



Brotherhood of American Paper Stainers in Exile

The Great American Doctor and Anatomic Knowledge - Part 5

Michael L Hawley

The final part of this article will begin by examining the last time Tumblety practiced his quack medicine in the Canadian provinces, specifically, St. John, New Brunswick, then end by linking his Canadian sojourn to the Whitechapel murders. Just as in parts one through four, evidence arises linking Tumblety to collecting human organs. While a known Jack the Ripper suspect having a history of the exact same thing Jack the Ripper did to three of his victims' bodies, i.e., collecting human organs, is intriguing, there is a problem. The London murders happened nearly three full decades later. Thanks to members of the Brotherhood of American Paper Stainers in Exile, we have corroborating evidence that Scotland Yard independently connected Tumblety to anatomical organs in London in 1888, when they had absolutely no idea of his organ collecting history.

St. John, New Brunswick

After leaving Boston in June 1860, Francis Tumblety returned to the provinces, but to one he had yet to exploit, St. John, New Brunswick. In 1860, St. John was the fourth largest city north of the US border with over 27,000 residents.¹ Since Toronto and the surrounding area in Canada West made him independently wealthy, he had the potential to nearly double his fortune. But Boston was over five times larger thus likely a bigger cash cow, so why there? As attested by his numerous autobiographies, Tumblety loved to be associated with famous people, including royalty. In the spring of 1860, all the major newspapers in the US and Canada were giving front-page attention to British royalty visiting the Canadian provinces. A private letter was uncovered by Canadian historian Gerard Keith from Deputy Minister William Smith to a government official named James Barber in St. John dated December 1, 1888.² Smith had worked with Barber in St. John years earlier. Smith reminded Barber of Tumblety's time in St. John in 1860 and how he spent some time with him in Eastport, which is a harbor town located northeast of St. John in Newfoundland:

*"My dear Barber... Do you recollect Dr. Tumblety who came to St. John about 1860 and who used to ride on a beautiful white horse with a long tail, and a couple of grey hounds following after him? Do you recollect how he used to canter along like a circus man? ...He was considered by Dr. Bayard and others an adventurer and Quack Doctor. He is the man who was arrested in London three weeks ago as the Whitechapel murderer... He must now be 58 or 60 years of age as he left St. John about 1860. He was a tall handsome man and a beautiful rider. **When I was in Eastport in 1860 detained by a storm, I met him there and spent part of the day with him.** He was very agreeable and intelligent. I do not think he could be the Whitechapel fiend. He now spells his name Twombly. I believe his original name was Mike Sullivan."* [Author emphasis added]"

¹ Statistics Canada. (2010). The Canada Yearbook, 1867. <www.statcan.gc.ca>.

² Johnson, D.F. Jack the Quack. MyNewBrunswick.ca. <<https://mynewbrunswick.ca/folklore/jack-the-quack/>>.

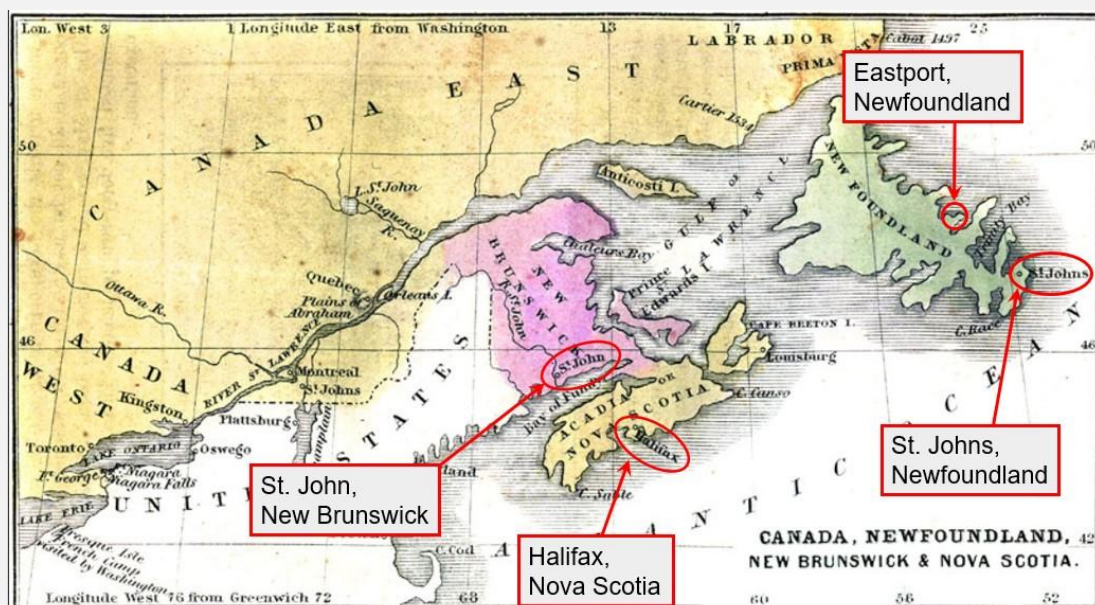
Incidentally, the source of Tumblety's name having been spelled "Twomblety" was the *New York World*, a newspaper which cabled its articles to dozens of newspapers across the US and Canada. This suggests that Smith read the recent information on Tumblety from the papers, recalled his own experiences, then sent a letter to an old St. John friend. The importance of this private letter is Smith's first-hand account. Smith "recollects" Tumblety's experiences in St. John and he recalled his time with Tumblety in Eastport. Smith also made it a point to comment upon Tumblety being intelligent, which corroborates other acquaintances of Tumblety's. We can also infer that Smith believed Tumblety was in his late twenties or thirty when he met him in Eastport, since he expressed his belief that Tumblety would now –at the writing of his private letter in 1888- be aged 58 to 60.

The date of William Smith happening upon Tumblety in Eastport, Newfoundland, waiting out a storm may arguably have been the evening of July 22 or 23, 1860. A special event occurred on that day in Newfoundland of international significance in which Tumblety –a man who will later claim friendships in noble circles- had the opportunity to socialize with the future King of Great Britain. The Prince of Wales, Prince Edward Albert, eldest son of Queen Victoria, arrived in St. John's Newfoundland. According to the *Toronto Globe*, July 23, 1860:

"St. Johns, N.F., July 23. Torrents of rain fell last night and this morning. The Prince was to land at ten o'clock [on July 24], but the landing was postponed till noon on account of the weather. At noon to-day the Prince and suite landed from the Hero, under a Royal salute... The governor, Alexander Bannerman, met His Royal Highness on the Queen's wharf, and conducted him to a carriage, thence through triumphal arches to the Government House... There was an immense concourse of spectators and great enthusiasm prevailed."

On the evening of July 25, 1860, there was a dinner party at the Government House and a ball at 10pm. The Prince of Wales soon left then traveled by train eventually making his way to Canada West and Niagara Falls. He then visited the United States before returning to England. If Tumblety did attend, he returned to St. John, New Brunswick, and was present when the Prince of Wales was there on or about July 30. According to the *Belfast News-Letter*, July 30, 1860:

"The squadron, with his Royal Highness and suite, is expected at St. John's, Newfoundland, about the 23rd. Here, while the vessels coal, the Prince pays a short visit to St. John's. On the following day the squadron sails for the Bay of Pictou, about 40 miles North of Halifax, where the Prince disembarks and proceeds by rail and carriage across the country to Halifax... After a stay of nearly two days at Halifax he proceeds by land to Frederickton, and thence to St. John's [sic], New Brunswick, stopping at each place a whole day at least."



Modified Charles A. Goodrich, *History of the United States for Schools* (Boston, MA: Hickling, Swan, and Brewer, 1859) Courtesy of the private collection of Roy Winkelman.

When Tumblety arrived in St. John, he boarded at the American House and met with the proprietor Samuel B. Estey. As usual, Tumblety rented out two rooms. According to St. John genealogist Daniel F. Johnson, Tumblety appropriately applied for a license to practice at the common clerk's office.³ On the application, Tumblety claimed to be a native of Ireland, 28 years of age, and was an Indian Herb Doctor. Johnson claimed that when the application was delivered to the assistant common clerk, "*it was decided to cross out Indian Herb Doctor and substitute the word druggist.*" It will soon be important to determine who substituted the word druggist for Indian Herb Doctor and if Tumblety had knowledge of this. Johnson stated that the original record was destroyed in the Great Fire of June 20, 1877.

In normal fashion, Tumblety visited the local newspapers and began his over-the-top mass advertising campaign. Tumblety's business was in full swing throughout July 1860 and followed the same highly successful business plan he used in the other Canadian provinces. He started with an introductory advertisement, followed by larger, multicolumn ads with cure-all testimonials. His business plan also involved swamping the city with his secret disease pamphlets, so he likely continued this in St. John, as well. Just as in Toronto and Montreal, his aggressive cure-all advertising campaign quickly got the attention and ire of the St. John medical establishment. It was apparent to the resident physicians that Tumblety was a highly successful and manipulative quack doctor whose sole purpose was to make money through deceptive means.

As confirmed by William Smith, the New Brunswick medical establishment quickly identified Tumblety as a quack, so it makes sense that they quickly went on the offensive immediately after the departure of the Prince of Wales. On July 31, 1860, Tumblety found himself in front of the magistrate at police court being charged with violating the Province of New Brunswick Medical Act of 1859.⁴ The prosecution stated that Tumblety was "*falsely and willfully assuming titles which implied that he was a registered or lawfully recognized physician.*" The prosecution used Tumblety's application to practice as evidence in support of their claim. If Tumblety applied to practice as a druggist, or pharmacist, then the prosecution was pointing that out. If Tumblety applied as a physician, and Tumblety had no knowledge of the word druggist having been added, then their argument is weaker. On August 10, 1860, the magistrate returned a conviction, stating Tumblety was guilty of "*assuming the title of MD,*" and was fined £20. According to the *New Brunswicker*, this was the very first time someone was charged with violating the Medical Act of 1859.⁵

Tumblety immediately appealed and Supreme Court Judge Robert Parker studied the case. To the dismay of the medical community, on or about September 11, 1860, he overturned the decision of the magistrate. The judge stated that the "magistrate was not warranted in implying that the defendant by taking and using the name and title of Doctor of Medicine meant to assert and signify that he was duly registered under the Province of New Brunswick Medical Act of 1859."⁶

There is an important distinction. Newspapers reported that Tumblety was prosecuted because of fraudulently assuming the title of MD. Even though he never went to medical school, this was not the reason why he was prosecuted in New Brunswick. Officials claimed that Tumblety was practicing medicine without a license, therefore, he was in violation of the Medical Act. The weak evidence they used to prove he was practicing medicine without a license was his use of "*herb doctor*" and signing MD after his name. They argued that Tumblety merely assumed he was eligible, so he practiced medicine. It was perfectly legal to open an Indian herb doctor office and advertise cure-all medicine as long as his office acted in the capacity of a pharmacy. They had no actual proof that Tumblety was illegally practicing medicine in his office, as Dr. Grant had proven in Toronto, and the judge realized this. The judge also saw that Tumblety did the right thing by following the directives of the New Brunswick Medical Act and registered with the local authorities upon his arrival. Tumblety clearly learned from his mistakes in Toronto.

Tumblety registered with the mayor, but he would not receive the medical license until it was issued by the appropriate legal authority per the Medical Act. The mayor's responsibility was to pass the request up the chain of command to the office of the Lieutenant-Governor. The Province of New Brunswick successfully

³ *ibid.*

⁴ *New Brunswicker*. July 31, 1860.

⁵ *New Brunswicker*. August 11, 1860.

⁶ *The Morning Freeman*. September 13, 1860.

passed their own Medical Act in 1859, which became law on April 13, 1859, and took effect on June 1, 1859, in accordance with the *Acts of the General Assembly of Her Majesty's Province of New Brunswick* in reference to the Medical Act of 1859.⁷

We also see Tumblety operating outside of social norms in St. John in the very first eyewitness account of him molesting a young man. The St. John resident stated:

*“The vile character of Tumblety was fully shown at another time by an assault which he attempted on a young drug clerk who came to him as a patient.”*⁸

Since Tumblety will have sexually molested young men in the future on multiple occasions on both sides of the Atlantic, there is little doubt that this occurred. This event would also have allowed the New Brunswick medical council to pull Tumblety's name of the registrar, because he was *“guilty of infamous conduct in any professional respect.”* The very first time we see any evidence that Tumblety treated women, as a group, poorly is during his time in New Brunswick in 1860. A St. John eyewitness recalled Tumblety and remembered him claiming he was an eclectic physician:

*“After a while the more intelligent people got their eyes open to the fact that he was a charlatan, and soon afterward stories began to go round about his indecorous [sic] treatment of some of his lady patients.”*⁹

St. John's medical establishment lost round one with Tumblety when the judge sided with him and overturned the magistrate's decision, but they only had to wait just two weeks when a huge opportunity arose to finally force Tumblety to close his doors. To their delight, Tumblety found himself being held accountable for the death of a patient. If convicted, this would guarantee Tumblety's office would be closed, since it violated elements of the Medical Act of 1859. James Portmore, a carpenter and volunteer fireman, died under Tumblety's care on Wednesday, September 26, 1860, according to a timeline in the *Morning Freeman*, September 29, 1860. Portmore's gravestone at the Wesleyan Burial Grounds states he passed at aged 59 on September 15, 1860. The 1851 census has his trade as a joiner, meaning a craftsman who joins wood.

On Thursday morning, September 27, 1860, the Mayor spoke with Mrs. Portmore, then wrote to the coroner requesting an inquest be held. A jury was summoned and an inquest was held that afternoon, which began at Portmore's home then adjourned to the Court House. Tumblety was present during the proceedings on that day and even cross-examined Mrs. Portmore. According to the *Toronto Globe*, October 10, 1860, the proceedings lasted until Friday, September 28, 1860, but Tumblety was not present the second day. He saw the writing on the wall and rushed out of the city leaving behind his travel trunks.

Tumblety had two young men working for him in St. John, an S.B. Estey and a William Hamilton, and the coroner called both to testify in front of the jury on Friday. Estey testified that he had been working for Tumblety for thirteen weeks and saw him last night at about 9pm. Tumblety came downstairs, lit a cigar, then left. That was the last time he had seen Tumblety. William Hamilton testified that he had been hired by Tumblety three weeks earlier as a clerk, meeting him on a steam ferry. He last saw Tumblety last night between 10 and 11pm on St. Andrews Road *“beyond the suspension bridge.”* Hamilton continued and stated that Tumblety rode his white horse and wore his cloak and cap, grey trousers, and he had his hound with him. Hamilton showed Tumblety the way to Gate Bridge. Hamilton stated, *“The Gate Bridge was closed, and when he went to knock the Doctor told him to tell the gatekeeper, “Who asked if anyone was sick in Carleton, that he had been sent for to the Reverend Mr. Dunphy's.”* The gatekeeper allowed them through, then after about a quarter of a mile, Tumblety asked Hamilton about the road to Calais. Tumblety then told Hamilton that he would ride to Calais and then have Hamilton \$100 to pay Mr. Estey's bill and Mr. Stockford. He then told Hamilton to keep his office running until he returned. He said that if he does not return, then he would telegraph him in order for Hamilton to send him his trunks. Tumblety then said to Hamilton that if his parents permit him, he could come too.

⁷ Simpson, J. (1859). *Acts of the General Assembly of Her Majesty's Province of New Brunswick*. Fredericton. British North American Legislative Database. 1758-1867. <<https://bnald.lib.unb.ca/legislation/source-documents/63?page=1>>

⁸ *San Francisco Call*. December 27, 1888.

⁹ *Boston Herald*. Nov 25, 1888.

The significance of examining Tumblety's time in St. John time as it relates to this 5-part article is what he did on the evening of September 27, 1860. In December 1888, a St. John newspaper reporter hired by the *San Francisco Call* interviewed elderly residents about Tumblety operating in St. John in 1860. The reporter also searched the archives of old newspapers and discovered the following peculiar event, which occurred just hours before Tumblety sneaked across the border into the US. The reporter stated:

“During the inquest, and before the Doctor [Francis Tumblety] fled, those present at the hearing were horrified at the nearly successful attempt to abstract the heart and liver of the dead man from the receptacle in which they lay.”¹⁰

In late November 1888, a *New York World* reporter was seeking anyone in New York City who knew Jack the Ripper suspect Francis Tumblety and found Manhattan attorney William P. Burr at his office at 320 Broadway Avenue. He then hunted down fellow Manhattan attorney Charles Dunham whose Broadway office was near Burr's office but found Dunham at his home in New Jersey.¹¹ Dunham told the reporter about his experience with Tumblety in Washington DC in August 1861 at the outset of the American Civil War. Dunham said he was a colonel and Tumblety invited him, his lieutenant colonel, and many other officers in General George B. McCellan's command, to a medical lecture in which he illustrated it with dozens of human organs, including his favored collection of uterus specimens.

“He then broke into a homily on the sin and folly of dissipation, fiercely denounced all woman and especially fallen women... Then he invited us into his office where he illustrated his lecture, so to speak. One side of this room was entirely occupied with cases, outwardly resembling wardrobes. When the doors were opened quite a museum was revealed--tiers of shelves with glass jars and cases, some round and others square, filled with all sorts of anatomical [sic] specimens. The 'doctor' placed on a table a dozen or more jars containing, as he said, the matrices of every class of women. Nearly a half of one of these cases was occupied exclusively with these specimens.”

Dunham's story took place less than one year after Tumblety attempted to steal Portmore's organs in St. John. At first, Tumblety owning such a large collection of anatomical specimens seems farfetched, but now that we see he operated a medical institute in Toronto just a few years earlier, it no longer seems unusual.

London 1888

Examining Tumblety in his travels and experiences from 1856 to 1861 does open a window into why he became interested in collecting human organs, but this was 28 years before the Whitechapel murders. The reason for him having been so interested in acquiring human organs makes sense in the 1860s, but not in the 1880s. Still, it does give one pause knowing that a Scotland Yard Jack the Ripper suspect had in his background exactly what the Whitechapel fiend did – collect human organs. Further, Tumblety is connected to the same three organs that the killer took, the uterus, kidney, and heart. As stated, Tumblety allegedly presented his uterus collection to Union officers in 1861, and then in January 1888 -the year of the murders- Tumblety told a *Toronto Mail* reporter that he *“was suffering from kidney and heart disease, and that he was constantly in dread of sudden death.”¹²*

This 28-year gap might also be an illusion. Tumblety was a very reclusive person, and we know very little about his private affairs.

Did Scotland Yard have evidence that Francis Tumblety was involved with collecting anatomical organs while in London in 1888? Chief Inspector John G. Littlechild informed journalist George R. Simms in a private letter 1913 that there was a large dossier on suspect Francis Tumblety at Scotland Yard. Sadly, it is lost to time. Even though the file is gone, we can be confident that it existed thanks to a credible unbiased source - Chief Inspector Littlechild. Even though we do not have police reports connecting Tumblety to anatomical organs in London, there is evidence to the affirmative. Enter the Brotherhood of American Paper Stainers in Exile...

¹⁰ *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. January 5, 1889.

¹¹ *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle*. December 3, 1888.

¹² *Toronto Mail*. November 23, 1888



Arthur Warren

Arthur Warren - Courtesy of
Gutenberg.org

In the late 19th century, the New York Associated Press, major New York City newspapers, and the *Boston Herald* assigned reporters to London and were responsible for collecting European news. They were referred to as London correspondents, sometimes called special correspondents or foreign correspondents, and the newsgathering organizations only gave this assignment to their most trusted reporters.¹³ In 1888, the London correspondent for the Associated Press was James Maclean, for the *New York Sun* was Arthur Brisbane, for the *New York Tribune* was George W. Smalley, for the *New York World* was E. (Edwin) Tracy Greaves, for the *New York Times* was Harold Frederic, for the *New York Herald* was Oakey Hall, and for the *Boston Herald* was Ed Perry until November 1888, then replaced by Arthur Warren (Springfield Reporter, December 7, 1888).¹⁴ These London correspondents collected much of the news for their respective newsgathering organizations directly from the London daily newspapers, taking advantage of New York being five hours later. They also tirelessly solicited London sources for breaking news, or scoops, especially with the Whitechapel murders, since this story was selling papers. For example, E. Tracy Greaves broke the news in a November 17, 1888, news cable of a New Yorker named “Kumblety” having first been arrested on suspicion, released because of lack of evidence to charge, then re-arrested on a lesser charge. He also broke the story at the end of November of Tumblety jumping bail and sneaking out of the UK, “having been last seen in Havre, France.”¹⁵

According to Zelizer et al., in print journalism, the first line of the article is the Dateline, which describes where and when the news story was crafted.¹⁶ If the news story was crafted in Boston, even if it was on the London murders, it was location stamped “Boston.” If the news story was crafted in Trenton, New Jersey, the article was location stamped “Trenton, N.J.”:

The Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Theory Meets His Ideas Exactly.

[SPECIAL TO THE EVENING WORLD.]

BOSTON, Nov. 14.—“I don't know how Jesse Pomeroy came to learn of the Whitechapel murders,” remarked a Charlestown man yesterday, “but I understand that he has given opinions in regard to the subject.”

“Will you favor me with an idea of what he has said?” asked an EVENING WORLD correspondent.

“Certainly. Jesse has been reading Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. He has formed some thoughts which are interesting. He is a firm believer that good and evil exist in every human being. The evil when it predominates forces the individual to the commission of wrong acts more or less heinous in their character. Vileness and grossness of one's nature, exhibited under these circumstances, may be the result of accumulated wickedness inherited. This inheritance may, like any disease, lie dormant in the system from one generation to another.

[SPECIAL TO THE EVENING WORLD.]

TRENTON, N. J., Nov. 14.—The big brown walled building in the Third Ward, just below Broad street, is the New Jersey State Prison. It contains a population of about nine hundred souls, who, under the stern rules of the institution, are supposed never to exchange a word with one another. The same rule of silence exists between the convicts and the keepers, except when there is absolute necessity for conversation. These 900 convicts, therefore, can be expected to know little or nothing concerning the doings of the great world outside the four prison walls. Through a friendly deputy keeper, however, some knowledge of the Whitechapel murders was communicated to half a dozen of the more notable criminals and their views on the subject were returned through the same source.

If the new story was crafted in London, it was location stamped “London,” and if the newsgathering organization had a London correspondent, they crafted the story.

¹³ Crawford, T.C. (1889). English Life. Lovell & Co.

¹⁴ *New York Times. The Reminiscences of a Colleague.* October 23, 1898.

¹⁵ *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle.* December 3, 1888. op. cit.

¹⁶ Zelizer, Barbie; Allan, Stuart. (2010). *Keywords in News and Journalism Studies.* Milton Keynes: Open University Press. p. 29.

Rothschild Offers a Reward for the Murderer—A New English Cutter.

[THE NEW YORK WORLD CABLE SERVICE; COPYRIGHTED, 1888 — SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE.]

LONDON, November 17.—Just to think of one of the Prince of Wales' own exclusive set, a member of the household cavalry, and one of the best known of the many swells about town, who glory in the

Londoners Hunting for Gladstone.

[FROM THE EVENING WORLD'S LONDON CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, Oct. 7.—Gladstone is not usually a hard man to find, but many thousand Londoners are looking for him just now—in the above puzzle. You may think you can see the Grand Old Man's "phiz" in the group, but you can't unless you fold it exactly right.

The two ways London correspondents in the late 19th century transmitted news across the Atlantic to their respective home offices were by telegraph, or transatlantic cable, which began operating in 1882, and by postal steamship service.¹⁷ News that was determined to be "special" and time-critical, such as a scoop, was sent by cable, but this was relatively expensive.¹⁸ Longer, multicolumn stories were sent by steamship, which meant that the contents of news would be just over a week old to ten days old. A recent discovery of a breaking story by E. Tracy Greaves demonstrates how London correspondents sometimes sent articles through the postal steamship service, and it may very well be a scoop on Tumblety's very first arrest in London, the arrest on suspicion for the Whitechapel murders. It was published in the *Boston Globe*, November 10, 1888, but was sent by Greaves on October 30:

"New York. -November 9. The World tomorrow will publish the following: London. October 30. - The word "Whitechapel" has passed as a verb into the vocabulary of the criminal classes... Well, at this writing no one is under arrest; all the men locked up on suspicion and on delirium tremens confessions have been discharged. A man from New York was among the number. He came into the World office afterward and wanted it explained that he was "on a lark." We, he had his fun, and from the police court evidence he deserved all the unsavory publicity he got. But so far it has all amount to nothing. Whether it will do so before this letter reaches the World looks very doubtful now."

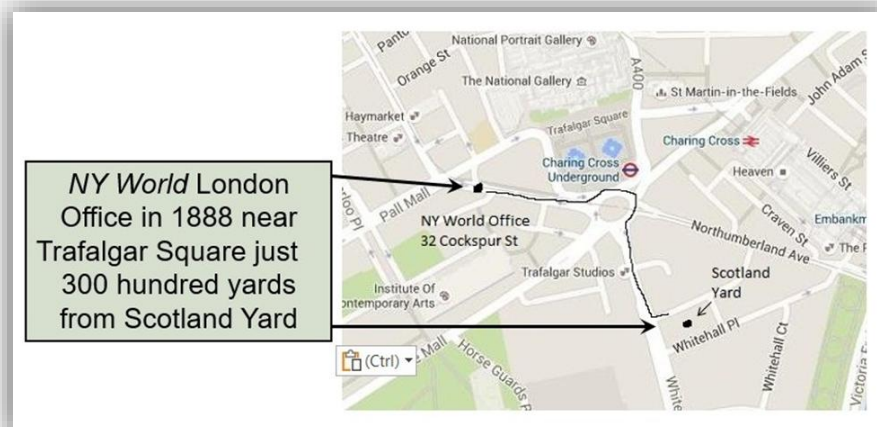
Note the ten-day difference between when *New York World* gave access to the article to the *Boston Globe* (November 9) and the date E. Tracy Greaves placed in the article (October 30). Further, the last sentence clearly infers a time difference between his "letter" and its arrival to



Harold Frederic

home office. Transatlantic cables transmissions were immediate, which makes the sentence nonsensical if Greaves meant a news cable transmission.

Although competing aggressively to get scoops, these Americans journalists were friends and socialized with each other, all members of the Savage Club. According to an article titled *Reminiscences of a Colleague*, in the *New York Times*, October 23,



1898, Arthur Warren stated, "When I went to London at the end of 1888 as a correspondent for the Boston

¹⁷ FTL Design. (2014). The Atlantic Cable. <www.atlantic-cable.com>.

¹⁸ Crawford, T.C. (1889). Op. cit.

Herald, [Harold] Frederic was the first man to welcome me to the “Brotherhood of American Paper Stainers in Exile...” Frederic was once an advisor for President Grover Cleveland and received the position of London Correspondent in 1884 through Cleveland’s influence. He also brought a letter of introduction to London written by Cleveland for the specific purpose to make connections with influential people and open doors.¹⁹



Arthur Brisbane

These London correspondents were well-respected in London and even had connections in Scotland Yard. E. Tracy Greaves in October 1888 commented upon his Scotland Yard informant on two separate occasions, once in an October 6, 1888, news cable published in the *Chicago Tribune*, October 7, 1888, and again in the *New York World*, October 9, 1888. The *World* office was only about 300 yards from Scotland Yard, so distance was not an issue.

The *New York Sun* London correspondent Arthur Brisbane interviewed Assistant Commissioner Anderson in his office at Scotland Yard on November 14, 1888, just five days after the Kelly murder. According to *The Sun*, November 26, 1888, Brisbane states:

“Though extremely busy, Dr. Anderson, the head for the hour of the Metropolitan Police, has been kind enough, on knowing that I was a representative of The Sun, to give me a few minutes of his just now priceless time.” Brisbane then interviewed Dr. Bagster Phillips, “To Dr. Phillips, the Divisional Surgeon of the Police for Whitechapel... I said: “Do you believe that the murderer is a foreigner, an American, as the rumor has been?” Phillips: “How can I know? I have not seen him.””

Another example of Brisbane receiving a scoop from a Scotland Yard source deals with supposed eyewitness George Hutchinson who claimed to have seen Mary Kelly bring a man with a Jewish appearance who wore a long dark coat trimmed in astrakhan carrying a massive gold chain back to her room the night of her murder.²⁰ Hutchinson stated that he believed he lives in the neighborhood and saw him in Petticoat Lane recently. Inspector Abberline seems to have initially taken Hutchinson seriously. According to a signed report, Abberline stated he directed two officers to accompany Hutchinson around the neighborhood.²¹ Immediately after this, though, Hutchinson’s name is no longer discussed, as if Scotland Yard no longer took his testimony seriously. Arthur Brisbane may have found the answer. The *Star Tribune*, November 18, 1888, published Brisbane’s news story:

“[Copyright, 1888, by the New York Sun Publishing Company.] London. Nov. 17. – [Special Cable to the TRIBUNE.] In England there is not much interest in anything just now but the Whitechapel murder [Mary Kelly] and details surrounding it... Some clever individual having invented a detailed description of a man seen walking about with Mary Kelly just before she was murdered, has been hired at five times his usual salary to walk about with the police and try to see the man again.”



Arthur Brisbane

If true, knowing the police paid Hutchinson five times his usual salary was a scoop and could only have come from a police source with knowledge of this. Further, this answers why the police never discussed Hutchinson’s eyewitness testimony again. They were convinced he lied.

Specific to human organs, Arthur Brisbane made a connection between Tumblety and collecting uterus specimens in a massive full-page article published in *The Sun*, November 25, 1888. Note the date. Since a steamship transit was just over a week to ten days, Brisbane completed this article just after his November 14

¹⁹ Rogers, R. (2003). Biography of Harold Frederic (1856-1898). Harold Frederic’s *The Damnation of Theron Ware*. <<http://helios.acomp.usf.edu/~rrogers/biooffrederic.html>>.

²⁰ *The Morning Post*. November 14, 1888.

²¹ Evans, S. P., Rumbelow, D. *Jack the Ripper, Scotland Yard Investigates*. (2006). Sutton Publishing Limited. P. 193.

meeting with Anderson. In the section dealing with theories on who the killer was Brisbane wrote:

*“Scores of arrests have been made and hundreds of theories formed. An American doctor named Twombly is now held because he is an erratic character and because one theory is that some **American medical institution wants specimens of the female uterus**, which it happens that Jack the Ripper often takes from the bodies of his victims.”* [Author emphasis added]

There is a problem. The story about an American medical institute desiring uterus specimens for £20 was already resolved by early October. A Central News article published in the *Birmingham Daily Post*, October 5, 1888, states:

“The Central News says the announcement of Dr. Browne of the disappearance of the uterus revived for a time the theory put forward by Mr. Wynne Baxter, the coroner in the Hanbury Street case. The British Medical Journal, however, states that the foreign physician who sought to purchase specimens was a gentleman of the highest respectability, that he did not offer a large price, and that he left London eighteen months ago.”

The Standard, October 5, 1888, further states:

“There was never any real foundation for the hypothesis... which was not at all of the nature which the public has been led to believe, was due to the erroneous interpretation by a minor official of a question which he had overheard, and to which a negative reply was given. This theory may be at once dismissed, and is, we believe, no longer entertained even by its author [Coroner Wynne Baxter].”

It makes no sense that Brisbane would connect Tumblety to a known debunked story. Arthur Brisbane even transmitted the story to home office in early October, stating in *The Sun*, October 5, 1888, *“It is true that a foreign physician inquired a year ago as to the possibility of securing certain parts of the body... and the physician in question is of the highest respectability, and came exceedingly well accredited.”*

A resolution to this problem is his London source told him this and it was not an invention of his own making. There is evidence that some officials in Scotland Yard continued to take the collecting of organs seriously. The famous journalist George R. Simms wrote an article in the *Lloyds Weekly News*.²² In it, he mentions the theory put forth by Coroner Wynne Baxter just after the Annie Chapman murder:

“The other theory in support of which I have some curious information, puts the crime down to a young American medical student who was in London during the whole time of the murders, and who, according to statements of certain highly respectable people who knew him, made on two occasions an endeavour to obtain a certain internal organ, which for his purpose had to be removed from, as he put it, “the almost living body.””



George W Smalley Reporting from the Battle of Antietam - Courtesy of History.net

Baxter made it clear at the inquest that his concern was less the American medical student requesting to purchase uterus specimens, but more someone taking it upon himself to acquire and sell the organs. According to *The Daily Telegraph*, September 29, 1888, Baxter *“assumed that some abandoned wretch had been incited by the knowledge that a demand existed...”*

Simms then continued:

“Dr. Wynne Baxter, the coroner, in his summing up to the jury in the case of Annie Chapman, pointed out the significance of the fact that this internal organ had

²² Lloyds Weekly News. My Criminal Museum – Who Was Jack the Ripper? September 22, 1907.

been removed. But against this theory put forward by those who uphold it with remarkable details and some startling evidence in support of their contention, there is one great fact. The American was alive and well and leading the life of an ordinary citizen long after the Ripper murders came to an end."

Baxter's theory was not that the American medical student was the killer but some abandoned wretch. It looks as if Simms' Scotland Yard sources revealed something that the sources for the papers did not reveal, "some startling evidence."

Yet a second member of the Brotherhood of American Paper Stainers in Exile, George W. Smalley, connected Tumblety with collecting human organs, as well. According to Arthur Warren, George W. Smalley was "*still of the Tribune and Dean of the Faculty.*" Smalley had been a London correspondent longer than the others, having been assigned in 1866. Smalley received this prestigious assignment because he made his name during the American Civil War by eye witnessing the famous Battle of Antietam in September 1862 as a war correspondent and authoring highly detailed stories. In London, Smalley was known by his fellow members of the Brotherhood of American Paper Stainers in Exile to use his London sources very effectively. In the *Portland Sunday Telegram*, September 12, 1897, the *Boston Herald's* London correspondent Ed Perry stated, "*In the old times the London correspondent of an American newspaper had to 'grub' for his news... George W. Smalley, for many years the representative in London of the New York Tribune, had the best sources of information concerning European politics.*"



George W Smalley - Courtesy of Gutenberg.org

Note what Smalley transmitted for the December 4, 1888, issue of the *New York Tribune*:

"DR. TUMBLETY ARRIVES IN NEW-YORK.

DETECTIVES KEEPING THEIR EYE ON HIM

-HIS ARREST IN LONDON HAS EXCITED PEOPLE HERE SOMEWHAT.

*Doctor Francis Tumblety or, as he is known in England, Twomblety, is in New-York. He was arrested on suspicion of being implicated in the Whitechapel butcheries... **He has been charged with a fondness for collecting anatomical specimens, and this has made his connection with the Whitechapel atrocities appear probable.** [Author emphasis added]"*

Conclusion

Parts one, two, and three of this five-part article covered the beginning of Francis Tumblety's chosen profession as an herbal quack doctor from the spring of 1856 to the fall of 1858 as he practiced throughout what is now the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec. As argued, a guilty verdict in May 1857 in a Toronto court found against Francis Tumblety for practicing as a physician without a medical license was a seismic event. His actions show he changed his quack doctor business plans for the next four years focusing now on strategies to attain the license. The requirement for physicians to apply for a medical license in the Canadian provinces in the mid-19th century provided the medical board of physicians and surgeons a tool to weed out problematic quack doctors from qualified physicians. They did this through intense oral examinations. For Tumblety to convince the same medical board who took him to court, he would have to convince them he was not a quack. To do this and pass an oral examination, he had to gain a working knowledge of both human anatomy and surgery. He claimed he graduated from a credible medical school, but he would have to prove it. Part four of this article revealed evidence that Tumblety had an interest in collecting human organs in 1860 and 1861 and discuss the likely reason for this. In the 19th century, it was common practice for surgeons with exceptional reputations to give medical lectures illustrated with displays of human organs of their own making.²³ In 1859, we find Tumblety performing medical lectures in Buffalo, New York,

²³ Bates, A.W. "Indecent and Demoralising Representations": Public Anatomy Museums in Mid-Victorian England. *Medical History*. V. 52 (1): 1-22, Jan 1, 2008.

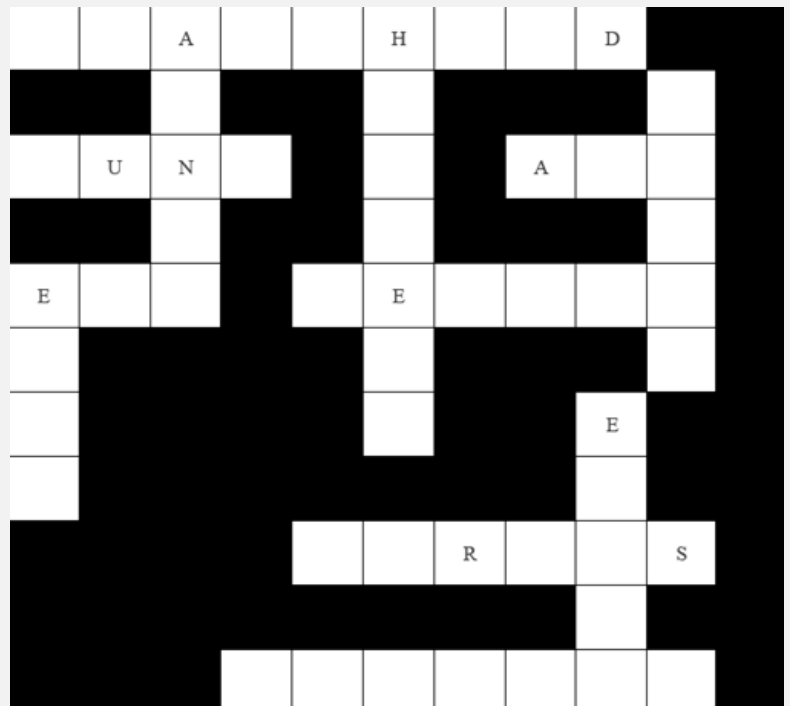
when he temporarily moved his quack doctor business to that city. He advertised his plan to give lectures in Buffalo while practicing medicine.²⁴ This was corroborated by the recollections of Buffalo Police Captain Thomas Cavanaugh in the *Buffalo Courier*, May 31, 1914, who saw first-hand Tumblety giving lectures “with Thespian emphasis.” In St. John, New Brunswick, in September 1860, we see Tumblety callously attempting to steal internal organs from the recently deceased patient of his. He was not done with acquiring anatomical specimens. Less than one year later, Tumblety was in Washington DC, and an eyewitness claimed to see Tumblety’s huge collection of anatomical specimens, especially his favored uterus collection. Fast-forward to January 1888 when Tumblety told a Toronto reporter he was constantly in dread of sudden death because of kidney and heart disease. Note that Tumblety is connected to the very three organs that Jack the Ripper took out of the body of three of his victims. It is highly unlikely that Scotland Yard knew of Tumblety’s antecedents as far back as 1861, yet we have corroborating evidence that they connected him to attempting to collect human organs. The London correspondents to US newsgathering organizations were highly respected in London and one or more had Scotland Yard sources.

Michael L Hawley is the author of Dr. Francis Tumblety & the Railway Ripper (2023), Jack the Ripper Suspect Dr. Francis Tumblety (2018), and The Ripper’s Haunts (2016) and has published over twenty research articles on the Whitechapel murders mystery in Ripperologist, Whitechapel Society Journal, and The New Independent Review. He is coauthor with true crime expert Alan R. Warren on the nonfiction book Jack the Ripper: The Interviews (2020), and is a participating author of Who Was Jack the Ripper? (2019). He is also a cohost on NBC Radio’s House of Mystery with Allen R. Warren.

The Ripperologist Lechmere Cross Word

Clues:

- First name of ‘Johnny Upright’: Sergeant _____ Thick (8)
- First name of ‘one-armed Liz’: A _____ Morris (5)
- Location of the murder of Martha Tabrum: _e____ Yard (6)
- Confessor of the crimes and drunkard: Alfred Napier _____ d (9)
- ‘Assistant’ to Thomas Bond: Charles H _____ (7)
- First name of the victim from the corner of Wentworth Street: E____ Smith (4)
- Witness at Mary Ann Nichols’ inquest: Thomas E____ (3)
- Surname of Samuel, a witness at Frances Coles’ inquest: __r__s (6)
- East End stage star and daughter of one of original members of the vigilance committees: A____ Reeve (3)
- Had a quarrel with Annie Chapman over a bar of soap: E____ Cooper (5)
- Detective, first name Baxter: _un_ (4)
- Sailor who accompanied Frances Coles on the night she died: _____ Thomas Sadler (5)



Answers at the end of this edition

²⁴ *Buffalo Courier*. May 4, 1859.