

THE DE RAYLAN MYSTERY IN PROCESS OF UNRAVELING

The Motive for the Strange Masquerade Has Been Discovered

The Sudden Transition From a Schoolgirl to an Active Young Man--A Scandal Involving the Procurator of the Holy Synod.

The secret of Nikolai De Raylan is about to be laid bare. In fact much of it has been disclosed through the efforts of Attorney Michael Feinberg who spent some time in Phoenix in behalf of the office of the public administrator of Cook county and who succeeded in convincing the "wife" of De Raylan of the hopelessness of her claim against the estate of the dead woman.

Mr. Feinberg having become interested in the unprecedented case went further and sought to uncover that part of the mystery which had originated in Russia. He told a reporter for The Republican that he had the highest hope of success and just before he left he said that he was able to prove that De Raylan had been baptized as a girl.

The cue to the information secured by Mr. Feinberg was obtained from a diary left by De Raylan, written in Russia and from many other writings on which the woman was engaged while she was in Phoenix.

All this has been put into form by The Chicago News in the following article illustrated by pictures of Mr. Feinberg, De Raylan as a school girl, Zaney Rosdorhney, young girl lover, M. Constantin Petrovitch Pobedonosteff, procurator of the old synod, one of the most gigantic figures in modern Russian history and who had unwittingly become sponsor for De Raylan in her masquerading and pictures of De Raylan, her second wife and stepson.

While the identity of the mother of De Raylan is pretty well established her paternity is left in doubt. There is a strong inference though that her father was of the nobility a fact which it will be recalled was mentioned as a probability by The Republican on the morning after her death. That probability was based on Dr. Rowe's recollection of fragments of conversation he had with his mysterious patient who had said that "his" father was a Russian admiral.

The following is the story of the News:

The life secret of Nikolai de Raylan, for years secretary to the Russian consul at Chicago, who, after mas-

querading as a man for eighteen years was found after her death to have been a woman, was revealed today. The story, never before published, containing her reason for starting out on a career of deception that proved her one of the most accomplished actresses in the world, and disclosing a Russian scandal that has been hidden for years, is contained in her diary and correspondence.

It is a story almost without parallel for amazing features, showing the pluck, resourcefulness and cleverness of the woman, who began with an elaborate and daring scheme to blackmail her mother and force from her the secret of her own parentage and her mother's suddenly acquired fortune and who then found it necessary to go through life for eighteen years disguised as a man and "making good" the bluff under all circumstances, even when her sex was disputed.

Procurator's Name a Link.

Linked inseparably with the early chapters of her story is the name of M. Constantin Petrovitch Pobedonosteff, procurator of the holy synod, who for years was the dominating figure of Russia in many fields of activity. The procurator was deceived by Nikolai, as she dubbed herself upon assuming masculine disguise, and after a private interview M. Pobedonosteff, who was a careful man, stood sponsor for her and swore she was a man.

Nicolai even started criminal proceedings against her mother, and when she fled before the final medical examination necessary to the trial, M. Pobedonosteff found himself in an embarrassing position, which he hushed up suddenly to avoid a scandal.

Letters from Anna De Raylan, Nicolai's second "wife," and the "widow" who recently tried to establish as a fact her contention that Nicolai was a man in order that she might inherit the small estate, show that the "widow" was in possession of Nicolai's life secret, and that when Nicolai was ill in Arizona the "wife" in Chicago reminded her of it frequently. Mrs. Anna De Raylan admits making a compact with Nicolai by which the latter paid her \$15 a week over and above all expenses.

De Raylan's memorandum books show her to have been a poet. She wrote both Russian and English verse.

Diary and Letters Found.

The diary and letters revealing this astounding story and solving the mystery that has baffled Chicago investigators and emissaries of the Russian government, and which has been accessible only to The Daily News, was discovered by a young Chicago lawyer, Michael Feinberg, 35 Upton street, at present employed as a clerk in the office of James Reddick, public administrator. Most of the documents and all of the diary are in the Russian language. Feinberg's connection with the case was at first purely official and he was sent to Phoenix, Arizona, to prove the sex of De Raylan, to controvert the claim of Nicolai's "widow" to the estate.

He discovered so much of the life story of the remarkable woman in making his official investigation that he became fascinated by the quest for details and he traced back the steps in her life one by one, each adding to the mystery, until accidentally, one day he discovered her diary among her effects left at the Phoenix hotel where she lived. This document threw a flood of light over the entire subject. Feinberg brought the diary and the letters, some of which are herewith published, to Chicago and as a result of two months of tireless investigation he has discovered that De Raylan's mother is still living in Kiev, Russia. An effort is now being made by Mr. Reddick to find the mother, who is the sole rightful heir to Nicolai's \$6000 estate.

Real Name Was Taletsky.

The diary and a letter from her mother received through a go-between more than a year ago show De Raylan's real family name to have been Taletsky. Her given name is not shown by any of the documents. The diary covers a four-year period of her life, between the years 1888 and 1892, the year of her arrival as a refugee in Chicago. She did not compile it until she arrived here, and the date of the first entry is November 3, 1892. In places the writing is scarcely legible, and in others the ink has faded so that the entire document cannot be read or translated into English without the aid of a microscope.

Her Father—"The Unknown."

The first sentence of the diary is a sort of headline and consists of a declaration showing her own interest and her knowledge of the widespread interest of others in her dead father and the information he could disclose. She calls him Vladimir and says in a free translation:

"Vladimir, in whom the whole world is concerned—the known unknown!"

The first phase of her life traced in her journal, many pages in which indicate that she was a drunkard, a gambler and a profane rone, depicts her as a school girl. Her mother had placed her in a government school for girls in Kiev, Russia, where the Taletsky family home was situated, and between the ages of 15 and 16 years she was to graduate. Somewhere around this period her mother, who had been well-to-do before, suddenly acquired considerable more wealth. The figure mentioned in the diary is 250,000 rubles (about \$125,000.)

Nicolai Finds Out Wealth.

Nicolai, the only given name by

which De Raylan is known to have been called, no feminine name appearing in any of her papers, discovered the existence of this sum and became suspicious concerning it. In some way not made clear in her diary she found that it had been settled on her mother as trustee by some member of the nobility, to be conserved in the interest of Nicolai.

This discovery made the young girl curious as to the reasons for the settlement, and caused her to wish for her father, as expressed among her writings, to find from him what mystery surrounded her origin. Her mother she says, would not tell her.

Nicolai writes of various interviews with her mother in which the latter refused to give information, and of various attempts to make her parent speak on the subject. Finally was born in her a desire to get for herself the substance of the trust fund to control it and spend it as she liked.

Girl Devises Brilliant Plot.

As the time of the graduation from the girl's school drew near, this 16-year-old girl conceived a Napoleonic scheme to force her mother to pay her a considerable sum of the money, or at least to divulge the information she sought so eagerly, or both. She had her inspiration in two statutes of Russia—one of which makes it a crime punishable by imprisonment for any to gain entrance by any means for a boy into a girls' school. The other was the law regulating compulsory military service, which made it a serious crime for a mother to hide the sex of a male child.

The completeness of detail with which the 16-year-old girl set about to prove herself a boy shows her to have possessed originality and imagination to the point of genius. No detail was left uncompleted. Before she made known to any one her purpose she made final and convincing arrangements to provide for evidence in case her sex was questioned.

She had been watched over from early childhood by a French governess, Louise Ratone, about nine years her senior. With far-seeing shrewdness, Nicolai decided that Louise would be the best witness she could have, the latter having almost grown up with her, so affecting to take the governess into her confidence, she said, according to the diary:

"Louise, you've seen me in the house here posing as a girl, when in fact all the time I have been a boy. The purpose of my mother in disguising me in this way was to inherit or in some way procure this money that has come to her."

Convinces Nurse She Is a Boy.

She convinces Louise of the truth of her statement, and they entered into a compact, according to the diary, to leave Kiev together, and enter on a campaign, the purpose of which should be to force the mother to give up the information and the money. Nicolai told the governess she long had been secretly in love with her, and would marry her as soon as the money was obtained. They left Kiev in company and went to St. Petersburg, not telling the mother where they were going, their purpose, or when they would return. The latter does not seem, according to the diary, to have been greatly concerned in her daughter's movements.

When in St. Petersburg, the diary states, Louise Katone wrote a letter to Nicolai's mother, stating that the daughter had threatened repeatedly to commit suicide, and once had attempted it. Nicolai states that the purpose of this was to see how much her mother was interested in her welfare. No mention is made of a reply, nor is there any reference to it.

Prepares Two Years for Boydom.

The preparation for the assuming of the male disguise consumed about two years and the actual occurrences began to take place in 1890. It was apparently in 1891 that Louise Ratone, after the two girls had been at St. Petersburg a short time, wrote a letter to the late M. Pobedonosteff, the procurator of the holy synod, telling him the chief facts of Nicolai's alleged case and asking for an interview.

The statesman and churchman—confidential adviser of the czar, and who was sometimes called the dictator of Russia—took an interest in the case at once and summoned Nicolai to his palace. Nicolai went there alone and at the end of a private interview succeeded in convincing the procurator that she was telling the truth. He insisted at once on starting criminal proceedings against the mother of Nicolai and this seems to have been too rapid a step forward for the girl at the time. She was dismayed because of the disclosures, which she saw must eventually come if the case came to trial, but to make good her claim she went on with it.

Swears Out Paper Against Mother.

At the instance of the procurator she swore out a complaint against her mother in the courts at Odessa, not far from Kiev. These charges are now of record in Odessa, according to the diary. The procurator went to that city himself and advised the police officials. The Taletsky woman was arrested and preparations made for her trial. The mother sought the advice of Attorney Plavako of Kiev.

At this juncture Nicolai saw that discretion was the better part of valor and that she would probably be landed in prison herself if she submitted to the medical examination necessary to a formal hearing of the case, even though she had fooled the procurator. She had met in St. Petersburg a young woman named Zaney Rosdorhney, with whom she affected to fall in love, as she did with convincing cleverness nearly every woman she met, and whom she courted when Louise Ratone was not around. Both Nicolai and Louise saw that the "jig was up" and they abandoned their plans.

Scene Shifts to Finland.

Zaney, the St. Petersburg sweetheart raised money enough to start Nicolai on her travels, and the latter fled to Helsingfors, Finland, informing Zaney and leaving a letter for the procurator, telling him that her filial devotion prevented at the last moment her appearing against her mother, and that she would flee to save the latter's name and honor.

The procurator was chagrined, but gave word to the officials to proceed with preparation for the case. He said it could be proved, perhaps, without her. At the same time he started the police out after her and during her wanderings it was the part of Zaney, the sweetheart, to remain in St. Petersburg and report to her by letter the steps being taken by the police.

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GERARD BROS.

The case against the mother proceeded to trial and the procurator was the chief witness for the government. Louise Ratone also appeared. The mother's attorney produced the doctor who had assisted at the birth of Nicolai and the Greek catholic priest who had christened her. They both testified that they positively knew that Nicolai was a girl. The procurator flew into a rage. He said he had ocular evidence. The case was dismissed.

Procurator in a Bad Fix.

M. Pobedonosteff now found himself in an embarrassing and delicate position. He had stood sponsor for Nicolai and personally supervised the proceedings and swore that she was a boy. He was in the humiliating circumstances of having to confess that he had been fooled.

The story was hushed up quickly, but the secret police of Russia were placed on the trail of the fleeing girl, and they tried for years to track her and in her diary she intimates her conviction that it would have gone hard with her if they had caught her and taken her back to Russia, and all through the remarkable document there is an undercurrent of fear of arrest.

She lived a short time in Helsingfors and then, with the remainder of Zaney's money, she fled to Antwerp,

Belgium, after changing her name from Nicolai Taletsky to Nicolai Konstantinevitch.

Taken for a Nihilist.

On the boat from Finland to Belgium the captain of the boat noted the feminine appearance of Nicolai's features and the feminine sound of her voice, and he feared she was a nihilist refugee and that he might be made responsible in some way for her escape. He questioned her, and she says in her diary, she convinced him that she was a man in the same way she had convinced the procurator at St. Petersburg.

At Antwerp she met a banker named Gittens. She took employment with him and he found her as every banker and business man did, a genius in matters of finance. She made a fast friend of him and confided to him the alleged reasons for her flight. He sent her on a confidential mission to the United States, paying her expenses and giving her a little bonus besides and releasing her on her arrival here. He gave her a letter of introduction to a banker named Wilson in Worcester, Mass.

The diary relates another boat incident and from this point in the narrative to the end it is filled with humorous language and accounts of riotous

Continued on Page 7.

THE DE RAYLAN MYSTERY PROCESS OF UNRAVELING

Continued from Page 5.

behavior of Nicolai with various women and men with whom she met.

She became extremely friendly with the stewardess of the liner on which she came to New York. She calls her (translated from the Russian) "the mistress of the ship," and gives her name as Miss Oelina. The captain of the ship became interested in his strange passenger, and became suspicious of her sex, as the captain of the other boat had done. He had many a quarrel with the stewardess about it, the latter maintaining that Nicolai was a man.

Bets on Nicolai's Sex.

Finally the captain wagered 50 francs with the stewardess, the test to be made by the captain. He interviewed Nicolai privately and then sought out the stewardess and paid the wager admitting he had lost.

Arrived in Worcester Nicolai talked things over with Banker Wilson, and decided she would best come to Chicago. Mr. Wilson gave her a letter of introduction to a French grocer here, whose name is blurred in the diary.

She tells how on her way to this city she took the wrong train at a junction point and found herself riding up into northern New Hampshire. It was night when she made the discovery, but it did not trouble her; she remained care free and carried on a flirtation with a strange woman in the berth above her own.

Arrives Here and Meets Henrotin.

Arrived in Chicago, she was introduced by the grocer to Charles Henrotin, the Belgian consul here. He introduced her to the Russian consul, then M. de Thar, who in turn in 1893, presented her to C. de Ragouza Soushchevsky, the imperial commissioner for Russia to the World's Columbian Exposition. She had assumed the name of De Raylan and became Soushchevsky's secretary, although she had been working under the name of Constantinevitch—now spelled with a C instead of a K—for the Open Court Publishing Company. After leaving the commissioner she took out naturalization papers, got an introduction to Baron von Schlippenbach, who then became and now is Russian consul here, and became his secretary.

Her life in Chicago is well known from the newspaper accounts following her death in Phoenix, Arizona, last December, at which time the discovery was first made public that she was a woman and not a man at all.

She is well known to have drunk hard smoked inveterately, used profane and vile language, and to have traveled with a rapid set of young men. She was an habitue of a south side house of evil repute which, of course, she always visited as a man, until early morning hours.

Long Interval in the Diary.

Here a long gap occurs in the diary. No part of her life after reaching Chicago is touched upon until, three years ago, she copied into it a letter she wrote to Zaney Rosdorhney, her St. Petersburg sweetheart with whom she had corresponded continuously, asking Zaney to tell her the whereabouts of her mother, whether she were still living, if not, if she had left a will, and if so, what its provisions.

Mother to Her Daughter.

Miss Rosdorhney forwarded the letter itself to Nicolai's mother. The latter replied, and the reply was forwarded by Zaney to Nicolai in Chicago. A translation from the Russian of this letter reads as follows:

"You may tell my daughter that, having caused such misery to me on account of our disagreements and not having any news from her for twelve years, and having assumed she was dead, I care to hear nothing more from her. Let matters rest as they are. Do me the favor not to stir the matter any more. She wants to know whether I have made a will. You can tell her that I intend to leave all my property to those who have taken care of me in my old age. She can now see what has come to her after making me all that trouble for the purpose of getting from me my property."

Changes the Letter Throughout.

The original of this letter is in Mr. Feinberg's collection, and indications are plain that Nicolai went through it and everywhere made erasures where the words daughter and feminine pronouns were used, and substituted masculine terms, with the probable purpose of using it as evidence if possible and if need arose.

This ends all account and narrative of her connection with her people or her old friends or sweethearts in Russia as shown by her documents and papers. She met her first "wife" in the office of the Russian consul, and married as a man and at the age of 29 years, presumably to strengthen her position as a man. They lived together nine years and a divorce was obtained by the "wife" on statutory grounds. Mrs. de Raylan, then married Francis P. Bradchulis, De Raylan's financial partner.

Even before the divorce had been obtained, Nicolai went to New York and met a divorced woman whose name had been Anna Davidson, an actress with a Jewish company. After the divorce they came to Chicago and were married. Anna De Raylan joined the Greek Catholic church. She had a son named Harry, who now is 12 years old.

Nicolai developed pulmonary tuberculosis, went to Phoenix, Arizona, and died there alone.

SECOND WIFE KNEW SECRET.

Relationship Between Her and De Raylan a Peculiar One.

One of the most interesting disclosures effected by Michael Feinberg's

investigation of the De Raylan case, is the relation that apparently existed between Nicolai and the second wife, Anna De Raylan, who sued to get possession of the estate. There are letters which seem clearly to indicate that Anna De Raylan knew Nicolai's secret. There was a compact between Nicolai and Anna De Raylan, who now lives with her parents and brother, Samuel Davidson, at 543 West 12th street, that Nicolai should not only provide a good home for Anna and her son, but should give her \$15 a week, regularly throughout their married life.

During the time that Nicolai was in Arizona whenever these payments were not promptly forthcoming, Anna would write a letter in which she would speak of Nicolai's "secret" which she possessed and of "steps" she would take if the money were not sent. In one letter she demands that Nicolai settle on her all his property and money.

One of the first things De Raylan did after the second marriage, was to cultivate the friendship of Harry, the stepson, whom she trained to call her "papa," and "papa dear." Two of the letters received by Nicolai in Arizona were from Harry, and are interesting as showing the boy's brightness and the relations between the two.

Writes Letter to "Papa."

The first of these is dated Nov. 9, 1906, and is as follows:

"Dear Papa: I hope you enjoy Arizona and get well. I suppose the snow in Colorado is about two feet deep. Gee, I wish I was there. I just love snow. Here there wasn't an inch of snow, only for about an hour it snowed and then it all melted. I am glad you are getting much better, papa. I know you are getting much better because you sent us a postal card, and that shows you are strong enough to walk to the store in Canon City. Please send me the address where you live, because how do I know where to address my letters. Today I had my hair cut and the rabbit had a hair cut, but not by a barber, her hair is falling out. Your loving son, HARRY."

Nicolai had given up hope of recovery as long as he stayed in Chicago, and, accompanied by Anna and little Harry, had gone to Canon City, Colo. At that point the mother and boy had returned to Chicago and Nicolai had gone on to Phoenix, Arizona. During the week that the three stayed in Canon City Nicolai telegraphed to D. Walsh, 592 California Avenue, Nicolai's neighbor in the flat below, directing Walsh to remove Nicolai's desk and safe to his own flat. Anna left Nicolai in charge of Dr. W. H. Rowe in Canon City, who went with the patient to Phoenix. She had become acquainted with Cashier Burmister of the Phoenix National Bank and told him that she had sent this telegram in order that Anna when she returned, should not open the desk or safe and find there a bank book showing an account of \$5500 with the Illinois Trust & Savings Bank in the name of Nicolai Constantinevitch.

Wife Finds Safe Removed.

When Anna returned to Chicago she soon found out that the safe and desk had been removed, and she wrote the following letter to Nicolai, whom she called affectionately, "Cola," and "Colinka." The letter is dated Aug. 1. It reads:

"My dear Cola—I arrived in Chicago

Wednesday morning August 1, at about 10:30. I am glad that I am home. I found everything very bad. The windows were open all the time since I went away. You can imagine the work I had. Also I will tell you that I had a surprise when I came into the house and did not find the desk. Why did you not tell me that you told Walsh to take the desk downstairs? I suppose you have some secrets in there that you were afraid to leave the desk in the house, but I guess that I know much more secrets that can't be kept in a desk, so you need not fear to have the desk in the house. You always like to play boss without asking me any advice. O, well! I remain your loving ANNA."

Makes Love to a Trained Nurse.

In Canon City, Nicolai had a trained nurse to whom as usual with the women she met, De Raylan made love, representing herself as a man. The nurse's name was Etta Linwood. She wrote Nicolai letters while the latter was in Phoenix, in which she called De Raylan "my baby."

She Got a Mad by De Raylan.

The second letter of the series written by Annie to Nicolai was dated Sept. 19, 1906. It is as follows:

"Well—My dear Cola. I have something to tell you and something to write you and I suppose it will be my last letter to you, but I ask you to don't take it hard. I am very sorry to write you that way as you are sick, but I am forced to do so. In the first place you have not answered my question I asked you in all my letters, and then I have found so many things you have hidden away from me. You gave B the full power to do everything, not me. Well you can hang yourself with B together. If I cannot be everything, then I don't want to be anything. You know my dear, that I should be for you everything on earth. The world, money and diamonds and love cannot pay me for what I have stood and will stand for you and this is the thanks I get for taking such care of you. Now I will say something else. You expect me to live on ten or fifteen dollars, if I should live on that and live alone and not have trouble from all sides. I come to the conclusion to make another step and I don't have to tell you that. You know it yourself as long as you live, you have to give me \$15 anyway, and if not, you know! Oh, I cannot live this life any longer. That I should be in need when I have a man, a husband! Now I will not believe a word that you say to me. You have trusted everything to everybody else but not to me. You have trusted to me one thing and I wish I would never know it. Well, I will close my letter asking you to be good to me so that I should not have to take any other step against you. I remain yours sincerely ANNIE."

Fears Death Will Reveal Story.

In a letter dated Oct. 23 Anna displayed her fear that death would reveal De Raylan's secret and she would lose the estate. She enclosed it in two envelopes and on the inner wrote "Read that letter very carefully and understand me just what I want and how I feel." The letter read:

"My dear Colinka: Tell me the truth how you are and if you are worse you should write to me at once and also I will tell you what you ought to do in case you should die. You should have a little note ready and somewhere near you where it could be found easily.

Put these words as follows: 'My body should not be touched until my wife arrives,' or you can put on something else. Also I will ask you if you made a will. I remain with love and kisses, yours, as ever, loving, ANNA."

The last letter is dated Oct. 28. It was filled with exclamation points. It read:

"My dear Colinka: I received your letter with the proposition, but I refuse! Not unless you will return me all the money I have spent during your absence and give me power over everything and do all I ask you in all my letters, and also I will again say: If you don't send me more money than you do I will take further steps against you. You will be sorry. I will chase you from town to town. You know it takes time to get started to do something. Tell me in all the world, what is the matter with you that you don't send me more. If you can't keep me up I will see what I have to do. I can't waste my young life away that way and not have a cent. Well, that all has to come to an end or you have to give me all you possess, or I will drop it all with disgrace. I want to tell you I am surprised you should be to me like that. You know how much I am worth to you. Sincerely yours, ANNA."

Before De Raylan died, Anna was telegraphed for, but she replied that she was too ill to come. Fifteen minutes before De Raylan's death, the doctor asked if he would better telegraph again for Anna, but Nicolai said not to, she expected to recover.

STEPS TO ADMINISTER ESTATE.

Reddick Completes Proof of Sex and Makes Other Discoveries.

When Public Administrator Reddick saw newspaper accounts of the discovery that De Raylan was a woman, he took immediate steps to take out letters of administration for the estate. Mr. Feinberg's investigations in Phoenix followed. He worked up complete proof of the sex of the woman, who for eighteen years had masqueraded as a man.

Among her effects he found a curious wooden chest, in which she kept all things relating to her secret. It was fastened with wooden screws of peculiar Russian workmanship, in addition to a stout lock. It was so secure that after the lock had been unfastened the box had to be broken open.

Among the papers, was a certificate from Dr. W. H. Bohart, certifying that she was fit to become a member of the Chicago Hussars, which body she joined. Her memorandum and address book was in the box.

Specimen of Her Poetry Found.

It contained the only specimen of English verse written by De Raylan that is in Mr. Feinberg's collection, although there is much original Russian verse of no mean quality in her diary. The poem is as follows:

"Take it, this little flower; take it and think of me; Think in the hours of loneliness of the one who gave it thee; Place it within thy bosom, let it never be forgot, Put let it whisper oft to thee, the words 'Forget me not.' Think of it in the joyous crowd, when all the ground is bright.

Think of it whether far or near, whatever be thy lot, Oh! let it speak the words to thee. 'Forget me not.'

The men interviewed by Mr. Feinberg in Phoenix told of the riotous rights passed there by De Raylan. Nicolai's principal pastime was shaking dice in a crap game all night long. She lost heavily.

In Chicago and in Phoenix, as well as in Russia and Belgium, she acquired a reputation for financial shrewdness. One peculiar characteristic was that she kept a carbon copy of every letter she wrote, but never in writing even to her most intimate friends did she admit even by implication her feminine sex.

Doctor Has Insanity Theory.

At the last mortem examination Dr. J. Blazell of Phoenix made a microscopical examination of her brain and found there adhesions of the brain matter to the inner covering, which he said was a symptom of insanity. He gave as his theory of her life that her keenness in providing for every emergency to maintain her disguise, her uninterrupted high pitch of application to that one first object for so many years, together with the unwholesome channels into which her mind was continually directed in order to maintain the disguise, had produced insanity of a

degenerate type and that in the last years of her life her actions were guided by a perverted and moral fabric.

GOT USED TO IT.

I was walking the highway between two towns in Indiana when I was overtaken by a farmer driving my way and on the seat beside him sat his daughter a young woman about 25 years old. I was asked to ride, and after I had been introduced to the daughter and we had had some general conversation the father said:

"Susan has got a law suit in town today."

"Yes."

"She's suing a feller for breach-of-promise."

"And I'm going to beat him, you bet," added the girl.

"Yes, I reckon she'll beat him."

"I suppose you feel a bit nervous about it?" I said to the female.

Both father and daughter burst out laughing at the idea, and after a minute the former replied:

"No, stranger, I don't calculate Sue is nervous about it. She's had five breach-of-promise suits already, and don't care a darn for all the courts in the state."

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