

THE PRISONS OF POPE LEO.

A Young Girl Imprisoned at Hard Labor for Eight Years.

The Washington Post, of Dec. 9, 1902 says: Henrietta Sanford, a young woman who has been for eight years an inmate of the house of the good shepherds, was released yesterday on a writ of habeas corpus, issued by Judge Bradley at the instance of her brother, George W. Sanford, who complained that she was detained there against her will. The case created a genuine sensation at the court house, and was attended by dramatic scenes.

The house of the good shepherds is an institution in Georgetown, under the charge of Catholic sisters, wherein young women and girls are sheltered, sometimes at the request of relatives or officials of the police court.

George W. Sanford, who procured the release of his sister from the institution, is a shoemaker, living at 317 Delaware avenue northeast. Yesterday morning Mr. Sanford and his wife went to the court house in company with Attorney Chase Roys, a petition for a writ of habeas corpus had been drawn by the attorney, and he submitted this to Judge Bradley, who was on the bench in the equity court. The petition was in the name of George W. Sanford, and the material part of it read as follows:

"Henrietta Sanford when about sixteen years old, being then an orphan and in the care and custody of petitioner, was placed temporarily, by his advice and consent, in the house of the good shepherds, now located at the corner of T and Thirty-sixth streets northwest, in this district, and the said Henrietta has not been confined in the house of the good shepherds for a very long period of time, for about eight years, from her sixteenth to her twenty-fourth year, and that she is so closely confined there that she is never allowed to leave the premises or grounds of said house.

"And petitioner has good reason to believe and does believe and alleges that Henrietta Sanford is there confined, imprisoned and restrained of her liberty by mother M. Martin, the superioress of said house of the good shepherds, and without any reasonable or legal cause or pretense whatever.

"Wherefore your petitioner prays the supreme court of the district of Columbia for a writ of habeas corpus to the end that the said Henrietta Sanford, by whatever name she may be called, may be discharged from the custody of the said mother M. Martin, superioress of the said house of good shepherds."

When Judge Bradley read the petition he ordered the writ to issue, and it was placed in the hands of Deputy Marshal Edward Ransdell for service. While the deputy was gone to serve the writ Mr. Sanford waited at the court house. He paced up and down the corridor and shed tears, seeming to be considerably agitated.

"My sister was sent to the house of good shepherds when she was a mere girl," he said. "She was left an orphan and I was not able to take care of her, so she went there with the understanding that she was to remain for a year or two. Instead of that she has been kept for eight years. When we have tried to get her away, we were told that she wanted to stay. During all this time she has never been allowed to leave the institution, being kept strictly within doors. I have not been permitted to speak with her alone, nor to see her, except through iron gratings. When my wife and I have visited her there was always a sister in the room, so that we could not talk freely. I have ask her if she did not want to come and live with us, but she said she preferred to remain there. The sister generally told her to say so. We knew from her manner that she was not happy there. Some time ago she received a little money from a pension due her father, not very much six or seven hundred dollars, and the sisters took charge of that. I heard that Henrietta was to take the veil and vows of a sister. I have been terribly worried by the thought that she was unhappy. Finally I determined to appeal to the court and see if she could not get her liberty. It does not seem natural that a young woman should be kept from all the pleasures of life in that way."

Deputy Marshal Ransdell was accompanied to the institution by Mrs. Sanford. They inquired for the young woman, and after some demur on Mr. Ransdell account were allowed to walk with her through the grating in the presence of one of the sisters. She was addressed as Sister Rose. When asked if she did not wish to go to her brother's house to live, Henrietta or "Sister Rose," replied, "I am going to stay here." Mr. Ransdell said that her manner was unhappy and she appeared ready to cry. He inquired for the

mother superior and served the writ upon her. She promised to bring her change to the court house at once, in answer to the summons.

The mother superior came into the equity court at 2 o'clock with Henrietta Sanford. The latter, a rather handsome young woman, with very rosy cheeks, was dressed in a plain black garment. The two took seats in the court, and Mr. Sanford asked Judge Bradley if he might talk with his sister. The judge directed them to go into his consultation room. As the young woman rose the mother superior started to accompany her, but Mr. Sanford waved her back. For the first time in eight years the brother and sister were together. When they returned to the court room, after fifteen minutes, both of them were wiping their eyes.

When the regular business of the court was ended at 3 o'clock, Mr. Roys presented the case. The only question was whether the young lady remained in the home against her will, he said. The mother superior stepped up to the judge and handed him a sheet of note paper. This gave the date of the girl's admission to the house of the Good Shepherd, and denied that she was detained in any way against her will.

"Do you prefer to remain there or live with your brother?" the judge asked.

The mother superior said something to the girl, and she rose and replied faintly, "I am not detained."

"There seems to be something like intimidation of this girl in the presence of the mother superior," said Mr. Roys. "I would like to have your honor question her alone."

Judge Bradley, Mr. Sanford and the girl stepped into the consultation room for five minutes. When the judge returned to the bench he announced his decision in these words:

"Although there has been no formal return to this writ, the lady in charge of the institution, or the lady who brings the young woman here, said that she was there of her own free will, and had no desire to come out. I have had a conversation with her in the presence of her brother, who did not interpose at all, and I am satisfied that she is not there of her own free will, that she desires to come out and live with her brother's family, and only wanted the assurance of the court's protection to do so inasmuch as this institution has no claim upon her, since she has never been committed there by any legal authority, and as she is over twenty-one years of age and her own mistress, the court orders that she be discharged, and go to her brother's family as she wishes to."

This opinion was embodied in an order declaring all claims of the house of the good shepherd to the custody of Henrietta Sanford, invalid, and L. this Judge Bradley affixed his signature. The mother superior shook hands with the girl and walked out. She refused to speak of the case to a Post reporter except to say that her charge had not been detained against her will.

The members of the Sanford family seemed to be overjoyed at the outcome of the case. Henrietta laughed and cried alternately. Several people shook hands with her, and she shook hands with the judge and thanked him.

"They did not give me enough to eat," she said. "When I wanted to leave they told me my brother just wanted to get my money. I was afraid to tell him that I wanted to come home." She was too greatly agitated to talk at length.

When a reporter called at the Sanford house in the evening he was told that the whole family had gone to the theater.

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CITY NEWS.

The county commissioners organized the new board by electing Judge Stenberg chairman, then made the following appointments:

Geo. H. Stricker and wife superintendent and matron respectively of the county hospital.

Dan Barry, superintendent of out door charity.

Dr. W. H. Lanyon county physician.

County Attorney Kaley has appointed his assistants. They are A. C. Trapp and H. L. Day.

Our Friend Shoop, of the police force was married yesterday to Miss Tena Bernsten. No one has more friends than Shoop and they will all wish him many years of happy married life.

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**SPECIAL SALE**  
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The Holidays are over and the very busy days are gone, now to business.

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