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Mr. J. H. Aldrich

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OR RAILWAY AND COMMERCIAL RECORD.

E. carli sumendum est optimum.—Cic.

No. 61. SAINT ANDREWS, N. B., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1852. [Vol. 19]

Reminiscences of an Attorney. THE PUZZLE.

CONCLUDED.

I found our interesting, and I feared, deeply injured client, much recovered from the shock which on the previous day had overwhelmed him; and although exceedingly pale—lustrously so, as polished Parian marble—and still painfully agitated, there was hope, almost confidence, in her eye and tone.

"There is some terrible misapprehension in this frightful affair, Mr. Sharp," she began. Henry my husband, was utterly incapable of an act of dishonesty, much less of such utter baseness as this of which he is accused. They also say—do they not, she continued with a smile of haughty contempt, that he robbed the young woman of her poor dowry—some eight hundred pounds? A proper story!"

"That I confess, from what little I know of Mr. Henry Thorneycroft, stamps the whole affair as a fabrication; and yet, the Rev. Mr. Wishart—a gentleman of high character, I understand—is very positive. The young woman too appeared truthful and sincere.

"Yes!—it cannot be denied. Let me say also—for it is best to look at the subject on its darkest side—I find, on looking over my letters that my husband was staying with Mr. Angerstein at the time stated. He was also at that period in the Gloucestershire Yeomanry. I gave William Martin, but the other day, a suit of his regimentals very little the worse for wear."

You forgot to state, Rosamond, said Miss Stewart, who was sitting beside her niece, that Martin, who was with his young master at Bath, is willing to make oath that no such marriage took place, as asserted, at Swindon Church.

"That alone would I fear, my dear madame, very little avail. Can I see William Martin?"

Certainly. The bell was rung, and the necessary order given.

"This Martin is much changed for the better, I hear."

"Oh yes entirely so," said Miss Stewart. "He is also exceedingly attached to us all, the children especially; and his grief and anger, when informed of what occurred, thoroughly attest his faithfulness and sincerity."

No stone, as people say, was left unturned by us, in the hope of discovering some clue that might enable us to unravel the tangled web of conjecture, yet, looking at the character of young Mr. Allerton, improbable circumstances. We were unsuccessful and unfortunately many other particulars which came to light but deepened the adverse conclusion of the case. Two respectable persons living at Swindon were ready to depose on oath that they had on more than one occasion seen Maria Emmsbury's sweetheart with Mr. Angerstein at Bath; once especially at the theatre, upon the benefit night of the great Edmund Keen, who had been playing there for a few nights.

The entire case, fully stated, was ultimately laid by us before eminent counsel—one of whom is now, by the by, a chief justice—and we were advised that the evidence as set forth by us could not be contended against with any chance of success. This sad result was communicated by me to Mrs. Allerton, who she still unwaveringly believed herself to be, and was borne with more constancy and firmness than I had expected. Her faith in her husband's truth and honor was not to the slightest degree shaken by the accumulated proofs. She would not, however, attempt to resist them before a court of law. Something would, she was confident, come to light, that would vindicate the truth and confound her avowed and watchfulness; she, her aunt and children, would in the meantime shelter themselves from the gaze of the world in their former retreat at Lau-anne.

This being the unhappy lady's final determination, I gave the other side notice that we should be ready on a given day to surrender possession of the house and effects in South Audley Street, which the Widow Thorneycroft had given up to her supposed niece in law and family on their arrival in England, and to re-obtain which, and thereby decide the whole question in dispute, legal proceedings had already been commenced.

On the morning appointed for the purpose—having taken leave of the ladies the day previously—I proceeded to South Audley Street to formally give up possession, under protest however. This deed and aunt were not yet gone. This I found, was owing to Martin who according to the ladies' was so confident with grief and rage that he had been unable to expedite as he ought to have done, his packing intrusted to his care. I was vexed at this the Widow Thorneycroft, her property, and the Rev. Mr. Wishart, accompanied by a solicitor, were shortly expected; and it was desirable that a meeting of the antagonistic parties should be avoided. I descended to the lower regions to remonstrate with and hurry Martin, and found, as I feared that his former evil habits had returned upon him. It was not twelve o'clock, and he was partially intoxicated, and pale, trembling, and nervous from the effects, it was clear to me of the previous night's debauch.

"Your mistress is grossly deceived in you," I angrily exclaimed; "and if my advice were taken, you would be turned out of the house at once without a character. There, don't attempt to bamboozle me with that nonsense. I've seen fellows crying drunk, before now."

He stammered out some broken excuses, to which I very impatiently listened, and so thoroughly addled did his brain appear, that he either could not or would not comprehend the possibility of Mrs. Allerton and her children being turned out of house and home, as he expressed it, over and over again asking me if nothing could be done to prevent it. I was completely disgusted with the fellow and sharply bidding him hasten his preparations for departure, rejoined the ladies, who were by this time assembled in the back drawing-room, ready shawled and bonneted for their journey. It was a sad sight. Rosamond Stewart's splendid face was shadowed by deep and bitter grief, borne, it is true, with pride and fortitude; but it was easy to see its throbbing pulsations through all the forced calmness of the surface. Her aunt, of a weaker nature, sobbed loudly in the fulness of her grief, and the children, shrinking instinctively in the chilling atmosphere of a great calamity, clung, trembling and half terrified, the eldest especially to their mother.

I did not insult them with phrases of condolence, but turned the conversation, if such it could be called, upon their future home and prospects in Switzerland. Some time had elapsed when my combative propensities were suddenly aroused by the loud dash of a carriage to the door, and the peremptory rat-tat-tat which followed. I felt as if in possession of an assured, decided right. It is not yet too late to refuse possession, and take the chances of the law's uncertainty."

Mrs. Allerton shook her head with decisive meaning. "I could not bear it," she said, in a tone of sorrowful gentleness. "But I trust we shall not be intruded upon."

I hurried out of the apartment, and met the triumphant claimants. I explained the cause of the delay, and suggested that Mrs. Thorneycroft and her friends could amuse themselves in the garden whilst the solicitor and I ran over the chief valuables to be surrendered thereupon.

This was agreed to. A minute or two

before the conclusion of this necessary formality, I received a message from the ladies, expressive of a wish to be gone at once, if I would escort them to the hotel; and Martin, who was nowhere to be found, could follow. I hastened to comply with their wishes; and we were just about to issue from the front drawing room, into which we had passed through the folding doors, when we were confronted by the widow and her party, who had just reached the landing of the great staircase. We drew back in silence. The mutual confusion into which we were passing on when the butler suddenly appeared.

"A gentleman?" he said, "an officer is at the door, who wishes to see a Miss Maria Emmsbury, formerly of Swindon."

I started at the man, discerned a strange expression in his face, and it glanced across me at the same moment that I had heard no knock at the door.

"See Miss Emmsbury?" exclaimed the widow Thorneycroft, recovering her speech; "there is no such person here!"

"Pardon me, madame," I cried, catching eagerly at the interruption, as a drowning man is said to do at a straw; "this young person, at least Miss Emmsbury, Desires the officer to walk up."

"Is that sufficient, Mr. Sharp?" exclaimed the officer in a voice that reminded all of "Quere, quere," I shouted—"more than enough!"

"Very well, then," said William Martin, jerking off his black curling wig, removing his own light, but now cropped, head of hair and clean-shaven cheeks to view. "Now, then, send for the police, and let them transport me; I richly merit it. I married this young woman in a false name; I robbed her of her money, and I deserve the hulks, if anybody ever did."

You might have heard a pin drop in the apartment whilst the repentant rascal thus spoke and while he ceased, Mrs. Allerton, unable to bear up against the tumultuous emotion which his words excited, sank with out breath or sensation upon a sofa. Assistance was summoned; and whilst she lay perfectly insensible, servants were running from one to another with nervous cries, I had leisure to look around. The Widow Thorneycroft who had dropped into a chair, sat gazing in bewildered dismay upon the stranger, who still held her lately discovered niece in law in his arms; and I could see one hot perspiration which had gathered on his brow run in large drops down the white channels which traced through the thick rouge of her cheeks. But the reader's fancy will supply the best image of this unexpected and extraordinary scene. I cleared the house of intruders and visitors as speedily as possible, well assured that matters would now adjust themselves without difficulty.

And so it proved. Martin was not sent to the hulks, though no question that he amply deserved a punishment as great as that. The self-sacrifice, as he deemed it, which he at last made, pleaded for him, and so did his pretty looking wife; and the upshot was, that the mistaken bride's dowry was restored, with something over, and that a tavern was taken for them in Piccadilly—the White Bear, I think it was—where they lived comfortably and happily. I have heard for a considerable time, and having considerable added to their capital, removed to a hotel of a higher grade in the city, where they now reside. It was not at all surprising that the clergyman and others had been deceived. This disguise, and Martin's imitative night, might have misled persons on their guard, much more than unsuspecting of deception.

The cast in the eyes, as well as a general resemblance of features, also of course greatly aided the imposture.

Of Mrs. Rosamond Allerton, I have only to say, for it is all I know, that she is rich, unwedded, and still splendidly beautiful, though of course somewhat passe compared with herself twenty years since. Happy, too, I have no doubt she is, judging from the bright brightness of her aspect the last time I saw her beneath the transient of the Crystal Palace, on the occasion of its opening by the Queen. I remember wondering at the time

if she often recalled to mind the passage in her life which I have here recorded.

CALIFORNIA FEVER IN CANADA.—The Sherbrooke Gazette says:—The California fever has again broken out in the townships. We understand that some 15 or 20, mostly young men, in Compton and Hawley, have taken the disorder and been hurried away by it—to the gold diggings. Symptoms of the disease have appeared in Sherbrooke, but by the timely application of a little good sense the patients, we believe, are mostly convalescent.

EMBEZZLEMENT.—Mr. Champion, a gentleman well known in Toronto, as Secretary of the Toronto Church Society, has, we regret to state, been arrested on a charge of embezzlement, (to the amount of £2,000, funds of the Society) and the case is now undergoing examination at Toronto before the Police Magistrate.—Quebec Morning Chronicle.

A magnificent service of silver, consisting of a pitcher, two goblets, and a salver, is now on exhibition at Mobile, to be presented to Wm. Sydney Smith, the Secretary of the British Consulate at Havana, for his kind and generous attention to the prisoners from the Lopez Expedition.

FIRE.—A two story House nearly opposite Mr. Irvine's Church, in Great George street, was partially consumed by fire yesterday morning, between one and two o'clock. The several Fire Companies were early on the ground and displayed their usual activity in arresting the progress of the flames.

In San Francisco there are twelve Protestant, three Roman Catholic and two Jewish places of worship, and in the aggregate, capable of accommodating 5050 persons. Many are furnished with tasty pulpits, pews and choir-galleries, while their floors are carpeted.

Great numbers of partridges have been frozen to death in New Jersey during the recent severe weather. A Washington paper states that not less than five hundred of these birds were offered for sale at that market last Saturday. The writer is afraid the whole race of partridges will become extinct.

We regret to learn that the residence of the Rev. J. R. Lawson, at Ugham, was totally destroyed by fire on Thursday morning last. The building was partially insured.—Church Witness.

The Frederician Head Quarters says—The House of Assembly have now fairly got to work. Most of the petitions likely to be presented for any purpose during the Session, are now in, and the business has so far progressed in a way which appears to give satisfaction to all parties in the House, and to the country. There has not been a Session for many years where a greater unanimity of feeling prevailed among the members of the House of Assembly, and the amount of business already disposed of, is perhaps larger than has been accomplished in the same time at the beginning of a Session during the sittings of the last two Provincial Parliaments. There has been little debating but the business of the country has steadily progressed, and from present appearances, we should imagine that the Session would not be a very long one.

LAW RESPECTING NEWSPAPERS

Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary, are considered as wishing to continue their subscriptions.

If subscribers neglect or refuse to take their papers from the office to which they are directed they are held responsible till they have settled their Bill, and ordered their papers to be discontinued.

If subscribers remove to other places without informing the publisher, and the paper is sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.

CURE FOR DEAFNESS.—A correspondent of the Boston Cultivator gives the following simple cure for deafness:

At about three years of age, a daughter of the Hon. Daniel Baldwin of Montpelier, became very deaf in both ears. In conversation it was quite difficult to make her hear, and she continued in this wretched state until about eighteen years of age, when an Indian doctor chanced to see her, who told the mother, Mrs. B., that the oil of onion and tobacco would cure her if prepared as follows:—Divide an onion, and from the centre take out a piece the size of a common walnut; fill this cavity with a fresh quid of tobacco, and bind the onion together in its usual shape; roast it, then trip off the outer part until you come to that portion slightly colored or penetrated by the tobacco; crush up the balance of the tobacco; put it into a phial. Three drops of this oil, Mrs. B. informed me, she dropped into the ear after her daughter had retired to bed, which immediately gave her considerable pain which lasted for some time.

Before morning however, her hearing was so extremely delicate and sensitive, that she suffered by the sound and noise in common conversation! This season overcomes, and for more than three years past her hearing has been entirely restored, to the great joy of her parents and friends! Having been acquainted with the family for many years, the case is so miraculous and gratifying, that I cannot, in justice to the afflicted, refrain from making this simple and effectual remedy for deafness known.

European Intelligence.

ANOTHER ATLANTIC STEAMER PUT INTO HALIFAX.

The Steamer NIAGARA, from Liverpool bound to New York, put into Halifax on the 4th inst., at 2 o'clock, then 18 days out. She proceeded on her voyage at 4 past 4 o'clock in the afternoon, after receiving a supply of coal. Her dates are to the 17th ult. She brought out 51 passengers.

Cotton—prices were unchanged. The sales of the week reached 40,950 bales. Indian Corn had advanced from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per quarter. In flour and wheat, a fair business had been done at last week's prices; Philadelphia, Baltimore, Ohio and Canada sold at 21s. to 22s.; Sour, 17s. to 18s. per barrel.

There is not an item of English news since the Humboldt sailed.

In France, affairs are much as last reported. The new Constitution was to have been promulgated between the 15th and 20th January. The papers are filled with the accounts of the removal of the prisoners sent to Cayenne. A second list of proscribed persons was expected to have been published, containing the names of some of the most eminent members of the Council of State, and several of the editors of the Orleans papers; but it had not yet appeared. The dissolution of the National Guards had taken place, the press previously occupied by them are now guarded by the troops of the Seine. A Decree had been issued declaring that within three days the property of insurgents who had taken flight was to be sequestered and administered by the Directors of the State domains.

The following is an outline of the new Constitution:—The President to be responsible Governor for ten years. Justice to be dispensed in the President's name. He has the initiative of Laws, and the right of pardon ing. He is to present an annual Message; commands the land and sea forces; declares war, and makes treaties, and appoints to all functions. The oath required from all public officers is this: "I swear obedience to the Constitution, and fidelity to the President."

