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JOHN E. SEARLES FAILS

MORGAN IN ROW WITH CHURCHMEN

New Episcopal Cathedral Funds Placed in Union Trust Company---Great Banker Offended.

An unpleasantness between J. Pierpont Morgan, one of the lay members of the Board of Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and some of the clerical members of the Board has been the theme for much sprightly conversation among those who keep abreast of the affairs of the Association.

It is said that the start of the "unpleasantness," as it has been called, was due to the fact that the trust fund had been taken out of Mr. Morgan's bank and deposited with the Union Trust Company.

Mr. Morgan, it is said, has openly expressed no displeasure because the funds were transferred from him to the trust company, but it is understood that in other ways he has shown that the transaction did not meet with his approbation.

Formerly he took great interest in the meetings of the Board of Trustees, but he has not attended a meeting for six months or more.

It was also intimated, it is said, that a more vigorous attempt should be made to obtain subscriptions from rich men.

It will require fully $5,000,000 to complete the cathedral. Mr. Morgan in the beginning of the project was very enthusiastic. He made a donation of $300,000 and attended nearly all the meetings of the Board.

Under the provisions of the will of Mrs. Elizabeth Cole $300,000 was left in trust for the cathedral fund and a few others an additional fund of $200,000 was given.

The Board of Trustees then decided that one-half of all subscriptions hereafter given to the Cathedral, unless otherwise provided for, should become a trust fund until the amount in trust should be $2,000,000.

The treasurer of the Cathedral Association is Samuel D. Babcock. When he first took charge of the funds they were placed in Mr. Morgan's bank. Afterward they were transferred to the Union Trust Company.

"The transfer was made," said Mr. Babcock to a reporter for The Evening World to-day, "because complaint was made by some of the members of the association that the funds of the organization were used by private individuals.

"Now, it doesn't make any difference who it was that used the funds—whether it was Mr. Morgan or any other gentleman—the board did not want them used, and that settled it.

"In accordance with the wishes of the majority of the members of the association we took the money from Mr. Morgan's bank and put it in the trust company's vaults, where it can only be drawn out by at least two signatures of trustees.

"If any one has reason to feel offended at that action, I do not see that the board is to blame. It is simply a business proposition. The trust company has been made assistant treasurer and is custodian of the funds."

J. Pierpont Morgan was seen this afternoon by an Evening World reporter and asked concerning the change of the funds from his bank to the Trust Company.

"I don't know that any change has been made," said he. "And if any change has been made I don't see how it is the business of the newspapers.

"The Cathedral, as far as I know, is all right. I have nothing further to say on the matter."

"I had heard a rumor that Mr. Morgan was expressing some impatience because the Cathedral was not progressing more rapidly," said Dr. Hoffman, dean of the Episcopal Seminary, to-day. "He must be patient, like the rest of us. It will take a good many years to finish an undertaking of that magnitude. I have heard that he expressed a desire to have the Cathedral finished before he died. I hardly think that wish will be gratified, unless he lives to a very old age."

One of the objections that Mr. Morgan is said to have raised to the methods of the present board is that enough effort was not made to induce millionaires to subscribe to the Cathedral fund.

The work now under the personal superintendence of the board is the construction of the choir, which will cost $600,000. This, of course, is only a small proportion of the Cathedral proper. Of this amount $100,000 is now in hand, and an additional $100,000 has been promised by Col. John Jacob Astor when the other $400,000 has been raised.

The organization is free from debt, and the clerical portion of the board, at least, is determined it shall remain so.

The president of the association is Bishop Potter; treasurer, Samuel D. Babcock; secretary, George Macculloch Miller.

WOMAN SEIZED AND HELD A BOLD BROOKLYN THIEF

When Mrs. Mary Doyle, of 1446 Pacific street, Brooklyn, returned from shopping this afternoon she found two men in her apartments. She clinched with one of them and held him until Policeman Parker, of the Schenectady avenue station, took him into custody. He gave his name as Harry Woods, of 256 Fifth avenue, Brooklyn.

On his person was found a diamond breastpin, diamond cuffbuttons, collar-buttons and a ring, a gold watch and chain, and $67.71 in cash. His confederate escaped.

WINNERS AT NEW ORLEANS.

FIFTH RACE—Meggs 1, Bert Davis 2, Garland Boy 3.

IMPERIAL POWER FOR DUKE OF CORNWALL.

LONDON, March 5.—King Edward has issued a letter-patent empowering the Duke of Cornwall and York to confer knighthood while he is in Australia.

STORM CUTS OFF LONDON FROM PARIS.

LONDON, March 5.—Cable communication with Paris is interrupted by a gale.

JOHN E. SEARLES.

Former Secretary of the Sugar Trust and Associate of Havemeyer Assigns To-Day.

John E. Searles, well known in financial circles, made an assignment to-day for the benefit of his creditors, naming Edward F. Dwight, of the law firm of Carter, Hughes & Dwight, lawyers at No. 96 Broadway, as his assignee.

Mr. Searles refused to make any statement when asked as to the amount of his assets and liabilities. It is said, however, that they will be under $1,000,000.

Persons familiar with Mr. Searles's business affairs say that he has not been fortunate in business or in stock transactions for some years.

Carter, Hughes & Dwight, Mr. Searles' attorneys, said that no statement was as yet ready. Later when they have made a more thorough examination of Mr. Searles's affairs a statement will be made.

Immediately after the announcement of his assignment Mr. Searles locked himself in his office and refused himself to all callers.

John E. Searles since his retirement from the American Sugar Refining Company about two years ago, has been the President of the American Cotton Compressing Company, at 27 William street, where he had large and handsomely equipped offices.

The announcement of Mr. Searles's assignment was said to have been not unexpected in certain business circles, as it has been reported for some time past that the concern has not been prosperous.

Mr. eSarles was for years considered a millionaire. He held a large block of stock in the American Sugar Refining Company. He was said to have engineered several of the big manipulations which occurred at times in the Company's stock several years ago.

He was also identified with several corporations in both this city and Brooklyn and was interested in the development of Block Island.

His Remarkable Career.

John E. Searles began life as an office boy and when he resigned his position as secretary of the Sugar Trust on Dec. 19, 1888, he was worth $20,000,000. He relinquished his office because of failing health. His duties were onerous.

His duties were most onerous. At one time his opinion counted more than that of all the Havemeyers. In his hands were all the details of the refineries. He fixed the prices.

More than half a century ago his father was pastor of the old St. John's Methodist Church in New Haven. John at that time was scarcely in his teens and went into the firm of L. W. & P. Armstrong, sugar refiners, as office boy.

His rise was rapid, and when he left to come to this city he was chief clerk. He engaged in the sugar trade here for the Armstrongs. He married a Miss Pettit, who brought him several thousand dollars.

Father of the Trust.

He prospered, and in his mind was born the idea of a great trust. He then found employment with the Havemeyers. Here his splendid ability told and soon he unfolded his plan to increase profits. He advised the purchase of all dangerous competitors. The Havemeyers snapped at the bait. In the meantime Searles had bought up the East River Sugar Refining Company for $350,000. This was one of the dangerous competitors referred to by Searles.

He sold it to the Havemeyers for $700,000, which was a very neat scoop. Then as the Sugar Trust grew, so did Mr. Searles. The Havemeyers, at first his employers, were soon glad to have him for a partner. He was taken into the firm and made secretary. In a few years he was held to be worth $20,000,000. The profits of the trust were enormous.

Then came a Congressional Investigating Committee, formed to inquire into the trusts. In the course of the examination Mr. Searles was called to the witness stand. He could not remember anything of importance connected with the business of the trust. He was asked if the trust had given $100,000 to the Republican campaign fund. He declined to answer. So it was with everything else of moment asked by the Committee.

Several new trusts were formed by Searles. Among them was the American Cotton Company, capitalized at many millions of dollars.

The Congressional Committee found out practically nothing about any of the trusts with which Mr. Searles was connected. Mr. Searles was investigated for contempt of court. The investigation again failed to find out anything.

JOHN M. DURANT KILLED IN A DUEL.

New Yorker Slain by Russian Count Whose Wife He Had Approached.

PARIS, March 5.—John MacWilson Durant, of New York, who had been living for the past two years in Paris with his mother at the Hotel Lafonde Tremoille, was killed at Ostend in a duel with a Russian Count. The details obtainable are meagre.

According to the best information obtainable, Mr. Durant had written letters to the wife of the Russian Count. The latter's nephew came to Paris to settle the matter, where he met Mr. Durant in a restaurant, and a vicious fight resulted in which Mr. Durant lost his front teeth.

He struck the Russian with a heavy glass water-bottle and the young man died from the effects of the blow, but the doctor's certificate gave congestion of the brain as the cause of death. This occurred during January. Later the Count took the matter up, sending his seconds to Mr. Durant.

Durant went to Osteed with his mother, who afterwards departed for and is still at Glasgow. A duel was arranged with pistols. Durant was killed and the Count was seriously wounded.

Durant registered as Charles Neville Carter. His mother has been notified.

Durant was well known in the American colony here. He was a frequent attendant at official receptions given by the American officials.

His engagement to a young French lady was recently announced. They were to be married in March. The names of the Russians in the case have not yet been ascertained.

There are a dozen or more Durant families in New York. Evening World reporters were unable to find any among them who knew the Durant killed in the duel.

SAY SHE BURNED HUSBAND'S BRAIN.

Mrs. Phillips Accused of Thus Concealing Traces of Dead Millionaire's Insanity.

Martha Bagg Phillips, widow of F. Stanhope Phillips, the millionaire woollen commission merchant who died on Jan. 12, was accused of a strange, ghastly proceeding in the Surrogate's Court to-day.

It was charged that she had her husband's body cremated to make sure that the dead man's brain was reduced to ashes, so that it could not be proved that Phillips was insane.

The statement was made by ex-Judge George M. Curtis in opposing a motion to have Mrs. Phillips appointed temporary administrator of the estate.

"Formidable Woman."

Phillips died in a fashionable apartment-house at 422 West End avenue, owned by himself. The widow was made sole executrix and beneficiary of the estate. The will is contested by J. R. Phillips, a brother of the deceased.

"This is a formidable woman," said Lawyer Curtis, opposing the motion. "There is nothing in Gaboriau like this plot. Mrs. Phillips has concealed the value of the estate and the location of the real estate.

"As a matter of fact, after her husband died, as soon as an autopsy had been performed on the trunk of the body, the widow had the body cremated.

Brain Burned Up.

"The head and skeleton were reduced to ashes, so that the brain, the most vital spot, might not be searched for evidences of insanity, which were surely there."

Mrs. Phillips was the testator's second wife.

Surrogate Fitzgerald reserved decision. Counsel for Mrs. Phillips said that Lawyer Curtis's insinuations were baseless. He declared an autopsy had been performed on Phillips's body and the cause of death found to be cancer. The body was then cremated in the usual way.

E. C. BENEDICT CALLED ROBBER

Logan's Lawyer Says Gas Man and Others Stole Million.

The case of William J. Logan against John W. Simpson et al. was argued this afternoon before the Appelate Division of the Supreme Court. The case grows out of the consolidation in 1896 of certain Brooklyn gas companies.

The plaintiff sued to recover the value of 7,202 shares of Brooklyn Union Gaslight Company stock that he had placed in the hands of the defendant, and which they used in effecting the consolidation.

The defendants included the firm of Moore & Schley, and the executor of the late John G. Moore, with Henry H. Rogers, William Rockefeller, E. C. Benedict and others.

Mr. Benedict was present at the hearing to-day. He had counter claims against the other parties to the action, which were dismissed. The case was tried before Judge William G. Choate, who adjudged that the complaint be dismissed.

William B. Hornblower, who appeared for the plaintiff, argued that the syndicate agreement was a mere sham, and said that the plaintiff was at least entitled to have the transaction rescinded and the equivalent of his stock returned to him. He said that Mr. Logan had refused to take the amount of stock offered to him, and said that the money represented had lain idle all these years. He also said, referring to the men in the syndicate:

"In plain language they robbed Mr. Logan of over $1,000,000. That is strong language to use in connection with men so well known in this community, but it has come to be the case that some of these syndicates engage in transactions which cannot be described in any other way."

John L. Hill appeared for Mr. Benedict. He attacked the operations of the syndicate, but declared that Mr. Logan had no right to the profits that he claimed.

CROKER WILL STAY ABROAD.

Better for His Health, He Thinks—Angry Over Alleged Interview.

(By the Associated Press.)

LONDON, March 5.

"I ask the Associated Press to say to my friends in New York that I am constantly improving in health and believe my strength will gain faster here than in America the next few months."

So said Richard Croker to an Associated Press reporter to-day. The statement is significant because Mr. Croker has been quoted as saying he was going to return to New York immediately.

Mr. Croker has seldom expressed his indignation at unauthorized newspaper interviews in such strong terms as he used when shown a copy of a New York newspaper of Feb. 16, containing an alleged exclusive statement of his views regarding New York politics.

"You know how frequently I have declined to talk, even to the Associated Press, on current events in New York," said Mr. Croker to-day, "and to find myself committed in the columns of a New York paper regarding matters I never have mentioned to a person is certainly enough to exasperate me.

"Not a single line of the entire interview has a foot to stand on. It is a tissue of lies from beginning to end.

"The newspaper has been frightfully imposed on by some one, and that person I propose to discover and whip out of journalism. If he is prepared to perjure himself I am ready to declare that I was nowhere near Wantage on the day he is alleged to have seen me.

"Absolute proof of the wholesale falsehood is the allegation that I made a declaration announcing the forthcoming majorities in New York. I do not think I have ever been accused of being such a fool as that. The statement that I have bought 115 acres of property here is equally as untrue as my alleged statements regarding Devery, Coler and others. It has come to such a pass that I am unable to talk with reporters except in the presence of witnesses. All kinds of fiends have been photographing my place, dogs, stables, &c., using the pictures to give a semblance of truth to their libelous statements.

"I am not talking politics to any one, and sensational reports to the contrary may be set down as 'fakes.' I am only talking now because indignation compels me to set myself right with my friends in New York.

"As I have frequently told the Associated Press, when I decided to talk American politics I would talk to the Associated Press alone, and no one can draw me out by any subterfuge."

CARTER HARRISON AGAIN.

Mayor of Chicago Renominated by the Democrats.

CHICAGO, March 5.—Carter H. Harrison was renominated for Mayor of Chicago by acclamation in the Democratic city convention to-day.

Dreyfus Leaves Paris.

PARIS, March 5.—Alfred Dreyfus returned to Switzerland to-day after a stay in Paris, during which he corrected the proofs of the book he has just completed entitled, "Five Years of My Life," dealing with his imprisonment on Devil's Island.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Forecast for the thirty-six hours ending at 8 P. M. Wednesday for New York City and vicinity: Occasional snows to-night; fair Wednesday; cold wave to-night; colder Wednesday; brisk to high northwest winds.

All the best processes for perfect brewing are used to produce the BALLANTINE BREWS.

JAIL BREAKERS SHOT DOWN.

LONDON, March 5.—A despatch from Florence to a news agency says a mutiny of convicts has occurred at Santa Caterina Prison, resulting in the military being called out and ten of the convicts being killed and fifty-seven wounded.

The mutiny of the convicts, the despatch adds, was caused by the bad food supplied them by the prison authorities.

Seven Killed by Dynamite.

PARIS, March 5.—A despatch received here from Irun, a Spanish town near the French frontier, says that a quantity of dynamite stored in the Custom-House, has exploded, killing seven persons and injuring many.

WAR SECRETARY SILENT ON BOTHA.

LONDON, March 5.—In the House of Commons to-day the War Secretary, Mr. Brodrick, was asked if he had any information to the effect that Gen. Botha had intimated to Gen. Kitchener his readiness to surrender on certain terms, and that there were prospects of the success of the negotiations. The Secretary declined to make a statement on the subject, and his silence was taken to be partial corroboration of the reports in circulation.

Stephen Miller Gladwin Dead.

Stephen Miller Gladwin, one of the founders of the Carew Manufacturing Company, of Holyoke, Mass., and long identified with the paper industries of the country, died to-day at his home in Leonia, N. J.

FIGHT FOR MISS TOUSEY'S MONEY

Left a Million to Missions and Charities—Fraud Charged.

The million of dollars left by Mary Beach Tousey to the Methodist Church Missionary Society and other charities is the subject of contest before Surrogate Thomas to-day. Mrs. Sarah B. Rohrer, the nearest of kin to Miss Tousey, is the contestant.

Miss Tousey died in March, 1899, when she was eighty years old. She was a devout member of the Methodist church.

The will was admitted to probate, but it was afterward discovered that the attorneys had neglected to notify the next of kin. Mrs. Rohrer was then notified at her home in Council Bluffs, Ia.

She retained ex-Judge George M. Curtis to fight the will, alleging that Miss Tousey was insane when she made her will and also charging fraud and undue influence.

FIRE ROUTED HOTEL GUESTS.

Arlington in Washington, Where Gov. Odell Registered, Damaged

WASHINGTON, March 5.—Fire broke out in the cupola of the Arlington Hotel here late to-day, and burned briskly for a short time.

The hotel was well filled with guests, Gov. Odell and his staff being registered there during the inauguration.

A number left the place hurriedly when the alarm was given and there was some show of fear among the women guests, but the fire being on the roof they were assured there was no danger.

Some insisted though on leaving with their baggage, and this caused alarmish stories to be circulated.

The firemen put out the blaze after which damage had been done by the flames to the roof and some of the upper rooms flooded with water.