

The Romance of a Slave.

CHICAGO, Nov. 14.—The romance of a slave will be brought to light in the trial of a suit to be called in Judge Brentano's court today. The central figure of the romance, begun more than half a century ago, survives in Marie Evans, or Laurence, who is now fighting in the courts for dower in the estate of Dr. Henry Laurence, as his widow. Opposing her suit is Dr. W. J. Lawrence, of Oakwood boulevard, and 20 other relatives of Dr. Henry Laurence, who died in 1891. These set up the contention that the complainant was not the lawful wife of their dead relative. The amount involved in the litigation reaches \$100,000, the property left by Dr. Laurence, who died intestate and childless. The widow's dower is two-thirds of the whole estate.

Marie Evans Laurence, the complainant in the suit, still preserves the comeliness which gained her her freedom and, as she claims, two white husbands, both of whom were men of learning, of distinguished family connections, and possessed of means. Her kinked hair, long for one of her race, is whitened with the snows of 72 years, and her face is seamed with the furrows of time but her carriage is erect, her step is light and her eye lustrous.

She was born in Adams county, Mississippi, in 1823. The first chapter of the romance of her life began in the slave market of Yazoo, Miss., when she was 17 years old. A clerk, John H. Evans, who came of a prominent Virginia family, saw her and fell in love with her. He made a vow that he would secure her freedom and marry her. He had no money with which to buy her freedom, but set about to earn and save it. It took him years to do it, but he was true to his dark-skinned sweetheart, who, in the meantime, had been sold to new master and taken to Kentucky. Evans followed her there and in 1848 paid down \$1000 to her master, brought her to Cincinnati where he gave her her liberty and, it is alleged, made her his wife. They returned to Yazoo, where he continued in business.

Shortly after moving to this place she made the acquaintance of Henry Laurence, a young Englishman, a dentist, who became a frequent visitor at the Evans home. He was an abolitionist and later left Yazoo, and came to live in Chicago. Just before the war broke out Evans and his wife went to live in New Orleans. In 1861 they received a letter from Laurence who was not prospering in Chicago, and he was advised by them to move to New Orleans, which he did. The Evans couple conducted a fashionable boarding-house on Canal street in that city, and which was a rendezvous for politicians of the time. In 1865 Evans died. Dr. Laurence was living with them and he fell in love with the widow.

Two years after the death of Evans there came another epoch in the life of the Mississippi slave. From that time she called herself the wife of Dr. Henry Laurence. Whether she was is the question that will be determined in the court in the trial begun today. She

claims it was only a common law marriage by which both consented to live together as man and wife until death parted them, and this contract, she says, was faithfully carried out by them both. For 22 years, she says, she was a wife to Henry Laurence, and closed his eyes when death separated them. The couple came to live in Chicago in 1877, in a house which Dr. Laurence bought.

The defense is that the form slave was not the wife of Dr. Laurence, but his servant, and that no marriage contract existed between the two.

If some men had given their votes to the democratic party as freely as they now give their advice there would have been no defeats.

Chauncy Depew has been complimenting President Cleveland again. Has he forgotten 1892 and his wrestles with previous compliments?

Bob Ingersoll, who believes in nothing except the gullibility of those who buy tickets to his lectures,

had the gall to name his new tirade against the Bible and Christianity "The Foundations of Faith". Now let Jim Corbett lecture on the "Foundations of Fighting".

Mr. Reed will carry a large stock of assorted sizes of muzzles of Washington, but whether the republican members of the House will all agree to wear them remains to be seen.

Big Tom Reed will find adding the direction of a Presidential boom to the duties of Czar of the House a heavy burden for even as broad-shouldered a man as himself to carry

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