

SPOONER'S BOGUS WILL.

How a Vendor of Tanglefoot Was Taken In (From the Salt Lake Tribune.)

It was in an Idaho mining camp and he will call his name Spooner. Spooner was a good miner when sober, an unmitigated nuisance when drunk. He had been on many sprees in camp—we will call it "Spooner's Run"—and his credit was exhausted. It was grievous to state the fact, but Spooner was not very conscientious about settling his whisky bills, so the gentlemen who dealt in the tanglefoot had learned to give him the cold shoulder. One morning he said to his employer: "Joe," said he, "I think there must be a letter for me at the postoffice, and I would like to 'ay off' to-day and go down to camp for it." "All right," was Joe's response, "only I can see in your eye you mean to get drunk. If you do, and come back here I will have you thrown down the Midas shaft." The Midas shaft was 200 feet deep in solid porphyry. Spooner went away and made the round of the saloons. He had no collateral, and he knew his credit was too dense to be lifted by any legitimate lever. At last he s'rolled into the store of the principal trader—we will call his name Ketchum—and mildly said: "Ketchum, when you can spare a few minutes' time I want to see you." "All right; what is it?" said Ketchum, shortly. "I want to tell you," said Spooner, solemnly, "that though I look rugged, the doctors tell me I have an incurable heart disease; that while I may live for several months, I may at any time be seized with a fatal spasm, especially if I become excited, and I want you to write my will." Wonderingly Ketchum asked: "What in the world have you to dispose of?" "I have a few things," said Spooner, sadly; "won't you do a little thing like that for an old friend?" "Certainly," said Ketchum, and, going to his desk, he drew out a sheet of foolscap and commenced to write as follows: "I, Moses Spooner, of so-and-so, being of infirm body but of sound mind, etc." "Now about the property," said Ketchum. Spooner waited a moment until he could properly control himself, then said: "I desire that my one-half interest in the Big Fissure be sold and the proceeds, after all debts and charges are paid, be sent to my old mother, Patience Spooner, in Pike county, Mo." Ketchum put it down. Spooner continued: "My undivided one-third interest in the Lame Duck I wish to have sold, and, after paying \$1,000 to your head clerk, Jones (he is a friend of mine), send to my mother, with instructions that it be paid to Missouri Price, also of Pike." Then, with increasing emotion, he added: "You would before this have been my wife, but I could not think of making the dear girl my nurse." Spooner continued to dispose of his property and finally said: "That is all except \$8,000 which I have put in the Bank at Salt Lake City. Put down \$5,000 to your little daughter Nellie, Mr. Ketchum, the other \$3,000 to yourself. Also add that I appoint you and your clerk, Jones, my executors, to serve without bonds." Then he went off by himself, took a seat on a barrel, and for some moments buried his face in his hands. Ketchum called Jones to the desk, had him copy in a neat, clerky hand, called up Spooner and two witnesses, had the will signed, sealed and witnessed, folded the paper, placed it in a large envelope, had the envelope properly superscribed and laid away in the safe. Then said Ketchum: "Spooner, let us take a little drink for old friendship's sake." "I cannot," said Spooner. "You know my weakness. The doctors say that one drink might kill me, and a protracted spree would be sure to." A light shone in Ketchum's eyes. "The doctors be blowed," said he. "One drink would not hurt any man. You are low-spirited this morning, Spooner; come and brace up." After the necessary resistance Spooner yielded and got outside of a rouser. "How is that?" asked Ketchum. Spooner admitted that he felt no bad effects, that, indeed, it made him feel better. He took another. He kept taking them. He drank all day and night at intervals. Ketchum and Jones alternated in supplying him. He kept on for two weeks, but no symptoms of the fatal spasm manifested itself. At last one afternoon he lay prone asleep on some boot-boxes when a physician came in. Ketchum asked the man of science to examine him and see if he had symptoms of heart trouble. The doctor complied. He felt his wrist; put his ear to his breast; felt his wrist again, and said: "He has a heart like an ox; it is beating like a trip-hammer, and as regular as the stroke of a steam-engine." Spooner was kicked out, and Ketchum and Jones figured up his account. It amounted to \$367. Next morning Spooner came in with his nerves on edge, and wanted a drink. He was kicked out again. The next day he was raving with delirium tremens, and the men about town counselled Ketchum to send him with a nurse and a physician down to the prings, twenty miles away. That day Joe—the owner of the mine, came down town, and Ketchum tremblingly inquired how much was due to Spooner in the books of the mining company. "It's the other way," said Joe: "I bought him a suit of clothes, paid a back board bill in Salt Lake, and paid his way up here, and he still owes me something like \$40." Spooner recovered, but he gets no more accommodations of Ketchum, and when any man asks Ketchum now to write up his will, he drops all other business, picks up a pick handle, and his eyes takes on a dangerous glare. It may be a little obscure, but there is a moral in the above story.

ALIAS SUMMONS.—Territory of Montana, County of Gallatin, ss. In justice court, before Newton Seward, justice of the peace. John P. Nolan, plaintiff, vs. E. F. Coughlin (whose christian name is to plaintiff unknown), defendant. The people of the territory of Montana, to E. F. Coughlin, greeting: You are hereby commanded to be and appear before the undersigned, one of the justices of the peace in and for said county, within ten days after the service of this summons upon you by publication, at my office at Livingston, in said county. The above action was brought to recover in the aggregate the sum of twenty-eight and 50/100 dollars; twenty-one and 50/100 dollars being for board and lodging allowed to have been furnished you at your request by the above plaintiff, at said Livingston, between Nov. 3rd, A. D. 1888, and Dec. 3rd, 1888, and seven dollars being for merchandise sold and delivered you, by Higgins & Ennis, at said Livingston, at your request during the month of November, A. D. 1888, the account of which, is alleged to have been assigned to the said plaintiff, for value, by Higgins & Ennis before the commencement of this action, and in pursuance to a writ of attachment issued in the above action, all money due and owing you from the Northern Pacific Railroad company has been attached. And you are hereby notified, that if you fail to appear and answer to the plaintiff's complaint, the said plaintiff will take judgment against you in the sum of twenty-eight and 50/100 dollars and for the costs and disbursements of this action.

Given under my hand this 7th day of December, 1888. NEWTON SEWARD, Justice of the Peace. SAVAGE & ELDER, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

ALIAS SUMMONS.—Territory of Montana, County of Gallatin, ss. In justice court, before D. H. Budlong, justice of the peace. William V. Jones and Edwin N. Edwards, as W. V. Jones & Co., plaintiffs; Nick Begon, defendant. The people of the territory of Montana to Nick Begon, the above named defendant: You are hereby summoned to be and appear before the undersigned, one of the justices of the peace in and for said county, within ten days after the service of this summons by publication, 1888, at 9 o'clock a. m., at my office at Livingston, in said county. The above action was brought to recover the sum of one hundred and sixty-two dollars and ninety-eight cents, being a balance due for goods, wares and merchandise sold and delivered to you between the first day of July, A. D. 1888, and September 15th, 1888, at Gallatin county, at your request, besides the costs of this action. The following property belonging to you, the defendant, has been garnished by virtue of a writ of attachment, issued out of this court on the 8th day of October, A. D. 1888, to-wit: All moneys, goods, credits, debts, due or owing to you by or from the Northern Pacific Railroad company, or J. B. Clough, the agent of said railroad company. And you are hereby notified that if you fail to appear and answer to the plaintiff's complaint, the said plaintiff will take judgment against you in the sum of \$162.98 and the costs of this action, and that the above property, garnished as aforesaid, will be applied to the satisfaction of said judgment and costs.

Given under my hand this 19th day of November, 1888. D. H. BUDLONG, Justice of the Peace.

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