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[Vol 26.]

Capital Story.

A PROFESSIONAL SCAR.

BY AN OLD LAWYER.

Your kind letter, Harry, came duly to hand; and you will be surprised to learn that a careless question of yours will draw forth in answer enough to cover a sheet:—"What caused that scar on my temple?" It is a professional scar, Harry; one that I have carried ever since my earliest practice; and although I have now arrived at a tolerable old age, and have many, many intimate friends, it is a most singular fact that you are the first and only person that ever inquired into its origin. I can tell you all about it, but must avoid names and places, for the parties most interested in the incident are now living, I am under strong bonds of secrecy.

As the year 1827, after passing through a long examination before grave judges and shrewd barristers, I was pronounced a properly-qualified person to appear before juries and courts, for others as well as myself, and at once proceeded to a large southern city, where, by a modest little sign over the door of a modest little office, I announced my readiness to commence the practice of the law. For three months I waited, but plain business came, and I sat in my office on a dreary night, at about eleven o'clock, in this very comfortable position: my money was gone entirely; my board bill was to be paid in the morning, and my rent the day following; and I absolutely feared to go to my boarding house, and waited in what seemed the forlorn hope that something in the way of a fee might appear on my desk. Outside, no step was heard; and as I occasionally glanced through my window, the flame of the street light, moved by the wind, would seemingly move me homeward; but I would not go. A footstep sounded in my entry; a second, and a third, and more, but so light that my heart beating prevented my counting them; and then a little delicate knock. I compelled myself to say "Come in," with a calm voice. I expected to be instantly *vis-a-vis* with a young woman; the door opened, and I saw—an old one.

I had only time to move towards a chair before she was in the centre of the room and speaking:—"I have no time to sit. You are a lawyer; are you good for anything?"

My insulted dignity was controlled by an effort, and answered that I flattered myself that I possessed some talent for my profession, or I should not have chosen it.

"Well, well, no gas; can you draw a paper?"

Here again I ventured to remark that it depended somewhat on its nature; but I saw from her impatient manner that she wanted no trifling. Before I finished the sentence, she interrupted me with a fleetness of manner exceeding her former rough one, saying:—"I want a will drawn—quick! but so strong that all the powers on earth or below it can't undo it! Can you do it?" and she fairly glared at us with impatience for my answer.

Now you know, Harry, that my legal education was obtained entirely in a surrogate's office; and you may presume that on the law and forms of last wills and testaments I felt myself sufficiently posted up.—I accordingly assured her that I could draw a will, which, though I could not warrant it to pass the ordeal she mentioned, would, I was sure, be proof against the efforts of all the lawyers in Christendom.

And now her manner changed from the force and bold to the anxious and hurried:—"Come then, quick! quick! I want a will, and you shall pocket one thousand dollars for your night's work!" she exclaimed.

And, amazed and bewildered as I was, I found myself at a neighboring corner, stepping into a hack, before the startling but comfortable words, "a thousand dollars for your night's work!" had ceased ringing in my ears. My conductress followed me in, and without orders we were rattled furiously along the street to the ——— House, then the largest hotel in the city. My vision of one thousand bright dollars kept my tongue bridled, and I was led in silence up two flights of stairs into a suite of rooms comprising a parlor and two bedrooms. The parlor, however, was occupied by a bed, in which lay an old and evidently dying man. A servant was with him but he left, upon a motion from the hand of my companion, who approached the bed and said:—"I have an attorney here, sir; shall he proceed?"

The old man's eyes brightened up, and after glaring on me for a moment, he spoke:—"If you can draw my will, do it; quick now, for I must save my breath."

I turned to the table, where I found paper, pens, ink, and every thing necessary; and by the light of two sporn candles in heavy silver candlesticks, I was soon busily engaged at the will.

I will not trouble you with the details, nor, in fact, do I remember them; but it is enough to say that a large amount of property, real and personal, bonds, mortgages, etc., were left in the words of the will, to "my good and faithful housekeeper, Angelina," as a token of gratitude. But the concluding words of the will I shall never forget; they were written from his own mouth, and made me shudder as I wrote them. There is something fearful, dreadful—yes, devilish—in thus deliberately recording, in what purports to be your last written wish, a curse upon your own offspring. And I felt, as I wrote it, an involuntary desire to tear the paper into fragments, and to rush from the room, but the thousand dollars were like so many anchors, and I said and wrote:—"We are very happy may God bless you!"

I have to my daughter Dora, all that I possess, and she can obtain from my heart's desire. When I was a child, she was my only home—the street—and dog share with her the refuse of the gutter, she may regret that she disobeyed him who once loved her, but who dying, cursed her!"

There was something like a chuckle in the direction of old Angelina as the dying words dictated these fearful words; but as I looked and saw the stern face as rigid as marble, I concluded I must have been mistaken. I could not, however, divest myself of a certain feeling, that all was wrong. A rich old man, accompanied by an housekeeper, and dying in a strange city; her anxiety to have the will so strong; the curse on his daughter, and the large fee, all conspired to make me feel that I was taking instrumental in the accomplishment of some villainous object. Again I meditated the destruction of the paper, and again my eye and my hands conquered. The will was finished, and I read it over, aloud, the old man groaning, and the old woman looking on with a look of horror when I read the terrible curse a new actor appeared in the scene.

"O dear! dear! O God! you know not what you do!"

The plaintive tones of the voice touched my heart, even before my eyes beheld its owner; but when I saw her, heavens and earth! what an angel she was! The language is yet undiscovered, Harry, that is competent to give you a description of that face: the eyes dancing with excitement, yet liquid with tears; the mouth proud as Juno's yet compressed with anguish. But why do I attempt description? The most majestic, yet sweetest countenance I ever beheld, appeared to me, and not in vain; for while the old man, weak as he was, jumped from his bed screaming, "Kill her! kill her!" I tore the will into fragments, and we both fell to the floor, he dead, and I stunned by a blow from the heavy candlestick wielded by the old hag, Angelina.

When my consciousness returned, I found myself in my own bed at my boarding-house. My host and hostess my sole attendants.—My mind was clear the moment I looked about me, and I knew I had been brought home, and was now confined by the effects of that blow. I resolved to keep my own counsel, and to ascertain what I could of the subsequent proceedings of the night. Upon inquiry, I found that I had been brought home by a young gentleman in a carriage, who had left funds for the employment of a physician, and had also left a letter for me. I opened the letter as soon as I was alone, and found a fifty dollar bank note, with these words:—"You did, last night, a deed worthy of more gratitude than our present means enable us to express. The property which so nearly belonged to the infamous hag who struck you, will soon be ours, and you shall then hear from us. May the same kindness which prompted to tear the paper, seal your lips hereafter to the painful scene of last evening."

Gratefully yours,
DORA AND HER HUSBAND.

My first act was to conceal the letter beneath my pillow; my second, to call my host and tender him the amount of my board bill. To my astonishment he told me that my companion paid it when he left the letter. It seems I raved a little about my inability to pay my host while I was unconscious, and thus the husband of Dora (for I had no doubt it was he who brought me home) had ascertained the fact and paid my bill. Added to this, my wound was not severe enough to need any surgery more than was offered by my kind landlady; so when I had recovered, (which was soon,) I had only my office rent to pay, and then resumed business with the larger part of the one hundred dollars in my treasury. I made cautious inquiries about the ——— House as to the subsequent movements of my mysterious clients, on that eventful night, the old man ordering a pleasant room in which he could die;

that the young couple came by another conveyance, and had taken other rooms; that the old man's body was immediately boxed up and shipped for the north under charge of his man-servant; that the old woman went off alone; and that finally, the young man paid the whole bill, and left also with his wife. To do my worthy host and his kind lady justice, I must say that they never hinted at the matter, and I never had occasion to answer; they probably took it for granted that I had been the victim of some broil and avoided annoying me by any reference to it.

Thirty years of hard work rolled by, Harry, during which I acquired a family, fortune, fame, and gray hairs; but I never in all that time, saw or heard of my client, with the exception of one letter which was received some years after the occurrence which I have related, and which contained two more fifty dollar bills, with the words:—"We are very happy may God bless you!"

But all this time, I have not forgotten that beautiful angelic face, nor the mute appeal which it made to my heart; the answer to which cost me the deep scar which is the object of your present curiosity, and a one thousand dollar fee, less the amount received from the young folks. Neither did I in all that time regret the course I had taken.

Some ten years ago, as you probably remember I spent a winter in Havana. I boarded with a Spanish landlord, whose house was generally filled with American visitors. But strange to say, I passed one week with him without a single American arrival; and was mentally resolving one day to leave for New Orleans, when I could find troops of friends, and rid myself of ennui consequent upon my solitary position, when I heard my host calling me.

"Senor, Senor, los Americanos—Americanos!"

Looking from my window, I saw a fine portly gentleman attending to his luggage and answering the demands of the leeches. I stepped forth, and he came forward, and I heard him say to the leeches:—"Service to him! I want my servant with me; I have a fine old stager submitted to me, but he suddenly started back, then glanced at my temple, and seeing the end of the candlestick mark peering out beneath my sombrero, he caught me by the hand, exclaiming:—"We have met before, sir!—how glad I am to see you!"

And then without explanation he drew me to the doorway in which stood a matronly but still beautiful woman.

"See, Dora," said he, "is not this our old friend?"

At the word "Dora" I started and there before me, sure enough, stood the Dora of thirty years previous, still retaining many of her charms, but with the mark of time, notwithstanding, impressed upon her features.

You may well believe our reunion was most pleasant; and after our dinner was over, and we were out enjoying the sea breeze, the whole story was told. I will not give you the details of it; it was long, but the main features of it were about what I had surmised. Dora was the only child of a wealthy father; her mother died when she was a mere child; old Angelina had remained with her father in the capacity of a housekeeper, and had, while Dora was away at school, acquired, as is generally the case a complete influence over him. Dora was wooed and won by a poor clerk; the father would not listen to it; an element was the consequence; the old man in his rage, broke up housekeeping, and taking old Angelina with him had started for the South.

Dora followed him with her husband, although she knew he would not see her, and though he had been harsh and unkind to her, yet she knew he was in the last stages of consumption, and she determined, if possible, to be with him when he died.

At the time of his death, they had been following him about a month from place to place keeping concealed from him, and eluding even the keen eyes of Angelina.

When Dora appeared it was because the man servant, who had been with her father and who, as you remember left the room when I entered had observed their arrival and had kindly gone to her and informed her immediately, that her father could not live an hour; she was entering the room to make one last effort of reconciliation when my voice reading the fearful words of her father's curse, caused the outcry and the denunciation. Her husband, who followed her in, found the old man dead, Dora in a swoon, me senseless, and old Angelina vainly trying to put his many pieces of the body together, raising and cursing like a demon. He and the man servant put the

old man's body into the bed, took Dora to her room and while the servant kept guard over Angelina, he took me home in a carriage. The rest you know.

I have only to add that whenever I wander north, either alone or with my wife or family, we always stop at house of our kind friends.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FREDERICTON, Feb. 28.

The petition referred to by the Attorney General on Friday, closing, on Great Road Bill, was presented on behalf of Suspension Bridge Company Bill. The reference was in allusion to an antecedent debate, which reporter did not hear, hence the error.

Speaker informed the House that returns from Registrar of King's College had been handed in.

Mr. McAdam submitted Bill to encourage Fisheries.

Mr. Wright introduced a Bill to further amend Act relating to Highways as far as relates to Portland and St. John.

Mr. McPhelin introduced a Bill for protection of Fisheries so far as relates to Kent.

On motion, Mr. Allen was added to Circuit Court Committee.

Mr. Lawrence gave notice of motion for address to extend bounds of Port of entry in St. John to Carleton.

At 12 o'clock Mr. C. Perley moved that Rev. John Brewster be appointed Chaplain in the room of Rev. W. Q. Ketchum, resigned.

Montgomery moved an amendment, that Rev. Charles Coster be appointed.

Some discussion as to propriety of the second nomination coming in as amendment.

On amendment—Yeas—Gilbert, Chandler, Cudlip, Tilley, Hamington, Wilnot, McIntosh, Desbrisay, Montgomery, Vail, Scott, McPhelin, Smith, Lawrence, Allen, Botsford, Waters, Kerr, Gray, Read, Wiliston, McMillan—22.

Nays—McClellan, Lewis, Wright, Tibbitts, C. Perley, Connell, Connell, Fisher, Gilmore, Brown, McAdam, W. E. Perley, Ferris, McLeod, Mitchell, Steadman, Tapley—16.

So that Mr. Coster was elected.

Gray moved orders of the day for Wednesday, Bills to enable parties having claims against Province to have them adjudicated in Courts of Law.

Mr. Tilley's Financial Statement.

Hon. Mr. Tilley laid before the House by command of His Excellency, a statement of the Financial Affairs of the Province.

The estimated expenditures of the past year, ending on 1st November, 1858, were £129,319 18s. 5d.; and the amount paid out of the Province at the close of the fiscal year were £84,364 15s. 9d., and the assets £737,657 3s. 10d. If this statement of the assets and liabilities was compared with that of last year, it would be found that notwithstanding the deficiency of £15,000, this amount had been made up, and there was an increase of £1000. The Railway, of course, got the benefit of this; but he only mentioned it in rendering in the general account. Mr. Tilley referred to the great commercial depression of the past year, and said that had all the banks in this Province suspended specie payments, the Government had made such arrangements with Messrs. Haring and Brothers, that they would have been able to pay all the demands against it in the Savings Bank, and they would if paper money had been depreciated, paid the Railway Contractors in cash. He then referred to the position of New Brunswick debentures, and claimed credit for the extortion the Government had made to raise the character of New Brunswick debentures in the London Market. This had been done, not only officially but even secretly. Officially, gentlemen at home interested themselves in this; and he would mention with pleasure the name of Thomas Daniel, Esq., a gentleman resident for many years in this Province. The presence of the Delegates at home from the different Colonies has had a good effect upon Provincial Securities; and he went on to compare the difference originally existing between Canadian and New Brunswick Debentures, when Canadian were quoted at 110 and New Brunswick at 102; at the present time Canadian were quoted at 115 and New Brunswick at 114; he entered into this detail to show that it was not the change in the money market, but rather the increased character of New Brunswick debentures that caused this. He referred to the arrangements with Messrs. Haring, by which the Province obtained money at five per cent. when the Bank of England was charging 10 per cent. The estimated expenditure from the ordinary Revenue for the present year is estimated at £132,837; and

the expenditure is set down at £132,837.—The whole resources of the Province from every source is estimated at £166,961; and the whole expenditure, £155,940. Mr. Tilley proposes to raise a sum of £7000 by an additional tax of 2½ per cent. on unenumerated articles. A bill for this purpose was introduced. £500 is asked for Emigration purposes in addition to a sum of £200 not drawn last year. He said that the Emigration Office in St. John had been put upon a good footing; and described an arrangement entered into between the Government and the Canadian News, published in England, by which a certain portion of that paper was to be devoted to furthering the interests of this Province, its title had been changed to the "Canadian News and New Brunswick Herald." £2,500 was asked for Steam Navigation; £1000 extra to go for the establishment of a weekly line of Steamers between Shediac and Restigouche and P. E. Island. In the sum for Agriculture, Mr. Tilley said it was the intention of the Government to make no provision for a model farm, but every year, commencing with 1860, an additional sum of £750 was contemplated for the purpose of a public exhibition of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts—to be held alternately in different parts of the Province. It was intended to place all the public buildings under the control of the Board of Works. Mr. Tilley's statement was very clear and explicit, and occupied an hour and twenty minutes in its delivery. The following is a detailed account of the Budget for the coming year—

ESTIMATE OF ORDINARY REVENUE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 31st OCTOBER, 1859.

Estimated amount of Ordinary Revenue to arise from—

Imports, £110,000 0 0
Exports, 16,000 0 0
Casual and Territorial Revenue, 3,500 0 0
Surplus Civil List, 2,150 0 0
Proceeds of Seizures, 400 0 0
Supreme Court Fees, 500 0 0
Auction Duties, 100 0 0
Warehouse Privileges, 180 0 0

£132,830 0 0

ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURE FROM THE ORDINARY REVENUE.

Estimated amount of required Expenditure from Ordinary Revenue, viz:—

Authorized by existing Laws, £72,547 0 0
To be voted by the Legislature, 60,283 0 0

Total estimated Expenditure from Ordinary Revenue, £132,830 0 0

Classification and Distribution of the foregoing estimated expenditure.

Authorized by Law. To be voted by the Legislature.

Civil List, £14,500 0 0
Legislative, 5,000 0 0
Judicial, 3,000 0 0
Revenue Collection and Pro-tection, 3,000 0 0

Debt—Interest for saving bank deposits, debentures (not for railway purposes), & Credits, 8,500 0 0
Post Office, To meet deficiency of Revenue, 6,000 0 0
Public Works, 1,100 0 0
Education, 24,000 0 0
Agriculture, 2,700 0 0
Fisheries, 200 0 0
Provincial Penitentiary, 300 0 0
Lunatic Asylum, 4,000 0 0
Public Health, 500 0 0
Return Duties, 3,000 0 0
Pensions, 320 0 0
Indians, 50 0 0
Military, 230 0 0
Steamboat Inspectors, 120 0 0
Immigration, 500 0 0
Steam Fories, 1,000 0 0
Miscellaneous, 1,000 0 0

Total, £72,547 0 0 £60,283 0 0

It is estimated that the Revenue to arise from the Light House, Sick and Disabled Seamen, and Immigrant Imports, and the Railway Import and Fund, will be more than sufficient to defray all the charges and expenses connected with these services.

Hon. Mr. Tilley brought in a bill to impose duties for Revenue purposes.

Mr. Tilley laid before the House certain comparative statements and returns; and also copies of Reports and other documents connected with the Railway.

Mr. Wilnot enquired if duty had been paid on iron for railway purposes.

Mr. Tilley said it had—at first 10 per cent. had been charged, and afterwards 15 per cent.

House went into Committee of the whole on the Medical Bill, and after some discussion the Committee rose and reported progress.

House adjourned.

Continued on last page.

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