

MRS. COREY GETS A DIVORCE IN FOUR HOURS

Does Not Take Jury Long to Decide—Mother Will Have Custody of Boy

IN less than two hours and a half the matter of the Corey divorce case that has been attracting attention all over the country, owing to the prominence of the parties concerned, was settled in the district court this morning, the jury empaneled to pass on the case returning a verdict in favor of the plaintiff, Mrs. Corey, who will be given an absolute decree of divorce and the custody of the minor child, Alan Corey. The case was devoid of any sensational features.

"Yes, I know William Corey. He left his wife and never came back.—He is not a fit custodian for his son.—His associates are not good.—I don't think the men of New York are fit for a boy to associate with, I mean particularly the wealthy men.—Yes, I am partisan and a pronounced advocate of my sister-in-law and so is my mother.—Laura Corey never gave him any cause for desertion."—Portions of testimony of W. E. Corey's sister.

A feature of the case was the mysterious actions of several of the attorneys who participated. The weight of the case seemed to have seriously increased their swollen dignity. The air was charged with mystery and it was impossible for representatives of the press to even ascertain the identity of several of the principal participants until the information was kindly supplied by Benjamin Curler and Sardin Summerfield. All that was necessary to complete the Sherlock Holmes air of several of the legal lights, were rubber soles and false whiskers.

If any one who had been following the case during its period of notoriety had hoped to see sensational disclosures made today at the trial, they were disappointed.

The case was called in the district court this morning at ten o'clock before Judge Curler. Mrs. Corey, attired in simple dress, a skirt of black, waist of white and hat of black, with no ornament or jewel of any kind about her person, was present in the court room accompanied by her son Alan, and her sister-in-law, Miss Addie Corey. She was represented by Attorneys Orr, Curler and Craig of Reno and Special Counsel Joseph R. Redding of New York.

Mr. Corey, whose presence has been expected at the trial, was not present, though he was represented by Sardin Summerfield and Special Counsel T. L. Chadbourne of Pittsburg.

Jury Selected.

Just an hour was consumed in securing a jury, the defense making no objection whatever to any of the men selected.

Attorney Redding opened the case by reading the complaint to the jury in which he stated that the plaintiff, Mrs. Laura Corey, has been a resident of Nevada for more than six months, that she was married to William Ellis Corey at Pittsburg on December 1, 1883, and that they had lived together until May 1, 1905, when Corey willfully deserted and abandoned the plaintiff. There was no community property and Mrs. Corey asked the custody of the minor child.

Corey's Answer.

Attorney Redding then read Corey's answer to the complaint in which Corey answered the complaint in which Corey regarding Mrs. Corey's residence in Nevada and denied that she was a resident. He admitted the marriage but denied that on May 1, 1905, or at any other time he abandoned Mrs. Corey without cause and lives apart from her without reason or against her will or without her consent. He asked that she should not have the custody of the boy. Continuing Mr. Redding in an eloquent talk to the jury stated that material prosperity coming to Corey had brought unhappiness to his home. Corey's ability and genius to control men, he said, had not taught him how to treat a gentle woman.

"It was in 1903 when Corey moved from Pittsburg to New York, the time when his horizon broadened and when the world became his push button," said the lawyer, "and this man, stern, determined and self centered became entirely absorbed in business that the shadow began falling on his domestic felicity. Mrs. Corey knowing the man and his nature was not entirely unprepared for the separation which she felt was coming. Yet not for a hundred years had the world witnessed such a brutal desertion, the time when Napoleon left his Josephine. History repeated itself when this Napoleon of industry, William Ellis Corey, on the first of May, 1905, willfully took leave of his loving wife and set sail for Europe."

Mrs. Corey was the first witness called and confirmed the statements in the complaint that she was married to Corey, had one child whose custody she asked, and that Corey had abandoned her without cause. Her testimony follows:

"In May, 1905, Mr. Corey came to my apartments at the Hotel Lorraine in

New York and said, 'Tomorrow I will set sail for Europe. I am leaving you because I have concluded that we cannot live happily together.' Since that time I have not set eyes on him. We had no scene or outburst of any kind. I was willing to go back to him at any time, but he made no overtures to me nor did he hint at any reconciliation. I was not sure that he had left me for good until his return from Europe the following July when he again came to New York and took apartments at another hotel."

Miss Corey Hits New Yorkers.

Miss Addie Corey, the second witness called this morning, is a sister of the defendant. Asked if Corey was a fit custodian for the boy Alan, Miss Corey answered "No, he has no home and the men he associates with are not fit companions for Alan." Asked what objections she had to Mr. Corey's associates she retorted:

"I don't think the men of New York are fit for a boy to associate with. I mean particularly, men of wealth."

Attorney Summerfield: "Have you any personal knowledge of the badness of these New York men?"

Miss Corey: "I know of the case of my brother; he was all a husband ought to be before he went to New York and after he got there he was all a husband ought not to be."

Attorney Summerfield: "You have a partisan feeling, have you not?"

Miss Corey: "Yes; I have."

Attorney Summerfield: "You are a pronounced advocate—"

Miss Corey: "Of my sister-in-law, and so is my mother."

Attorney Summerfield: "That will be all Miss Corey."—and everybody in the court room smiled.

Young Alan Corey, a strapping youngster of sixteen, was called and his testimony was to the effect that he was called to his father's office in New York, after Corey left his wife, and Corey said to him:

"I have left you mother. You are too young to understand the reasons why. She is a good woman. Your place is at her side."

Young Corey said he preferred to be with his mother.

Other Witnesses.

Samuel Hodgkinson and Fred Stadtmuller were called and testified to having handled business for Mrs. Corey since November, 1905, their business being used to strengthen the legality of Mrs. Corey's residence in Nevada.

At the conclusion of their testimony the court took a recess until afternoon.

The case was submitted to the jury without argument and a verdict was reached with but a few minutes' deliberation.

At the announcement of the verdict Attorney Summerfield stated that Mr. Corey was as anxious to secure a divorce as Mrs. Corey, but he did want the custody of the boy.

The names of the jurymen who passed on the case follow: Sol Levy, foreman; T. R. Biggs, C. E. Clough, Bud Holcomb, Robert J. Anderson, W. D. Phillips, Bert Linn, A. D. Gould, John Gallagher, Elwood Boemer and Charles Short.

A large number of people were in attendance at the trial not a few of them being women.

At noon when the court took a recess photographers were in wait, ready to take a picture of Mrs. Corey. Mrs. Corey espied them, however, when

she was leaving the court room and made a hasty retreat. In company with District Attorney Craig who acted as body guard, she made exit through the rear door to the jail and had neared her carriage when another photographer was encountered. Young Corey was equal to the occasion and while the picture man endeavored to get a snap shot, he danced in front of the camera until Mrs. Corey was safely in the carriage.