

soldier's coat, and an Indian, probably mistaking him for a discharged soldier, and incited with a desire for plunder, shot him from the shore as he was paddling down the Mississippi. An old Frenchman, in another canoe about half a mile distant, saw Lester when he sprung up and fell over the side of the canoe; but was not near enough to identify the Indian. The Indian was taken, however, put in captivity, and confined two months; but owing to a flaw in the indictment, Judge Dunn released him, and made the remark: that, "if the people won't select a Prosecuting Attorney, who can draw up a document that will hold, I will not keep the prisoners in jail 'till they rot!" The Attorney then in question, is now considered one of the best read lawyers in the State.

At a general election held on the 22d day of September, 1845, I was elected to the office of Coroner and Constable for Crawford County. In the first office, the duties that devolved on me were neither few nor pleasant. The holding of inquests on the bodies of persons picked up in the river, and found murdered, were of more frequent occurrence than now. The country being thinly settled, detection was easily avoided, and the penalties of the law hard to enforce; so evil-disposed persons, not having the fear of certain punishment before them, perpetrated deeds of violence with perfect impunity. I was once notified that a dead body was lying in the water, opposite Pig's Eye Slough, and immediately proceeded to the spot, and on taking it out, I recognized it as the body of a negro woman belonging to a certain Captain then in Fort Crawford. The body was cruelly cut and bruised; but *the* person not appearing to recognize it, a verdict of "Found Dead," was rendered, and I had the corpse buried. Soon after it came to light that the woman was whipped to death, and thrown into the river during the night; but no investigation was made, and the affair blew over.

For a long terms of years have I held positions that gave me every opportunity of observing and detecting crime; as a Policeman, Constable, Sheriff and Justice of the Peace, I was an almost daily witness of rascalities, and could furnish a calendar