

COPPINGER'S RECORD.

Continued from Page 1.

took his position. He had been there about an hour when he observed the letter-carrier go up the steps of our residence and ring the bell. At the same moment my wife turned into Taylor street from Sutter street, and as soon as she saw the postman she broke into a run and took from him a document before the door was opened. This circumstance was reported to me the same evening, and it was the first thing that made me suspicious, for all her letters from those with whom I knew she was in correspondence came in my care.

I next saw the postman and learned from him that he was in the habit of delivering letters addressed to Miss Abell, care of Mr. Locke, 706 Taylor street. I then bribed him to deliver the letter in future to myself, and he promised to do so.

The following morning, that of Sunday, March 23, 1870, I went early to the post-office for my letters. As I was on the steps, the postman came out and, taking a letter from his pocket and handing it to me, said: "Here, Mr. Cash, is the first I have received since you spoke to me." I took it, and a glance at the address at once told me there was something wrong. It was post-marked Silver City, Idaho, and was addressed to Miss Abell, care of Mrs. Locke, 706 Taylor street, San Francisco. Handing \$20 to the postman, I proceeded at once to my office, as I did not dare to open it in the street. I had him accompany me, as I was not sure what the effect of its perusal might be upon me.

With a trembling hand and a heart almost bursting I tore open the envelope and it did not require many minutes to discover that my wife had been the victim of a seducer; that for many, many months I had been a grossly deceived and dishonored man—dishonored by her in whom I had placed the most implicit reliance, and that, too, through the influence and seductive powers of one against whom I had cautioned her, whose true character I had informed her of more than once, and whom I had prohibited her ever speaking to or associating with. This was Captain John Coppinger, of the Twenty-third Infantry, whom I knew to be a rouse, and a bold, unprincipled adventurer. It is not in my power to describe my feelings when I got that letter.

I at once went to my friend, Colonel W. H. L. Barnes, and gave him an outline of what had occurred. He assured me that the letter fully proved my wife's infidelity, and that he was so confounded, so astonished at the revelation that he was not able to offer me any advice whatever.

Mr. Cash then relates at considerable length the story of his announcement of the news to his wife. He says she raved and stormed, and finally avowed that she loved Coppinger and would not allow anything to be said against him. She then began to entreat him to give her the fatal letter, and her entreaties were so earnest that finally Mr. Cash, afraid to trust himself, gave the letter to M. Dingen, the restaurant keeper. That night in bed Mrs. Cash confessed her guilt, and burst into tears.

Mr. Cash thus describes what then happened: "It was then that I became in a measure evil, and, with a determination such as I never dreamed myself capable of, I resolved to take her life. I had made up my mind to suffocate her, and went into my room to get a pillow for that purpose; at the same time, I took from my pocket a Deringer pistol. Returning to her room I laid the pistol on the window sill and then moved deliberately toward her bedside.

She at once suspected what I was at, and jumping up, gave a frightful scream, and then endeavored to reach the door. Seeing that my purpose was partially foiled I seized her, by the throat; as I did so, she said, 'For God's sake, Tom, have mercy on me.' She was then on the floor, and had not the inmates of the house rushed in at that moment, she would have paid the penalty of the crime with her life, and I would have become—what?"

Next morning Mr. Cash met Mr. Barnes and Mr. Ralston by appointment and had a conversation. He says: "After discussing the matter fully it was determined by Mr. Ralston and Mr. Barnes that my wife must leave San Francisco, and that at once, and the former went immediately to see her, directing us to remain until his return. He was gone about two hours, and when he came back he announced that all was arranged; that she would leave on the following Wednesday morning overland. 'But,' he said, 'Cash, if I had not read that letter and learned the complete evidence of her guilt contained in it, I would not have believed one word against her, for she is the most plausible woman I ever met, and can tell a lie with the best face I ever saw.'

A few days after she was put on board of the train and sent east. Mr. Ralston went for her, took her to the station, and saw her comfortably provided for.

FOLLOWING THE SERPENT'S TRAIL.

After his wife's enforced departure

for Philadelphia, Mr. Cash still maintained his untiring vigilance. The postman was faithful to the trust confided in him by the injured husband, and brought him in all some ten letters. Several months before this Captain Coppinger had been ordered to command Camp Three Forks, near Winnebago station, and it was his letters to Mrs. Cash that the postman brought Mr. Cash regularly. Mr. Cash in his pamphlet says that these letters fully developed the following facts:

"First.—That their criminal intimacy had lasted a long time. That even before I started for the east, in 1869, they were in the habit of meeting and visiting the private rooms of restaurants together.

"Second.—That he invariably accompanied her in her horse back rides, and that while on these excursions they made a stopping place at the house of an old lady residing some little distance from the city, where some of their criminal intercourse were carried on.

"BABY."

"Third.—That my being compelled to occupy a separate apartment was a plan of theirs to aid them in carrying out their purpose, which was to drive me away from her so that her going to join him at his camp as his mistress might be more easily effected. To use his own words, 'If I know Cash's character he will not very long submit to such a life; and when he leaves you, you can then come to me, for my arms ache, Baby, to have you once more clasped within them.'

"Fourth.—That when on any occasion I was waiting for her to join me to go to dinner, and when she failed to do so on time it was occasioned by their occupying together, not only the house, but my rooms and bed.

"Fifth.—That when leaving Virginia City, in 1869, for the White Pine mining regions, my wife remaining behind, he joined her there, and their criminal intimacy continued while she remained at that place.

"He came on with her as far as Winnebago, and then left for Camp Three Forks, which post he had been then ordered to command.

"Sixth.—That she had received from him a sum of money (\$500), to be used by her in the event of her criminality being discovered, in order that she might not be without funds, and in order to pay her expenses in coming to him.

A KNIGHT OF THE GARTER.

"About a week after my wife's departure, under the direction of my attorney, I wrote to my father-in-law, giving him a full account of the affair. A week after I wrote him another communication, in which I informed him of further developments in the case, and to satisfy him of the truth of my assertions, I sent him, with the last, one of the intercepted letters in which one of my wife's letters was inclosed. It appeared from the contents of the document that Coppinger had taken it with him and returned it, with the request that she would wear it a few days and then send it back to him again.

"This letter I requested to be returned, which was done in due course of mail. My father-in-law wrote me at the same time, and in his letter said that the painful fact was evident that my wife and myself could not live together again, and asked me if I would be satisfied with a separation.

BRUISING THE SERPENT'S HEAD.

"Wishing to attack the author of this trouble first in his official position, and have him dismissed from the army, I laid a statement of the case before General Joseph Holt, Judge Advocate General of the army, and asked him if Coppinger could be tried under the charge of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, to which he replied in the affirmative. The case was then placed before Captain Platt, of the Second Artillery, Judge Advocate of the Military Division of the Pacific.

"The letters were then shown to have been written by Coppinger, by Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Smedberg and other officers then on duty in San Francisco, and charges would have been at once preferred, only that the death of General G. H. Thomas at that time prevented any action until the arrival of his successor, Gen. Schofield. Pending the arrival of the latter, Captain Platt wrote to General Crook, commanding the department of Oregon, in which Camp Three Forks is situated, and informed him of the case, and that charges were about to be preferred against Coppinger, and requesting that in case the latter should apply for leave of absence, to refuse it. This letter was duly replied to, and the request granted. This action on my part against Coppinger through a military court martial, was in part brought about by the suggestion of Commodore John R. Goldsborough, United States Navy, then commanding the Mare Island Navy Yard, and Captain Paul Shirley, United States Navy, then commanding the receiving ship Independence, both of whom were strong personal friends of mine. So much interest did the former take in the matter, when a statement of my wrongs was laid before him, that he went to San Francisco to see General Thomas on the subject, the very day on which the latter officer died.

THE THREE LADY CONFIDANTES.

"I soon discovered after my wife's departure from San Francisco that she had been poisoning the minds of her friends against me, in order that she might the better get away from California without causing suspicion as to the true cause. She had given out that by reason of my ill treatment, she could no longer live with me; that she was soon going to leave, not for home, but to some quiet place, where she could remain until a divorce could be procured. This was generally believed, and after she had left I was obliged, for my own sake, to make the true cause of her departure known. To three ladies, who were mutual friends—Mrs. G. W. Slatley, Mrs. Eugene De Sable, and Mrs. Grove Adams—I gave the letters to read, in order that they might satisfy themselves fully.

They were astonished, but at once saw how they, as well as myself, had been misled, and agreed with me that had it not been for my employment of the detective, she would, in a short time, have gone to join Coppinger as his mistress at Camp Three Forks."

From this forward Mr. Cash's pamphlet is taken up with an account of the efforts of his wife to effect a reconciliation. He says she sent him dispatch after dispatch begging him to come to her, as she was sick and in trouble. All these telegrams Mr. Cash laid before his friends, Mr. Ralston and Colonel Barnes, but they positively forbade his going near her or noticing anything further she might say. This continued for some time, and finally Mr. Cash allowed himself to yield. He sold out his business, and, with a heart full of love and forgiveness, set out for Philadelphia.

Before starting, Ralston said: "Cash, if you go back and live with that woman after the way she has treated you, never show your face in California again," and, on the strength of this the husband telegraphed: "My friends say that I would fatally compromise my position here by going to Philadelphia, consequently I cannot leave." But he did leave. He went off without letting anybody know, and in a few days stood at the door of the woman who had dishonored him, a suppliant for her favor. Once more did he take her in his arms, but not for long. Their subsequent life is best set forth in one more extract from Mr. Cash's pamphlet:

"I committed a grave error when I sacrificed my position in California and listened to entreaties and promises that were made only to be broken. I should have known my own character better, and what would be the inevitable result of disregarding the advice of those who were better able to think for me than I was for myself. I should have been able to see that an attempt on my part to live with a wife who had so dishonored me would only end in misery and unhappiness, and final separation. Had I not been blinded by the love I bore her, notwithstanding all her wrong doing, I would have acted differently.

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"The name of the author of the unspeakable unhappiness at misery then and since endured is John J. Coppinger, a captain in the Twenty-third regiment of infantry, United States Army. A soldier—and so-called honorable man.

This fellow is an Irish adventurer, who, having served in the army of the pope, came to this country at the breaking out of the rebellion and succeeded in obtaining a commission in our service. A soldier of fortune in every sense of the word; a rouse by profession, and a scoundrel utterly without principle.

Here it is that I must state how, when and where she first made his acquaintance. While in Panama, in 1865, the opportunity occurred for us to make an excursion to San Francisco. The Pacific Mail steamship Colorado, commanded by the late Commodore James Watkins, was then in port. She was to take up a battalion of the Fourteenth United States Infantry (out of this regiment the Twenty-third has since been formed) to California. It was in the latter part of the month of August, 1865, that we sailed.

In the natural course of events my wife was presented to the officers of the regiment, among whom was this Coppinger. But I did not observe during the first part of the voyage that she received more attention from him than others. I confess to having heard, when going the rounds of the ship and among the crowds on board, remarks about a flirtation that was being carried on by one of the officers, but as such things were common on board of California steamers, I paid no attention to them, having too much else to think about, and never dreaming that my wife's conduct was the subject of their scandal.

It was on the passage and after this occurrence that several of the officers of the regiment told me who and what Coppinger was. I then took advantage of the opportunity of imparting to my wife the information furnished me, and told her that I desired that under no circumstances would she ever have any intercourse or associate with him, and until the letter was intercepted I did not believe but that she obeyed my injunction.

Of every photograph she had taken during the time of their acquaintance a copy was sent to him. One in particular, which her friends will remember, taken at full length and in a riding costume, is mentioned several times in his letters. This was taken while in Philadelphia in 1869. She was at that time in correspondence with Coppinger, receiving his letters under a third party, a servant-girl employed in her father's house. She was also in the habit of employing her needle for his benefit in making such fancy articles as could be sent through the mail. Several of these she worked in my presence; and I had the satisfaction of having their receipt acknowledged through the letters that I secured—"American Patriot."

Rather Hard.

Words fail to express the utter contempt loyal members of the A. P. A. have for many of their associates in the order and other patriotic societies who fail to give any support whatever to a paper which has the courage to espouse their cause. Such selfish inactivity is un-American.—The American, San Diego, Cal.

As I have personal knowledge of the facts stated by you, they are detailed with entire truthfulness—with no exaggeration in the smallest particular. This is certainly due to you. I feel it, however, due to myself to state that your departure from the city was entirely without my previous knowledge, and has never had my approbation. Very respectfully, etc., WM. H. L. BARNES.

All from San Francisco Chronicle of the issue of July 21st, 1872. S. F. Chronicle, July 25, 1872. TOM CASH'S WIFE.

Colonel Coppinger Denies Mr. Cash's Statements, and Intimates that the "Chronicle" has Told an Untruth—More About the Officer who Wrote Letters to Another Man's Wife.

In the *Alta* of yesterday morning appears the following card: ANGEL ISLAND, San Francisco Harbor, July 22, 1872.—Editors *Alta*:—In the *Chronicle* of yesterday an article appeared, which purported to give part of a history of my acquaintance with a lady, formerly a resident of San Francisco.

I would state that as regards myself, the article referred to is an infamous falsehood. I am sir, very respectfully yours, J. J. COPPINGER.

In the article which appeared in the *Chronicle* on Sunday last we used this gentleman's name, and did so on the authority of the printed publication of Thomas M. Cash, the husband of "the lady formerly a resident of San Francisco," with whom Colonel Coppinger acknowledges an acquaintance.

We did not print the whole of Mr. Cash's story, but as Colonel Coppinger denies any connection with the matter and insinuates that the *Chronicle* has been untruthful, we continue Mr. Cash's narrative. In doing so, however, we disclaim any intention to take up Mr. Cash's quarrel. That must be settled by Colonel Coppinger and himself as may best please them.

After recounting his exploit in intercepting a letter to his wife, Mr. Cash thus explains who it was his author: "The name of the author of the unspeakable unhappiness at misery then and since endured is John J. Coppinger, a captain in the Twenty-third regiment of infantry, United States Army. A soldier—and so-called honorable man.

This fellow is an Irish adventurer, who, having served in the army of the pope, came to this country at the breaking out of the rebellion and succeeded in obtaining a commission in our service. A soldier of fortune in every sense of the word; a rouse by profession, and a scoundrel utterly without principle.

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It was on the passage and after this occurrence that several of the officers of the regiment told me who and what Coppinger was. I then took advantage of the opportunity of imparting to my wife the information furnished me, and told her that I desired that under no circumstances would she ever have any intercourse or associate with him, and until the letter was intercepted I did not believe but that she obeyed my injunction.

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J. T. PATCH, Attorney, Room 22 Patterson Block.

In the matter of the estate of Zulima Evans, "incompetent," application to sell real estate of said estate, to-wit: To Lydia E. Spaulding, Roger Evans and Lucy Penny. You and each of you are hereby notified that the district court of Douglas county, Nebraska, has made the following order in the above entitled cause, to-wit:

That the cause coming on to be heard upon the petition of Fred J. Stafford, guardian of Zulima Evans, "incompetent," praying for a license to sell the following described real estate, to-wit: Block one (1), Plainview, an addition to the city of Omaha, Nebraska, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of support and maintenance of said ward and medical attendance for her, and costs of administration there being no personal property for defraying said expenses.

That before ordered that all persons interested in said estate appear before me at court-room No. seven (7), Bee Building, in the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska, on the 10th day of September, 1885, to show cause why a license should not be granted to said guardian to sell said real estate of said Zulima Evans for the purpose aforesaid.

Dated this 7th day, 1885. WM. W. KEYSOR, Judge of District Court, Douglas Co., Neb. J. T. PATCH, Attorney. Doc. 31; S. J. 211.

Under and by virtue of an order of sale on decree of foreclosure of mortgage issued out of the district court for Douglas county, Nebraska, and to me directed, I will, on the 10th day of September, A. D. 1885, at 1 o'clock p. m. of said day, at the north front door of the county court house, in the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said order of sale as follows, to-wit:

The north twenty-five (25) feet of the south fifty (50) feet of lots eleven (11) and twelve (12), block two (2), Hillside addition No. 2 to the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska. Said property to be sold to satisfy Mrs. E. P. Evans, plaintiff, the sum of one hundred and twenty dollars (\$120.00), with interest thereon at ten (10) per cent. per annum from May 6, 1885, together with costs of suit and accruing costs according to a judgment rendered by the district court of said Douglas county, Nebraska, at its May term, A. D. 1885, in a certain action then and there pending, wherein Mrs. E. P. Evans was plaintiff and Helen J. Prugh et al. were defendants. Omaha, Nebraska, August 9th, 1885. ISAAC N. WATSON, Special Master Commissioner. Benjamin F. Thomas, Attorney. Evans vs. Prugh et al. Doc. 40; No. 99.

Under and by virtue of an order of sale on decree of foreclosure of mortgage issued out of the district court for Douglas county, Nebraska, and to me directed, I will, on the 10th day of September, A. D. 1885, at 1 o'clock p. m. of said day, at the north front door of the county court house, in the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said order of sale as follows, to-wit:

The south twenty-five (25) feet of lot eleven (11) and lot twelve (12), block two (2), Hillside addition No. 2 to the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska. Said property to be sold to satisfy Mary A. Martin, plaintiff, the sum of thirteen hundred and thirty-eight (1338) dollars (\$1338.00), with interest thereon at ten (10) per cent. per annum from May 6, 1885, together with costs of suit and accruing costs according to a judgment rendered by the district court of said Douglas county, Nebraska, at its May term, A. D. 1885, in a certain action then and there pending, wherein Mary A. Martin was plaintiff and Helen J. Prugh et al. were defendants. Omaha, Nebraska, August 9th, 1885. ISAAC N. WATSON, Special Master Commissioner. Benjamin F. Thomas, Attorney. Martin vs. Prugh et al. Doc. 40; No. 91.

Under and by virtue of an order of sale on decree of foreclosure of mortgage issued out of the district court for Douglas county, Nebraska, and to me directed, I will, on the 10th day of September, A. D. 1885, at 1 o'clock p. m. of said day, at the north front door of the county court house, in the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said order of sale as follows, to-wit:

Block one (1) and block four (4) in block one (1) of Mayne Place, an addition to the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska. Out of the proceeds of the sale of said lot to satisfy Philip L. Johnson, plaintiff, herein, the sum of three hundred twenty-two (322) dollars (\$322.00), with interest thereon at ten (10) per cent. per annum from May 6th, 1885, and out of the proceeds of the sale of said lot four (4) to satisfy said Philip L. Johnson, plaintiff, herein, the sum of three hundred and thirty-eight (338) dollars (\$338.00), with interest thereon at the rate of ten (10) per cent. per annum from said May 6th, 1885, and out of the proceeds of the sale of said lot three (3) and lot four (4) to satisfy the defendant, Louis S. Reed, executor of the last will of Benjamin R. Folsom, deceased, the sum of two thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight (2888) dollars (\$2888.00), with interest thereon from May 6th, 1885, at the rate of seven (7) per cent. per annum, together with one-half (1/2) of the sum of \$2810.00, with interest thereon, in, together with accruing costs, according to a judgment rendered by the District Court of Douglas county, Nebraska, at its May term, A. D. 1885, in a certain action then and there pending, wherein Philip L. Johnson was plaintiff, and James J. McIntosh, Mrs. James H. Burch, first name unknown, his wife, Lewis S. Reed, executor of the last will of Benjamin R. Folsom, deceased, Adam Ickes and Ellen Ickes, his wife, were defendants. Omaha, Nebraska, August 23rd, 1885. JOHN L. PIERCE, Special Master Commissioner. Saunders, Macfarland & Dickey, Attorneys for Plaintiff. Doc. 45; No. 169.

Under and by virtue of an order of sale on decree of foreclosure of mortgage issued out of the district court for Douglas county, Nebraska, and to me directed, I will, on the 10th day of September, A. D. 1885, at 1 o'clock p. m. of said day, at the north front door of the county court house, in the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said order of sale as follows, to-wit: The east one-half (1/2) of lot fifty-five (55) in Hartman's addition to the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska. Said property to be sold to satisfy Philip L. Johnson, plaintiff herein, the sum of one hundred fifty-one (151) dollars (\$151.00), with interest thereon at the rate of ten (10) per cent. per annum from February 4th, 1885, and twenty (20) dollars (\$20.00) costs herein, together with accruing costs according to a judgment rendered by the district court of said Douglas county, at its February term, A. D. 1885, in a certain action then and there pending, wherein Philip L. Johnson was plaintiff, and Henry Bruner and Margaret Bruner were defendants. Omaha, Nebraska, August 30, A. D. 1885. GEORGE W. HOLBROOK, Special Master Commissioner. Western Investment Company vs. H. B. Ivey et al. Doc. 45; No. 134.

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