WIFE STILL LIVES AS "SLAVE" WHILE SEEKING DIVORCE

Mrs. Jane Welch-Strong Keeps Her Abode in Flat With Her Husband.

THIS HELPS NOVEL SUIT.

Plaintiff Claims That She Is Held in Servitude in Violation of Constitution.

Mrs. Jane Welch-Strong, the young wife and mother who has begun a divorce action against her husband, W. Edwards Strong, who as a soldier of fortune fought in five wars, but as a husband has missed his wife's ideal as a provider, explained to-day why she had instructed her lawyer, Mrs. Henriette Johnstone-Wood, of No. 40 Wall street, to allege that she as a wife was an involuntary slave and should therefore be freed from her marriage contract under the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

A reporter for The Evening World saw Mrs. Strong in her little flat on the fourth floor of No. 545 West One Hundred and Twenty-ninth street. She is not a little girl-wife, as was stated in the early reports of her remarkable endeavor to invoke the Thirteenth Amendment to aid her in throwing off the thraldom of marriage. Mrs. Strong is almost six feet tall, very slender, twenty-one years old and has a great mass of brown hair, which was flying loosely about her head.

Some Wifely Burdens.

She was just coming into her flat when the reporter called. Under one arm she carried a twenty-five-pound baby girl—a plump, rosy-cheeked little beauty. Under her other arm was a steak, a bundle of laundry and several bags of groceries.

"Some of my wifely burdens," she laughed, as she dumped baby, parcels and all on a couch. "Yes, it is true that I have sued my husband for divorce under the Thirteenth Amendment. I consider myself an involuntary slave.

"My ideals have changed since four years ago, when I married Mr. Strong. Like most girls of seventeen I wanted a tall man of fine physique. Now I demand more—a man who can earn money and provide for his wife and children.

"My husband is too set in his ways. His earning capacity has decreased instead of increasing. My love has turned cold because the dollar has grown skimp. When I was married Mr. Strong was earning twice as much as he is now. For two years past he has utterly failed to fill my ideal. When my life became a drudgery I saw my mistake. My love suffered a devastating chill.

An Unpaid Slave.

"If I still loved him I would be willing to work myself to death for him, but there is no hell so unbearable as working for a man you don't love. I could go out and be a domestic and earn some money, but here I am simply an unpaid slave.

"We don't agree on anything, but we don't quarrel. I like my steak well done. He wants his uncooked. He is a very domesticated animal, comes home, eats, reads his paper and goes to bed.

"We talked this thing all over very thoroughly. I talked to him frankly, but impressed upon him that if I must divorce him I would get a divorce in a decent way. He agreed with me that there should be some national law that should break such marriage contracts as ours. He knows I do not love him and takes the situation philosophically.

"Down in the South, where I came from, we are very familiar with the Thirteenth Amendment, and I feel sure that the part of it relating to civil contracts relates to my case. The idea that marriages are made in heaven is all buncombe. A marriage contract in a simple contract is compelling a woman to work for a man till she drops dead. It is voluntary servitude so long as a woman loves a man, but when she does not it becomes involuntary servitude.

Might Marry Again.

"Would I marry a man if I got a divorce? Yes, if he had money, and could support me and the children that might be born in our wedlock. But I cannot live longer with this man, and have children by him, when there isn't money enough to educate the child we have now."

Mrs. Strong said that she had selected Mrs. Jonstone-Wood, a woman lawyer, because no man lawyer could be persuaded to take up such a case as hers and fight it as it should be fought in behalf of all the women in America.

"I have no grounds for divorce under the statutes of New York," said Mrs. Strong, "and I cannot leave my husband, as that would be desertion, and give him the privilege of divorcing me and probably obtaining the custody of our child."

When Mrs. Wood was seen in her Wall street office to-day she stated the case of her client concisely and clearly, and maintained that she had an excellent fighting chance of opening the eyes of the Supreme Court of the United States to the fact that the Thirteenth Amendment covered certain conditions of marital slavery.

"Mrs. Strong," she said, "married W. Edward Strong when she was a girl of seventeen, a student in a college at Oxford, Ohio. She is of a fine Southern family, cultured and refined. Strong is a big, handsome Englishman. He is thirty-four. He has been a soldier of fortune all his life. He fought in the Greco-Turkish war, the Spanish-American war, the Boer war and in Venezuelan and other South American revolutions. There was enough romantic glamour about him to turn the head of a young girl. My client thought she loved him and married him. She believed that he would provide well for her and for any children that might come to them.

Couldn't Earn Big Salary.

"They came to New York to live three years ago. Then she began to suffer. Strong had no money and was not fitted for any employment at which he could make money. About the best he could do was to earn $10 or $12 a week. You may imagine how the couple must have lived under the circumstances. Love soon cools under such conditions, and when love had departed the situation became intolerable.

"Still there are our laws. Divorce was impossible save on one ground. Strong would not consent to an annulment. Mrs. Strong could not desert him and retain the possession of the child. He wanted the child. She wanted the child. In order to obey our laws, the wife must submit to all the burdens of a household ill supplied with money. This, even though there is no love.

"Mrs. Strong came to me and stated her case. She considers she is entitled to a divorce, which would enable her to marry again—marry a man who can support her and her family. Obeying the laws, she must cook and wash and wear out her strength and beauty for a man she does not love.'

Slavery, She Insists.

"This is servitude, and as she must do it under the law unwillingly, it is involuntary servitude. The Thirteenth Amendment reads:

"'Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction.'

"Mrs. Strong has committed no crime. She voluntarily married. She entered into a contract to take Strong for better or worse, richer or poorer, but I contend that such a contract under the circumstances is altogether too one-sided and therefore should not hold in equity and justice to the wife.

"I will begin my suit in the Supreme Court of this county. I will be beaten, as there are no State laws to cover the case. I will go up to the Appellate Division and be beaten again. The Court of Appeals will decide against me, but then I will carry the fight into the United States Supreme Court, where I will ask for a construction of the Thirteenth Amendment to cover my case. I do not know what the result will be there."

Mrs. Wood said that she expected her fight to secure Mrs. Strong a divorce under the emancipation act will take at least two years. She believes every woman in America will be intensely interested in it.

Woman Who Says Marriage Makes Her a Slave, and Seeks Divorce

MRS. W. E. STRONG.

$1,623,000 FINE ON WATERS-PIERCE UPHELD BY COURT

Oil Company Declared a Violator of Anti-Trust Law, Must Get Out of Texas.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—The Supreme Court of the United States to-day affirmed the decree of the State courts of Texas imposing a fine of $1,623,000 on the Waters-Pierce Oil Company of St. Louis and ousting it from the State on the charge of violating the Texas Anti-Trust law.

The Court also sustained the action of the Texas State Courts in the appointment of Robert J. Burkhardt as receiver, and thus again decided against the company, which sought to have sustained the action of the Federal Court in appointing C. B. Dorchester at the instance of the company.

The decisions in all the cases were unanimous.

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FINED A TICKET SPECULATOR FOR SUNDAY SELLING

Magistrate Cornell Finds a Law to Fit Man Arrested on Sidewalk.

NUISANCE INCREASES.

Anybody With a Couple of Dollars Can "Butt In" at Theatres, and Many Do.

One of New York's old blue laws was resurrected to-day by Magistrate Cornell, in the West Side Court, in dealing with one of the ticket speculators arrested last night at Hammerstein's Manhattan Opera-House, where a concert was given for the benefit of the Italian earthquake sufferers.

Barnett Feinberg, of No. 83 West One Hundred and Fifteenth street, was one of the horde of speculators who swarmed about the place and he was taken from the lobby of the theatre. He approached Detective McGlynn, who purchased a ticket from him at a substantial advance on the box office price.

Magistrate Cornell held that Feinberg was guilty, under Section No. 267 of the Penal Code, which forbids the offering for sale on Sunday any property other than the bare necessaries of life, such as certain kinds of food and drugs.

"Tickets to this concert were not a necessity," said the Magistrate; "therefore I fine you $5."

Feinberg said he thought he was within the law, as he was stationed inside the lobby of the theatre, not many feet distant from the box office.

"I wasn't breaking that law any more than the man in the box office," slad the speculator.

Business Open to All Now.

"Any guy with a capital of a couple of bones can get into the business now, and, take it from me, they're getting in by the hundreds, coming from the east side, Hell's Kitchen, Five Points and other equally aristocratic localities."

In this way a ticket speculator—one of the elect, one in the "specs'" trust, and who is known to enjoy the confidence and to work in harmony with certain theatre managers—describes the situation since the ordinance abolishing speculators' licenses went into effect and was proved to be such a "joker" that instead of doing away with the pernicious practice, simply lets the bars down to any and all who may wish to get into the game.

For several years before there was any organized effort to wipe out the speculators there had been warfare between the "trust," the organized sidewalk operators, and a class of men who were not on the inside, but who from time to time have "butted in" with varying success.

There have been numerous free-for-all fights on the sidewalks before theatres between these factions, and in several instances theatre managers have employed special officers to chase away the "independents," although the members of the "trust" were allowed to operate and annoy theatregoers as much as they pleased.

Like a Swarm of Locusts.

The "independents" flocked down like a swarm of locusts on the theatre zone Saturday afternoon and night, and the average mortal, untrained to football rushes and tackles, took his life in his hands, so to speak, when he attempted to pass or enter a theatre.

The established "specs," many of whom have come to be as familiar objects on Broadway as the Flatiron building or the Metropolitan Opera House, were bad enough, but augmented by the scores of leading representatives of the great unwashed created a state of affairs that is scarcely conceivable as existing on the principal streets of a civilized city.

Worst at the Manhattan.

The situation was at its worst around Oscar Hammerstein's Manhattan Opera House in West Thirty-fourth street. Here, on Saturday, the management announced grand opera at popular prices, but the man of moderate means who sought to take advantage of the opportunity found practically all the mid-priced seats in the hands of speculators, from the fur-coated, silk-hatted member of the craft to the hoodlum in sweater and cap, who charged him an advance that shut him out from the opera. The speculators in front of this theatre stretched in a line a block long, and by the time the prospective operagoer stepped off a street car they were at him, thrusting their tickets into his face and making life for the time a burden. A policeman in front of the Manhattan said that orders had been given not to interfere with the speculators, who certainly had things their own way, some of them even standing within the outer lobby of the operahouse.

Probaby the next worst infested place was the Lyric, in Forty-second street. Here not only the orchestra but the gallery had been bought up, and the cheaper seats were being held at prices higher than the regular charge for the best chairs in the house. Several attaches of the theatre stationed on the sidewalk warned purchasers from speculators that the tickets would not be accepted at the door, but there were only one or two refusals.

Arrests Have Little Effect.

At the New York Theatre the fact that there had been arrests there seemed to have little effect. The speculators made a show of obeying the orders not to obstruct the sidewalk immediately in front of the theatre entrance, but they were just as thick and as troublesome as ever. The same was true at the Casino, the Empire, the Knickerbocker and the theatres further downtown—Wallack's, Daly's and Keith & Proctor's Fifth Avenue—where arrests had been made in the afternoon.

"It wasn't any of our boys who were arrested," said oneof the "trust" speculators stationed in front of the Victoria Theatre. "It was the 'independents.' The managers will find out that their abolishing the license has made things worse than ever by letting a lot of strong-arm guys in on the game. And they'll find out before they're through that a high license—say, $500, with $100 renewal—is the only way to regulate the business."

To Enlarge "Trust" Office.

The office at No. 212 West Forty-second street, which is called "The New York Theatre Ticket Library" and where tickets may be purchased at 50 cents premium, as in the hotels, is still doing business. It was established by the speculators' "trust," and has private telephone connections with all the principal theatres. It has been so successful that the speculator in charge said one and perhaps two additional offices may be established, especially if an effective bill abolishing ticket speculation should finally go through.

Plan Fight to Finish.

A night to the finish is the gist of the ticket speculators' attitude. But they are willing to come to terms, according to a statement issued by the Association of Licensed Ticket Speculators of Greater New York, through George Duncan, President, and David Marks, Chairman of the Executive Committee.

In the statement issued after a meeting of the "trust" speculators at Lyric Hall yesterday, Mr. Marks declares that the authorities are powerless to stop ticket speculating, no matter what laws are passed or what steps the police take, as there is no law to prevent a person from buying a commodity and selling it at a profit as long as he commits no criminal act.

"We are determined to fight for our rights, even if we have to go to the highest courts," continues the statement.

"All we want is a fair deal. Our association numbers about one hundred members, which is more than two-thirds of all the bona fide speculators in the city. Of course there may be a few black sheep, but there are black sheep in every profession.

Conditions on Saturday Night.

"The outrageous conditions of Saturday night we consider a vindication of the real ticket speculator. As soon as the law abolishing licenses went into effect unscrupulous persons who could scrape up a few dollars—newsboys, race track touts and railbirds who have been out of jobs all winter—secured backing and went into the speculator's game.

"We would suggest that a meeting be held between three Aldermen of the city, three theatrical managers and three members of our organization, with the view to determining how best to settle the matter. It is impossible to stop ticket speculation, but the obnoxious side of it can be eliminated. It is our desire to give the public and the city authorities every aid in our power.

"The association would suggest that a limited number of speculators be licensed, certain restrictions imposed, their moral character determined and recorded by the Police Department, and every effort made to insure the public as honest treatment as though they were dealing through the box office."

CONVICT SENT TO SING SING FOR 19 YEARS ESCAPES

Soldier Who Committed Highway Robbery in Uniform Digs Out of Barracks.

William Hiram Morse, a former soldier in the United States Army, who was sentenced to Sing Sing prison for a term of nineteen years for highway robbery in Sept. 1900, cut his way out of the prison barracks, near Haverstraw, some time during the night, and to-day a general alarm was sent out for him by the police of New York City.

Morse, who is twenty-seven years old, and who came East from Kentucky, joined the army in the summer of 1900 under the name of Thomas Jackson. He was stationed at David's Island.

In the latter part of August he went into White Plains, and while dressed in his uniform committed the robbery. His arrest and conviction followed.

Morse had been looked upon as a model prisoner. With a large number of convicts he has been engaged in building the new penitentiary on the west banks of the Hudson. The prisoners are kept in barracks near the scene of the work. These barracks are patrolled constantly during the night.

When the keepers went to call Morse at 5.45 o'clock this morning his cell was empty. It was then discovered that he had cut a screen of iron from a small window, through which he had squeezed his body.

It is thought that he had a confederate on the outside who furnished him the knife and then helped him make off through the darkness.

Morse is the fourth prisoner to escape from the barracks. Three got away on Dec. 10, during a dense fog. They were all caught a day or two later.

RHEUMATISM PRESCRIPTION

The following prescription, while very simple and harmless, will be found to work wonders in curing lame back and all kinds of rheumatism, purifying the blood and kidneys and restoring the system to normal health and vigor. It is inexpensive, considering its effectiveness, and can be mixed at home. The ingredients are well known and can be supplied by any well-stocked drug store:

"One ounce compound syrup of Sarsaparilla; one ounce Toris compound. These to be added to half pint of whiskey and used in tablespoonful doses before each meal and at bed time. The bottle must be shaken well each time."

Good results from this treatment are apparent after the first few doses, although it would be a mistake to discontinue its use until the health is fully recovered.

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The Season's Prices Were

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Negligee or Stiff Bosoms. Plaited or Plain.

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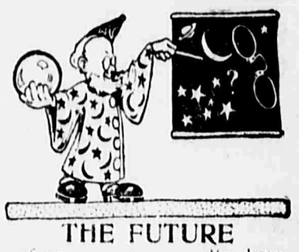

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Smoked Beef Blue Ribbon Brand—Sliced thin from choicest cuts; packed fresh daily; 15c. sanitary carton for..... **12c**

Flour Pride of St. Louis—Direct from the mill to the housekeeper; unsurpassed for bread, biscuit, cake or pastry; no other high-grade flour so low priced:—
24½ lb. bag, **75c**
7 lb. bag, **23c**; 3½ lb. bag, **12c**

Navel Oranges California's finest, new large sweet fruit; doz... **29c**

Lemons New shipment—juicy and bright; doz..... **17c**

New Figs Choice Smyrna layers; 15c. value; a lb..... **12c**

Fard Dates Blue Ribbon; rich and meaty; large pkge..... **10c**

Smoked Shoulders 7½c Delicious little lean tender "picnies"—4 to 6 lbs.; sugar-cured from selected corn-fed porkers; a lb ...

Large Prunes Choicest Santa Clara fruit, sweet and meaty, average 55 to the lb. By the pound.....
Triumph Oats Largest package of the choicest white rolled oats; the best of all breakfast foods.....
Each 8c

Essie Tomatoes Largest 5½ inch can ripe red Jersey fruit.....
Essie Sugar Corn Maine's choicest product; worth 15c. a can ....
A Can 10c

Condensed Milk Three Best Brands Fresh from the Factory.
Butler's Brand—Choice quality and remarkable value; can **8c**
LibertyBrand—Extra choice; rich in cream and butter fat; can .. **9c**
Essie Brand—Highest quality; the best for all purposes, can **10c**

Boneless Bacon Swift's Famous Eagle Brand from selected corn-fed pigs; streaked with fat and lean; best of sugar cured bacon; lb..... **16c**

Pancake Flour Aunt Nanna's—Makes the lightest muffins and most delicious pancakes large package..... **10c**

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Apricots Blue Ribbon—Choicest dried fruit; large carton **15c**

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Syrup—Molasses Large bottle Golden Drip Syrup or Molasses..... **12c**

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100 Stamps Free with 1 lb. Diana Brand Teas 70c
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Fresh from the National Biscuit Co.
5 o'Clock Teas, Saltines, Nabiscos.... Reg. 10c Package **8c**
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30 S.&H. Stamps Free with bottle **Superior Sherry..... 35c**

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