

MRS. VAN VLECK'S LIFE A BURDEN.

Suit for Divorce Against the Buffalo Millionaire Opens.

GROSS CRUELTY CHARGED. The Woman Declares She Was Thrown to the Floor and Her Face Slapped.

FORCED HER TO WORK HARD. Van Vleck Denies the Charges and Declares His Wife's "Unpleasant Habits" Forced Him to Live Apart from Her.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 1.—Marie Louise Van Vleck, wife of the widely-known oil producer, told in court to-day the story of the life of herself and husband from the time of their acquaintance to the present day. For many months the preliminary proceedings leading up to the divorce have been going on. This morning when Attorney Bartlett opened the case for his client, Mrs. Van Vleck, he said: "This will be the most horrible record that ever has been presented to a court in proceedings for divorce."

He explained that Van Vleck stopped his wife's allowance in September, 1895, and declared that she was left absolutely without a cent, without shoes and almost without clothing. Mr. Bartlett asserted, was taken from her and she was humiliated before the children.

After introducing his case Mr. Bartlett called as the first witness of the trial Mrs. Van Vleck. The Supreme Court room was crowded when Justice Spring opened court, and every neck was craned to catch a view of Mrs. Van Vleck when she took the witness stand. She wore a tailor-made gown of brown cloth, black gloves and a walking hat trimmed with orange tips. She also wore a blue cape while in the room. Mrs. Van Vleck is fifty-two years old, and was born in Buffalo, where she met Van Vleck in 1880. They were married May 14, 1883. The defendant is sixty-two years old.

Mrs. Van Vleck's Story. Mrs. Van Vleck described how Van Vleck left the lumber business and went to the oil fields, where he made \$100,000 on the first deal. Then riches came fast. But for years she said she did the housework and cared for the children without assistance that he would allow all to do to finance his business. In 1875 he was at Knox, Pa., where he made enormous sums of money. Shortly after that he was employed by a house on Delaware avenue, and it was there that the first acts of alleged cruelty were inflicted.

"The first time he assailed me," said the witness, "was after we moved into the Delaware avenue house. I complained that there was rain in the place, and he took my arms and wrenched them. There he began to stay out all night, and never came home before 2 o'clock in the morning. When he stayed out all night he said that he was playing cards with me. He had heard rumors about his conduct and remonstrated with him. I told him that he had been giving presents to a woman in the city. The defendant me again."

Mrs. Van Vleck next produced a letter signed "Broken-Hearted Mother," in which Mr. Van Vleck was placed in a bad light. She said that when she showed her husband this letter he struck at her with an umbrella and slapped her face. He frequently called her names. He once told her, so the witness declared, that she had bought presents for a man and that he did not know whose children he was supporting. Mrs. Van Vleck described a scene that she had with a woman whose name was associated with her husband's. It began in a fur store, where the woman

Trouble with Another Woman. Mrs. Van Vleck made a remark the woman did not like and the latter called at the Van Vleck home that night and was put out. She told her husband that he had been unfaithful to her with this woman, and declared that he was running a gambling house in a building where his daughter Martha was born.

Witness then described half a dozen occasions when she slapped her, twice when she caught her by the arms, threw her round and let her fall to the floor, and that he would not let her in the house if there was a funeral in it. She also told of another woman in this city whose name she did not give, but who lived with her and when she remonstrated with him he became very angry.

Mrs. Van Vleck said her husband had practically abandoned her in 1885, and that given her very little money since that time. Van Vleck is reputed to be worth \$1,500,000. He spends part of the year on his yacht on the Florida coast. Van Vleck, in his answer, denies the charges of cruelty. Miss Elliott Hitch will be the maid of honor and Mr. Cranford, of New York, the best man.

Mr. George's mother and sister and a few relatives will be the only guests.

MRS. CLAY IMPROVING. The Doctor Says the Old General's Child Wife Will Undoubtedly Recover.

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 1.—Mrs. Dora Clay's physician to-night stated that his young patient was better and unless something unforeseen occurs she will recover.

No messages passed between Clell Richardson, at whose house Mrs. Clay is staying, and General Clay to-day.

Eleven New Fire Captains. The Board of Fire Commissioners, after an executive session, promoted eleven assistant foremen to the command of companies yesterday. The new fire captains are as follows: John P. Derwin, Engine Company No. 20; William Gierke, Engine Company No. 24; Francis J. Gray, Engine Company No. 55; James D. Clifford, Engine Company No. 10; William C. Carr, Engine Company No. 21; Thomas Larkin, Hook and Ladder Company No. 9; George L. Ross, Engine Company No. 11; John H. Leonard, Engine Company No. 30; Timothy J. Brennan, Hook and Ladder Company No. 14; Peter Sloan, Hook and Ladder Company No. 15.

The promotions leave about twenty vacancies in the rank of assistant foremen.

HERE IS AN ANCIENT SCHEMER IN NEW TROUBLE.



Count Mitkiewicz. A few days ago I left Washington, where I have had business connections for twenty-seven years, and I shall return in the morning. If any swindling has been done in this instance I am the victim. A summer resort at Cedar Point on the Potomac in which the count was interested in the Spring of 1890 paved the way to his present trouble, so the count asserts. He had befriended many persons in Washington, and when he opened the Summer resort he gave employment to some of these persons. But they proved ungrateful, he says, and were discharged. Now they want to get even by trumping up charges of swindling. The count admits that one of the men lent him \$25,000, but it was not forthcoming. The Washington man who claims to have been swindled is James T. Hunter and Davis L. Hoover. They allege the count borrowed money of them for the purpose of visiting Massachusetts and settling up a \$20,000 estate belonging to his late wife.

Count Mitkiewicz Says He Is Not Guilty, and Tells the Story of His Meteoric Career and That \$25,000,000 Chinese Concession.

A imposing looking man of title, who claims to have once held within his grasp a \$25,000,000 concession from the Chinese Government, is in this city awaiting arrest for alleged petty swindling in Washington. On November 27, a warrant was issued there for Count Eugene Stanislas Kostka de Mitkiewicz, charging him with obtaining money under false pretences. The amount is \$25, and the Count says the action is the result of spite work. There is some doubt about Mitkiewicz's right to wear a title, and he no longer wears the flowing whiskers that distinguished him in the days when his colossal schemes attracted the attention of the world. But the same old snariness is with him still.

The career of the count has at all times bordered on the spectacular. He was but fifteen years of age when he landed in this country from a Russian man-of-war with a box containing \$100,000, his patrimony. There is a story of a lady in New York who is charged the youthful count appropriated a diamond ring belonging to a lady he met at the Russian ball in 1864. He is alleged to have borrowed the ring, and when he returned it paste stones had been substituted for the genuine gems. She caused his arrest.

That story is as false as the tale of my swindling the man out of \$25 in Washington, the count declared, "and I am determined to seek redress in both instances. Here is the true account of the diamonds, which anybody will believe, for it is the truth. When I arrived in America with my \$100,000 I was but fifteen years old and knew little of life. But I have a title, and through the offices of the Russian consul I met many leading members of society. These people gave a grand ball to the naval officers here in New York, and I was among the guests. During the ball one of the society leaders presented me to Miss Julia Lombardi, a very beautiful young lady. She permitted me to call and we became good friends. One day I took \$10,000 from my box at the Fifth Avenue Hotel and bought jewelry with it for Julia. These diamonds I pur-

chased from Bishop & Ryan, whose store was in the hotel building. Julia was much pleased with my \$10,000 gift, and in return gave me a diamond ring that had been presented to her. That was unfortunate, for the man who bought this diamond saw it on my finger and grew jealous. He was also jealous of the attention I received from the society people. Lost All His Money. "A few days this jealous man, who pretended to be my friend, enticed me into a gambling den on Broadway, and by morning I had lost all my money. The tin box at the hotel was empty. That evening the hotel clerk presented my bill, but I could not pay. I was in despair. Then I thought of Bishop & Ryan, the jewellers with whom I had spent \$10,000. As I was but a boy and knew nothing of business methods in America, I called on this firm and asked for a loan. They wanted security, so I left the ring Julia gave me in return for \$200. With this money I paid the hotel bill. "But that wicked rival had not yet finished his work. When he missed the ring from my finger the rival had me arrested

JUDGE PEMBERTON FOUND RICH BEFORE HE KNEW IT. Carl Otto Liedquist Receives His Millionaire Father's Blessing, After Four Years' Estrangement.

The Thingville steamship Hecla, which leaves this city to-day, will bear no happier couple among her voyagers than Carl Otto Liedquist and his wife. They have good cause for rejoicing, for Carl's father is a millionaire banker and railroad and steamship owner in Gothenburg, Sweden, and Carl is going home on his father's invitation, after an estrangement of four years. It was because of his determination to wed the girl of his choice that Carl and his father disagreed. The high-spirited young man finally settled the dispute by getting married and coming to America with his wife. Here he obtained a position in the Barge Office, where he reposed A. E. Johnson, a steamship and railroad agent in State street. Two young sons came to bless Liedquist's marriage, and the proud father had furnished a comfortable home.

12 LOST AT SKAGWAY. A New Yorker and Eleven Companions Said to Have Been Drowned in the Sloop Pigeon.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 1.—A correspondent of the Seattle Times, writes at Skagway, under date of November 22: "There has been considerable alarm and anxiety here for the past four days over the possible fate of twelve men, who, on Tuesday morning in the sloop Pigeon, essayed to make the trip around the point to Dyes. The North wind blew a gale, and the boat was carried before the wind and down the Lynn Canal. While the names of all on board cannot be learned, it is known that Nicholas Freling, Tom Dickinson, Rene Lepila, Joseph Palmer, C. H. Dennison and a man named Lombard, were among the passengers. The last named is supposed to be Milton Lombard of New York, who has been in Skagway on route to Dawson, which point he had agreed, upon a \$10,000 wage, to reach without money."

DEFY THE ARCH DEACON. Majority Faction in the Woodlawn Mission Elect a Vestry and take a Name.

A new chapter was added to the Woodlawn Church feud at Mount Vernon yesterday. Early in the morning the incorporators of the New Episcopal church met, and after electing a vestry declared the name of the newly formed church to be the Church of the Advent. This action was in direct opposition to the wishes of Archdeacon Tiffany, who objected to the transformation of the Woodlawn Mission into a church. The Archdeacon has given notice that he will never recognize them as a church. According to the canon law a vestry had to be elected on the Wednesday following Advent Sunday. Promptly after prayer prominent Woodlawn men who are members of the majority faction, and who are leaders of the new church met at the Mission House on the Pipe Line. They found the doors fastened with padlocks, while a patrol wagon containing policemen stood in front of the Mission House.

NOW FOR A BISCUIT TRUST. Three Big Companies Are Being Consolidated Into One with \$55,000,000 Capital.

From advices received from Chicago, Wall Street is likely to learn of another industrial stock consolidation in a day or two. Three great food-producing corporations are about to be merged into one great concern. These are the New York Biscuit Company, American Biscuit Company and the United States Biscuit Company. They are capitalized respectively at \$9,000,000, \$9,000,000 and \$5,000,000, with a total capitalization and bonding of \$24,764,000. Coincident with the merging will come an inflation of stock to \$55,000,000, twenty-five millions in cumulative preferred seven per cent dividend stock, and the remainder in common stock. Most of the new stock will be underwritten in this city. Subscriptions are now being received at par for the preferred stock. With each 100 shares of this there go 100 shares of common as a bonus. The syndicate which has been at work on this scheme was organized by Judge William H. Moore, who, with his brother, met with most disastrous failure in the famous Diamond Match boom in Chicago a year and a half ago. Negotiations for the companies to be absorbed have been carried on by Attorney A. W. Green, representing the American and United States companies, and Charles Frank O. Lowden, the favored son-in-law of the late George M. Pullman, representing the New York company. They are now in this city completing the deal.

DAME FORTUNE'S HAND. Fortune Fortune presents her hand. She draws it back ere you can clasp it; But ere's a chance in Journal "wants," Which you may get, if you will grasp it. Journal Help "wants," 29 words, 20 cents.

JURYMEN AROUSED. Men Who Have to Serve as Jurymen Banded Together for Protection of Their Rights.

Residents of this county who are occasionally called upon to serve as jurors, are banding themselves together for the purpose of having the law regarding them amended, and incidentally to bring about the courtesy they think due them from the clerks of the courts wherein they serve. They claim that the law has proved detrimental to them. They will make an effort to perfect a regular organization of jurymen in each Assembly District. The clerks of the courts are to be an especial mark for their darts of reform. These intentions of the law, the judgment jurymen aver, are altogether too impudent.

PARKHURST WELCOMED. He Attends the Weekly Prayer Meeting But Won't Talk of Croker.

Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst presided at the regular weekly prayer meeting held last night at the Madison Square Presbyterian Church. It was his first appearance among the members of his congregation since his return from Europe, and there was a large attendance to welcome the pastor to his own charge. It was expected that Dr. Parkhurst would make some reply to criticisms recently made in reference to his conduct in his address he confined himself to church affairs. After the service he declared he had nothing to say regarding the interchanges of Richard Croker and Thomas C. Platt.

CHILD HELD FOR THEFT. Merchant Accuses Her of Stealing a Roll of Tape in His Store.

Julia Messer, eleven years old, was arraigned in the Court of Special Sessions of Yorkers, before Judge Kellogg, last evening on a charge of shoplifting, made by Charles R. Calver.

Another Month's Work is over—more good news to tell—10,000 "Wants" gained in November over same month last year. Why? Ask a policeman, or an advertiser, or anybody.

WIFE FOLLOWED IN MALE ATTIRE.

This Suspicious Tonawanda Woman Shadowed Her Husband.

CAUGHT BY A POLICEMAN. He Noticed the Peculiar Actions of the Supposed Young Man and Made an Arrest.

DIVORCE SUIT IS TO FOLLOW. The Explanation of Kellogg, it is Stated, Was Not Sufficient to Satisfy His Spouse That He Had Been Faithful to Her.

Tonawanda, N. Y., Dec. 1.—A policeman noticed the peculiar actions of a young and well-dressed man upon the street late last night, and placed him under arrest. There was a protest, but not until the station house was reached did the prisoner reveal her sex. She refused to give any explanation of her conduct, but begged piteously to be allowed to go home to her child. She told the captain that she was Mrs. Emma Price Kellogg, and thirty-two years old. She was thereupon released and escorted to her residence. Mrs. Kellogg's husband is a prominent citizen and she, it seems, assumed male attire in order to find out for herself the truth of rumors and suspicions that her husband was not leading a proper life, but was spending his evenings at resorts of a questionable character. Mrs. Kellogg, driven to desperation at the thought of being followed by her husband, decided to do as his clothing and to play detective. It took all the courage she possessed to put into operation her plan, but she did it, and was while following her husband that she was arrested. The husband reached home after her return and attempted to make explanations, but, it is said, without avail. It is stated that Mrs. Kellogg will commence proceedings for divorce.

RAY DUER HAS ENTERED. Strong Card of Amateurs for the Saturday Night Event at the Garden. Watch the Frenchmen.

Amateur entries are very numerous on the card for the indoor meet to be held in Madison Square Garden Saturday night, and a notable entry yesterday was that of Ray Duer, of Buffalo, who holds the American amateur figure for the hour of 28 miles 1,500 yards. Duer goes to London to the underized class from which come those who are usually more successful in paced work than the larger chaps, but is of about the same build as Champion Bald. The other back-markers in the handicap at a mile are Oscar V. Babcock, who rode an unpaired horse in 1,022, recording a mile in Philadelphia and Charles Ertz, the mile national champion. Bald arrived in the city last night, and besides riding an exhibition will figure on scratch in one of the heats of the professional handicap, which will be the hottest kind of a scramble, as the distance is only a third of a mile. Other entries include Gougeon, Jay Eaton, C. A. Church, F. E. Goodman, Jimmy Wapburn, of England; Dominique Lambrecht, F. C. Hoyt and Fred Titus are among the many good ones down to start for the money prizes. Zimmerman will undoubtedly receive a warm reception when his opponents for his exhibition, as the retired champion, who will emerge from retirement in the Spring, has always been a prime favorite with the metropolitan public. The department is making a rigid analysis of the food cooked during the past few days. Some think a drug was placed in the victuals, and that, with the wholesale discharge of employees, has caused great excitement in the institution.

250 PATIENTS POISONED. The Inmates of an Epileptic Hospital at Gallipolis Narrowly Escaped Death.

Gallipolis, Ohio, Dec. 1.—Two hundred and fifty patients at the Epileptic Hospital were poisoned to-day. Dr. Ritter and his corps of physicians succeeded only after a desperate fight in preventing many deaths. As it is, some of the patients are still in a critical condition. The presumption among the hospital physicians is that the poison came from some article of food eaten by the patients, and the health department is making a rigid analysis of the food cooked during the past few days. Some think a drug was placed in the victuals, and that, with the wholesale discharge of employees, has caused great excitement in the institution.

Mining Disaster in Germany. Kaiserslautern, Rhineland, Bavarica, Dec. 1.—A fire damped explosion has taken place in the Frankerholze coal mine, near Honnberg. The bodies of ten men killed and forty-five injured miners have already been extricated. Others of the miners are still missing.

Downs-Young Wedding. Miss Caroline Williams Young, daughter of ex-County Judge and Mrs. Thomas Young, of High street, Huntington, L. I., and Miss Helen Downs, of Mrs. Lillian and the late Frank Downs, of the same place, were married Wednesday.

Title Taken to New High School Site. The Brooklyn Board of Education took title yesterday to a plot of ground in the Eastern District, bounded by Duane, Metropolitan avenue, near street and Columbia street, and used as a site for the new Williamsburg High School.

I THINK of getting an art edition of the Christmas Journal that contains, among its other interesting and valuable matter, the four greatest religious paintings in the world! Greatest because they have been selected by four great authorities and printed in colors by a great newspaper. Moreover, Bishop Vincent, Archbishop Martinelli, Bishop Tuttle and Rev. R. R. Chivers have contributed valuable papers in which they point out the beauty of the four paintings and tell why they consider them the pictures that have had the greatest influence for good. The entire number, with its many sections, can be had for five cents, yet it contains a greater variety of choice matter than almost any volume in your library.