# WHAT THE INSPECTORS FIND

*SCARCELY A TENEMENT IN WHICH THE LAWS ARE NOT VIOLATED.*

**Dark and Unventilated Sleeping Apartments —Overcrowding and Bad Sewerage Found in Many Houses—A Day's Visit to Several of the Tenements with an Inspector.**

The inspectors who were appointed by the Board of Health to visit the tenement houses in New York have been making very careful examinations, and will, when the inspections are finished, be able to present a detailed report covering every tenement house in New York. There are, it is estimated, twenty-five thousand of these. The examination has already gone far enough to indicate that while a few of them comparatively are in such condition as the law requires, in many of them the laws are constantly violated, while not a few present sickening proofs of the most wanton violations on the part of the landlords, not only of all sanitary regulations, but also of the most ordinary requirements of decency. Almost all of the examinations have been confined thus far to the Seventeenth Ward, the most densely populated in the city, and certainly a population larger than that of many influential cities. Every house has been or will be visited, and the most scrupulous examination made into the ventilation, sewerage, closet, and water facilities of each house. Careful inquiries have also been made regarding the number of people that are to be found in every tenement. The result, so far, is not encouraging. There are some tenements in this ward where the tenants have plenty of air, sufficient room and light, fair sewerage, and, at least, sufficient facilities for a speedy removal of all the health-disturbing filth.

It appears already that a vast number of tenements in this ward are built in complete violation of the sanitary laws of the city. Many of them are old buildings that have been altered over into tenements without the least regard for the sanitary regulations of the city. The principal evils already noted by the inspectors are those that pertain to ventilation, light, sewerage, and overcrowding. It already appears that many of the tenements, especially in East Third, Fourth, and contiguous streets, and in the Tompkins Square region, are greatly overcrowded. Such reports as the following are frequent: Tenements of five floors, containing a population of from thirty to forty adults, and from forty to fifty children, are reported by the inspectors frequently. Many of these are occupied by people who carry on their daily business in them, such as cigarmaking and tailoring. Hundreds of tenements, some of them belonging to the Astor estate, have been discovered, where families of five, six, seven, and ten are crowded into two and three rooms. The reports of dark and entirely unventilated sleeping rooms are very many. In many of these tenements the sleeping rooms are between the front and rear rooms, with absolutely no ventilation excepting such as comes by the doors, and are dark at all times, day and night. Many of the tenements are reported as lighted only by skylights, while there are frequent complaints of intolerable smells and noxious odors. In East Third street, near the Catholic church, tenements are in very great demand, and thus far inspection shows that there is a greater number of them are found many violations of sanitary ordinances, the most common complaint being of imperfect ventilation. Further up, in East Twelfth and Thirteenth streets, the inspectors found many tenements densely populated, the yards adjoining which were used for stables, and from which the most noxious stenches arose. In the rear of a tenement on Second avenue an old graveyard was discovered, the appearance in the vicinity being wholly inadequate. Hundreds of tenements are reported in this and other regions of the Seventeenth Ward, where no light whatever is admitted to the sleeping rooms; and there are many reports of tenements of four stories containing six families, where the sewerage is imperfect, the water tepid and bad, the sleeping rooms foul, small, and dark. The inspectors have found many basements and cellars that are occupied by families, which are damp and unwholesome. Thus far the most general complaint, even in regard to tenements that are otherwise exceptionally clean, is of the lighting and ventilating of sleeping apartments by skylights alone, and of insufficient plumbing arrangements in water closets.

The work will go on, probably, for three months. It is believed that by that time a detailed account of every tenement in the city can be presented to the Board of Health, and that steps can be taken to compel the landlords to comply with the sanitary laws. Some of the inspectors are reported to have said that they did not understand how some tenements in the Seventeenth Ward had escaped being deadly plague spots already, for in them every law of health, so far as simplicity of life and pure air are concerned, is daily violated.

Below is given, as an illustration of the methods of inspectors, a description of an examination made by an inspector in whose company was a reporter for THE SUN. Having been asked, as he was leaving the office of the Board of Health about the difficulty of making a satisfactory inspection, Dr. W. K. Campbell said:

"We have very few difficulties in learning the measurement and sanitary condition of a house. Generally we get the information without much trouble, but a few days ago I met with a little impediment. A Jewish woman, living in Second avenue, objected to my going through the house; but I told her that if she did not allow me I would report her to the Board of Health, and that brought her to her senses. The house was in pretty good condition, and I had no complaint to make against it. Would you like to come with me? I am about to begin my rounds?"

James Kelly is the owner of 337½ East Eleventh street, a house, as the Doctor said, in a wretched condition. The note-books furnished to the inspectors have spaces for noting a multitude of lapses of sanitary laws, and in this case the book showed at the close of the day that the house was dilapidated, its sanitary condition wretched, and, though the water pipes were there they seemed to be more for ornament than use; for unless the tenants went to the corner of the street and drew it from the hydrant they would not obtain a drop of water. All the rooms and the yard were in a filthy condition; but the inmates excused themselves by saying that they were unable to wash their rooms, owing to the difficulty of obtaining water. The doors leading to the inside rooms were for the most part less than five feet high, and the Doctor, who is above the medium height, was obliged to stoop in entering. The front yard was in the form of a triangle, the base of which was twenty-five feet, and in bisecting line it would have been five feet and a half. The alleyway leading to the front door was three feet wide, and forty-seven feet long. Dr. Campbell said that this house was one of the worst he had seen, and he should not neglect to report it.

But 335 East Eleventh street rivalled it. James Cullughan is the owner, and though the first floor, which was literally a basement, was not higher than the sidewalk, two families lived in it, in opposition to the law. The ceiling of this basement was only seven feet seven inches in height, and the cellar was in a filthy condition. The odor rising from it was very offensive, and as the boards above were all loose and rotten the stench arose into the upper rooms, and to one not "racy of the soil," rendered them uninhabitable. As a natural consequence of this state of affairs two of the children were stricken down with measles, and another little one had died within a month. Dr. Campbell made a special note of this house, with a view of reporting it to the Board of Health.

The principal inspection, at which the reporter assisted by holding the tape while the Doctor was measuring the walls, was in Twelfth street, between First and Second avenues. The houses were not in bad condition, though some of them were very dirty. For the most part, information was given readily enough, though usually it was somewhat difficult to make out exactly what the informant meant. At 342 the woman on the basement floor assured the Doctor that there was an abundant flow of water into the sink in the back yard. But when a careful inspection established the fact that there was no water there, and the woman was asked how she obtained her, not very accurate knowledge, she replied: "Lor' bless ye, there must be plenty of water, or how would they be cleaned out?" which didn't satisfy the Doctor at all, and caused him to place a black mark opposite the house on his capacious note book.

At 348 East Twelfth street the house seemed to be in good condition. The basement and stairs up to the second floor were neatly carpeted, and everything looked comfortable. The conscientious doctor vainly looked for something to report, and, detecting nothing indoors, he went into the yard. Here he found a field for speculation. The sand and somewhat muddy yard was tenanted by innumerable pigeons, which formed, however, but a small proportion of the number of the birds that looked upon the house as a home, for an immense cot was fastened to the rear wall, and on it were the appropriate words, "Pigeons Hotel." From its numerous holes birds issued and returned by scores, and nearly as many children stood in the yard and watched them with delight. But despite the presence of these feathered denizens the yard was clean, and the Doctor's note book showed nothing upon which the Board of Health could take action.

At another house it did not appear that any water flowed from the roof into the outhouses, for this is the majority of instances in the city way in which these places are cleaned. The Doctor briskly led the way to the fourth story with the view of going upon the roof, but there he found that the ladder leading up to the skylight was a thing better calculated for the pasture of a sailor or an acrobat than for that of a medical man. It rested insecurely upon a ledge not more than two inches broad outside the balusters, and had it fallen it would have precipitated the adventurous climber a distance of about thirty feet to the stairs below. But, though the reporter offered to hold the ladder, the Doctor ran no such risk, and drawing the ladder inside the rails, fixed it much more securely before he ascended to the roof. Here a fine view of the opposite side of the street was obtained, but the immediate surroundings were less satisfactory. The tiles were sloped in a manner calculated to retain any water that fell upon them until the sun disposed of it, and though there were pipes at the corners they did not seem to have much to do with relieving the roof from water, or supplying it to the outhouses below. But the fates had not dealt with this house without discrimination. If the roof was flooded so was the cellar, and a visit to the lower regions disclosed an exceedingly wretched condition of affairs. The stagnant water, too, had attained a flavor peculiar to itself, and the Doctor hurried up the stairs.

"We make especial mention of liquor saloons," remarked Dr. Campbell, as he cautiously removed his handkerchief from his nose on getting into the open air, "for the Board of Health wishes to ascertain how many there are in each of our districts. Now, here is one." It was indeed; and while the tenement house above it had no water, this saloon had a great deal more than its customers are ever likely to call for.

The basement of 334 was refreshingly clean, and was neatly furnished. The woman who occupied it was clearly a model housekeeper, but as an informant she was somewhat remiss. She steadily insisted that the first floor was occupied by four children, and no grown people at all, and after some shrewd but ineffectual cross-questioning, the Doctor was obliged to go up stairs to satisfy himself that there was really a father and mother to this interesting family. But the housewife showed that she was not an incompetent judge of worldly affairs, because, as the Doctor was about to take his leave, she called after him: "I don't think it's bad houses, your Honor, that makes all the sickness. Maybe it's the women that's in 'em that doesn't keep 'em clean." And the Doctor warmly acquiesced in this view of the case.

From this point, for a long distance, the yards grew larger and larger, owing to the sloping wall of a factory in the rear. At 330 actual measurement with a tape furnished by the Board of Health showed the open space behind the house to be sixty-five feet. The next yard dwindled suddenly into insignificant proportions, but it did not seem that the rents were any lower, and the lady on the first floor requested the Doctor to report the matter to the Board of Health and have it enlarged, as the number of children in the house rendered a more spacious playground absolutely indispensable. She did not, however, suggest how this thing was to be accomplished, and it is possible that her demand will not be immediately complied with.

Another cause of complaint along this row of houses is a terrible steam whistle, which several times a day shakes every dwelling in the neighborhood from the garret to the cellar. It belongs to the factory, the wall of which plays such havoc with some of the yards of the houses in its rear, and so unreasoningly increases the capacity of others; and those who dwell within the sound of its ear-splitting notes are unanimous in their desire that the Board of Health shall force it to be quieted.

Next to the one measuring 65 feet the largest yard is that of 332, which has a length of 52½ feet. It was probably this great length of rear, and consequent adaptability for purposes of infantile exercise, that had induced that precocious young child to speak at the early age of 6 months. She could say but one word, indeed, but that one word was "Papa," and the persistency with which she applied it to the Doctor had an embarrassing effect. The great number of the houses in this row lack the difficulty of obtaining water. Either the pipes had of their own accord ceased to furnish water, or they were undergoing repairs; but in those houses where there was the greatest dearth of the fluid available for washing and drinking purposes there was almost invariably the deepest flood in the cellar. Where the water came from it was impossible to conjecture, but there it was, with boards and barrels floating about upon its surface, when no amount of delicate manipulation could draw a drop from any faucet in the house.

"It is impossible," said Dr. Campbell, "to have a dry house over a wet cellar," and in every instance he made an entry in his note book with the intention of reporting the matter to the Board of Health.

## FLAMES IN COLLEGE PLACE.

**Fire that the Police Suspect to have been the Work of an Incendiary.**

It was less than five minutes past 6 o'clock last evening when Max H. Klee quitted his cigar store in the basement of the tenement at 45 College place, gave the key to the janitor, and disappeared around the corner of Murray street on his way to the Staten Island ferry. The five minutes were hardly up when a dense smoke poured from the ventilator over the cigar store door. Policeman Park, assisted by two citizens, broke open the door, and, with a bucket or two of water, extinguished the flames that were fast arising from a mass of rubbish behind the counter at the right of the door. A short examination showed the rubbish that had burned to consist of rags and bits of paper saturated with kerosene oil from a half emptied quart bottle which lay among them with its cork out. The position of the bottle, and the distance of the material that had burned from the single light, which had been left in the middle of the store, caused the police and firemen who had assembled to at once suspect an incendiary fire. The fact that the distance from the single light was so great that by no possibility could a spark or burning substance falling from it have been communicated to the oil saturated paper and rags in the corner of the store, Mr. Klee, too, was living an angle in which it might be best emptied of its contents, while the cork was missing. The presence of the bottle, however, was in a measure accounted for when Mr. Klee's shop boy, who lives in the top story of the tenement was examined. He said that the bottle was used to supply the lamp that is kept burning for the purpose of lighting cigars. The lamp stood on the counter, behind which the bottle was found. The bottle ordinarily, he said, stood on a neighboring shelf, and he could not account for its position on the floor, nor for the paper and rags by which it was surrounded. No attempt was made to find and question Mr. Klee, who had started, it was presumed, for his home in Staten Island, and the matter was left for further investigation to-day by the Fire Marshal. A Staten Island neighbor of Mr. Klee volunteered to inform him of the fire, and he will probably appear at the investigation.

The tenement in which the cigar store is situated contains three families and two single men, numbering in all fourteen or sixteen persons. Adjoining it is another tenement containing about the same number of inmates. Klee has only occupied the cigar store since the 1st of May, during which time he has paid his rent regularly. His last month's rent was paid yesterday. It could not be discovered last night whether the cigars and tobacco put in jeopardy by the fire were insured.

## COLLISION ON THE DELAWARE.

**A Steamer and 5,000 Baskets of Peaches Going to the Bottom.**

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 9.—Five thousand baskets of peaches went to the bottom of the Delaware River last night and 150 excursionists were badly frightened by a steamboat collision. The steamer Mary Morgan runs between this city and Chester, twenty miles down the river. Last evening she had 150 passengers aboard on a moonlight excursion. When off Fort Delaware the propeller Pierpont was sighted. The latter runs between Smyrna, Del., and this city. She had on board, besides the peaches, 400 to 500 bushels of wheat, 50 bags of phosphate, and a large consignment of vegetables, apples, and pears. Passengers who were in the bow of the excursion steamer say that the propeller was distinctly seen. She was standing off from the western shore, with all her lights displayed. The steamers were thus approaching each other at right angles. They both kept on their respective courses, and a collision ensued. There was great excitement aboard the Mary Morgan for a few minutes, until it was ascertained that there was no immediate danger. The Pierpont was struck amidships, and began filling rapidly. Her eight passengers climbed aboard the excursion steamer, and the Pierpont was towed into shallow water and allowed to sink. All the passengers were taken to Chester, and the Morgan steamed around to Wilmington, for her bow was stove in, and had it not been for her watertight bulkheads she would have gone to the bottom in a very few minutes.

The propeller was owned by J. E. Tygert & Co. of Philadelphia. She can be raised. Just where the blame falls can hardly be determined, for various stories are told. One passenger says it was due to a wrong signal given to the pilot of the excursion boat, but others declare that no signals were given whatever—that the boats merely kept on their way until they met. It seems to have been a miscalculation of the distance by the pilot, possibly by the pilots of both boats. When in close quarters and a collision was seen to be inevitable, the wheels of the Morgan were reversed, but too late. The verdict can be no other than carelessness.

## A Steamboat Captain Shot Dead.

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 9.—Anatole Bosque, a desperado, shot and killed Capt. Joseph Boyle, on the steamer Heroine, at Mendenville, last night. Boyle, after being mortally wounded, shot Bosque twice, wounding him in the left shoulder. Bosque declared yesterday that he would kill Boyle. The latter's body was brought here to be embalmed.

## Successful Strike of Laborers.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Aug. 9.—At noon on Thursday all the association laborers working on vessels in the harbor struck for higher wages. Before the strike they were receiving miscellaneous wages, ranging from eight cents upward. Their demands were acceded to, and they will now receive $1.50 per day. They recommenced work yesterday afternoon.

# YELLOW FEVER EPIDEMIC.

*OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF THE MEMPHIS BOARD OF HEALTH.*

**Thirty-nine New Cases Yesterday and Five Cases of Death—The Fever Spreading from all Infected Points—Dr. Cochrane's Appeal.**

MEMPHIS, Aug. 9.—The weather is clear and cool. The fever is rapidly spreading from the infected points to other points wherever reside unacclimated persons. It is epidemic, and is so declared to-day. The Howards and others are doing all they can to check the spread of the disease, but it is here to remain until a frost. The alarmists are gone, and none are here except those who intend to remain, come what will. Several persons who fled northward at the first outbreak of the fever have returned and are returning, because they say they would rather risk the chances of fever here than dying of starvation in other cities, where they could secure no employment.

The new cases reported to-day to the Board of Health are: Martin O'Leary, 13 years, 260 New Madison street; Julia Walsh, 40 years, same residence; Laura Hill, 19 years, 176 South street; Daniel Gordon (colored), 5 years, 98 South street; Ruth S. Easton, 13 years, 356 Washington street; Jack Hooper (colored), 45 years, 123 Pontotoc street; Elder J. H. Ridley (colored), 38 Poplar street; Mary Kelly, 27 years, 120 Market street; Mrs. Mary A. Taylor, 39 years; Lizzie Taylor, 6 years, 96 Vance street; Rosa Sloan, 20 years, 47 Huling street; Geo. Shaw, 25 years, 149 Vance street; Robert Frearson (colored), 23 years, same residence; Josephine Morrell (colored), 22 years, Georgia street; Mrs. Dr. Berty, 27 years, 18 Linden street; Laura Lamb (colored), 24 years, 62 Georgia street; Emma Barnes (colored), 27 years, 387 Lauderdale street; Lucy Sears (colored), 23 years, 412 Lauderdale street; Ellen Price (colored), 19 years, Central Point; James Morsey (colored), 29 years, Jassamine street; Mary Bridge (colored), 40 years, same residence.

The cases of death officially reported to the Health Board up to 5 o'clock to-day were: Francis Getz, 33 years, 13 Bradford street; Lizzie Getzell, 26 years, 40 Exchange street; Mrs. A. Boyd, 40 years, 40 Hawley street; Edward Tobler, 30 years, City Hospital; L. Roberts, 32 years, City Hospital.

New cases inside the city limits, not to be reported to the Health Board until to-morrow, because the physicians of the Howard Association failed to present their report to the Board before 5 o'clock, when the office closes: Charles Meade, 31 years, 224 Vance street; Annie Miller, 18 years, 143 Linden alley; Ellen Price (colored), 6 years, 259 De Soto street; Thomas S. Boleman, 24 years, 228 Vance street; Annie Farrar (colored), 26 years, 191 Linden street; Frank Cannon (colored), 31 years, 259 De Soto street; Bella Cannon (colored), 17 years, 82 Causey street; E. Miller (colored), 45 years, 201 Hernando street; Willis Peyton (colored), 32 years, 26 Turley street; Granville Polk (colored), 25 years, 239 South street; Lucy McDuff (colored), 22 years, 217 Beal street; Carrie Dwyer, 18 years, 184 Wright avenue; Augustus Harris (colored), 33 years, Humphrey street; M. McCauley (colored), 44 years, 344 Union street; K. Johnson (colored), 11 years, Humphrey street; C. Jackson, 9 days, 358 Beal street; E. Johnson (colored), 5 years, Humphrey street.

New cases outside city limits reported to-day: The Rev. John Johnson (colored), 41 years, Poplar street, Boulevard; Jacob Clemens, 45 years, sent to City Hospital; Wm. Irving, 36 years, Poplar street; Mrs. Kate Forbes, 24 years, same residence; Lulu Hoffman, 23 years, Jackson street, Fort Pickering; Robert Warren (colored), 38 years, College avenue.

The fever is spreading rapidly all over the city, notwithstanding the unremitting efforts of Dr. Thornton, President of the Board of Health, officially declares it epidemic. The following is the official announcement:

The Board of Health being informed that there is a disposition manifested on the part of some absentees from Memphis to return sooner than it would be advisable and as this disposition may be increased, it deems it best to submit the following statement in regard to the prevalence and mortality of the fever: The total number of deaths to the death rate from yellow fever up to Aug. 2—the date of the last regular weekly report—exceeded the deaths from all other causes by a little more being less than that of the week previous, the Board of Health was encouraged to believe that it would be safe to recommend the return of the people at the prevalence of the disease, and as no practical good, it was thought, would result from the formal announcement of the epidemic, declined to make such an announcement. At that time, up to Aug. 2, the fever prevailed mainly in the neighborhood where the first cases occurred in July, in the southern portion of the city, in the Fifth and in portions of the Second and Third Wards, and to such an extent, that the fever was generally known in the city that it is now impossible to say what portion is not infected. Therefore the Board of Health makes a formal declaration of a general epidemic. The death rate is small in proportion to the number of cases reported, and there are good reasons to hope that it will not exceed, in the aggregate, that of last year. The week's mortality during the prevalence of the disease.

The Catholic Sisters of the Good Shepherd have applied to the Committee of Safety for assistance to support sixty persons at their house, the sisters, owing to the fever, being without any work, and consequently being unable to support their indigent poor, including women and children.

At a meeting of prominent citizens this afternoon Dr. Jerome Cochrane of the National Board of Health submitted a letter which he had received from Dr. S. S. Bruner, Secretary of the National Board, in which he recommends, first, that the work of removing the unacclimated population be continued until no fuel is left here to feed the epidemic; second, the removal of the sick, as far as possible, to camp hospitals outside of the city limits; third, the isolation, as far as possible, of infected persons at places within the city; fourth, the disinfection, as far as our existing knowledge makes it possible, of infected bedding, clothing, and dwellings.

The letter urges the National Board to at least make an effort, and exhaust every possible device to check the spread of the pestilence. It further says: "The Board is on trial before the bar of public opinion, and it has already become an object of assault in the public press. I appeal to the National Board of Health, the legal guardian of the country's welfare, and think the Board would act wisely to authorize the expenditure of $50,000 or any other sum, in a word, that may prove necessary."

The Howard Association have under their charge 146 sick; of these 109 are whites and 37 colored. The Howards have 139 nurses on duty. Another camp, named in honor of A. D. Langstaff, President of the Howard Association, has been erected a mile west of Camp Marks, to which fifty white families from Fort Pickering will be removed. The weather continues very cool.

CHICAGO, Aug. 9.—In answer to a telegraphic request of the *Daily News* of this city, Mr. A. D. Langstaff, President of the Howard Association of Memphis, has sent a telegram giving particulars of the condition of that city, containing the following points:

The total number of cases of yellow fever to this hour, within the city limits, as officially reported, is 2,326; of this number 290 have died. In addition there have been about 20 cases and 5 cases of death of Memphis refugees located within six miles of the city. The disease has not communicated to any of the surrounding towns on account of the rigid quarantine. The fever has increased in Memphis very perceptibly in the past ten days, and is spreading from the original centres. We cannot hope for a discontinuance until frost. At least thirty thousand persons have left, of which twelve thousand have gone to Camp Father Mathew and Father Mark, situated four and seven miles respectively from Memphis. There have been three cases in Camp Mark, and one death. At least twelve thousand negroes are in the city, only one hundred having gone to camp. They have declined to leave the city, hoping to receive rations here, which is in opposition to the views of all parties who are laboring here to attend to such as may be taken sick. Our only safety is in depopulation. In consequence of the following exodus among the negroes during the past five days, there is a growing disposition to go to camps. Should their appeal to the people of the United States for rations not meet with a favorable answer, the negroes will be driven out soon as they get hungry. No one but a Howard visitor or a physician knows of the filthy hovels that these people live in, and in which they are taken sick, and too frequently die. We have six physicians on duty, and have had under our charge four hundred and fifty patients, sick with various diseases. To these sick people we furnish nurses, medicines, stimulants, and food. About two hundred have been discharged. Our expenses are now $500 per day, and will increase. We have on hand $18,000. This amount would have been sufficient if the negroes had followed the example of the white people and left the city. We hope not to be forced to ask assistance, but fear this non-action of the negroes will compel us to do so. The sanitary condition of our city is excellent.

MERIDIAN, Miss., Aug. 9.—The City and County Boards of Health and a representative of the State Board examined the case of supposed yellow fever at this place several days ago and agreed unanimously that it was not yellow fever. The patient is now up, and the excitement has entirely subsided. There has been no other case here this season, even of a suspicious character.

VICKSBURG, Miss., Aug. 9.—A fatal case of yellow fever was reported yesterday at Mayersville, Miss., by the President of the Board of Health to the State Board of Health. Considerable excitement exists there, but doubts are expressed as to its being a case of yellow fever. No other cases have been reported.

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 9.—At a meeting of the Sanitary Auxiliary Association to-day, Dr. White, Sanitary Director, reported that no death from yellow fever had occurred during last week; that no person had been taken sick with yellow fever for ten days past, and that no case of yellow fever, nor any suspicious cases exist. The city is enjoying the highest possible health. Dr. Bemiss of the National Board of Health concurred in the above statement.

## THE GIFT TO JEFFERSON DAVIS.

**Mrs. Dorsey's Legal Adviser Defends the Will and her Motives in Making it.**

*From the St. Louis Republican.*

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 4.—My attention having been called to a communication in your paper dated New York, July 29, relative to Mrs. Dorsey's bequest to Mr. Davis, I am induced by the many misstatements it contains to put you in possession of the facts, in the hope that those facts will somewhat abate the rapacious rage and silence the slanderous tongues of her disappointed relatives.

Having known Mrs. Dorsey from her childhood, and having been for several years previous to her death her solicitor and legal adviser, I claim to speak with some degree of authority in the matter.

In the first place, the extent of Mrs. Dorsey's estate has been enormously exaggerated. Instead of being a quarter of a million, $30,000 is the extreme limit that can be placed on its value. As far as personality is concerned, Mrs. Dorsey had comparatively nothing. She owned no stocks or bonds of any kind. She had no money in bank, except a few hundred dollars, and none at interest. Her only source of revenue was the rental of her plantations in the parish of Tensas, and this amounted to about $2,500 a year—barely sufficient to give her a support. These plantations were once valuable; but like all properties situated in the alluvial parishes, annually threatened with disastrous overflows, they have depreciated to one-sixth of what they were worth before the war, when the levee system was perfect, and the labor was forced to tie to the soil by the chain of slavery. I should consider it a bad bargain to give $20,000 for them now.

The lands in Arkansas may be set down as absolutely worthless. They are uncultivated swamp lands, for which there is no market, even at fifty cents an acre. Indeed, if I mistake not, they were all sold for taxes years ago.

The only other property that Mrs. Dorsey leaves is the house and grounds near Mississippi City, known as "Beauvoir." Whatever value it has was given it by Mrs. Dorsey, who purchased it some years ago for, I think, about $3,000. She has improved it to some extent, but its present value is dependent upon so many contingencies as virtually to deprive it of a market price.

The disposition of Mrs. Dorsey's will and the motives which induced her to make it were communicated to me by her own lips early in the year 1878, and very shortly after the will was written. These are the circumstances under which this communication was made: Mrs. Dorsey came to New Orleans with the intention of undergoing a severe surgical operation for cancer, under which she expected to die, and from the effects of which she finally did die. She sent for me, told me of the will, its contents, her motives for making it, her anticipations of death, and gave me directions as to what I should do in that event. The operation, by the advice of her physician, was postponed a year. She subsequently brought the will to my office, and left it there to be deposited in the Canal Bank, which deposit was made by my associate, Mr. F. D. King.

The motives which Mrs. Dorsey gave for making Mr. Davis her legatee were in substance those set forth in the body of the will itself—given, however, more in detail, and expressed with the peculiar emphasis and intensity that was peculiar to herself. She said that she was childless; that she had done all for her relatives that they deserved and that she felt bound to do; that the small fortune she possessed came to her from her husband, who, poor wretch, who had also made provision for his own relations; that she was a daughter of the South (her nom de plume was Filia), and loved it—its history, its deeds, and its cause—with all the enthusiasm of her nature; that she regarded Mr. Davis as the representative of that cause; that, maligned and abused even by his own people, unassisted and in straitened circumstances, he was devoting the remaining years of his life to the vindication through history of that cause; that she felt the most intense sympathy with this work, the progress of which she had watched day after day with her own eyes, and toward which she had been graciously permitted to contribute what personal aid she could give; that she had known, honored, and loved Mr. Davis from her girlhood with the affection of a daughter, and that she did not know where her property could be more worthily bestowed than upon the ex-President of the Confederacy.

Mrs. Dorsey's relatives—especially the Dahlgrens and Mills brothers—expected to get her property, they were waiting for dead men's shoes in vain. Aside from the personal relations that existed between them, I speak authoritatively when I say that her idea was to leave it to some literary or scientific purpose. Previous to the formation of this design of leaving it to Mr. Davis, her intention was to establish and endow in some American college a chair of Sanscrit language, literature and religion—her own profound studies having been turned in that direction. Her friends will, to such an extent, that her friends would laughingly accuse her of being a worshipper of Brahma.

At the time of the conversation above alluded to, I jokingly asked Mrs. Dorsey what would become of her professorship of Sanscrit, and she answered that she would do the greatest service possible to her country and her people in placing Mr. Davis in a position where, unpinched by the *res angusta domi*, he could finish his work and his life in peace and comfort.

In the place, I will not specify, I know the grounds upon which it is proposed to attack Mrs. Dorsey's will. The testament being perfect in form, the testatrix being capable of giving, and the legatee capable of receiving, it is said that the attack will take having been made through undue influence, or on the ground that the testatrix was insane.

Now, Mrs. Dorsey was a citizen of Louisiana; she died here, her will was probated here and the bulk of her property is here. Under our laws relative to wills, our laws, too, so fertile and discountenances scandalous litigation of all sorts, no such contests over wills can take place as disgrace the Surrogate Courts of New York. Article 1,422 of the civil code provides that "proof is not admitted of the dispositions (inter vivos and mortis causa) which have been made through hatred, anger, suggestion, or captation." So much for the first ground. As your article states that the heirs are looking for a contingent fee lawyer, I do not think any shark living, however clever, would feel law years are generally marine monsters of this species—can be found who will be fool enough to hurl himself against the prohibition contained in article 1,492.

But even if the law were otherwise, I do not hesitate to declare boldly, from my personal knowledge of the facts and parties, that all statements and suggestions that Mr. Davis exercised a particle of influence over Mrs. Dorsey to induce her to make him her legatee, are born of greed and malice, the filthy progeny of the *aur sacra fames*—and are unqualifiedly false, malicious, and contemptible.

To those who knew Mrs. Dorsey, this senile and juvenile babble about undue influence is equaled in absurdity only by the statement that Davis, during the interviews preceding her will by mental derangement. She was a woman of no ordinary type, and of more than extraordinary attainments. An omnivorous reader and an intense student, her memory retained, and her strong, clear mind digested what she read. As a conversationalist she appeared to greater advantage than as a writer—a fact due to her cultivation of the art of conversation. Although she was a strong advocate of female suffrage and of women's rights, the last thing that came from her pen was a petition to the Constitutional Convention, written upon her death bed, asking that the women of Louisiana be given the right to vote. A more refined, a more gentle, a more womanly woman never lived. And while her friends can speak with admiration of the brilliancy of her talents and the profundity of her learning, they can speak with heartfelt emotion that her heart was golden.

Would to God that her lustrous eyes could wake from the lethargy of the grave and pierce with their scornful glances the foul ghouls who, under the guise of relationship, seek to blacken her noble reputation, and to dim the halo of honor that shines around her name.

EDGAR HOWARD FARRAR.

## THE PITTSBURGH SCULLING RACES.

**Babbitt Winning the Amateur and Riley the Professional Race.**

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 9.—The regatta at the Hulton course to-day was attended by a large crowd the shores on both sides being lined with people. There was but one heat each in the amateur and professional races, completing the unfinished races of yesterday. Betting was quite lively, Riley being the favorite in the professional race. The weather was fine and the water good condition.

There were four starters in the amateur race of two miles, as follows: 1, Brennan; 2, Babbitt; 3, Morris; 4, Handy. At 5 o'clock the word was given, and after some trouble in getting into position they all got off well together. Brennan took the lead at the start. On the return Babbitt was ahead, Morris next, the other two far in the rear. Babbitt passed the stakeboat five lengths ahead, Morris second, Handy third, and Brennan out of sight. Time, 14 minutes and 21 seconds.

In the three-mile professional race there were six entries, with positions drawn as follows: Johnston, Lee, Riley, Laberger, Kennedy, and Plaisted. Johnston refused to row, claiming that some person had cut a hole in his boat, and that he had been otherwise foully treated. The men got away at 6 o'clock, making an excellent start. Riley pulled to the front, and maintained that position throughout the race, winning easily—Kennedy second, Lee third, and Plaisted fourth. Time, 20 minutes 27 seconds.

## The New Washington Grant Organ.

*From the Evening Post.*

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—The new Grant newspaper will make its appearance about the 1st of September. Its managing editor will be R. DeRandolph Keim, Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, but George W. Childs is said to be the power behind the throne. Ex-Secretary Robeson is interested in the ownership to the extent of $50,000. William J. Murtagh, the former editor of the *National Republican*, will be the business manager. It will be a two-cent afternoon paper of three editions, will be published in Pennsylvania avenue in a building adjacent to that occupied by the Washington *Republican*, and will employ all the improved newspaper machinery. Its name has not been decided upon yet, so **far as I can learn, but it might be called the** *Daily Boom*.

# MRS. FRED. SMITH'S STORY.

*HER DETAILED ACCOUNT OF A MYSTERIOUS DAYLIGHT ROBBERY.*

**Telling Just How She was Seized, Gagged with a Glass Bottle Stopper, and Tied to the Sewing Machine—The Report of the Police.**

The quiet, country-like neighborhood about the house at Ninth avenue and Ninety-third street, in which Mrs. Smith, as she avers, was bound, gagged, and robbed on Saturday, the 2d inst., was thoroughly roused yesterday by the publication in THE SUN of an account of the alleged outrage. Hardly any other subject was talked of by the neighbors, to most of whom it came as startling news, owing to the efforts of Mrs. Smith's relatives to have as little as possible said. The officials at the Ninety-third street station of the Metropolitan Elevated Railroad were overtasked in answering questions as to whether there were later developments.

Mrs. Smith is the wife of Mr. Frederick Smith, of Smith & Olds, manufacturers of horse-furnishing goods, in this city. She is a blonde, hardly twenty-five years of age. Her eyes are large and gray, and her hair, curling upon her forehead, is light brown. She speaks with the accent and the choice of words of an educated and refined woman. She stood in the sunny doorway of the house, yesterday, and said:

"My husband and Mr. Olds, as you may have learned, are partners, though, I believe, the firm is in liquidation, as my husband intends to go to Europe in connection with his line of business. Mr. Olds and my husband hired this house—formerly the St. Julien Hotel—I believe for the summer. Mr. Olds chose the first floor for his family, and my husband selected the second. But we have lived more as one family than two families, and have gone to and from each other's rooms almost without ceremony. To this fact, as I will show you later, I probably owe my life. On Friday last I went with my brother-in-law, Mr. D. M. Gingley, who keeps a store in the country, to H. B. Claflin & Co.'s establishment, and aided him in buying goods for his store. On the following morning my brother-in-law found that we had forgotten to make some needed purchases on the previous day. I told him that I would go to Claflin's and make them. I went, ordering that the goods be sent here, and returned at about 4 o'clock. I was warm and tired, and I was determined to lie down and sleep. I took off my dress and hung it in the closet. Then I closed the door, but did not lock it, and walked toward the bed. Just then I was seized from behind. I turned my head, and saw that I was in the grasp of a short, but powerful young man. I shall never forget his face or figure. They seem to be photographed in my mind, and I would recognize them anywhere, I believe, however disguised. I screamed and struggled to get to the window; but the man's grasp was like iron. He caught up the stopper of a heavy glass scent bottle that was upon the bureau, and, when I screamed again, forced it into my mouth. This effectually gagged me. But I continued my struggle to reach the window. The man bound my dexterity, he wound a rope about me so that my arms were pinioned at my sides and my hands tied behind me. Then his hands were free—he must have held me and kept the stopper in my mouth with one arm and hand and bound me with the other hand—for I felt the gag pushed over my mouth. There may have been chloroform upon the gag, though I do not know that any trace of it has been found, or the terrible tightness of the bandage may have stopped my breath long enough for insensibility to ensue, to finding that an animal was licking my face. My mind was dazed, and I gazed about me in bewilderment at first. Then I saw my little black and tan dog. I found next that I was lying on the floor, tied to the sewing machine. I heard some one pulling out and rummaging the drawers of my bureau, to which my back was turned, and then I remembered all. I tried to get upon my feet, and almost pulled the sewing machine over upon myself. In an instant the thief was by my side. He pointed a knife at my head, and said: "Make any more noise and I'll blow your brains out. I saw that he was in earnest and I kept quiet. He returned to the bureau, apparently, and continued rummaging in the bureau drawers. Sudden footsteps sounded upon the stairway. The thief bounded to the door and bolted it. Then he ran softly to the rear window, which opened upon a tin roofed shed. He may have jumped from this shed to the ground, but I thought it safer to allow them to suppose he provided a warm reception for the next thief that takes a fancy to rob us."

The police view of the alleged robbery is best given in the following verbatim extract from the blotter of the 100th Street Police Station:

Officer William W. Kinnaird reports that about 7 P. M. this Saturday evening, Mr. D. M. Gingley came to him and said that, on going to his sister, Mrs. Frederick Smith's, apartments in the frame house in Ninety-third street between Ninth and Tenth avenues, a short time previous, he found her lying on the floor, with her feet tied to a sewing machine, and a bandage inside of mouth over her mouth. She was tied very loosely with a piece of old rope. Some clothes, and several pieces of old jewelry were strewn about the floor, with the evident intent to deceive as to the motive of the person who committed the act. Upon investigation made by him Officer Kinnaird and Officer Reiff, and from what could be learned from a family named Olds, living on the floor below, there is no doubt that Mrs. Smith committed the act herself, in the hope of its being the means of excusing some trouble between herself and husband. She was relieved by the Surgeon of the Ninety-ninth Street Hospital, who says that there was nothing the matter with her.

## Racing in the Kill von Kull.

A four-oared scull race between crews of the Nonpareil Rowing Club of Philadelphia and the Monroe Rowing Club of New York was rowed yesterday off the north shore of Staten Island, in the Kill von Kull. The race was for a purse of $500, the distance being one mile. The crews were: Nonpareil—Joseph Hallsdale, bow; Wm. F. Atkins, 2; Jas. Dale, No. 3; John R. Hann, st