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STORY OF MRS. RAGSDALE

A Scheme to Defraud a Daughter Out of a Fortune.

Incarcerated in a Private Insane Asylum—Attempts of the Woman's Husband to Have Her Also Locked Up in an Asylum.

CINCINNATI, Oct. 22.—The highly improbable but hackneyed plot of so many sensational novels, of the hero or heroine being spirited away and incarcerated in a lunatic asylum, while the conspirators enjoyed for a brief period the emoluments and benefit of his or her ample fortune until justice once more reasserted itself, has been, if a reputable lady's story is to be believed, enacted in real life. All day yesterday Mrs. Sallie Ragsdale, the wife of Mr. L. A. Ragsdale, a wealthy and influential citizen of Meridian, Mississippi, and her daughter Sallie were seated in one of the parlors of the Gibson House. The latter was and is now a prisoner of the Court of Common Pleas; but Sheriff Hawkins not wishing to put her in jail, had kindly allowed her to remain with her mother in the hotel under the surveillance of Deputy Sheriff Rittenhouse.

The girl for nearly two months past and until last Sunday evening was an inmate of Dr. Morse's private asylum for the treatment of the insane, at Oxford, Ohio. She is not yet sixteen years old, but is remarkably well developed for her age, and would at a casual glance pass for a young lady of twenty-one. According to the mother's story, both she and her daughter have been made the victims of a gigantic conspiracy to defraud them of their property, the principal in which was an unnatural husband and father.

A reporter called on Mrs. Ragsdale at the Gibson House yesterday afternoon. She was attired in a plain black silk, and evidently is a refined and cultured woman. Her daughter Sallie was also in the room. Mrs. Ragsdale's maiden name was Sallie Mackelroy, and she belongs to one of the oldest families in the South. She inherited a large fortune before her marriage, which she still retains in her own name. Both she and her husband have wealthy and influential friends in different parts of the South. The couple have lived happily until the early part of this year, and have five children living.

Something may be gathered as to the prominence of the husband when it is known that he recently erected a cotton compress in Meridian at a cost of \$50,000. He likewise, it is said, owns large tracts of land around the city, besides being the proprietor of some of its finest buildings. Mrs. Ragsdale tells a plain story, and it may be given as nearly as possible in her own words without adopting the direct style. She said that last spring she was led to suspect that her husband was laying plans to secure to himself the control of all her property, and by casting doubts upon her mental soundness to throw aside any will that she might make. Two children were taken from her last spring by death, and naturally she was for a time completely prostrated. During this period of trouble she learned through one of her sons, who overheard the husband consulting his attorneys, that she was to be sent to the asylum at Tusculooza. She at once took preventive measures by employing, as her attorney Hon. John W. Wewell, and also gathered opinions from those who knew her as to their opinion of her sanity. Her husband, she said, seeing that his scheme was blocked did not press the matter. She finally left home going first to Hot Springs, Arkansas, to make a visit, with the intention of going from there to Texas to see her sister. The husband took advantage of her absence to place her fifteen-year-old daughter in the asylum, from which she has just been released.

The first information she received of the event, she said, came from her husband, who said that he had placed the girl in a quiet infirmary. Much worried, she left Hot Springs, and, with her little boy, came here by way of Louisville. Then she continued: "Last Thursday I went to Oxford and was allowed to see my daughter. The Superintendent, Dr. Morse, was not there at the time, and his son gave me permission. While I was there my husband suddenly came into the room. I left and made my way to the depot in great haste, and just as I got into the train the asylum hack, containing him and a couple of their men, drove up. I have good reason for believing that he meant to have me placed in the asylum. When he saw that it would be impossible to take me back without a noise, he gave it up and the hack drove back."

The lady returned to the city and was seen by her husband in the Gibson House the following day. They had no quarrel, but he insisted that both she and her daughter were crazy. Seeing that matters were approaching a crisis she retained Charles M. Cist as her attorney. Saturday night last at 9 o'clock she sought the residence of Judge Matthews, who, after he had heard her story, took such an interest in the case that he wrote out in full the order of release without sending for the printed forms. Mr. Cist, in company with James W. Goldsberry, as Special Deputy, visited Oxford last Sunday evening and presented the writ to Dr. Morse, who at first objected to Miss Ragsdale being seen by any one.

Then he said she was one of the worst patients he had, being in a bad way and very obstreperous, and finally acknowledged that there was nothing seriously wrong with her, either physically or mentally. He stated that the girl was well content to remain, and that she was permitted to go to Oxford for painting lessons three times a week. An attendant said the girl was perfectly sane. Mr. Cist demanded positive compliance with the terms of the writ, and then only was the girl given over to the officer. "I packed up my things to go to boarding school," said Miss Ragsdale, "and we left home to go to Staunton, Virginia. The first thing I knew we were at Oxford. When I asked my father what it meant he said I was to be left here for treatment—to quiet my nervous neuralgic headaches. "I passed a miserable month at Oxford," continued she, "not hearing from home nor being allowed to write to my mother." Mrs. Ragsdale thinks that all this was done to throw doubts on her own sanity by reflecting on the sanity of the daughter. The

amount of property involved is said to be about \$500,000. Mrs. Ragsdale says that her husband has already made application for the receivership of her property. The husband is expected to arrive here during to-day, and the case will occupy the court to-morrow. Reuben Tyler has been retained for the husband by Morse, while Hoadly, Johnson & Colston and Mr. Cist represent Mrs. Ragsdale. Mrs. Ragsdale said in addition that both her eldest daughter and son sided with their father.

THE MORMON PROBLEM.

The Edmunds Bill Very Good as Far as It Goes.

OMAHA, Neb., Oct. 22.—Alexander Ramsey, of Minnesota, passed through Omaha yesterday en route to Utah, to assist in supervising the Territorial election, he being one of the five Utah Commissioners. Mr. Ramsey says that the Commission has succeeded very well in accomplishing the work laid out for it under the Edmunds Bill, which provides among other things for a registration of voters, both male and female and that oath must be made before registering that the applicant is not a polygamist. By means of this registration and the oath twelve hundred polygamist voters have been put out and kept out of office. Mormons who vote and who hold office are only those who are known not to be polygamists. The committee estimates that there are now in Utah about 2,500 male polygamists. In regard to trials for polygamy, Mr. Ramsey says the great difficulty is in obtaining evidence, as is shown by recent cases. Mormon church authorities have very defective memories as to where the records can be found, and seem to know less about polygamous marriage than do outsiders, and they resort to every means to place obstacles in the way of obtaining evidence.

Mr. Ramsey could not answer the question as to when and how the Mormon problem will be solved. Time alone would tell. In regard to the Edmunds Bill, all has been accomplished that could be done under its provisions, and as far as it goes it is satisfactory.

THE MADISON MURDER.

Madison Declines to be Examined Before Mayor Athey.

CINCINNATI, Oct. 22.—Long before the hour set for the preliminary examination of George Madison, accused of the murder of his wife, the Mayor's Court-room in Covington was densely packed with curiosity seekers. Madison, on entering the Court-room, appeared calm and composed. He walked erect, and was devoid of that nervous and reckless twitch he had the day he was arrested. He gazed around the Court-room and nodded to some acquaintance. The defense immediately filed a petition asking that the preliminary hearing be taken from the docket of the Mayor's Court and be placed on that of any magistrate in the city. The petition contains an affidavit of Madison's, stating that he believes he cannot secure a fair examination before Mayor Athey. His Honor acknowledged the petition, and gave the prisoner in charge of Chief Goodson, to be removed to the Circuit Court room, and Esquires Ewan and Tarvin were summoned to preside. After a delay of an hour the "Squires" arrived. The brother of the murdered woman entered, sat beside Madison, and engaged in close conversation with him. The case was then, by mutual consent, continued till next Saturday.

FOREST FIRES

Raging with Unabated Fury in New Jersey.

CAMDEN, N. J., Oct. 22.—The forest fires in Camden, Gloucester and Atlantic Counties are still burning fiercely and great apprehension is felt for buildings in the wooded country in the region of the flames. At Blue Anchor, on the line of the Philadelphia & Atlantic Railroad, another fire broke out yesterday in a large pine forest and burned freely all day and last night. A large cedar swamp near that place belonging to Job Braddock was also consumed yesterday. Charred leaves and twigs fell in the towns of Waterford, Winslow, Hammont and other places several miles from the fire. Great consternation prevails among the people of the region surrounding the fires and all the able bodied men are out fighting the flames. In the churches prayer is being offered for rain, and unless that comes soon the fires will reach inhabited places and great damage and loss of life ensue.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Oct. 22.—The conductor of the Atlantic City express train stated this morning that last night his train passed through about eight miles of New Jersey country which was almost a sheet of flame. The passengers were apprehensive at one time as the heat was as intense as the smoke was intolerable.

MARRIED TWICE

And Still the Young Lady Has No Husband.

TOLEDO, O., Oct. 22.—It leaked out to-day that Mr. Stephen N. A. Vanhorne, a wealthy young man, who last Wednesday was married to Miss Sallie St. John, a favorite in Toledo society, had deserted his wife and fled to Europe. No cause is known for his action. It is said the couple were secretly married a few months ago in Michigan, and Miss St. John told her father, who sought out Vanhorne and requested a second marriage. Miss St. John was sick in bed at the time, but the ceremony was duly performed. A petition for alimony was entered in court this morning by Mrs. Vanhorne, and an injunction was served on Vanhorne's real estate, stocks, etc., restraining him from transferring them. The scandal is the gossip of the day, not only because of the high position occupied by the principals, but because of the peculiar circumstances surrounding the affair. Vanhorne's conduct is generally condemned.

St. JOSEPH, Mo., Oct. 22.—In the case of Hubbard, the advertising agent of New Haven, Connecticut, against the Richmond Medical Company, of this city, the trial of which lasted over two weeks, the referee rendered his decision yesterday. Hubbard's claim was \$33,000 and he was allowed \$10,000. The company has appealed, claiming that the entire demand is fraudulent.

Loosely Dressed Girls Must Skip. CHICAGO, Oct. 22.—An order has been issued from police headquarters for the arrest of all women found in the street in Mother Hubbard dresses.

SKIPPED WITH \$120,000

At Least Liabilities, as Far as Discovered, Amount to That.

Samuel Wanamaker, the Farmer Forger, Sick Aged, Pleads Guilty to Twenty-Five Indictments —Mrs. Henry in Jail.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Oct. 22.—Yesterday's developments in the failure and flight of H. F. Frazier Grant, naval stores and rice factor, show that the liabilities are larger than was at first supposed. As far as discovered they are \$120,000 and the assets nominally \$80,000. The worst feature in the case is that Grant had checks cashed by merchants on the eve of his flight, when he had no money in bank to meet them. Outside of his accounts with the banks, Grant leaves a large number of open accounts and acceptances taken in the ordinary course of business. Up to to-night about \$20,000 in this class of liabilities had been brought to light. A large amount of the collateral of the rice mill, naval stores and cotton receipts are held by the banks as collateral. It is alleged that Grant raised the classification of the naval stores receipts, thus practically perpetrating a forgery which enabled him to secure much larger advances than would otherwise have been made. To sell the stores which were represented by these receipts Grant was obliged to secure them from the banks. This he did, giving in return pink slips which obligated him to turn over the amount of his indebtedness to banks the moment the sale was made. This Grant refused to do and hence issuance of warrants charging him with larceny for the arrest. How much Grant carried away is not known. His destination is also unknown.

Pleaded Guilty to Twenty-Five Indictments.

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Oct. 22.—Samuel Wanamaker, the farmer forger, was brought into court from the hospital on a stretcher yesterday afternoon, being too weak to sit or stand, and at his own request, pleaded guilty to twenty-five indictments, each charging him with forgery. Sentence was deferred until to-day to hear a motion filed by Columbiana County officers in arrest of judgment. They claim the prisoner was kidnaped from them. It is understood the prisoner will be given one year on each indictment, but it is doubtful if he lives long enough to reach the penitentiary. The amount of his forgeries will reach nearly \$50,000.

Mrs. Henry in Jail.

MARSHALL, Tex., Oct. 22.—The Sheriff returned Sunday night from the Henry plantation, having in custody Mrs. W. M. Henry, widow of the late Captain Henry, murdered in November last. Anthony Walker, the negro, still insists that Mrs. Henry bribed him to kill her husband. The widow was greatly startled when the Sheriff read the warrant, and fell in a swoon. On recovering she vehemently denied all complicity in her husband's murder. Since her incarceration in the County Jail she has positively refused to talk upon the subject.

CREMATED ALIVE.

Not Even the Ashes Found to Represent Three Men.

TUNNELTON, W. Va., Oct. 22.—The most horrible accident ever known in this section of the country occurred one mile east of this place last night, at Thomas' coke ovens. Six ovens are burning, and three men and a boy do the work. Just after dusk the three men pushed a car of coal along the tramway above the ovens. As they passed the fourth oven the boy called their attention to a crack in the top. They stopped to examine it, when the whole track caved in, carrying with it the men. They were cast upon the mass of white hot coke. The gasses must have strangled them instantly. Aid was summoned, but it was fully an hour before the oven could be emptied. Not a trace of the men could be found except some lumps of melted metal, evidently from buttons, a few silver coins, and some tools the men had about them.

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.

A Family Hurlled Down an Embankment with Fatal Results.

HAGERSTOWN, Ind., Oct. 22.—As an old gentleman named Shields, from Wells County, accompanied by his wife, their grown daughter, a granddaughter fourteen years old, and a son of Mr. Hunt, whose family they were visiting, was driving in a carriage to a Friends' meeting at Dalton Sunday, the horses plunged down a steep hill. Mr. Shields was instantly killed. Mrs. Shields was cut across the face and received other injuries, which may prove fatal. Miss Shields' ribs were torn from her breast bone. Young Hunt's leg was broken and thigh dislocated. The granddaughter escaped unhurt.

A GOLDEN WEDDING

Celebrated by Prince Anthony, of Hohenzollern.

BERLIN, Oct. 22.—The golden wedding of Prince Anthony, of Hohenzollern, the Catholic branch of the house of this name, was celebrated to-day in a befitting manner at the Sigmaringen. The weather was cloudy but did not interfere with the festivities. At 9 o'clock the guests congratulated the happy pair. At 10 the royal family attended mass, which was celebrated in honor of the event. Forty-two royal guests were present, among them the Emperor and the King and Queen of Roumania. Goethe's "Iphigenie" was performed as part of the festivities in honor of the occasion.

Lively Times at Fort Worth.

FORT WORTH, Tex., Oct. 22.—Yesterday Governor Ireland telegraphed Captain Schmidt, at Wichita Falls, ordering him to Fort Worth with all the available force of Rangers to keep the peace. Captain Schmidt was here yesterday, and with Sheriff Richmond, of Bernallo, went to Austin to see the Governor. At 3 o'clock yesterday McIntyre was taken before Judge Hood on the writ of habeas corpus, but by agreement hearing was postponed until Thursday. The captain of the Rangers has taken the warrant and requisition with him, said to be a most remarkable proceeding.

OHIO WHEAT AND CORN.

The Former Not All Sown—Condition of the Latter.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22.—The Department of Agriculture has the following about the fall wheat prospects in Ohio: A severe drought has occurred three times this season and greatly retarded the sowing of wheat, which is not nearly finished in the southern half of the State, eighty-three per cent. representing the area already sown. The entire area for the State will be fully as large as last year, when all is sown. This is based upon the fact that it is already as large in the northern part of the State.

In that section wheat is already well up, and is looking very finely. Regarding the corn crop of the State it reports by counties as follows:

Marion, large yield, fully ripe. Ottawa, injured by drought. Union, short crop, good quality. Wood, above average, sound and good. Lorain, well matured. Hardin, affected by drought. Geauga, well ripened, fair yield. Van Wert, good crop. Lake, good crop. Hamilton, short in yield on account of drought. Pickaway, short crop. Mahoning, frost injured the crop in the low lands. Portage, full average crop, good. Meigs, much injured by drought. Morrow, better than anticipated. Sandusky, injured by drought. Warren, much injured by drought. Preble, not a full crop, good quality. Vinton, short on account of drought. Fairfield, the drought reduced the yield fifty per cent. Adams not half a crop, quality good. Holmes, the drought damaged it seriously. Shelby, injured slightly by the drought. Lucas, good. Logan, upland small but fair.

Five Men Killed.

CROOKSTON, Minn., Oct. 22.—A terrible accident occurred yesterday on the Leech farm, near Red Lake, Beltrami County, about thirty-five miles from here, by which five men were instantly killed and a boy badly wounded. The gang were working a thrashing machine when the boiler exploded. The dead are: Thomas Evenden, engineer; Christ Larson, Henry Johnson, John Lingwood, and John Smith. The four latter were farm hands.

Mysteriously Mated.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Oct. 22.—Widower Thomas Hastings, a popular and handsome young saloon keeper, proud pa of three children, has married mysteriously Miss Mary E. Millon, who, up to last Saturday, was a cloistered nun. The convents in Louisville deny any knowledge of the recreant recluse, who is said to be wondrously beautiful, and who knew Mr. H. before he wedded his first wife.

A Baron's Presumption Spurned.

LONDON, Oct. 22.—The people of Brunswick have torn up the proclamation of Baron Hilgers, which states that he has been ordered by the Emperor to assume the supreme military command of the Dutchy and asks the people of Brunswick to look forward to the decision of the Federal Council with confidence that their rights will be respected.

Crushed to Death by a Train.

ASHTABULA, O., Oct. 22.—Frederick Arnold, a carriage painter, of Cleveland, was killed in front of the Lake Shore depot here to-day. He boarded a freight train and fell between the cars. Both legs and one arm were crushed off. He has a sister, named Jane Kennard, living at Cleveland.

Stables and Grand Stand Burned.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 22.—The grand stand and three of the stables adjoining it at the Cote Brilliant race track were burned Monday afternoon, together with the horse Lute Fogel, who refused to leave his stable. The loss is about \$35,000. It is suspected that the structures were set on fire by some horse-men who had been ordered off the track for disorderly conduct.

Endeavoring to Escape from a Mob.

AUGUSTA, Kas., Oct. 22.—Bob Cross, the murderer of Deputy Sheriff Hollister, of Hunnewell, was captured by officers who passed through here yesterday with the prisoner. They are endeavoring to evade a mob of 200 men who are in close pursuit.

Death of a Juror.

PRINCESS ANNE, Md., Oct. 22.—Harvey Johnson, one of the jurors in the Mills-Davis murder trial, died suddenly this morning. His death necessitates the appointment of a new jury or the postponement of the case.

CONDENSED NEWS.

The Cincinnati Pump and Supply Company, Cincinnati, has failed; liabilities, \$51,245.25.

The race for the Cambridgeshire stakes in England Tuesday was won by Florence, Bendigo second, and Pizarro third.

The firm of Donnell, Lawson & Simpson, New York bankers, which failed during the recent panic on Wall street, announce that they expect to resume business at once.

Hon. CLINTON W. STANLEY, of Manchester, is soon to resign as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court to accept a position with a bank in Concord, New Hampshire.

A DISPATCH from Amoy says the French corvette arrived off Tai Wan, exchanged shots with the forts in the vicinity and searches all steamers approaching the port.

The United States Government through the Secretary of State has agreed to be represented at the Congo conference. Mr. Tisdal, recently appointed Minister to Congo, will doubtless represent the United States.

Miss WELTON, who, it will be remembered, was frozen to death recently on Long's Peak, in Colorado, left a will by which the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, in New York, receives \$225,000.

NEARLY 200 houses were burned in Carthage, Jefferson County, New York, entailing a loss of about \$200,000. A dispatch says: "A trip through the burned district reveals such a sight as is seldom witnessed. With but very few exceptions there are no walls standing. The winter's supply of coal is all on fire. The burned territory is one mile in length and a third of a mile in width. The north side of Mechanic street is burned. The south side escaped the fire, which was stopped at the Presbyterian Church, it being the last house on Mechanic street to go. Every building on Church street below State was burned. The fire was stopped at the corner of Church and State streets."