

ARRESTED FOR MURDER.

After Three Months Billy Montgomery is Taken in This City—His Crime.

When Chief of Police Lane laid his hand on the shoulder of Billy Montgomery in the baggage room of the Union Depot late Friday afternoon and told him to consider himself under arrest, that person coolly looked around, saw the officer's badge of authority and said, "All right." Since the third day of last December Montgomery has successfully eluded arrest for the murder of his brother-in-law, J. W. Davidson, near Carrollton, Illinois, on that day. The three months that have elapsed since the murder have been spent by Montgomery, for the most part, near Martinsburg and Rush Hill, where the murderer worked in the coal mines. He first came to Martinsburg, where he worked for Weaver, going from there to Rush Hill, where he engaged in the same business, digging coal, working this time for George Short.

THE CRIME

for which he is now under arrest was committed on the public road three or four miles northeast of Carrollton early in last December. A brother-in-law of Montgomery, Davidson by name, was reported to have beaten his wife on different occasions and the man now under arrest heard of it and, to use his own words, "concluded to settle with him for it," if reports were true, Davidson's wife being his sister. On the day of the murder he met Davidson, who, with a party of friends, was riding along

the public road. Montgomery walked up to his brother-in-law and asked him if the stories in circulation were true, adding:

"You are afraid to strike a man."

From Montgomery's account of the difficulty, as related to a LEDGER reporter at the City Hall just after the arrest, it would appear that this remark threw Davidson into a rage. He drew a knife and was about to cut Montgomery when one of the party, a man named W. M. Crow, interfered, grabbing Davidson's arm. This interference further increased the passion of the angry man and he turned upon Crow, who, in a moment, lay lifeless at his feet, with a great knife-wound in his body. Davidson was not satisfied with this bloody deed and made a lunge at his brother-in-law, Montgomery. The latter was too quick for him and the next minute he lay on the ground by the side of his victim, Crow, in the agonies of death from a pistol shot at the hand of Montgomery, who was uninjured save a slight knife wound on the left side. The two murders were committed before the rest of the party could appreciate the situation, and Montgomery left at once, no attempt having been made to hold him. No more was heard of the murderer for some time. Stimulated by the heavy rewards offered for his capture, detectives set out on the trail, but it proved dim. About a month ago a man named Bill Ashlock, of Whitehall, Illinois, happened to be in Martinsburg, where he saw Montgomery, who at that time was working there. Ashlock returned at once to Carrollton and informed the authorities of the fugitive's whereabouts. When the officers arrived

in Martinsburg the bird had flown, but the story of the crime had become familiar to the people of the village. When they found their man gone, the officers gave up further search and returned to Illinois.

HOW MONTGOMERY WAS CAPTURED.

Theodore Bussen owns a saloon in Martinsburg and was among those to learn that Montgomery was wanted in Illinois for murder. Bussen had thought little of the matter since the murderer's sudden departure from his town a month ago, but the minute he laid his eyes on the man in a saloon in this city yesterday afternoon he knew him. He lost no time in informing the police and in company with Officer Lane and Joe Weimer, formerly of Carrollton, who knew the murderer well, returned to the saloon where he had seen him.

The man was slippery, though, and it began to look as if he was gone again. The party visited all the saloons, then went to the Union Depot with the intention of watching the trains. A tour of the offices was made and as soon as Lane reached the baggage room saw his man and knew him at once. He called Weimer and the two approached Montgomery. Weimer extended his hand and said:

"Hello, Billy."

Montgomery looked up, hesitated, then said, laconically:

"How are you, Weimer."

He was arrested and taken to the City Hall, where he made a clean breast of the story to a reporter for the LEDGER. After having left Martinsburg a month ago, he returned to Illinois, where he saw his sister. He stayed but a few hours in the vicinity in which the

crime was committed, returning to this county, having worked since in the Rush Hill coal mines. He came to this city on a freight yesterday morning.

TAKEN TO CARROLLTON.

Immediately upon the arrest of Montgomery, Lane sent a telegram to John G. F. Powell, Sheriff of Greene county, Illinois, notifying him of the capture. An answer was received at 7 o'clock last evening to the effect that the Sheriff would come to Mexico at once and

that the reward for Montgomery was \$700 upon conviction. Sheriff Powell arrived on the Alton early Saturday and returned with his prisoner at 12:45 that afternoon, Montgomery having signified his willingness to go without a requisition.