FORMER MILLIONAIRE FIGHTS FOR FORTUNE.

H. Victor Newcomb Seeking to Gain Remnant of Wealth from Wife and Son, Who Say He Is Mentally Unsound.

H. Victor Newcomb, once counted among the multi-millionaires of America and living in a grand mansion filled with art treasures, bric-a-brac, antiques and other articles of virtu, is making a desperate legal fight to regain possession of the remnant of his fortune, now in the hands of a commission appointed by the court, on the ground that he was a lunatic and incapable of managing his own affairs.

The fight has been going on several days in the secrecy of the inner chambers of Peter B. Olney's office, in the Bank of Commerce building, and it was not intended that the public should even know anything about it.

Released from Sanitarium.

Victor Newcomb has been living of late at the Hotel Grenoble, though he spent the first half of the year in Bremen, having been discharged on Jan. 5 from the custody of the managers of Fallkirk, a sanitarium at Central Valley, Orange County, on the certificate of the State Board in Lunacy that he was so far recovered in mental health as to be competent to take care of himself.

For ten months he has been preparing himself for a final struggle to regain possession of his fortune, which has been since Aug. 1, 1899, in the care of James Anderson Hawes, appointed a commissioner of his estate by Justice Fitzgerald.

De Lancey Nicoll, counsel for Newcomb, secured an order of reference to Peter B. Olney, brother of President Cleveland's Secretary of State, to take testimony as to Mr. Newcomb's sanity and capacity to manage his property, and it is this reference that is now going on in private.

Mrs. Newcomb and her son, Herman Newcomb, who is a young lawyer in Louisville, Ky., oppose the action, and are represented by Col. Burton N. Harrison, whose wife is the celebrated novelist.

Gignoux & Gignoux, attorneys for Newcomb, have the floor, and this is the fourth day in which they have presented medical witnesses to sustain the contention that the veteran banker and once brilliant speculator is sane.

The son and mother claim that for twenty years H. Victor Newcomb has been addicted to the use of chloral, and for twenty years has had periods of mental disturbance, due to the excessive use of the drug, and that in those periods he has gone into wild speculation until his estate, once counted in millions, has dwindled to about half a million dollars. They claim that his hallucination is that his wife and son conspired to kill him and get his property.

His Life a Tragedy.

The life story of H. Victor Newcomb is like a tragedy. His childhood at Louisville, Ky., was blighted. His father, Herman D. Newcomb, was the richest man in the Southwest.

He was married to a Miss Reed, daughter of one of Louisville's most exclusive families. The story is that Miss Reed was on what was supposed to be her deathbed when she confessed her love for young Newcomb and expressed a desire to be married to him before she died. Mr. Reed sent for Newcomb and he readily assented. The marriage took place in the "death" chamber.

Next morning, to the surprise of the bridegroom, his bride was in robust health.

Their early married life was happy until Mrs. Newcomb's half-awakened madness showed itself now and then in kleptomania.

Threw Babes from Window.

Five children were born to them, Victor being the eldest.

Suddenly the young mother's madness took the form of religious frenzy, and one day, when alone with her five babies, she took them to the top floor, and there, telling them that it would be better for them all to die than to live to suffer the miseries which life entailed, she knelt down and prayed and then she hurled them one by one from the window.

The three younger babes were killed, but a colored nurse ran out with a mattress, upon which the two older ones, Victor and Herman, struck and were saved.

The mother was sent, a hopeless maniac, to an asylum in Somerville, Mass., where she died. The boy Herman grew up, only to be drawn into the black shadow, and died at twenty-five of opium poisoning in the house of Dr. Samuel Gross, of Philadelphia.

Shadow Over Him.

Victor Newcomb's life has been shadowed by a nameless dread of becoming a victim to this inheritance. He was a robust, able man, however. His successful management of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad won fame for him as the "Boy President." He had hosts of friends. His wife was a brilliant leader in Louisville society. His children, Herman and Edyth, were bright and happy.

In 1891 Newcomb removed to New York. He lived in the brownstone palace at 683 Fifth avenue. The homes of ex-Gov. Levi P. Morton, H. M. Flagler and O. H. P. Belmont are in the same row, and the Webb and Twombly mansions opposite.

In Fashionable Set.

Miss Edyth became the wife of Reginald Henshaw Ward, of Boston, and they moved to London, where they are in the set with Lady Randolph Churchill and Mrs. Arthur Paget.

Victor Newcomb was a member of all the fashionable clubs. He was President of the United States National Bank and a magnate in Wall street down to 1891, when his mind first became clouded and he was temporarily confined in a sanitarium.

He recovered and reassumed his operations in Wall street. But the attorneys for the wife and for the committee declare that Mr. Newcomb's recovery was fictitious; that his old skill never came back and that he lost the great bulk of his vast fortune in wild speculation.

The house in Fifth avenue and a fine villa at Elberon have been for years in the hands of Gen. Wager Swayne and James A. Hawes, as trustees for Mr. Newcomb.

BURGLAR COOKED DINNER.

Selected His Plunder, Enjoyed a Feast and Got Away.

The nerviest burglar in Brooklyn has the laugh on the police. He entered the apartments of N. C. Oldson at 323 Putnam avenue, while the family was out, selected what articles he wanted, then dropped into H. S. Smith's apartments across the hall, and after making further selections there, put a brace of lamb chops on the stove, made a pot of coffee and with a bottle of olives and a jar of crab apple jelly enjoyed a feast. Then he walked off with his plunder.

MISS MORGAN WEDDED IN STATE AT ST. GEORGE'S.

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masterpieces are in J. Pierpont Morgan's library. Their indications were faithfully followed; but the chrysanthemums that Eisen and Redoute knew were smaller than daisies.

To regain, with the use of the sumptuous chrysanthemums of to-day, the measure and proportion that the classic art of Eisen and Redoute imposed, ribbons, great palms, tall ferns were added to their plans, heightened, enlarged, but blended by measure and proportion.

After the wedding ceremony, during which was rendered the music prepared and arranged by the bride, Mr. and Mrs. Satterlee and the invited guests went directly to the residence of J. Pierpont Morgan, in Madison avenue.

Chief of Police on Guard.

A great number of police, under the personal supervision of Chief Devery were required to keep back the eager crowds at church and home.

For the wedding collation at the Morgan home the preparations were on the same magnificent scale.

J. Pierpont Morgan first invited 1,500 persons to attend the wedding feast, and then built a house to receive them in. The salon of the temporary marquee erected especially for the occasion was decorated with tapestries worth $300,000.

The hall of the house was an arbor of palms. The stairs had white roses at the railings.

In the niches at the first and second landings were Boston ferns. American Beauty roses, Bridesmaid roses, orchids and tendrils of asparagus in complicated designs. Pink Bougainvillia, relieved by bunches of white roses tied with white ribbon, dissimulated the lines of the staircase. Its woodwork was hidden under the tapestry of natural flowers.

The drawing-room, suffused with pink, had its entrance draped with a curtain of General Carmot roses that were of an opalescent pink. The ribbons were apple green. The bay windows were filled with spreading palms and vases of white chrysanthemums.

The marquee, the temporary extension to the conservatory, was in dark red, that set in high relief the beautiful designs and colors of rugs and hangings. Palms filled the corners.

The dining-room, Renaissance in style, was decked with American Beauty roses in vases banked by ferns. The window of the Moorish room had a curtain of smilax fastened with dark red roses. Its fireplace was banked with growing plants.

The door of the library was adorned with a curtain of smilax, looped up with a large bunch of red roses and golden chrysanthemums.

But the floral decorations and the tapestries of fabulous value, the charming bride and the wedding presents, gave way for the wonderful bridal cake.

A Quarter-Ton Cake.

This cake was old-fashioned, built on generous lines, made of the old style, concomitants and weighing 500 pounds!

Think of a wedding cake weighing a quarter of a ton! And yet it didn't seem out of place at the wedding feast of this richly dowered bride and this successful and fortunate lawyer.

The wedding collation was served in the marquee and in the Renaissance dining room, where the great bridal cake was cut.

Sherry's two Neapolitan bands of stringed instrumentalists furnished the music at the house. One band was in the marquee, the other on the landing of the stairs.

Lavish Wedding Gifts.

No public display of the wedding presents was made, but in the list of 400 received by the bride were these:

From her father, J. Pierpont Morgan, bonds worth $1,000,000, a house on the Hudson, a diamond tiara, a collar of diamonds, a corsage ornament of pear-shaped diamonds, set in trefoil design.

From her sister, Annie Morgan, a marquise ring, set with a pear-shaped diamond.

From John D. Rockefeller, a chest of silver trays for dinner service.

From the Drexels, of Philadelphia, a complete gold and silver table service.

From Miss Rhett, a breakfast and dinner set of rare china.

From Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, silver mirrors.

From Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, jr., sets of silver candelabra.

From Mr. and Mrs. H. McKay Twombly, gold plates.

From Mr. and Mrs. Morris K. Jesup, a chest of silver.

From Mr. and Mrs. William Pierson Hamilton, a diamond flower pendant.

From the officers of the Naval Reserve, a gold and silver loving cup, made from a shell from one of the Spanish warships.

From Chauncey M. Depew, a set of silver tableware.

There were also many chests of gold and silver plate, old tapestries, paintings, beautiful pieces of furniture and Oriental rugs.

After the wedding collation Mr. and Mrs. Satterlee departed for a honeymoon trip. Their destination was withheld from their friends.

Among the 1,800 guests invited to the reception at the Morgan home following the ceremony at the church were:

Mrs. Astor, Mr. and Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, jr., Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Mr. and Mrs. William Rockefeller, Mr. and Mrs. George J. Gould, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Gould, W. C. Whitney, John D. Mackay, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Mackay, Mr. and Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Carnegie, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Sloane, Mr. and Mrs. H. McKay Twombly, Mr. and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, Mrs. Ogden Goelet, Miss Goelet, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Benedict, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius N. Bliss, Mr. and Mrs. Anson Phelps Stokes, Mr. and Mrs. James Hude Beekman, Mrs. W. Bayard Cutting, Mrs. Lucius R. Wilmerding, Gen. and Mrs. Lloyd Bryce, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Tailer, Mr. and Mrs. J. Frederick Tams, Mr. and Mrs. Anson R. Flower, Anthony N. Brady, George W. Childs Drexel, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Benedict, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clews, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Parsons, John E. Parsons, Levi P. Morton, the Misses Morton, Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Poor, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Fish, Stuyvesant Fish, Mr. and Mrs. Elbridge T. Gerry, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goelet, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gerry, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mr. and Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Vanderbilt, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Vanderbilt, Mr. and Mrs. William Seward Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Phipps, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sanford Ashmun, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, jr.,