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PATER BANNIGAN  
NOV 14 1883 #2

## PONTIAC BILL POSTER

execution of the laws and the culprit followed the detection and capture.

Mr. Bannigan's request of the court, was characteristic. He only wanted a pack of cards and a few stacks of chips, to enable him to think prayerfully on his sins and reconcile his spirit to the great change. And it was with no little emotion that the judge took these instruments of repentance from his desk and handed them to the prisoner with a benediction which took the shape of a hope that he would win "every deal." And so Mr. Bannigan passed from the sight of those who loved him best and hated him most, and the jaws of the wooden prison closed upon him.

Among the staunchest of his friends was the sheriff having him in charge. With the alacrity that characterizes perfect friendship, he settled Mr. Bannigan's estate, and, turning over the proceeds to the prisoner in hard cash, proposed that they play for the pot, an offer which Mr. Bannigan yielded such ready assent that another man than the sheriff would have been inspired with great care in the deal so long as that formality might last. But not so with the goodhearted functionary, who was willing to risk his money to make Bannigan's last hour happy, and as a result the prisoner proved so formidable that in a few days the sheriff had not only placed all his ready cash, but had hypothecated his salary long beyond the time when Mr. Bannigan might hope to be alive to collect it. This complication broke up the game and Mr. Bannigan turned his thoughts

to the investment of his pile prior to his taking off. Several other officials dropped in to assist in the disposal, but their visits only augmented the pile which was now beginning to give Mr. Bannigan serious uneasiness.

At length the day for his execution drew near and the kind-hearted sheriff began to perfect his arrangements. But to his surprise, he could find no one to dig the post-holes for the scaffold. All the able-bodied men in the country were industriously engaged in playing for Mr. Bannigan's wealth, wherein

it worthy was rendering able assistance by holding the best poker hands out. It began to look as though Mr. Bannigan would go out with all the money in the district in his possession, a consummation that the residents had resolutely bound themselves to prevent.

An appeal to Mr. Bannigan settled this difficulty. On learning the situation of affairs he promptly offered to dig the holes himself at the regular rates for such service. This was accepted by the sheriff and the contract was made, Mr. Bannigan binding himself to dig one hole per diem until the eight should be accomplished, this to be done in odd moments while his antagonist at poker was engaged in "staking" themselves for another effort at his bank account. Six post-holes had been dug under this agreement, when luck began to set against Mr. Brannigan and he found himself almost cleaned out. He made application to the sheriff for payment up to date, and the sheriff laid the account before the county commissioners.

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