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ALL OF THE CHAPTERS IN THE CHADWICK WOMAN'S STRANGE HISTORY--FROM A CANADIAN VILLAGE TO A CLEVELAND PRISON

STUDY OF MRS. CHADWICK

CASSIE L. Chadwick, Elizabeth Hoover Chadwick, or Mrs. Leroy Shippen Chadwick, born the daughter of a farmer in reduced circumstances, is now in the Tombs, while federal and state authorities are steadily weaving about her a net of criminal charges. It is a fitting climax to a life in which events have followed events so quickly as to leave the mind bewildered.

Chapter I.—"Betty" Bigley. Daniel Bigley, in the early fifties, lived on a small farm at Eastwood, province of Ontario. He was poor and had a large family, eight children in all, and the fifth was a daughter, born in 1857 and christened Elizabeth, known to the other members of the family as "Betty."

"Betty" Bigley was never a particularly beautiful girl, and from early years suffered slightly from deafness. She also spoke with a lisp. She was bright, very bright. At school she was easily a leader in her classes, but she was not popular. "Betty" Bigley was always strange—"peculiar," her schoolmates declared, she had a positive mania for fine clothing, finer than her father could give her, and for jewelry. She was not like other girls.

Once she went to a barber shop and had her long hair cropped short and actually donned boy's clothing. She was always scheming, they said, to obtain something for nothing.

She carried cards which set forth that she was "Miss Bigley, heiress to \$15,000." Seven times her power over men was manifested. She obtained credit from local merchants of Woodstock, about eight miles from her home, and one day she obtained \$200 on a note alleged to have been signed by a wealthy farmer near Bramford.

When that note came due she took it up with another note, purporting to have been signed by Richben Kip, of Woodstock. When this note came due there was no money to pay it, and the girl, in November, 1879, was arrested for forgery. She was defended by Sergeant Finkle, now a crown judge. The defence was insanity, and in the trial many witnesses were found to come forward with testimony as to her oddness and eccentricity. She was acquitted and never thereafter lived permanently in Woodstock.

One of Daniel Bigley's daughters married a man of the name of Campbell and moved to Cleveland, Ohio, in the seventies. A week after the trial in Ontario "Betty" Bigley appeared at the Campbell home. Mrs. Campbell had come forward declaring that she would attempt the reform of her sister. The girl at once set out to learn dress making, living quietly at the Campbell home. She soon became proficient and opened a school for herself in the village block, in a prominent shop-warehouse. It was thought she had put aside all her inordinate desire for finery and jewels.

But this was a wrong belief. Instead her appetite increased. With the school for the boys, she began a campaign on the money lenders of the city. Jewels, gowns and dresses soon became hers. When her personal credit ran out she coolly took her

sister's name and began to get more money by giving chattel mortgages on the Campbell household goods. Mr. Campbell was well to do, and she was enabled to run large accounts at the dry goods stores.

In Cleveland in 1880 there was a Dr. W. S. Springsteen, and in some way "Betty" Bigley met him. Then she was an heiress to a large estate in Ireland, visiting relatives in Cleveland, and Dr. Springsteen paid court to her. They were married in 1880, and on the wedding night the bridegroom had the disagreeable experience of seeing a regiment of instalment men descend upon the place and take away not only the trousseau of the bride and much of her furniture, but even the valuable wedding presents that she was supposed to have received from wealthy friends in Ireland. That ended the Springsteens' romance and the physician left her. Within a day the Campbell chattel mortgages became known and the sister's parting gift to her husband was lost. Mrs. Springsteen brought suit for separation against her husband, and lost it. He subsequently obtained a divorce from her.

Chapter II.—Mrs. Hoover. Mrs. Springsteen left Cleveland soon after that and began to travel about the country. Her power of fascination had, it is said, increased. For more than a year Lydia Clingan, Lytle Clingan, Lytle Bagley, was heard about all over the country, now the heiress to an estate abroad, now the wife of a prominent citizen, now just separation against her husband, and lost it. He subsequently obtained a divorce from her.

One incident has been mentioned about this time. "Mrs. Mazie Bigley" appeared at Erie (Pa.), and became ill. She obtained credit, money and other necessities on the usual plea and then departed. She was located in Cleveland and bills reached her there. Rick came a letter signed Miss Clingan.

"Poor Mazie is dead. A large concourse followed her to the grave. I thought you had heard. She was a splendid girl, but, unfortunately, weak minded."

Mrs. Alice Bestado, clairvoyant, appeared in an expensive suite of offices of the Crocker Block, Cleveland, in 1883. Her offices speedily became a meeting place for many men, some of them well known in the business world. Then began the usual campaign against the money lenders and her jewels were the admiration of the city.

Another year saw a Mrs. Scott, living in another section of the town, but a clairvoyant, and recognized as Mrs. Bestado. Mrs. Clingan soon afterward took other apartments, and so did Mrs. Bagley, when creditors became importunate, and the last of all was Mrs. C. L. Hoover. Mrs. Hoover was the last name to be used in Cleveland in the '80's, and to sisters and family in Cleveland as well as in Canada word went that C. L. Hoover, an aged and wealthy man, had married her, only to die soon after. There was a son. He is her only child. To different persons she told different stories; once that he was the son



Mrs. Cassie L. Chadwick.

of an attorney, at another time that his father was a banker. Cleveland became too warm in 1888 and Hoover, etc., from the Lake City and the

disappearance of Mme. De Vere, clairvoyant, at Toledo, Ohio. Chapter III.—Mme. De Vere. Mme. De Vere's career stands out boldly and ends with a sentence to the pen-

itentiary for forgery, but hardly a day passes now that some new incident does not come out. Primarily she was a clairvoyant forecasting the future, but beyond that she was many things. Chiefly she was an heiress to a great estate in England,

and tied up by litigation and driven to making a livelihood. A grocer of the name of King believed in this and gave her money. Another man, whom the police could not tell about, once gave her \$30,000 in negotiable securities for a certain purpose, and only because the family learned of this was the property recovered by the police.

Mrs. De Vere had several assistants in her clairvoyant parlors—young women. There were reports that some prominent Ohioans had preferred to pay considerable money rather than have the fact of their visits become known to their families. There were at least two divorces in Cleveland in which Mme. De Vere was accused of having a hand, and one of the men has since lived abroad. It all culminated with the Lamb incident, which sent Mme. De Vere to prison.

Joseph Lamb was an express clerk, married, with five children. Afterward he said he met Mme. De Vere and visited her at her home. Soon afterward she told him she needed money to go to Philadelphia. She wanted \$1,300, and Lamb raised it by giving her his savings of \$1,000, besides \$300 cash he had in hand and his note for the balance. She returned to the city after a week and began asking him for more money.

"I really am Mrs. Florida Byrhe, of Cleveland," Lamb swore she told him. Mrs. Byrhe was a very wealthy woman, and when she asked him to obtain money on notes purporting to have been signed by Mrs. Byrhe, he did not hesitate. Forty thousand dollars was raised in that way, and then came an arrest of both in January, 1880. The notes were alleged to be forgeries.

Lamb at once told everything he knew and the jury acquitted him on the ground that he had been a dupe. Mme. De Vere was sentenced to nine and one-half years' imprisonment in the Ohio penitentiary. She served three and one-half years of it, when she was pardoned by Governor McKinley.

On her parole Mme. De Vere was required to report to the prison officials at regular intervals and the first two reports came from Woodstock, Ontario. "I am living quietly with my mother, Mary Ann Bigley, at Woodstock," says the report for 1880.

In the following year came the report: "I am stopping with my sister, Mrs. Alice York, at Cleveland."

Her life thereafter is not definitely known. Some time afterward, in Cleveland, there appeared a Mrs. C. L. Hoover, a clairvoyant and masseuse. There was little comment over her. She lived elegantly and made few friends.

It was not until 1897 that the Chadwick end of the case developed. In Cleveland at the time lived a middle aged physician of the name of Dr. Leroy Shippen Chadwick. His father had been a wealthy man and left the son real estate, among which was a fine home in Euclid avenue, off Genesee street. Dr. Chadwick was a widower and the father of a daughter.

He was not strong, being a sufferer from an injury to his leg. He called on the masseuse for professional treatment. It was not so long thereafter that Mrs. Hoover became Mrs. Chadwick, and the stage was set for the larger financial operations that have just culminated in the arrest in this city.

Chapter IV.—Mrs. Chadwick. Friendship between Dr. Chadwick and Mrs. Hoover ripened into love and soon, as the wife of a prominent physician who was able to support her in luxury, she began a new chapter in her life. Studiously from that day to this she has refused to speak of her past, and her husband has been equally reticent. Not even to his most intimate friends has he ever vouchsafed an explanation regarding his wife.

For years he had been in the habit of spending almost every evening since his first wife's death at the home of a next door neighbor. To this house he brought his bride one night, seven years ago.

"This is Mrs. Chadwick," he said, but that was all. Not until the investigation set being made was begun was it learned where they were married, and even now there is a mystery attached to that part of their lives which still remains to be cleared up.

Records show that a Dr. Leroy S. Schladwick and a Mrs. Hoover were married in Pittsburg in the spring of 1877, and five months later had the ceremony repeated in Woodstock (Ont.). In the first instance the name is spelled Schladwick, but that has now been explained as an error in copying the records. The ceremony was performed by a relative of Dr. Chadwick, who vouches for its legality and correctness in every detail. He has not, however, thrown any light on the immediate past of the bride—declares he cannot do so, in fact.

Why a second ceremony should have been performed in Canada, probably the couple themselves alone know. In both instances efforts to keep the marriage a secret and to hold the records from public view were successful. All that Dr. Chadwick's friends had to go on was his word, but they asked for nothing more, as was pointed out in every detail. He has not, however, thrown any light on the immediate past of the bride—declares he cannot do so, in fact.

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Jewels Astonished Society. One of her first hopes was to obtain leadership in the exclusive society of Cleveland. Soon after her marriage she gave a reception to which many were invited who had not crossed the threshold of the Euclid avenue residence of Dr. Chadwick. (Continued on page 7, second column.)

JUST IN PROPORTION AS Manitoba Flour Grows in Popular Favor THE DEMAND FOR THE Keewatin "Five Roses" Flour OF THE Lake of the Woods Milling Co. Limited INCREASES

There is More "Five Roses" Flour Sold in the Maritime Provinces Than of All Other Flours Made From Manitoba Wheat It is a Question of Quality, Established and Maintained