CHARGES MINISTER HALTED ROMANCE

Youth Sues Pastor for $5000 Following Breaking of Engagement

ADVISED AGAINST WEDDING

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Jan. 19.—To what extent a minister of the gospel may go in advising the members of his congregation on temporal affairs is the real issue before a jury trying the Rev. W. S. Crandall, of Scranton, for slander.

The charge is brought by William B. Courtright, of Dunmore, who asks $5000 damages because the pastor advised Miss Eleanor Warner, of Ashley, a parishioner, against marrying the plaintiff. Statements of the pastor caused the girl to call off the wedding, the plaintiff charges. The case opened here yesterday.

Dr. Crandall is the pastor of the Simpson Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Scranton and formerly had charge of the Ashley Church. On the witness stand yesterday he admitted giving the girl some advice. He maintained that he was asked to give his opinion of Courtright and the young man's family by the girl, who called at his study in April, 1917.

Said Some Were Crippled

Under questioning the pastor said that he had told the girl that some of the members of the Courtright family were crippled and that sickness existed which he believed might affect any children born to the couple about to be wed.

The Rev. Mr. Crandall then told of Courtright coming to him to arrange for the wedding, about ten days before the minister and Miss Warner had their serious talk. Mr. Crandall said he suspected there was something wrong with Courtright because of his conversation.

The minister told of being called to the office of Justice of the Peace Fenner, in Ashley, where he met Courtright and discussed the incidents leading to the breaking off of the engagement. He denied making any statement of the physical condition of any one in the Courtright family and declared that he did not make public the conversation he had with Miss Warner.

Didn't Advise Breaking Troth

In closing his direct testimony he said that he told Miss Warner what he knew concerning the family history of the Courtrights. He said he did not tell her to break her engagement, but pointed out as best he could the danger that might await her.

On cross-examination the minister held rigidly to his story, answered quickly and denied all the charges that the plaintiff had made in his bill.

Miss Warner took the stand in defense of the minister. She testified that she had known Courtright only a few weeks before he proposed. She claimed she did not consider herself engaged to him, but did admit going to Dunmore to look after some rooms that he proposed they occupy after their marriage. The girl testified that the Rev. Mr. Crandall told her that the family history showed some to be cripples and others to be insane. She did not say that the minister advised against marriage.

Miss Mattie Courtright, niece of the plaintiff, testified for the minister. She is a cripple and said she had a crippled brother and one brother who died insane.

The case will reach the jury today.

BREAKS PRISON TO WED

Alleged Deserter Escapes From Governors Island to Marry Belgian

Boston, Jan. 19.—(By A. P.)—Private Harold Stearns, of the Roxbury district, who escaped from Governors Island recently while awaiting trial for alleged desertion from the American forces at Coblenz, left the island to marry the Belgian girl, love for whom led him to desert in Germany, the soldier's aunt, Mrs. Sadie Crahan, said last night. She asserted that her nephew would give himself up in a few days.

The girl is Semone Thonnard, of Liege, a former Red Cross worker, Mrs. Crahan said. She reached New York three days ago and planned to come to this city immediately after her marriage to make her home with Mrs. Crahan, to await the outcome of her husband's court-martial.

MAGNIFICENT GRAND PIANO USED AS RUSSIAN PIGSTY

Peasant Trades Food for Luxuries Which He Misuses

Kursk, Russia, Jan. 19.—(By A. P.)—Trappings of civilization are finding strange uses in the peasant huts of Russia. City folks who have fled to rural districts in search of bread and peace have frequently been compelled to trade their belongings to the peasants for food, and have found customers in Ivan Iranovich and his family, who like the glitter and gloss of the fixings of gentility.

Frequently, however, they have little idea how to use the articles which come to them in exchange for milk and flour.

An American, who recently visited a village near this city, saw a magnificent concert grand piano in a one-roomed hut, which sheltered a peasant family of six. The family's cooking utensils were stacked on top of the piano and a small pig was tied to one of its legs.

NERVOUS MAN HAS NO PLACE AS CHIROPODIST IN THE ZOO

When Former Rulers of Jungle Need Attention They Want It Quickly and Tempers Aren't of the Best, Either

One may understand why a man chooses as his profession the undertaking busines or the playing of a base viol, which does nothing but "zum, zum," but it is a subject of great speculation, indeed, as to just why a man should care to be a chiropodist to wild animals.

But the leopards and lions an' things frequently have ingrowing toenails and as a result become much disgruntled and out of temper. Something must be done because the grouch of a lion is far different from that of a human.

When the amiable man of the house comes home with a pain in his disposition he generally sulks, but when the king of animals gets a grouch he declares himself to all who may care to listen with howls, loud and long drawn.

Must Be Real "Tamer"

And so the chiropodist is summoned. From one end of the cage to the other the animal paces, but by a dexterous twist of a practiced hand he is lassoed with a strong rope and thrown to the floor of his cage. Once down a small corps of keepers approaches and set themselves upon his majesty to keep him from moving about. Then the nail is fixed and the animal released. For a time he paces back and forth highly indignant, but eventually composes himself and peace once again reigns.

When one takes Johnny or Mary to the Zoo and casually peers between the bars, one does not stop to realize the cost of the animals or the work entailed to get them there.

Nonchalantly a mere peanut is flipped into a cage and a shaggy polar bear reached forth a greedy paw. A bear costs from $400 to $500.

Thick-skinned and hardly a thing of beauty, the hippopotamus is next visited. The children pull back fearfully, and you grunt a disapproval of the silly old thing. And yet, the Zoo has one which they value highly. The animal is two years old, and although $5000 was offered, Mr. Zoo, or whoever it is who makes up the grocery lists and tends to such things, was not interested.

Long Necks Are Costly

Giraffes are particularly troublesome and expensive animals. In their own native land they are more or less reasonably priced, but by the time they reach here they are sold anywhere from $2500 to $3000.

"About a year ago," Emerson Brown, superintendent of the Zoo, said, "we had three giraffes on their way over here. One died on the way over, another broke its neck in the shipping and the third died shortly after its arrival.

"One would hardly think of this animal as delicate, but they are easily affected by change of climate.

"And there is no end of red tape needed to get them here. Permits from Washington, an entirely different set in Africa, duty, shipping expenses and when the final bill is passed on to us it is quite increased since the animal was priced originally in its own land.

"There is a great fear of bringing the hoof and mouth disease over here. I never heard of a wild animal having it, but because cows get it, any animal with a hoof is looked upon with suspicion and is placed in quarantine for several weeks after its arrival."

Elephants are not so rare. Circuses use a large number and when the huge beasts have outlived their usefulness in the sawdust ring or the company is stranded, a Zoo purchases them. They cost from $800 to $2000, depending on the size.

Mr. Brown explained that the purchase of animals was becoming easier. "And too," he said, "prices are getting lower, although the necessity for permits and all the other red tape does pile up the dollars."

LINER RUNS DOWN WHALE AND CUTS IT IN TWAIN

Passengers Lined Rails to See What Would Happen

New York, Jan. 19.—The story of a seventy-five-foot whale, which was neatly cut in twain by the prow of the Italian liner Presidente Wilson, was related by passengers when the vessel docked here yesterday.

The Presidente Wilson was sailing in mid-Atlantic when the whale was sighted lying directly across the course of the vessel. A hundred and fifty passengers lined the rails to see what would happen.

Passengers along the port rail heard a crash as the bow struck the huge mammal, saw the water turn pink and saw the head of the whale float astern. Those on the starboard rail experienced the same sensation—only they saw the tail float astern.

ANOTHER GRIPPING STORY

"Tangled Trails," great mystery novel of West, by William MacLeod Raine, begins Saturday, January 21, in the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER.—Adv.

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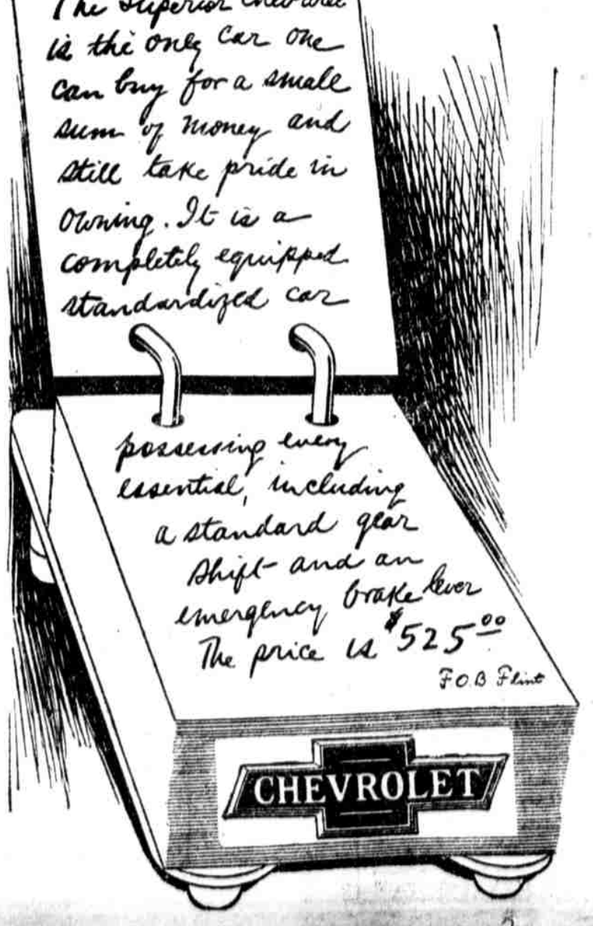

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