

HE IS LEGALLY DEAD.

Legislative Act Needed to Enable Outlaw Younger to Marry.

James Younger, the former outlaw, is having a difficult time in trying to get married. In a legal sense Younger is dead and hence arises the difficulty in his case.



Some months ago the Legislature of Minnesota passed an act giving the Board of Pardons power to parole the brothers, Coleman and James Younger, who had been in the Stillwater penitentiary more than 25 years of a life sentence for committing murder in an attempt to rob the First National Bank of Northfield, in September, 1876.

The act, however, stated explicitly that the outlaws were to remain within the borders of Minnesota and to have none of the powers of citizens other than freedom during good behavior.

James Younger was badly shot about the mouth and shoulders during the fierce battle in which he was captured near Madella, two weeks after the Northfield raid, and while he was in prison was frequently ill. Miss Alice Miller, a pretty girl then residing in Stillwater, in the family of a deputy warden, had constant access to the penitentiary and became interested in Younger because of his feebleness, and often took delicacies to him. They soon became firm friends and Younger told the young woman the troubles of his career as guerrilla and bandit.

In spite of the fact that he was more than twenty years her senior and in the disgrace of a prison garb the girl fell in love with Younger. Both regarded their prospects of matrimony as well nigh hopeless as Younger was scheduled to remain at Stillwater penitentiary the remainder of his life.

Then came the parole, inspiring them with hope, and Younger applied to the clerk of the county for a license. The clerk, doubting his powers in the case, placed the matter before the attorney general. The latter would not direct the issuing of a license.

He told Younger the only way in which he could become a legal benedict would be to get through a supplementary legislative act giving the Board of Control (formerly the Board of Pardons) the power to grant a full parole, which would, of course, carry with it complete restoration to citizenship. The matter is to be brought before the next Legislature at its January session.

Coleman, James and Robert Younger, Jesse and Frank James and four other bandits rode into Northfield, Minn., on the afternoon of September 7, 1876, with the purpose of robbing the First National Bank and hurrying away with their booty. As they charged into the quiet village they discharged their revolvers to frighten the populace and part of the gang rushed into the bank. Mr. Hoywood, the cashier, made a stubborn resistance and was shot dead.

Immediately afterward a fierce fight took place in the street, citizens firing on the outlaws from walls, doorways and windows. One of the number, Ciel Miller, was killed and two citizens fell fatally wounded. Mounting their horses the desperadoes divided and galloped away. The James boys, who made up one party, escaped over the Iowa border and thence to Missouri. The other section was not so fortunate. It moved southwestward and was, after some days, traced to a wooded swamp near Madella. Here a fierce fight followed, in which all the outlaws were killed except the Younger brothers—James, Robert and Coleman. The three men were sentenced to State prison for life. Seven years ago Robert Younger died of consumption.

Merely a Detail. The new society reporter had just returned from the first wedding ceremony she had attended in a professional capacity.

"Did you get all the facts?" asked the editor.

"All that are of any importance," replied the young woman. "I have a description of the bridal gown, and the trousseau, and the flowers, and the wedding presents, and the objective point of the wedding tour, and the names of the bridesmaids and the officiating clergyman, and the reception days."

"Who is the bridegroom?" interrupted the editor. "His name has been printed four different ways in the preliminary announcements."

"The groom?" faltered the young woman. "Why—why, I forgot to ask him, and nobody else appeared to think of him. But they had all the important details ready for me."

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