed, and among them was my poor Con! He gave me this letter:

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2.

I certify that a careful examination has been made in the Fifty-second regiment N. Y. V., but no man found by the name of Cornelius Garven. An official report has been forwarded by me through the proper authorities about a week ago. It is my belief that the young man has left the transport of conscripts and substitutes on the road; and the different Provost Marshals may be able to find out his whereabouts.

Respectfully,

PAUL FRANTZ,

Co'. 52d N. Y. V., Com. 5th Brig.

"Sure I had nothing more to do, so I spent three days and three nights in the hospitals and camps of Alexandria, thinking that I could find some one who saw Con. I happened to come across a member of his regiment, who knew him well, an' sure 'twas I that was glad to talk wid him. Con. tould him on the Island that he had been sold for \$400 from the County House, at Troy, by a man named ———, connected with the House! Do ye see! He was taken out of the coal shed in the night time, without a coat on him, and taken to New York. An' that's the way they made \$400 on my poor boy Con. Oh, the rascals! As sure as there's a God in Heaven, I'll shoot that fellow ———, who sould him."

She remained in Washington three weeks, arriving home on Tuesday of last week. She examined almost every camp and hospitals there, but all in vain. Her money was gone, or she says she would have remained longer, but she is going again as soon as she earns more. She applied twice for a pass to "the front," but was refused. It is seldom that a more striking evidence is afforded of the affection of a mother.

The whole case has been placed in the hands of a Government Detective by United States Marshal, Troy. The Detective was in this city last week, looking up evidence calculated to expose and bring to justice the parties implicated in the inhuman transaction.

In the meantime, Mrs. G. is making preparations for another trip to Washington, and also to the armies in Virginia. We hope she may be successful in her efforts.