(By an Occasional Contributor.)

John Crawford, proprietor of a large jewellery establishment in the of London, sat in his private office pondering over the contents of a letter he had recently received. Its perusal had produced many a visible mobile countenance. change on his Leaning his right arm on his desk, he brushed the steel gray hair from his prominent forehead, while keen dark eyes wandered restlessly about as if to say : "Why did I part with that man? I might have known there was some mistake."

Until three years previously, John Crawford and his brother Charles had been partners in business, when the health of the latter began fail perceptibly. He was advised by his physicians to leave London without delay, and seek a warm southern climate, where a prolonged sojourn might eventually restore him to his former strength. The thought of separation was painful to both; they were alone in the world with the exception of a distant relative in Los Angeles, California. To him Charles wrote a lengthy letter stating his case. He received a prompt reply from his cousin, bidding him welcome to his home, besides assuring him that the climate of Los Angeles had worked wonders for many affected as he was John Crawford as well as Frank Ross, the manager of the firm, accompanied him to Liverpool whence he sailed for his destination. Letters came regularly with sanguine reports of the sick man's condition.

Charles had been away some time before John perceived that a considerable sum of money had gone wrong. Investigation proved useless in solving the difficulty. Dark days were evidently in store ,or the manager; for finding no clue to the culprit, evidently in store for the manager, deficiency in funds rested with him. In due time he received his dismissal notice after ten years of faithful service. Such an imputation as that of cast a baneful shadow over his otherwise irreproachable character.

A few short weeks, and then came the startling intelligence that Frank was about to leave for the United States, where his apparent guilt would not prove a barrier to his suc-He bade his widowed mother only sister an affectionate farewell, promising that as soon as he was fortunate enough to secure lucrative position, he would provide them with a home in the land of the More than two years elapsed, and no invitation was forthcoming. Occasionally a letter arrived— at times rather depressing, and again a little more encouraging. So success had not crowned his efforts.

Mrs. Ross and Evelyn had partaken of their evening meal at the of a warm May day. Both seemed

"Mother," said Evelyn in a disheartened tone of voice, "do think Frank will ever be in a position to send for us? If we are judge by the general tenor of his letters, he will scarcely realize his expectations."

"It does seem hard." answered her mother, "to be parted from him for such a length of time. We must, however, be patient; and perhaps when we least expect, it will be our be patient; and perhaps good fortune to participate in , that long wished for reunion-

"Oh! mother," interrupted Evelyn,
"I hear a footstep on the walk. Who can be so kind as to favor us with a

So saying, she rose to satisfy her

"Good evening, Miss Ross, My pre sence here will likely be a surprise

to you. Is your mother at home 'Ves Mr Crawford mother is at answered Evelyn graciously though not without restraint.

'I trust, Mrs. Ross, I did not cal at an inopportune time," said he extending his hand as Evelyn ushered

him into her mother's presence.
"Pray be seated," responded Mrs injuries flashing across her mind,

It may look like presumption or my part to come here, Mrs. Ross; however, I have some interesting information to impart to you, if you can spare me a few moments.

"If the information concerns my son, I shall hear you; otherwise you

days ago I received a letter my brother Charles. Humilating as it may seem, I am going to read it sit down, and tell us all about your in order to prove to you that I mean to repair any harm my rash act may left England."

have done Frank's character I have

To say that had time to regret my hasty step..' tentive listeners is expressing

Los Angeles, April 24, 18-

My dear John :

By the time this letter reaches you I shall more than likely have passed away. My health for some months back has been anything but good. Just as I feared, my recovery but temporary. My strength is certainly waning; so much so that I can scarcely last much longer. Before I die, I have a duty to performconfession to make. Only last week, Frank Ross passed through this city on a business trip, and called on me. Great was my surprise to learn of the state of affairs existing between you. Strange to say, you never alluded to the subject when writing. I would not die happy knowing that the imputation of dishonesty rested on him through my fault. Yes John, your own brother is the culprit, and not Frank as you supposed. Some time back I conferred a favor on him for which he considered himself deeply indebted. Rather than depreciate me in your estimation, he suffered

you, dear brother, will do the rest. I trust I do not ask in vain for pardon. My crime, I admit, is great; yet lenowing as you do the weakness of human nature, I feel confident you will not refuse the request of

the blame, all the while knowing that

I was the guilty party. The small-

est recompense I can offer him is to

reinstate him in your favor. Then

Your dying brother, Charlie

"May I hope for your forgiveness. Mrs. Ross?" asked Mr. Crawford after for me to forget that my only 'Mr. Crawford, it is no easy mat

ter for me to forget that my ohly son has been grievously wronged.' "I knew it would come out all right," said Evelyn, turning to her mother. "It has been my firm belief all along that Frank was too consci-

entious to stoop to so base an act "He is a lucky man," answered Mr Crawford, "to have a worthy mother and devoted sister to plead his cause."

"I hope you will never experience the pangs we have suffered since Frank's good name has been at stake. You have, however, made the advance toward reconciliation, and it is right we should do our part. Here is my hand in the matter."

"I am about to start for Los Angeles," continued Mr. Crawford. may possibly reach there before my brother dies. His sickness, as you know, may not carry him off quickly as he imagines. If you favor me with Frank's address, will hunt him up regardless of convenience. Until I shall have made amends to him, I will never rest satisfied."

"When we last heard from him, week ago," answered Mrs. Ross, "he was stopping at 2240 Wabash Avenue, Chicago,'

"Thank you. Now I shall not detain you longer. I shall be obliged to start early to-morrow for Liverpool, in order to sail by the next steamer. I must bid you both good bye. You shall, however, hear from me again.'

"Good bye, Mr. Crawford," answered mother and daughter, "A safe journey."

Glancing over the London Times about a month later, Evelyn came read aloud :

"Mr. Charles Crawford, formerly of this city, died recently in Los geles. He had been suffering some time from tuberculosis. years ago he went to California in the hope of recuperating. For a time he rallied, but eventually succumbed to the disease. His brother John, a prominent jeweller of this city, wa with him at the time of his death. His remains were interred in the family lot of a relative with whom he

lived during his sojourn in Los Ange-"I am glad," said Mrs. Ross, "that Mr. Crawford arrived before his brother died. I wonder if he has yet

The words were scarcely uttered when a familiar voice sounded on her ears. "All is well that end well, don't you think so, mother?" well that ends She had not time to realize her position when she was in Frank's arms, Precisely as you suppose. A few three had recovered from the shock from of the first me Frank's hands in hers, and said: "Do self and your enterprises since you

To say that he had two eager, at-

expression in her bright eyes, ented a charming picture drank in every word that fell from usually colorless and calm of feature, never appeared more interesting. seemed to light up with a radiant glow, caused by the pleasure experienced in listening to her son's recital. Frank concluded by saying: 'Mother, you will be astonished to learn that I have accepted an offer

"Wonders will never cease," was all she said in response, while kept her gaze steadfastly fixed She could scarcely believe that such a reconciliation could be effected between two men who had parted at

of partnership from Mr. Crawford.

The firm will henceforth be known as

At the Ross homestead Mr. Craw became a constant visitor Frank was not slow to discover that he was not the sole source of attraction. Very soon Mr. Crawford's calls meant an exchange of glances between be interpreted to Evelyn's advantage

A day came when Evelyn Ross changed her name for that of Craw On the happy occasion, trace of suffering was visible on her fair countenance, though she had endured much while Frank's honor wa at stake. His exoneration was sufficient to compensate for all the men tal anguish she experienced during that crucial period. Shortly after her marriage, she had occasion call one day at the office of Crawford & Ross. She arrived in time to hear the following remark made by her devoted husband to his partner, her brother: "My admiration for her dates back to the evening when she so nobly acted as your champion.'

Stepping in between them, she said playfully: "It was always my firm conviction that Frank's honesty would bring its own reward, yet it never occurred to me that the Montreal, April 14, 1904.

CURIOUS WILLS.

A case which will involve som legal points for the consideration of Portland, Me., is described as follows by an American journal:

Some weeks ago Mrs. Elizabeth Bibber, widow of Capt. Albert Bibber, died at her residence at the Falmouth "Foreside," and the next day Capt. William Griffin, her friend during more than 50 eventful years followed her, and there was a doubl funeral. Capt. Griffin was at point of death before the death Mrs. Bibber. but that event doubt less hastened it. Mrs. Bibber 72 and Capt. Griffin about 67

Born in Bristol, Me., Mrs. Bibbe left her home while a girl of 13 and obtained work in the Bibber clam house, on Mill creek, in Falmouth. A year later, while only 14, she mar ied Albert P. Bibber, a young man of 21. She looked, so old people say, much older than 14, and would have passed for 20.

The youthful couple worked hard and saved their money. After they set up housekeeping William Griffin, then a boy, secured work in the clam house and lived with the Bibbers They became fast friends, and their friendship lasted during their lives, and led to a strange sort of a co partnership, and to the formation of a firm destined to operate in quarters of the globe.

Albert P. Bibber had been a sailor and after his marriage went to sea for some years, taking Mrs. Bibber and the boy. William Griffin, with him. The latter became mate, served in that capacity for some time Later he became a master mariner but fell back to his old place chief mate whenever he sailed

The three continued fast friends and at last clubbed their money built a fine schooner. Capt. Bibber commanded her. Capt. Griffin was mate, and Mrs. Bibber went - with them.

straded in every part the world, and were always willing to take a freight. no matter where to. They speculated and made money rapidly. They bought then for \$50 a piece of land now worth fully \$15,000, and still a part of the es-

After many years of life at Capt. Bibber retired, having built nice house at a cost of about \$10,000.
There he lived until his death

a short time after the retirement of his friends, and then sold out interests in a number of vessels, and himself settled down, going to live with the Bibblers.

After the death of Capt. Bibber the two surviving partners of the firm it | Capt. Griffin and Mrs. Bibber, con

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tinued to live in the pretty and almost stately house. Mrs. Bibber aged rapidly after the death of Capt, Bibber and grew very feeble. Capt. Griffin, who had always regarded her as his nearest friend, took care

The poor health of Mrs. Bibber orced her to remain at home, and Capt. Griffin led a very secluded life, seldom visiting Portland. He was good talker when he became interested in a subject, but he had few friends and no intimates. For some time previous to his death his health was not good.

Capt. Bibber left his estate to his wife, and Capt. Griffin and Mrs. Bibber made wills, giving to each other a life interest in the entire estate Mrs. Bibber provided that if Capt. Griffin survived her the estate should go to him during his life, he to be free to use it as hen saw fit, that on his death the remainder should go to the worthy poor of her native town of Bristol.

In his will Capt. Griffin gave his property, under similar conditions, to Mrs. Bibber during her life, whatever might be left at her death go to a local cemetery. Capt. Griffin had a life interest in the estate of Mrs. Bibber less than 24 hours.

It has been understood in rather a vague way that Mrs. Bibber was not on good terms with her family, because of some trouble growing out of the distribution of the estate of her father. Capt. Griffin never showed the least interest in his relatives, and cared, as far as could be seen, for the Bibbers. Neither Capt. Bib-ber, Capt. Griffin nor Mrs. Bibber ever made any special friends among

their townspeople. There is as yet no sign that will of Mrs. Bibber is to be contested but it is understood that there will be a fight over the will of Capt. Griffin. Harry F. R. Dolan, a Boston attorney, representing Caleb Griffin, a brother of Capt. Griffin, has entered an and came here this week to investigate the matter. He retained Hon. W. Symonds, and there is every indication of a big legal battle ahead. The estate is represented by Benjamin Thompson, attorney and

Capt. Griffin added a codicil to his was unable to sign, but laid a dying hand on that of one of the persons in the room at the time.

The value of his estate is said to

exceed \$50,000.

EX-QUEEN ISABELLA DEAD.

By the death of ex-Queen Isabella of Spain, which event took place in Paris on the morning of the math of April, a striking figure in the royal group of Europe has passed from the scene. The former Queen had been suffering some months from a S CARSIDEY CO.

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and Marie, her daughters, were by her bedside at the last moment. She was grandmother of the present King of Spain. She was in her seventyfourth year, being born in She was the eldest daughter of Ferdinand VII. of Spain, and was in Madrid on the 10th October, 1830 In 1846 she married Don Francis D'Assisi, who died at Epinay, in France, April 17th, 1902. She and

her husband were expelled from Spain, Herald: as a result of the revolution of 1868 Her abdication of the throne made from Paris, on the 25th June. She resigned in favor of he son, the late King Alphonso XII., who was father of the present King. About a year ago the ex-Queen ex pressed a desire to visit her grandsor

informed her that if she came Court nor allowed to live in the paace, giving as her reason that she wished to keep Alfonso in ignorance as much as possible, of his grandmo-ther's past life. She was certainly the innocent victim of an unfortunate marriage. It must that no matter how her marriage up not vet sixteen when she entered was destined to play havor with her own life. Although she had the great humiliation of having to fly from the country and to abdicate the crown, she eventually had gratification of seeing both her and her grandson wear it. She was a striking example of the uncertain-ty of human affairs, and of the pro-verbial uneasiness of the heads that

ty. Personally she was a mowomen, and in dying, the Vicar

The Infanta Isabella, Eulalie | the Church of St. Pierre, Paris, administered to her the last Sacraments of the Church, of which in life, through good or ill fortune, she had been a faithful and exemplary child.

> HOW FORTUNES ARE LOST-Some weeks ago the following des-

A real sensation has been caus at Westminster itself, however, by an article which appears in the current issue of Truth referring to the late Drcuker, Conservative member for Northampton in the late Parlis-

Mr. Labouchere says that a short time before he entered Parliament he inherited a fortune of about \$1,250, He lost it all during the three years he was a member. Mr. Labourchere produces the statement of H. C. Richards, Tory representative for East Finsoury, who declared that Mr. Drucker's losses were due to men who were his Parliamentary col-

"Never would I have believed, un "Never would I have believed, less I had seen and heard the plans of the vultures, what pitfalls are for men of means in the House of

this statement," adds Mr. Labouchere. "Mr. Drucker seemed unable to say 'No,' and these vultures induce

This week the subject rick's Day parades has

ed to me by a couple o ces that have created a upon my mind. My idea deliver myself of an ess such demonstrations sho ed out, nor to dictate ru who have probably far ence than I have in such I am an outside corres in no way connected w agement or direction o Witness," giving in my tributions for the sole ing a little and accomeans the grand cause journalism, I do not wis organ should be held re any of my ideas or sen then I preface my few this subject by stating t I thus write is all my alone am to blame if, by others might disagree w I express. Some time s letter sent to the "T signed "J. F. S." and have published in the co paper some of the old that were mentioned in grammes of St. Patrick's riter expressed his dee the paper, claimed that be in the home of every mily in the Dominion ar and gave a list of some he would like to see repr as "Come Back to Erin, that Once," "Dear He Country," Green," and "O'Donnel am not aware whether ment of the paper will able to republish all th seeing that they are kn most every person who organ; but I am sure the of "J.F.S." is an indica fervid patriotism and a spirit. The desire to h to learn by heart, in possess the olden gems of commended, especially i growing indifference an patriotism. It is refres that some of the olden vives, and that it is li transmitted to future g is that spirit that has Irish nationality intact ages of trial, that presen of St. Patrick all throu turies of desolation and that made it possible for of Ireland and the 1 people to carry her caus it has reached the portion This may not have muc the subject of parades, my purpose to show t spirit of Irish patriotis the people and is to be every corner of the worl stratas of society.

A STRANGE THEO turning to the question rick's Day parades, I wi quoting from an America rary, in which allusion the recently expressed vi New Century" on this This, connected with wha written, will give me a t "Speaking for itself New Century expresses tion that the old days rick's Day parade have least, in this particular the world. What good complished by the mar the countermarching, the drums and the squeaking cheering and the shout there was often on St. I -a day that should be r ligious observance—as an ment to the parading an citement scenes of disor flected no credit upon is well e passing the day becomin dignity, for the sons of sle to meet around the It is proper there to reco of Ireland's glory, to cel deeds of their ancestors story and give expres longing hope that the tir come when Robert Emr may be written and Ir take her place among th the earth."

ABOUT DISORDERS. oing is only the opinio gan, and possibly of onl individual who wrot It can be seen that the rick's Day are two-fold,