ATTORNEYS OF MRS. ELLA F. MURRAY PRODUCE IN COURT A DOCUMENT CLAIMED TO BE A FORGED WILL OF MRS. TOWNSEND

THE BATTLE FOR MRS ALMIRA S. TOWNSEND'S ESTATE HAS BEGUN.

The Alleged Testament Purports to Have Been Written Two Days Before the Aged Woman's Death.

Her Daughter Repudiates the Instrument as a Clumsy Fraud.

Battle for the Estate Has Commenced.

Remarkable Letters Introduced to Prove a Residence.

A WILL has at last appeared in the Townsend case, but it has been thrust into the litigation without sponsor and has been indignantly repudiated as a forgery by the only person who would profit by its provisions—Mrs. Ella F. Murray, the daughter of Mrs. Almira S. Townsend. The document was introduced in court yesterday by the attorneys of Mrs. Murray. It was by them denounced as a fraud and the court was asked to order Mrs. Bessie Tracey Smith to appear before him and tell what she knows. The attorneys insist that Mrs. Smith's handwriting and that of the alleged will are remarkably alike and Mrs. Smith will probably be able to tell the court something interesting.

The police, at the request of the attorneys for Mrs. Murray, have been investigating the affair for several days and the Grand Jury was asked yesterday to begin an inquiry to discover the perpetrator of the fraud. Miss Nellie Rattigan, who was Mrs. Townsend's companion for several years, claims to have received the alleged testament inclosed in an envelope addressed to her last Tuesday. She opened the outer envelope and discovering that the inner envelope purported to enclose the will of Mrs. Townsend she communicated at once with Sullivan & Sullivan, the attorneys for Mrs. Murray.

They, in company with Miss Rattigan and Mrs. Murray, went to the office of the Chief of Police, where, in consultation with Chief of Detectives John Seymour, the inner envelope was opened and the alleged will was read. It is a peculiar document, evidently written by an illiterate person who had some knowledge of legal terms. It is extremely long and is dated July 19, 1900, two days before Mrs. Townsend died. On many an occasion Mrs. Townsend had told her confidential advisers that she never would make a will, as she believed that if she did so she would die the next day. Two days after the mysterious document was dated Mrs. Townsend was dead.

The Will Denounced as a Forgery.

This document, which comes fatherless and friendless into the case, bequeaths all but a few thousand dollars of the estate of Mrs. Townsend to her daughter, Mrs. Ella F. Murray. The signature of a Mrs. M. Bell is attached to the alleged testament as a witness. Mrs. Bell is as mysterious as the will. The police have been searching for her since Tuesday, and although they have interrogated every Mrs. Bell in the city they have found no one who signed the document. None of the friends of Mrs. Townsend ever heard or knew of a Mrs. Bell of her acquaintance, and Miss Rattigan says that she certainly would know if there had been one.

Sullivan & Sullivan do not hesitate to charge that the will is a clumsy forgery introduced into the affair by persons opposed to Mrs. Murray. The attorneys alleged in court yesterday that the superscription on the letter addressed to Miss Rattigan and containing the will is remarkably like that on a letter sent by Mrs. Bessie Tracey Smith to the same young lady. Mrs. Smith is the woman who declared her belief that Mrs. Townsend had made a will and had placed it in a secret receptacle, which Mrs. Smith thought she could find. She was not permitted, however, to make a search, Sullivan & Sullivan objecting on the ground that a bogus will might be dropped in the house.

Since Mrs. Ella F. Murray and her attorneys have repudiated the alleged will the document can serve no purpose to the other interested parties in the controversy. The testament bequeaths everything except a few thousand dollars to Mrs. Murray, repudiates Mrs. Townsend's ex-husband and cuts off any other heirs who might appear. The appearance of the document will play, therefore, no material part in the case.

Sullivan Charges a Crime.

The introduction of the alleged forged will created yesterday the surprise of the day's proceedings. Judge Dunne, who, during the absence of Judge Troutt, occupied the bench in department 10, called the matter of the estate of the late Almira S. Townsend for hearing, and Attorney G. Gunzendorfer, representing Thomas T. Townsend, former husband of the deceased, immediately moved for a continuance. Attorney Matt Sullivan, of the firm of Sullivan & Sullivan, representing Mrs. Murray, rose to oppose the motion and incidentally to shower divers surprises among counsel and audience.

"Townsend is trifling with this court," said Mr. Sullivan. "If he is entitled to letters he should have applied for the same long ago. This man has been twice divorced and thrice remarried since Mrs. Townsend secured her decree. I have every reason to believe that a conspiracy exists to loot this estate. Last Tuesday Miss Nellie Rattigan, the companion and nearest friend of Mrs. Townsend, received through the mails a letter addressed to her at her home. It contained a sealed envelope with an inscription in trembling hand declaring its contents to be the last will and testament of the deceased.

"Upon the receipt of this document Miss Rattigan immediately sent for my brother and myself. When we arrived at the house we advised her not to open the inner inclosure. We carried the document to the office of the Chief of Police and requested him to open it, as we suspected some trick. In the presence of Captain of Detectives John Seymour and Assistant District Attorney Greany Chief Sullivan opened the document and read it. He and Mr. Greany then placed their initials on every page of the document and both envelopes for purposes of identification and delivered the papers back to us.

"This document purports to be the last will of the deceased. It leaves the bulk of the estate to her daughter, Mrs. Murray, and it is evident to me that the purpose for which this instrument was prepared was to tempt Mrs. Murray to attempt to probate it. In that event the conspirators would have followed this advantage by coming forward with another will, more neatly and cleverly forged, and make an attempt to prove the same to be the last testament of the deceased. That this instrument is a forgery is plain. It was gotten up by an unlearned woman unassisted by legal advice, and in addition to being a crimilal scheme to injure the interest of our client it involves the integrity of the bar of this city.

Boland's Plea Was Brief.

"A short time ago Miss Rattigan received a letter from Mrs. Bessie Tracey Smith, addressed to 1416 Clay street, the same wrong address to which this forged will was sent. I do not at this time accuse Mrs. Smith of having committed this crime, but I believe the circumstances are such as to warrant her examination in open court. I tried to subpena her, but when my clerk reached her door, after being informed downstairs that she was at home, he was informed that she had gone into the country for a few weeks.

Mr. Sullivan concluded his statement, and as soon as the buzz of the whispered conversation of the surprised gathering had ceased Attorney M. C. Hassett, on behalf of the Public Administrator, moved for a continuance. He said he wanted to secure the testimony of persons in Massachusetts, by which he expected to prove that Mrs. Murray is not a legal resident of this State and had no intention of becoming such. Judge Dunne overruled all motions and ordered the hearing to continue. Sullivan & Sullivan, on behalf of Mrs. Murray, filed a contest to the Public Administrator's petition for letters of administration, in which they set forth that Mrs. Murray alone was entitled to letters, being the daughter and sole heir of the deceased. Hassett then augmented the record by filing a contest to Mrs. Murray's application for letters of administration, in which it was alleged that she was a non-resident and as such was not entitled to administer decedent's estate.

Mrs. Murray's petition for letters was then called, but Hassett insisted that the application filed by the Public Administrator should be heard first. He failed to conceal his surprise when Matt Sullivan consented to this arrangement. Hassett soon recovered and again demanded a continuance. Again it was denied, and being forced to present his case, called Public Administrator Boland to the stand. Mr. Boland gave evidence as to his official character. Hassett then introduced his application for letters in evidence, mounted the stand, testified that decedent's estate was worth at least $307,000, and announced that his case was closed.

"If that is all your evidence," said Matt Sullivan, "I feel it my duty to inform you that you have failed to prove three essential facts: the death of Mrs. Townsend, her residence and that she died intestate. These facts merely prove jurisdiction, and to save you trouble we will admit them."

Mrs. Townsend Said She Would Make No Will.

Hassett's case was submitted and Mrs. Murray's application was ordered heard. John T. Harms, of the firm of Madison & Burke, was her first witness. He testified that he had managed Mrs. Townsend's business, and that the income from her realty was $700 a month. In 1894 Mrs. Townsend introduced him to Mrs. Murray. Later she informed him that Mrs. Murray was her daughter, but asked him to say nothing of the fact until occasion offered. On one occasion when Mrs. Murray was ill, Mrs. Townsend told the witness that she hoped her daughter would not die. "If she does I have nothing to live for," she said. Last July Mr. Harms advised Mrs. Townsend to execute a will. She said at that time that she would not make a will, but instructed him that if death should come to her immediately to wire Mrs. Murray, if she was away from the city. Mrs. Townsend's superstition, he concluded, was, in his opinion, responsible for the fact that she died intestate.

Miss Rattigan followed Mr. Harms to the stand. She said that for six years she had been Mrs. Townsend's constant companion. She had lived with the deceased all of that time, she said, and so far as she knew Mrs. Townsend never made a will.

Cyrus W. Carmany, cashier of the Savings and Loan Society, proved an interesting witness. He was confident that Mrs. Townsend never made a will. "If I make a will," she told him, "I am afraid that I will die the next day." "And she never made a will for this reason I fully believe," said Mr. Carmany. Continuing, Mr. Carmany testified that another reason that might have prompted Mrs. Townsend to defer making a will was the fact that she never knew how much she was worth until after the witness prepared a statement of her assets and told her the amount of her annual income. This the witness did shortly before Mrs. Townsend's death.

"Mrs. Townsend was astounded when I told her the exact value of her holdings and income," said the witness. "I am positive that she told me all of her business, and by this I was enabled to make a positive estimate. Her personal property at the time I made the statement was worth $275,000 and the realty $307,000. Since that time the value of the estate has increased from $12,000 to $15,000 a year, and her income was $2000 a month, an amount much in excess of her expenditures.

"I knew Mrs. Townsend since 1865. She followed my advice at all times as to investments and business matters. Her private effects, such as deeds, abstracts, bonds and other securities, have been in the bank for about eighteen years, and during that time she has always counseled with me, so I am confident she did not make a will.

Mrs. Murray the Object of Her Mother's Bounty.

"We had several conversations regarding a will. These conversations began two years ago, and the last we held a short time before her death—I believe the last being about three months ago. I met Mrs. Murray on several occasions, Mrs. Townsend introducing me to her, and I always believed them to be sisters. I assumed this from various conversations regarding money which I was to send East to Mrs. Murray, and also because she referred to her grandchild as her niece."

At this point the witness was handed over to Mr. Hassett for cross-examination. He started out to investigate the relations that once existed between the deceased and the late J. C. Wilmerding, but as the court failed to see the relevancy of this line of questioning Hassett pursued another line of examination. In answer to his interrogatories Mr. Carmany said: "I sent considerable money to Mrs. Murray when she was in the East, and finally, better to enable her to draw money on necessary occasions without awaiting its arrival by mail I forwarded her, at Mrs. Townsend's instruction, several bank books evidencing the deposit in the bank of about $7500. These books, I believe, were used by Mrs. Murray. I was never in my life led to understand by Mrs. Townsend that Mrs. Murray was her daughter, though I was always informed when she was in the city. Mrs. Townsend told me of the arrival of her daughter on the last occasion and told me that she was rooming at the Sutherland. She did not tell me that she found Mrs. Murray in her California-street home on her return from a visit downtown."

Mr. Hassett then made an effort to prove a strange condition of affairs in the fact that Mrs. Murray had the keys to Mrs. Townsend's safe deposit vaults, but the admission of Mr. Sullivan that she always had the keys since her mother's death, as she had a right to the same, deprived Mr. Hassett of an opportunity to prove the fact.

Samuel M. Shortridge and Colonel George H. Pippy, who represent the absent heirs, made a few inquiries about the value of the estate and Mr. Carmany retired. Neither Van R. Paterson nor Hugo Asher, who represent the Coburns, collateral heirs of the deceased, sought additional information. Mrs. Murray was then called to testify in support of her petition for letters.

Mrs. Murray Weeps on the Stand.

Her testimony was dramatic in the extreme. At times she was in tears, hardly able to control her convulsive emotion as she told of the death of her daughter and of the sadness which had come into her life only a few months before the tragic end of her mother's life. Again she was snappingly defiant as she insisted that she had come to this city to reside permanently, to be as best she could a comfort to her mother in her last years. She and her mother were alone in the world, she said, and she determined to come here. The question of residence was the vital point and upon that Mrs. Murray never wavered. There were no tears, no hesitation, no doubts; she was aggressively emphatic, needlessly so it seemed, as she declared that on July 9 last she had arrived in this city here to remain for the remainder of her life. On the witness stand she was theatrically deliberate and when her direct examination was concluded she arose and in her own behalf addressed the court, asking it to hasten the determination of the matter as she was ill and under a great nervous strain.

Mrs. Murray declared that she was born in Lowell, Mass., on October 4, 1849, the daughter and only child of Thomas T. Townsend and Almira S. Townsend. She outlined the various phases of her education and said she was married in Dorchester, in 1871, to John S. Murray. In the following year her daughter Mabel was born and lived until April of this year. As she told of the girl's death she hesitated, burst into tears and was unable to speak except sobbingly. Then followed a long examination to determine when she had been here and under what conditions. She came here in 1892 and in 1894, and on both occasions, she claimed, she was favorably received by her mother, obtaining from the elder woman gifts of money, clothing and various entertainment.

Mother and Daughter United in Sorrow.

Under no circumstances was she permitted to address her mother as such. Mrs. Townsend would never permit it to be known that she was the mother of Mrs. Murray, even when the latter was only 10 years of age. In all their relationships therefore this tie was never acknowledged. Through all her life, Mrs. Murray swore, she had written to Mrs. Townsend addressing her as "Dear mother." Mrs. Townsend had in many ways assisted her, and when her great affliction came in the death of her daughter the bond between the two women, which had never been very strong, strengthened in a common sorrow.

To prove this fact and to demonstrate that Mrs. Murray came to this city to make it her home through a distinct understanding with her mother a series of letters and telegrams was introduced. These documents were of exceptional interest. Most of them were written in May of this year, when Mrs. Murray wrote that her child and last living close relative was dead. She asked for sympathy and assistance, and received both. Mrs. Townsend wrote in her letters that she was tired of San Francisco and everybody in it. Her husband was annoying her; there were countless demands upon her; she was in ill health and she was determined to leave the city as soon as she could settle her affairs. Later she wrote to Mrs. Murray saying that she would leave to her whether she should come to this city or Mrs. Townsend should go to the East. Mrs. Murray chose, she said, to come here. She placed her property for sale in the East and arrived here on July 9 to stay for the rest of her days.

Came Here to Remain for Life.

"I had lost my daughter," she said, "and I was alone in the world. My mother was alone and along in years, and I determined to come to her to remain with her or near her, as she determined, and to comfort her as best I could for the rest of my life. I was not shouting my purpose from the housetops; my private business was not the concern of other people."

In one of the letters Mrs. Murray referred to her father as "an old rascal," a characterization which did not seem to please Mr. Townsend yesterday as he sat in the courtroom.

In conclusion, Mrs. Murray recited the events which followed her mother's death. She had searched everywhere in the house, but no will could be found. She had made the search faithfully and honorably, and she gave the court every assurance that had she found a will she certainly would have delievered it to the court whether it had been for or against her. She will be cross-examined Monday morning at 10 o'clock.

DECLARES SHE NEVER WROTE THE DOCUMENT

"I NEVER wrote that will, nor did I know anything about it. I shall go to Judge Dunne to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock and tell him I am ready and anxious to answer any and all questions he may wish to put to me."

Those are the words with which Mrs. Bessie Smith last evening met the question in regard to the alleged forged will of Mrs. Almira S. Townsend, with which Judge Sullivan startled Judge Dunne's court yesterday. Knowledge of what had passed in the courtroom was brought to Mrs. Smith's attention by means of the evening papers. So great was the lady's astonishment at the implied charge of the attorney that the enormity of the offense she had been practically charged with did not dawn upon her until she began calmly to discuss the matter with the interviewer.

"Practically," said Mrs. Smith, "Judge Sullivan declares that I am guilty of forgery. Such a thing is not only utterly false, but preposterous and ridiculous as well. Why should I do such a thing? What interest should I have in doing such a thing? And what puzzles me most is, What is their object in wishing to fasten such a thing on me?"

"I wrote to Miss Rattigan," continued Mrs. Smith, "to ask her to return to me pictures of myself and son that had belonged to Mrs. Townsend and were in the California-street home. Before I wrote to Miss Rattigan I called her home up by telephone and inquired for her. Whoever it was that came to the Rattigan 'phone in answer to my call was extremely guarded in her answers to my questions. She told me Miss Nellie Rattigan was not at home, that she did not know where Miss Rattigan was and that she was not sure when Miss Rattigan would be home. Finally I asked if a letter addressed to her at the Rattigan home would reach her. What the answer to that question was I really do not remember. However, I wrote the letter and got the address out of one of the two telephone books in my mother's room. I do not remember where I posted that letter. I am under the impression that I brought it to the postbox at the corner near the Bella Vista, although I may have dropped it in the box in the Bella Vista hall. Miss Rattigan never answered that letter. Neither did she return to me my photograph.

"At the same time that I wrote to Miss Rattigan," continued Mrs. Smith, "I wrote to the Wilmerdings in New York. I told them that Mrs. Townsend was dead and there were many photographs in the house—Wilmerding photographs—that they might wish to keep and which were of no value to any one but to them. My interest in the Wilmerdings is that of a relative," explained Mrs. Smith. "My father was first cousin to J. C. Wilmerding. My grandmother was a Wilmerding."

Mrs. Smith admits that she did know a subpena had been issued for her. "The boy who was to serve it," said the lady, "called at the Bella Vista while I was out. Mother, however, was in, and he showed the paper to her, explaining at the same time its purpose. When I heard of it I thought they wished to get me in court to testify as to that secret panel. I was tired of the notoriety the thing had brought upon me and as I had never been served I did not go."

Mrs. Smith, however, is going to court this morning. She will go alone, without even an attorney to assist and, if need be, protect her. "But why should I have an attorney?" Mrs. Smith asked. "I have only got the truth to tell, and I don't need an attorney for that."

APPEAL TO GRAND JURY.

Mrs. Murray's Attorneys Ask That Body to Investigate.

Sullivan & Sullivan, the attorneys for Mrs. Ella F. Murray, do not intend to let the production of the mysterious will rest with their sensational course of action in court yesterday. They insist that the alleged will is a clumsy forgery, made by conspirators to injure Mrs. Murray and trifle with the court. They declare that a felony has been committed, and they call upon the Grand Jury to make a thorough investigation of the entire affair. The following letter was sent yesterday by the lawyers to the Grand Jury:

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 17, 1900.

To the Honorable the Grand Jury of the City and County of San Francisco: On the 14th inst. a mail carrier in the employ of the United States Postal Department delivered at the residence of Miss Nellie Rattigan, No. 1442 Clay street, this city, an envelope and contents with postage thereon prepaid.

The outer envelope contains the following superscription:

"Miss Nellie Rattigan, 1416 Clay street, San Francisco, Cal."

The postal mark on the back of the envelope denoted that said envelope was deposited in Postoffice Station A, on the 14th inst. On the back of said envelope was the following:

"San Francisco, Cal. Sta. A, Aug. 14, 6:30 a. m., 1900."

Inside of said envelope was another one containing the following superscription: "Will and last document to be given to Mrs. Ella F. Murray through kindness of Miss Nellie Ratigan and Mrs. M. Bell, by request of Almira Townsend."

This envelope, which was sealed, contained a document which on its face purports to be an olographic will of Almira S. Townsend, deceased. Said document is forged and spurious, and it is our belief that the same was concocted by certain parties inimical to Mrs. Ella F. Murray, the only child and sole heir of said Almira S. Townsend, deceased.

A felony has been committed by some person or persons and the offender or offenders should be promptly prosecuted and punished for the crime.

We are willing to submit at any time to your honorable body all proofs in our possession showing the commission of the crime and showing or tending to show the parties guilty thereof.

Please notify us at your earliest convenience when you are ready to consider this charge and oblige, yours very respectfully,

SULLIVAN & SULLIVAN.

SOLDIERS GUARD BODY OF COLONEL DUBOCE

Prayers Were Offered at the Family Home Before Removal to the Armory.

The body of Colonel Victor D. Duboce now lies in state in the armory of the First Infantry, N. G. C., attended by a guard of honor, and it will so remain until to-morrow morning. Prior to the removal yesterday from the family home on Baker street Rev. George C. Adams, pastor of the First Congregational Church, conducted brief services, consisting of the reading of Scripture selections and prayer. Only relatives and a few intimate friends were present. Up to 10 o'clock this evening the remains may be viewed by the public. The casket will not be opened at the Mechanics' Pavilion, to which place it will be taken Sunday morning with military and Masonic escort at 10 o'clock.

The services in the Mechanics' Pavilion will begin at 11 o'clock. They will be conducted by California Lodge No. 1, F. and A. M., of which Colonel Duboce was a member. General W. H. L. Barnes has been requested to pronounce the eulogy.

Pensions for Disabled Firemen.

City Attorney Lane sent an opinion to the Fire Commissioners yesterday in which he advises that under the charter a physically disabled fireman may be retired from the department upon an annual pension equal to one-half the amount of salary attached to the rank which he may have held three years prior to the date of such retirement.

STRANGE WILL THRUST BY UNKNOWN HANDS INTO THE TOWNSEND CASE

THE last and only Will made by Almira S. Townsend, resident of San Francisco, State of California, residence twelve hundred and twenty-one California street, in the Sixty-ninth year of age, written on July nineteenth, 19th day of month, one Thousand nine hundred year, 1900, in my sound mind and void of undue influence, I solemnly make the following bequests and requests:

Firstly—I emphatically aver that I am the sole owner of my estate and belongings and that I alone have the right to dispose of same for benefits and gifts as I deem best. It has ever been my aim to give aid to the sick and wounded, the poor and the helpless feeling that my time is drawing near that I must pass over the river, I will endeavor to leave to charity, and charatable disposed persons, a gift to aid them in their good work "I request that the judge of the Probate Court, who shall have the settlement of my case and estate will settle my affairs speedily that my beloved dauther Mrs. Ella F. Murray will not be put to any trouble or anxiety "If I should die while she is away from me. My Faithful Friend and companion Miss Nellie Ratigan, Fourteen hundred and Sixteen Clay st. (1416) San Francisco, shall communicate with my daughter, Mrs. Ella F. Murray and my said daughter will find my keys and papers and belongings excepting this my will, which I will leave in charge of an old trusted friend to be given to my friend Miss Nellie Ratigan, by her given to my daughter, not later that thirty days after my death, giving my daughter time to reach the City of San Francisco, State of California.

I have never given the good people of San Francisco any trouble or cause to comment upon my actions of life. I love this dear old home and the California people. I crave their kindness and sympathy for my beloved daughter, whom I trust will take up my work where I leave off in this City. My reason for leaving my last bequests in the care of my old friend is I have known the fate of many estates in long litigation due to the wrangle and disputes of wills and false heirs. I give all such posthumous wills and heirs time to introduce their postumous claims "and give the Court and my daughter an opportunity to know that the end that my will is in accordance with my life, eccentric.

I have no husband—no heirs, but my only beloved daughter, Mrs. Ella F. Murray, no other children—only those named in this document has a claim on my estate and my personal effect go to my daughter, excepting some token of my personal effects—Miss Nellie Ratigan will desire for her won use.

I bequeath to the honorable Judge of the Probate Court, who shall have the settlement of my affairs (Five Thousand dollars ($5000 dollars)

To the San Francisco Fire Department relief fund one thousand dollars ($1000) dollars)

To the San Francisco relief and aid Society one Thousand dollars ($1000 dollars)

To the City of San Francisco Alms House and Hospital one thousand dollars ($1000 dollars)

To the Protestant Orphan Asylum San Francisco one Thousand dollars ($1000 dollars)

To the City and County Hospital in San Francisco State of California, one Thousand dollars ($1000 dollars)

To the Hospital of Incurables San Francisco (one thousand dollars) $1000 dollars.)

To Mary A. Elliott, Sanitarium for Rheumasm cures, one Thousand dollars) $1000 dollars) fourteen hundred twenty six Market st. San Francisco Office.

To Mrs Dr. Nellie Beighlie Santarium Spreckels building San Francisco one Thousand dollars ($1000 dollars)

To Miss Nellie Ratigan Five Thousand dollars ($5000 dollars) Fourteen hundred and sixteen Clay street San Francisco.

To the Hospital of the California Womans Sacramento and Lyon street San Francisco Two Thousand dollars for separate department for the care and treatment of young women free patients ($2000)

If any man, woman, or child other than herein named, contest this my will or lays claim to any of my estate of effects, they shall have paid to them fifty dollars each ($50 dollars) providing they shall not law, if they do, they will receive nothing. I now bequeath to my beloved daughter, Mrs Ella F. Murray at present in the Palace Hotel San Francisco, she to have, to hold and to keep and to do as she wishes with the residue of my estate, of every description, including twelve hundred and twenty one California St. San Francisco City, State of California—My personal effects of all nature, excepting one token, to Miss Nellie Ratigan.

I desire my daughter to act as my Executrix, without bonds, Judge of Probate Court to act as Executor without bonds, in the settlement and distribution of benefits, after public benefit, herein described are first settled, my daughter is to have exclusive control over all the balance, as her individual belongings—if in the event of my daughters death, occurring before mine, my estate by this will, falling to her, will be distributed to the Charitable institutions in San Francisco. The her in mentioned institutions, and to the Golden Gate Park fund—and the pandle improvement Fund all in equal shares, to be distributed by the Probate Judge, then in power this will to be given to him by Miss Nellie Ratigan (in the event of my daughter death before mine.)

Witness my hand this nineteenth day of the month of July, Nineteen hundred year, City of San Francisco, State of California, Amen.

Signed ALMIRA S. TOWNSEND.

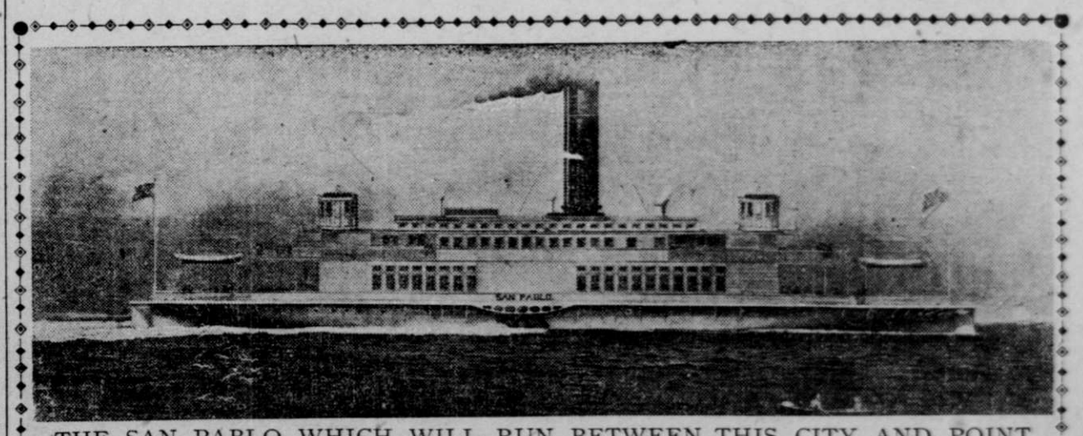
Witnesses with my consent: MRS. M. BELL.

Codicil:

I Almira S. Townsend desire that Mrs Ella F. Murray have this ducument copied before two witnesses and recorded and the Original given to Judge of Probate Court, and the recorded copy to be placed by her in a place of safety, known to herself, the original to be published in the daily papers, and paid for from the portion of estate left to her.

I desire my remains to lay in San Francisco, subject to the selection of my daughter. ALMIRA S. TOWNSEND.

NEW SANTA FE FERRY STEAMER IS READY FOR LAUNCHING



THE SAN PABLO, WHICH WILL RUN BETWEEN THIS CITY AND POINT RICHMOND.

THE Santa Fe people will celebrate an important event this afternoon. The occasion will be the launching of the new ferry steamer San Pablo, which has been constructed for service between this city and Point Richmond. The tide serving, the vessel will be dipped into the briny at 5:34 o'clock at the Union Iron Works.

Every railroad man in the city has been invited, and there is no doubt that there will be a large attendance at the function. For the benefit of officials and employes generally of the Santa Fe, Captain William Leale of the steamer Caroline has tendered the use of his steamer, which will start from the foot of Jackson street at 4 o'clock this afternoon. Captain Leale proposes to give his guests a spin around the bay before the launching takes place.

The San Pablo will be christened by Miss Christine Payson, daughter of Captain A. H. Payson, vice president of the San Francisco and San Joaquin Valley Railway. The vessel is 225 feet long, 64 feet beam, and has 2000 horsepower and a speed of 15 knots. She will be the swellest craft in her line on the bay.