

ALMOST A ROBBERY.

Note Extorted From "Lizzie Driscoll" by Meehan, Kelly and Golden.

Defenseless Woman Secures an Injunction Upon Kelly & Golden While She Endeavors to Recover Spoils Gotten by This Firm Through the Priest's Aid.

"The best laid plans of mice and men gang aft aglee."

The law firm of Kelly & Golden thought to enrich themselves at the expense of such a defenseless and unsuspecting woman as Lizzie Driscoll-Moran, and the sum was to be \$6,000.00; this was to be considered compensation to these men for so-called legal (though unnecessary) services; and Father Meehan was instrumental in misleading the unfortunate woman. Such is the tale unfolded in a bill of complaint filed this day in the circuit clerk's office by Mrs. Driscoll-Moran through her attorneys, Haley & O'Donnell, of Joliet. It is, as well, in the nature of a prayer for injunction to restrain said Kelly & Golden from disposing of a note given to her and that they be made defendants to said bill of complaint.

The document says that on the 21st of September, 1894, William Kennedy died, leaving a will. The complainant had been in his family for thirty-eight years, and was treated as a daughter. In his will he bequeathed to her a farm in Lyons county, Ia., one-half of his real estate in Grundy county, and \$500; also giving real and personal property to his wife, Mary Kennedy. The following day Mrs. Kennedy made her will, devising certain property to Father Lawrence M. Meehan, among other bequests giving \$1,000.00 to the complainant. The complainant was and is now a member of the Morris Catholic church, of which Father Meehan is pastor.

On November 9th, Mary Kennedy died, and her last will, as well as that of her deceased husband, was admitted to probate. Soon afterward, persons claiming to be heirs, began preparations to contest the will of Mary Kennedy.

A short time before Mary Kennedy made her will, John F. Golden came to Morris, and, after the death of Mary Kennedy, was introduced to the complainant by Father Meehan, who recommended that she employ him in and about her interests in the will of Wm. Kennedy. Meehan had then employed Golden to represent him as to his interests in the will of Mary Kennedy, in connection with his partner, Henry Kelly, of Ottawa. Mrs. Driscoll-Moran was then given to understand that the firm consisted of Blake, Kelly & Golden, and that the former, as attorney of twenty-five years' experience, was the senior member.

The complainant had always lived a retired life on a farm, had never had any experience in law matters and knew little about business, and furthermore had no friends with whom to confide. She had then no litigation requiring the services of a lawyer, but Father Meehan represented to her that it was necessary to employ the services of a lawyer and she should employ Kelly & Golden to represent her in any possible contest there might be in the future of the will of Wm. Kennedy.

A contract was drawn between her and Kelly & Golden at the urgent request of Meehan. The lawyers prepared the contract, of which the complainant says she does not know the contents, but remembers it provided they were to render services for which they should receive \$6,000. Meehan assured her this was the cheapest fee in such a case. She demanded that Blake's name be incorporated in the contract, but Kelly & Golden said they were about to rid the firm of Blake and declined to insert his name. She now shows that she left said contract with Meehan and does not know whether he has it yet, but believes he gave it to Kelly & Golden. She further shows that the contract was obtained without her free consent, upon the earnest persuasion of her pastor and two attorneys, who assumed to act for her at that time concerning the matter of the will, and that the facts were wilfully misrepresented to her when she was induced to sign the contract.

December 3, 1894, Meehan, Kelly and Golden called upon her and represented that she ought to sign a note for \$6,000, and also a new contract, and that the note should be made payable in twenty-one months and eighteen days from the date. She avows that those three men fraudulently induced her to execute this note and contract, representing to her that, either at the end of two years after Wm. Kennedy's death, or the time at which his will was probated, of which time she is uncertain, the right to contest the will would terminate and the note would be payable. She had no attorneys in her employ at that time, except Kelly & Golden, and was ignorant of the time fixed by law for contesting wills, relying implicitly upon the representations of Meehan, Kelly and Golden. The new contract, as she remembers it, provided that at the end of the specified time the \$6,000



The Men Whom Rome Is Pushing for the Democratic Nomination for President.

should become due, whether the will were contested or not. She believes the note and latter contract to be the one instrument of law, as they were executed together, and left in Meehan's custody.

Certain events occurred to arouse suspicion in Mrs. Driscoll-Moran that the attorneys were more friendly to Meehan's interests than her own.

The complainant goes on to say that she believes Wm. Kennedy was perfectly competent to execute his will and believes it is in no danger of being contested by any person. She therefore believes that the representations made by Kelly & Golden that the will was in such danger were made with the sole intent to extort this vast sum of money from her. She has learned that she can employ the best legal counsel for such work for one-sixth the amount of her note, and states that her inheritance will not exceed \$21,000.

About October 7th last Meehan called on the complainant and advised her to make arrangements with Kelly & Golden to have them sell her land in Iowa, take their money out of the proceeds and give her the balance. This she refused. A week later Meehan and Golden visited her and asked her to sign a note to fall due nine months later than the previous one for the same amount, that she make a new contract with them for further services; and particularly that the note be a judgment note, so that they might enter up judgment at any time and in the manner before suggested. She was in a very nervous and agitated condition at the time, but the unscrupulous men would not desist. They sent for Kelly, from Ottawa, and all three called at night and renewed their demands, they informing her that it was for her best interests. Under these conditions the new note was signed. This furthermore provided \$100 attorney's fees for entering up judgment. This note she believes Kelly took to Ottawa. She became frightened and begged Meehan to get the note and hold it.

The complainant further shows that when she signed the last note, the former was canceled, but the former contract was taken by Henry Kelly, who said he would use parts of it in framing a new contract. She said the only contract she would sign was one containing the provision that an experienced lawyer should be chosen by her to have a hand in the matter, and Meehan promised to have this incorporated. She represents, however, that this was not agreed upon between her and Kelly & Golden.

It is further claimed that Kelly & Golden threaten to enter up judgment at once, sell the farm in Iowa, take their money and thereby create a cloud upon the title. Mrs. Driscoll-Moran says the contract was obtained by undue influence and fraud and asks that it be not considered her deed. She prays for an injunction to restrain said Kelly & Golden from disposing of the note and asks that they be

made defendants to the bill of complaint filed.

The injunction has been issued by Judge Dibble.

While trying to amass wealth, Kelly & Golden have evidently not succeeded in covering their true intent and purpose. It is reported on good authority that the representative citizens of Ottawa denounce their methods upon hearing their boasts in that city that they are making big money in Morris. It is said that Kelly is building a mansion in Ottawa which he boasts is the result of his success with legal fees in Morris, and upon the basis of which he secured the necessary credit to go on with the work.—*Morris Herald.*

EDITOR ARRAIGNED FOR LABEL.

Priests Are the Injured Parties—Writings of the Newspaper Man Calculated to Cause Holy Men Trepidation.

A roomful of spectators watched with the closest interest the proceedings in Judge Payne's court today, says the *Chicago Daily News* of October 15, when Bortas Bittner, editor of the Bohemian paper *Sotek*, was put on trial for libeling the Rt. Rev. Abbott Jaeger, of St. Benedict's Abbey, at Eighteenth and Allport streets.

The *Sotek* is a satirical journal, and, Anglicized, the name means "Laughing Devil." It has been severe in its reference to the priesthood, and the terms employed in alluding to the church and its ministers have been so excessively gross that the priests of the Order of St. Benedict in the Allport street abbey were obliged some time ago to call upon the law to protect them from Editor Bittner's attacks. He was indicted on five or six charges of criminal libel, and, though his diatribes were applied promiscuously to the monks, and his harshest strictures extended to all phases of their ministry, he was explicit in accusing several of them of a violation of priestly vows and general misconduct.

This is an extract from the *Laughing Devil's* article that got its editor into trouble, because Father Frederick Henn complained that he was libeled in passages of it which are suppressed:

"Dear Sheep of the Mischievous Gang: Again has approached the most holy Easter time, when the pious souls eat lambs and the holy church celebrates the glorious resurrection. During this time unusual piety enters into the hearts of the Romanists and their papers, and alike all nature revives and grows in its freshness; so also the priestly mouths open themselves with greater noise and emit horrible heaps of insults. For it is known to all men that the consecrated fathers and the stolid old women can abuse the best and most eloquently, so that not even the prophet Isaiah, with all his floridly of style, can size himself to their mouthpieces. And not the least among those highly gifted and lowly mean experts, dear sheep, is the Benedictine 'Nard' which is scribbled and

pressed by the fat monks on a street called Allport, in the very heart of our Bohemian Pilsen."

An extract from another article, upon which Bittner was indicted for libeling Father Bobal, ran this way:

"When the time of city elections comes we shall go to the politicians and they will be soft as butter—to-day we take a different route which leads to the priests' houses of the anointed servants of the Lord. Since these gentlemen fish in muddy waters, and incessantly are squeezing every cent from their sheep in a barbarous way, hence let them return something of this rich wool, and our mouths will atound with their praises."

Violation of monkish vows and loose conduct were charged against Abbot Jaeger by Editor Bittner, but this noon, when he was arraigned for trial, he pleaded not guilty.

He is a stocky, thick-set man, Bittner, a freethinker, educated for the law, and admittedly bitter against religious doctrine and their defenders. It soon became apparent that on account of this religious feeling, which became prominent in the proceedings, it would be no easy matter to select a jury. By order of the court, after a short consultation with Assistant State's Attorney Morrison and counsel for Bittner, all Catholics were excused from the jury. The first few moments saw nine talesmen leave because they were Catholics. Then representatives of the American Protective Association were barred, and one man quit his seat for that reason. Masons were permitted to serve, as the court said he knew that order was prejudicial against no religion, he being a Mason himself.

It thus happened that none but members of Protestant churches were left on the jury, but even then it seemed, so far as the jury was concerned, very little religion would enter into the trial.

DASTARDLY OUTRAGE.

Ignorant Romanists Throw Rotten Eggs Into an A. P. A. Meeting.

VIRGINIA CITY, Nev., Oct. 21.—A very patriotic and enjoyable meeting of Virginia Council No. 2, A. P. A. was held last Thursday. An invitation was extended to the councils of the surrounding towns, and in response thereto a special train carrying 300 members with their wives and daughters arrived at 8 o'clock p. m. An immense delegation of local members received the visitors at the depot and escorted them to National Guard Hall, which had been especially engaged for the occasion.

After arriving at the hall, which was filled to overflowing, patriotic addresses were delivered and national airs sung, after which it was announced that the object of the meeting was to impress upon the minds of the ladies present the necessity for the organization of a W. A. P. A. council, which announcement was greeted with loud applause. Arrangements were made

for the circulation of a petition in order to procure signatures for a W. A. P. A. charter, and everything indicates that before long we will have a flourishing and energetic W. A. P. A. council in the midst of us.

The only unpleasant occurrence of the evening was the throwing of rotten eggs by a gang of low-lived, degraded scoundrels, whose ignorance proved them to be members of the Roman Catholic Church. An attempt was made to capture the parties of the foul and contemptible act, but the cowardly and dastardly villains made their escape. It was fortunate for the whelps that our chief of police and sheriff have the same character and the same map on their countenance as the offenders. When the scrubs were committing the act the chief of police was present and made no attempt to stop them, thereby showing his incompetence for the position he occupies, but we hope that after next election the present chief will be obliged to search for another position.

Virginia Council No. 2 is here to stay, and will endeavor to stop such characters as those who disgraced our town last Thursday night.

Yours for the cause, R.

Rome Loses a Convert.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Oct. 25.—Rev. Walter C. Clapp, who a year ago seceded from the Episcopal and joined the Roman Catholic Church, has, according to his own statement, become convinced that he took a wrong step, and now he has left the Catholic church, and has returned to the Episcopal, or Anglican faith. He has written to Bishop Nicholson, in Milwaukee, saying that he made a mistake, acknowledging the wrong he has done, and making unconditional submission to the bishop. He is at present staying at the house of the Fathers of the Holy Cross, at Westminster, Md., where he remains under the direction and discipline of Bishop Nicholson. At the time of Mr. Clapp's withdrawal from the Episcopal Church he was one of the professors in the Nashotah Theological Seminary, and his action in seceding caused a sensation. The fact was at that time emphasized that another of the ritualistic priests had gone over to the Catholic faith. It is not known yet to what part of the country Bishop Nicholson will assign him, but there is a possibility of his returning to this section.

Priest Flaherty Gets a Stay.

GENESEO, N. Y., October 11.—Hon. George Raines, counsel for Fr. Flaherty, and District Attorney Carter appeared before Judge Bradley, in Rochester, in regard to the appeal in the case of Flaherty, who was sentenced to Auburn for seven years on Wednesday for the betrayal of a 15-year-old girl in the confessional. Judge Bradley granted a certificate of reasonable doubt and a stay of sixty days was allowed for the notice of appeal for a new trial. Bail to the amount of \$10,000 was secured at midnight last night and Flaherty was released from jail.

Civil and Religious Freedom in Utah.

The fight in Utah against the domination of the Mormon church in politics is progressing with great vigor, and is attracting the attention of the entire country. The Democratic state convention, which reassembled the 22d inst., issued a powerful address, protesting against interference of the Mormon hierarchy in the election, appealing to the patriotism of voters and making an eloquent argument in behalf of religious and political liberty for the people of the new state.

The election on the adoption of the new state constitution and to choose state officers will be held November 5. A member of Congress and a state legislator will be elected at the same time. The legislature will choose two United States senators. The Democrats did not follow their first impulse, to withdraw their candidates and to labor for the defeat of the new constitution. They must have had assurances of strong popular support from all men of all parties opposed to Mormon ecclesiastical domination, or they would not have abandoned the policy which they first had under consideration.

Instead of leaving the field, the Democrats determined to prosecute their campaign with the greatest vigor. Their declaration of principles consists of a number of articles, as follows:

That man may worship his Maker as his conscience dictates.

That no state nor political body has the right to interfere with this great privilege.

That man's first allegiance politically is to his country.

That no church, ecclesiastical body nor spiritual adviser should encroach upon the political rights of the individual.

That in a free country no man nor body of men can, with safety to the state, use the name or the power of any religious sect or society to influence or control the elective franchise.

That a trust is imposed upon each citizen in a free country to act, politically, upon his own judgment and absolutely free from control or dictation, ecclesiastical or otherwise.

That no political party can be required to obtain the consent of any church or the leader thereof before selecting its candidate for public office.

That no citizen, by reason of his association with any church, can be absolved from his duty to the state, either in time of war or of peace, without the consent of the state.

That all men should be, and of right are, free to think, free to act, free to speak and free to vote without fear, molestation, intimidation or undue influence.

Mass meetings are called to be held in every settlement of the territory October 30, at which addresses will be made and there will be a free discussion on the subject of Mormon dictation in the elections. At these meetings the Democratic address will be read, and the people are asked "to solemnly consecrate themselves, their efforts, their property and all that they hold dear, if need be, to this cause of human liberty."

At no period of American history has an issue been before the voters in any state more important than that now pending in Utah. It is a simple question whether Utah shall come into the Union as a civilized and free state or whether its new institutions shall gain life from the malevolent inspiration of the "twin relic of barbarism."—*Editorial in Chicago Daily Chronicle (Dem.), October 27.*

St. Bartholomew.

A person signing himself "Reader" asks the *Inter-Ocean*: "When did the massacre of St. Bartholomew occur?"—and that paper on September 24th said it "began with the tolling of the midnight bell August 23rd, 1572." I do not know whether that was a typographical error or not, but reliable church historians place the date as September 22nd, 1572. It is generally understood that the midnight bell on September 23rd would mean at the end of that day at midnight and not at the commencement. At this time it is stated 500 noblemen and 6,000 other Protestants were butchered in Paris alone, and in different parts of the kingdom there were butchered from 30,000 to 100,000 Protestants. The A. P. A.'s think they should have had an A. P. A. there, and they argue that these deeds of these gentlemen who are dressed in the livery of heaven is the cause of the A. P. A. now. ALEPH.

Priest Accused of Arson.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Oct. 23.—Bishop McQuaid has removed Rev. J. M. Fitzgerald, indicted for arson, from the pastorate of Holy Cross parish, Charlotte, and appointed Rev. William Payne, of Stanley, as his successor. The bishop also suspended Father Fitzgerald from exercising any priestly functions until after his trial on the charge of arson. If he is acquitted, there is no certainty that his priestly faculties will be restored, as it is understood that he will have to appear before an ecclesiastical court, which will determine whether he shall have charge of a parish.

Roman Divisions.

The Church of Rome has divided the United States up into provinces, with an archbishop at the head of each. This is typical of the hope she has of wiping out state lines and governing the provinces through her archbishops, in the not distant future. For this purpose she is arming her Hibernian Rifle-men and other secret orders.—*Liberty.*