

BAD BARGAIN BY THE STERRETTES.

More About Their Placer County Mine Deal.

Salvatonist Montgomery Appears to Have Struck a Good Thing—The Sterretts are Broke.

Yesterday the RECORD-UNION published a statement from the San Francisco Call concerning a recent transaction in that city by Rev. Samuel T. Sterrett of Placer County and his brothers against George S. Montgomery, C. N. Crittenton, A. W. Bennett and others to recover the Sterrett mining property in that county, which they alleged had been obtained from them by fraud and deception. The same paper published yesterday the following, giving the personal statements of some of the parties interested.

There is a pathetic side to the story of the Sterrett brothers' suit to recover their mine from George S. Montgomery, A. W. Bennett, Charles N. Crittenton and others. As a young man, who had looked upon it with loving eyes for many a year past as the support of their old age, having nothing, absolutely nothing, Montgomery looked upon the matter and says he is in a perfectly secure position. He has the mine, and declares it was bought for all it was worth when purchased, and that the price of a cadaver that it is to him a grievance.

"They tried to blackmail me," he said, "I would not submit to blackmail, nor, sir, it is a mere battle and we shall fight it out now."

"What can we do, what can we say to a man like that?" asked a party in answer to Rev. Samuel Sterrett could make when asked what truth there might be in this statement. "Blackmail—well, I cannot reply. All we can do is to let the complaint now on file in Auburn, Placer County, and every word of it is true as gospel. It will all be proved when the case comes up for trial."

In a small apartment of a flat at Sixteenth and Shotwell streets John and Thomas Sterrett, pioneers of the Comstock, whose names are familiar to all among old miners, live together. How they have witnessed the siege of dire adversity only their nearest friends understand. At one time they were in the possession of this world's goods, were men of prominence in mining communities and little dreamed of what would be their fate. Their mines in Placer County, described on Government maps as the "Sterrett mine," gave them abundance of wealth whenever money would be needed.

And so they looked forward with security to a day when that property should pass out of their hands for a handsome fortune. But they built castles in the air. For to-day they are compelled to live together in a humble hall bedroom with barely the necessities of life around them. All they may do is wait, and, indeed, they are waiting for what they think is justice, believing firmly that if there be still any law in the law the mine shall be theirs again.

The question was flung put to Thomas Sterrett as it had been to his brother, the minister. "What is the present status of this transaction?"

"Montgomery and his friends have the mine that is worth a quarter of a million dollars."

"And what have you?"

"Nothing. We received nothing. The property was taken from us by trickery, and I blame myself for not having my religious reputation to throw me and my brothers off our guard."

The Sterretts and their attorney, A. W. Ellis, are of the opinion that Charles N. Crittenton, the millionaire evangelist, is an innocent party to the matter. He bought an interest in the mines from George Montgomery, paying for his share. The mine is said to be still in Montgomery's hands. A. W. Bennett, the coffee-hounding miser, bought an interest in the nominal consideration of \$5, is known to have paid a large sum, in the neighborhood of \$20,000. And this money likewise he has kept, making a total so far in his keeping of over \$50,000, in addition to what he still owned jointly with Mrs. Carrie Judd Montgomery, his wife, a large share of the property.

Evidently the plan to get hold of Sterrett's mine was exceedingly complicated. When the papers relating to the matter had been finished, it is alleged, with records of Placer County as a basis for the assertion, that George Montgomery, without the consent of his wife, had sold the mine they still owned a share of the mine, conveyed, on December 12, 1892, an undivided half interest of all the property to A. W. Bennett, who was accused of being an innocent purchaser in good faith. It is alleged that Bennett was fully advised of the rights of the Sterretts under a contract of August 1892. Attorney Ellis avers in the complaint that this transaction was a breach of the contract between Montgomery and the Sterretts.

On June 3, 1893, George S. and Carrie Judd Montgomery and A. W. Bennett jointly delivered a deed of conveyance to a third interest, for which \$35,000 was paid. Montgomery denies that he has cheated the Sterrett brothers out of their mine, but, on the contrary, claims that he paid every cent it was worth.

curse a perfect title and in doing so should get his title. A year following was given for this to be secured, but Montgomery, it now appears, did not wait, as he got in ahead of his friends and bought the woman's interest for \$1,000, placing it in the name of John W. Martin, a Salvationist.

"As to that," replied Montgomery, "I bought her interest for \$1,000. Now she had a fifth interest in the mine, but she sold out for \$3,000 and thought she was well paid. I figure that out—\$1,000 for her interest—and you have the actual value of the mine. If there was any thing done it was by her who swindled me. The Sterretts are broke."

At the United States mining records in Sacramento have it, Mrs. Mary A. Hobson owned a fifth interest in one of seven claims included in the "Sterrett mine." This would make her share only one thirty-fifth of the whole, and not one-tenth as she claims.

Rev. Samuel T. Sterrett adheres to the story as told in the complaint on which he appears as a plaintiff. "Every word of it is true," said he, "and will be proved when the case comes." The complaint was sworn to by Thomas C. Sterrett for himself and his brothers.

"I have labored from beginning to end," he said, "and I have labored in good faith. I have brought about a compromise of the law of the Methodist Episcopal Church specifically requires, and I have done everything I could, and I have done it in good faith. I am satisfied with the settlement of the difficulty without an appeal to the courts. If it finally goes into the courts it will be in direct opposition to my feelings. Another thing—I've written, pleaded, and argued, sought in every way to effect a compromise, and I desire that my friends may know that I have done it in good faith. It has been so far unavailing, but I am still hoping for a satisfactory settlement. I am associated with my brothers as a partner in the proceeds, which they gave me equally with themselves."

"Mr. Montgomery has stated that the suit was intended as an instrument of blackmail, and he declares he will not compromise. What is your opinion of it?"

"Blackmail! Did he say that?" exclaimed the quiet old minister. "What answer can I give to a man like that? Is that possible?"

He ceased speaking for awhile and became absorbed in deep thought. In the meantime the complaint is being read, and it is being read in a perfectly secure position. He has the mine, and declares it was bought for all it was worth when purchased, and that the price of a cadaver that it is to him a grievance.

"They tried to blackmail me," he said, "I would not submit to blackmail, nor, sir, it is a mere battle and we shall fight it out now."

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Y. M. C. A. NOTES. The Recent State Conference Held in San Francisco. Professor Fred L. Wharf, now a resident of Berkeley, visited the association a few days ago.

There will be a meeting of the active members this evening to formulate plans and appoint committees to carry on the work of the coming winter. Reception, Invitation and Gymnasium Committees are to be appointed. A large attendance is urged.

Secretary Rawson furnished the following statistics of interest to the association workers: Total number of members of Y. M. C. A. associations in the State, 5,684; active, 2,485; associate, 2,880; conversions during the past year, 353; total value of Y. M. C. A. property, about \$900,000.

Secretary A. K. Rawson recently returned from San Francisco and Oakland, where he had been attending the dedication of the new Y. M. C. A. building and taking in the "big show." The occasion of the dedication ceremonies. The services were held in the State Secretary at 7 o'clock. At 9 o'clock devotional services conducted by H. T. McCoy. In the afternoon a men's meeting was held in the large auditorium and was attended by 600 persons, while in the evening Christian Endeavorers held a large gathering at which more than a thousand were present.

On Monday the new apartments were thrown open for inspection and until late in the night were visited by great crowds. An afternoon reception by the Board of Directors was one of the features of the day.

There were 140 delegates in attendance upon the convention and all parts of the State were represented. Eureka had a goodly number of delegates and San Diego sent a large delegation. Another first association in San Diego was the Rawson, Campbell and Bible, Mrs. Hillhouse and Mrs. Maria Carrington representing the city. All of them regard the recent convention as an important landmark in the history of Young Men's Christian Association work in California.

E. G. BLESSING'S WILL. His Estate Goes to His Brothers and Sisters. George N. Blessing has petitioned the Superior Court for the probate of the will of his brother, the late E. G. Blessing, and for letters of administration on the estate.

The estate consists of an undivided one-half interest in the Capital Hill, in this city, valued at \$35,000, and personal property, consisting of the same interest in the Capital Hill, and fixtures of the hotel, valued at \$3,000, and the balance of the estate in the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank, in this city. The whole estate is valued at about \$38,000.

According to the provisions of the will, which was executed in Macon County, Mo., on June 28, 1870, the estate of which Mr. Blessing died possessed was bequeathed to his mother, Lucinda Malm of the Township of La Platte, Macon County, Mo. It is also provided that in the event of her death, his mother the estate should be equally divided between testator's brothers and sisters.

The next of kin to the deceased, since the death of his mother, and entitled to share in the estate, are Sarah A. Bridges of Carrollton, Carroll County, Ky., and Julia J. Ross of St. Plata, Macon County, Georgia. The latter is the wife of W. L. Lyons of La Platte, Mo., and Orm O'Neil and Katie Morris of Moberly, Mo., nieces of the testator.

The will was witnessed by Theodore Saunders, Thomas C. Campbell and John C. Johnson, all old-time friends of the deceased, and who have long since passed away.

HARPER'S WAR HISTORY. Number Twenty-One Now Ready for Record-Union Subscribers. Part Twenty-one of Harper's War History has arrived, and there are as yet to come only five more, exclusive of an index, which the publishers are going to issue. Those who have taken advantage of the offer made by the Record-Union speak in terms of highest praise of the great work, and when the numbers are complete they will have in their possession a history of the civil war, which, for detail and correctness has never been excelled. The illustrations, many of them are wood cuts by the best engravers during the rebellion, and they are very materially to the written accounts of marches and the battles on land and water. All important correspondence that passed between the commanding and subordinate officers, and authorities is given, and it proves an interesting feature of the work. The parts sold at eight cents to subscribers of the RECORD-UNION.

SUDDEN DEATH. A Consecutive Chill Ends the Life of Robert Wurst. Yesterday afternoon Robert Wurst, while working in his shoe shop on Third street, between J and K, was taken with a consecutive chill, and died a short time afterward.

FOR SALE. A NEW PHAETON. Guaranteed good work; also barrel fixtures, 10-foot Spanish cedar counter, stove, brackets, etc. Apply D. J. SIMMONS & CO., Auctioneers, at this office.

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FOR SALE—LOT NO. 4, D AND E, FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH (corner), 30x160. Inquire F. M. MCKEEVER, 1112 J street, Sacramento.

FOR SALE—A SPLENDID NEW MATHUSK piano, which came into our possession in the way of trade; will be sold at a bargain. The piano can be ordered direct from factory if purchaser prefers. Inquire at this office.

CARDWELL COLONY—10-ACRE TRACTS. Only \$100 per acre; water pipes will be laid to each and every tract in said colony. J. T. CARDWELL, owner, 1204 N. street, or at 301 J street, Sacramento.

FOR SALE—A GOOD WORKING LAW LIBRARY, containing over 400 volumes, all in good condition; will be sold cheap. Call at 629 N. street, Sacramento, Cal. J. C. TUBBS.

FOR SALE—1,500 HOP POLES. Delivered on cars in Sacramento or elsewhere. Length 20 feet, 4 and 6 inches at butt. Apply at this office.

CARPET CLEANING. HARRY W. RIVETT, STEAM CARPET CLEANING, corner Twelfth and O streets. Carpet cutting, sewing and retinting; furniture packed for shipment; second-hand carpets and furniture bought and sold. Telephone 2192.

DATE TAKEN—CLUB 80—FIRST ANNUAL BALL at Turner Hall, WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 17, 1894. se21-3t

10 BARS SOAP, 25 CENTS FLOUR, 50c BREAD, fresh eggs, 25c dozen. SIMONS & BRESLEY, 818 E.

PASTURE FOR HORSES—EXCELLENT green feed, good hay and shelter and best of care for only 50c per week. Horses taken. Apply to DR. G. M. DIXON, 700 J street, Sacramento. se21-6t

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9915 W STREET—HOUSE OF 4 ROOMS. Fully furnished; rent, \$5. Apply J. F. HILL, 1307 J.

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