

KING'S COUNSEL—ONTARIO.

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UNITED STATES DECISIONS.

NOVEL LITIGATION.—There is often something refreshing and breezy in legal matters from the prairie country. The following comes from Iowa: "Mary Christiansen has secured a verdict for \$6,000 in her breach of promise suit against a dead man. She sued the estate of Frank Crum, who died last summer, for \$7,000, claiming that he had postponed the date of their marriage and finally died before the new date fell without wedding her. It was proven conclusively that he intended to marry her." This was a case of contract with a vengeance, not "blighted affection" and such like, but a cold estimate of the value of a dead man, raising a proper feeling of indignation that he should "shuffle off this mortal coil" without dividing up with his would-be partner in life. Possibly in that country it may be that by virtue of the contract, and a liberal rendering of the equitable maxim that what is agreed to be done should be considered as done, she had become a "widow in equity"—or possibly there is in vogue there some new species of inchoate right of dower. To the poor lone widow the verdict might aptly be described as a "crum of comfort," or in legal parlance "the equitable widow's mite."