

THE SERVITE SISTERS.

The Prosecution Seems to Resolve into Persecution.

One of Them Pushed Aside and Ordered Out of an Office by an Attorney for the Church.

The plot against the Servite Sisters seems to thicken. Violence and force play an important part now.

And Attorney-General Moloney is the individual making use of them according to Sister Gertrude.

His demonstration was directed against one of the congregation known as Sister Gertrude.

A woman. Slight of build. Mild of manner, and weak from years of constant toil.

Yet her frailness, nor her weakness prevented a mad and furious man from laying violent hands on her.

In fact it may have incited him to the deed, for none but a coward lays hands on a woman.

None but a ruffian loses his temper and allows the animal in his make-up to so far gain the mastery over him as to cause him to use force to regain possession of a paper which has been voluntarily placed in a woman's hands.

But there may have been something of vital importance in that document.

Grave charges may have been drawn up against the sisterhood to conform to the story published in the Dispatch, and proof to substantiate may not have been forthcoming.

The name of the archbishop may have been mentioned therein, which more mature deliberation may have incited a desire to eliminate.

Or a weak point in the case of the prosecution may have been discovered, which would practically non-suit the representatives of the church.

At all events, a woman was rudely caught by the shoulder and pushed aside. The pushing was done by a biped commonly known as a man, and according to the story told us by Sister Gertrude, was witnessed by a Daily News reporter and several other gentlemen.

Of the occurrence the Daily News says:

A strange scene was enacted in the office of Attorney-General Moloney this morning, which resulted in Sister Gertrude, of the Catholic Community of Servite Sisters, being ordered out of the place under pain of being forcibly ejected.

When she left the office it was to stagger across the hall and fall fainting at the door of Attorney Brady's office.

The unusual occurrence was the result of the impending legal battle about to be waged by Sister Veronica, an alleged recalcitrant member of the Servite Sisters, who is backed by Archbishop Feehan, against the reverend mother superior of St. Mary's convent and seminary at West Van Buren street and Albany avenue.

The property is valued at over \$500,000 and is the cause of the litigation. Some time ago Sister Veronica and several other members of the community left the convent, claiming that a great scandal was hidden within its walls in the presence of Prof. McDonald, a music teacher in the seminary. Sister Veronica also complained that the valuable property was vested in Elizabeth Cooling, Mother Superior Mary Frances' secular name, notwithstanding the fact that the money necessary to maintain the institution was contributed to the Servite Sisters. Out of this grows the litigation and the rumors of an information to be filed by the attorney-general at the request of Archbishop Feehan. Sister Veronica, whose name was Maggie Murphy, claims to have solicited funds to maintain the institution and for these services demands \$25,000, while the archbishop seeks a conveyance of the property.

Sister Gertrude Calls on Moloney.

This morning Sister Gertrude, who is one of the firm supporters of Mother Superior Frances, went to the attorney-general's office to protest to him against his taking any hand in the legal fight, as it was thought he had in preparation a bill in chancery against the mother superior. An assistant ushered her into one of the small private offices.

"Would you like to look at the bill?" he asked, thinking that his visitor was one of Sister Veronica's adherents.

She Becomes Agitated.

A moment later Sister Gertrude was reading the bill in chancery all ready to be filed. Page after page she perused, trembling as she read the charges of immorality about to be placed on record against her mother superior. The attorney-general's assistant gazed in astonishment at the woman's agitation and wondered at the cause. The next moment he knew, for Mr. Moloney stepped to the door and stopped on the threshold as if he had been seized with a paralytic fit.

"Why did you give that woman that bill?" he demanded fiercely, as he snatched the document from her hands. The attorney-general was in a terrible rage and his face assumed a purple hue as he spoke.

"That is Sister Gertrude," he continued, "and you have shown her the contents of the bill."

Then he turned to the trembling sister, while the assistants and lawlers in the office crowded about the door to see what was the matter.

Moloney Roughly Orders Her Out.

"There is the door, get out of it, quick!" shouted Mr. Moloney at her. "You have disgraced the office you occupy and the vestments you wear."

In vain the weeping woman expostulated against the language that had been directed against her, and after



CHICAGO ELECTION METHODS: INVESTIGATION SHOWS THAT THE PURITY OF THE BALLOT HAS BEEN OUTRAGED.

appealing in vain to the men gathered about her, she staggered out of the door and fell fainting into the office of Attorney Matthew Brady, across the hallway.

"He used me shamefully, and I will sue him," Sister Gertrude said a few minutes later to a Daily News reporter. "I knew that the attorney-general sympathized with Sister Veronica, and went to his office to ask only fair treatment at his hands. The assistant handed me the bill, and of course I read it. It states that immoral practices have been carried on in the convent and that money collected has been converted to her own use by the mother superior. It is false, and I will thwart their plans by reporting to our attorney the contents of the bill in time for him to prevent its being filed."

Will Not Discuss the Matter.

When seen later, Attorney-General Moloney was inclined to be reticent in regard to the affair. He had been closeted some time with Sister Veronica discussing the occurrence of the morning.

"I do not know whether I will file the bill or not," said he. "I am considering the matter of filing an information and have nothing more to say."

WHAT WAS THE CAUSE?

There was a short article in these columns last week which told of an attempt which Mrs. S. E. Van Dine made to secure the release of Myrtle Cole from the House of the Good Shepherd, of this city, on a writ of habeas corpus. That article also contained the information that the young lady refused to leave the house, but it did not state any of the facts connected with the case. The following letter from Mrs. Van Dine and Mrs. Pattee will give the reader some light on the subject:

"Hearing from a former inmate of the Chicago House of Good Shepherd that a girl by the name of Myrtle Cole was confined there against her will, and that for certain reasons, named in a former issue, April 14, of your valuable paper, treated very cruelly, I determined to try and release the girl. I having heard that the second mistress of the class of which the girl was a member, was very good to the children, and I could possibly hear news from her. I visited the House of the Good Shepherd and asked for her. After being ushered into a little six-by-ten room that was divided by a lattice partition with black drapings, that made it seem to me as if I was in a prison cell draped in mourning, I gave my name to the sister who showed me in, and then was left alone to meditate.

Finally the door on the outside of the partition was unlocked and one of the sweetest faced women I ever saw, came to the window in the lattice and introduced herself as the sister I wished to see, after explaining who I was, I asked her if I could see Myrtle Cole. I saw immediately that she was very much embarrassed, she said she would see, in about ten minutes she returned and said the Mother Superior said it was against the rules for a stranger to see the girls and Myrtle Cole especially as she was very unruly. I then asked to be shown through the building, but was refused on the plea of house-cleaning, but was told that perhaps some other time I would be allowed to go through as a special favor; because it was against the rules for any body to pass through the building, as it was cluttered and also private, and only sometimes an exception would be made in the case of benefactors or the Mayor. I then said I did not understand how an institution could be called private when it received money from the city and was told,

that, meaning the money, was only a drop in the bucket, and was further told that the institution was deeply in debt, which latter statement the public will doubt, when told, that the corporation known as the Sisters of the Good Shepherd paid \$30,000.00 cash for a plot of ground on north Clark street, and had a wall built around it worth about twelve thousand more. As for the 'drop in the bucket' each and every citizen can satisfy himself by looking over the records in the court house and find out that a large share of the money appropriated for such institutions goes to the House of the Good Shepherd. Then to think, the public is excluded from seeing how such money is expended.

After a little more talk I left them for that day but received an invitation to call again. I then went to see an attorney to find out what the papers in an habeas corpus proceeding would cost. The case was then placed before Council No. 6, A. P. A., who with their accustomed generosity gave the money to commence proceedings in a court of law. The attorneys kindly tendered their services for the cause. On the advice of the attorneys I tried a second time to see Myrtle Cole and this time took a witness in the person of Mrs. C. Pattee with me. We were ushered in to the same little closet and were made to wait about the same length of time. After talking to Sister Annunciation for a short time we again asked for Myrtle and told the sister we had a small present for her which we would like to give her personally. The sister excused herself and came back with another sister whom she introduced as Sister St. Angeliou. Sister Annunciation then bade us good-bye and we were left with St. Angeliou. Before she had even spoken to us we knew that we had a female Jesuit before us, a face that was perfectly pallid, reddish-brown eyebrows and lashes, brown eyes with a yellowish gleam in them. Lips that were drawn perfectly tight over slightly prominent teeth. She greeted us very politely, and after a few minutes conversation we again asked for Myrtle Cole and repeated our statement about the present. She looked at us with the greatest astonishment, and said, 'Myrtle Cole, I do not believe we have such a person in the house.' We then said that she was known in the house as 'Louisa.' Oh, she said; and the expression on her face: a mixture of superb scorn or our ignorance and amusement that we were thus easily duped, would have made her fortune on the stage had she chosen to devote her talents to that profession. Who told you that name? That is not her name at all. We humbly told her the source of our information, and gave her the name of the young lady who told us. Why, that girl was the greatest falsifier we ever had in the house. I was so glad when she was gone; she was always causing trouble, and as for Myrtle Cole, as you call her, she gives herself as many names as there are days in the week, but this is the latest. I never heard that one before. Her right name is Minnie Pelton; her aunt, her own mother's sister, brought her here. She is an awful girl; the language she uses is something terrible. We then asked her how long Myrtle had been in that institution. She answered, 'Nearly three years.' We then asked how old she was; we were told 17 years old. We then had the temerity to express our astonishment that so young a girl, after being kept in strict seclusion for nearly three years under such good instruction and with such good (?) examples set before her could be so depraved. She saw in a minute that she had made a mistake, and tried to rectify it by saying, 'Oh, you have no idea how depraved that girl is. She came from bad stock. Her father is in Joliet prison for killing a man, and her mother ran away with another man and lives in California. It took four

policemen to bring her here, and she was hand-cuffed, too—the only girl that was ever brought here like that.' The pious sister had, evidently, in her haste to blacken a poor girl's character, forgotten what she told us a few minutes before about her aunt bringing her to that lovely institution. Still seeing that we looked incredulous, she added some more details by telling us that Louisa used to live with the cowboys, and of course her aunt would not keep her after that, as she was running her course. We then asked how long did they intend keeping her there. We were told for another year, and then this same aunt's daughter was going to be married, and then the aunt was going to move to San Francisco and take Louisa with her. But the sister felt very sure that Louisa would not go. She was too bad, and would probably go back to the cowboys here. We saw that it would do no good to talk any more, so we gave her the silk handkerchief we bought, and asked the sister to give it to Myrtle and tell her that a friend had sent it. She waited until she had it in her hand and the window locked, and then she said, 'No, I will not give it to her until she has a birthday and then I will give it to her, and then I will tell her who gave it to her.' We did not ask her why she was going to do so, as her object was evident to us. She did not want the poor girl to know she had friends on the outside. We then left, and as the heavy oak door shut behind us, breathed a sigh of relief and thanked our Heavenly Father we were not shut up in such a place. I can only add that every word of the above is true. S. E. VAN DINE.

I concur in what Mrs. Van Dine has written. MRS. M. E. PATTEE.

From this letter it appears that the sister made two glaringly inconsistent assertions when she talked to these ladies. Either the aunt of the girl placed her in the house or she was brought to that institution in handcuffs by four policemen. It is not possible that both things happened at once and the only just conclusion to arrive at is that there is something wrong in the Myrtle Cole case. Besides this who is going to believe that a girl under fifteen is such a terror to the police and particularly a girl of slender, childish build with little of the robustness of womanhood even today? Myrtle Cole may have entertained cowboys but if she did, where was she when she did so? Surely not in Chicago.

The information which Mrs. Van Dine acted upon came from an ex-inmate of the house; to whom the Cole girl had often said she wanted to get out, and that she would run away, yet when she was brought into court, and after Mr. Steadman had cited the law authorizing any person to move for the release of any person unlawfully deprived of their liberty, and Mr. McMillen had stated the case at bar in a terse and forcible manner, and the judge had explained to the young lady that it was an act of a friend, she was asked by the judge if she knew Gerlie Kelley and whether she desired to leave the institution. She replied that she knew her; that they were in the same class; that she was the worst enemy she had ever had, and that she did not want to leave the house. The judge asked her whether she had ever said she wanted to get out, and whether she had said she would run away. She acknowledged that she had, but said it

was while she was in a passion. To persons unacquainted with the manner in which girls are led to believe that the persons seeking their release do so from mercenary motives, and that they will not have a friend on whom to lean outside of the institution, the action of Myrtle Cole will be inexplicable, but to those who know of her methods, Myrtle's answer to the judge is full of meaning. It means that she has simply been terrorized to a degree which prevents her being a free agent.

Had the judge taken Myrtle Cole into a room away from the surveillance of the sister, it is barely possible she would today be enjoying the freedom which she so often craved. But beneath the watchful eye, and in the presence of the sombre-robed figure whose will was law, she probably had not the courage to speak as her heart dictated.

This case also emphasizes the necessity for state inspection of all institutions in which girls are incarcerated and I should arouse Americans to a realization of their duty.

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SPECIAL MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE.—Under and by virtue of an order of sale on decree of foreclosure of mortgage issued out of the district court in and for Douglas county, Nebraska, and to me directed I will on the 4th day of June, A. D. 1894 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 one-half of the west one-half of lot 109, Kountze's Second Addition to the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska, as surveyed, platted, and recorded; said property to be sold to satisfy Jas. W. Carr in the sum of one and thirty-six and 11-100 dollars (\$28.36) judgments rendered by the district court of Douglas county, Nebraska, at its February term, A. D. 1894, by a certain action then and there pending wherein James W. Carr was plaintiff and Bridget E. Ford and John Ford were defendants. Omaha, Nebraska, May 3, 1894.

BENJAMIN F. THOMAS, Special Master Commissioner.

Saunders, Macfarland & Dickey, Attorneys. Merchants National Bank Building.

SPECIAL MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE.—Under and by virtue of an order of sale on decree of foreclosure of mortgage issued out of the district court in and for Douglas county, Nebraska, and to me directed, I will on the 5th day of June, A. D. 1894, at 10 o'clock a. 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 west twenty (20) feet of lot three (3), and the east ten (10) feet of lot four (4), in block five (5) of Block 15, Addition to the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska; said property to be sold to satisfy John M. Conradt in the sum of eighteen hundred and forty-six and 36-100 dollars (\$1,846.36), and costs herein taxed at sixty and 80-100 dollars (\$60.80), together with accruing costs according to a decree rendered by the district court of said Douglas county, at its May term, A. D. 1894, in a certain action then and there pending wherein John M. Conradt was plaintiff and John and Lena Lilli were defendants. Omaha, Nebraska, May 3, 1894.

GEORGE E. HOLBROOK, Special Master Commissioner. Saunders, Macfarland & Dickey, attorneys. Conradt vs. Lilli et al. Docket 35, No. 341. 5-4-5

Notice. In the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska. Charles W. Cook, Plaintiff, vs. Francis Leon Engelbert, Defendant. Notice to Non-Resident Defendant. To Francis Leon Engelbert: You will take notice that on the 16th day of February, 1894, Charles W. Cook, plaintiff herein, filed his petition in the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, against you, the object and prayer of which are to compel a specific performance of the contract, by the sale by you to said plaintiff of the undivided one-half (1/2) of lot three (3) in 'Giles' addition to the City of Omaha, being in Douglas County, Nebraska, to exclude you from any interest therein. You are required to answer said petition on or before the 18th day of June, 1894. Dated May 8th, 1894. CHARLES W. COOK, Plaintiff. By I. R. Andrews, his attorney.

Notice. The Galeburg National Bank Mrs. Frank Davis and Kate M. Austin, defendants, will take notice that on the 16th day of May, 1894, the plaintiff herein filed his petition in the District Court of Douglas county, Nebraska, against said defendants impleaded with the Plattsmouth Investment Company, Edward H. Callihan, John C. Peterson, James K. Kirby, The Citizens National Bank of Plattsmouth, Thomas F. Murphy, Mrs. Thomas A. Murphy, Paxton & Vierling Iron works and Henry Bovek, the object and prayer of which are to foreclose a certain tax certificate dated January 20th, 1892 upon lots 1, 2 and 3 in J. E. Riley's subdivision in lots 54 and 55 of S. E. Burger's plat of Oklahoma addition to the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska. Plaintiff prays that said premises may be decreed to be sold to satisfy the amount due thereon. You are required to answer said petition on or before the 3rd day of July, 1894. P. L. JOHNSON, Plaintiff. By Saunders, Macfarland & Dickey, His Attorneys. Dated Omaha, May 25th, 1894. 5-25-3