

# A FOURTH WARD HEIRESS.

## Pretty Annie Murphy Divver and the Question of Her Parentage.

### The Peculiar History of Old Blind Dan Murphy, Lord of "Kerry Castle."

Annie Was His Only Ray of Sunshine—He Worshipped the Ground on Which She Trod and Left His Fortune to Her—The Efforts to Break the Will the Greatest Sensation of the Kind the Ward Has Ever Known.

Old Dan Murphy always believed him to be the father of Annie Murphy, for called her always his Annie," said Mary Darity, blind Dan Murphy's woman of work, to a visitor yesterday afternoon. He always had his face set against Ann-murriage," she continued, "and sure as Tommy Divver was always worrying self and old Dan into a fever to give some to his marriage with Annie, until at last youngsters would not be said may be old ed went out by themselves and were ed without saying as much as by your old Dan.

"That was, indeed, the sad day for him," she continued. "Turn 'em out without a shilling, did you say? Sure he'd cut his head off before he'd do that, for he loved Annie, but it provoked him to know then that another man would share her love. No, sir; the thought never entered his mind."

LIKE A SUNBURST O' AN APRIL MORNING.

"Why was the old man so proud of Annie? Well, I do not know. But any man'd be proud of Annie. She's that nice, and sweet, and beautiful."

long ways out of his road to get a smile from her. As for a crusty old fellow like Dan, why, she was like the sunburst o' an April morning to him. How could this trouble Dan when he was blind as a bat? Well, old Dan was not always that blind that he could not see her. Twice many a day she gladdened his heart before he got blind. Besides, wasn't old Dan sixty when Annie was born? Often, and often, and often, I brought down the old Bible to him, that he might read the story out of it about Abraham and Isaac, and it was the proud man he was after that."

Young Mrs. Divver, the subject of the above observations, came out of Kerry Castle at 4.30 yesterday afternoon and walked around the Madison street corner into New Chambers street. She was dressed as became her present position, as prospectively the wealthiest woman in the Fourth Ward, and apparently she did not care who knew it. She wore a sealskin sash and a jaunty hat of black velvet. Near Park Row she met her husband, Thomas Divver, who had been standing upon the corner of Park Row and New Chambers street. Mr. Divver accompanied his wife to her lawyer's.

FROM DOUBLE ALLEY TO KERRY CASTLE.

It is a long stride even from the Double Alley in Cherry street to the Kerry Castle in Madison street. Long as it is it took many years to make it, and it was not made without suffering either.

The mother of young Mrs. Divver was Bridget Sinnott. She was a widow with one son. She occupied the tenement story of Murphy's tenement astride the Double alley in Cherry street. She was employed as a dishwasher in a restaurant in Hanover square. The rear window of her landlord, Dan Murphy, looked into the front window of his tenant, Mrs. Sinnott.

This was way back in 1874. Some relatives of Mrs. Sinnott, who resided in St. Louis, feeling her lonely position and hard way of making a living, sent her money with which to pay her expenses to that city. Accordingly she went to them, taking her son, Thomas Sinnott, with her. There was a report that, which has often been repeated

since, that her landlord really was responsible for her removing to St. Louis. He had paid all her expenses there, too, gossip said.

BLIND MURPHY AS A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR.

Another story told, which throws a curious side-light on National politics, is that one of the moving causes for Dan Murphy's acceptance of the place of elector upon the Hancock ticket in 1880 was that he might get to St. Louis on the pretense of being at

ANNE'S FIRST VISIT TO KERRY CASTLE.

Mrs. Sinnott returned to this city with her daughter, Annie, in 1881, leaving her son, Thomas, in St. Louis. She went to live in a tenement in Canal street, of a class somewhat superior to Murphy's double tenement in Cherry street. She often visited Murphy and his wife in "Kerry Castle," bringing Annie with her always. Frequently Annie would remain there for a long period on a visit. Mrs. Sinnott was always reserved in manner upon these occasions, and was received by Murphy and his wife as an old tenant should be after a long absence in a far-away city.

It is a matter of tradition in the neighborhood that Mrs. Murphy never asked any explanations of Mrs. Sinnott regarding her motherhood of Annie. Folks say she never considered it any of her business. Nor did she make inquiries as to her improved position or her husband's friendship for the daughter Annie.

Mrs. Murphy died in May, 1882. She had one of the greatest funerals that ever went out of the Fourth Ward, and was placed alongside of her son, Solomon, who had died some years previous, in the crypt under the monument which bears the inscription, "This Will Outlast the British Monarchy."

Mrs. Sinnott came to visit Murphy shortly after this. Annie had gone to Murphy's home after the death of his wife, at his request. He was singularly affectionate with the little one. Her presence was something to him. He was often melancholy as blindness came slowly upon him, bemoaning his lonely position in his apartments in the crowded tenement, "Kerry Castle." Annie became the one bright ray of his existence.

Mrs. Sinnott came to denounce her old landlord in his hour of trouble. It was noticed that she never left the house at all. The Canal street apartments were given up. She told much of her neighbor's as were curious to know that she had become Dan Murphy's

the Convention in Cincinnati. It is alleged that Murphy wanted some excuse to give Mrs. Murphy for his going away. Besides, he wished to see a little daughter which Mrs. Sinnott said had been born to her when she left this city. But he said naught of this last to his wife. This daughter is now young Mrs. Divver, wife of Tom Divver, the son of the Police Justice. She

was born on Aug. 10, 1874, and was going on six years old upon the occasion of this visit of Mr. Murphy to the Convention and Mrs. Sinnott's St. Louis home. Murphy himself was then sixty-five years old.

THE OLD MAN'S CURIOUS MARRIAGE.

Meantime old Dan's eyesight had become so bad that the physicians ordered the removal of his eyes in order that his life might be prolonged. It was decided that the operation be performed on Dec. 22, 1882. The physicians were busy themselves with their several duties, and Murphy, seventy-two years of age, nervous and apprehensive of dissolution under the operation about to be performed, sent for Rev. Father Keane, of St. James's Church. The room in which the old man lay was cleared of everybody except himself and Father Keane. It is supposed that upon this occasion the old man confessed to such a condition of things that Father Keane considered his rights the wrong he had done.

And so Mrs. Sinnott and Daniel Murphy were married.

In the next hour Murphy's two eyes were upon a saucer on the kitchen table. He had taken his last look at the little girl of whom he was so proud and loved so well and of the woman whom he had at last righted—before the world.

THE BITTER AFTERMATH.

But the marriage was really an injury to all concerned, considered from the standpoint of harmony. Old Dan, with his eyesight gone, was crabbed and fretful. The second Mrs. Murphy's tongue was a bitter one, and now that Dan was her husband she let it have full swing. She was not at all particular in her sayings either, and did everything she could to wound her husband.

In one of her flights of passion, as she was threatening to leave the house, the old man begged pitiously, saying, "You'll leave me Annie!"

"I will not, you old blind ruffian. Annie is none of yours. She is a better man's." Mrs. Murphy No. 2 died in 1886. She, too, had a notable funeral. But her body does not rest under the big monument.

THE ADVENT OF YOUNG DIVVER.

Old Dan was left alone with Annie now, and Mary McCarthy. His woman of all work, the maid, Annie, who had been very com-

found his way into the house one cold Winter's night, having nearly frozen his ears out upon the corner. Old Dan was glad enough to have young Divver come in, until he found that the youngster wanted Annie, and then he told him he had better stay at home. For a time young Divver did stay at home.

But one day in the Summer when the Divver family was at Ocean Point, L. I., Annie Murphy went around to keep an appointment with her lover. The Divver house is but a few doors from "Kerry Castle." Upon a word from young Divver a friend went for a priest, and so they were married in spite of all opposition.

NOW THEY ARE POTENTIALITIES.

Since the marriage of the young couple they have been veritable notabilities in the Fourth Ward. Their restoration to the favor of old, blind Dan Murphy, their presence at his funeral and the leaving of the bulk of his fortune, amounting to several hundred thousand dollars, to Annie; the objections of the old man's nephews to the first will, the offering of a second will for probate which gives the nephews a larger share in the estate—all are matters rehearsed in the public prints.

As to public sympathy in the Fourth Ward, there is no death as to how that runs. It's all with pretty Annie Murphy Divver. Whatever failing her parents may have had, she herself is in no wise to blame. Her friends all say that the contestants rely only on the ill-tempered language of her mother to upset the will. What such a woman might blurt out in spite or passion, their claim, would mean little or nothing in a court of law.

Young Mrs. Divver said yesterday afternoon to the reporter of THE WORLD: "It is not true that I coaxed my father, Dan Murphy, to give me the bulk of his property. I was always with him, at least, since he lost the sight of his eyes, and he seemed to greatly enjoy my company and I suppose it is but natural that he should want to put me beyond want."

"The last time he said he wanted to make me his heir was a few days before his death. He said, 'Annie, I have got to make

ber me sometimes.' I replied, 'Papa, you dear, good, old man, I'll remember you always. Why shouldn't I? Haven't you done everything for me, I'd like to know?' Papa was cross sometimes, you know; it was so hard for him to remain all day in the house. It was some months since he went out to walk any distance and it was invariably in my company. I would like you to say very much for me that from my earliest recognition my father was always gentle and affectionate to me, no matter how he felt towards others, and I know he was what we folks call cross and crabbed to them. Really he was not to blame, for it may be accounted for by his ailments."

"I must confess that I do not strongly object to the course of my relatives in seeking to get their claims recognized in the division of my father's property. Had I my way I would wish that the division be made as they wish, but it seems that I have very little to say—in fact, too little for the future safety. Many of them already blame me, saying that I am grasping and wish to grab up everything. Nothing of the kind. In the will offered by them, which I read for the first time in THE WORLD the other day, I come in for a larger portion than any other, and have more at stake—I think there is the word—than any other of the heirs or heiresses. I am very sorry indeed that I am placed in this business in the way I am. I would rather not be."

"Another thing. All this story of my birth and bringing up is new to me. I was brought up as many of the other girls in this neighborhood were, I suppose. My mother—poor, dear woman—did have a hard struggle to make both ends meet for many years, as I have often heard her say. She always worked hard after her marriage to Mr. Murphy, as well as before. You see, the people here do not seem to enjoy themselves at all, even after they have got into what is called easy circumstances. That is my experience. My father was always kind to my mother, and tried to smooth the rough edges in her life's path."

Meanwhile all the Fourth Ward is so busy to learn the whereabouts of the story of blind Dan Murphy's money.

THE ADVENT OF YOUNG DIVVER.

Old Dan was left alone with Annie now, and Mary McCarthy. His woman of all work, the maid, Annie, who had been very com-



KERRY CASTLE, the home of Blind Dan Murphy, at 125 Madison street, in the old Fourth Ward.