

W. R. C. MUDDLE.

A Verdict Arrived at by the Court.

The Charges Against Mrs. Koons not Sustained.

According to the Best Authority.

The Alleged Vindication of Mrs. Ada F. Clarke.

Important Interview With Mrs. Koons, in Which Some Remarkable Disclosures are Made.

Interest in the justly celebrated case of Clarke vs. Koons appears unabated. It is not only the gossip of the day, but the metropolitan dailies are handling the matter, both by wire and editorially. Editorially all the outside journals deprecate that any such trial should ever have taken place. This has been our view from the start. The whole affair should have been nipped in the bud, even as the early frosts nip the succulent pumpkin vine. It has seriously injured the Woman's Relief Corps everywhere and has destroyed its reputation as a national organization in Canton. After a while it was decided on another mistake was the oath bound, secret court. But when the trial was on, it became no longer a personal affair, but public property. Hence we decided to print the evidence, if it was possible to secure it. We now have the satisfaction of knowing that we have printed, not only a fair and truthful account of all the proceedings, but the general public have been favored with the whole matter in a lively and attractive style. Our best reporters were put on the case, and we have three opinions of three very able attorneys, two of whom are now on the bench, that the reportorial work on this case is of the highest order of excellence.

That the account has been generally impartial, is indicated by the fact that both the participants in the case are complaining of the paper. Mrs. Koons was very seriously offended because we printed the testimony of J. J. Clark, Ada and George Clarke, Charles Oldfield and Harvey Dittenhafer, without giving even a list of her witnesses, or the contents of her affidavits, in rebuttal; while both J. J. Clark and Mrs. Clarke claim our reporters colored the report of the case in the interest of Mrs. Koons. It is due to the fact that the News-Democrat has no interest in the case, except to give the news. Neither can it be tortured into a political question. Both parties to the case are Republicans. Every witness for the prosecution, both male and female was a Republican. The News-Democrat suppressed all matter this seemed to reflect in any way upon the plaintiff. For instance, the reporter brought in a report that on the opening of the trial, Mrs. Clarke attempted to introduce and have read a big grip sack full of letters, in evidence against Mrs. Koons. To this Mrs. Koons objected. She claimed that those letters were not hers, but that she had written them. This was a clear knock out for Mrs. Clarke, and although our alert reporter had it all written out from the testimony of this case. In other words we only printed such testimony, and such testimony only as seemed to bear directly upon the case. This was a very practical showing of the folly of depending on hard core stalks as food for animals.

SECOND DAY.

"The Mistakes of Farmers" were enumerated in a very lively manner by St. P. Wilson of Louisville. "Culture in Ohio" was treated by Prof. Charles E. Thome in a most interesting lecture, illustrated by maps, diagrams and statistics showing the different sections of the State, and the average production by decades of each section, also referring to the application of commercial fertilizer in some sections being no positive proof of increase in production as compared with sections where no commercial fertilizer was applied. "The Farm, its Rights and Wrongs" was handled in a masterly manner by W. S. Patton of Wilmet.

"Does it Pay to Cut Cornfodder?" was treated by Prof. Charles E. Thome in a very practical way, showing the advantages of showing the folly of depending on hard core stalks as food for animals.

The committee on nomination of officers for the ensuing year reported the following names: President, N. E. Moffitt; vice president, Jacob Grossman; secretary, A. Pontius; treasurer, William H. Esig; executive committee, Lewis Esig, Lewis J. Wise and John F. Roth. On motion, A. M. W. was the report of the committee was received and on motion of J. F. N. the rules of the society were suspended and the secretary instructed to cast the vote of the society for the person named by the committee which was done and thus the persons named by the committee were elected as officers for the ensuing year.

"An Agriculture and a Subsidy Colling" was given by W. E. Smith of Massillon, in a very practical way, showing the advantages of showing the folly of depending on hard core stalks as food for animals.

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The general public has an intense and all consuming desire to know the cause of this terrible trouble which is liable to terminate in bloodshed. The letters from the Associated Press association, located at Pittsburgh, which handles the night telegraph report for over 57 daily newspapers in Eastern Ohio and West Pennsylvania, copied the scurrilous item from the Pittsburgh Times about Mrs. Clark appropriating money, soap and railroad tickets from the W. R. C. and sent it out as telegraph plate matter. When this matter appeared in the news, the reporter who was reading the paper, mentioned that the reading public may know that the News-Democrat has only endeavored to give a plain straightforward statement of the facts developed in the case and trial, with a careful avoidance of any item that would unduly prejudice either party in the unfortunate controversy.

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When Mrs. Clarke accused Mrs. Koons of writing the anonymous letter, which she is purported to have received. Mrs. Clarke asked Mrs. Koons to retire from the Relief Corps and threatened to prefer charges against her unless she withdrew. Mrs. Clarke further stated that if Mrs. Koons would withdraw she would give her an honorable discharge from the corps. This therefore may be seen to be the origin of the trouble which has shaken Canton society from centre to circumference.

The soldier who gave the reporter these points is a friend of both parties and deeply deprecates the scandalous trial. He said, however, that all the comrades of Canton post, with whom he had conversed on the subject, sympathized with Mrs. Koons as they believed she was a persecuted woman.

MRS. KOONS INTERVIEWED.

During this inquisition Mrs. Koons has studiously avoided the News-Democrat reporter, and has given to the Repository a number of valuable news items, which, however, were not given in violation of any oath which she had previously taken. The Repository saw fit to entreat the statements, and use the facts so gained as a knife with which to stab Mrs. Koons in the interest of Ada F. Clarke.

Today the reporter called at the residence of Mrs. Koons, and found that that lady was much incensed by the treatment she had received. She had consulted the lawyer whom she had trusted. She was therefore willing to admit the reporter and give him a statement, as she was satisfied that the News-Democrat, being on neutral ground, and having no personal interest in the case, would treat her fairly.

Mrs. Koons first referred to the following letter which appeared in the Repository Saturday night:

HEADQUARTERS DEPT. OF O., WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS, OFFICE OF DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT, CANTON, O., December 31, 1891. "I, the undersigned, Department President of the Woman's Relief Corps, having seen the reports that are in circulation reflecting upon Ada F. Clarke, Department Counselor and Past Department President, do hereby certify that I believe that all such statements are without foundation of truth. Mrs. Clarke's financial management had the endorsement of the Eighth Department, and also the Ninth National Convention, and I am confident in this administration. The intended criticism was upon a strictly personal business transaction with the printers of rosters, and by this means the copy of the bill to the department for issuing rosters was very materially reduced. We hope the interested will give me no more heed to false rumors.

(Signed) MARY A. MCQUISTON, Department President, Ohio.

Referring to the above, Mrs. Koons said: "In this communication Mrs. McQuiston does not say the charges against Ada F. Clarke are without foundation, in fact not even a mention is made of charges in this communication. But mention is made of a strictly personal business transaction made by Mrs. Clark, with the printer of rosters and thereby the bill to the department for issuing rosters was very materially reduced. Mrs. Clarke and all her expenses promptly drew from the department her monthly rent for the apartment she occupied in her own home, and at the last convention was voted a suitable testimonial for services rendered in her official capacity. Whereby can she in either rules and regulations or red book, be entitled to any commission for work done in the name of the Woman's Relief Corps? This financial management of Mrs. Clarke's did not, as far as I can see, materially reduce the bill for the printing. When I paid the bill of the Repository Printing Co., Mrs. Clark handed over to me thirty (30) dollars (in money and checks), an order on the department treasury for seventy (70) dollars and for express charges for \$1.45. Mrs. Clark stated positively that this was all the money she collected.

In the name of the Woman's Relief Corps she solicited and collected from the advertisers of the Roster, advertisements to the amount of sixty-seven (67) dollars, and turned over to myself, the treasurer only thirty (30) dollars of this money, retaining seventeen (17) dollars in money, assorted soaps to the value of ten (10) dollars and one 500 mile ticket for transportation over the Valley Railway to the value of ten (10) dollars.

The reason why the amounts each advertiser gave does not appear on my books is accounted for by the fact that Mrs. Clark refused to give to me the amounts each gave, and she conveyed to me the impression that each one gave very little. I therefore knew nothing of these amounts until I recently ascertained them from personal interviews and correspondence.

I don't know what Mrs. Clark should want with so much soap, unless she uses it to wash George.

When Mrs. Herron, of Cincinnati, was Department President, she collected on a roster about \$200, every cent of which she turned over to the Corps. She asked no commission, feeling that she was working for a good, charitable cause. It was a statement to this effect from Mrs. Colonel Quinton, of Cincinnati, who was then Treasurer during Mrs. Herron's administration. Why should Mrs. Clark, who succeeded Mrs. Herron, want any commission money? Has not sufficient means by which to live, that she must needs take charity money which should have gone to the support of the soldier, the widow and the orphan?

IS THIS CHARITY?

Does this carry out the purpose for which the W. R. C. was instituted? The reporter was here shown the receipts bills from every advertiser in the Roster published in April, 1891. The amounts turned over by Mrs. Clarke's name, as shown in a statement made on this subject, is \$30, thus leaving \$177 which does not appear to be accounted for at all. Its on account of the \$37, which Mrs. Koons states is missing, that charges have been preferred against Ada F. Clarke, by the Department Treasurer Mrs. Koons.

Mrs. Koons said: These charges against Mrs. Clarke are in the hands of Mary A. McQuiston at Xenia. I contemplate TAKING THE MATTER INTO COURT.

own home. I have a great deal more writing to do than she has, and I never dreamed of turning in an expense account for rent of my own house.

Continuing, Mrs. Koons said: "I have been struck by the INTEREST OF JIM CLARK in this case, particularly during my trial. It is usually the case that those who did not fight during the war, did the most of their fighting since. Some of them seem to have better success fighting rebellious women than they had fighting rebels."

Mrs. Koons further said: "I am much increased at the mean, contemptible insinuation in the Sunday vilifying sheet, which ought to have been suppressed long ago. The low-lived manner in which this reference was brought in is only equalled by the record of the sheet in the past. The insinuation in the article is ridiculous, and I have consulted a lawyer for the purpose of having the vilifying editor and his cowardly backers sued for criminal libel. Some are said to be financially responsible."

WE HAD STILL ON.

We had hoped to finish the recital of the W. R. C. racket in Canton with our issue of last evening. We have published all the news, and this is all we aimed to do. With the discussion of the relative demerits of the case, we do not care to participate, not even to venture an opinion on the value and justice of the verdict. We have the satisfaction of knowing that all such statements are without foundation of truth. The interest in the case is spreading to outside towns, and there is most intense anxiety to know the latest items, we believe it is time to abate discussion, unless there should be some new developments. The outside interest is well told in a letter, received this morning from our Alliance correspondent, who is an old soldier and G. A. R. man. He says:

"Please send for the Alliance edition of the News-Democrat of the 29th of December. Also send some extras. The Woman's Relief Corps business is getting sensational and the G. A. R. men here are getting very excited. I am sure that you are going on, and the News-Democrat is on everybody's tongue."

The interest taken in this case is remarkable. Farmers to buy in from 10 miles distant from the Hotel Vendome, the News-Democrat, the only paper that has had any reliable news of the affair. Our street sales alone on Saturday evening were over 700 extra.

Yesterday evening Mrs. Clark handed to the Evening Rep. a carefully prepared review of a column and a half. It was printed entire in the Rep. of last evening and would have been printed in the News-Democrat had we been furnished with a copy. However, it is not a new matter, except the account of the \$5, which Mrs. Koons paid for the expense of the Cleveland expert, who passed an opinion on the anonymous letter, in an account which exactly coincides with Mrs. Koons' statement. It is not necessary to republish that.

As we are publishing all the news of this case on both sides we present the gist of Mrs. Clark's statement.

It was all right and proper for Mrs. Clark to furnish the Rep. with her defense exclusively, as the Rep. has heretofore been printing only such news as it was enabled to clip out of the News-Democrat of the day previous. In fact the Rep. boldly stated in an editorial that it was not able to penetrate the secrets of the W. R. C. and that it was not a new matter, except the account of the \$5, which Mrs. Koons paid for the expense of the Cleveland expert, who passed an opinion on the anonymous letter, in an account which exactly coincides with Mrs. Koons' statement. It is not necessary to republish that.

This, however, makes no difference to the News-Democrat. We feel like congratulating Mrs. Clark on the enterprise it displays in printing an item that is handed into the sanctum already prepared, verbatim et literatim et punctatim.

No other President ever charged a cent for rent of their back parlor. Mrs. Bancroft did charge rent, but she had set apart a portion of her house for the use of herself and also the secretary and treasurer. She had State headquarters and gave up her home to the cause. There have been eight presidents of the W. R. C. and Mrs. Clarke is the only one who charged rent for her own back parlor.

And then think of the enormous rent, almost enough to keep an entire family. Silence is an admission of guilt and Mrs. Clark is silent concerning the charges made against her by me. I stood my ground bravely, but she dare not deny the soap story or the history of the mileage book. I understand that she has pigeon-holed the charge against her. I am not surprised at this as she is in a position in which she can wield much influence. She will use her position to have the charges suppressed, but she does not deny that they are true."

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A Meeting of the Horticultural Society is being entertained to-day by Superintendent Pontius at the county Infirmary building.

The Stark County Horticultural Society is being entertained to-day by Superintendent Pontius at the county Infirmary building.

shocked to see her name in the Repository in connection with this case. Mrs. Sherwood says that she has had no conversation with Mrs. Clarke since the institution of her charges against Mrs. Koons and that the quotations must, therefore, be second hand and incorrect, as she would not directly, or by implication, cast an aspersion upon the character of any woman. She says she was not at Cantonville, did not go to Detroit with the Canton party, or return with them and did not see Mrs. Koons except in National convention. She has never seen anything in the conduct of Mrs. Koons which made her feel she had been "judicious" and has never heard anything against her save through her present acquaintances. She has no knowledge of her, except as a pleasant, efficient officer of the Relief Corps.

Mrs. Sherwood said she had advised Mrs. Koons to withdraw from the Relief Corps, rather than come in conflict with her accusers and knowing full well that an accused woman stands little chance when tried in the irregular way that characterizes a Court of Inquiry in the Woman's Relief Corps. Such courts have always been a great scandal to this charitable association, whenever ordered and the subject of newspaper gossip. The whole thing should be eliminated from the Relief Corps laws.

MRS. KOONS TALKS.

Mrs. Koons was much amused with Mrs. Clarke's interview as published in the Repository. When seen today she said: "The interview of Mrs. Clarke was evidently written by Lawyer Jim Clark, as my lawyer tells me that it is a plea in abatement, with an entire avoidance of the issue. I think that is what he said, but I don't know I do know about law terms. One thing I do know, however, and that is that Ada F. Clarke is an artful dodger."

"There is one thing which strikes me as being very strange. Mrs. Clarke states that she never had any social dealings with me and implies that I am not a fit associate for her. If this be true why did Mrs. Clarke send her daughter Helen to the same hotel with me at Boston, several miles distant from the Hotel Vendome, and away from her own watchful eye. I should imagine if she is sincere in what she says, that she would not consent to leave her precious daughter in the hands of a monster, as she attempts to prove me."

Mrs. Clarke states in her interview that after the convention she went to the \$1 a day hotel also. There is nothing strange about this considering her ability as a financier. She never proposed to me, as long as the W. R. C. was in existence, money, but as soon as the convention was over and she had to pay her own board, she went to a cheap hotel.

THE W. R. C. IS A CHARITABLE INSTITUTION.

CHARITY SHOULD BEGIN AT HOME.

From Mrs. Clarke's peculiar manner of conducting the finances which she gets hold of, one would imagine that her name is charity, and consequently she should receive a benefit.

Mrs. Clarke's interview is a very extensive one. There is a great deal of space wasted, but in the entire interview, which contains something like 1430 words, not once does the word "soap" appear.

THE SOAP SUBJECT.

It seems to be too slippery a one for Mrs. Clarke to handle. She also, inadvertently I suppose, forgot to mention those mileage books. She dare not deny also that she received \$17 in money which she never turned over to me, as stated to do with my election as Department Treasurer. She states that if she had had anything to do with it, I would not have been elected. Be that as it may it seems strange that she should get up in the same convention that she made me Treasurer, and nominate me as delegate to the Boston convention, which she has been so anxious to do with me.

So far as social relations are concerned she has been in my house hundreds of times, in fact so many times that my husband got tired seeing her around.

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HER OWN BACK PARLOR.

THE CONTEST.

Hon. B. F. Weybrecht Still Gaining a Few Votes.

A Beach City Republican is Allowed to Vote While a Democrat Under Like Circumstances is Not Granted the Same Privileges.

The taking of testimony in the Rowlen-Weybrecht contest was continued Monday afternoon. Mr. Weybrecht appears to be steadily gaining.

The first witness was James McPete of Beach City. He offered to vote but his ballot was not received, on the ground that his wife lived in Canton and he was living in Beach City. His wife has been in Canton for two years and he has been in Beach City during that time. He said nothing for or against his wife coming to vote. He intended to vote the straight Democratic ticket except for Tim Putman.

The witness was cross-examined by Judge Day. He was positive he had a ticket and that he got it outside. He thought Tim Putman gave it to him but was not sure. He was of the opinion that Beach City was in Sugar Creek township. He said he was the same fellow Judge Myers sent to jail for contempt of court. He was a witness and Judge Myers wanted to know where he lived. He told the Judge he lived in the court room, and the Judge said he was drunk and ordered him locked up. McPete congratulated himself on the fact that he was not locked up very long. Judge Day asked the witness about the candidates on the Democratic ticket, and he could tell very little about the names. When asked if he intended to vote for Rowlen he said: "No, he is a Republican and ran against Weybrecht." The attorneys had plenty of fun with McPete. He said Binky Morgan had a bunch of tickets as big as his arm. Morgan was electioneering for the Republican party.

E. R. Speaker of Beach City, was Judge at the late election. He said he knew James McPete and that he had lived in Beach City for twelve years. McPete was not allowed to vote at the election. Witness said he knew Giles Morgan, who tried to vote. Morgan's wife left him, and took several children with her, going to Connecticut. They had lived there for four or five years and Morgan left for New York the day after the election. His wife left a month before election. Morgan's vote was challenged but he was finally allowed to vote. He was Republican committee man.

Mr. A. Robinson, of Beach City, was one of the judges at the late election. He told the same story as the previous witness regarding the votes of McPete and Morgan.

John Stabler of Beach City was then called. He was clerk at the late election and testified that Giles Morgan voted. The poll book was offered in evidence.

C. E. Lotz of Pike township was then called. He said he came to Stark county and established his home on October 3rd, 1891. He formerly lived in Carroll county. He voted in Pike township at the late election. On October 3rd he brought two loads of goods to his home in Pike township. He then went back to get the rest of his goods, and on October 13th brought his wife and family.

An adjournment was then taken until 9 o'clock this morning when the hearing will be continued at Alliance.

The taking of testimony in the Rowlen-Weybrecht contest was continued Tuesday at Alliance. The gaining of votes for Mr. Weybrecht is very gratifying to his many friends.

The first witness called was William Anderson of Alliance. He lived in the third ward and tried to vote at the late election. His vote was not received on the ground that he did not live with his family. He intended to vote for B. F. Weybrecht for representative.

J. P. Heidrick of Alliance said he had lived there since a year ago last September. His vote was challenged on the ground his family did not live in Alliance. He intended to vote the Democratic ticket but was not allowed to vote.

The testimony of Cornelius Douglas, D. V. Ault, Edgar Shimp and J. C. Devine, all of Alliance, was taken. They told regarding certain alleged illegal votes.

Martin Replage of Marlboro, told regarding the votes of James Elliott and H. E. Vail.

F. Werner clerk at Marlboro precinct testified that James Elliott voted.

A. Roubashoff of Marlboro also testified regarding Elliott voting.

THE TREASURER'S CONTEST.

The Taking of Testimony Commenced This Morning.

One Witness Examined and the Hearing Continued Until a Date to be Decided Upon Later.

The taking of testimony in the contest commenced by Jacob Geib against Joseph Maudru, the treasurer elect, was commenced this morning in the rooms of the County Board of Elections. Neither of the justices were present, and by mutual consent the testimony was taken in their absence. The case promises to occupy a good deal of time, and will be bitterly contested.

Hon. R. S. Shields appeared for Mr. Maudru and Judge A. A. Thayer for Mr. Geib.

J. T. Fribley, of Navarro, was the first witness called. He said he left Navarro in 1888 and went to Massillon remaining there three years. Witness said he left Massillon on May 1, 1891, and returned to Navarro. He left Navarro on May 23rd, and went west. He said it was not his intention to take up a residence in the west. His sole object in going away was to take a trip. He returned to Navarro the Saturday before the late election. Witness said he worked in a drug store in California for three weeks. It was not his intention to make his home there, when he went to work. During all this time he regarded Navarro as his home as he had property and clothing there. Witness said he voted while in the west. After his return on the Saturday before election, he remained at Navarro and attempted to vote. His vote was challenged, but was received under protest. It was placed under the ballot box, instead of in it. Mr. Fribley said the ticket offered was a straight Republican ticket. The last he saw of it was under the box. He didn't know what became of the ticket. The ballot was shown the witness and he identified it as the ballot he had offered. It was not counted.

The witness was cross-examined by Mr. Shields. Before he left for Massillon in 1888, his home had been with his mother. While in Massillon he did not consider Navarro his home. He sold out his Massillon drug store February 16, 1891. His object in selling out was to go into business elsewhere. He remained in Massillon until May 1st. When he came back to Navarro his mother was dead. His only relatives living in Bethlehem township were two cousins, who resided in Precinct B, Bethlehem township. Witness went to live with his two sisters in Navarro, after he left Massillon. While in Navarro he frequently visited Massillon. When he went west he did not go in search of employment. He had a conversation with a Philip Low and William Gacher before he went west. He said he did not tell them he was going in search of employment.

His cross-examination was very rigid. He was questioned regarding the place where he stopped while in the west. He first stopped at Butte City, Montana, remaining there two weeks. He next went to Spokane Falls, remaining there two days. He went to Tacoma staying there two days. He then went to Portland, Oregon, where he stayed in a hotel. He then visited San Francisco and Oakland. The object of the cross-examination was to show that Mr. Fribley had abandoned his residence at Navarro when he left there, and had gone west in search of employment.

An adjournment was taken to-day to be agreed upon later by the attorneys.

FREEBIRD ITEMS.

Another famous sparrow but it was engaged in last Saturday by our citizens, and our witness has several hundred sparrows less.

Joseph Keener has opened up a coal yard at Coyle crossing and is supplying us with the dusky diamond.

A. R. Owen and his mother have gone to Illinois to visit friends.

A number of our milkmen are forming a company to manufacture the golden sweetener coming summer.

Geo. Byers and family are reported on the sick list with grip.

The next meeting of the Freeburg Lyceum will be held on Wednesday evening, Jan. 13. An interesting debate is looked for.

E. D. Mesmore, one of Robertville's enterprising merchants is spending several weeks in our community.

A. J. Shaffer lost a valuable horse last week.

H. P. Brinkworth wears a gall smile since the arrival of a new boy baby at his house on last Sunday morning. Let the good work go on.

Our town can boast of another store and you can buy anything in Freeburg from a baby to a Democrat. The group of protracted meetings at the Salem church, still continue.

W. Shidler lost his pocketbook containing \$40 in the evening. He was sufficiently recovered to be able to come up town again.

Levi Beckstrom intends moving to Allamore in the spring.

Mrs. Emma Winkler, nee Krabill, is visiting her parents.

A Painful Accident.

Frank Benedict, an employe in the Ft. Wayne freight yards met with a painful accident about 10 o'clock last night. In endeavoring to couple some cars on the main house switch, he got his left leg between the bumpers and had it crushed in a horrible manner. The thumb, index and second fingers of his left hand were crushed and he was unable to move. Dr. Post was called and after amputating the thumb he pronounced it a mortal injury and he is just starting to work last night.

The Situation at Columbus.

COLUMBUS, Jan. 6.—[Special.]—Although the human men claim his death as a dead sure thing, they have found it necessary to summon more help and a large delegation of Cleveland politicians arrived last night, and are at work today.

Pat Sheehan's Claim.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 6.—[Special.]—Patrick Sheehan, an engineer on the steamer Key West, has for years been in the employ of the Excelsior Ice and State Department a claim. Fifty thousand dollars against the Child's Government for being maltreated while recently in Valparaiso.

Thousands die yearly from some form of kidney disease. We can cure this dreaded disease in a few days. It is the safest and most successful remedy for kidney, liver and urinary complaints.

Are You a Going to Marry?

If you are please remember that you can secure the best selection of wedding invitations at the Excelsior Ice and State Department a claim. Fifty thousand dollars against the Child's Government for being maltreated while recently in Valparaiso.

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Are You a Going to Marry?