

The Redfield Will

It Looked All Right When Made, but Did Not Pan Out Well

By F. A. MITCHEL

When the late John Redfield's will was opened it was learned that all his property—a goodly fortune—was left to his daughter Anne, with the condition that she marry the testator's right hand man of business, Theodore Griffin. Griffin had been in charge of the Redfield company for some time before its founder's demise, and since he was the only man who could squeeze a profit out of it there was no necessity for making any other provision for its management. Nothing was said in the will as to a refusal of Griffin to marry Anne Redfield. Her father when she was passing into womanhood had told her that it was his intention to give her a good manager for the fortune he would leave her, in the person of Griffin. Anne was then too young to consider the importance of the plan to her, and her father was led to believe that she would make no objection to it when the time came to fulfill the conditions. There was no doubt about Griffin's acquiescing to it.

This is why the will made no mention of a refusal on the part of Griffin to marry the heiress. If she refused to marry him the stock of the Redfield company, which would otherwise be hers, would go to Griffin. The residue of the estate would in this case be divided between several charitable institutions in which the testator had been much interested during his life.

Mr. Redfield died four years after mentioning the matter to his daughter. When he did so she was fifteen. At the time of his death she was nineteen. She had told some of her schoolmates that she was to marry Griffin and had made no objection to doing so. At that time it was a matter for the future, and she considered it a matter of course, as a boy may do who is brought up to understand that he is to enter a certain profession.

But when Anne Redfield at nineteen found herself an orphan and called upon to fulfill the conditions of her father's will she was a woman and had a lover who had nothing whatever to do with the condition except that if she married him she would give up a fortune. David Corwin was the young man who had stepped in to prevent John Redfield's well conceived plan from being smoothly worked out. David had been attentive to Anne for some time before her father's death, but Mr. Redfield was not observant, and quite often parents who are watchful fail to detect a love affair that is developing right under their noses. This one came to a head during Mr. Redfield's last illness.

When the will was read Anne was reminded of something the importance of which she had not realized and which, never having been mentioned to her since she was fifteen years old, she regarded as a dead letter. But even now it did not occur to her that Griffin would force himself upon her, she being unwilling. She sent for him and told him that she could not marry her father's choice for her without violation to her feelings. Griffin replied that he had promised her father to do his part in carrying out the plan; if Anne would not do her part he saw no way but that the property, other than the business, must go to the charities named in the will.

Anne consulted a lawyer, who told her that under the terms of the will she must marry Griffin to inherit her property. There was but one way out of the dilemma, and that was for Griffin to refuse to marry her. This would make the will inoperative, and she would inherit as heir at law, the same as if there were no will, she being the only child and there being no widow.

Anne did not understand the legal distinctions in the case, but she did understand that her inheriting her property and marrying the man she wanted depended on Griffin's declining to marry her. She sent for Griffin and reported what the attorney had said.

"This plan," replied Griffin, "was inaugurated by your father. It received my sanction, and he told me that you had made no objection to it. I would not be justified in thwarting it by putting you in a position to render it inoperative. I regret that the carrying it out has become obnoxious to you, but that fact would not excuse me if I become a party to nullifying it."

capable of managing it who has not been brought up for the purpose. Your father brought me up for that very purpose. His object in providing in the will that you should marry me was to insure to you the enjoyment of the wealth he was leaving you. Had he left you free to marry whom you liked you would doubtless have married some young man utterly unfitted to manage a fortune that was tied up in a very intricate business. The result would have been what I have said—ruin for the business and poverty for you. He brought you up with the understanding that you were to marry the manager of the business he left you."

This sounded so plausible that for the time being Griffin appeared in Anne's eyes a very noble man. It seemed to her that she was the guilty one in not carrying out her father's wishes, to which she had tacitly consented. Nevertheless her whole being rebelled against a marriage with Griffin. Indeed, it was not to be thought of. She would marry the man of her choice even if she must relinquish a fortune. She was quite sure he would marry her even if she were poor as a church mouse.

But Anne found on consultation with others that they were not disposed to take her view of Griffin's noble motives in not permitting her to enjoy her inheritance with the man she loved by refusing to marry her. Her lawyer told her frankly that Griffin wanted the half million of dollars he would get with her. Corwin said that he wanted her fortune or no fortune, but some way must be found to persuade or force Griffin to refuse to marry her, thus enabling her to come into her own. He consulted lawyers, who told him that to comply with the statutes Griffin must voluntarily refuse. He could not be trapped or forced into a refusal.

There was a time limit in the will to Anne's marriage with Griffin. By the time she was twenty-one she must marry him or lose her property. When her father died she had just turned nineteen. Therefore two years remained before she was compelled to decide. It was decided between David and Anne that David should go to some unknown place. Anne had not told Griffin that he had a rival, and it was determined to still keep the matter a secret. There was no difficulty in doing this, for thus far it was known only to Anne and David.

Theodore Griffin was one of those men who combine the social and business world. His success lay in becoming intimate with rich persons and using them in a business way. He used his club, his friends, even his church, for profit. One evening at the opera, scanning the occupants of the boxes, he encountered a pair of blue eyes in the hands of a handsomely dressed woman leveled upon him. The glasses were dropped at once, but Griffin wondered why the woman, who was young and well favored, had been gazing at him. Later, pointing to the woman, he asked a friend who she was and was informed that she was Senora De Barancas, the widow of a Brazilian coffee planter and worth millions.

"Would you like to know her?" asked a gentleman sitting near Griffin. "I certainly would," was the reply. "I am a friend of hers, and if you will give me references I will be pleased to present you. She has only just arrived in the city and is unknown."

Griffin found a friend who vouched for him and was presented to Senora Barancas. He found confirmation of his belief that he had attracted her attention, because she had admired his appearance. In the reception she gave him, which was, to say the least, cordial. She lamented being in a great city where there was so much to enjoy with no one to enjoy it with except her business manager, the man who had introduced Griffin, and Griffin told her that it would give him great pleasure to make her stay pleasant. She told him that she had but a week in the city, for she had the misfortune, though a woman, to be burdened with the management of large interests.

Griffin devoted himself to the young widow for a week, at the end of which he prevailed upon her to remain another week. One morning Anne Redfield received a note from an attorney suggesting that a compromise might be effected in the matter of the condition in her father's will requiring her to marry Griffin. Anne referred the note to her attorney, who advised her to begin negotiations by offering Griffin \$10,000 to refuse to marry her.

But before a reply to the offer was received David Corwin turned up and, taking Anne in his arms, announced that Griffin had been married the evening before.

GIRLS WHO DISAPPEAR.

Tragedy of the Thousands That Sink Into Oblivion Yearly.

Police statistics of New York city show that at least two girls disappear from home every day in the year. They vanish into oblivion. Soon they are forgotten, but the heartache of the mother left behind is never stilled. It will ache on through the remaining days of her life.

And what becomes of the girls who disappear? That is a problem that we will not attempt to solve. We only know that they are swept away by the great whirlpool of life.

The federal statistics furnished by the bureau of vital statistics show that 50,000 persons disappear each year. They vanish into oblivion. A greater proportion of these are young girls. The men who disappear turn up sooner or later in most cases, but the girls, as a rule, are forever lost. Having cut away from their social ties, having burned their bridges behind them, these disappearing girls abandon usually all thought of hope of returning and become isolated members of the social colony of which they once were members. They prefer to struggle on as best they can.

It is one of life's tragedies.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

It is a Private Company, but Acts as the Nation's Banker.

The Bank of England is not, as most people think, a government institution. It is a private company, but reaps a good profit by acting as the nation's banker. The remuneration paid to the Bank of England for the management of the national debt was fixed in 1906 as a yearly sum of the rate of £325 per million pounds and at the rate of £100 for every million pounds above this amount.

Before any of the government money that goes into the Bank of England can be spent a certain procedure has to be followed. First of all an order signed by the king and countersigned by two lords of the treasury has to be forwarded to the comptroller and auditor general of the exchequer and audit department. Then the comptroller authorizes the Bank of England to debit the exchequer account and credit the account of the paymaster general, who makes all payments on behalf of the various departments.

Afterward the comptroller scrutinizes all the accounts paid to see that the money has been spent in accordance with the wishes of parliament.—Westminster Gazette.

Training Naval Gunners.

When England trains her gunners for the sea she sends them to Whale Island in Portsmouth harbor. Here the entire island is given over to steel sheds which are built like gun turrets on a battleship. The great guns projecting from these sheds are dummies, though they are exact counterparts of those on a battleship. The prospective officers and men are made to go through the exercise of range finding, loading, aiming and "firing" these guns as rigidly as if they were in a real battle at sea. The heavy steel projectiles are hauled from the magazine by hydraulic and electric cranes, just as in an actual ship. A real breech mechanism locks the projectile and its powder charge in the gun, while an intricate swivel mounting of steel swings the gun into the firing position.—Popular Science Monthly.

Remarkable Luck.

In Gold Hill, Nev., in 1877, one of the mining bosses—Tole by name—had trouble with some of the laborers in his mine. One night three of them attacked him in a barroom. Two of them pinned him down, while a third stood over him with a revolver. The muzzle almost touched his stomach. Once, twice, thrice, a fourth and a fifth time the weapon snapped. Tole closed his eyes. Each moment he expected to be his last. The disgusted ruffian threw his disappointing weapon on the floor with an oath and, joined by his aids, left the place. Tole wiped the cold sweat from his brow, mechanically picked up the discarded weapon, went to the door and fired off every charge, remarking that it was just his luck.

How He Cleared Himself.

While passing along a busy street in Dublin a lady was relieved of her hand bag, and Sandy was arrested on suspicion of having snatched it. He was placed among a group of men, and the lady was asked to single out the culprit. She passed down the line till she came to Sandy.

"Officer," she said, "I think that is the man, although I did not see his face, but his clothes appear to be similar." "The lady's wrong, sir. I was wearing a different suit. Can I go now, sir?" said Sandy.

Very Formal.

"Are you on very friendly terms with your neighbor in the apartments?" "Well, no. She's rather formal—always sends her card when she wishes to borrow flour, and if she wants both flour and sugar she sends two cards."—Washington Herald.

Stunning.

"Oh, Effie, your new gown and hat are stunning!" "Yes, Alfred hasn't recovered yet from the shock the bill gave him."—Exchange.

A Good Rule.

Do all the good you can to all the people you can as long as ever you can in every place you can.

Our deeds determine us as much as we determine our deeds.—George Elliot.

A REALISTIC ANSWER.

The Sentry Didn't Have to Go Into Details With the Officer.

During one of Haig's attacks on the Hindenburg line a "Minnie" had come over and knocked all the stuffing out of a sentry. He staggered to his feet—except for the tremendous shaking, practically unhurt—fighting for breath, which he could not get back for some minutes. While he was so standing a young officer, newly out, turned the corner of the trench. There was a heavy bombardment on. The unexperienced young officer, not knowing what had happened and seeing the sentry rifleless (his rifle had been blown many yards away), knees bent, body limp, eyes half out of his head and mouth (half full of dust) gaping open like a loosened sack head, inquired, "Well, what's the matter with you?"

The man tried to answer, but had no breath to do so, and, knocked silly as he was by the shock, gaped helplessly and idiotically at the officer, who said again, this time more sharply, "What's the matter with you?"

At that moment over came another "Minnie," falling sufficiently near the officer to serve him exactly as the previous one had served the sentry. As half blinded, wholly smothered and three-quarters stunned the officer stumbled to his feet the sentry ran forward to help him up. Then, standing the regulation two paces away, the sentry came smartly to attention and, ceremoniously saluting, said, "Beg pardon, sir; I couldn't answer before, but that's what was the matter with me."—London Chronicle.

OUR LAGGING WORLD.

Its Motion Is Slowing, and the Day Is Growing Longer.

Our earth appears to be slowing down its spin. Two British astronomers who have finished a long study of the matter report that it now takes almost exactly three seconds longer for the world to turn over once than it took 100 years ago, and a century hence still another three seconds will have been added to the day.

At this rate Shakespeare had nearly ten seconds less in his twenty-four hours than has a modern dramatist. William the Conqueror was handicapped a half minute in keeping up with his descendants. Julius Caesar was a whole minute to the bad, while even if he had lived to old age his life would still have been some twenty of our days short of what his biographers would have claimed for him.

Abraham and the early Pharaohs would have been still more pressed for time. The earliest men, say in the year 100,000 B. C., would have had no use for "How to Live on Twenty-four Hours a Day," for they had only twenty-three hours to do their living in and were really only seventy-six years old when they thought they had reached fourscore.—Edwin Tenney Brewer in St. Nicholas.

"Flying" Americans.

Wilbur and Orville Wright began their experiments with the aeroplane fourteen years before the great conflict awakened Americans to the wonderful part that aircraft was to play in warfare. The first flight of these famous brothers over the barren sand dunes at Kitty Hawk, N. C., lasted but twelve seconds. It was another American, Glenn H. Curtiss, who made the first successful flight in a flying boat. He was then working on aeroplanes for the navy and experimented with a biplane equipped with floats. Giving this up for one with a true boat body, straightway came success. That was in 1911, and the first great stride toward giving the American navy its fleet of fighting boats that fly followed five years later, when congress set aside \$3,250,000 for naval aircraft alone.—F. E. Evans in St. Nicholas.

Oddly Expressed.

In one of his letters William Brookfield tells how as school inspector he had to give an examination on physical science. "What was I to do? I knew nothing about hydrogen or oxygen or any other 'gen.' So I set them a paper which I called 'applied science.' One of my question was, 'What would you do to cure a cold in the head?' A young lady answered, 'I should put my feet into hot water till you were in a profuse perspiration.'"

Poor Richard.

"In December of the year 1732," says Bigelow's "Life of Franklin," "Franklin commenced the publication of what he styled 'Poor Richard's Almanac,' price fivepence. It attained an astonishing popularity and at once. Three editions were sold within the month of its appearance. The average sale for twenty-five years was 10,000 a year."

How It Ended.

Bacon—I understand that your wife had a quarrel with my wife over the telephone. Egbert—I believe so. "How did it end?" "Like all women's quarrels—in talk."—Yonkers Statesman.

Ma Didn't Understand.

The young lady was looking over a book of views. "Oh, see the Pitti palace!" "Miranda," said the mother severely. "I told you to stop talking baby talk. If a thing is pretty call it pretty."—Kansas City Journal.

Altruistic Work.

Some millionaires could easily conduct experiments and tell us whether or not there is any money in the chicken business.—Kansas City Journal.

Ill habits gather by unseen degrees.—Orid.

CONDENSED REPORT OF CONDITION

The Second National Bank

MEYERSDALE, PA.

JUNE TWENTIETH, NINETEEN SEVENTEEN

RESOURCES

Loans and Investments	\$ 592,905.60
U. S. Bonds and Premium	70,179.37
Real Estate, Furniture & Fixtures	64,075.20
Cash and due from Banks	125,338.50
Total Resources	\$ 852,498.67

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock Paid in	\$ 65,000.00
Surplus Fund and Profits	65,621.83
Circulation	64,400.00
Deposits	657,476.84
Total Liabilities	\$ 852,498.67

Growth as Shown in Following Statements Made to Comptroller of Currency.

JULY 15, 1908	\$262,014.92
ONE QUARTER MILLION	
JUNE 20, 1917	\$852,498.67
OVER THREE QUARTER MILLION	

NET GAIN BETWEEN ABOVE STATEMENTS

\$590,483.75

—OVER ONE-HALF MILLION—

BUGS & BUGS

We have a supply of the following:

- Paris Green
- London Purple
- White Helebore
- Arsenate Lead
- Blue Vitriol
- Conkey's Lice Liquid and Powder.

COLUMBIA RECORDS

For July Now on Sale.

F. B. THOMAS

LEADING DRUGGIST

MEYERSDALE, PENNA.

J. T. Yoder

JOHNSTOWN

Sells the Champion Cream Saver

THE NEW DE LAVAL

USE the same good judgment in selecting a cream separator that you would in making any other investment. Before you buy a separator, there are certain things that you ought to know about it.

- Will it skim clean under all conditions?
- Will it deliver cream of uniform thickness?
- Does it run easily and require little or no attention?
- Is it simple, so that it will not continually be getting out of order?
- Is it easy to clean?
- Is it built to last?
- Most important of all,

What do people who are using it say?



The man who is using a machine is the man who can tell you the truth about it. We'll be glad to give you the names of a number of De Laval users right around this town—some of them men who formerly used separators of other makes. See these men and ask them why they changed, and what they think of the De Laval. It will be worth your while to do so.

The NEW De Laval has every good feature of the older machines and many more besides, such as the new self-centering bowl which gives greater capacity and skimming efficiency, the bell speed-indicator which insures operation at the proper speed, and the improved automatic oiling system. We'll be glad to let you try out a NEW De Laval on your own farm before buying.

Awful Thought. "And you ought to be made to eat humble pie." "But don't you try to make it yourself, dear. Spare me that."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

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