

A STARTLING DEVELOPMENT.

Can Unscrupulous Lawyers Procure Legal Divorces for their Clients without the Parties Therein Going Through any Formalities?

An attache of the New York World, reports to the editor of that journal, that having been instructed in writing to test the practice of advertising divorce lawyers in that city, with a view to their exposure, he, being an unmarried man, made application to a lawyer advertising in one of the papers of that city to provide "legal divorces within thirty days"—"scandals avoided"—"fee contingent." Pretending to be a poor man tired of his wife, he found the lawyer ready to undertake his case for a retaining fee of ten dollars, and to complete it and hand him the decree of divorce from his imaginary wife for a further final payment of thirty dollars. The reporter persuaded the attorney to believe that he was married, and that his wife lived in St. John's New Brunswick; that he had been married two years, was tired of his wife and wished to be free, having separated from her. The ground upon which divorce was claimed was "incompatibility of temper," and the attorney agreed, his client pretending squeamishness, to arrange about the sworn complaint to be filed. The same obliging legal adviser procured from the spurious wife in New Brunswick (personated by one of the reporter's friends) an admission of service of papers upon a fraudulent statement, and later in the same deceptive manner, a waiver of all other service of papers. The first interview with the lawyer took place on January 10, and on March 12, two months later, the client received a decree of divorce from the bonds of matrimony, purported to have been granted by John T. Walworth, judge of the first judicial circuit of Wisconsin. Thus, so far at least as attorney and client were concerned, an unmarried man was enabled to go through all the motives of a divorce suit and get a decree. If he had been married and had been thus unmarried the reporter might and could have remarked upon the strength and record of the proceedings. No one appeared in person on either side; the affidavits were forgeries; the summonses were not served, and the returns to them were fraudulent, and yet—the proceedings were complete from the very beginning of the case to the duly authenticated record of the decree. These facts are very startling, the more so that if they can be done in one city they may be done in another, wherever attorneys as unscrupulous as this one is represented to be may exist. As the World remarks in its editorial comments upon the reporter's story, "the case makes it frightfully clear that the methods which this lawyer in this case successfully pursued can be successfully pursued in any other case, and there can be but little doubt that many parties are now really in the position in which our reporter was assumed by his unscrupulous attorney to be. It is even probable that we shall be able to produce, at no distant date, the stories of persons who have been practically deluded or defrauded by the methods now exposed." It may be that when the sequel of the story is told, it will be found that the decree was a forgery, and that some real wives and husbands have been made the victims of a similar sort of fraudulent divorces. The domestic misery caused by such practices as that of these unscrupulous attorneys and pretenders must be very great.

Ignorance of Law.

Francis Lawton, in a law journal, discusses as follows in regard to crimes committed in ignorance of the fact that they are unlawful:

That ignorance of law is not a defense is generally conceded. A conspicuous illustration of this is to be found in the case of Miss Anthony, who was convicted a short time since in New York of illegal voting. She set up as a defense that she believed that she was in law entitled to vote, and that she had been so advised by competent authorities. This was held not to avail her, and under Judge Hunt's express directions she was convicted. It has also been held not to be a defense to an indictment for adultery that the defendant erroneously but honestly believed that she had been legally divorced. Were this not the law government would come to an end.

Ignorance of law would also be at a premium if men could have plurality of wives on the ground that such plurality is legal; or could stuff ballot-boxes on the ground that they knew no law forbidding such excesses; or could violate police regulations on the ground that they did not know that such police regulations existed. The most obtuse and stolid of criminals would be those whom the law would most favor; and if we conceive of a person totally ignorant of law, such a person, on this theory, would be totally free from criminal responsibility.

Fanatics, also, would be relieved from civil restraint in proportion to the intensity of their fanaticism; and the very element of fierce infatuation which would add to their dangerousness would add to their immunity. The late decision of the supreme court of the United States in the polygamy case, however, has finally disposed of this kind of defense. Belief in the unconstitutionality of a law; belief in its violation of a higher law; belief in its conflict with conscientious duty, will be no defense to an indictment for disobedience to such law. And even a conscientious belief that an act is right—as labor by a Jew on Sunday in contravention of the Sunday laws—will not prevent such act from being indictable when made so by the State.

Ignorance of fact, however, presents questions far more intricate; and as to this defense we may lay down the following propositions:

When to an offense knowledge of certain facts is essential, then ignorance of these facts is a defense. When a statute makes an act indictable, irrespective of guilty knowledge, then ignorance of fact is no defense. To an indictment for bigamy it is no defense that the defendant, a woman, honestly believed (within the limit of seven years from the time he was last heard from) that her husband was dead. And an indictment has been sustained against a man for marrying a woman who believed herself to be a widow, although eleven years had elapsed since she had last seen or heard from her husband whom she had left; it being held by the court that the statutory exceptions do not apply to the deserting party. It has been further held that when a guilty party in a divorce suit marries again without leave of court (this being legally essential) during the life of the other party, and afterward obtains such leave, an honest belief that the second marriage is or has become legal has no effect in making it so and protecting the parties.

A Semi-Tropical Scene.

A gentleman traveling in the Everglade State, writes as follows of his experience on the river: When the sun has gone down and the darkness comes on in good earnest, for there is no twilight in Florida, and it is dark a very short time after sunset, you see no signs of the terrapin coming to anchor, you begin to wonder how under the heavens will the pilot, however skillful, manage to steer the boat through what bids fair to be total darkness, when suddenly a strong glare is thrown on the banks and on the river itself for a hundred yards ahead, making the trunks of the trees and gray moss look spectral in the extreme. No imagination can conceive the weird and grotesque forms which are now presented on every side. Sometimes the lurid light partly illuminates the trunk and limbs of some huge cypress tree wrapped in a shroud of moss and clinging vines, making it look like a Laocoon that was struggling with ten thousand snakes instead of two. As the novelty of the scene wears off you begin to grow curious to know from whence comes all this light. If you are a person that has lived in the city all your life, and had been thinking it to be calcium, you will be very much surprised to see that it is only a fire on top of the boat, on a hearth made for the purpose. A negro is kept busy all the time supplying the blaze with unctuous lightwood knots, and looking like an incarnation of the evil one as he stands out in bold relief against the flames.

A Mathematical Mind.

The late George Bidder, who made his mark in youth as a "calculating boy," had excellent business ability as well as prodigious arithmetical power, and died recently a man of fortune. His mathematical faculty never deserted him, even in his last years. One might read to Bidder two series of fifteen figures each, and without seeing or writing down a single figure, he could multiply the one by the other without error. Once, while he was giving evidence before a parliamentary committee, counsel on the opposite side interrupted him with, "You might as well profess to tell us how many gallons of water flow through Westminster bridge in an hour." "I can tell that too," was the reply, and he gave the number instantaneously. Other members of Bidder's family have the same or similar powers. His son, a successful barrister, can play two games of chess, simultaneously, without seeing the board. George Bidder's elder brother, a clergyman, was not remarkable in mathematics, but he could quote almost any text in the Bible and give chapter and verse, so extraordinary was his memory.

At the funeral of ex-Sheriff Wm. S. Hogincamp, of Paterson, N. J., 100 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were present. He had 18 children and all of them married.

Marabou feathers most used in millinery this season.

The wide-brimmed bonnets are bent so as to suit the face.

Gay tinsel balloons are among the new bonnet ornaments.

Buff and cowslip yellow tints are fashionable in millinery.

Among the trimmings in mourning millinery are black crape roses.

Canton crape will be one of the materials used for elaborate bonnets.

Heavy English crape does not get rusty when exposed to the damp.

Handsome articles in crystals, designed for ornamenting hats, are shown.

The large Leghorn bonnet, with its floating plume, is always fascinating.

A favorite house brings out a gorgeous bonnet called the "Little Buttercup."

Some of the new silk grenadines are of satin gauze traversed by worsted threads of the same color.

The sleeve to be worn with white jackets this summer will, it is said, be gathered in three places, and ornamented with three frills of lace.

For children's clothing are figured lines in checks and stripes, and white figured satin, which is handsomer than pique, and will be the first choice.

Elaborately embroidered flannel undergarments are quite the rage. Both white and colored dresses are employed in working them, and the material used is the very finest. They are generally trousseau accompaniments.

Dressy wraps for spring will be mantles of Chundab or of plain camels' hair trimmed with fringes. Black promises to be the most popular, though light drab or beige colors are considered more dressy. The shades are very similar to those of last season.

Among spring goods are satins soft and fine as silk, and upon white grounds are scattered forget-me-nots, tea roses and other pretty figures, which will make lovely summer dresses. Also the mummy cloth, that look like raw silk, are in chintz patterns, and both will wash.

Here is a description of a very handsome dress worn at an elegant entertainment in Philadelphia: A pale blue satin, with tablier, ornamented with six rows of Brussels lace, sewn on plain; the train of amber satin, painted by hand, with small baskets filled with flowers, a la Louis XV. These had the effect of being strewn carelessly over the satin; the revers to the train were of light caroubier satin; the bodice was blue in front, amber at the back, and was ornamented with a pointed piece of caroubier velvet trimmed with Brussels lace.

American silks, in the standard and fashionable colors, cost \$1.25 and \$1.50 a yard, and so closely resemble the French silks that it is impossible for ordinary buyers to detect any difference between the two. The Louisiana silks of this season come in black, garnet, blue, sapphire, gendarme blue, myrtle green and seal brown, so mingled with white that the effect produced is that of a color seen through a mist. These materials make up well either separately or combined with plain silk, and it is almost impossible to crush them. Nearly all the armor silks contain threads of old gold in combination; blue, seal-brown, all the other dark colors, and some of the lighter tints. Some have a striped and others a checked effect, and all of them may be found in two grades, at \$1.50 and \$1.75 respectively.

He Turned Out Badly.

Some thirty years ago a German lady, of rank almost princely, was staying at Albano, Italy, and took a fancy to two beggar children—a boy and a girl—of extraordinary beauty. Her excellency, who had plenty of money, adopted the two brats, and gave them the best possible education. The boy turned out an arrant scamp, and took to evil courses, and soon died of dissipation. The girl grew up a model of womanly grace and beauty, and found many admirers, and among others, a young Roman noble, who won her heart, but abused her confidence. The pope heard of the misconduct of the young nobleman and compelled him to marry the girl on pain of his displeasure. The marriage was accomplished, and the German princess settled her enormous fortune on the married couple. For a few years all went happily, but alas! the young husband died of fever, leaving his widow with a son of four years old to inherit a large property and a distinguished title. The child of the Albano beggar girl will be one of the richest counts in Rome when he attains his majority.

The last descendant of John Bunyan died lately in England. She was an ancient dame of 84, and her name was Ann Webster.

A Call on Victor Hugo.

An American correspondent in Paris, who has had the pleasure of calling on the great novelist thus describes the surroundings of the author of "Les Miserables."

You find yourself in a square parlor of ample dimensions. The walls and ceilings are concealed beneath full draperies of a Persian patterned silk in gay, yet harmonious colors, relieved against a ground-work of crimson. The mantelpiece is hidden beneath a splendid covering of crimson velvet, wrought with antique embroidery, and a bright wood fire blazes on the hearth. Here and there a gilt bracket against the wall supports an antique Chinese vase. The carpet is a rich moquette, with a white ground covered with an arabesque pattern and with a bordering of vivid blue.

The furniture is of the Aubusson tapestry with gilt woodwork. "In the corner stands a statuette on a pedestal, representing Victor Hugo in a musing attitude. The master of the house goes from group to group, smiling, chatting, and saying some pleasant, kindly word to each visitor. Now he drops into a chair beside M. Perrin, the director of the Comedie Francaise, to say something about the forthcoming revival of *Buy Blas*; next he passes to say something about American literature to a great publisher; then he gives a kindly word or two to a very young poet with very wild hair, who has come to ask his advice on some literary question.

Meanwhile Mme. Dronet and his daughter-in-law, Mme. Lockroy, converse with other guests, among whom I note Henri Houssaye and his beautiful American wife. Victor Hugo is looking exceedingly well, and has not apparently aged by a single hour since I first saw him, five years ago. The massive form is as upright as ever, the keen black eyes sparkle with all their old luster, beneath the shadow of that splendid dome-like brow, and the full white locks and beard show no thinning of their luxuriance.

An additional shade of tan, won in his sojourn at Jersey, is all the change that can be discerned by the minutest scrutiny. As the hour of retiring approaches, we bend low over the honored hand and depart, bearing with us the kindest and most pressing of invitations to repeat our visit. Ah, me! how easy it is for the great to give pleasure.

A smile, a pleasant word, a genial acceptance of some genuine outpouring of enthusiasm or admiration—what a charm these kindly acts convey—what a treasury of golden memories they confer upon the gratified guest! Yet how many celebrities, with not half the fame of Victor Hugo, disdain to imitate his courtesy, and consider it incumbent on their dignity to withdraw from what they are pleased to look upon as the vulgar homage of the crowd. And still this very homage, if they but know it, is the truest evidence of their own renown.

Mesalliances.

An industrious contemporary, in relating the strange infatuation of Miss Sarah Hall, an aristocratic young lady of Providence, for Bernard McDonald, a poor car driver on a Seventh-avenue street car in New York, whom she saw while visiting a wealthy sister in that city, as he was attending to his daily vocation; and to whom she declared her admiration and accepted as her husband despite her relatives' remonstrances, recalls as similar cases the elopement of ex-Gov. Hubbard's daughter from Hartford, Conn., with the family coachman; the marriage of one of New Haven's fair daughters to her father's groom; and also cites a case that caused a sensation in England some years since. A young lady, belonging to one of the old Cheviot families, was in the habit of riding to Chester to shop, and became interested in the driver of the omnibus. One morning she was missed, and on her return astonished her family by declaring that she had married the man of her choice. She had not remained with her husband five minutes after the marriage, and she had suppressed a portion of her name to prevent the clergyman from recognizing her. The family endeavored to have the marriage set aside on the ground of fraud, but the courts decided that the marriage was legal.

In another noted English case more recently the daughter of the then chief registrar of the court of chancery, eloped with the butler. The father of the young lady was previously warned of the danger, and, on speaking to her about it, she confessed her attachment. The butler was dismissed, but this rather hastened affairs to a crisis, as in a few days she abandoned her home and was married. The union was a happy one, but brought to a brief ending by her death within a year.

Early in the century the Countess of Rothes, a peeress in her own right, married a gardener, and the present countess is his granddaughter. It will thus be seen that mesalliances have oftentimes

occurred in the case of persons of very high social positions. Nor have they by any means invariably proved unhappy.

The Human Body.

The skin contains more than two million openings, which are the outlets of an equal number of sweat glands.

The human skeleton consists of more than two hundred distinct bones.

An amount of blood equal to the whole quantity in the body passes through the heart once every minute.

The full capacity of the lungs is about three hundred and twenty cubic inches.

About two-thirds of a pint of air is inhaled and exhaled at each breath in ordinary respiration.

The stomach daily produces nine pounds of gastric juice for digestion of food; its capacity is about five pints.

There are more than five hundred separate muscles in the body, with an equal number of nerves and blood vessels.

The weight of the heart is from eight to twelve ounces. It beats one hundred thousand times in twenty-four hours.

Each perspiratory duct is one fourth of an inch in length, which will make the aggregate length of the whole nine miles.

The average man takes five and one-half pounds of food and drink each day, which amounts to one ton of solid and liquid nourishment annually.

A man breathes eighteen times a minute, and three thousand cubic feet, or about three hundred and seventy-five hogheads of air per hour.

The Dignity of Labor.

The Rev. Robert Christie, of Lexington, Ky., has delivered in that city an excellent discourse to young men on the dignity of labor. Having spoken of labor as a primary duty, and as a path to independence, he next pointed out how it led to promotion, and thus illustrated his idea: "I care not how humble the branch of business may be, there is not a trade or a branch of labor that some man has not made the stepping-stone to wealth, to influence, to greatness. Andrew Johnson went from the tailor's board to the presidential chair; Byrnie rose from the same level; Henry Wilson went to the presidential chair from the shoemaker's bench; Mackenzie, late premier of Canada, was once a stone-mason. Therefore, if you would advance, get a trade, no matter what, for you will leap further from the lowest branch than from a dead level. Don't wait for a change in outward circumstances. Don't waste your time in lamenting your humble lot or blaming sad fate. That old Roman spoke the truth when he said, 'The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings.' Archimedes said, 'Give me a standing-place, and I will move the world.' And a great many young men are content to echo the wish of the philosopher. They say, 'Give me a place suitable to fly ability, and I will exert an influence. Goethe says to all such, 'Make good thy standing-place and move the world.' You must be rooted firmly in your own strength before you can move or influence anybody. Only a weakling has to be lifted into any position. The youth who is industrious, intelligent, temperate and persevering, holds the key to all positions."

Spurious Gold Coin.

The officials connected with the sub-treasury in Chicago report that with the resumption of specie payments spurious gold coins of every denomination have made their appearance in large quantities. Among the devices resorted to by the crooked soul of humanity to get the best of Uncle Sam, may be mentioned the issuing of coins from base metals, struck in dies or cast in molds; coins saved sundry, the interior removed and the cavity filled with less costly material; coins bored from the edges and plugged with cheap composition; coins "sweated," abraded, clipped and made light, by every imaginable contrivance and other equally ingenious plans. Already, it is stated, every silver coin of the United States has been counterfeited, and the spurious coins are in many cases so exact imitations as to deceive even experts.

The Editor.

Josh Billings says: "If anybody has hard work to please most people, it is an editor. If he omits anything, he is lazy. If he speaks of things as they are, people get angry. If he glosses over or smooths down the rough points, he is bribed. If he calls things by their proper names, he is declared unfit for his position. If he does not furnish his readers with jokes, he is a mullet. If he does, he is a rattle-head, lacking stability. If he indulges in personalities, he is a blackguard. If he does not his paper is dull and insipid."

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