

ROWAN'S RECORDS.

*Mysteriously Abstracted from the Files
—The Book Containing the Mu-
tilated Papers in the Green.*

*Hargis Case Stolen from
the Clerk's Office.*

[Morehead Special to Cla. Enquirer.]

The old saying, "Hell's to pay in Rowan," has at last become literally true by the breaking into the office of the County and Circuit Clerk at this place, and taking therefrom the book containing the records of the Rowan County Court for 1866, and among which were what is known as the "mutilated records," harped upon so much by Green in his charges against Judge T. F. Hargis of the Court of Appeals, and claimed to be so important by both sides in the celebrated Green Hargis case, now pending in the Jefferson County Court of Common Pleas. Although the records were stolen last week, yet nothing was known of it outside of this county until yesterday, when the report reached Owingville.

An Enquirer representative immediately mounted a steed and started for Morehead, arriving early and finding the report only too true. The records are gone, but where no one seems to have the most remote idea.

The Clerk's office, a small frame building about sixteen feet square and one story high, with no vault or other safe receptacle for the records, deeds, wills, settlements, &c., was visited, and found to have been forcibly entered by the forcing open of the shutters to the only window in the building and the breaking in the window. James M. Johnson, the Clerk of the Rowan County Circuit Court, was away from home on the night of the stealing, and did not return until late next evening, when, as he says, he found the books of the office all turned topsy-turvy, the papers all scattered, the books containing the records of the County Court for 1866 missing, and a general pandemonium existing in his office. It was plain to see how the entrance had been effected, and after admission had been once gained, there was no trouble to secure coveted treasure and make off with it. But how is it to benefit either Green or Hargis we cannot see.

The stealing of these records puts Judge Hargis to an immense disadvantage, and disconcerts his plans considerably, while it cannot injure his case materially. Certain it was not Hargis' friends that did the burglary. Green, through his attorney and in person, was taking depositions in the case up to Friday, August 1, at Morehead, and had taken the depositions of quite a number of persons, had the book containing these mutilated records present, got all out of them he possibly could for his side of the case, had the mutilated pages photographed, and, declaring themselves through with the books, ordered the Clerk to take them to his office before the adjournment to meet Tuesday, August the 12, 1879, at the same place and for same purpose, so that after Green has got everything he possibly could in his favor from the books, and Hargis had taken no proof whatever from them, and relying greatly on them to carry him out, it is hardly to be supposed that any of Judge Hargis' friends had any thing to do with the abstraction of these important documents.

Judge Hargis will begin taking depositions at Morehead just as soon as Green closes, which will be about the first of next week. If he had the records said to have been mutilated by him, he would be able to make his proof stronger and more convincing, and it would be much easier shown if he had the records present to refer his witnesses to and freshen their memory.