

## W.A. DOWDEN - Lunacy Charge

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On Wednesday a lunacy commission composed of Drs. Barcus and Beatty, and Justices Buck and Stillwell declared W. A. Dowden to be a person of unsound mind and at the earliest practicable moment he will be taken to the insane hospital for treatment. Dowden is the chap now in jail on a charge of passing a bogus check on the Grand Shoe Store. Immediately after his arrest his relatives entered a vigorous protest alleging that the boy had been of unsound mind for some time and these allegations were sustained by Dr. Beatty of New Market who had treated him. Accordingly a lunacy commission was called with the result stated. The proceedings were held Wed and prove interesting. The testimony went to show that Dowden is hardly a fellow to be pitied, as all his delusions are of a most pleasing and soothing character. He imagines that he has two or three loving and doting wives, a magnificent carriage and team with silver mounted harness, and good clothes and \$500 in the bank. It was for realizing on this imaginary bank account that this sweetly deluded young gentleman was pulled. He was examined Tuesday at the jail by Dr. Barcus and Squires Buck & Stilwell and insisted that three weeks ago he was married to a Miss Falen who resides with John North and wife. He solemnly declared that they had been married in due and ancient form by Squire Buck and the denials of that gentleman were scornfully set aside. Mr. Dowden also spoke tenderly of other wives he had to his credit. It was shown by witnesses that the boy had never been married. Mr. Vancleave, for whom he worked, testified that Dowden was insane on the subject of lying. He seemed to love to spin the wildest sort of yarns and do it in sober earnest. In fact, it was shown conclusively that Dowden is a fellow who enjoys life as few are able to do even when possessed of great wealth, perfect health, hosts of friends and a sunny temper. Life to Dowden is one long sweet pipe dream with no reactionary hours of misery and headache to mar the existing bliss.