POOR DOCUMENT

MC 2033

WHAT'S TO BE DONE WITH ALL THE MUTILATED COINS IN CIRCULATION?

St. John's Experiences Are Many—Battered Pieces Found Handy for Churches—Do the People Know They're Violating the Law?—What Bankers, Merchants and Church Members Think.

Recently, the St. John board of trade discussed the matter of mutilated coins, and at present the secretary, F. O. Allison, is endeavoring to find out what the practice is for the redemption of such in the United States and England. With that object in view he has opened correspondence with the treasury department at Washington and the imperial board of trade, London. In Canada there is no redemption for these coins but still the nicked, broken, bent, chipped, plugged and otherwise defaced coin of the realm goes floating gaily round, and, like the proverbial bad penny, turns up everywhere and has all seasons for its own.

Man's great inherent quality is to destroy, and when he gets properly started on the downward course all the brakes ever invented are not going to stop him in his mad career till he has left a trail behind, every rood of which bears mark of his despoiling hand. In his early days the only requirement is a jackknife. His maiden efforts are usually on the edge of sewing spools and if he can contrive to out and destroy the thread, all in a harmless way, so much the better; school desks, bridge rails, unless they are of iron or steel, gates, shade trees and every available speck of wood are decorated with his hieroglyphics. When he outgrows that pastime he strays into another realm and battered, broken and fractured hearts—necessarily of the opposite sex—are trampled beneath his feet. But what use to enlarge upon all the damage he can accomplish when man settles down to steady work.

Sometimes—not often, though—he never gets beyond the jackknife habit, and often he retains that, in addition to his other alleged attractions. In the coin of the realm he finds metal more attractive than spools or gates or desks, and secure in the knowledge that he can pass it off for its full value somewhere he proceeds to demonstrate his talent for destructiveness.

Just what particular pleasure can be derived from this coin mutilation it is hard to understand but that it is practiced to a large extent every business establishment can testify. It is to these, the broken and defaced coins come in large quantities and they in turn pass them on to some one else. It is not likely they dump too many in one quarter, but still the exchange goes on and no one is the loser.

As to Redemption.

The difficulties of establishing a redemption system are many. The principal one which would face the government is that this would also start up what is known as sweating silver, which is putting coins in a bag and shaking them; whatever rubs off is kept by the person and if the government redeemed the coins it would keep off what was lost in the sweating process. There may, however, come a time when defaced coins will not be accepted in Canada, and then the Other Fellow will have to provide a different kind of employment for the idle hands he delights to keep busy.

A King street dry goods house says that in the run of a year thousands of these coins come to them, but there is no thought of refusing them unless they are too far gone; the Opera House tells the same story and in fact it would be difficult to find a business place in town, great or small, where they do not come in in large quantities. Nobody seems to see anything out of the ordinary, the chief consideration being that no one is any the poorer by the practice. That is, no one in the usual commercial line loses; nevertheless there are some institutions which are affected by mutilated coinage, among which may be mentioned the churches.

Collection Box a Dumping Ground.

When a piece of money becomes so defaced that it is absolutely useless and is refused on all sides it invariably finds its way into the collection box. It's a queer place to bring up when it is no good and after a long career of usefulness. The person who puts such a coin into the plate doesn't perhaps realize that he is cheating the Lord, but that is what he is doing precisely. If accused of cheating his neighbor the consequences would no doubt be serious for the accuser, but he is pretty safe to go along always dropping useless money into the Lord's treasury without ever being openly brought to task, and to many the real wrongdoing is in being found out. It would be infinitely more shameful to such people to let the plate pass them without acknowledgement than to drop in any old thing that happened to be handy at the time.

The treasurers of the different churches have identical experiences, in greater and lesser degrees of course in this line, only one church claiming almost absolute freedom from this church cheating practice. Said a prominent member of this denomination: "Only twice in my experience—a pretty long one—have I found a useless thing in the collection box and these were counterfeit quarters. I do not attribute it to superior honesty of our congregation at all, but it doesn't occur and there you are."

"Everything goes when it comes to the collection box," said the treasurer of a fashionable church, "and it is surprising to what an extent this practice is carried. I have at home a big collection of buttons, tobacco stamps, with the little clips carefully cut off, counterfeits, bills and silver, coins of countries I know and coins of countries I don't know, plugged pieces, silver that once had been used as brooch or bangle, ornaments from hair pins, and in fact such a heterogeneous collection as would make the really truly Christian's hair rise to its hind feet. There isn't much satisfaction in keeping them, only sometimes when I'm feeling as if the world, the flesh and the other fellow had possession of me I get out the whole lot and think how much worse I might be. For the life of me I can't see where the advantage comes in putting such things in the collection; there is no compulsion about contributing and most every one can raise one or two cents a week. I sell the defaced coins for their silver and give the proceeds to the church."

Treasurer Allison's Collection.

Perhaps the most unique collection of coins in the city is owned by F. O. Allison who, in addition to other numerous duties, fills the position of treasurer for St. John's (Stone) church. It was through this connection the interesting collection was obtained. This is no reflection in this remark upon the congregation whatever, but this church attracts hosts of strangers during the summer months and doubtless they are the chief offenders. Mutilated coins, defaced, and American silver form a small part of the collection, but still each variety is there, and as Mr. Allison said, "people who are afraid to attempt to pass the coins anywhere else get rid of them through the collection box. They are not likely to be detected and, though they don't know it, it isn't wholly a loss for when we get a sufficient quantity of useless silver we sell it and charge up the difference to the church.

"I really do not mind this defaced silver practice so much, for anyone is likely to drop it in the box by mistake. The most careful of us trip sometimes and though for many years I've had this very matter before me weekly I had a peculiar experience a few years ago. I was in Boston and in changing some money I got a piece with a hole in it. The Americans never take mutilated coins and my piece was refused in several places. It grew to be quite a familiar friend and so when I missed it on my way home I naturally fell to wondering what had become of it. I mentioned my loss to my wife who was travelling with me and my chagrin may be imagined when the prompt reply came, 'No, you didn't lose it. You put it in the collection box at Philips Brooks' church last Sunday morning. I saw you when you did it.'

"It is pretty hard to tell just when a coin should be refused on the ground of defacement but it really seems as if there should be redemption for them. Still, as I said, I do not wholly blame the person who drops a coin of this kind into the collection box, but there are limits to even a church treasurer's patience, and its about reached when one finds in the box a trophy like this in the form of what I think is a street railway check. As will be noticed, it is a round metal thing with a hole in the center and the words 'B. P. U. Ry. one fare.'

Other Curios.

"Here's a part of a watch charm that looks like a society emblem that turned up serenely in the box one morning; as for bangles, look here," and Mr. Allison turned out enough of the engraved pieces which ladies sometimes string together into a bracelet to make several of these one time popular forms of adornment. They were mostly in five and ten cent pieces and all were decorated in some manner or another; one bore the name "Laura" and others had only monograms in all sorts of fanciful designs. In fact every form of workmanship was represented, from a daintily engraved little fan, exquisitely worked out in the silversmith's best manner, to a horseshoe and other designs meaningless except to the original possessor of the pretty trifle. It would be interesting to know under what stress of circumstances the owners came to part with what must have once been a treasured memento.

The foreign coins were many and represented almost every country on the face of the earth. With all due respect to our own coinage, quite the prettiest in the lot was that of Russia. Enough of it, in the land of the czar, must be not only a joy forever but decidedly a thing of beauty. All other coins look cheap and common beside the product of the Russian mint.

"Here's a medal struck at the time of the Chesapeake and Shannon affair," continued Mr. Allison, "and a coin bearing the words, 'Ships, Colonies and Commerce,' but with all other marks of identification worn off. This Jamaica cent has been silvered and here's a plugged Canadian five cent piece and a counterfeit of the same denomination. The Straits Settlements, away in the Eastern Seas, contribute this 10 cent piece, and here are 10 reis from Portugal, a Turkish coin decorated with strange characters, Belgian, Peruvian, Argentine, Isle of Jersey, old Spanish coins and a host of others with all trace of country and value obliterated. Some of these coins bear date of over 60 years ago. It really seems impossible that such things should find their way into a church collection box in this city but even they are preferable to some other things, buttons and button moulds, for instance. In regard to the bangles and watch charms, well I've heard of people in moments of religious excitement casting personal adornments into the church collection, but so far as I can recall the Stone church has had no experience of that kind, so all that's left to one is conjecture. The board of trade would like to see some provision for the redemption of defaced coins if feasible. It seems to me that taking into consideration the fact that there is not the face value of silver in any one piece when issued any government could stand what is lost in knocking around. If a tattered old bank note of say $5 is worth full value in that state I do not see why silver is not accepted in the same manner."

What the Law Says.

In reference to this matter of defaced coins and the uttering or tender of them the Canadian criminal code, section 473 provides a penalty of 14 years' imprisonment for any person who impairs, diminishes or lightens any current gold or silver coin with intent that the coin so impaired, diminished or lightened may pass for gold or silver coin.

Section 409 provides one year's imprisonment for defacing current gold, silver or copper coin by stamping thereon any names or words, whether such coin is or is not thereby diminished or lightened, and afterwards tendering the same.

Section 475, sub-section A, dealing with uttering or tendering light coins, provides a penalty of three years for any person who "utters as being current, any gold or silver coin of less than its lawful weight, knowing such coin to have been impaired, diminished or lightened, otherwise than by lawful wear."

Section 478 provides a penalty not exceeding $10 for uttering any coin defaced by having stamped thereon any names or words.

Bankers' Opinions.

"There is one thing a worse nuisance than mutilated coins, and that is American silver," said H. D. McLeod, of the Dominion Savings Bank, "we never accept either here. As for the defaced coins, they are not much trouble to us as we absolutely refuse them. No person can be compelled to accept mutilated money, as in that state it is not legal tender. If the merchants would join in refusing American silver a remedy would soon be effected."

D. C. Clinch thought something should be done to stop the mutilated coin nuisance. Defaced silver is not accepted in the United States and the same thing should be enforced here. Any scheme making for the rigid enforcement of such a law would receive his hearty co-operation. The man who wantonly mutilated silver should be punished.

A number of other banking establishments added vigorous protest to the circulation of mutilated and defaced silver, and were unanimous in their desire that the practice should be stopped. Said one prominent banker: "It's nothing short of pure cussedness when a man deliberately cuts and hacks a piece of silver, and I honestly think he should be punished—when it can be traced to the person who did it. I can't understand why people accept such money, unless indeed as in the case of a debt, when I suppose a man thinks it's better to accept that than nothing. In this country he knows he can pass it off on some one else, I make it a hard and fast rule to take no silver that has been mutilated, and it is really amusing sometimes to see the faces of those whose coin is declined. They imagine they are out the amount they have on hand, and are consequently a little flurried. I will heartily support any movement that will stop the defaced coin practice."

OTTAWA HAS NO MAYOR.

Ottawa, Nov. 17—(Special)—Mr. William Dowler Morris is no longer mayor of Ottawa. At the police court Saturday, he pleaded guilty of buying liquor at the Russell House on Monday, November 11, and was fined $5 and $2 costs, or three days in jail. Consequently, according to law, he is disqualified. On the first charge, that of obtaining liquor on Saturday night, November 9, his worship pleaded not guilty. P. C. Hatton, who laid the information, asked for a remand for a week, which was granted. Mayor Morris is disqualified by reason of a clause in the liquor license act.

The mayor readily accepts disqualification and takes the situation in a matter of fact style, although his position is not a very pleasant one. After the court he walked up to Elgin street and conversed with a few friends on the corner. He then went over to the city hall and informed Mr. Henderson that he was no longer chief magistrate of the capital.

The council tomorrow night will have to elect a mayor who will fill the chair for the balance of ex-Mayor Morris' term. The acting mayor will likely be Ald. Champagne, chairman of finance, or Ald. R. J. Davidson, at present the father of the council. In case Ald. Champagne is appointed a new chairman of finance will have to be chosen.

It is necessary that a successor should be named to Mr. Morris at once, as the office is now vacant and there is no acting head of the municipality to sign by-laws, cheques, etc. Some of the aldermen are highly indignant at the way the affair has turned out and discussed the situation in an animated manner in the city hall. Others say that the mayor, in his fight with the chief of police, invited that which has now befallen him. Mayor Morris, on being interviewed, said: "Well, I am no longer mayor of Ottawa. I must go and tell Mr. Henderson, city clerk, that my functions cease. I have accepted my disqualification and it means that I am put out of business. There is now a vacancy in the chair, owing to the culmination of a plot, yes, a conspiracy. My opponents have succeeded in getting rid of me by this nefarious and insidious scheme, when they could not do it by votes. I am the victim of a conspiracy and my reform of the police department has, for a time, been stemmed. My persecutors thought perhaps that I would evade the issue, but I pleaded guilty and accept the penalty and disqualification which is carried with it."

"Will you pay your fine or go to jail?" was asked, it being the impression of some of his worship's friends that he will go to jail.

"Do not ask me," remarked the ex-mayor; "I have nothing to say on that point."

Ald. W. H. Lewis had nothing to say. The reason he signed the summons was because he had to as acting magistrate. He had nothing to do with the matter and did not want to. The mayor and police could wash their own dirty linen.

"It's a long lane that has no turn," said Ald. Grant. "The mayor has been calling civic officials thieves and liars and now he has got the worst of it." In his opinion the prosecution was a private one and not the work of the chief of police.

Ald. Taggart said it was not by any means a fair deal and it would certainly reflect no credit on anybody connected. The mayor has broken the law, and he must abide by it, but it was a mean way to fight a man.

It is stated tonight that Mr. Morris will appeal to the lieutenant governor in council for a pardon from the conviction.

ORIGIN OF THE SUN.

Lecture of Sir Robert S. Ball on "The Bearing of Modern Discovery on the Nebular Theory."

A hall filled in every available spot greeted Sir Robert S. Ball last evening on the occasion of his second lecture in the Lowell Institute course, says the Boston Transcript. The subject was, "The Origin of the Sun," and the paper with its superb illustrations held the attention of the listeners to the very last moment. The first point maintained was that geologists have proven that the plants which form the coal fields must have flourished not less than a million years ago, and that the leaves of these plants expanded under a beneficent sun just as do their relatives of today, while the eye of the Ichthyosaurus is one which we know to have been fitted for using light. So there is no question but that for millions of years the sun has heated and lighted the earth. It is only proper to ask then, what are the means whereby the sun has been able to keep up so enormous an expenditure of energy for so long a time? As an illustration the speaker noted Langley's assertion that if all the coal in the earth could be stoked to the sun the quantity would be no more that sufficient to maintain the solar fires for a single second of time.

Various suggestions have been made for an answer to the question. Some have asserted the sun to be a heated ball which is gradually losing its heat. If this were true and the sun had been a mass of iron raised to a white heat, it would in seventy years have dissipated its heat and become cold. It is obvious that no "heated ball" hypothesis will account for the expenditure so lavishly maintained throughout millions of years. Others have claimed combustion of its substance to be the cause of the sun's heat, but this hypothesis is insufficient, for where the sun is a solid sphere of the best coal and so supplied with oxygen as to emit heat at the present rate, it would be entirely consumed in about 2,800 years. This suggestion must, therefore, be no longer considered. It has been thought that the fuel of the sun comes from streams of meteors which collide with it, but this is utterly inadequate to the results. But the nebular theory steps in and gives an explanation—the indraft to the sun of an enormous nebula. The sun is now shrinking in size, it has been shrinking for millions of years and in the vista of the past we can see it a huge nebula.

Sir Robert explained at some length the Helmholzian proposition—the development of energy through shrinkage. He imagined, for illustration, that a pound of nebula had been "forgotten" and left at a distance of say a million times a million times a million miles while the rest of the nebula condensed to the sun's present size. The attraction of the sun on the bit of nebula would gradually pull it, a motion infinitely small to begin with, not more, perhaps, than a fraction of an inch in the first thousand years. But gathering impetus through the cycles, surpassing at length the speed of a horse, then that of a railroad train, then that of a rifle bullet, then that of the earth in its orbit, it would finally hurl itself upon the sun with a velocity of four hundred miles a second. The heat developed by such impact would be out of all ratio to the weight of the impinging body. To show this point the more strongly, the speaker noted that a meteoric body not larger in bulk than the piece of chalk in his hand, travelling through space with a velocity of only five miles a second is burned instantly on striking the earth's atmosphere by the heat caused by the friction with the air, and such meteor would be one that would demand our attention even at our distance of two hundred miles below it. It is computed that the energy developed by the bit of nebula striking the sun would be equivalent to that resulting from the combustion of 6,400 pounds of coal. By a method to which these figures are in a way a key, mathematicians have concluded that the shrinking of the sun from a nebula extending practically to infinity to its present size has developed energy euvalent to that resulting from the consumption of 3,500 globes of coal each as heavy as the sun. This gives some ground for prediction for the heat equivalent of contraction from its present size and density to any other size and corresponding density may be determined. Sir Robert selected the density of platinum for the purpose, and his figures show that in shrinking to a corresponding size the sun will develop from now on energy equivalent to that of 4,900 globes of coal. It is reasonable to believe, then, that the sun has not yet reached the middle of its career as a luminous and glowing star. In conclusion, Sir Robert stated that a strong confirmation of the nebular theory lies in the fact that physicists have been able to find in the sun the very elements of which the earth is composed. Iron, lime, carbon and hydrogen are known to exist there in abundance.

The lantern views were of the same high character as before. Two of them were of flying bullets, illustrative of high velocities, and a third, from the camera of Barnard of Yerkes, was of a trail of a meteor, a photograph so excellent as to show the increase and decrease in light characteristic of the transitory brilliancy of these objects. One of the most striking of the views was of a sun spot and the surrounding portion of the photosphere. The spot, said Sir Robert, is the dark surface of the sun far below, while the luminous portion, that which gives us light, is composed of clusters of bright particles of carbon. Two beautiful comets were shown, one slide being especially striking to the novice. The comet was one which had a rapid motion with reference to the stars and, since it was the object sought, the telescope was so moved as to keep up with it in its motion. Each of the stars, and there were hundreds of them, traced its own course across the plate, impressing thereon a small arc which under the lantern became an arc of light. The view had the similitude, as the speaker pointed out, of a comet viewed through a heavy rain of fiery particles.

The next lecture, which will be given on Monday evening, will have for its object, "The Origin of the Earth."

SMALLPOX ON BOARD.

Members of Crew of Steamer from Persian Gulf Were Affected With Disease.

New York, Nov. 17.—The British tramp steamer Gerkistan arrived today from Bussorah, a port at the head of the Persian Gulf, with a full cargo of new crop dates. While at Bussorah smallpox broke out among the crew. The second engineer was sent ashore at Bussorah suffering with the disease and the ship sailed without him. At Aden the chief officer was sent ashore for treatment and one of the native crew died of consumption. Captain Will fell sick but is now well. At Port Said one of the native crew was sent ashore with smallpox. Since leaving Algiers all have been well. The health officer he'd the steamer at quarantine for examination.

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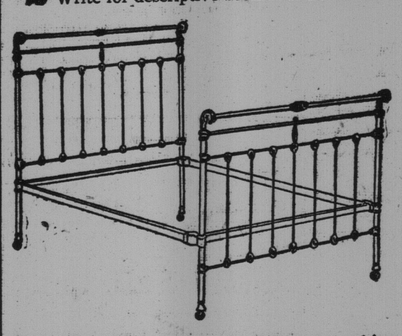

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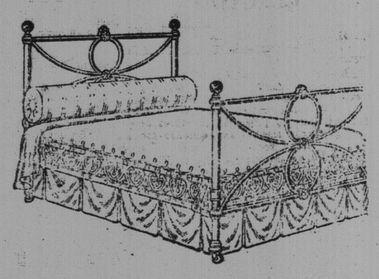

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—Vice Chancellor SIR W. PAGE WOOD, stated publicly in court that DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE was undoubtedly the INVENTOR of CHLORODYNE, that the whole story of the defendant Freeman was deliberately untrue, and he regretted to say that it had been sworn to.—See The Times, July 18, 1894

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WANTED—A second-class female teacher, for District No. 5, Parish of Lorne. District classed poor. State salary, and apply to W. H. Miller, secretary to trustees, Nictau, Victoria county, N. B. 11-20-2i-w.

WANTED—A second or third class teacher for School District No. 12, St. Martins, St. John county; would prefer engaging by the year. District on list for poor allowance. State lowest salary and apply to S. J. Shanklin, secretary to trustees, Shanklin, St. John county. 11-15-3i-d—3i-w.

WANTED Reliable Men in every locality throughout Canada to introduce our goods, tacking up show cards on trees, fences, along roads and all conspicuous places, also distributing small advertising matter. Commission or salary $60.00 per month and expenses, not to exceed $2.50 per day. Steady employment to good, honest reliable men. No experience needful. Write for full particulars, THE EMPIRE MEDICINE CO., London, Ont.

TEACHER WANTED in Middleton District, Parish of Norton, Second or Third Class Female Teacher for present term. Address William Robinson, Secretary to Trustees, stating salary. 9-25-tf-w

WANTED—A first or second-class female teacher, for school district No 12 Mascarene, Parish St. George, Charlotte county. Apply, stating salary, to John Stewart, secretary to trustees.

WANTED—At once a few young men and ladies to take a course in telegraphy and secure good positions. For terms, particulars, etc., apply to L. Vogel, Teacher, No. 115 Queen street, City. 11-13-4i-w.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—Fifty copies sacred Cantata "David the Shepherd Boy," in first-class condition; will be sold at less than half price. This cantata was recently rendered in this city with great success, and is highly recommended for singing classes or choral societies. Apply to S. J. McGowan, care this office. 4-2 tf

FOR SALE—1 Marine Engine, 18 H. P., second hand, 1 do 5 H. P. Steel Boiler (upright), 1 Engine Lathe 15 in. by 6 ft., 1 set Platform Scales, 3 tons capacity, second hand. We carry in stock Bone Grinders, Portable Forges, etc., etc. Joseph Thompson Machine Works, 48-58 Smythe Street, St. John, N. B. Telephone 968.

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Dr. J. H. Ryan,
Late Specialist in New York Eye, Ear and Throat Hospitals,
Accuracy in Fitting Glasses.
High-grade Spectacleware.
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Notice of Sale.

To Henry Pierce, of the Parish of Norton in the County of Kings, and Province of New Brunswick, Farmer, and Ernest Pierce, of the same place, and Sa his wife, and all others whom it may anywise concern:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that FRIDAY, the third day of January, A. 1902, at two o'clock in the afternoon at near the Court House at Hampton in t County of Kings, the undersigned will offe for sale at public auction under and b virtue of a power of sale contained in certain indenture of mortgage bearing da the thirteenth day of October, A. D., 18 and made between the above named He Pierce and Sarah Drucilla, his wife, of one part, and Robert Baxter, of the ot part, and duly registered in the office the Registrar of Deeds in and for the s County of Kings, in Book G, No. 4, pages 171, 172, 173, 174 and 175, on th teenth day of October, A. D., 1883, Number 27049, certain lands and premise the said mortgage described as follows:

"All that certain lot, piece or parcel o land, situate, lying and being in the sai Parish of Norton, being the easterly or upp half part of Lot No. 44, in the origin grant thereof, and comprising two seven lots of land of fifty acres, purchased by th said Henry Pierce, respectively from Henr Baxter and Elijah A. Baxter and Olivia, h wife, by two several deeds of conveyanc and also from James Henry Ramsay and Maria, his wife, William Ramsay and Eliza beth Ann, his wife, by another deed o conveyance; the said lot hereby sold an conveyed being bounded and described follows, viz.; On the southerly front by Kennebeccasis River; on the easterly by land owned and occupied by John Raymond; on the northerly rear by the base line of said lot No. 44, and on the westerly side by land owned and occupied by Henr Baxter; containing one hundred acres more or less; together with all and singular the buildings and improvements thereon and the rights, privileges, hereditaments and appurtenances to the said lands belonging or in anywise appertaining; default having been made in the payment of the principal moneys and the interest thereon secured by the said mortgage—contrary to the proviso for the payment of the same in the said mortgage contained.

The above mortgage and the lands and premises therein described, having been duly assigned by Mary Eliza Baxter, Andre H. Jones and Clifford W. Robinson, executo and executors of the last will and tes ment of the late Robert Baxter, deceased, Sarah Snow, by indenture bearing date seventeenth day of June, A. D., 1899, duly recorded in the Kings County Reco of Deeds, etc., in Book O, No. 5, 71, 72 and 73, on the twenty-seven June, A. D., 1899; and having been assigned by the said Sarah Snow undersigned Mary Eliza Baxter by ture bearing date the twenty-fourth June, A. D., 1899, and duly registe the Kings County Records of Deeds, Book O, No. 5, at pages 73 and 74 twenty-seventh day of June, A. D.,

For terms of sale and further pa apply to the undersigned Solicitor.

Dated this twentieth day of Se A. D., 1901.

(Signed) MARY E. BAXT Assignee of Mor

CLIFORD W. ROBINSON, Solicitor.

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