

THEY PULLED HIS LEG

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JESSE THOMPSON, A HIGH ROLLER FROM UTICA, COMES TO GRIEF

A NIGHT WITH A GAY PARTY

SEVERAL HUNDRED DOLLARS TAKEN FROM HIS CLOTHES BY THE QUONDAM FRIENDS OF AN EVENING

To be robbed of large sums of money and find one's self stranded in a strange city, is a plight that might be expected to befall an uninitiated young man out to see the sights in the gay metropolis, but might hardly be expected in Syracuse. That was however exactly what happened to Jesse Thompson, a wealthy young chap from Utica, who ran up to this city last Saturday to see what life was like in a city of more than 100,000 inhabitants.

Mr. Thompson, who is a young man of respectable family, came into possession of several hundred thousand dollars a few years ago and since that time, it is alleged, has been on the road to ruin. He is well known in this city, having several friends here, and when he arrived on Saturday night, was in possession of a large sum of money.

Thompson hung about the city the night of his arrival, and all day Sunday, and on Sunday night entered the Bedford saloon in East Railroad street. It was then about 7:30 o'clock and after having several drinks Thompson scraped acquaintance with a young man named Timothy Tobin, of questionable character, and who has been arrested on several occasions charged with burglary and larceny. Tobin is a well-appearing young man and upon learning that

Thompson was in possession of a large roll at once became friends with him, and it is alleged, set out to obtain as much of that roll as he consistently could. The two men had a number of drinks in Bedford's place and then started for Frank Besanson's saloon in Mulberry street. Before reaching it, however, the jolly pair met another young man named Watts, who accompanied them to the saloon. There a number of drinks were had, after which the trio started for the disorderly house of Jennie and Hattie Wilson in the block at No. 343 East Genesee street. Thompson stood treat for the crowd and at Tobin's request arrangements were made by which the Wilson girls were to receive \$25 to accompany the men to the roadhouse of Pard Orton, on the Cicero plank road. Everything was satisfactory, and, as Watts is connected with livery business, he was directed to furnish the rig. This he consented to do if he was well paid for it, and as Thompson had money to burn, a closed carriage was soon in front of the place.

By that time Thompson was well under the influence of liquor, and it is alleged, the \$25 was taken from him and given to the girls, \$12.50 going to each. The young man became boisterous, and grabbing Jennie Wilson around the waist, threw her upon the

floor. He also fell upon the floor, and according to the story of Tobin, the Wilson women took a large sum of money from one of Thompson's pockets. The woman then, it is alleged, left the room, and after calling Tobin out, gave him about \$30 of her ill-gotten gains, stating that it was for bringing the man to the place. This the Wilson woman denies. It was then about 9(?) o'clock and the quartette were about to leave the place and enter the hack. Jennie Wilson refused to go, giving as her reason that Thompson was too much intoxicated. May Randall, another occupant of the block, was then called in and she, with the younger Wilson girl, Hattie, started for the roadhouse. [NOTE: *Hattie was the younger of the two Wilson girls. Although no mention was made in this article about them being sisters, it would seem odd to mention their age difference if the two girls were not related.*]

Pard Orton's was the first place visited, Brady's next and Ide's last and at each place Thompson was urged to spend money. He was the bank for the crowd and had money in every pocket. After drinking for about an hour the party started to return to the city and on the way, it is alleged, one of Thompson's pockets containing considerable money was completely ripped out and the money and all stolen. Just who committed the theft is not known, but as Tobin was seen with an unusual sum of money in his possession suspicion rested upon him.

After reaching this city the hack was quickly driven to the Wilson place, where the two women and Tobin got out. Watts, the hack

driver, requested that Thompson be taken into the place as he was too drunk to stand, but the request was refused. Hattie Wilson stating that the house was full. The three went to the rooms, however, and more drinking was indulged in until about 2 o'clock in the morning, when Tobin left and started for the disorderly house of Mabel Clay in South Clinton street. At that place he met a young woman named Mollie Allen, and with her went to the Seneca house where considerable money was spent.

It was through Tobin that the matter was brought to the notice of the police. On Tuesday Detective O'Brien first discovered that the young man was in possession of considerable money and that during the past two days he had also spent a large amount. As Tobin bore a police record, the detective had an eye out for all his movements and was at once aware that something was wrong. Tobin had been out of work for several months and in what way he could have come into possession of so much money honestly was a puzzle too hard to solve. The eye of the shrewd detective was then watching his every movement, and by the most skillful work on Detective O'Brien's part the facts in the case were brought out. The detective at once reported to Chief Wright and on his order Tobin, the Wilson women and the Randall and Allen women were arrested yesterday afternoon. Thompson could not be found up to a late hour last night and just how many hundred dollars he was robbed of is not known.

At 8 o'clock last night Jennie and Hattie Wilson were allowed to go on bail. Both

deny the charge made against them but admit they were in company with the man.

FOLLOW UP -

If there were any further legal actions taken in association with this incident it never made the Syracuse area papers. Jesse Thompson had never appeared in the Syracuse papers prior to this incident and his name never appeared again after this brief bit of notoriety. He might have been too embarrassed to step forward and press charges.