

lavished upon her in those days of his adversity."

"Two or three years after arriving in the country, Margaret committed a mortal offense in the eyes of her protector by marrying an Irish Catholic named John McKernan. She was then but 16 or 17 years old. It was bad enough for her to marry at all, but to be married to a Roman Catholic was more than Stewart could condone. She was too high spirited to appear in the light of a supplicant for pardon, and her husband felt as independant, with the whole world before him, as she. They removed shortly afterward to a suburban town on the Hudson. The estrangement between the city merchant and his former ward was partially healed and he frequently sent her various articles of clothing for herself and baby. His feeling toward her husband, however, never relented."

"In 1859 McKernan and his young family joined the western tide of immigration and settled in Northfield, Washtenaw county, afterwards locating at White Oak, Ingham county, Michigan. Mrs. McKernan's recollections of her self-constituted guardian grew dim as years went by, and she came in time to think of him only when the scenes of her childhood reverted to her mind. There was no correspondence and as far as she was aware, he may have been dead. She heard in later years of A. T. Stewart, of New York, whose fame as a successful business man was known throughout the world, and she occasionally wondered in her declining days whether he was Alexander Thomas Stewart, her uncle. The name of the millionaire merchant was Alexander Tourney Stewart. "He spells his name the same way," she would say, "and according to the newspapers, he is the same stern, cold natured man as the Stewart I knew." Her oft expressed desire to see him was never gratified and she died in 1873, at her daughter's home in Williamston, three years before A. T. Stewart's death."

"This is the case set forth by Faulk. The question of putting in a claim for a few hundred thousands of the estate, more or less, has been discussed at intervals for years, but no one seemed inclined heretofore, to go to the metropolis and make a demand on the executors who are reveling in the millions that the childless merchant prince left at his death, but, as work is slow on the farm just now, Faulk made up his mind to take a few weeks and look into the matter. Faulk says, candidly, that he thinks he has small show of getting any of the estate, even if his grandmother's relationship should be proven, but he would like the satisfaction of learning if such a relationship really did exist."

"Mr. McKernan left a large family, among them ex-Sheriff Thomas McKernan, of Ingham County, ex-representative John Q. McKernan and Capt. Phillip McKernan, recently deceased, who was formerly a well-known lawyer at Mason. The ex-sherriff and ex-representative will consequently come in for a slice of the estate if any of it comes this way. Faulk says the other heirs have chipped in to investigate the claim."

(If Faulk or his ancestors had been possessed of a record such as the one I am now introducing, he and his relations would not have to "chip in," as he says they have done, to pay the cost of proving relationship.)

In the early part of the present century there resided at Gros Garrar, Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, a poor but energetic young lad, possessed of that native push and inborn perseverance which is bound to make its mark in the world. In the year 1813, while he was just entering his fifteenth year, he left his native land and turned his steps towards Russia, where he gradually worked his way up to an honored and respected position as a banker. Being of a saving disposition he at length accumulated a very large fortune. Piling up

his money—here a little and there a little, at the time of his death he was worth \$100,000,000. In the city of St. Petersburg he built a large hospital, also building and endowing churches and colleges to the extent of \$2,000,000, such was the generosity of the man. His last will and testament left to his heirs or his relatives the enormous sum of \$100,000,000; and the amount is now in the treasury of Russia awaiting claimants. That young man was P. Sticklitz, who died lately, and whose heirs have from time to time been advertised for in the German and English papers. These heirs it is supposed are scattered throughout the whole world. Many of them are young, and many others have not the slightest idea that their family ever had any connection with any of this name, because no records of ancestors had ever been kept.

(This is certainly a very strong argument in favor of keeping a family record of ancestry in accordance with the places which I offer in our Family Tree. Then, as I have shown elsewhere, how easily could these large fortunes be claimed and relationship proved.)

To the Sticklitz family I wish success, and to all who read let these facts testify to the reasonableness and utility of plans, and may they see their advantage in profiting by the experience of others and learn from this time to know their own family history, and to hand it down to their childrer, is the earnest wish of the writer.

I beg especially to call attention to the matter of making out legal papers, such as wills, mortgages, deeds, notes, abstracts, and in fact all papers that may at some time have to stand the test of law; that you may study well the point of having a competent attorney to attend to such matters for you, as the laws of the land fluctuate from time to time, and the legal profession alone is able to keep posted on them.