

COURT SANCTIONS STILLMAN TRUCE; FAMILY AT ODDS

Divorce Proceedings Before Justice Morschauer Put Off Indefinitely.

NOTORIETY ONE REASON

Daughter Striving Hard to Reconcile Parents, With Result in Doubt.

SON AND FATHER APART

James, Jr., and Guy Are Said to Possess a Remarkable Family Resemblance.

The laundering of the soiled linen of the James A. Stillman family in public is going to be discontinued if the counsel retained by both sides of the divorce controversy can accomplish it.

Court action which was taken in White Plains yesterday morning within the brief compass of less than three minutes, and with the mutual consent of attorneys for plaintiff and defendant, was believed to portend either the compromising of the cross suits between the New York banker and his wife, or the dropping of one or the other of the actions, or both, at least so far as regards the New York State jurisdiction.

At present a condition of armed truce appears to prevail in the two legal camps. In White Plains yesterday it was predicted by an authority whose sources of information generally have been found trustworthy that for a month or more there probably will be few further public developments in the proceedings already begun in the Ninth Judicial District before a referee appointed by the court.

"At the end of some such period," said this informant, "it would seem likely to me that new actions will be found to have been instituted in California or Nevada as soon as legal status can be obtained in a Western commonwealth where divorce proceedings are not necessarily attended either by such complicated requirements or by such unpleasant notoriety."

In the Supreme Court, before Justice Morschauer, in White Plains, argument on two motions in the suit of James A. Stillman, president of the National City Bank, for divorce against Mrs. Anna Trugbart Stillman was indefinitely postponed by mutual assent and with the acquiescence of the court. It was after that disposal of the hearing that the hint was dropped that perhaps the suit here might not be pressed, but that a new complaint might be filed in another State after the sensation caused by the unexpected publicity incurred here shall have blown over.

The motions involved in yesterday's court procedure were one by the defence requiring Mr. Stillman to show cause why he should not be examined to determine his true financial condition and resources, and another, also by the defence, for an allowance of alimony amounting to \$10,000 a month and \$25,000 counsel fees. John F. Brennan of Yonkers, who is attorney of record and associated with Stanchfield & Levy, counsel for Mrs. Stillman, was the only lawyer of all the brilliant

PLEA OF GUILTY PREVENTS WOMAN LAWYER'S 'DEBUT'

Mrs. Massiella Will Accept Sentence for Manslaughter and Miss Dubin Loses Chance to Address Jury in Murder Case.

The client of Miss Theresa B. Dubin, the first woman lawyer in this State to defend one of her own sex charged with murder, was permitted to change her plea and the case was closed yesterday in Queens County Court without the utterance of one official word by the feminine counsel.

Miss Dubin naturally regretted not having had the longest for opportunity to open the case for the defence of Mrs. Donatella Massiella, who was charged with the murder of her neighbor, Mrs. Concetta Altieri, but she said after court had adjourned that she was glad to sacrifice a stage appearance for the sake of the defendant.

The sudden change of front on the part of Cesar Barra, with whom Miss Dubin was associated in the case, and District Attorney Dana Wallace, was not a complete surprise, for an attempt had been made earlier in the afternoon to come to an agreement whereby the

galaxy retained who appeared in the White Plains courthouse yesterday morning. Justice Morschauer had arrived in chambers at 9:30, instead of the usual hour for the opening of court. He was seated in his chambers at 9:45 o'clock when Mr. Brennan entered.

"Are you ready to go on with this case?" asked the Justice.

Mr. Brennan replied laughingly that he was present in the interest of "the Smith-Jones case."

"I presume you refer to the case of Stillman vs. Stillman," said Justice Morschauer, and Mr. Brennan admitted that he did.

"Is there anything represented here also this morning?" asked the Justice.

"They will not be here this morning," was the reply. Mr. Brennan added that by agreement he was representing both sides for the simple purpose of moving for an indefinite postponement of the hearing under the two previous motions to show cause. Mr. Brennan then accompanied Justice Morschauer into the court room.

"If you are ready to go on with this matter now I will hear you," said the Justice, and Charles Decker, court clerk, thereupon called the case of "Stillman vs. Stillman."

Mr. Brennan stated briefly that by mutual agreement he had appeared to ask in behalf of both sides that the matter of the pending motions be adjourned indefinitely. Justice Morschauer granted the motion. The whole formal procedure in court required less than three minutes. Mr. Brennan was hustled out of the court room, was surrounded by reporters.

"Is it to be inferred from the course just taken," was one of many questions with which he was assailed, "that the case is to be dropped or settled out of court?"

"You will have to draw your own inferences; there is nothing more I can say to you," said the lawyer smilingly.

There were some who interpreted the anti-climax as meaning no more than that an amicable agreement had been reached on the particular question at issue in behalf of both sides.

Mr. Stillman began his action, it was learned yesterday, only after Miss Anne C. Stillman, his nineteen-year-old daughter, had failed to effect a reconciliation, and after heated words had passed between himself and his eldest son, James A. Jr., who is now 17 years old and is finishing his education at a private school somewhere in this State. James, Jr., is described as being a robust youth, who loves athletics and life in the open. He is said to have resented the allegations the banker made against his mother.

Details of a series of family conferences that preceded the beginning of the suit were learned from a person close to the attorneys representing the banker and Mrs. Stillman. The failure of James, Jr., who also is known as "Bud," and Miss Stillman to prevent a break between their parents is said to have resulted in what seems to be a breach between father and son. Miss Stillman is reported still to be hopeful that she will be able to reconcile the marital difficulties of her mother and father without further publicity of the allegations.

When the breach first appeared in the Stillman household, now said to be about a year ago, Mrs. Stillman, who then was attending a finishing school in either

Massachusetts or Connecticut, returned to the family home at Pocantico Hills and, aided by her brother, did her utmost to prevent the difference from becoming known outside the family circle. Mrs. Stillman, it is said, was willing to accede to her daughter's wishes, but the banker declined. It was then, it is reported, that the heated words passed between father and son.

The banker is said not to have seen or heard from his son since that day, but Miss Stillman still visits both of her parents.

Despite the reported division among his children, Mr. Stillman, it has been learned definitely, has asked in the divorce complaint that the custody of Anne, James and Alexander be given to him. The last named is 11 years old.

A similar request is made by Mrs. Stillman in her answer to the complaint, which, it has been ascertained, is attached to the moving papers in the action and contains several serious allegations against the banker, in which at least one woman is named.

Persons in a position to know say Mrs. Stillman at first refused to put forth counter allegations because she considered her husband's charges ridiculous and felt they would not stand up in court. Her lawyers, however, pointed out that not only her own good name but that of her youngest son, Guy, now 24 months old, hung in the balance, and that it was her duty to the child to fight the allegations with every means in her power.

It has been authoritatively learned that the disposal of a legacy between \$1,500,000 and \$1,750,000 is involved. This amount represents a one-fourth share of a trust fund of between \$6,000,000 and \$7,000,000 which was created by the will of the late James A. Stillman for the benefit of his four grandchildren.

If Mr. Stillman were successful in the divorce action, it has been pointed out, Guy would lose his right to participate in the trust fund.

Both brothers ridiculed reports that there had been a disturbance at the lodge in Quebec province on one occasion in the course of which shots had been fired.

Ferd. Beauvais resented bitterly having been referred to as a halfbreed. "Our family," said he, "is one of the oldest in Quebec, and I produced documents to trace the line of my ancestry. The newspaper accounts describing me as a trapper also are incorrect. I have taken out several hunting parties and I formerly worked for Abercrombie & Fitch, a New York sporting goods house, but I never was a trapper."

He denied that he had been recently in Tarrytown, N. Y. "I formerly was manager of the Stillman properties in Quebec province and also in Tarrytown," he said, "but the last time I was in Tarrytown was more than a year ago."

Ferd. Beauvais is an uncommonly good looking man of 27 years, clean cut, athletic and with the bronzed skin characteristic of outdoor life. He is five feet ten inches tall and weighs 162 pounds. He spoke of the woodcraft phase of his career, however, as though it were a thing of the past.

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Efforts of Henry Joseph Lise of 176 West Houston street to dissuade relationship to the foundling known as "Love o' Mike" brought him an indeterminate sentence in the penitentiary yesterday.

Lise, who was the uncle of the baby, tried to abandon it because its mother was unable to provide for it. A policeman saw him trying to leave it in the Grand Central Station. Lise declared then that a stranger had asked him to hold the baby for a few minutes and had failed to return. Pinned to the baby's garments was a note reading, "For the love of Mike, some one take this kid."

Lise stuck to this story under examination in the police court, but later admitted that it was false. He also asserted that he had intended to give the child to Nellie Bly, the writer.

"Love o' Mike" obtained much publicity when Mrs. August West of 408 East Eighty-second street, mistook him for her own kidnapped son and laid claim to him. The child died shortly after his true identity had been established.

CAMP GUIDE DENIES STILLMAN CHARGES

Alleged Correspondent, Interviewed, Refuses to Discuss Banker's Wife.

WILL NOT CROSS BORDER

Declares He Is French Canadian, Not Indian—Resents Being Called Halfbreed.

MONTEREAL, March 15.—Ferd. Beauvais, the French-Indian guide, named in James A. Stillman's divorce suit, was found today by a reporter for the United Press. He is living with his younger brother, Arthur, in a comfortably furnished apartment in a suburb of Montreal.

Beauvais made a sweeping denial of all the charges alleged to have been made against him by the New York banker in connection with the case. He is indignant that he had been referred to in the newspapers as an Indian and a halfbreed. He considers himself a French Canadian, does not look like an Indian and speaks excellent English without an accent. His manners are polished, his bearing smooth and courteous. He was well dressed, apparently had plenty of money and evidently was fully informed of all the currently published details of the Stillman case.

Beauvais resents any attempt to name Mrs. Stillman, "She shall not be discussed with me," he said. "Her name shall never be bandied about." He said he had no intention of crossing the international border and did not wish to have anything to do with the pending cross suits for divorce.

He refused also to discuss the child, Guy Stillman, whose paternity has been called in question, but he spoke affectionately of young James Stillman, the seventeen-year-old son, to whom he had been an outdoor companion and who had been four in Pasadena, Cal., but that lawyers for Mr. Stillman had obtained her consent to testify in his behalf before the referee and she had come back to Montreal.

It was learned that Beauvais and his brother Arthur had been interested in Isobel Armstrong, formerly a nurse in the Stillman household, who was wanted as a witness for Mrs. Stillman. Arthur Beauvais said she finally had been found in Pasadena, Cal., but that lawyers for Mr. Stillman had obtained her consent to testify in his behalf before the referee and she had come back to Montreal.

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HAMON BEAT HER, SAYS CLARA SMITH

Continued from First Page.

"Here, you must not talk that way here in public." He got up and went up stairs to my room. I was afraid of Mr. Hamon, very afraid of him. I saw a look on his face that I had never seen before. He was drunk and I had never seen him in all the years I had known him. He was drunk and crazy. I don't think the whiskey was good red whiskey, but I don't know. He usually drank good whiskey and he wasn't usually crazy like that. He was crazier and drunker than he had ever been in all the years I had known him. When I got to my room the doors were locked between our rooms, and the bathroom door was locked. I rang for the porter, which Mrs. Massiella had confessed, adding that she had been goaded to the point of firing the revolver by the words of Mrs. Altieri and to defend her son.

Miss Dubin was accompanied to court by her mother. She hopes, the young woman lawyer said, that the next time she appears in a murder case she will have a chance to examine witnesses, open the case and possibly sum up.

Among the witnesses called by the prosecutor were the seventeen-year-old daughter of the murdered woman and a boy of 12, who saw the shooting to which Mrs. Massiella had confessed, adding that she had been goaded to the point of firing the revolver by the words of Mrs. Altieri and to defend her son.

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they thought their life was in danger?" the young woman replied.

"Never mind that; what did you do with it?" her counsel asked.

"I held it on him," she went on.

"He did back away sort of behind a chair and put his hand on the back of the chair. He did not raise his hands. I didn't ask him to. I wasn't very far from him when I passed between the corner of the bed and Mr. Hamon and the chair to get to the door to get out. He backed around to the door between our rooms. Holding my hand like this [indicating] to back up to the door to unlock it, the lock he had locked when Bill went out, I could not see him. The bathroom is four feet and he had to be a little back of the corner of the bathroom when I unlocked the door, so I had to let him out of my sight. And understand when I unlocked the door to go, in that instant he turned off the light and raised the chair to strike me, and did strike me. I could see from the light of the hall. I don't know. The gun went off. I didn't mean to shoot him."

Resuming the stand after the noon recess, Clara spoke of incidents following the shooting.

"Mr. Hamon held out his arms and pulled me down and kissed me, and asked me to forgive him and said I never would have happened if he had not been drunk," she said. Mr. Hamon told her at the hospital the morning after the shooting.

She said Hamon told her she should leave town to save scandal, but to come back that afternoon. The defendant then detailed her flight from Ardmore, saying she was acting on instructions from Mr. Ketch.

Clara said when she left Oklahoma she was not leaving from a certain place, but had committed to, but left because Mr. Ketch told her to.

"I certainly did not," she replied again when asked if she had placed her hand on Hamon's head and fired the shot which killed him.

On cross-examination she said she was 25 years old, and had been living with Mr. Hamon eight or nine years.

When asked if she was 17 when that arrangement began, the defendant said: "No, sir, not when I began living with him."

Clara said she was not jealous of Mrs. Jake Hamon, after admitting she knew Hamon was married and the father of two children.

When Attorney-General Freeling asked if Hamon had promised to marry her, Clara replied: "He did always. And there were any children born of this relation?" Attorney-General Freeling asked.

"No," Clara answered.

The defendant freed a contract releasing Hamon from all obligations, introduced yesterday, as having been written and signed by her, and said it indicated she was ready at any time to release Hamon.

Attorney-General Freeling read another contract signed by Hamon and Clara Hamon, dated the next day, providing Clara should continue in Hamon's employ at \$35 a week, and should a child be born provision should be made for the child during Hamon's life. The child to be recognized as a Hamon heir and to share in the division of the property at Hamon's death.

Clara Hamon said relations with Hamon had existed in a number of states, but that phase was dropped when her counsel objected her replies might incriminate her.

"Yes, I heard him for that scene on the porch," she said in reply to a question as to whether she had said to a reporter, "How I hated him for that scene."

"I hated him and loved him at the same time," she said, replying also that love was decidedly the dominant passion.

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