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## Destroyed at Owner's Will

The late Mr. William Walron, towards the close of his life, was a somber, melancholy man, who sat in the midst of his gorgeous collection of art treasures and splendid pictures, and pondered how he could prevent the world from seeing or touching them after his death.

He owned altogether about £100,000 worth of old pictures, old blue china, and miniatures, besides one of the finest collections of Chippendale and old French furniture in Britain. He had turned estates and money into art treasures, and as art, he declared, was dead in this country, the work, which had cost him a lifetime of trouble, must somehow be saved from desecration.

So he drew up a will directing that, on his death, everything he had should be burnt in the paddock adjoining his stableyard in one huge bonfire. The will was cunningly devised, and there seemed no way out of it for his heirs. A plea of "unsound mind" fell through for lack of proof—the baronet was known to be a brilliantly clever man.

Wills of this kind are not so very uncommon, and, to assure themselves of what is left of the estate, the executors actually started the fire. But only about £300 worth of things were burnt, when an undiscovered flaw was found in the will, the bonfire was stopped, and the clause overthrown by chancery. The rest of the splendid collection was saved, and much of it is now public property in the country's museum.

No such luck fell to the heirs of Mr. Joseph Rickaby for his will was enforced to the letter, and his £50,000 worth of machinery and plant absolutely destroyed. Little as they liked it, the heirs, under his testament had to do this. As one of the most successful cotton spinners in the country, and the inventor of the present "Nonpareil" spinning jenny, he had three houses of plant and engines, besides his "gallery of inventions" at Chiltern House, where the late Mr. Rhodes often stayed with him. For all his vast wealth—his income was over £150,000 a year—he gave so much away in charity that he left only £10,000 in investments, besides his £50,000 plant, and this £10,000 he left to his two nephews, but on condition only that they destroyed his entire plant and "invention gallery."

Such bequests as these are generally fought out to the last penny in the law courts, but in this case the heirs, being already wealthy men, and knowing how the old man's heart had been set on the scheme of destruction rather than let his beloved works survive him, fulfilled the letter of his will, and the whole of the three great "works" were reduced to scrap iron.

For a sheer waste of good things, the famous case of the late Dr. Tobias Borthwick's fortune will take a lot of beating, for it raised two lawsuits and gave rise to a good deal of indignation. While alive, Dr. Borthwick was known as "The Wealthy Hermit" in the neighborhood of Alderley Edge. He had over £100,000—at least, his estate was sworn at so much—but he had converted all but £22,000 of it into goods—mostly priceless ancient jewelry and tapes-

try, with beaten goldware and modern gems—a collection said to be only equaled by Lord Anglesey's. All this treasure—he could hardly have been sane—he directed to be sunk off the coast of Anglesey, asserting that, as there was hardly a gem or a valuable in the collection that had not been the object of some crime or other, or might in future be so, it would be better for mankind at large if the whole lot were done away with.

The will would have been upset for a certainty, but that, with great acuteness, Dr. Borthwick had directed that if his son and heir carried out the orders, he was to get the £12,000 that remained, if not, the whole was to be divided among three great charitable institutions. Naturally, the heir would have let the charities take the collection rather than sink it, but as the estate thus affected several parties, it was held that the will could not be set aside in favor of the son, even though the others got nothing out of it. The result was that both the son and the charities went to law, and the court, much against its inclination, had to decide for the will. So the sinking of the greater part of the fortune was actually carried out as privately as possible, in the presence of the executors, and what was left of the £12,000, after paying law expenses, went to the son and heir.

Genius is supposed to be very near madness, but it was never nearer than in the fight over the will ordering the destruction of the late Mr. Stollwerck's laboratory and all its contents on his death. Most of the work of the inventor's short lifetime was contained in it, including a thing that has since become world-famed and worth hundreds of thousands—the Stollwerck gas motor. Of all the money he made, he had barely £3,000 at his death in money or funds; the rest was sunk in experiments and costly apparatus, and given away in charities. There was the groundwork of half a dozen great businesses in his big Sheffield experimenting house, and he held over thirty patents to his name. In spite of his successes, he was a disappointed man, for the works that he most cherished did not pan out.

It was for the science of his more intricate inventions that he lived, not for the money that the "catchy" one brought in. His will directed that all the work remaining in his laboratory should be destroyed, together with his endless and costly apparatus; and when he found that his end was certain—he died of cancer—he wiped out a large part of his work before death took him, and left £3,000 to his three sons. The will was upset, however, without much difficulty, and his sons, inheriting their father's brains as well as his goods, launched the various golden inventions that bear his name.

But the queerest will of this kind ever drawn up, and with the strangest ending, was that of the late Mr. Symons Lacey, of Lacey & Co.'s coal pits, which supplied most of the foreign navies with coal from the famous Ednyfed fields. It was probably the endless strikes that used to flit the papers, and the long strife between himself and his workmen

that disgusted Mr. Lacey with the coal trade and all connected with it, but, anyway, he drew up an astounding will, directing his heirs to set the Ednyfed pits on fire, and let them burn till the workings were destroyed for good and all! There was, of course, little chance of such an absurd order being carried out; but, even while the will was in process of being set aside, the Ednyfed pits did catch fire—whether by accident or design is still unknown—and became what they are now, a blackened ruin, for the explosions caused the whole surface to subside.

One of the biggest orders of this kind ever really executed—which would be funny if it were not for its pathos—arose out of the will of Henry Fairbrother, owner of the former Black Fleece line of "wool clippers"—sailing vessels that carry the Australian wool to England. Fairbrother was proud of the fact that, like the Cunard, he had never lost a life or a ship, and had a pathetic belief that his fleet was the best in the world. He was a fine old Scot of the old type, and hated steamers. His will directed that his fleet should be broken up and the dunnage given away, rather than survive him. This would have been one more of the great army of overruled wills, but when the fleet was examined, it was found that, in spite of its fine record, every ship was at its last gasp, and could not pass the probate survey. So the breaking up was effected to the letter.

### Big Strike Ordered

Philadelphia, Aug. 8.—The executive board of the structural iron workers' union, at a meeting here today, voted to order a strike of all employees of the American Bridge Company throughout the country for the enforcement of the wage scale in the Philadelphia district. By this order 5,000 men will be affected. The board further decided to order a boycott against the producer of the American Bridge Company. Philadelphia is the only city in which the union scale is not paid by the company. The demands are for 50 cents an hour for an eight hour working day. A strike has been in progress here since May 1.

General President Frank Buchanan, of Chicago, who attended the meeting of the executive board here today, has left the city to personally order the sympathetic strike. He will visit Albany, Buffalo, Cleveland, Pittsburg, Chicago, St. Louis and Denver.

### Fatal Fall From a Car.

Everett, Aug. 8.—H. Mills, 50 years of age, fell from a Broadway car this morning, and died within an hour. Mills was on his way to work. After falling upon his face he never regained consciousness. He leaves a wife and daughter.

Mons Montjoie at Auditorium.

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### Are Well Informed

Berlin, Aug. 7.—M. Goldberger, a royal privy councillor of commerce, who recently visited the United States, will end a series of articles on that country in Die Woche on Sunday. This article quotes President Roosevelt in an interview with Herr Goldberger at the White House as saying:

"The economic future belongs to the United States and Germany and the welfare of both countries lies in intelligent mutual esteem."

Herr Goldberger makes comparisons between Germany and the United States and says the one thing certain is that the sharpest competition will be made by the United States for the world's market.

"We must unconditionally admit," says the writer, "that in the art of industrial organization in disciplined cooperation, in the reduction of cost of production, in the utilization of every advantage attainable by mechanical development, without regard to cost, we find beyond the Atlantic abundant models."

The writer declares that he found the Americans marvelously, almost uncannily, informed about events and facts concerning international trade production. A practical lesson for Germany, he continues, is to give free play to economic forces; to reduce government meddling; to remove prejudices against innovations and to introduce the best features of the American trust, eschewing capitalization promises.

### Head of the List

Chicago, Aug. 8.—The Construction News says: Building operations for the month of July in twenty-three of the leading cities of the United States, as compiled by the Construction News, show the greatest percentage of gain for any month this year, being an increase of 49 per cent as compared with the corresponding month a year ago.

During the month permits were taken out in twenty-three cities for 6,507 building improvements involving a cost of \$29,657,253, against 5,230 buildings, costing \$19,879,185 for the same month a year ago, an increase of 1,277 in the number of buildings and \$9,778,068 in cost.

The most notable gain is made by Seattle with 266 per cent., Buffalo, N.Y., coming next with 231 per cent. Los Angeles 168 per cent., New York city 138 per cent., and Detroit 71 per cent.

Old Friends—Well, I declare, old boy, your wife is fully as tall as you are.

Mr. De Meek (in a whisper)—Yes, I guess that's so.

"How came you to marry such a big woman?"

"Well—er—she didn't seem so big before marriage."—N. Y. Weekly.

"Hello!" exclaimed the egg that was still intact, "you appear to be all broke up."

"Nevertheless," replied the one in the bowl of eggnog, "I'm in good spirits."

"So I observe. I suppose you'll be drunk in a little while."—Philadelphia Press.

Wunn—What is the difference between culture and education?

Tuther—If you are cultured you are acquainted with the latest novels, and if you are educated you are acquainted with the latest microbes.

—Indianapolis Press.

Job Printing at Nugget office

### Asked Him to Retire

Berlin, July 29.—The marriage of Privy Councillor Loehning to the daughter of a former sergeant in the German army has caused Herr Loehning's compulsory retirement from the chief directorship of taxes for the province of Posen.

Herr Loehning, who was also finance councillor, and who is a man of wealth, has been circulating a pamphlet among his friends explaining his acceptance of a pension at the instance of Herr Von Rheinbaben, the Prussian Minister of Finance.

The publication of this pamphlet in today's papers has caused much comment, both socially and politically, because Herr Loehning as privy councillor has first-hand knowledge of the Prussian administration of Posen, and disapproves of several features of the ministry's Polish policy. In this pamphlet Herr Loehning recalled that after an interchange of communications between Berlin and the highest administrative officials of the province of Posen, the ober-president of Posen told him he had nothing to say against his fiancée, but that it was impossible for him to consent to the marriage of one of the highest officials in the province with a daughter of an ex-sergeant; that it was as though the colonel of a regiment proposed to do such a thing. A ministerial councillor or a superior government councillor might possibly marry a sergeant's daughter, but a privy and finance councillor could not. The ober-president said also that the commanding general and the police president shared his views on the matter. The father of Herr Loehning's wife is now a secretary in one of the government offices at Posen.

Some weeks after his marriage the finance ministry at Berlin asked Herr Loehning to retire, which he did. Herr Loehning affirms that his opinions in the matter of the ministry's Polish policy had nothing to do with his retirement from office, but notwithstanding this it is believed the opinions probably did have something to do with the councillor's retirement.

Herr Loehning affirms also that most of the high Prussian officials of the province of Posen condemn the government's general policy toward the Poles, the prosecution of Polish newspapers and the surveillance of Polish societies. Herr Loehning, although favoring measures to German-

ize Poland, is of the opinion that they should be carried out less ostentatiously.

The pamphlet is the subject of noticeable editorial articles in the Liberal newspapers today, which predict attacks upon the government in the diet. The Vossische Zeitung says it is impossible to write about the matter coolly and that it reads like the times preceding the battle of Jena, when Prussian aristocracy reached the acme of class insolence.

### Decision Favors Laborers

London, Aug. 8.—The morning papers discuss with great warmth today the decision handed down by Justice Bigham in the King's bench division of the high court of justice yesterday in a case where the Welsh Coal Owners' Association sued the Miners' Federation for £500 for ordering stop days without consulting the mine owners.

Formerly stop days had been mutually arranged, but in this case the men acted independently.

Justice Bigham decided in favor of the defendants; on the ground that there was no malice in the action of the men, who believed that a reduction of the output would benefit both parties.

The Liberal labor organs hail the justice's decision as a victory for labor. The Conservative newspapers urge that the dispute be carried to a higher court, in the hope of obtaining a reversal on the ground that Justice Bigham's decision places enormous power in the hands of the trades unions.

### Indians Very Miserable

Durango, Col., Aug. 8.—The Navajo Indians have never been in such misery as now since 1868, when Kit Carson had them rounded up in a corral at Defiance. The extreme heat and drought in the Navajo country have ruined the ranges, and ponies, cattle, sheep and goats are starving by scores daily. The Indians have had little else than horse meat to eat for some time, and unless the government will come to their assistance they must starve during the coming winter as they will be thrown upon their blanket industry alone, and this has never done much for their subsistence.

Found, a white and brown spotted bitch. Owner can have same by applying to C. E. Garrison, 34 Eldorado, and paying expenses. c20

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