

**FORGERIES AND
FALSE
ENTRIES, PP. 1-246**

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Forgeries and False Entries, pp. 1-246 by William E. Hingston

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WILLIAM E. HINGSTON

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“Oft in a single word lies wrapt the seed
Of changes vast, would we its meaning
read:

But lacking still the wisdom to be wise,
The truth we seek is hidden from our
eyes.”

FORGERIES AND FALSE ENTRIES

By William E. Hingston

Expert Examiner of Disputed Writing, Documents, False
Entries and Questioned Book Accounts, Etc.

Author of "EXPERT TESTIMONY."



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"INTRODUCTION"

EXPERT TESTIMONY.

A well-known authority defining an expert says:

"One who has been sufficiently observing, industrious, and acute of understanding to acquire a practical knowledge of the things in general, and an exhaustive knowledge of some one thing in particular, is the ideal expert on that particular thing. Who will presume that the opinion of such a man on his specialty is to be offset or disparaged by the opinion of another whose acquaintance with that partic-

ular thing is only general or casual—who has considered it as only one of the things in general?"

The expert testimony of the chemist is looked upon by the composite jurymen as something above any skepticism of his, and the very mystery to him of the whole analysis is something in his mind that places the statements made by the expert beyond any shadow of doubt or criticism of his.

Why? Because the expert in chemistry has practically established his case as soon as he has qualified as a witness, and whatever he says bearing on his analysis is accepted as a statement of facts as they exist, provided only that another in the same line equally qualified does not contradict him; and what is the result then? Chaos; for no combination of twelve jurymen, judge, and opposing counsel ever was or ever will be assembled that could decide which was right and which wrong.

Such a climax, however, is almost beyond the limit of possibility, for the reason that to the expert chemist the analysis is a book that he has opened, the language of which can be