

GENERAL TELEGRAPH NEWS

SOCIAL SCANDAL IN MILWAUKEE.

A MOTHER'S ATTEMPT TO SECURE POSSESSION OF HER CHILD—AN EX-CONGRESSMAN IN COURT—HIS RESPONSE TO A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS—THE LADY'S SUIT FOR DIVORCE.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Aug. 18.—Ex-Congressman Alexander Mitchell, President of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad, was brought into court to-day on a writ of habeas corpus issued in behalf of his daughter-in-law to secure possession of her child, Mrs. Mitchell having commenced a suit for divorce from Alexander Mitchell's son John. The pair have lived unhappily together for years. The husband has been more or less dissipated and bad-tempered. His wife, who is a beautiful woman, has also been addicted to drink. Some weeks ago, according to the story told by John Mitchell's friends, he protested against the visits of a certain man to his house. High words were indulged in by himself and wife, and during the progress of the discussion the man who was the subject of their trouble came in. He remained till a late hour, and as he took his leave Mrs. Mitchell accompanied him outside the door. The husband then coolly turned the key, leaving her shut out. The residence of the couple is some miles from town. Mrs. Mitchell went to the stable, got a horse, and came to the city. Since then she has never been back to her home. The couple have two children—one the inmate of an institution for feeble-minded; the other is 2 years old, and is in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Mitchell, its grandparents. It is to secure possession of this child that proceedings were brought. Mr. Mitchell, in response to the writ, relates that he has the custody of the child by virtue of a power of attorney from the father; that the child now has a comfortable home with him; that Bianca C. Mitchell, the mother, is unfit to have control of the child; that she has for a number of years been addicted to an inordinate use of liquor, has often been very drunk, and by reason of her excessive drinking has become unfit to have the care of the child; that through the use of liquor she has become violent and harsh in temper, and that the morals and health of the child would be endangered in her hands; that he has offered to let her see the child at reasonable times, and that she has left it for days without care or attention. Mrs. Mitchell makes denial of the allegations, and says when she left the child for days at a time it had the care of a competent nurse. She denies that she is unfit to have the custody of the child, and says that prior to her marriage she never tasted liquor, but that after marriage, finding her husband to be a confirmed drunkard, and upon his frequent solicitations, and his surrounding her with drinking associations, she frequently drank in his company, but she has now, and for a long time, entirely abandoned the use of all kinds of liquor. She denies that Alexander Mitchell offered to allow her to see her child, and says she was refused permission to see it on the 5th inst., its birthday; that John L. Mitchell is unfit to have control of the child by reason of his habitual drunkenness and adulterous life.

In her complaint for divorce, Mrs. Mitchell alleges drunkenness, cruelty, and adultery. The case has been adjourned 10 days, the child to remain in the custody of its grandfather till then. The troubles of the Mitchell family have created a great sensation. John L. Mitchell is an only son of Alexander Mitchell, and a man of considerable ability in science, and is an enthusiastic agriculturist and horseman. He is a member of the State Senate, has recently been supposed to have cancer of the stomach, and has taken to drink. The loss of five children had much to do with and increase this infirmity. Both are unquestionably to blame. Mrs. Mitchell was poor when she married, but beautiful and intelligent. The marriage was bitterly opposed by the Mitchells, and there never has been any feeling of great friendliness between the two families.

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