

# DUCHESS LEFT HER MILLIONS HAPHAZARD IN HOPE OF SOLVING HER LIFE'S MYSTERY

Widow of the Duke La Masa Left Twenty Million Lire to Be Battled For Between Charities and Such of Her Heirs as Could Establish Their Kinship—Now it Proves That the Duchess' Origin Was Shrouded in Mystery, and That This Was Probably Her Reason for Bestowing Her Wealth as She Did—Began Life as a Peasant Girl, But Became a Queen of Italian Society.

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Rome, March 28.—When a rich person dies anywhere there is pretty sure to be a squabble over his money. But apparently the Duchess Bevaqua La Masa was not content to take the ordinary chances of having her money kept alive by litigation. She died recently, leaving a fortune of 22,000,000 lire—in American money \$2,200,000.

show that her story is a most romantic one. The investigation has shown that from 1818 to 1840 a girl known as Felicia Zanone Bevaqua lived at Valdagno in the house of a lawyer, Bettino Bevaqua, as a member of his family. She was exceptionally beautiful, amiable and good, but the rest of the household showed the strongest aversion to her. Why? In the

ters now stand there is no legal evidence that she ever was the wife of the Duke. It is even denied that it has been conclusively established that she was Felicia Bevaqua, the girl who lived with the Valdagno attorney as a member of his family. All this for her complicity in the case, much to the delight of the counsel engaged upon it, for it means more rich pickings for them.



EMMA, WIFE OF GIOVANNI.



GIOVANNI.

500,000—a prodigious sum for Italy, where a lire goes as far as a dollar will in the United States. To insure a big fight, she left a most singular will. She left her money to charity—or to her heirs, if they could prove they were her heirs. As the Duchess doubtless foresaw, her will has started a tremendous squabble. No less than fifty claimants have already entered the lists in the battle for her 22,000,000 lire, and some of them certainly would not hesitate to tell that many lies to get it. They constitute a motley assemblage. Among them are tramps, beggars and mountebanks, youths struggling to acquire an education and old men whose lives have been chiefly devoted to forgetting all they ever learned at school, and ugly old women, and pretty young ones, and children not yet old enough to know the value of money. Most of them are very poor, but even those who are already penniless, and whose claims to kinship with the Duke Duchess rest on the most slender foundations, can still find lawyers to take up their cases for them. Of course, the charities which will benefit

answer to that question probably lies the solution of the mystery of her own parentage. Why should she have bequeathed her money to charity and not to the heirs of the village? It is a plausible explanation which has been advanced to account for it—that she was linked with a disreputable chapter in the life of Bevaqua—that her existence was proof that he had not always been the eminently respectable man he appeared to be—and on this account his wife and other children resented her presence among them. No record has been found of her birth. Who was her mother has never been satisfactorily proved.

of Bettino Bevaqua. They assert that Felicia was an illegitimate daughter of Bevaqua, but they maintain that she was legitimized before her marriage to Giovanni. They have furnished no proof, however, that the bar sinister was thus effaced, and in the absence of any such proof they stand small chance of sharing in the twenty-two million lire left by the Duchess to be fought for.



THE HOUSE AT VALDAGNO WHERE THE DUCHESS LA MASA LIVED AS A PEASANT GIRL.

so largely if no heirs are found are conducting a most determined fight against one and all the claimants. Incidentally, the contest has led to the discovery that the identity of the Duchess is shrouded in mystery. It is not positively known who was her father or who was her mother, or whether she really married the Duke whose name she bore. Beautiful, rich, charitable, she figured for years as one of the best known women in Italy. And now her friends have learned, with a shock of surprise, that they really knew very little about her. That has led to the conviction that her motive primarily to precipitate a fight for her millions, but to secure the unravelling of the mystery that surrounds her birth and antecedents. So far it has not been cleared up, but enough has been disclosed to

them gathered about the vehicle, intent on learning the cause of her distress and hoping that they might obtain some of the money which she had so suddenly bequeathed. Before they could put any questions to her, the driver whipped up his steed and the Duchess was driven rapidly away. At the house it was said that she had gone to live with some friends in Rome, and that she might never return.

Among the numerous other claimants are three children whose guardian claims the La Masa fortune for them on the ground that the Duchess, when she died, was a minor. When the train reached West Mount Vernon Miss Booth was removed and taken to the home of G. Reinhardt, 29 North Terrace avenue, where Dr. George C. Weiss was summoned. Information as to Miss Booth's condition is refused by the Reinhardt family.



MISS EVA BOOTH ILL.

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The investigations which have resulted from that document have led to the discovery of her marriage to the Duke La Masa is enveloped in mystery. No official record of it has been found. No one knows just where or when it took place. The only proof that such a ceremony was performed is a note which was sent from the Municipality of Trapani to the Mayor of Valdagno "on the marriage of General Giuseppe La Masa to Felicia Bevaqua." But there it ends, with no hint of when or where it occurred. As mat-

ground that Felicia's mother was always vaguely supposed to have been a certain Angela Rossi and that his wards are the children of this Angela's sister, "Bettina," the guardian added pathetically one day, "they ought to have the money, because if they do not they will have to go into one of the charitable institutions supported by the late Duchess." The children are

aged 12, 10 and 7, respectively, and at present think much more of games and a good dinner than of mysterious millions. Their guardian is a queer old Jew, said to be their uncle, but he claims no relationship at present. However, if they get the millions it is unsafe to predict what might happen.

Naturally the charities interested are making a most vigorous fight for the millions left by the Duchess, denouncing as best they can each claimant as he appears. One and all, when they fail to bring any kind of convincing proof, and by saying how poor they are and what need they have of the money, so that the executors of the will of the Duchess are tired out giving explanations which fall on deaf ears. If the truth were told it would be found that they have very uncomplicated feelings toward the Duchess, one of them having been heard to say that "only a woman would have thought of such a way of keeping her money green!"

CONSTANCE HARRIMAN.

## BROUGHT SOLDIER FROM PHILIPPINES AS PATRICK WITNESS

Sergeant Stanberry Got \$600 Before as Witness to Upset Rice's Will—Confronted With Peculiar Letters Written by Him.

New York, April 9.—Argument for a new trial for Albert T. Patrick, under death sentence on the charge of killing William Joseph Rice, was resumed today. District Attorney Jerome was in court to conduct the prosecution's side of the case and Patrick was represented by Former Judge W. M. K. O'Leary.

Alexander H. Stanberry, a sergeant in the United States army, who came from the Philippines to testify, was the first witness. He declined to make a statement unless sworn and was thereupon sworn. In answer to a question by Mr. Jerome, the witness said that he had been employed as a clerk and left his employment in 1907.

Sergeant Stanberry said that he had talked with Charles F. Rice, who was the father of the man whose death sentence he was acting as counsel for in convicting Patrick. He said he was sent to Jones by Delaney Nicoll, when the latter was acting as counsel for one of the persons who attempted to break Rice's will. Mr. Nicoll, the sergeant added, paid him expenses usually have the Rice will on the occasion of this attempt to upset the will. The witness said he had received about \$600 during a six weeks' stay in New York.

Mr. Jerome read an extract of a letter written by the witness to "Pete Walsh," as follows: "I shall not cough up until somebody else does. I have a hundred deposited here for our diary so rest easy as I shall want you to corroborate my testimony. We shall hold back for more money."

"What did you mean by 'I don't intend to cough up'?" asked Mr. Jerome. "I don't recall," answered Stanberry. Another letter read by Mr. Jerome alleged to have been written by the witness, contained this phrase: "Pete Rice was a spiritist. You have often conversed with Rice on spiritism. Keep your mouth shut. I may be down in Texas next month."

Stanberry said he could not recall having written this letter. Previously the subject of spiritism had been brought up in question by Mr. Jerome and Stanberry said that a will made by Rice mentioned spiritism and that the aged millionaire was a spiritist.

Another letter read by Mr. Jerome read: "Dear Pete: We don't want to give up our trumps until we get ours. One of our trumps is your signed deposition and the other is mine. Guess you had better destroy this letter as it contains things not well to have others see."

"What did you mean by trumps?" asked the district attorney. The question was not answered directly and the district attorney did not press it.

At this point, upon the request of Recorder Goff, before whom the hearing was conducted, the case was adjourned until tomorrow afternoon.

## SPRING SONG

(By Bliss Carman)

Make me over, Mother April,  
When the sap begins to stir,  
When the flowers hand delivers  
All the mountain-prisoned rivers  
And thy great heart beats and quivers  
To revive the days that were,  
Make me over, Mother April,  
When the sap begins to stir!

Take my dust and all my dreaming,  
Count my heart beats one by one;  
Send them where the waters perish;  
Then some golden noon reberberate  
And restore them in the sun.  
Flower and scent and dust and dreaming,  
With their heart-beats every one,  
Set me in the urge and tide-drift  
Of the streaming hours a-wing!

Shrill pipe or flute or whistle  
In the valleys once again;  
Pile of frog and call of tree-toad,  
All my brothers, five or three-toad,  
With their revel no more muted,  
Making music in the sun.  
Shrill pipe or flute or whistle,  
In the valleys once again!

Make me of thy seed tomorrow,  
When the sap begins to stir;  
Twenty light-foot, sleepy brown,  
Bright in the sun and dew,  
Guard the good life goes askew in,  
Make me anything tomorrow,  
When the sap begins to stir!

Make me over, Mother April,  
When the sap begins to stir;  
Fashion me from swamp or meadow,  
Things that burrow and aspire,  
Hyaline or humble burr!  
Make me over, Mother April,  
When the sap begins to stir!

Let me hear the far, low summons,  
When the silver winds return,  
Rills that run and stream and stammer,  
Gleaming with their loud hammer.  
Joy brooks that sing and cauter  
Where the Indian winds return,  
When the silver winds return.

Till recurring and reuniting,  
Long cease wandering and come back,  
Rills that run and stream and stammer,  
Gleaming with their loud hammer.  
Joy brooks that sing and cauter  
Where the Indian winds return,  
When the silver winds return.

For I have no choice of being,  
When the sap begins to stir;  
When the sap begins to stir,  
Vast and verges of illusion—  
Joy brooks that sing and cauter  
Where the Indian winds return,  
When the silver winds return.

Let me taste the old immortal  
Indulgence of life once more;  
Not recall the past, but hear the  
Great slow joys of being.  
Vell my heart to the old immortal  
Indulgence of life once more!

Give me the old drink for rapture,  
The delirium to drink in plenty,  
All my fellows drunk in plenty  
From the mountains to the main!  
Give me the old drink for rapture,  
The delirium to drink in plenty!

Only make me over, April,  
When the sap begins to stir;  
Make me over, Mother April,  
When the sap begins to stir;  
Make me anything but me  
When the sap begins to stir!

Coming  
(L. Tucker)

Put the boat about there, boy, and head her for the sea.  
Cut adrift the fish-car, open. Let the fish go free.  
Want to know what all my breath?  
It is yours, only that I love you.  
Take the ship and scud ashore, lad, for you can't sail with me.  
For you cannot sail the voyage that I'm going on tonight.  
The world lies flat. You can make it in the twinkling of the light.  
And eyes must see the meeting where I sail alive or dead.  
Boy, I must go ashore.  
I must go to find my blaker out o' soundings in the light.

# MRS. DOWIE APPLAUDS LASHING OF HUSBAND

Six Thousand Zionists Also Approve "Elijah's" Deposition ---New Leader Arraigns John Alexander Bitterly as "a Liar, Spendthrift and Traitor."

Zion City, Ill., April 8.—With the approval of thousands of Zionists in open meeting today General Overseer Glenn Voliva denounced John Alexander Dowie as a spendthrift, liar, land traitor and was in turn promised support as leader of the Christian Catholic Church in Zion City. The place of the founder of the church, now deposed, and on his way from Mexico to fight for what he considers his rights.

When after denouncing Dowie, Overseer Voliva suddenly demanded a decision of the audience which crowded Shiloh Tabernacle as to who should be their future leader, the 6,000 persons in the auditorium rose as one person and signified their willingness to follow Voliva to the end.

On the platform with Voliva were Mrs. John Alexander Dowie, Judge Barnes, head of the law department of Zion City, and Overseers Spedder, Excell, Cantel and Granger.

At the conclusion of a short prayer the new leader of Zion, clad in a robe of simple white and black, a decided departure from the gaudy raiment assumed by the first apostle on similar occasions, stepped to the front of the platform and in announcement that he was going to take advantage of today's meeting to tell a few truths about the man whom they had so faithfully followed for several years.

Mrs. Dowie Applauds.  
Voliva, then told of the deplorable conditions he found in Zion City when he arrived a month ago from Australia and took up the management of Zion's affairs at Dowie's command. The speaker did not mince words but spoke bluntly of the "perfidy of John Alexander."

When most bitter in the denunciation of his former master there was no one in the tabernacle who showed more approval of Voliva's remarks than Overseer Mrs. Jane Dowie. When Voliva angrily exclaimed, "I will see that all the costly furniture and the expensive library adorning Dowie's Zion City residence and which were purchased by dishonest means, many of his people were in need of food, and the money turned into Zion storeshouse," Mrs. Dowie half rose and with her voice and hands loudly applauded the words.

Overseer Voliva in justification of the overthrow of his first apostle, told how money had been squandered foolishly for the comfort of his family and the creditors and the people of Zion were calling loudly for money.

Funds Squandered.  
As an illustration Voliva cited his own experience in Zion church. He declared that he had been compelled to keep himself and family on \$50 a month allowed him by Dowie and that out of this monthly salary he had been compelled to turn over a tenth to the church. While receiving \$50 a month Voliva declared that he had been sending the storeshouse at Zion City \$1,700 every month and that other people had done fully as well as he had for the church. He then asked what had become of all this money that has been flowing into Zion for so many years, and in reply to his question he said that the greater portion of these funds had been squandered recklessly by Dowie, a great deal of it having been used for the comfort and pleasure of his own family and a few of his favorites.

Audience Acquiesced.  
He then asked his congregation if they wished to return to the Dowie regime or preferred to follow him and the business of Zion in the name of Overseer Voliva. He owned this entire estate. What I want you to do is to send all tithes and offerings to Zion for the church. While in the name of Overseer Voliva, make all checks and all commercial paper of every description payable to Alexander Granger. The day has come when you ought to act as men and women and exercise your God-given free will. I don't want you to do anything by constraint. I want to be calm and straightforward and present these matters in a way that none can truthfully say that you were excited or acted on the impulse of the moment.

"If you want to stand for downright lying, hypocrisy and shameful misdeeds of money, keep your eyes shut and your ears closed, and let me hear of your misdeeds and your gross ignorance of all business these, during the afternoon we were not once asked for alms."

"At Palma, where we succeeded in catching a train for Naples, we found great cheering, looked back and saw that the general commanding the district had arrived and the people were running to greet this representative of the government's active assistance to the stricken region."

"This is a sad year for southern Italy, the second terrible disaster within a few months. To judge from what I learned from the peasants, there is likely to be a substantial increase in immigration to the United States by reason of this calamity, of which the end is not yet."

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