

WHAT WILL HER FUTURE BE?

The Smart Set of New York Wagging Tongues Regarding Her Social Position.

WHAT SHE LOST AND WON

Her Millions Saved Her From the Humiliation of Divorce Court Publicity.

Lawyers Declare the Court Proceedings Were Utterly Irregular and Some Say Illegal—But No One Will Contest Illegality if Any and the Decree Will Stand Was Somebody Paid Heavily?

New York, May 2.—What will society do for the Perry Belmonts? This is the question of the day wherever members of the Four Hundred are gathered together.

There seems to be no question that the woman, who Friday morning was the wife of Henry T. Sloane and Friday night was the wife of Ex-Congressman Belmont, will make an immediate effort to resume her position at the head of the so-called exclusive set.

It was for this purpose that she came to her husband, a "dowerless bride." It is true that she has a handsome fortune in her own right left her by her father, the late Mr. Robbins. And this she still retains.

But the palace in Seventy-second street, given her by her late husband, all her dower rights, the handsome jewels, the horses, the plate, the pictures and all the other wealth of house hold treasures which were hers by virtue of his generosity, she returned to him, and the avowed purpose of this giving was that she "might maintain her status in society."

It is true that Mrs. Sloane has made no real sacrifice. In place of the handsome jewels, she will wear the least expensive gems of the late Mrs. August Belmont, sr., one of the rarest sets of gems that the world outside of royalty holds. Perry Belmont held them in trust as heirslooms.

She will have two houses, as before—a town house on Fifth avenue, which Mr. Belmont has just leased for a month or year, and a country house at Newport. She will have the backing of the most powerful segment of the Newport-New York society. She will have her own peerless beauty and her husband's millions and social prestige to help her. And in addition to these all she will have a courage which knows no fear. The general belief is that she will win the battle.

She gives up one husband with 9,000,000 and gains another worth 86,000,000. Her two daughters go to Mr. Sloane.

Persons of statistical turn of mind were figuring this morning on what Mrs. Belmont has removed and what she has gained. It is a fortune of 9,000,000 for one of 86,000,000. But when one gets up to 86,000,000, they argued, it makes no difference. And in the minds of women the Belmont jewel casket—the casket which August Belmont the elder searched the wide world over for the wife who was always true to him—were balm for a loss of more than \$3,000,000.

The secret divorce, which has not been secret, and which, defeating the ends of those who have tried to crush down the facts and place the skeleton behind sealed doors, has caused more talk than any which preceded it since another member of the Vanderbilt family circle was divorced by the same star chamber method.

It is one of the curiosities of the law of the Empire State that it permits a millionaire to place the character of his wife under judicial scrutiny, may have her condemned as an immoral woman with nobody but the referee and the lawyers cognizant of the evidence against her, and may grant the husband a divorce, itself a condemnation of her character and a blackening of her good name, and all the time the public be barred from knowledge even that legal proceedings are being held.

A poor woman, on the other hand, has her case dragged through the courts without much regard for her feelings. It matters not how beautiful she may be how much she has suffered what excuse there be for her offense, if she have committed any, if she lack the Vanderbilt millions and the Belmont influence there are no secret proceedings in her case, though possibly, if the judge so wills it, the reference is tried in private.

Lawyers declare that the proceedings were utterly irregular and, as a matter of fact, illegal. But there is no one to contest its legality, and even if it were obtained by collusion the divorce will stand.

The case has not followed the course of the usual secret divorce proceedings. According to court rules and practice, the entry of the order of reference, with the name of the referee and the placing of the cause on the calendar of Part III of the Special Term for a confirmation of the report of the referee were all omitted.

The law and practice by which the many are bound were ignored in this case, wherein the parties involved represented two great names and two prodigious fortunes.

On April 1 Judge Truax signed an order for a reference in a formal way, both sides consenting. The papers were not filed. They disappeared. No notice of the reference appeared in the Law Journal. No record of the appointment was made. Somebody was paid heavily to keep the thing a secret. Who was it, and what is the market price for secrecy?

After a short visit at Mrs. Sam Howlands, in Washington, the Belmonts will go to Kentucky where Mr. Belmont has a few fine horses, and then off to Europe and Elysium.

To Take the Part of Uncle Sam.

Washington, May 1.—The tallest man in the United States Navy has been selected to take the part of Uncle Sam in the Peace Jubilee to be held in Washington next month. The man who will represent this character is Chief Yeoman Willis, who stands six feet seven inches in his bare feet and is well proportioned in every way. Mr. Willis is of Scotch birth, out Florida is the State of his birth.

MRS. GEORGE FREE

The Jury Brings in a Verdict of Not Guilty—Charged With Killing George D. Saxton.

Canton, Ohio, April 29.—Mrs. George was acquitted of the murder of George Saxton, President McKinley's brother-in-law.

The verdict was received with demonstrations of approval in the court room.

Mrs. George was congratulated by her counsel and friends.

Mrs. Anna George was accused of the murder of George D. Saxton, the only brother of Mrs. William McKinley, at Canton, O., on the evening of Friday, Oct. 8, 1898.

About 6 o'clock that evening Saxton rode on his bicycle from his place of business to the home of Mrs. Eva Althouse, on Lincoln avenue, Canton.

Saxton dismounted, leaned his wheel against the curbstone and started across the pavement to the steps that lead to the terrace lawn in front of the Althouse home.

Just as he put his foot on the lower step a shot was fired at him by a woman in black. A second shot followed quickly.

Mrs. George was arrested soon after the shooting and charged with Saxton's murder.

Mrs. George was divorced from her husband in the Dakota courts. He had left her because he charged her with being intimate with Saxton. He began a suit for divorce, but abandoned it and allowed her to get a divorce from him on the ground of abandonment. It was said at the time that Saxton was going to marry her as soon as she obtained a divorce.

The police ascribe the murder of Saxton to Mrs. George's jealousy. Saxton was well off and paid attentions to many women, neglecting Mrs. George after the first year succeeding her divorce. She sued him for support and for money which it was alleged he had promised to pay her. Mr. George also sued Saxton for alienating the affections of his wife, but the case was settled out of court.

Oil at Wheeling, W. Va.

Wheeling, W. Va., April 29.—The attention of oil men is attracted to developments within half a mile of this city, which is at least forty miles from the nearest oil-producing district of consequence.

The oil operator has invaded the most exclusive residence suburbs, and next week a company headed by Chas. P. Bachman will begin drilling a test well on the land of the Thompson estate. Years ago a test well was driven on this property and oil was struck but the hole was plugged through influence brought to bear by an oil corporation which was indirectly interested.

Should the new test result in the discovery of oil, Wheeling will have its first oil boom.

GEN. OTIS'S REPORT.

Sends News of Peace Overtures and Praises Col. Funston of Kansas.

Washington, May 2.—The following was received at the War Department:

"Adjutant General, Washington: 'After taking Calumpit MacArthur's division crossed Rio Grande River in face of great obstacles, driving the concentrated forces of enemy back on railroad two miles.

"MacArthur reports that passage of river remarkable military achievement the success of which due to daring skill and determination of Colonel Funston, under discriminating control of General Wheaton.

"Casualties slight. Number not yet ascertained. 'This morning Chief of Staff of commanding General of insurgent forces entered our lines to express admiration of the wonderful feat of the American army in forcing passage of river, which was thought impossible.

"That officer reports that insurgent commanding General has received from insurgent Government directions to suspend hostilities pending negotiations for the termination of the war.

"The staff officer, with party, is now en route to Manila, and will arrive soon.

"Lawton's force well in hand in vicinity of Amgat, east of Calumpit, where he is awaiting supplies to be sent to-morrow.

"Yesterday morning a force of 1,500 insurgents attacked troops at Taguiz. Driven back by Washington regiment, with considerable slaughter. Our loss 2 killed, 12 wounded. (Signed) OTIS.

General Otis has been under orders not to consider any offer of peace until the insurgents laid down their arms and surrendered unconditionally.

The instructions of the President to General Otis some time ago were to this effect, and they have not been changed. The conditions are the same as in the case of the Spanish surrender at Santiago.

Philadelphia, April 28.—President McKinley sent the following cablegram to General Otis at Manila:

"To Otis, Manila: 'Your message announcing the achievement of MacArthur's Division and the proposition by the insurgents of suspension of hostilities most gratifying. Convey to officers and men heartfelt thanks and gratitude for their signal gallantry and triumph.' 'WILLIAM MCKINLEY.'"

FUNSTON A GENERAL

Brave Kausan Will Get Promotion and Medal of Honor.

Washington, April 29.—It was stated at the War Department, that Col. Funston would secure a brigadier-general's commission as a reward for his services in the various engagements culminating in his daring and heroic feats yesterday.

It was also stated that Col. Funston and the two men who crossed the river under the fire of the enemy would secure medals of honor.

Gomez Favors Independence

Havana, April 28.—General Maximo Gomez has received a letter from Dr. Luis Adriquet, of New York, informing him that certain New York newspapers say that he has favored an American protectorate over Cuba. Gen. Gomez declares that he only favors absolute Cuban independence, and that he has never uttered a single word against Cuban independence, which is his only ideal. He adds that there can be no rest in Cuba until a Cuban Republic is established.

WANTS HIS EXILE TO END

Republican Nominee for Congress From South Carolina Makes Statement.

R. R. TOLBERT'S APPEAL

Makes Promises for the Future and Even Offers to Change Politics If Proved in Error.

Believes in White Supremacy But Thinks Men Should Not Be Disfranchised On Account of Color Alone If of Established Good Character and Intelligence, and Owners of Property.

Columbia, S. C., May 9.—Through the editor of a weekly newspaper published at Greenwood, R. R. Tolbert, the Republican nominee for Congress in South Carolina, and at present contesting Congressman Latimer's seat at Phoenix a statement. Tolbert was expelled from that region during the election troubles in November. He wishes to return and makes promises for the future. He is willing to change his politics if it is shown that he is in error.

"If a year ago I could have foreseen what was going to occur I would not have accepted the nomination for Congress. I have been a Republican, and I have never been afraid or ashamed to declare my principles, but I have never knowingly given any man any advice that would tend to make him other than a good citizen or cause him to set at defiance any established law. Why should I desire to bring about a state of lawlessness? My home is in Abbeville County and a large part of my interests lie in Greenwood. And that I care for in life, everything and everybody that I hold near and dear, is centered in these two counties, and any evil that would befall them would come upon me, too.

"I certainly have some interest in trying to preserve law and order, and I had always thought until last November that my neighbors gave me credit for trying to do so. It has been very humiliating to me for my neighbors and many whom I regarded as personal friends to charge me otherwise. It has been charged that I have too strong a predilection for the negro in politics. I want to set myself right as to that. I am not and never have been in favor of negroes holding office. I am not now and never have been in favor of any man, white or black, exercising the right of suffrage unless he is qualified to do so. But I do not believe in disfranchising on account of their color men who, because of property or education or established character as good citizens should be allowed to vote. I am not a believer in social quality. I am a believer in white supremacy in the broadest and strongest sense of the term, and if I see that it is in danger I will go as far as any man to defend it.

"I cannot see that there is the remotest danger of negro domination, and I simply cannot believe the white people, in the strength of their superiority, should commit crime against a weaker and defenseless race.

"When I was nominated for Congress by my party in the Third district I wanted to make as good a showing as possible. I want to refute the statement that Republicans were securing nominations for office in this State solely for the purpose of getting money out of the national campaign fund. I did not make any money out of the campaign. In the contest if I am not seated, I will not get anything but the actual expenses in making the contest, and the expense account will be carefully itemized."

Tolbert repudiated the interview with him published in the New York Independent, which caused much feeling against him. In that he is made to allude to the people in Greenwood as "white trash."

"I short," says Tolbert, "I have been misrepresented and misunderstood on so many points that I hardly know what to say or where to commence to set myself right. I want to get right before the people of my home, though, for I am sure if I can do that at the people will have a very different opinion of me.

"I do not take it," he said, "that the people of Greenwood County want me to humiliate myself, and I could not do so even if they wished it. I have been a Republican from principle, and I am not sure how anyone can consider that a crime. But I will open to conviction, and if any man can show me that my position is wrong, I will speedily abandon it. I have never held night meetings with negroes and preached incendiary doctrines to them and never expect to do so. I have never thought that I was a menace to the peace and safety of the community, but if any man can show in what way I have been such I will try to change my conduct. I am not an outlaw and don't want to be considered as such.

"I want to go back to my home with my wife and children and live there in peace to the end of my days. I want to have the friendship and good will of all my neighbors, and am sure that when they understand me clearly I will have that to the fullest extent. I want to be able to go about the community and attend to my business affairs freely and without molestation, and without the consciousness that I am looked upon with distrust and suspicion. I simply want a white man's chance in a white man's country. I do not ask for anything more than this, and I will not be satisfied with anything less."

Tolbert is man and thin. The nearest he has been to his home since the troubles was when at Greenville attending the trial of the conspirators on charges brought by Jim Tolbert.

Washed Ashore From Orizaba

Norfolk, Va., May 8.—A despatch was received by the United States Weather Bureau here from Kitty Hawk Life Saving Station on the North Carolina coast, near Hatteras, saying that a man picked up a cork jacket about a mile north of Kitty Hawk, which looked as though some one had been washed out of it. Cork jacket had name of Orizaba on it."

TWO GIANT TRUSTS.

An Amalgamation of Steel Interests Reported; May Aggregate \$1,000,000,000.

RUMORS ARE DENIED.

Standard Oil Magnates Rockefeller and Rogers Said to Have a Finger in the Pie.

The Incorporation of the Union Match Company Said to Be the First Step Toward the Consolidation of the Match Industries of America—To Secure Control of Diamond and Continental.

Chicago, May 9.—John W. Gates returned from New York and brought confirmation of the reports of the combination of all the large steel companies in the country. He says that the headquarters of the new company will be in New York, and that the capital stock will be between \$500,000,000 and \$800,000,000, possibly \$1,000,000,000. The President of the new company will be H. C. Frick of Pittsburgh, who has been so closely identified with Andrew Carnegie.

Mr. Gates said that Mr. Carnegie would not have any interest in the new concern provided the terms he proposed to the combination were accepted. "And I suppose they have been," he said, "else the combination would not now be an assured fact."

The American Steel and Wire was one of two concerns he said, that held out against the combination until recently. The other is said to have been the Federal Steel Company. Mr. Gates said that the difficulty was really a small one, and intimated that it was a matter of price. The new company, he says, will be ready for operation by July 1.

Pittsburg, May 9.—There are many conflicting rumors here concerning the Carnegie interests and the consolidation of the big steel and iron companies. Officers of the Carnegie company here positively refuse to talk, and the representatives of other concerns are equally reticent.

Strawberry and vanilla cream at Ritter's Ice Cream Parlor, Laporte.

New lot of muslins, ginghams and calicoes at J. W. Buck's Sonestown.

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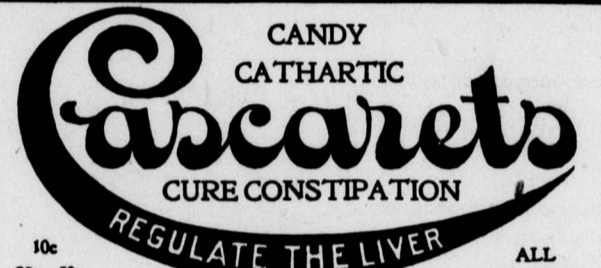
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