

Dolly Tester has also a peculiar history. She entered life as a bar-maid, and from that sphere graduated to the stage of the Alhambra in London. She has figured frequently among the "drunk and disorderly" at the Bow street police court. She is now Vicomtesse Savernake, Countess of Cardigan, Countess Bruce, Baroness Brudenell and Marchioness of Aylesbury. This is a formidable list of titles, and the Bow Street Rhadamanthus ought to know that even without whiskey any young woman's head would get top heavy under such a load. She was presented by a young Jew with a blank check signed, and permission given her to fill it for any amount she pleased. She filled it for \$250,000, drew the cash and then married the Viscount Savernake. Her father-in-law died a short time after, and she came by her titles and the Aylesbury patrimony. She has quit the stage, and now luxuriates as a Marchioness.

Kate Vaughn is another of the Thespian sisterhood who has entered the charmed circle of British aristocracy. The Hon. Col. Frederick Wellesly, grand nephew of the Duke of Wellington, though a married man, fell in love with Miss Vaughn. He took her to Vienna where he was a military attache. While driving with her on the street, he met the Empress of Austria, and lifted his hat as she passed. For this offense he was degraded from his rank in the army and lost his position. His wife got a divorce. He is now married to Kate, who supports him by her stage work. She sprained her ankle a few weeks ago, and the gallant colonel is on short rations. Miss Vaughn is the originator of the skirt dancing ballet.

Very little is heard now of Miss Fortescue, the lady who was so near becoming the wife of Lord Garmoye, who compromised by paying her \$50,000 to release him from his engagement. But the notoriety she gained by this was worth to her much more than that. She is now a fourth-rate actress, and outside of the show bills little is heard of her.

Phyllis Broughton will be remembered as the actress who sued Lord Lurgan for breach of promise, and gained her suit. There are many other actresses among the British aristocracy, but they are worthy of the place, and are recognized because of superior intellectuality and merit. British royalty and British blue blood in general are not in good order at present, and John Bull's worship of aristocracy is rapidly on the wane.

The battle of Solferino was fought June 23, 1859.

THE OLEOMARGARINE TAX.

A St. Louis grand jury has indicted a large number of the town grocers for selling oleomargarine in unstamped packages contrary to the law of Congress passed during the Cleveland administration. It is not at all improbable that they are guilty. It is not likely that a retail grocer can be found east of the Mississippi who is not violating the oleomargarine law regularly and it is not unnatural that they should violate it and that courts and officers should neglect their clear duty to punish them and thus encourage the practice.

The law was an outrage upon consistency and a direct assault upon one of the leading principles of American progress, which is the encouraging of useful inventions and the fostering of economy in labor and substance. When an act so palpably absurd is instituted for the government of a free people, they are not likely to go far out of their way to manifest respect for it, moreover, it tends to reduce more or less their respect for the body that urges it upon them.

One of the surprising features connected with the ridiculous affair is the manifest ignorance of leading journals on the principles of the law. The San Francisco *Chronicle*, for instance, in commenting upon these arrests in St. Louis, says:

"The purpose of the act of Congress in reference to oleomargarine is not to prevent its manufacture or sale, for there has never appeared to be anything deleterious about it, but to enable the consumer to know what it is that he is buying and eating. If he is satisfied with oleomargarine he can get it, but if he prefers butter and wants to pay the price for it, he should have the certainty that it is butter that he is getting, and not an imitation."

If this were true the law would be all right. But it is so far from the truth as to be utterly foolish. The expressed purpose of the law was to limit the product of oleomargarine, by loading the manufacture with a tax, in order that the dairymen of the United States might successfully compete with it in the markets. The bill was framed for the benefit of dairymen and lobbied through Congress at their expense. Their argument was that oleomargarine was unwholesome, but no such fact was proven by the evidence brought before the House committee. The stamp tax, instead of lessening the quantity produced, has had the singular effect of infusing the new industry with a new energy, and like all other forms of advertising has invited public attention and increased the demand for the article.

When an article of food upon its merits can obtain such public favor as

to incite a tax for the benefit of its competitors, it is natural and proper that the public should grow more interested in it. Whatever the intent of the law may have been with respect to the fraudulent practice of selling it under another name, the effect of the tax provision has been to increase instead of restrict the abomination.

To suppose that dealers will go out of their way to label this product "oleomargarine" when by doing so it would subject them to a tax which they may avoid by the omission, is to say the least an unreasonable proposition. But such is the best intelligence the San Francisco *Chronicle* has for its readers on the subject. However, that paper is not specially to blame, since a large number of the papers of the country are guilty of the same stupidity.

THE M'KIBBEN WILL CONTEST.

Probably the most important will case that has ever occupied the attention of the Probate court in this Territory was that of the contesting of the will of Sarah E. McKibben, widow of Joab Lawrence, deceased, and George E. McKibben, made by the latter.

The property involved is valued at considerably over \$1,000,000. Shortly after the death of Mr. Lawrence, Mrs. McKibben made a will leaving all property, except a few legacies, to her daughter by a former husband, Mrs. Amelia C. Fox, wife of Moylan C. Fox, who as well as Mr. Jacobus, a wealthy New Yorker, was named as an executor. Some time after making the will Mrs. Lawrence married George E. McKibben, and a year later died at the Cullen hotel in this city. The heirs at once took possession, but Mr. McKibben entered proceedings to contest the will, on the grounds that under the laws of Utah a widow marrying invalidates all wills she may have already made. This being the case the contestant would get half the property.

The arguments were recently made. Judge Powers and his partner, Ogden Hiles, represented McKibben, and Bennett, Marshal & Bradley and Mr. Dickson appeared for the defendant, Mrs. Fox. The court took the matter under advisement and rendered a decision today.

The opinion is herewith given in full:

TERRITORY OF UTAH, }
County of Salt Lake. }

In the the Probate Court in the matter of the estate of Sarah M. McKibben, deceased.

As shown by the records in this case, Sarah M. Lawrence, then a widow, made and executed a will on the 2nd day of June, 1888, and thereby disposed of all her property. She intermarried with George E. McKibben on the 10th day of May, 1889, and died on the 5th day of March, 1890. The said will was filed in court on the 12th day of May, 1890, with the petition of Moylan C. Fox and George Y. Jacobus, asking for the admission to probate thereof. On the 23rd day of June, 1890, the said will was admitted to pro-