MAKING YOUR WILL

Have You Put Off This Important Task, and, if So, Why?

DRAWING UP THE DOCUMENT.

Rules by a Probate Law Authority That Tell Just What to Do and What Not to Do In Making a Last Testament Secure in Its Provisions.

"More than 97 per cent of Americans die without making a will," says Frederick Halsey in the American Magazine. "Have you made yours? It is conceded by legal authorities that it is the duty of every person to leave a written will in order that the estate may be closed, the property divided among the proper beneficiaries and that the family or friends may have the benefits of the property, yet more than 80 per cent of the holders of valuable property neglect this duty.

"The old superstition that the man who makes a will writes his death warrant is one of the chief causes of delay in making proper provision for the distribution of any estate after death. It is hard to calculate what percentage of men and women believe this superstition, because the majority will deny it. Court experts know that the percentage is large. Yet life insurance figures, taken in comparison with dates on wills, seem to show that instead of being correct the superstition is without basis and that men who have made wills have lived longer than the average."

Charles S. Cutting, who is one of America's foremost authorities on probate law, gives the following directions for making a safe will that can't be broken:

Before you consult anybody decide how you propose to leave your property.

If the disposition to be made is simple any ordinarily skilled person can draw your will.

If your will is complicated, including trusts, life estates and so forth, employ the most skilled draftsman within your acquaintance.

Do as your legal adviser tells you as to matters concerning which there may be doubt.

Be sure to comply with all formalities required by the statute, especially the following:

Subscribe your name to the will in the presence of witnesses.

Declare it to be your will in their presence.

Have at least two witnesses sign in your presence.

If you sign by mark or for any reason are unable to write your name have at least three witnesses to the fact of your signing by mark or that you requested some other person to write your name.

Ask people who have long known you and who have no doubt as to your sanity to be witnesses.

Place your will in the custody of some perfectly responsible person or corporation or in some receptacle, as a safety deposit vault, which cannot be opened after your death without the presence of public officials.

Remember that any provision you make for your wife is an offer to her to purchase from her her statutory rights and that if she chooses she may reject your offer and take under the statute.

Don't put off making a will until you are ill and your disinherited relatives will say that your mind is affected.

Don't believe that making your will will hasten your death.

In states where the statutes give a widow dower only in her husband's real estate don't get the idea that she will be the owner in fee of one-third of his realty.

Don't attempt to tie up your estate for a long period, providing for ultimate distribution in the distant future. Courts are very apt to find ways to construe such a will contrary to your intention.

Don't let your will be the vehicle of conveying to posterity your hatred or dislike of individuals.

If you are wealthy and have provided well for your family don't forget the obligation you owe to the community.

Don't attempt to change your will after it is written and witnessed by drawing lines across certain portions of it and writing in other directions. Such attempts will fail.

Don't make a nonresident of your state executor of your will. Many states will not permit him to act.

Don't have the man you selected as executor sign as a witness. It may disqualify him.

Don't allow any legatee or devisee in your will to sign as a witness. If he does he may lose his legacy or devise.

Quite Friendly.

Hennypeck—Scoots eloped with my wife last night. Gabbleton—Why, I thought he was your best friend. Hennypeck—He is.—London Telegraph.

HE TEMPTS DEATH

Deadly Dangers a Nitroglycerin Maker Must Face.

NEVER IS SURE OF HIS LIFE.

Any Moment the Worker in a Nitrator May Be Blown to Atoms—A Calling That Demands Coolness, Prudence and Daring—One Man's Experience.

Nitroglycerin is made by ordinary sweet glycerin acting with a mixture of strong sulphuric and nitric acid. The glycerin is dropped by a very thin stream slowly into a mixture of three parts nitric and five parts sulphuric acid. During the process the containing vessel is kept cool by a water jacket, and the acid mixture is agitated by a stream of cool air. The temperature is maintained at about 80 degrees. After the operation the whole mixture is drawn off into a tank and is allowed to stand in this vessel, cooled by a water jacket. The glycerin, which is now nitroglycerin, immediately begins to come to the top like cream on milk. This is at once taken care of and is put through various processes to cleanse it of all remaining traces of acid.

In no department of our plant must greater care be exercised than in the nitrator, which is the name given to the building where nitroglycerin is manufactured.

Explosions are frequent, and it takes a man of iron nerve to conduct this department. It is like going into battle every day. Yet in the face of this we have one man who has successfully made nitroglycerin for twenty years, and he lives to tell you about it, only he won't. He is as reticent as the sphinx.

Like any other man of great courage, he does not boast, and John Viewberger will talk about anything except the miracle of his continued existence. I can only say that Divine Providence, a cool head and hands and a stout heart have kept him at his work.

The acid fumes that fill the building at all times when nitration is taking place have long since eaten away the very teeth in his head, but not his pluck. It is a fact that he is provided with a new set of false teeth on an average twice a year. The hair on his head has long ago disappeared, and the fumes have tanned his skin to the color of bronze until he resembles a cave man of old. And yet he has never had a day of sickness in these twenty years. He thinks, as I do, that no disease, no matter how virulent, could successfully combat the nitric fumes that he inhales. So his work has its compensations, if you are pleased to look at it that way.

While nitration of glycerin is going on Viewberger sits on a high stool, his arms stretched over the nitrating machine, one hand on a faucet that controls the flow of glycerin into the acid, the other hand on a valve regulating the cooled compressed air that is forced into the mixture and his eye glued to the thermometer that extends well down into the mixture. I have said that the glycerin undergoes nitration at a temperature of 80 degrees. The temperature is regulated by the quantity of glycerin that flows into the acid. If the temperature begins to rise above 80 degrees he closes his valve slightly, reducing the flow of glycerin, and increases the flow of cool air.

Any little foreign substance that might get into the mixture, even through the acid of glycerin or otherwise, would cause immediate trouble. The slightest leak in the water cooling coils, permitting a little water to get into the mixture, would be the signal for the thermometer to do a marathon, and in a few minutes the whole mixture would reach the degree of heat that would result in an explosion. Viewberger cannot desert his post when the temperature begins to rise rapidly. This condition frequently takes place, and most of the time it can be reduced by cutting off the flow of glycerin entirely and by turning on the air to the full pressure of fifty pounds. Sometimes, however, in spite of all, it will continue to rise, and Viewberger knows or feels that he has lost control. He must leave his mixture to its fate and "dig out."

His building, the nitrator, is located on a hill higher than its surroundings. The hill is a high sand dune. Immediately back of the stool on which he sits is a big door that is always left open when he is manufacturing. Viewberger's method of exit or getaway is to jump out of this door and roll down the hill. While he is on his way the explosion takes place. He has done this some twenty times and yet has never received an injury. He has never been struck with flying debris, although the air is filled with flying pieces of lead and iron. Does history record a greater miracle? Dug out of the sand semiconscious from the impact of an explosion, in the course of half an hour he has been quite himself again, ready to go to work if need be, his only regret being the loss of property sustained by the company.—Willard Fay in Collier's Weekly.

Reason For Joy.

"What a beautiful girl that is standing over there!"

"I'm glad to hear you say so. She is my daughter."

"Hallelujah!" he said to his wife when the mother had departed. "For once in my life I struck it right!"—Detroit Free Press.

There is always the sun, only we must do our part, we must move into it.—Clara Louise Burnham.

Measuring Your Pace.

How many steps do you take in the mile? Even if your considered reply be "Seventeen hundred and sixty," I shall take leave to doubt it. Should you be a British infantryman your pace will be the longest of any infantryman in the world. The Russians' pace is the shortest, being but twenty-seven and one-half inches; the French, Italian and Austrian pace is twenty-nine inches, the Germans do thirty-one inches, while British soldiers stride an extra half inch. But your own pace, what of it? It depends upon your height. Take your eyebrow height, halve it, and that represents your pace. You will find it to be somewhere between thirty inches and thirty-two inches, so that you will need between 2,000 and 2,100 paces to the mile.—London Chronicle.

Ancient Barber's Forfeits.

Customers of hair dressers at one time were in danger of having to pay a forfeit as well as their fee when entering the barber's shop. Until half a century ago some barbers still kept a list of rules hanging in their shops—chiefly concerning swearing, seeking to be served out of turn, etc.—the penalty for breaking which was the price of a pint of ale. The antiquity of the practice is evident by Shakespeare's allusion to it in "Measure For Measure:"

The strong statutes
Stand, like the forfeits in a barber's shop,
As much in mock as mark.

—London Standard.

A Grievous Burden.

"Just think!" exclaimed the humanitarian, "when a man enters prison he loses his identity and becomes simply a number."

"Well," replied the man in motor togs, "except for the fact that he is confined and has to do hard labor, I don't see that he is much worse off than I am. I not only have a number, but I'm compelled to pay for it."—Birmingham Herald.

A Statesman's Queer Ambition.

The great Lord Grey had an ambition far above politics. He passed the reform bill, but that did not satisfy his soul. There was talk of Taglioni, and Grey said quite earnestly, "What would I give to dance as well as she!" The statesman who had been prime minister and had left an indelible mark on the history of his country was envious of an opera dancer!—London Saturday Review

Father Time.

Time waits for no man—he's goin' jes' a-skimmin', an' he'd never make the journey if he waited for the women. Don't stop for sigh or song—he's stronger than the strong; to gloom time or glory he's a-goin' right along! —Atlanta Constitution.

The Attraction.

She—So you are engaged to Miss Baggs. I'm sure I can't see anything attractive about that woman. He—Neither can I see it, but it's in the bank, all right.—Boston Transcript.

The Back Yonder Club.

What has become of the family that used to eat Sunday dinner that was cooked on Saturday?

When did you ever see a sawbuck? Not to go back too far; do you know what a sawbuck is?—Richmond Times Dispatch.

His Vile Disposition.

"Fine day, Mr. Gloom, and"—

"Well, you didn't make it, did you?" snapped J. Fuller Gloom. "Then what are you bragging about it for?"—Judge.

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