

THE DELPIT DIVORCE CASE

Relief Sought by the Plaintiff in the American Courts.

He Comes to New York From Canada to Avoid Notoriety and Delay—Litigation That Has Caused a Celebrated Controversy.

NEW YORK, June 5.—A man of medium stature, but well proportioned, whose age is thirty-one years, hastily entered the law office of Carruthers & Guthrie yesterday afternoon, and, slipping a card into the hands of the office boy, exclaimed: "I wish to see Mr. Carruthers at once. My train leaves for Baltimore in an hour." On the card was printed the name of "Edouard Delpit." The visitor was the plaintiff in the Delpit divorce case of Montreal, which has plunged the Roman Catholic Church and the civil courts of Quebec into a bitter controversy as to which is supreme in the laws of marriage. A reporter obtained an interview with the plaintiff after the conference with the lawyer. In explaining his coming to this city Mr. Delpit, in a few minutes he had left before taking his train, said:

"I have come to the United States for the relief which I despair of obtaining in Montreal. I have sought your courts to grant me a divorce without notoriety and the waste of years of time. The struggle that I have had in my own country of Quebec has been a long and a painful one. Unfortunately, it involved the Roman Catholic Church and the civil government of the province in such a struggle for supremacy that the primary case was lost sight of. Indeed, the antagonism between these two powers of society has grown so bitter that I saw that I could obtain a final decision in the case only after years of struggle and notoriety.

"Accordingly, I made my home in Baltimore three months ago. There I will bring an action for divorce through Mr. Carruthers, as soon as my year of residence is complete. I have been in this city only a few days visiting at the home of a sister and consulting with my lawyer.

"My wife," said Mr. Delpit, "was Miss Marie Berthe Aurore Jeanne Cote. We were married on May 2, 1893. She was sixteen years old then, and I was twenty-three. Although she was a Catholic, she brought up in the Catholic faith we were married by a Unitarian minister, Rev. W. S. Barnes, of Montreal. We had three children—a boy, who is now nearly seven years old, and two daughters, Marie and Louise.

"Our marriage proved unfortunate. My wife showed such hatred of me and to the children that life became unendurable. We both sought for a divorce, she in a civil, I in an ecclesiastical court. In the latter case, however, I was refused. My contention before the church authorities I argued that a marriage between two Catholics who had not abjured their religion was clandestine, and therefore null, when solemnized by a Protestant clergyman. Mr. Delpit's contention was a decision in his favor was given me through the Ordinary of Quebec, in July, 1900, and ratified by the Pope on November 23 last.

"This judgment was overruled, however, by the civil courts of Quebec in a decision handed down by Justice Archibald, of the Superior Court, on March 31 last. An appeal from this decision is now before the Court of Appeals of the province, which, although I believe will overrule Justice Archibald, will not be final, as my wife has threatened to carry the case to the House of Lords. As I have little doubt that the House of Lords will sustain Justice Archibald, I have finally abandoned the Canadian courts for the courts of this country. Here I hope my suit will be tried with expedition and fairness and without notoriety.

"I shall have my claim for absolute divorce on grounds of cruelty, both to me and my children. In order to give this proper protection I sent the boy to France to his grandmother, and then afterward to Montreal from France to take care of the two younger children. Also, the hatred that my wife bore to the children can be seen by this affidavit from Mrs. Cameron, a servant in our employ, who testified as follows:

"When the boy returned from France with his grandparents, Mrs. Delpit told me that she hated him (her own son) enough to kill him, and that she wished that the vessel in which they all sailed had gone to the bottom of the sea, and that all the family had drowned, even to her little son."

"The children are now in this city, at the home of Mr. Delpit's grandparents. My wife has been staying at her grandparents' also. The lawyers of the wife, who is now in Montreal, ask that Mr. Delpit be treated as a fugitive, and often struck her.

"Mr. Delpit is the son of Antoine Adrien Edouard Delpit, a novelist, who for many years served under the French Minister of the Interior. His novels are 'Mareline,' 'Coeur de cu,' 'Plein Coeur,' and 'La Ravanche de l'Enfant.' The son was born in Beaumont-lez-Lille, France, and left that country in 1888 to become the secretary of Lieutenant Governor Charles D'Almeida. He then became the secretary of the present Lieutenant Governor Jette. Mr. Delpit left the last place only a few months ago.

"Mr. Carruthers, his lawyer, received a telegram late last night from the opposing lawyers, Mr. Delpit's, asking them to effect that his proposition to fight the case out in the Maryland courts was being delayed by the illness of M. Taillefer. The wife's counsel, however, has no right to annul a marriage for which a license had been obtained.

LEAVE A FAMOUS MARSH. The Romaneke Shooting Club Preparing for Fine Sport.

WEST POINT, Va., June 5.—The Romaneke Shooting Club has been organized and includes among its members prominent citizens of Richmond, Baltimore, and Norfolk. The club has leased the famous Romaneke marsh, owned by Capt. Robert E. Lee, eldest son of Gen. Robert E. Lee. The marsh is located about three miles from this place and is one of the finest hunting grounds in the South.

Among the prominent members of the club are Dr. John Dunn and J. A. White, of Richmond; Dr. William A. Gatewood, of this place; H. A. Galls, superintendent of the Richmond Locomotive and Machine Works; J. W. Young and William L. Todd, of Richmond.

Death of Miss Ann W. Crenshaw. RICHMOND, Va., June 5.—Miss Ann W. Crenshaw, an aged resident of this city, was found dead in bed Monday by a member of her family. Her death is thought to have been due to old age. She leaves three sisters and two brothers, Mrs. S. L. Pulliam, Misses Mary and Abigail Crenshaw, and Lewis D. and Charles S.

To Move the General Offices. RICHMOND, Va., June 5.—The general office of the Seaward Air Line Railway are to be moved here from Portsmouth within the next few days and will be located in the Hanewinkle Building. President John Skelton Williams makes this change in order to have the officials of his road here near him so he can easily communicate with them at any time.

Venezuela's Import Duties Raised. Venezuela has decreed additional import duties of 25 per cent of the taxes which each importer pays. This is to be known as a transit duty, and of 20 per cent to be paid to the State. The constitution and 5 per cent to public works. The territorial duties on coffee, cacao, cattle, and cotton are abolished by the same decree. This information is contained in a communication to the States Department from Louis Goldsmith, the United States Consul at La Guayra.

KILLED BY A FREIGHT TRAIN.

Major A. G. Davis Meets a Violent Death in Maryland.

FREDERICK, Md., June 5.—Major Alexander G. Davis, aged thirty-five years, while attempting to cross the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Ridgeville, Frederick county, yesterday, was struck by the engine of a westbound freight train and instantly killed. The coroner's jury rendered the verdict that he came to his death "through the criminal negligence of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company in not giving the propelling engine the whistle and horn warning by blowing the whistle and ringing the bell of the engine of the train as it approached and passed the crossing, and by the crossing not being in proper condition."

Major Davis was on the way from his home at Parsy, Va., to New Market. He stopped until the eastbound train passed and started across the tracks, when the westbound freight came around the curve, striking his buggy, smashing it to pieces, and hurling the major and his horse and harness into the air. One side of his head was torn off and his brains were scattered along the track. His left leg and several ribs were broken. Major Davis was a veteran of the civil war.

DRUMMERS IN CONVENTION.

Annual Session of the T. P. A. of America at Old Point.

OLD POINT, Va., June 5.—Most of the delegates to the Travelers' Protective Association Convention spent the greater part of today sailing around Hampton Roads and the capes. Some of them went on fishing trips, and those who remained in camp, expressing regret on account of which was devoted mostly to the routine business of the association. President Burrows called the body to order and the convention was opened with a short prayer by Rev. J. J. Grant, pastor of Holy Trinity Church of Richmond, and chaplain of the Virginia State division, Joseph Wallerstein, of Richmond, ex-president of the Travelers' Protective Association, Chairman of the National Executive Committee, made a short address relating to the programme which had been prepared. James Ludlow, of Texas, was unanimously elected assistant secretary and Mr. Young, of Indiana, was made a matter of fact. The chair announced a partial list of committees. Several communications were read, including one from National Chaplain J. T. Plunkett, of Augusta, Ga., expressing regret on account of his inability to be present. The delegates visited Hampton and other places this afternoon. The list will be submitted by Polk Miller, the negro dialect story teller, tonight.

VIRGINIA'S OYSTER LANDS.

Arrangements for a Survey of the Richmond Planning Grounds.

RICHMOND, Va., June 5.—Peter C. Warwick, recently chosen surveyor for the State Board of Fisheries, is busy completing arrangements for beginning the work of surveying the private oyster lands of this State. Mr. Warwick will begin his work in Isle of Wight county about June 15.

In one case investigated by order of the board a planter claimed and paid taxes on less than 20 acres when, as a matter of fact, he had about 120 acres. Mr. Warwick estimates the total acreage of oyster lands in the State at 90,000 acres, and says the sea front of Accomac and Northampton are the most productive in the world.

THE SCHOOL TAX PROBLEM.

Richmond Ministers Want Legislation on the Subject.

RICHMOND, Va., June 5.—Many of the ministers of this city, and particularly those of the Methodist denominations, are taking considerable interest in the question of the division of the school tax—one of the matters to come before the Constitutional Convention, soon to be held here. The Rev. W. B. Beauchamp, pastor of Broad Street Methodist Church, has announced that he will preach a sermon on the subject, discussing it at length, and the Rev. R. E. Bennett will likely do the same thing. It is probable that others will follow their example.

The two ministers named above are strongly opposed to the proposed division. They declare that, if for no higher motive, the white people are compelled to support a school system, they should educate the negro.

A VIRGINIA NEGRO TO HANG.

PULASKI, Va., June 5.—Edward Payne, the negro who attempted to criminally assault Miss Duncan, of Dublin, Va., was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged on Friday night. The execution is to take place between the hours of 10 o'clock in the morning and 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Payne confessed his guilt and when the judge asked him if he had anything to say he said that he did not. The result of the trial gives general satisfaction throughout the community.

A CHILD'S BATTLE FOR LIFE.

Fell Into a Well That Held Ten Feet of Water.

SHAMOKIN, Pa., June 5.—Five times eleven-year-old Mary Sunberry climbed part way up a thirty-five-foot well into which she had fallen. She was so tired she fell back into ten feet of ice-cold water. She would have tried again had her torn, bleeding fingers not been deprived of strength. To prevent herself from drowning she clung to several projecting moss-covered rocks. At last her fingers grew cramped and she thought she would drown. Then Henry Marquette, a neighbor, who had come for water, peered into the well and dimly saw the girl.

She said she was about to sink. He told her to hold on for a few seconds. He dropped a rope with a noose in it, telling her to slip it under her arms. The girl, with great effort, placed the noose where she was directed. In doing so she had to relax her grip on the rocks, whereupon she sank. Marquette felt the rope grow taut, and realizing what had occurred he pulled hard and drew the half-drowned girl's head above water and shortly afterward she was pulled from the well and resuscitated.

A High Honor for John S. Bryan.

RICHMOND, Va., June 5.—Governor Tyler has selected John Stewart Bryan, of this city, to deliver the oration on Virginia Day at the Pan-American Exposition. Mr. Bryan is one of the most prominent and popular of the younger members of the Virginia bar. He is the son of Joseph Bryan, President of the Richmond Locomotive Works, and owner and proprietor of the "Richmond Times" and "Leader."

FIELD DAY FOR THE INSANE.

Athletic Contests for the Patients on Ward's Island.

A Lively Basketball Game for the Women—Nearly Four Thousand Mentally-Deranged Persons in Attendance—A Beneficial Feature.

NEW YORK, June 5.—The insane patients on Ward's Island had a day of sports yesterday. There were nearly 4,000 persons present, most of whom were mentally unbalanced.

It was the annual field day of the institution on Ward's Island, and the doctors, nurses, patients, and their friends looked forward to the outing for the unfortunate for some time. When the visitors first arrived at the island by the boat from East 114th Street they were met at the pier by doctors from the institution, Mr. Davis fifty feet from the various buildings, and handsomely kept grounds. What impressed the visitor most was the cleanliness of the buildings and the patients, the apparent absence of worry and the freedom and evident contentment. The staff of physicians wore in holiday attire of blue coats, buttoned close to the throat, and white duck trousers.

The band stationed on one of the lawns started up a lively air, and soon everybody was hastening toward the athletic sport which was to occupy the attention of visitors, patients, nurses, and employees for at least two hours. The basketball court was to the east of the musicians, the tennis courts to the west, and a dancing platform, under a bower of green leaves, to the west. The women patients who were not to take part in the sports were grouped about to the south of the dancing platform, while the men patients were grouped together to the east of the band stand.

The opening contest was an egg race for women patients, and about a dozen women and girls took part. The eggs were laid on the ground at stated intervals, and they had to gather up the eggs, one by one, and deposit them in baskets at the finish line. Well-trained athletes never did the work better, and not an egg was broken. Miss R. Mulliner won after a close struggle with Miss Annie Heller. One of the most interesting tests of the day was the basketball game for women patients, captained by inmates from the Verplanck building and the branch buildings. Two halves of fifteen minutes each were played, the team captained by Mrs. Mahan winning by the score of 5 to 6. The women struggled boldly for the mastery, and the assembled physicians took the liveliest interest in the contest. At the conclusion of the game, one of the most interesting girls of possibly nineteen years, became so excited that one of the physicians took her to the dancing platform and waltzed around with her for several minutes, while the band played "The Captain and the Dancer." The action was infectious, for soon at least three dozen of the patients had secured partners and were whirling around the platform.

While this was going on the men were kept in their places almost in a yard away. Most of them looked occasionally at the dancers, but the majority were more content to wait for the contests to begin. To the casual visitor who did not know of the character of the island home of the unfortunate, the patients behaved like ordinary spectators at an athletic meet. In fact, it needed only the absence of the officials and the women patients to make one think that the contest was a part of the ordinary life of the island. The annual games of the Amateur Athletic Union, Frank Start was easily the best athlete among the men, and he carried off most of the contests besides being the captain of the victorious team of war team.

"We find these outings of vast benefit to our patients," said Dr. George B. Campbell, the referee of the games. "Years ago some people were in and out of dark cells or in strait jackets. There are none of these on the island, and the treatment of the insane today is upon a distinct line. We try to give them plenty of outdoor exercise, and have provided for them liberal instruction in the various games, dancing, music, and basketball. What success this new method has met with can be estimated by the fact that a few years ago our ratio of cure was about 15 per cent, while now it is 30 per cent."

IN THE OLD DOMINION.

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Mrs. E. M. Powell, matron of the Miller Manual School, Albemarle county, died of cholera on Friday. She was a niece of the late J. Randolph Tucker. Keyser seal estate is booming because of the proposed building of the West Virginia State University Preparatory School and the activity of various industries. The Virginia sinking fund commission will grant an absolute divorce from his wife, Sarah Goodrich, of Norfolk, on the ground of desertion.

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MARYLAND NEWS NOTES.

The Allegany Conference, Maryland Synod, of the Methodist Church, is in session at Westminster. Democratic primaries for Somerset county have been held at Cambridge, June 2. The county convention for Tuesday, July 2, will be held at Millington, Md. Mrs. Evelyn Cochran, of Millington, has purchased the John T. Lee farm of 137 acres of land in Elk Neck, Cecil county, for \$3,000.

The supervisors of elections have decided to divide Wheaton and Olney electoral districts of Montgomery county into two districts each.

A mile of copper wire has been cut from the poles of the Diamond State Telephone Company, near Elk Neck, Cecil county, by thieves and carried off.

Foxes are playing havoc with chickens in and around Hill, Cecil county. Ross McMullen recently had 100 young chickens carried away by foxes.

John Powles, a young son of City Councilman Joseph E. Powles, was knocked from his bicycle by a wagon in Hagerstown and it is feared he is fatally injured. At Elliottsville, Ind., a young man has decreed divorcing Annie E. Johnson from George H. Johnson, and Ella Miles from William M. Miles. Abandonment was the cause in both cases.

Dr. Demar Smithers has been elected President of the Chesapeake City Town Commissioners and Mayor E. Hoock, secretary and treasurer. The town tax rate is 30 cents on the \$100.

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DRANK ACID AND DIED.

A Hoboken Man Commits Suicide in His Wife's Presence.

BALTIMORE, June 5.—Michael Coyne, twenty-eight years old, came here from Hoboken, N. J., with the intention of committing suicide in the presence of his wife, Mabel Coyne, an actress at Flood's Park, Curtis Bay. He accomplished his purpose, and the coroner's jury which was held inquest yesterday at Brooklyn, Anne Arundel county, rendered a verdict that Michael Coyne came to his death Monday night just before midnight by swallowing an ounce and a half of carbolic acid.

Coyne and his wife, it is said, quarreled last Friday at their home in Hoboken, and Mrs. Coyne, whose stage name is Mabel Mansfield, left and arrived at Flood's Park, Curtis Bay, where she was engaged for the season by John T. Flood. Monday night her husband suddenly appeared on the grounds and found Mabel chatting with several men and another actress named Nellie Corbett. Walking up to Mr. Flood, he said to her: "Mabel, what does this mean?"

"I do not know you," replied the woman, turning away from him. "Well, Mabel, here goes your husband!" he said, and he took a bottle and a glass from his pocket and pouring out a liberal dose swallowed it. As he did so he reeled up toward the table and his wife hastily ran to the table and took the bottle from Coyne and discovering that it was labeled carbolic acid gave the alarm.

Mr. Flood was called and he and Enoch M. Walsh, of the Police Department, called the county police, carried Coyne to a car. The car stopped before the office of Dr. William George Freeman, C. H. Hancock, and the man was dead. His body was taken to the Brooklyn stationhouse and yesterday morning Coroner Hawkins held the inquest.

In Coyne's pockets was a marriage certificate, and the parties to it were identified as Mabel Mansfield was his wife. Two life insurance policies were also in his possession, one of them made payable to his wife and the other to his estate.

Mr. Coyne said at the inquest that he and his wife had frequently quarreled and that he had frequently threatened to kill himself by drinking carbolic acid. The body was sent to Hoboken where Coyne's mother resides. His wife accompanied the body.

NEWS FROM ALEXANDRIA.

ALEXANDRIA, June 5.—A pretty and fashionable home wedding occurred last night at the residence of Mrs. Susan Smoot, 301 South St. Asaph Street, when her daughter, Miss Florence Smoot, became the bride of Robert Wilson Wilson, of Cambridge, Va. The ceremony occurred in the spacious parlors, and was performed by the Rev. Dr. James I. Vance, formerly of the Second Presbyterian Church, of this city, but now of Newark, N. J. The parties to the wedding were the bride and groom, and the immediate relatives and friends of the bride party witnessed the ceremony. There were no bridesmaids or ushers. Miss Cora Smoot, sister of the bride, was the bridesmaid, and Miss Frances Smoot, a niece of the bride, was flower girl. Harry Wheat, of this city, a cousin of the groom, was best man.

After the ceremony the bride party and guests were entertained at a reception where a reception was tendered them. The couple left for New York, where they will reside at Upperville, where the groom conducts a large farm.

The annual declamation contest was held at the Theological Seminary, near this city, Monday night. The first prize was awarded to John H. Elliott, Jr., of South Carolina, and the second prize was won by H. C. Berkeley, of Danville, Va. The contest was held in the hall of the Seminary, and was presided over by the Rev. Dr. J. H. Elliott, Jr., of South Carolina, and the second prize was won by H. C. Berkeley, of Danville, Va. The contest was held in the hall of the Seminary, and was presided over by the Rev. Dr. J. H. Elliott, Jr., of South Carolina, and the second prize was won by H. C. Berkeley, of Danville, Va.

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NEWS FROM GEORGETOWN.

The Commencement Exercises of the Linthicum Institute.

The twenty-sixth annual commencement of the Linthicum Institute was held last night at the Linthicum Hotel. Two comedies, "Chums" and "Vacation," were presented by the pupils. Those in the cast, in the first play were: R. Bland Phelps, Ernest M. Brown, Bernhard Niemeyer, Walter Staub, and Charles Niemeyer, and in the second were: Peyton B. Fletcher, Walter D. Vaughn, William Grant, Maurice Sinsheimer, Otto Niemeyer, R. Clinton Balingier, Jr., Lucia Swindells, Edw. Walter Klock, Walter Phelps, John C. Garrison, George Freeman, C. H. Hancock.

After the entertainment the awarding of prizes by Edwin R. Hay, took place. The first prize in gold was presented to Walter S. Phelps, the second to Walter D. Vaughn, and the third to Edw. Klock. The architectural and mechanical drawing prize, a set of drawing instruments, was awarded to William B. Sebastian.

The invariable custom of serving the pupils, members of the Linthicum Dramatic Club, and the faculty, with refreshments will be observed tonight.

At the twentieth annual meeting of the stockholders of the First Co-operative Building Association, which was held last night, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: A. B. Jackson, president; H. G. Wagner, vice president; George W. King, treasurer; J. Barton Miller, secretary; director, S. Thomas, William A. Cunningham, John Fleming, H. P. Gilbert, and W. F. Gibbons; finance committee, Joseph H. Lee and Archibald Greenlee; valuation committee, W. F. Gibbons, Jesse H. Wilson, attorney and trustee, and Raphael A. Caslier, co-trustee.

The house and premises, known as 1704 Thirty-second Street, were sold yesterday at public auction to Honorable Lawler, for \$3,000. The property has a frontage of sixty feet on Thirty-second Street, and eighty-eight feet on R Street. The building is known as the "Yellow Tavern."

Mrs. Della S. Gott, a resident of Tenleytown, died yesterday at the home of her son on Grant Road. She was sixty-seven years of age.

A sand wagon, owned and driven by Thomas F. Meyers, was struck by car No. 43, of the Washington Traction Company, yesterday afternoon, at the crossing of Thirty-second and P Streets. The tongue of the wagon was broken.

Bessie H. Parris at vir yesterday sold to Lawrence E. Holdt, parts of lots 129 and 139 in square 1527, said property fronting on the south side of F Street, between Thirty-first and Thirtieth Streets.

The schooner John B. Coyne, with a cargo of 1,200 tons of ice, hailing from Maine, arrived at the American Ice Company's wharf yesterday.

Requiem mass was celebrated this morning at Holy Trinity Church, over the remains of Mrs. Sabina C. Parker, wife of Francis D. Parker, who died Monday at her residence, 1419 Twenty-ninth Street, yesterday.

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Wiley Johns of Berkeley Springs, Md., has been granted a certificate giving the wrong age of a young woman for whom a marriage certificate was obtained. E. R. Aiken, a well-known young man of Prince George county, disappeared from his home suddenly three weeks ago. His whereabouts since that time has been heard from him. It is feared he has been fully dealt with.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of Democrats was held at Farmville last evening, at which Hon. A. J. Montague was elected for Governor. A club was organized in the interest of his candidacy for the nomination.

Gen. Smith Bolles, President of the Peabody Association, has appointed Messrs. B. V. Vaughan, E. C. Campbell, DeWitt C. McCall, and W. P. Arrington delegates from the association to the Philadelphia Southern Industrial Association.

The Virginia Board of State Commissioners awarded the Certificate of Election as a member of the Constitutional Convention to Roger A. Gregory, United States Marshal, Treat, his opponent, will carry with him to the convention, where it will be the only one to attract attention.

MARYLAND NEWS NOTES.

The Allegany Conference, Maryland Synod, of the Methodist Church, is in session at Westminster. Democratic primaries for Somerset county have been held at Cambridge, June 2. The county convention for Tuesday, July 2, will be held at Millington, Md. Mrs. Evelyn Cochran, of Millington, has purchased the John T. Lee farm of 137 acres of land in Elk Neck, Cecil county, for \$3,000.

The supervisors of elections have decided to divide Wheaton and Olney electoral districts of Montgomery county into two districts each.

A mile of copper wire has been cut from the poles of the Diamond State Telephone Company, near Elk Neck, Cecil county, by thieves and carried off.

Foxes are playing havoc with chickens in and around Hill, Cecil county. Ross McMullen recently had 100 young chickens carried away by foxes