

# The Devil and the Grafter; And how They Work Together to Deceive, Swindle and Destroy Mankind: an Army of 600,000 Criminals at War with Society and Religion

Clifton Rodman Wooldridge

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The Devil and the Grafter; And how They Work Together to Deceive, Swindle and Destroy Mankind: an Army of 600,000 Criminals at War with Society and Religion Clifton Rodman Wooldridge This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1907 edition. Excerpt: ...and backers disheartened. From four to ten confidence men skilled in the art of acting, and skilled in this connection implies the fullest meaning of that word, formed the combination known as the "Woolen Mills" gangs. One gang worked under the direction of "Farmer" Brown, and others were headed by grafters of equal accomplishments. Three of the "con" men in these gangs remained about the fake offices, and the others worked the vicinity of the railroad depots, the stock yards, and the public streets and buildings, on the lookout for victims. The outside men, known as bunko steerers, approached unsophisticated strangers. One of the swindlers would hasten to the victim, grasp his hand and call him by some fake name. Invariably the stranger stated that a mistake had been made, and during the explanation by the grafter, the stranger's real name was secured. This was quickly imparted to another bunko steerer who carried a pocket bank and postoffice directory. The second swindler quickly gleaned the directories and picked out the name of a banker or the postmaster in the town from which the stranger hailed or nearest which he resided. Then came the fine work. The second "con" man approached the stranger and called him by his right name. He introduced himself as a nephew, brother, or cousin of the banker or postmaster, and stated that he was in business with the "Great Western VVoolen Mills." He then invited the stranger to accompany him to the office of the woolen mills company to have a free suit of clothing made. "We're making suits for advertising purposes, and all we ask is for you to show it to the folks out home, and tell them how the 'Great Western Woolen...



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