

ROMANCE UNVEILED

BY A CLAUSE IN WILLIAM ASTOR'S WILL.

HENRY ASTOR CAST OUT BECAUSE HE LOVED

A Rustic Mountain Maiden—Home of the Hermit in the Craggy Mountains in Northern New York—A Deadly Parallel.

Through the death of William Astor, who expired in Paris recently, the public are afforded a peep into one of the Astor closets, which has heretofore been closely guarded. In his will the billionaire expressed in no uncertain way that neither his brother Henry nor any of said brother's issue, receive any portion of the testator's estate, and



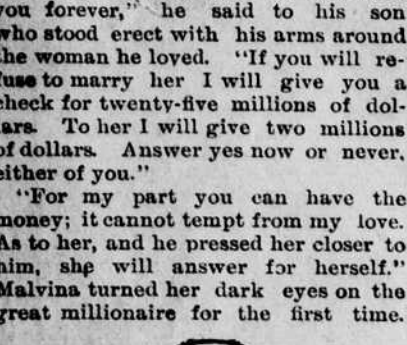
HENRY ASTOR.

that the sum to which Henry might have been entitled (several million dollars) go to the Astor library fund. The next paragraph of the will bequeathed to his daughter, Mrs. Coleman-Drayton, the magnificent sum of \$2,000,000. Thus we have a parallel.

Mrs. Drayton is well known on two continents as the principal figure in an international scandal of much nastiness. But of Henry Astor the world at large knows nothing. Very few people knew that there was such a person in existence. Even the younger members of the billionaire family know nothing of an uncle, nothing of the crime against the Astor name for which he had been disinherited forever.

Far out among the mountains of West Copake, near where the wild and craggy Toghamic chain marks the triangular end of Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York, there stands high upon an eminence and overlooking the serpentine course of the Hudson many miles away, a lonely dwelling of which the accompanying picture is a fair likeness. It is the only one for miles around and for almost thirty years, now, has frowned down upon the valleys there around, a mystery of mysteries. There lives a man of whom the accompanying portrait is an exact likeness. With him lives a woman, tall and graceful, dark eyes and hair, and pleasant features. They are Henry Astor and wife living alone in their love and heedless of a world that has no other charms for them. For nearly thirty years they have lived this simple country life, with no other hope, no other ambition than their love. A romance is revealed which chapter leaves fiction in the shade. It is a romance of innocent love of a rich young man for a rustic daughter of the mountains, a romance punctured again and again with the unforgiving relatives of the young man who dared to love a pure country girl and then marry her. The story opens twenty-four years ago when Henry Astor was in his early thirties. He was fond of country life and used to pass most of his time on the Astor farm at Red Hook in Dutchess county. This farm was superintended by John Dinehart who had two pretty daughters, Malvina and Aurora. With the former Astor fell in love. The affection was mutual and they were married in the village parsonage at Red Hook. The day before the ceremony was performed John Jacob Astor, Sr., came down from New York to prevent it. "If you marry her, I'll disinherit you forever," he said to his son who stood erect with his arms around the woman he loved. "If you will refuse to marry her I will give you a check for twenty-five millions of dollars. To her I will give two millions of dollars. Answer yes now or never, either of you."

"For my part you can have the money; it cannot tempt from my love. As to her, and he pressed her closer to him, she will answer for herself." Malvina turned her dark eyes on the great millionaire for the first time.



ASTOR'S MOUNTAIN HOME.

Her cheeks were flushed with the humility of her position. Then she said: "No money can buy my love for your son."

"That was the money king's offer spurned. History tells of no greater sacrifice for love's dear sake."

"Both of you must leave this place to-day for your obstinacy," was the father's reply to their devotion to each other. And so they went, disinherited forever. They sought the wilds of

Copake, where they purchased a little plot of ground and erected the house which still harbors them. This was done with an allowance Henry Astor had been granted in the past. Never after he refused to sell his love did he receive a cent from his people. He found himself completely shut out from the enjoyment of millions, but his love has never faltered during all these years. He rarely passes beyond the lines which mark his 100 acres. He raises all his own food and makes his own wines. His wife is seldom seen outside of her own door. They never read the papers and are, of course, not aware of the recent scandal in the Astor family. Perhaps, if they were, they would feel it more keenly than those who cast them out for so small a crime as love. But perhaps this pair are happy in their retreat among the hills. Perhaps Henry Astor chose more wisely than many another rich man's son has done—Coleman Drayton for instance. As the mask of hypocrisy is being burned away by the noon light of a progressing world such men as Henry Astor, such women as his wife become the synonym of nature's true nobility, not of its vagaries.

LEON DEVEREAUX

THE PARIS MORGUES.

Increase in the Number of Suicides Becoming Alarming.

Not for years have there been known so many suicides in Paris, and the fact has been emphasized in a singular fashion. In France the spring is the season for them, as with us they are more numerous in the autumn. But this spring there have been so many that the classic little morgue cannot accommodate all for whom admission is claimed.

Its founders seem to have thought that room for twenty should be more than room enough—for fourteen in the frigidarium, and for six on those slabs that no one who has seen can ever forget. One shudders to think what an average of twenty per diem would amount to in a year, says a correspondent.

At this moment there are in the morgue awaiting identification or removal fifty-seven bodies. The authorities are puzzled, for there has been no special occurrence to mark the year as a fatal one. The winter has not been exceptionally severe; there has not been any widespread want, nor any epidemic of suicide, as sometimes happens in the great French centers of population, and yet the victims of self-slaughter increase from day to day. In one hour yesterday three bodies, fished up from the Seine, were added to the fifty-seven, and brought the number up to three times the normal accommodation of the building.

CREATED A SENSATION.

Montreal Society Paralyzed Over an Elopement.

John S. Allan, better known as "Jack" Allan, son and heir of Andrew A. Allan, one of the millionaire partners in the Allan Royal Mail Steamship company, has eloped with the wife of R. Y. Hebden, formerly prominently connected with the Bank of Montreal and at present joint manager of the New York branch of that institution. Both belong to the very best society in Montreal, and Allan leaves a young and beautiful wife and five children, while Mrs. Hebden leaves three children.

The intimacy between Allan and Mrs.



FOUND THEM TOGETHER.

Hebden has been matter of gossip for a long time. They have seemed to throw all restraint to the winds, riding, driving, skating and attending the theater together openly. Some time ago Mrs. Allan called her husband up over the telephone. He said he was going driving with Mrs. Hebden, and she said if he was all relations with him were at an end and rang off. Immediately thereafter she packed up and with her children left for Europe. A separation is said to have been agreed to prior to her departure. Allan has a wild record. His father is almost prostrated and his interests in the company have been cancelled. Mrs. Hebden formerly lived in Chicago where her husband managed the Chicago branch of the Bank of Montreal. She belonged to Chicago's 800 up to the time that she and Allan were found in one of the parlors of a Chicago hotel.

A Very Blue Law.

On petition of many women the City Council of Elizabeth, N. J., recently passed an ordinance which prohibits girls under 16 years from attending public dances without their parents or guardians. Penalties of fines and imprisonment are imposed on offending girls and societies holding picnics permitting violations. Last week at the opening picnic of the season the police raided several public gardens, ejecting girls. Many were surprised and willingly went out, but others used all sorts of subterfuges. Their names were taken for investigation. One association appointed a committee to assist the police. The raids caused a considerable sensation.

CAPITAL NOTES.

The papers in the case of Commander F. R. Smith of the navy have been taken up by Secretary Tracy and it is likely that something will be done in the matter in the course of a week. The secretary has expressed the intention of doing all he can in justice to Smith.

Favorable reports were ordered by the Senate Committee on Commerce on a Senate bill to establish supports of entry and delivery at Superior and Ashland, Wis., and on a public bill authorizing the Secretary of War to cause a survey to be made for a ship canal connecting the waters of Lake Erie and the Ohio river.

Secretary Blaine, ex-Minister E. J. Phelps and Gen. J. W. Foster met by appointment at the executive mansion and discussed with the President matters that will be brought up before the arbitrators when appointed on the questions of differences that exist between the United States and Great Britain in Bering sea. The arbitrators have not yet been selected, but have been informally discussed.

The members of the Ways and Means committee have had a conference in regard to free lumber. They have been very slow in getting around to it, and have not yet fully decided what they will do, though in the end a free lumber bill is probable. At the conference Mr. Lynch of Wisconsin protested against such legislation, while Babbitt of the same State, Stout of Michigan, and Butler of Iowa advocated it.

Representative Meridith of Virginia has prepared and will, at his first opportunity, introduce a bill calculated to play the old Harry with patent medicine manufacturers. It provides that all manufacturers shall submit the recipe for their preparations to a board of examiners to be appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury. The recipes shall be kept secret and if no deleterious ingredient is discovered in the compound a license shall be issued to the manufacturer for one year upon the payment of \$96. In addition every package shall have affixed a revenue stamp valued at 5 per cent of the selling price of the article.

Tsui Kwo Yin is still the accredited envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary from the celestial empire to the United States. He has not called at the State department, or indeed sent there for a copy of the new Chinese law signed by the President. Should he desire it, a copy of the law duly authenticated and tied up in the exquisite ribbons used by the Department of State will be furnished him, but it was stated this morning that it was not usual to inform foreign ministers officially of the passage by Congress of laws affecting their countries. At the department it is not considered probable that the minister will ask for his passport because of the passage of the new Chinese law.

LASHED ENGLISH SOCIETY.

The Brave Woman Who Told the Truth of London Social Circles.

The world never goes wrong in any particular direction without some one to ring the tocsin. To-day the warning note is struck on London society.

Lady Junne, whose portrait appears here, is the eldest daughter of the late Keith William Stewart Mackenzie. Her first husband, she Hon. J. G. Stanley, died in 1878, and in 1881 she married the Hon. Sir Francis Junne, made a Judge of the High Court of Justice, Probate and Admiralty Division in 1891. She has been instinct in good works, a woman of active brain and energy of character, the friend of the cause of little children, and a willing helper in the treatment of women. Her indictment



LADY JUNNE.

ment in the North American Review of London society has made her world-famous. The smart set, she says, is vulgar, idle and vicious; and here comes the sting of her indictment. "But society, as well as the tone of society, is not governed or influenced by men, their role in society being a very secondary one, for society in its tone and composition is created by women, and as women are virtuous or their reverse, so is their entourage." Therefore, on women lies the onus of the present state of things.

"Luxury, ease, comfort, are the watchwords of a large part of society in London, and they are undermining our society as surely and as certainly as they did that of Rome."

A Sad Drowning.

Dr. Harry G. Donovan, a young dentist of Pontiac, Ill., was drowned the other afternoon at Honder's Ford. He, in company with B. C. Haines, a druggist, was out driving and attempted to cross the Vermillion river at that point. The river is very high, and when about the center saw they could not cross, and while trying to turn around to drive back the swift current overturned the cart. Haines swam ashore. Donovan tried to save the horse and cart, and both he and the horse were drowned.

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