

**16 TO 1 ESCAPED
CRIMINALS TO
ONE CONVICTION**

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16 to 1 Escaped Criminals to One Conviction by W. P. Brooks

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BY

W. P. BROOKS, M. D.

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As found in court records and the
author's own observation.

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COOK, NEBRASKA,
1902

INTRODUCTION.

The author has no apology to offer any one for one word that may appear in this little work, though some may think that he might have left out certain things that come so near home. But not being made up of that kind of material that permits a thought to enter his mind to shield the guilty, he proposes to 'hew to the line let the chips fall where they may.' He is conscious of the fact that the Temperance question is a well worn subject, and that there has been enough written to convince the average mind of the evils of the drink habit, yet with all this, it still goes on in its high handed career of cruelty and crime. In putting out these few thoughts the author does not expect to add to or

improve on any phase of the subject that has hitherto been gone over. But he hopes to catch your eye long enough to present to you an idea that is not perhaps entirely new, though its significance has been kept in the back ground, not because there is no merit in it, but rather because so many of the great mass of reformers prefer to be "summer soldiers" or, "sunshine patriots," rather than to grapple with the monstrous serpent in an untried path. If he can add but one worker in the line on the new trail he will be satisfied.



CHAPTER I.

CRIMINALS NOT CONVICTED—AND WHY

Col. Billings, a man of undoubted authority, says that sixteen or more out of every seventeen who are charged with crime, escape conviction either by dismissal in the courts or by not having any action brought against the party perpetrating the crime. This to many may seem to be an extravagant statement and yet when you call to mind the many instances where the law has been violated and no complaint was made, or a compromise effected before the case went to trial, or by an error in the indictment and the case is dismissed by the trick of the trade and the criminal acquitted, the truth of the statement to say the least is not far from being correct.

It is more especially true when you take an inventory of crimes that are traceable to the drink habit and the influence of the saloon. In the little town of L—— a man with a good moral character had been granted a license to sell spirituous, vinous and malt liquors and when the time came to open up the factory to make inebriates, every one was invited to "step into my parlor" and partake freely of the poison that lurks in the bottom of the flowing bowl, assured by the genial bartender that everything went without money and without price. Old and young mingled together in their bacchanalian revelry. Voices were pitched in high key, loud and wild angry words flew thick and guttural. Hark, glasses and bottles are dashed at each other's heads and strange sounds are heard that would seem to