

THE MUSE OF MADNESS. A Will Case in Court Unveils a Character Stranger Than Any in Fiction.

NEVER ERRED IN BUSINESS. Yet the Penurious Man Was Unable Even to Dress Himself.

SMITH'S QUEER HALLUCINATIONS. Some Finnish Doggerel Written by the Madman's Own Hand.

FILLED WITH INHUMAN SENTIMENTS.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.

CLEVELAND, November 7.—A contested will case, that has just been brought to a conclusion in the Common Pleas Court here, makes public the vagaries of a most remarkable miser. No character creation of a novelist ever equalled the personality of this man, and the statements which follow, and which were all made upon the witness stand under oath, are more wonderful than any romance.

For years Thomas Smith, whose will was the subject of this suit, was a notable person among a wide circle of acquaintances, because of his marked peculiarities and his career, which strangely mingled business shrewdness with miserly thrift and insane capriciousness, under a metallic raving in the Northern Ohio Asylum for the Insane at Newburg last year. Mr. Smith's will was made in 1876, and there were two codicils, the first placed in April, 1877, and the second in 1888.

PLACED UNDER RESTRAINT.

Three years before his death Mr. Smith was taken to the insane asylum, where he was confined until his decease. By the terms of his will his children received only a \$200 monthly cash, and the remainder of the estate, which amounts to \$120,000, was tied up in the hands of trustees until his grandchildren should reach the age of 25 and his granddaughters the age of 21, when the property was to be divided among his equals.

All the heirs were in favor of an immediate equal distribution of the estate, and the will was annulled. However, by telegraph, James Wade, and Mr. Thomas Hall, who received a \$5,000 legacy under it. The children understood that Smith was a monomaniac, and that even at the time the will was made, two years before his confinement in the asylum, his hobby had so mastered him as to render him incapable of properly directing the distribution of his estate.

HE MISER IN THE EXTREME.

On one occasion he was on a trip to Iowa to make an investment, when one of his sons died of pneumonia. He refused to return, but went on and made the intended deal, giving as a reason for such strange conduct the fact that he had to visit his home at least three days' interval, which would have been a serious matter.

HIS DAUGHTER, MRS. PHOENIX HARMON, WITH WHOM SMITH MADE HIS HOME, HAS BEEN DECEASED, TESTIFIED THAT AT THE TIME OF HER MOTHER'S DEATH, SMITH, AFTER FOLLOWING HER BODY TO THE GRAVE, HIRED A SOLDIER AND DANCED TO THE MUSIC OF THE FIDDLE ALL THE WAY HOME. SHE SAID THAT OTHER STRANGE ACTIONS MAY BE GIVEN IN HIS DAUGHTER'S OWN WORDS:

"I lived about eight miles from Fairview, and the railroad was but 20 cents. My father would never take the train to go there, but always insisted on my husband harnessing a horse and driving him over. He said it was his habit to go to the station for a railroad ticket when he could get there for nothing. One day he told me that the Government had sent for his trunk and that they wanted to keep it for five days, and asked me to go to the room and identify it. When I did so to humor him, he asked, 'How do you know this is mine?' Are you sure of it?' I laughed, and told him it was my own. He was sure, as his name was on it in large letters.

NO TAX ON OUR CATTLE.

Mexico Denies the Report That She Had Imposed an Import Duty. WASHINGTON, November 7.—A statement having appeared recently to the effect that the Mexican Government had placed an import duty on cattle from the United States, the Secretary of Agriculture immediately called the attention of the Department of State to this matter, with a request that the facts be ascertained. He is now in receipt of a communication from the Department of State enclosing a telegram from the Mexican General at New Laredo in reply to one from the State Department, instructing him to make inquiries on the subject in which that official states that no such duty has been levied, and that the Government of Mexico has no intention of imposing such a duty.

THE CYCLOPAMA GOING.

To be Sold at Auction in the Chamber of Commerce. The Cyclopama Battle of Gettysburg will close its business on the 11th of January unless someone purchases it and runs it for a time. The company now running the exhibition will put it up at public auction at the Chamber of Commerce on November 27, and it positively will be sold. Possession will then be given on January 1.

PERU WANTS PROTECTION.

The Government Imposes a Prohibitive Tax on Imported Lard. NEW YORK, November 7.—The Government of Peru has imposed a prohibitive tax on imported lard. The news of this move has created quite a stir on the Produce Exchange, as Peru takes \$300,000 of best quality lard from this city yearly.

THE OLD MAN'S BLASPHEMY.

The testimony of R. P. Harmon, an old friend of Smith's and Mrs. Harmon's father-in-law, brought out another phase of the miser's remarkable character. The miser was very fond of the Bible and read it frequently, but seldom did so without doing so in a way that seemed very blasphemous to a sane person. He would say a gold pen and holder, the number of the pieces that could be made from those gold pieces, and how much he could realize on it by lending the gold out at 6 per cent interest.

HE VISITS POLAND.

He took a trip to Europe lately in the seventies, and on his return told many wonderful stories of his experiences. The most remarkable was that he visited the House of Parliament and wanted to sit on the throne, but was told by his guide that Queen Victoria had reserved that seat for her own use. The guide in question was no less a person than Hon. W. E. Gladstone, according to Smith's story, and when the American miser said goodbye to him he left a quarter on top of his head and a fee to the Grand Old Man for his services.

CHRISTIANS GO HOME. The Endeavor Societies Wind Up Their State Convention.

PLENTY OF WORK READY TO DO. Practical Thoughts on Various Phases of Religious Labor.

THEORIES AND THE CHURCH'S CHANCE. The fourth annual convention of the Pennsylvania Union of Christian Endeavor Societies ended last night.

The evening exercises were opened with devotional exercises and a few words of thanks by the newly elected President, the Secretary reported that 800 members had registered, representing 23 denominations. Among other resolutions adopted was one denouncing the managers of the Columbia Exhibition in 1890 for failing to keep the exhibition open on Sunday.

The closing address was delivered by Rev. D. D. Francis E. Clark, of Boston, President of the United Society of Christian Endeavor. He took for his theme "Large Things for Christ." He said that he believed God had put his indent finger on certain new lines of church work. Among other things that the Christian Endeavor Society needed was a larger conception of the truth; a larger conception of their duty and the power of a great compelling motive. He appealed to his hearers to persevere in the work of their various societies. Dr. Clark is a comparatively young man and the founder of the Christian Endeavor Society. He reported that 800 members had registered, representing 23 denominations.

The first address was made by Rev. George B. Stewart, of Erie, Pa., who spoke upon "Ministry to the Sick." It was a practical, common-sense talk. He urged cheerfulness above all things. There was too much sadness and gloominess in the ordinary sick room. People who were eager to help the sick often worry the patient to death by their fussiness. He urged his hearers to beware of an undue sanctimoniousness. A motion was adopted to have Mr. Stewart's suggestion printed on a card for distribution.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH. Rev. Henry Applebark, pastor of the Fourth Avenue Baptist Church, spoke on building up a Sunday school.

After the afternoon session yesterday, Prof. Cooper, whose address on Bible study was so well received, met with a few friends who are maturing plans for establishing courses of Bible study in Pittsburgh and Allegheny during the present winter. The work will be done by the proprietors of the American Institute of Sacred Literature.

MONEY IN A HOLE. PECULIAR POSITION OF A HEAVY DEPOSIT IN A CHICAGO BANK.

Ex-Alderman Whelan, Who Was Murdered, Put It There—He is Accused of Wanting to Bribe Councilmen—Owners Are in Demand. CHICAGO, November 7.—A short time ago ex-Alderman Whelan was shot and killed by a man named Hestway. It was a matter of common notoriety in political circles that Whelan was the go-between clearing house for bribe money passing between corporations wanting franchises and purchasable members of the City Council.

An afternoon paper says that, shortly before his death, Whelan deposited \$30,000 in a bank in this city, as a step toward its transfer from a certain elevated road to a new franchise, certain Aldermen being desirous of realizing the financial value of their votes in granting it. The paper points out that Whelan's death leaves this tidy sum in a peculiar situation. Though in Whelan's name, it does not belong to his estate; the railroad people dare not take it, for they are afraid of the Aldermen who no claim on it, and would not enforce it if they had.

SOCIABILITY IN THE CHURCH. Rev. Dr. Charles Wood, of Germantown, discussed "The Social Life." He is a thorough advocate of sociability in the church.

In connection with this the paper publishes an interesting interview with M. C. McDonald, one of the proprietors of the Lake street elevated railroad, in which he says: "This is a paper of mine for \$30,000; I think it is in Whelan's name. This is for some time past, and I have some apprehension about this matter, but I have given rise to the yarn. But at any rate I don't believe the story is true. Billy had not in fact as wealthy a man as he is represented to be, and I don't believe he would be worth only about \$20,000. If he made any winning or had some unaccountable success, it was in 1888, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 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