**A Retrieved Reformation**

1

A guard cae to the prison shoe-shop, where Jimmy Valenine was assiduously stitching uppers, and escorted him to the front office. There the warden handed Jimmy his paron, which had been signed that morning by the governor.

2

Jimmy took it in a tired kind of way. He had srved nearly ten months of a four year sentence. He had expected to stay only about three mnths, at the longest. When a man with as mny friends on the front office outside as Jimmy Valenine had is received in the "stir" it is hadly worth while to cut his hair.

3

"Now, Valentine," said the wrden, "you'll go out in the moning. Brace up, and make a man of yourself. You're not a bad fellow at heart. Stop cracking safes, and live straight." "Me?" said Jimmy, in surprise. "Why, I never cracked a sae in my life."

4

"Oh, no," laughed the warden. "Of course not. Let's see, nw. How was it you happeed to get sent up on that Springfield job? Was it because you wouldn't prove an alibi for fear of compomising someone in extremely high-toned society? Or was it simply a case of a men old jury that had it in for you? It's alwys one or the other with you inncent victims."

5

"Me?" said Jimmy, still blakly virtuous. "Why, warden, I neer was in Springfield in my life!" "Take him back, Cronin!" said the warden, "and fix him up with outgoing clothes. Unlock him at seven in the morning, and let him cme to the bull-pen. Better think over my advice, Valentine."

At a quarter past seven on the next morning . He had on a suit of the villainously fittng, ready-made clothes and a pair of the stiff, squeaky shoes tat the state furnishes to its discharged comulsory guests.

6

The clerk handed him a railroad ticket and the five dollar bill with which the law expcted him to rehabilitate himself into good citizeship and prosperity. The warden gve him a cigar, and shook hands. Valentine, 9762, was chronicled on the books, "Pardoned by Governor," and Mr. James Valentne walked out into the sunshine.

7

8

Disregarding the song of the birds, the waving green trees, and the smell of the flowers, Jimmy headed straight for a restaurant.