

zenship and respectability demand. He has in no way forfeited his right to the claims of sonship in the Hopkins family.

At the time of Mark Hopkins' death Timothy was a recognized member of the family. For some time after the death Mrs. Hopkins regarded him as her son, and, it is said, assured him that the bulk of her millions would go to him. Mrs. Hopkins has twenty-one blood relatives, with all of whom she was on the most friendly and intimate terms until her marriage with Searles, which occurred in Mass., a few years after the death of her first husband. When this marriage took place she was seventy years of age. Her relatives and her son all combined in denouncing it.

Searles was a paper hanger by trade. He was 45 at the time of the marriage. After that Mrs. Hopkins disclaimed all her relatives and her adopted son. It is said that a will agreement was made shortly after the marriage between Searles and his wife. This was that Mrs. Searles make a will bequeathing everything to her husband provided she died first. He was to make a will bequeathing everything to his wife provided he died first. As he had but a day's wages, and she had \$70,000, the trade seemed greatly in his favor. Two dependent relatives of Mrs. Searles, who were receiving stipends of \$300 a year each, did not receive any more from Searles after the death of Mrs. Hopkins-Searles.

There is one feature in this rather peculiar will which challenges the attention of all right-minded persons. It is the grasping avarice of the man Searles. He knew that his wife had a number of dependent blood relatives; he knew that Timothy Hopkins was an adopted son; and yet he permitted his wife to ignore all the ties of kinship and duty. Had he persuaded Mrs. Hopkins to bequeath even a few millions to relatives and friends, public opinion would not be so pronounced against him as it is at present.

The will agreement savors a good deal of the confidence trick practiced by bunco sharps when they plan the robbery of a verdant citizen. Purses or pocket books or satchels are exchanged to manifest trust in each other, but the verdant victim finds that he has been "confided" before long. Of course Searles will make a big fight to retain the millions, but he must patronize the law profession liberally.

Taking a politically economic view of these large fortunes, perhaps it is better that they should be thus distributed than that they be permitted to rest in individual hands. The cases of

Hopkins, of Tilden, of Davis, of A.T. Stewart and several others ought to make an object lesson for other millionaires yet in the flesh. Here are the vast fortunes of these men being wasted in litigation, while relatives, kinsmen and friends have not received a cent, and probably never will. Had Mark Hopkins the wisdom to dispose of his money among his own and his wife's relatives, his industry and economy would have done some good in the world, but leaving it as he did, he did an injury to his unfortunate widow as well as tarnished his own memory.

It was absolute cruelty to leave the management and disposition of \$70,000,000 to an invalid woman of 70. Is it any wonder that she looked for help and assistance to a stronger arm and brain? Is it any wonder that Searles accepted the offer? Not at all. Timothy Hopkins would no doubt have accepted it himself under the circumstances, and he would have fought as Searles now does. A wise man might have accepted the widow and contented himself with a portion of her wealth, but wise men are few and hoggish men are many.

ENGLAND AND THE DARDANELLES.

EVERY day since the Atlantic cable was laid has furnished its quota of war rumors from Europe. So that the average alarm about manoeuvres on the Russian frontier, or arrests in Alsace Lorraine or cannonading in Egypt creates no special apprehension. But the news that is now coming is not of the regular stamp.

If there is any reliance whatever in the reports, there is imminent danger of a resort to arms unless peaceable arrangements are not reached between England and the Sultan very suddenly. With the temper of England as it is now over the opening of the Dardanelles to Russia, the work of reconciliation must be accomplished very quickly or else there will be none.

This strait, which is the most valuable key to inter-European commerce, has been England's great harassing anxiety for a great many years. Russia has been striving without cessation to get possession of it, ever since that power could be regarded as a civilized government. It would be worth more to the Czar today than all of Siberia if he could possess it in peace.

It is not the intention of the other powers that he shall have any such advantage over them. Turkey has been permitted to hold the keys of the situation solely to keep them out of Russia's clutches. The Sultan now having betrayed his trust, and mani-

festing a disposition to favor the Czar against the other powers, England wants to know what he means by it. Salisbury sends to him now a pre-emptory and all but insulting demand for an explanation.

In the meantime Turkey is sullen. In place of a reply she asks bluntly why England does not take her soldiers out of Egypt. This apparent insolence from the Sultan is not regular, and plainly indicates that if a compact has not already been made with the Czar it will be without any preliminaries, in case of need, and with the first show of hostility we may expect to learn that the Sultan and the Czar for all purposes of war are pretty much of a unity.

Whatever may come of the trouble, one thing can be assured, the Dardanelles will be free for all guers or for none, unless at the end of a bloody struggle the Czar and his allies should prove stronger than all the powers of Europe besides. With Russia in possession of Constantinople, it is a question whether he would not be safe to defy them all.

THE CLIMAX OF STRIKE.

IT LOOKS as though a doom had fallen upon our small republics. What international war, rebellion, riot and robbery leave to them is threatened with being carried away at a single gulp by the angry elements. According to the last reports San Salvador is the next thing to a total ruin. A convulsion of the earth has laid waste nearly every town in the State. This seems to be a climax to the financial and political convulsions that have been keeping that neighborhood in perpetual disorder for a year or more. We hope the evil genius that has been haunting our southern neighbors may now experience a change of heart and find pleasure in seeing commerce and industry have their day in restoring the waste places and testing what a year of peace will do against a year of turbulence.

THE POPULATION OF INDIANA.

THE population of Indiana as returned in 1890 was 2,192,404. In 1880 it was 1,978,301. This shows an increase of 10.82 per cent. during the decade.

In 1880 there were twenty-seven cities in the State having a population of 4000 or more, the aggregate population of which was 327,248. In 1890 the number of cities having that population was thirty-seven, with an aggregate population of 507,133.

The most considerable increases in