MISS CULVER'S FORTUNE.

THE LATE C. J. HULL'S HOUSEKEEPER INHERITS HIS MILLIONS.

An Estate from Which the Rents Alone Are Worth More than $75,000 a Year Bequeathed by the Capitalist to the Woman Who for Many Years Cared for His Home—The Will to Be Contested—Talks with Interested Persons.

When Charles J. Hull, an eccentric West-Sider, died last week in Houston, Tex., he left between $1,000,000 and $2,000,000 worth of personal property and real estate. His will, which he made in 1881, was opened Tuesday morning at the Hull residence, No. 31 Ashland avenue. His four nephews, his niece, his cousin Miss Helen Culver, and his lawyer were in the room. Miss Culver knew what was in the envelope which the lawyer held. The others did not, but they thought they did. They supposed that the old man's great wealth was to be shared equally among them. Miss Culver smiled and said nothing.

C. J. HULL.

The lawyer pulled a sheet of foolscap out of the envelope and read that the testator being of sound mind, and so forth, did give and bequeath to Miss Helen Culver, "who had been his faithful friend and adviser for thirty years, the whole of his estate, real and personal, to have and to keep, and so forth, and so forth, and so forth. Charles J. Hull."

Miss Culver smiled. The nephews turned pale. The niece wept. It was the end of their great expectations.

"There must be some mistake," cried one of the nephews.

"No mistake at all," said the lawyer cheerfully—probate lawyers are always cheery. "Mr. Hull has simply turned over his property in the shortest will he could make and satisfy the legal requirements. It's a good will—a good will. Miss Culver, let me congratulate you."

Yesterday when the will was entered in the Probate Court the first attempt was made to break it. An appeal was taken by Chauncey A. Naramore and Mrs. Emily Augusta Chapman, children of Mr. Hull's sister, Eunice Naramore. They act in behalf of most of the other heirs, who are: Eivington A., Lafayette, Benjamin, and Charles W. Hull, sons of Burdett Hull, Mrs. Augusta Chapman, Miss Ida M. French, Charles A. Naramore, Ashley Naramore, and a host of children of deceased relatives. Bond was fixed at $300,000.

MR. HULL'S HOUSEKEEPER.

Miss Culver is a woman of about 50 years, with gray hair and a placid face. But her mouth is firm and business-like and she has a pair of bright, shrewd eyes. She sat in the parlor of No. 31 Ashland avenue last evening and talked calmly about the millions in the will.

The house doesn't look like a millionaire's home. It is the corner of a modest two-story brick row and the interior is as plain as the street front. There are a few pictures on the walls and a photograph of the late Mr. Hull on the mantel. Near it is a big bronze, heroic-sized bust of the dead millionaire, showing a deep stretch of muscular chest and a great head of curly hair.

Miss Culver came into the room with a slender, black-haired woman who wore the subdued air of a lady's companion.

"This is Miss French, who lives with me," said Miss Culver, and Miss French said: "In justice to Miss Culver you must know that she is own cousin to Mr. Hull. She knew him from childhood and when Mrs. Hull died it was her last wish that Miss Culver should take care of the growing children. She preferred Miss Culver to her own relations. Miss Culver's mother and Mr. Hull's father were brother and sister. She took the children, and I, who was the schoolmate and life long companion of the daughter Fredrika, can testify to the love, and I may say admiration, which she held for Miss Culver. The son lived to be 18 and the daughter to be 24. During her last illness Fredrika expressed to me as her dying wish the request that I cling to Miss Culver."

Miss French spoke like a chapter out of one of Jane Austen's romances.

"She had lived with Mr. Hull thirty years up to the time of his death," she went on.

"No," interrupted Miss Culver; "only twenty-nine years."

Miss French blushed at the correction.

SHE EXPECTED THE PROPERTY.

"Did you expect any such move as has been made by the nephews?" Miss Culver was asked.

"No, I did not."

"Did Mr. Hull ever promise his nephews a share of the estate?"

"I can only say of that he was a truthful man. No one ever heard him tell a lie or knew him to attempt to deceive a man. We have talked the will over a great many times and he never mentioned doing otherwise with his property than he has done. I sometimes suggested small bequests, but he used to say that there was no use making the will involved. 'Nobody can break a will that is written on one side of a foolscap sheet,' he told me."

"Did you ever notice any signs of a decaying mind in him?"

"No, indeed," Miss Culver said, warmly. "Ask any of the neighbors or any of the people who had business with him and they will deny that charge. He was always in vigorous mental health. He used to say sometimes, in speaking about the will: 'Well, I've put up a row of houses since that was made. I guess that'll be evidence that I was of sound mind in 1881.'

"I think I deserve this if any one does," she went on. "I entered Mr. Hull's service after his wife's death. We were then living in the old brown house at Polk and Halsted streets that has since been occupied by the Little Sisters of the Poor. At that time Mr. Hull was deeply in debt. His lawyers told him that his property wouldn't come within $500,000 of paying what he owed. The panic of 1857 had left him in a bad way. But we both went hard to work. Besides keeping house for him I took charge of his office, keeping books and making out leases and advising him about improvements till the estate was rescued from debt. It is now worth a couple of millions, I should say, and the income from rents alone is $75,000 a year. That is what I helped him to build. As for his nephews, I would sooner not say anything about them. I have always been friendly to them, and Mr. Hull, who believed in giving a boy a good start and then letting him shift for himself, helped them to as much education as they chose to accept."

"We who live with her," said Miss French, "know how faithful and earnest she was in managing his estate. He would not leave the property in any other hands than hers."

THE NEPHEWS.

Elvington, Charles, Lafayette, and Benjamin Hull all work for the estate. Charles Hull has the management of the property in Baltimore, Md., which is quite large. None of the brothers would talk freely about the case.

"We don't want to say much," said Lafayette Hull. "I must say we were disappointed. We expected something. Mr. Hull always gave us to understand that we would have our share, and I have worked for the estate for five years. I expected to be remembered. But Miss Culver is at the head now and I can't afford to talk."

Lawyer A. C. Story has been retained by the prosecution. He said: "We don't intend to let this money go without a fight. We will push the case to the end and show to the public by what influence the old man was induced to will his entire estate away from his poor dependents and into the hands of a woman, and when the case comes to trial there will be disclosures that will be interesting."

Mr. Hull was something of an oddity in life. He would pick up a child from the street and kiss its hands and face and feed it candy. He made great friends with the newsboys on the corner. He was somewhat inclined toward spiritualism, and he loved to write for print. In 1881 he published a 300-page book entitled "Reflections of a Busy Life," in which he put all sorts of opinions on every subject that the mind of man ever got rumpled over. His views are in the shape of letters, mostly to Miss Culver, whom he addresses this way: "The great success of the undertaking is largely due to your energy, your steady, persistent labor, and your never-failing faith. You have stood hard at the helm when I was almost tempted to go in out of the storm. Your keen womanly instinct and long-range spiritual vision caught the glimmer of the lighthouse in the mist beyond my sight at the end of the peer. Without your faith the work must have failed. I bless you, God will, and the poor ought to." In another place he says: "And you now are the only earthly anchor. Your noble womanhood keeps me in line and if I live so as to retain your love I shall be saved here and everywhere."

HIS RELIGIOUS VIEWS.

Here are some remarks from Mr. Hull's book: "I am always opposed to schools of theology that hurry people into Heaven"; "A desire for public place is a devil that rends the people"; "It is not the custom of invalids to seek a favorable climate until they are too sick to be benefited by the change"; "Few of us court the storm that independence is likely to bring"; "The overflow from countries of great cathedrals now stock our poorhouses and prisons"; "The heart dies surrounded with wealth unmixed with sentiment"; "Profane swearing is a vicious habit"; "Fashion is a network for weak minds and the ally of vice"; "I dream like a girl"; "Ignorance is the father of fear"; "The Bible is quite a book—as good as they could get up in early days"; "Whisky is the biggest devil known to man"; "Small men are always in fashion."

Mr. Hull treated big men and little men familiarly in his letters. He calls Gen. Grant "either a knave or a fool—probably both." His book closes with the verse:

A level head, a lightning brain—
O who can tell their worth!

MARRIAGE OF THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

His Grace United to Miss Candy at London—A Paris Wedding.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE TRIBUNE.

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LONDON, Feb. 20.—The Church of All Saints in Margaret street was crowded at the early hour of 9 this morning by a fashionable crowd to witness the marriage of the Duke of Newcastle to Miss Candy, daughter of Capt. Candy, formerly of the Ninth Hussars. The Bishop of Lincoln officiated. The service was fully choral. The bride's mother, the Hon. Mrs. Candy, was attired in a handsome mauve broché dress trimmed with velvet of a darker shade and old point d'Alençon lace, and wore a bonnet of a darker shade of velvet. Eight bridemaids accompanied the bride to the chancel—namely: Lady Florence Pelham-Clinton, sister of the bridegroom; the Misses Adeline Lister Kaye and Lois Lister Kaye, nieces of the bridegroom; Miss Ida Mary Rate, Miss Curtis; Lady Ileene Hastings and Lady Blanche Conyngham, cousins of the bride; and the Honorable Rosamond Tufton. These young ladies were exquisitely gowned in cream serge trimmed with real cream Astrakhan, with open jackets crossed with sky blue surah silk and festoons of cream lace fastened with blue knots and bows. They also wore muffs en suite, suspended by white silk twisted cord ornamented with blue silk bows and posies of choice blooms. The bridemaids also wore stylish white real Astrakhan Spanish hats trimmed with white silk cord-knotted and laced across the front with white wing and plume. The bridegroom was accompanied by his brother, Lord Francis Pelham-Clinton Hope, which latter surname he recently assumed, who performed the duties of groomsman.

After the ceremony the Duke and Duchess left for Paris. The bride's traveling dress was blue cloth trimmed with black astrachan fur.

PARIS, Feb. 20.—Dr. Tarver Lewis, Bishop of Ontario, was married today at the British Embassy to Miss Ada Leigh, who has founded in this city a British Free Episcopal Church, a British orphanage, and homes for British governesses and others. The embassy ball-room was used on this occasion as a chapel, and Lady Lytton and her daughter showed the esteem in which they hold the bride by attending the wedding.

SHREWD SCHEME OF HAYTIAN REBELS.

Trying to Counterfeit Legitime's Paper Money to Pay Insurgent Troops.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—[Special.]—Poor Legitime's troubles with rebellious Hayti apparently are without an end. Today Minister Preston's detectives say they have unearthed a new scheme whereby Gen. Hippolyte intends to make President Legitime's treasury pay the salaries of both the loyal and insurgent troops. This new and startling scheme, like most of the rebel schemes, was hatched in New York, Minister Preston says.

Several weeks ago the Haytian Consulate received a letter from a well known bank-note company declining to make a certain batch of Haytian stock and paper currency. Minister Preston thought it queer that a company should decline to do work he had never asked them to do, and detectives were sent to investigate. The detectives say they have discovered a scheme with millions in it—for Hippolyte.

Two agents of Hippolyte in New York, they say, ordered nearly $4,000,000 in bank notes of various denominations, to be an exact copy of Haytian bank notes, asserting that the money was to be made genuine as soon as it reached Hayti. According to Minister Preston two large bundles of crisp bills are now on their way to Gen. Hippolyte. They were shipped on the steamer George Clyde, which sailed last Saturday. The Minister described the boxes of greenbacks as being marked "Lithographs." An examination of the Clyde's manifest developed the fact that two boxes of lithographs were among the articles the Clyde took to Cape Haytian. There was also $4,500 in Mexican silver dollars.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT JANESVILLE, WIS.

Meyer's Opera-House and Other Buildings Burned—Loss $60,000.

JANESVILLE, Wis., Feb. 20.—[Special.]—Fire was discovered this afternoon under the stage in Meyer's new opera-house, originating from a furnace in the basement. There was considerable delay in securing good streams of water owing to low water in the standpipe, and owing to this delay fully one-third of the Meyer Block, fronting on Milwaukee street, was destroyed, including stores occupied as follows: H. Jones, grocer, two stores; J. P. Worthington, saloon; E. Roberts, veterinary surgeon. The tobacco warehouse on Bluff street formerly occupied by Stevens & McKey was badly damaged by fire and falling walls. In addition to the opera-house fully $30,000 worth of property was destroyed. The total loss is estimated at $60,000, upon which there is little insurance.