

appearing on the threshold of a door, which she had just thrown open—there was a pause of deep and solemn silence. Every bosom seemed oppressed, and as if struggling for breath. All experienced, at sight of this woman, surprise mingled with fear, and indefinable anxiety—for this woman was the living original of the portrait, which had been placed in the room a hundred and fifty years ago. The same head-dress, the same flowing robe, the same countenance, so full of poignant and resigned grief! She advanced slowly, and without appearing to perceive the deep impression she had caused. She approached one of the pieces of furniture, inlaid with brass, touched a spring concealed in the moulding of gilded bronze, so that an upper drawer flew open, and taking from it a sealed parchment envelope, she walked up to the table, and placed this packet before the notary, who, hitherto silent and motionless, received it mechanically from her.

Then, casting upon Gabriel, who seemed fascinated by her presence, a long, mild, melancholy look, this woman directed her steps towards the hall, the door of which had remained open. As she passed near Samuel and Bathsheba, who were still kneeling, she stopped an instant, bowed her fair head towards them, and looked at them with tender solicitude. Then, giving them her hands to kiss, she glided away as slowly as she had entered—throwing a last glance upon Gabriel. The departure of this woman seemed to break the spell under which all present had remained for the last few minutes. Gabriel was the first to speak, exclaiming, in an agitated voice: "she—again—here—in this house!"

"Who, brother?" said Agricola, uneasy at the pale and almost wild looks of the missionary; for the smith had not yet remarked the strange resemblance of the woman to the portrait, though he shared in the general feeling of amazement, without being able to explain it to himself. Dagobert and Faringhea were in a similar state of mind.

"Who is this woman?" resumed Agricola, as he took the hand of Gabriel, which felt damp and icy cold.

"Look!" said the young priest. "Those portraits have been there for more than a century and a half."

He pointed to the paintings, before which he was now seated, and Agricola, Dagobert and Faringhea raised their eyes to either side of the fireplace. Three exclamations were now heard at once.

"It is she—it is the same woman!" cried the smith, in amazement, "and her portrait has been here for a hundred and fifty years!"

"What do I see?" cried Dagobert, as he gazed at the portrait of the man. "The friend and emissary of Marshal Simon. Yes! it is the same face that I saw last year in Siberia. Oh, yes! I recognize that wild and sorrowful air—those black eye-brows, which make only one!"

"My eyes do not deceive me," muttered Faringhea to himself, shuddering with horror. "It is the same man, with the black mark on his forehead, that we strangled and buried on the banks of Ganges—the same man, that one of the sons of Bowance told me, in the ruins of Tehandi, had been met by him afterwards at one of the gates of Bombay—the man of the fatal curse, who scatters death upon his passage—and his picture has existed for a hundred and fifty years!"

And, like Dagobert and Agricola, the Strangler could not withdraw his eyes from that strange portrait.

"What a mysterious resemblance!" thought Father d'Aigrigny. Then, as if struck with a sudden idea, he said to Gabriel: "But this woman is the same that saved your life in America."

"It is the same," answered Gabriel, with emotion; "and yet she told me she was going towards the North," added the young priest, speaking to himself.

"But how came she in this house?" said Father d'Aigrigny, addressing Samuel. "Answer me! did this woman come in with you, or before you?"

"I came in first, and alone, when this door was first opened since a century and half," said Samuel, gravely.

"Then how can you explain the presence of this woman here?" said Father d'Aigrigny.

"I do not try to explain it," said the Jew. "I see, I believe, and now I hope," added he, looking at Bathsheba with an indefinable expression.

"But you ought to explain the presence of this woman!" said Father d'Aigrigny, with vague uneasiness. "Who is she? How came she hither?"

"All I know is, sir, that my father has often told me, there are subterranean communications between this house and distant parts of the quarter."

"Oh! then nothing can be clearer," said Father d'Aigrigny; "it only remains to be known what this woman intends by coming hither. As for her singular resemblance of this portrait, it is one of the freaks of nature."

Rodin had shared in the general emotion, at the apparition of this mysterious woman. But when he saw that she had delivered a sealed packet to the notary, the socius, instead of thinking of the strangeness of this unexpected vision, was only occupied with a violent desire to quit the house with the treasure which had just fallen to the Company. He felt a vague anxiety at sight of the envelope with the black seal, which the protectress of Gabriel had delivered to the notary, and was still held mechanically in his hands. The socius, therefore, judging this a very good opportunity to walk off with the casket, during the general silence and stupor which still continued, slightly touched Father d'Aigrigny's elbow, made him a sign of intelligence, and, tucking the cedar-wood chest under his arm, was hastening towards the door.

"One moment, sir," said Samuel, rising, and standing in his path; "I request M. Notary to examine the envelope, that has just been delivered to him. You may then go out."

"But, sir," said Rodin, trying to force a passage, "the question is definitively decided in favor of Father d'Aigrigny. Therefore, with your permission—"

"I tell you, sir," answered the old man, in a loud voice: "that this casket shall not leave the house, until M. Notary has examined the envelope just delivered to him!"

These words drew the attention of all. Rodin was forced to retrace his steps. Notwithstanding the firmness of his character, the Jew shuddered at the look of implacable hate which Rodin turned upon him at this moment.

Yielding to the wish of Samuel, the notary examined the envelope with attention. "Good Heaven!" he cried, suddenly; "what do I see?—Ah! so much the better!"

At this exclamation, all eyes turned upon the notary. "Oh! read, read, sir!" cried Samuel, clasping his hands together. "My presentiments have not then deceived me!"

"But, sir," said Father d'Aigrigny to the notary, for he began to share in the anxiety of Rodin, "what is this paper?"

"A codicil," answered the notary; "a codicil, which re-opens the whole question."

"How, sir?" cried Father d'Aigrigny, in a fury, as he hastily drew nearer to the notary, "re-opens the whole question! By what right?"

"It is impossible," added Rodin. "We protest against it."

"Gabriel! father! listen," cried Agricola, "all is not lost. There is yet hope. Do you hear Gabriel? There is yet hope."

"What do you say?" exclaimed the young priest, rising, and hardly believing the words of his adopted brother.

"Gentlemen," said the notary, "I will read to you the superscription of this envelope. It changes, or rather, it adjourns, the whole of the testamentary provisions."

"Gabriel!" cried Agricola, throwing himself on the neck of the missionary, "all is adjourned, nothing is lost!"

"Listen, gentlemen," said the notary; and he read as follows:

"This is a Codicil, which, for reasons herein stated, adjourns and prorogues to the 1st day of June, 1832, though without any other change, all the provisions contained in the testament made by me, at one o'clock this afternoon. The house shall be reclosed, and the funds left in the hands of the same trustee, to be distributed to the rightful claimants on the 1st of June, 1832."

Villetaneuse, this 13th of February, 1682, eleven o'clock at night.

MARIUS DE RENNEPONT."

"I protest against this codicil as a forgery!" cried Father d'Aigrigny livid with rage and despair.

"The woman who delivered it to the notary is a suspicious character," added Rodin. "The codicil has been forged."

"No, sir," said the notary, severely: "I have just compared the two signatures, and they are absolutely alike. For the rest—what I said this morning, with regard to the absent heirs, is now applicable to you—the law is open; you may dispute the authenticity of this codicil. Meanwhile, everything will remain suspended—since the term for the adjustment of the inheritance is prolonged for three months and a half."

When the notary had uttered these last words, Rodin's nails dripped blood; for the first time, his wan lips became red.

"Oh, God! Thou hast heard and granted my prayer!" cried Gabriel, kneeling down with religious fervor, and turning his angelic face towards heaven. "Thy sovereign justice has not let iniquity triumph!"

"What do you say, my brave boy?" cried Dagobert, who, in the first tumult of joy, had not exactly understood the meaning of the codicil.

"All is put off, father!" exclaimed the smith; "the heirs will have three months and a half

(Continued on page 8.)

Notice of Administration. In the county court of Douglas county, Nebraska. In the matter of the estate of Edward J. Doncker, deceased. All persons interested in said estate are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in said Court alleging that said deceased died leaving no last will and praying for administration upon his estate, and that if they fail to appear at said Court on the 25th day of April, 1888, at 9 o'clock A. M. to contest the said petition, the Court may grant the same and grant administration of said estate to Augustus H. Doncker, or any other suitable person and proceed to a settlement thereof. IRVING F. HASTEN, county Judge.

W. A. SAUNDERS, Attorney, Merchants National Bank Bldg. SHERIFF'S SALE.—By virtue of an order of the district court of the district court for Douglas county, Nebraska, and to me directed, I will, on the 10th day of May, A. D. 1888, at ten o'clock a. m. of said day, at the EAST 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: Lot four (4), block three hundred and sixty-six (366) in the original plan, being the city of Omaha, as surveyed, platted and recorded and all being situated in Douglas county, state of Nebraska.

Said property to be sold to satisfy Harry J. Twining, plaintiff herein, the sum of Fifty-six and 75/100 (\$56.75) dollars judgment, with interest thereon at the rate of ten (10) per cent per annum from September 27, 1887, together with an attorney's fee of five and 65/100 (\$5.65) dollars which said amounts are a first lien upon said above-described property.

To satisfy the further sum of sixteen and 65/100 (\$16.65) dollars costs herein, together with accruing costs, according to the judgment rendered by the district court of said Douglas county, state of Nebraska, at its September term, A. D. 1887, in a certain action then and there pending, wherein Harry J. Twining's plaintiff and The American National Bank of Omaha, Nebraska, a corporation organized under the laws of the United States, Samuel S. Curtis and Kate Bird Curtis are defendants. Omaha, Nebraska, April 15th, 1888.

JOHN W. McDONALD, Sheriff of Douglas County, Nebraska. W. A. Saunders, attorney. Trusting vs. Am. Nat. Bank et al. Doc. 61, No. 225, Ex. I. P. 242. 4-15-5

J. T. PATCH, Attorney, Room 22 Patterson Block. In the District Court of Douglas county, Nebraska. In the matter of the estate of Charles B. Evans, deceased.

To Lydia E. Spaulding and Roger C. Evans: You are hereby notified that the District Court of Douglas county, Nebraska, made the following order in the above entitled action, to-wit:

Now this cause coming on for hearing on the report of the administrator of the above estate of the sale of the West one-half of Lot E. Eighteen (18) Fremont Place, an addition to the city of Omaha, Nebraska, for the payment of paying debts and expenses of administration in pursuance of a license granted by this court on the 13th day of November, 1887, and it appearing by said report that said one-half lot was sold on the 11th day of April, 1888, to Emma C. Bohm for the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500) cash in hand paid; it is therefore ordered that all persons interested in said estate be notified to appear before me at Court Room No. 7, of the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, on the 16th day of May, 1888, at 10 o'clock, a. m., of said day to show cause if any why said sale should be confirmed and a deed given to the purchaser thereof, by service of this order, publication of same to be in the weekly AMERICAN on non-residents.

Dated this 15th day of April 1888. J. FAWCETT, Judge. Doc. 61, No. 326. 4-15-4

W. H. RUSSELL, Attorney, 116 New York Life Building. SHERIFF'S SALE.—By virtue of a 2nd pluries order of sale issued out of the district court for Douglas county, Nebraska, and to me directed, I will, on the 16th day of April, A. D. 1888, at ten o'clock a. m. of said day, at the EAST 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 of the southwest quarter (E 1/2 S. W. 1/4) and the west forty-nine and 36/100 (49.36) acres of the west one-half of the southeast quarter (W 1/2 S. E. 1/4) of section number eighteen (18) and the north nineteen (19) acres of the west twenty-four and 68/100 (24.68) acres of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter (N. W. 1/4 of N. E. 1/4) of section number seventeen (17) all in Township sixteen (16) north, Range thirteen (13) east of the Sixth Principal Meridian containing one hundred and forty eight and 36/100 (148.36) acres more or less as surveyed, and recorded, all situated in Douglas county, state of Nebraska.

Said property to be sold to satisfy Michigan Mutual Life Insurance Co., plaintiff herein, the sum of four thousand eight hundred and thirty and 67/100 (\$4,830.67) dollars judgment, with interest thereon at rate of ten (10) per cent per annum from May 3rd, 1885.

To satisfy Saloma Bowman defendant herein the sum of eight hundred and ninety six and 25/100 (\$896.25) dollars judgment, with interest thereon at rate of ten (10) per cent per annum from May 3rd, 1885.

And to satisfy said Michigan Mutual Life Insurance Company, plaintiff herein, the further sum of one hundred and thirty-nine and 96/100 (\$139.96) dollars judgment for taxes paid thereon by said plaintiff in order to protect its lien thereon with interest on forty-six and 65/100 (\$46.65) dollars from July 3rd, 1884, at ten (10) per cent per annum, and interest on the sum of ninety three and 91/100 (\$93.91) dollars at the rate of ten (10) per cent per annum from December 23rd, 1885.

To satisfy the further sum of one hundred and 25/100 (\$100.25) dollars costs herein, together with accruing costs, according to a judgment rendered by the district court of said Douglas county, at its May term, A. D. 1888, in a certain action then and there pending, wherein the Michigan Mutual Life Insurance Company is plaintiff and Julia E. Vandercreek, James E. Vandercreek, The Mutual Investment Company, John L. Pierce Receiver of the Mutual Investment Company and Saloma Bowman are defendants. Omaha, Nebraska, April 15th, 1888.

JOHN W. McDONALD, Sheriff of Douglas County, Nebraska. W. H. Russell, attorney. Mich. Mut. Life Ins Co. vs. Vandercreek et al. Doc. 54, No. 184. 4-15-6



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