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## Assassins of Rulers

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## ASSASSINS OF RULERS.

ARTHUR MAC DONALD.<sup>1</sup>

The most dangerous criminals are the assassins of rulers. They may be sane, insane or partially insane, or simply monstrous criminals. They may be degenerates with certain peculiar traits, as instability, and the continual changing of their occupation and habitation. They are usually vain, irritable, impulsive and mystical, and are easily influenced by surroundings. They are usually proud of their crime, protest with indignation if called insane, and usually show great courage on the scaffold, clinging to their ideas or delusions until the end. Their most common characteristic is a want of mental balance or equilibrium, which may take various forms, as exaltation and mysticism. If circumstances be not favorable to its development, it may remain dormant and inoffensive. But if it finds in the events of the day, as wars, revolutions, political dissensions or extreme theories of sects; in publications or books inflaming the mind; if, in short, it finds a soil favorable to its development, it is liable to appear and sometimes culminate in most terrible crimes. Examples might be given if necessary.<sup>2</sup>

Many of the assassins of rulers were sickly and delicate in infancy; some were neurotics or mentally pathological; one was a simple, ignorant, coarse libertine, excessive in devotion and subject to hallucinations; another was melancholic, given to vice in infancy, mystical, erotic and impulsive; another was tall, strong and large, but cross-eyed, had dark red hair, and was tormented with hallucinations; another was somber in character and so ardent that his humor was almost like dementia; he was sanguine and then melancholic, and was subject to sudden and terrible anger.

### MENTAL STATE BEFORE ASSASSINATION.

The assassins of rulers do not usually proceed in a sudden and blind way, like the insane, but their assaults are generally logically conceived and premeditated. Often they are conscious of a morbid obsession, which they struggle against and which may not cease until their will is powerless. Thus one had premeditated his crime six years, another had struggled against his desire to kill a king. Another said, "I

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<sup>1</sup>Criminologist, Washington, D. C.

<sup>2</sup>Regis, Les Regicides, etc., Paris, 1890.

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feel myself impelled by a colossal and invincible force." Thus the assassin of President Garfield had meditated several weeks before killing him, saying, "I shot him from political necessity and divine pressure."

The deed, when rationally planned, may be for a time abandoned, then renewed, then executed, often after doubts and inward combats. Owing to this clearness of mind and appearance of reason, such assassins are too often considered as simply egotistical persons and wholly responsible; but it may be no less true that they are without equilibrium, or they are slaves of their obsessions, or compelled by a blind and fatal force which they may not be free to resist. When such an assassin has finally determined to act and his last resistance is dispelled, he no longer hesitates, but proceeds directly, with the audacity and energy of one convinced and faithful to his mission. He may accomplish the act openly before the public in an ostensible and theatrical way, but he rarely, if ever, uses poison, the weapon of impostors and cowards; more often it is a sharp instrument, with sometimes exceptional dimensions, but of late there is a tendency to use fire-arms more. Upheld by the exaltation of his belief, the assassin can endure most cruel torment with the greatest courage and stoicism. The exultation of thought, the mystical ecstasy of either the true martyr, or ignoble assassin, seems to absorb all the activity of the body, producing a sort of hypnotic condition which suspends sensibility to pain.

### MODERN FORMS OF DISEQUILIBRIUM.

At present we have political mystics dreaming of extreme socialism and anarchy, declaiming their irrational theories of the right to steal and kill for the sake of social regeneration, similar to the fanatics of old, born under the same morbid conditions and with like temperament, motives and impulses. Whatever their ideas, there is always a mystical conception of a mission to accomplish at even the sacrifice of life in favor of humanity, which is their chief characteristic. One such assassin was an anarchist guilty of theft and attempt to murder. In his family were neurotics, epileptics, suicides and insane. He considered himself as destined to play an important rôle in the regeneration of the world. He said others had their special parts to perform; one was to act by word and pen, another by dynamite, and so on. He declared that he did not fear death, but desired it, for by his death his blood would spread the principles he defended. Two others fired upon Emperor William in the interest of Germany and socialism, and another with a socialistic banner in his hand fell upon King Humbert, whom he wished to put to death in order to found a universal Republic.

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### CRANK OR MATTOID TYPE OF ASSASSIN.

The word "crank" is misused so much that the term "mattoid" is preferred. The mattoid, or crank, may be sane or partially insane. His mental abnormality may border on insanity and degeneracy. Some illustrations of this type may be given. One smote King George III because he (the assassin) said he was entitled to the crown, and if it were given him, England would be buried in blood for centuries to come. A man shot at Queen Victoria because he believed the English people were his enemy, since he had been refused admission to a hospital. Another wrote with absolute conviction on the regeneration of art and politics in France, and when pushed to the point, he passed from theory to action. Here is what he said of his motives and assault: "I always thought that power should be given to those who deserve to exercise it, and when I saw all about me tottering and in decay, I felt guilty. I said to myself that I was responsible; that I should seek for the sake of my country to cause a revolution. I am only a man feeling his duty, making the sacrifice of his life, if such sacrifice can be useful to my country. The wheels went bad, they crushed our forces; I will thrust my head into the wheels to stop them a moment; I prefer death to the loss of my esteem." The assassins of Presidents Jackson and Garfield and Mayor Harrison of Chicago belonged to the mattoid or crank type. The assassins of McKinley and Lincoln were neither insane nor mattoids nor cranks in the proper sense of the words. The assassin of Mayor Gaynor was what might be called a potential type.

### ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT JACKSON.

On January 30, 1835, an attempt was made upon the life of Andrew Jackson while he was attending a funeral at the Capitol by a man who fired at him from behind one of the columns of the portico at a distance of less than eight feet. The assassin immediately dropped the pistol from his right hand and taking another pistol ready cocked, from his left, snapped it at the President, who at this moment raised his cane and was rushing upon the assassin after his second attempt failed. The assassin confessed his attempt to take the life of Jackson, denied that he had any accomplices, and was suffered to escape punishment on the ground of apparent insanity. Hearing on all sides that the country had been ruined by General Jackson, he had concluded to assassinate him. He had been heard to say that he should be Richard the Third, King of England. The assassin had been frequently observed about the capitol; he was taciturn and unwilling to talk. It is not known whether

at that time he got the idea prevailing in the Senate for two sessions, troubling the brains of orators, who depicted Jackson as a Cæsar who ought to have a Brutus. But it is probable from his frequent visits to the Capitol, where he heard of "terrible things threatening the Republic"—revolution and its train of calamities developed as the necessary consequence of the President's measures, this man may have come to believe that he ought to be the country's avenger.

The report of two physicians who examined the assassin contains the following facts: He would not tell his age; he said his health had been very good; that he had never labored under any mental derangement; that he was born in England and came to America when twelve years of age; was not a member of any church; was a painter by trade and had always followed this occupation; but of late could not find steady employment, a fact which had caused him much financial embarrassment. He was temperate in his habits, using liquor moderately, never gambled, and lived a sober life.

He had been deliberating some time on the deed, having called at the President's house about a week previous to his attempt, and being conducted to the President's apartments, found him in conversation with a representative in Congress. He told the President that he wanted money to take him back to England and that he must give him a check on the bank, but the President remarked that he was too much engaged to attend to him—he must call at another time.

He was told that the President had caused his loss of occupation, and he believed that to put him out of the way was the only remedy for this evil. He couldn't tell who told him this, but remarked that his brother-in-law had said that he would have no more business because he was opposed to the President, and he believed his brother-in-law to be in league with the President against him. He said he had frequently attended the debates in Congress, but that they had in no way influenced his action. On being asked if he expected to become President if Jackson was killed, he replied no; that there were in the Senate Mr. Clay, Mr. Webster and Mr. Calhoun and other senators. He could not rise unless the President fell, and that he expected thereby to recover his liberty, the mechanics would all be benefited and have plenty of work and money would be more plenty, for it would be more easily obtained from the Bank of the United States. Believing the President to be the source of all his difficulties, he was still fixed in his purpose to kill him, and if his successor followed the same course he would put him out of the way. He declared that no power in this country could punish him, because it would be resented by the powers of Europe as well as

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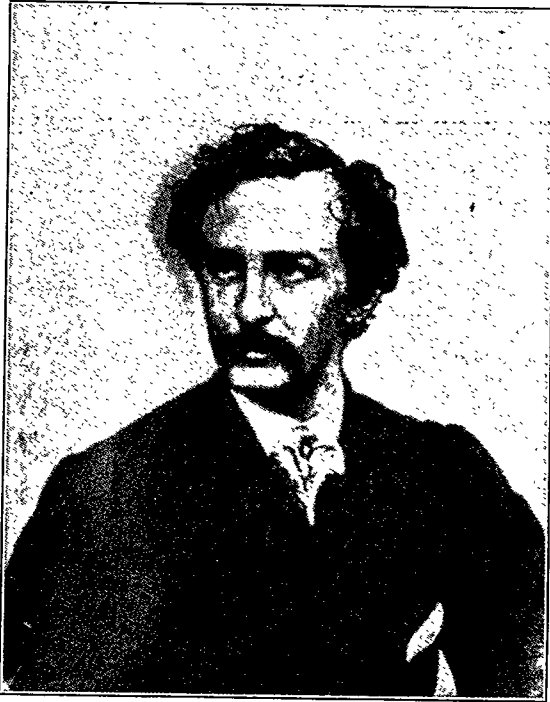
of this country. The assassin appeared tranquil and unconcerned as to the final result and to anticipate no punishment for his deed. The physicians examining him pronounced him insane.

It is probable that this assassin was insane, as decided by the physicians who examined him, but it does not seem to be conclusive. There are some men of his class in every community, with little or no education, who have very simple ideas about many matters outside of their own calling or occupation. His claim to the throne of England through heredity, and to a large fortune, is not so exceptional among the ignorant. Then he might have heard some of his relations try to trace or claim that they had traced their royal descent. A little imagination and egotism added to this, in such a mind, would explain his statements. Sometimes, also, under conditions of seeming importance, simple minds will make many preposterous statements in an earnest way, which is nothing but a form of boasting. It is not so common to hear among certain classes ignorant and egotistical individuals in the habit of exaggeration, so often repeated that they believe it and convince many listeners. If these persons should commit some crime that brought them into great publicity, they might make ridiculous and impossible statements which would seem symptomatic of insanity. When a person of this grade in a prison cell is questioned by many, including examination by experts; where so much attention is paid to him, which he has never experienced before, when he feels the public eye upon him, he can hardly contain himself. When but a short time before he was most insignificant, in poverty and looked down upon by even those below himself, such a sudden and great change of environment is extremely abnormal and may produce thoughts, words and deeds of like nature. Even most intelligent and good people sometimes act and talk queer when in the limelight.

### ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

The assassin of President Lincoln was an actor. According to a physician who knew him personally, he was of an "erratic and undisciplined disposition and inherited some histrionic ability from his father, the great actor. He was a good-looking young man of much personal magnetism, fond of good clothes, high living and fast company, was free with his money, fond of admiration, and was reckless and low in his dissipation and company. He shirked all systematic work and was covetous of achieving celebrity by some notorious act. The counsel of confederates stimulated his morbid ambition with the assurance that by killing Lincoln he would secure the affections of the Southern people and the admiration of the world. The father of the assassin was called

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The head and forehead of this assassin were large, the eyes small and sunken and the eyelids heavy. He was lacking in height. The color of his skin was unusual, having an ivory pallor. His hair was thick and black.

a revolutionist. An actress said of him that he was young, bright, gay and kind. On the night he shot Lincoln he gave tickets to some of his friends and advised others to be present at the theater, saying "that there would be great acting."<sup>3</sup>

ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT GARFIELD.

This assassin was under a delusion when he shot the President. He had a somewhat unscrupulous character and enormous self-conceit. He was disappointed in not getting office, and possessed strong political partisanship. His delusion was so extreme that he believed he would receive praise from the "Stalwarts" for his atrocious deed. He had a strong hereditary disposition to insanity; knew his act was wrong in general, but believed that it was for the good of the party and the country, and therefore counterbalanced the wrong and made his deed heroic.

<sup>3</sup>*Medico-Legal Journal*, Vol. 18, New York, 1900-1901.



He was forty-one years of age, tall, with an unsymmetrical and large head, 610 millimeters in circumference, with the left forehead plagiocephalic and a depression and flattening of the whole right side of his head, abundant black hair, small, sunken eyes. The alæ of the nose were arrested in development. He had a slightly exaggerated arch of the palate and protrusion of the upper incisor teeth. Specialists who examined his brain state that there was an asymmetry of the convolutions in both hemispheres, especially those of the island of Reil; on the right side, five fissures and six straight gyri; on the left, seven fissures and eight gyri; the right hemisphere was less developed than the left. The pathologic conditions were adhesions of the dura to the pia mater.

There was want of coherence in his thought, weakness in judgment and reason, but quickness in perception and a good memory for matters interesting to him.<sup>4</sup>

He led a vagabond life. When eighteen years of age he gave up his studies and became absorbed in deep religious excitement. He had a checkered career, being once imprisoned for keeping money not due him; he borrowed money without returning it and did not pay his board bills; he had grand ideas about everything he undertook; was preposterous in his conceit and expected things upon their face which were absurd. His paternal grandfather was a physician highly respected and intensely religious. His father was a man of character and intellect, with excellent business capacity. He was a religious fanatic devoted to free love socialistic teaching, and was considered erratic. One paternal uncle of

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<sup>4</sup>*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, February, 1882.



the assassin died insane in an asylum, and the second was a drunkard who finally became an imbecile. One paternal aunt had an insane daughter, another paternal aunt had an insane son. His only sister was subject to *petit mal*. The assassin was a bright child, though unable to pronounce certain words. At seven years of age his mother died and he was left without paternal care, his father treating him with great harshness and neglect.

He seemed to enjoy his trial, exhibiting throughout his extreme conceit and posing as a hero. He denounced almost everyone connected with the proceedings, calling his lawyers and witnesses atrocious names. He was ready and quick to reply to cross-examination, showing great acuteness. On hearing that the jury had convicted him he said: "Vengeance is mine," saith the Lord, "I will repay." When told that \$1,000 had been offered for his body to dissect, he coolly said, "Perhaps someone will give \$2,000." When starting for the scaffold his face was pale but composed and his step was firm. His shambling gait, observed so frequently during his trial, had almost disappeared. He was unusually careful about his personal appearance, having had his shoes polished half an hour previous to his execution. He walked holding his head erect, but stumbled on one of the corners of the scaffold. After his prayer was read he began to chant his poem dolefully. At the end of the second verse he was overcome and began to sob. Rallying very quickly, he continued until he broke down again, when the remaining verses were spoken in quavering terms. The benediction was then pronounced by the minister. After his legs were pinioned and the black cap was put over his head he shouted, "Glory, glory, glory," dropping a piece of paper which he held in his hand as a signal that he was ready, when the trap was sprung.

## ASSASSIN OF MAYOR HARRISON.

Carter Harrison, Mayor of Chicago, was murdered in his home on the evening of Saturday, October 28, 1893, by a newspaper carrier, to be rid of whom he had promised a place in the city government soon after his election in the preceding April. The assassin gave himself up after the shooting. On arriving at the police station he said, "I worked hard for Carter Harrison in his campaign. He promised he would make me corporation counsel. He failed to do this, and I have shot him." When he handed his revolver to the officer he shook, but appeared rational. He said in answer to questions; "I was justified in killing the mayor; he broke his word with me about track elevation; he betrayed my confidence." "I have been thinking about shooting the mayor for several

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### MEASUREMENTS.<sup>5</sup>

*Height:* Five feet seven inches; weight, 132 pounds.

*Hair:* Red, coarse and stiff; very little upon face.

*Nose:* Fairly normal, thin at bridge, broad at alæ.

*Ears:* Large and projecting lobes; short and broad tragi; well-developed helix, broad with typical tubercles-at the upper and outer border of the ear.

*Lips:* Upper small and thin, lower excessively developed and projecting because of undeveloped upper jaw.

*Face:* Arrest of development of bones, especially at the alæ of the nose, making the Zygomatic arches prominent; lower jaw normal.

*Head:* Forehead slightly receding; head sunken at bregma; occipital region excessively developed; circumference, 22.2 inches; cephalic index, 82.

*Feet:* Large. Hands, normal; fingers long and skinny.

days." "Yesterday I bought the revolver." "I shot the mayor without saying a word." "I was justified in doing it."

When being searched the assassin maintained an insolent, independent air. He was restless all night at the jail, constantly getting up and lying down. In answer to questions or suggestions he said, "It is a sad affair," but that he "was justified in doing it. I will come out all right." He said he was born in Ireland, coming to this country when five years old; he had a mother, two sisters and a brother living here.

It was found that soon after Mayor Harrison's election he had written to the corporation counsel that he had been promised his position and that he (the corporation counsel) was a usurper. He therefore demanded that the office be turned over to him at once. The postal was covered with daggers in red ink. About four weeks before the assassination another similar postal card was received, reminding the counsel that he had not vacated the office and that he must do so at once. About a

<sup>5</sup>Eugene S. Talbot in *Medicine*, December, 1901, Detroit.

week later he called to see the counsel personally. He was bantered a little and left, but almost every day would put his head in the office and look around. About four days before his crime he wanted to see the counsel, who was out. The look on his face was diabolical and the counsel was told that the man was a crank and would kill someone. About the same time he was sending threatening letters to the mayor. His former teacher said he used to call at the academy, but that he had been forbidden to come as they considered him a crank. He would insist upon extolling Henry George and elaborating upon his theory in a tangled form, and while in the midst of his talk he would go to some other subject.

A former schoolmate said of him that he was one of those sullen boys who never mixed with others. His reticence and sullen disposition, together with his homely face, made him unpopular. Like his teacher, his former schoolmate was not surprised at his monstrous crime. Two weeks before his crime he rented a room, paid for it in advance, sharing it with another man. He remained five days, but had to leave, as the other roomers objected to his wild talk and strange actions. On the first evening he proposed marriage to the landlady, promising that she would be the "honored wife of the corporation counsel."

When his trial began the assassin sat near the jury box and clasped and unclasped his hands. When the attorney said he would ask for the infliction of the death penalty, if found guilty, the prisoner did not seem at first to comprehend, but a minute later he turned in his seat, twisted his fingers nervously, his hand went to his neck and he seemed to be choking, moving his hand about as though in physical pain and opening his mouth as though he had a spasm. Then he grinned at his counsel; but it took some time for him to gain his composure. When a question was asked as to punishment of a man committing a crime while insane, the prisoner said, "I object, your honor. I do not want a juror who does not think I am perfectly sane." When a question was propounded by a juror as to the responsibility of an insane man, the prisoner interrupted, saying that he did not think it necessary that a man be proved insane in order to be acquitted. An expert asked the prisoner "How he could expect to be corporation counsel when he was not a lawyer?" He said, "I would merely pass upon the justice and right of a proposition and leave the details to my assistants." A number of experts have declared him insane, while others considered him sane.

The assassin was in prison nine months before he was hanged. He was self-possessed till the end. In marching to the scaffold he looked straight forward, his knees trembled and he dragged his feet. While on

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the trap he whispered to the priest his last words: "I had no malice against anyone." He intended to make a speech, but was persuaded not to, as he was told he might collapse.

### ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY.

The assassin of President McKinley was an average young man, possessing nothing more than an elementary education. He was of a quiet disposition and liked to be by himself, which may have been devel-



There is little in the assassin's appearance to indicate anything very peculiar or striking. Most of normal persons show physical defects, asymmetries or anomalies. If a line be drawn through the middle of the face vertically a lateral asymmetry will be noted; the left eye is implanted higher than the right one and is larger. The left orbit is large, round and full, while the right is smaller with outer angle contracted. The left cheek bone is more prominent than the right. Physically he was normal and healthy. As to the prisoner's mental condition, there was no evidence of disease or degeneracy. He was exceptionally intelligent for one in his walk of life.

oped or increased by his stepmother, with whom he quarreled. The evidence does not show him even to be abnormal. The facts of his life would fit thousands of young men of his class. He was an example of an uneducated man imbued with anarchistic ideas, especially in an extreme form. What he says in his interviews is a most simple kind of concrete anarchism.

The following are some of his statements: "I don't believe in a republican form of government, and I don't believe we should have any

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rulers. It is right to kill them. I had that idea when I shot the President and that is why I was there. Something I read in the "*Free Society*" suggested the idea. I thought it would be a good thing to kill the President. When I got to the grounds I waited for him to go into the temple. My gun was in my pocket with a handkerchief over it. I put my hand in my pocket after I got in the door, took out the gun and wrapped the handkerchief over my hand. I carried it in that way in the row until I got to the President; no one saw me do it. I did not shake hands with him. When I shot him I fully intended to kill him. I shot twice. . . . I know other men who believe what I do, that it would be a good thing to kill the President and have no rulers. I have heard that at the meetings in public halls. I heard quite a lot of people talk like that. . . . I said to the officer who brought me down, "I done my duty." I don't believe in voting; it is against my principles. I am an anarchist. I don't believe in marriage. I believe in free love. I fully understood what I was doing when I shot the President. I realized that I was sacrificing my life. I am willing to take the consequences. . . . I want to say to be published—I killed President McKinley because I done my duty." The trial was merely formal and lasted but eight and one-half hours. When brought into court the assassin was neatly dressed. There was nothing of the sensational nature in the proceedings. As the prisoner entered the death chamber his head was erect, his manner self-possessed and defiant. He offered no resistance in being put in the electric chair; during the preparations he said, "I killed the President because he was an enemy of the good people—the good working people. I am not sorry for my crime. I am sorry I could not see my father."

WOULD-BE ASSASSIN OF MAYOR GAYNOR.

On August 9, 1910, the sailors of the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse noticed a nervous, wiry little man make his way somewhat feebly from the second to the top deck and pause a moment near the north rail as if undecided where to go. He was bareheaded and looked like a steerage passenger or some employe of the ship. A burly voice broke in on the hum of low conversation: "You have robbed me of my bread and butter, damn you." A report of a revolver was heard, followed quickly by a second. He was searched and \$5.19 was found in his pocket; a nickel-plated badge, a mimeograph letter boosting the candidacy of some one for district attorney and a newspaper clipping headed, "A man dies of starvation on Riverside Park." While being measured the assassin said, "I have written the mayor continuously, but I have got no attention." I was first suspended and then fired. I had fourteen days coming to me.

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The would-be assassin of Mayor Gaynor was 5 feet  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height and weighed 152 pounds. His build was medium, hair chestnut, turning gray; beard gray; complexion dark and sanguinous in coloration. He had a good-natured face. He was born in Ireland in 1852; his age was 58 and his appearance would suggest that age. By occupation he was a watchman.

### *Bertillon Measurements.*

Height, 1,660 millimeters.  
Arm-reach, 1,690 millimeters.  
Sitting height, 880 millimeters.  
Length of head, 192 millimeters.  
Width of head, 148 millimeters.  
Width of cheek, 141 millimeters.  
Length of right ear, 72 millimeters.  
Length of left foot, 246 millimeters.  
Length of middle finger, 112 millimeters.  
Length of little finger, 85 millimeters.  
Length of upper arm, 447 millimeters.

*Forehead:* Receding, medium in height and width.

*Color of eyes:* Blue. Irish unpigmented. Areola, absent. Periphery, light azure.

*Nose:* Bridge, rectilinear. Base, horizontal. Root, medium. Height, medium. Projection, medium. Breadth, medium.

*Right Ear:* Superior border, medium. Porterin border, medium.

*Chin:* Projecting.

*Teeth:* Bad.

I was sore at losing that fourteen days just as the mayor was going away to spend his vacation in Europe." "Why didn't you shoot the commissioner," he was asked, "instead of the mayor?" He answered, "The mayor appointed the commissioner; it was the mayor who kept turning me down." He was asked if he was sorry he shot the mayor. "Well—I won't say that," he replied.

He was born May 5, 1865, in Belfast, Ireland; came to the United States when a boy. When very young he was arrested for throwing stones and more recently for annoying young girls in the parks. He was once in school, but left to learn the plumber's trade, working later as a plumber and gas fitter, which occupation he gave up because of ill health. He was at one time also a sailor. Early in 1900, ten years before his crime, he applied for a job in the dock department and received an appointment as foreman and later as night watchman to look after some

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piles along the river front. During the ten and one-half years he worked for the city he was called a "kicker," and the officials had some trouble with him. The commissioner found that he had offended too often, and he was dropped from the rolls July 19, 1910. Then he wrote a series of letters to the officials, and although the mayor had not received the assassin when trying to see him, he had talked to the officials about him. He was a member of the "Lincoln Farm Association," founded to preserve the birthplace of President Lincoln."

A judge said of him: "I have been acquainted with him eight or ten years, and until a friend called me up yesterday and told me of his terrible deed I believed him as harmless as a fly." He was a good political worker. When a politician was asked to advance him in the dock department he said, "He is too unreliable." A deputy county clerk who had known the assassin fifteen years said he could not add up a column of figures. He went around doing all he could for Mayor Gaynor, claiming that "Gaynor was the poor man's friend and ought to be elected." He had recently written the Governor of the State demanding an investigation of the way of appointing men in the dock department, charging that men appointed as laborers were assigned all kinds of jobs.

### CONCLUSION.

There is no doubt that the cause of his shooting was the loss of his position and the resulting fear of poverty or of want of food. He doubtless had been dwelling upon this for a long while until it came to be his one idea, and when he read of the man who had caused him all this trouble going on a pleasure trip it was too much, and all this cumulative feeling was concentrated in his criminal act. What is the reason that the fear of poverty coupled with vengeance should *cause* such a deed? Hundreds of people lose their positions and feel like taking vengeance upon someone, but they stop there. The difference between them and this assassin is the criminal element in him, which, when awakened, is sufficiently strong to pass into an overt act. There seems to be no evidence in this man's past life that he was very different from other men having a similar social status. The dormant criminality in him may have been the cause of his two previous arrests, but the conditions then were not such as to bring it out to its full extent. Also, as one grows older, he is more liable to show his true nature. He was what may be called a potential assassin. He might have killed any officer of lower rank, or possibly anyone whom he believed to be the cause of his troubles.

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### PHYSICAL ANOMALIES.

We have pointed out some of the physical anomalies of American assassins, with little comment, for the reason that conclusions drawn from physical defects as to mental and moral character are untrustworthy. Knowledge of exact relations between body and mind is as yet very inadequate. While it is true that mentally defective persons, as a class, have more physical anomalies than people in general, it is not always true of particular individuals of this class. Physical anomalies are more serious in proportion as they are more profound and more numerous, but they are less significant as we rise in the scale of degeneration,<sup>6</sup> when they become inconstant and often are absent, and sometimes seem not to have any correlation with mental troubles. Thus in idiots and imbeciles, physical stigmata are of more value until we reach the superior feeble-minded, when they lose much of their significance. If we proceed higher than the average individual, or one above the average, or still further to persons of great talents, physical defects show little or no correlation with mental characteristics.

### PROTECTION OF RULERS AGAINST ASSASSINATION.

One means of protection is for newspapers, magazines and authors of books to cease publishing the names of criminals. If this be not done voluntarily, let it be made a misdemeanor to do so. This would lessen the hope for glory, renown or notoriety, which is a great incentive to such crimes. The criminal could be designated as a potential assassin as is done in this article. If some name must go down in history, let it be the name of the victim, doing his duty, rather than the name of the criminal, degrading his family and country. As far as scientific study is concerned, names of persons are not necessary. If certain details of the regular or future movements of high public officials were not published, it would also be a wise precaution. Dangerous cranks or mattoids will not usually seek out such details, but if published will make a note of them. They generally will not look up the address of a supposed enemy in the directory, but if they see it in the newspapers they are liable to remember it.

The popularity and geniality of a ruler does not seem to protect him,

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<sup>6</sup>See pages 269-304 of my "Juvenile Crime and Reformation, Including Stigmata of Degeneration." Senate Doc. No. 532, 60th Cong., 1st Session, 339 pages. This document may be obtained through any United States senator or representative, or by sending its price (25 cents) to the Superintendent of Documents at the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. A similar document, entitled "Man and Abnormal Man" (by the writer), 750 pages, price 40 cents, can be obtained in the same way.



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as was shown in the cases of President McKinley and President Carnot of France. The assassin of Carnot said he could not have stabbed him had he looked into his face. Not only rulers but prominent citizens have been assaulted and killed by anarchists, or by mattoids or cranks. The circumstances of such cases might be investigated, so that eventually not only special but general protection would be afforded to a country.

By examining the following table it will be seen that from 1897 to 1902 the United States has suffered more than other nations from attacks upon its chief executives. Of the four attempts on Presidents, three, or seventy-five per cent, have been successful, while although there have been ten attempts upon the life of the sovereign of England within the same period, none were successful. In England, France and Russia there have been many more attempts than in the United States, but relatively much less successful.

ATTEMPTS TO ASSASSINATE RULERS, 1789-1902.

Country.	No. of Attempts.	No Successful.	Per Cent Successful.
United States .....	4	3	75
England .....	10	0	00
France .....	17	1	6
Russia .....	10	2	20
Germany .....	5	0	00
Spain .....	6	0	00
Italy .....	4	1	25
Austria .....	3	1	33