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**AN EXPOSITION**

**OF THE DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN**

**T. B. LAWRENCE,**

**AND HIS WIFE**

**SALLIE WARD LAWRENCE,**

**WHICH LED**

**To their Divorce.**

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**PREPARED BY T. B. LAWRENCE AND HIS COUNSEL.**

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**BOSTON :**

**W. LITTLE & CO., 19 State Street.**

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## THE LAWRENCE DIVORCE CASE.

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The publicity which has recently been given to the difficulties between Mr. T. Bigelow Lawrence and his wife, and the unsparing abuse that has been lavished upon him by the advocates and friends of Mrs. Lawrence, seem to demand imperatively that some statement should be made of the motives which prompted, and the causes which rendered, his course necessary.—

Whatever may be argued by those unfriendly to him, from his silence to the present hour, it is nevertheless true, that he has thus far refrained from making any public explanation, from motives of delicacy, and from a consciousness that his justification could not be established without divulging facts and a correspondence which nothing but extreme necessity could call forth. His vindication lies, in a great measure, in a series of letters written by Mrs. Lawrence, and various members of her family; and had it not been for the unjustifiable manner in which he has been assailed, they would never have been known. But he is now summoned, by a call that must be heeded, to defend his honor and his name. The press and public mind alike demand that he should explain his motives and justify his conduct; and nothing now remains but that the truth should be stated distinctly and decidedly, whatever may be the consequences, or on whomsoever the weight of public approbrium may fall.

That Mr. Lawrence offered no opposition at the late trial of Louisville need not create

surprise. Without dwelling upon the legal character of the libel for divorce filed in the case, he would state that it appears singular to practitioners in our courts, that the residence of neither party should be therein set forth, and that there is no internal evidence in the bill that the court, before whom it was brought, had any jurisdiction in the matter. There are other omissions which here seem equally strange, and which would either prove fatal to the case, or require such a series of amendments as would not be highly creditable to the lawyer who framed it. The elegance of the phraseology, and the logical precision of the petition, we will pass over, as the public can form some idea of these by perusing the arguments of Messrs. Guthrie and Preston, in the case of Lawrence vs. Lawrence, by whom the libel was framed.

But, waiving all other defects and omissions, the great fact that there has been no sufficient service on the respondent, must alone invalidate all proceedings in the case. At no time during the progress of the cause, has Mr. Lawrence received any notice to appear, nor had he the faintest intimation, from any legal source, as to the time or place when the application for divorce was to be heard. The copy of the libel, which was alone served on him, was without date, (except the clerk's certificate, which was appended thereto,) it was made returnable to no term of the court; and, whatever time may have been assigned for hearing the



case, no order of notice founded thereon was served upon him, and he therefore had no legal suramons to answer and defend. In fact, he had no right voluntarily to make himself a party to a proceeding without a decree of the court; and the only legal inference that could be drawn from the facts, as they appeared to Mr. Lawrence prior to the trial, was, that the libel had been dismissed on account of informality, and that no new one had been filed. This omission in giving proper notice to the respondent, is not only a sufficient reason for Mr. Lawrence's non-appearance, but invalidates the whole proceedings from the onset; it renders the judgment null in Massachusetts, and inoperative everywhere, and it is one of those defects that cannot be regarded with very great satisfaction by those who are responsible for it.

Another objection that might be had under the act of March 6, 1850, respecting Mr. Lawrence, is, that the act was wholly inapplicable to his case, the advertisement having been published nine days before the law was passed. No lawyer need be told that retroactive statutes are contrary to the jurisprudence of the land; and that, under the ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States, retrospective laws, affecting vested rights, are as inoperative as *ex post facto* laws, when applied to crimes. It was accordingly supposed that no proceedings would be had under an act powerless as affecting the advertisement of Mr. Lawrence, and that the Judges of Kentucky would refuse to pursue a course contrary to every sound principle of law, and manifestly at variance with the spirit and letter of constitutional liberty.

These reasons, in the opinion of counsel, were sufficient to deter Mr. Lawrence from appearing either in person, or by attorney, at Louisville, and, in compliance with their advice, he offered no opposition to the libel.

As it is difficult to say definitely what testimony was given at the trial, we will first notice the account contained in one of the leading journals of Louisville, not only from the fact that it has been more extensively copied than any other, but also because the character of the paper forbids the idea of any intentional error.

Mrs. Lawrence did leave Boston for Louisville in company with her father; but Mr. Ward had some time previous offered to attend his daughter thither, in case her husband should be unable to do so. Mr. Ward, in a letter to Mr. Lawrence, under date of July 10th, said:—

"If your engagements are such as to prevent your leaving Boston, let me know by telegraph, and also by mail, and I will immediately go for her."

In consequence of this, a telegraphic communication was forwarded to Louisville, stating that Mr. Lawrence could not leave Boston; and immediately a second letter was written to him by Mr. Ward, dated July 25th, in which it was said:—

"If Sallie concludes to visit her mother now, write me at once, and I will soon be in Boston. When it is important she should be here, it would give me pleasure to go for her."

On the 17th of August Mr. Ward was in Boston.

The promise was made to Mr. Lawrence, at the time his wife left Boston, that she should certainly return by the first of October, and it was not expected that he was to accompany her back. The reason why it was impossible for him to do so was, that his father was to embark for England on the 26th September, and he was unable to leave Boston before that day. He was positively answered, however, that his wife should be brought back, and this was only a repetition of what had been previously stated in a letter to Mr. Ward. His language was—"If you cannot stay, I will return with her to Boston at any time you may desire." And in another letter he said—"I will very cheerfully return with her to Boston."

Mr. Lawrence, in a letter to Mr. Ward, dated Sept. 9th, reminded him of his promise that Mrs. Lawrence should return to Boston by the first of October. The reply to this letter did not deny the promise, but alleged certain reasons why its fulfilment was impossible. Besides this, Mrs. Lawrence, when she departed from this city, left behind her a written promise that she would remain in Louisville only one week—but the time was voluntarily extended by her husband to a longer period.

Mr. Lawrence's dissatisfaction at his wife's remaining in Louisville, was known to the parents of Mrs. Lawrence more than five months before the publication of the advertisement. The same letter of Mr. Lawrence, above alluded to, dated Sept. 9, contains the following:—"If you prefer Sallie to remain in Louisville, and do not embrace the offer which I make, and one it is which is prompted by the



strongest affection and a true desire for her welfare, I have only to say to you, sir, that you will effect a separation between my wife and myself; for, if Sallie remains there, it would certainly be forced upon me." The reply of Mr. Ward, dated Sept. 19, said:—"If you deem my course a cause for separation, be it so." And no other opportunity was offered Mr. Lawrence to express his dissatisfaction, since all further correspondence on the subject was closed, at the request of Mr. Ward.

The following extract from a letter of Mrs. Lawrence to her husband, dated Nov. 6, will show that his disapproval of her remaining in Louisville was at least suspected by herself: "I am quite as fixed (she says) in my determination not to spend the winter in Boston, as you are not to come to Kentucky. I must beg that you will not again write for me to come, even were my health perfect." And all further opportunity of making known his dissatisfaction to her, was rendered impossible by the declaration, "Correspondence on this subject [her return to Boston] is useless entirely."

Money was furnished Mrs. Lawrence by her husband, and bills were paid for by him during her stay in Boston, besides her bills at the Tremont House, and those for medical attendance, as can be proved by unquestioned evidence. The sums of money so paid, both to and for her, would, by others, have been considered large, and her husband was ever ready and willing to supply all her reasonable wants. Indeed, it had been the wish of Mr. Ward, at his daughter's marriage, to provide for all her personal expenses himself, as he had made no settlement upon her at that time; and, accordingly, had Mr. Lawrence only paid the bills as testified to by Mr. Ward, he had done all that his wife's father had reason to expect. But, as before stated, much more than this was done. Whenever Mrs. Lawrence desired money, it was furnished her without hesitation; and whoever knows the money so provided, and the bills paid for her, ought not to deny his kindness and liberality. The charge of meanness, which is attempted to be thrown upon Mr. Lawrence by the friends and family of his wife, is without the slightest foundation; and those who remember the costly gifts he lavished upon her, at the time of his marriage, have no reason to question his generosity towards her.

But the most striking instance of the niggardness of Mr. Lawrence, adduced at the trial, was what Mr. Preston was pleased to call "the hundred dollar transaction." Mrs. Lawrence

in that case, made no application whatever to her husband for money; but, without his knowledge, wrote a note to Mr. Abbot Lawrence, asking for the loan of one hundred dollars. The note was as follows:

"DEAR FATHER,—You will confer a favor upon me by sending me one hundred dollars, which my father will return to you in person. I am expecting money every day, but Eliza wishes her wages, to make immediate purchases with, which induces me to apply to you. I receive it as a loan. When pa arrives, it will be returned to you. Yours, SALLIE W. L.

The sum asked for was immediately enclosed to Mrs. Lawrence in a letter, wherein all that was said in reference to the money was—"I enclose one hundred dollars, which you wrote to me for this morning, for the purpose of paying your maid." Mrs. Lawrence, in answer written the same day, says—"Receive my thanks for your prompt attention to my request, which shall be returned to you immediately."

Five days, at least, after Mrs. Lawrence's return to Louisville, viz., the first of September, she wrote a letter to her husband, in which she said—"Pa commenced to-day with my yearly allowance; the first appropriation I made was to send one hundred dollars to your father." And in due course of mail, according to the testimony of Mr. Ward, a letter was received, acknowledging the receipt of the money. From first to last, there was no application made for the repayment of the sum. Mrs. Lawrence asked for it, and chose to consider it as a loan, and its return was voluntary and unsolicited. We trust that the hundred dollar transaction will induce Mr. Preston to "pause and reflect."

What renders the charge of meanness, which the advocates of Mrs. Lawrence have attempted to throw upon Mr. Abbott Lawrence, in connection with this transaction, peculiarly unjust, is the fact that only a few days before this sum of one hundred dollars was borrowed, he offered to pay any bills that she might have in Boston. She declined the offer, with thanks, saying she owed no bills in the city whatever. Two or three days after, Mr. T. B. Lawrence received a bill of ninety-eight dollars, from Messrs. Jones, Lows, & Ball, contracted some weeks previously by his wife.

Thus much has been said, in answer to specific testimony given at the recent trial in Louisville; but great injustice would be done to Mr. Lawrence if this statement were to terminate here. It now becomes necessary to indicate the reasons which rendered him un-



willing to repair to Louisville, and to show the obstacles and trials he was obliged to contend with, during his wife's residence in Boston.

With Mrs. Lawrence, prior to her coming to Boston, we have nothing to do. She arrived in this city (Boston) on the 1st of April, 1849. Her fame as a belle had certainly preceded her, and there was an eager desire to see one who had elsewhere created so great a sensation. But the curiosity of the public, great as it was, did not equal the kindness and love with which she was welcomed by the kindred of Mr. Lawrence; and the efforts made to render her satisfied and happy in her new home, were prompted by the warmest affection and regard. Her own acknowledgment of that kindness is thus expressed in one of her letters, written since returning to Louisville:—"My new home has for me many attractions. I met with unqualified kindness and attention while there, which I shall never forget. With health I could not fail to be happy, when such efforts were made to render me so." But, however earnest or sincere were those efforts, they were still ineffectual in producing either contentment or happiness; and immediately after reaching Boston, she commenced writing to Louisville in a tone that argued nothing but disappointment and distress. It appeared that devotion and kindness were unable to reconcile her to her new abode; and notwithstanding the rank she occupied, and the attentions that were shown her, the letters she wrote to her family, in the language of one who perused them all, "conveyed the idea of utter, perfect misery." The cause of all this sorrow and suffering was so idle, that we are reluctant to mention it. While every reasonable wish was gratified, some foolish whims were opposed, and this determined the whole character of her thoughts and feelings. Till Mrs. Lawrence arrived in Boston, she had never learned to heed the wishes of others—the idol of the ball-room had always met with submission, and the secret of obedience had never been acquired by her. Among the habits to which she had been accustomed while in Louisville, was one which her husband endeavored to break, not only because it was injurious to herself, but also because it was condemned by the sentiment of the community among whom she had become a resident. We allude to the frequent and free use of paints and other cosmetics. Whatever she had done elsewhere, Mr. Lawrence represented that in Boston such a habit could not be allowed, and he sought to exert the prerogative of a husband by forbidding its practice. This prohibition was received with anything but favor by Mrs. Lawrence, and

colored darkly the early letters she wrote to her parents.

Her complaints were not long unknown. The suspicion that all was not right soon ripened into a conviction, and reports were circulated in the West that she was far from being happy in her new home. Side by side with these tales, went forth accounts of her physical sufferings, and the people of Kentucky heard that her life was in danger. It was even said that her return to her native city was not improbable, and in a letter written to a friend in Louisville, only sixteen days after her arrival in Boston, Mrs. Lawrence said that she should go back to Louisville, if not better. But these reports were a few days subsequently corrected; for she wrote to a friend, under date of April 21st, that she "was as well as she ever had been in her life."

In consequence of statements made by Mr. Lawrence to her parents, she received a letter from her mother, (postmarked Louisville, April 15th.) It should be borne in mind that this was one of the earliest letters written by a mother to her daughter after marriage, it having been written only thirty-three days after Mrs. Lawrence left Louisville, and only fifteen after her arrival in Boston. Mrs. Ward wrote thus:—

"I am going to write you a real war letter. You say you are acting by Mr. Lawrence's command, and you are unhappy by so doing. Then let me advise you in this case; seem to obey, but do as you please. If you use proper caution he can never know it. You say I can imagine your appearance now; yes, Sallie, I can, and nothing to object to either. You are better looking without complexion than with too much. This I have always said. But if you think differently, then do what would make you happy. You could not be less so, I should judge, under any circumstances. Then never fear Mr. Lawrence's anger; it could not be more enduring. Now, dear Sallie, if you would take the right means, he could never discover it. You must begin with caution, and keep it up. The most delicate tinge possible is all you want. If you have no more, defy the opinion of the universe, the commands of Mr. Lawrence, and every one else. Stick to it with some of your mother's spunk. Could you be worse off than now? You are miserable now; could you be more so then? It can't last long, and you leave giving out to others. My dear child, determine one of two things—to give it up at once, or stick to it in defiance of all and everything that may oppose. You cannot live long as you are. Then, Sallie, be a woman, and act as one in future."



The letter farther says :—

"I know you are careless with your letters. Now do burn this as soon as read."

By way of illustrating the foregoing, we will present a short extract from a letter written by Mrs. Ward to Mrs. Abbott Lawrence, five days after the above. The letter is dated Louisville, April 20th :—

"Never have I been more surprised, my dear Mrs. Lawrence, than on reading your last letter. I can in no way account for Sallie's most objectionable conduct. That she should defy her husband's wishes and commands, is really so new a trait in Sallie's character, that I am wholly at a loss to understand it. What the difficulty is, I cannot say, but think it must arise from ill health and consequent depression. It is the first time Sallie has been separated from her family, and from myself she has never been absent two weeks. It is natural she should feel home-sick; but surely no reason for the wilfulness and obstinacy you speak of. Bigelow I love as my own son; and there is nothing I would not do to make you happy. I have written Sallie my wishes and commands upon all subjects relating to herself and your family. I do hope, my dear Mrs. Lawrence, that you and Mr. Lawrence will endeavor to forget the past, and I think I can safely promise an amendment in Sallie for the future."

Whatever may have been the cause, Mr. Lawrence discovered, a short time after the receipt of the letter of April 15th, that his commands were defied; that what he had desired might be discontinued, merely for the interest and reputation of his wife, was steadily persisted in; and he strove, through the influence of his father, to gain that compliance with his wishes which he alone was unable to effect. This, apparently, was not without its result; and on Sunday, April 29th, the following note was sent to Mr. Abbott Lawrence :—

"Receive, my dearest father, my solemn oath, which is this day registered above, to conform to the wishes of my husband.

"Your daughter, SALLIE."

The fact of this resolve was evidently communicated to her friends in Louisville, since a letter from her sister, dated May 6th, says :—

"I write to assure you of my pleasure at receiving your good resolutions. Pray keep them, and you will render us very happy."

It would have been expected that a promise made at such a time, and in so solemn a manner, would have been heeded; and so it was hoped and believed by Mr. Lawrence, and his relatives. But these hopes and expectations were soon disappointed. At the expense of

being somewhat tedious, we will here narrate certain circumstances that transpired soon after the above promise was made. On Saturday, May 19th, Mrs. Abbott Lawrence (her husband being then absent at Washington,) gave a dinner party in honor of William C. Rivers, who was then on a visit to Boston. Mrs. Bigelow Lawrence was present, and although it was not quite three weeks after the above note was written, it was evident from her appearance that the old habit had been practised. Mr. Lawrence, however, did not make any accusation, but, after the company had separated, Mrs. L. said of her own accord, to Mrs. Abbott Lawrence, "Bigelow thinks I have been *rouging* to-day, but it is not so; there is no paint on my cheeks." Mr. Lawrence's reply was, "I have nothing to say at all; Sallie knows best; I do not accuse her of anything." His wife then said, "To convince you, mother, that what I say is true, about half an hour ago I was in the music room with Kitty and Abbott, (youngest son of A. Lawrence,) and Abbott said, 'How red your cheeks are—I should think you had been painting,' and he wet his handkerchief with cologne, and wiped my face with it. Now, if there had been paint on my cheeks, it would have come off." She then added, "I call Heaven to witness that there is not any *rouge* on my cheeks." Mrs. Abbott Lawrence endeavored in vain to dissuade her from using such violent language, for she said again, "I swear to God, there is not a particle of paint on my face."

The next day, Mr. Abbott Lawrence, Jr., came home, (he having gone to Cambridge the previous evening,) and when asked respecting the affair in the music room, replied that he had neither said nor done anything of the kind represented. The evening of the same day, (May 20,) Mrs. Lawrence confessed that her cheeks had been painted the previous day, but vowed that she would never do so again. At this same time, of her own free will, she relinquished to her husband a large supply of cosmetics, among which were two dozen pink saucers, two dozen bottles of liquid chalk, and numerous other articles which it would be needless to name or listen to.

Mrs. Ward thus alludes to this last circumstance at a later day, (June 8th) in a letter to Mr. Lawrence :—"When Sallie gave up all in her possession, would it not have been kinder on your part to have consigned them to the flames? It has driven Sallie almost to desperation. She feels that she has fallen from the high position which she had hoped to maintain in your family. I cannot at all explain to myself her conduct. Now, dear Bigelow, forgive



her—he noble, be generous to a repentant wife.” Another letter, written the previous day, (June 7th) said—“My greatest enemy, I am sure, would say I have no deception. You advocate, my son, perfect candor between man and wife—so do I; no happiness can ever exist without.”

On Saturday, May 19th, after he returned to the Tremont House, Mrs. Lawrence wrote a letter to her mother, which, for some cause, was never sent. The letter among other things, contained the following:—“I told them if ever Mr. Lawrence acted in a similar manner again, I was determined never to remain with him one hour after. And, my dear mother, I have vowed it; and if it occurs again, we will ever after be strangers. I care not what I may suffer by so doing. So far from *rouging*, I do not even use powder.” On the following day, as already stated, Mr. Lawrence received the supply of cosmetics above mentioned.

Although the foregoing letter was never sent to Louisville, yet it would appear from the following, that one of similar tenor had been. We now quote from a letter written by Mrs. Ward to her daughter, dated May 23d:—“Let me pray you Sallie, what you determine on, let it be well thought of before doing; not act hastily, and then repent it the balance of your life. This is a serious matter; it involves the reputation of two families. But, however, you know all that could and would be said on the subject by your enemies. You would not be willing to give up the world, as you would be bound to do, if you return home. It would not be three weeks before you would be the most miserable creature on earth.” A letter written thirteen days later to Mrs. Lawrence, by her sister, says:—“Sallie, you need not fear that you will not be at home this fall. Mother has said it, and what she says you know always takes place. Say nothing about it, but rest assured you will be here.” Mrs. Ward thus wrote to her daughter, under date of June 11th:—“Sallie, give up the world. If I could once more put my arms round you, and sink to rest! They say it cannot be; all would be ruin, to you and to all. Sallie, try to live quietly with Bigelow, and he will consent to let you come and see me soon. Your pa would come for you if it would not raise such a talk. May God forgive them all; I fear I never can. Your pa drinks almost constantly. I fear my letters are seen; indeed, I am sure of it. Burn them as soon as read.”

Mrs. Ward, in a letter to her daughter, postmarked Louisville, July 21st, says:—“If you could come home without Mr. Lawrence, I am sure I should prefer it. I do not feel as if I

could ever meet him as a son again. I am no like yourself, Sallie—I cannot blow hot and cold with the same breath. So long as life lasts, the contempt which I now feel will exist. About two weeks after the above letter was received, Mr. Ward left Louisville for Boston.

Another extract from the letter of July 21st may be instructive:—“It is hard telling, dear Sallie, how to write to you. One day you are the happiest creature in the world—the next, the most miserable. You are at one time neglected by your husband—the next, he is all devotion, and you value it more than all things on earth. You have had your father three times on the eve of starting for Boston, excited to the utmost by your supposed wrongs. The first time he was delayed by business a day or two, when there came a letter from you contradicting all you had previously stated. If causes exist to justify such letters as you often write, they could not be so soon and easily removed, or you do not maintain a womanly resentment and independence, to soon forget them. It is useless to write to you on this subject; you seem resolved to have your own way—be it so. As I was sending my last letter to the post office, a telegraphic document was received. ‘Come, without a moment’s delay.’ I will, in less than twenty minutes.” The letter concludes:—“I never know whether my letters reach you. I do not care who reads them. I have ever liked to be candid.”

Mr. Lawrence lived at the Tremont House, after arriving in Boston, and subsequently resided at the Nahant Hotel, during a portion of the summer; but his residence at these places was only intended as a temporary arrangement and it was his intention to go to housekeeping when a suitable dwelling could be procured. Mr. Ward, in a letter to Mr. Lawrence dated June 8, earnestly recommends this course, and says:—“You speak of going to housekeeping. If you can get a house, we earnestly advise it. I will most cheerfully assist you in fitting up the house, and likewise in supporting it. I beg that no feeling of delicacy will prevent your writing to me at once, the rent of your house, the cost of furnishing it, and the expense of living.” Mr. Lawrence accordingly hired a house in Beacon street, on a lease of three years, the rent thereof, including taxes, amounting to \$1,600 per annum. This lease was executed on the 13th day of August, four days before Mr. Ward came to Boston for his daughter, at which time the fact was communicated to him, and it seemingly met with his approval. Mr. Lawrence was to take possession of his house on the first of



October, when as before stated, he confidently anticipated his wife's return. He had hired his servants, procured his furniture, ordered his silver, and had made all necessary arrangements for proceeding to housekeeping.

But although he had thus engaged a house for a term of years, yet Mr. Lawrence had no intention thereby of pursuing a course that would impair the health of his wife. On the contrary, he had frequently promised Mrs. Lawrence, in case she found a residence in Boston too severe, that he would accompany her to some warm climate to pass the winter months. But it was maintained by her husband, as well as by her physician in Boston, that a change of climate would make little difference if she omitted to use proper caution. Her carelessness was well known, and whoever marked attentively her course, found a ready explanation for her ill health. Nor was the fact of her heedlessness unknown to her mother, who says, in a letter to Mrs. Abbott Lawrence, April 20 :

"That Sallie should be imprudent in dress, I expected; she has ever been, and could never be convinced that care is important for health." But, despite her negligence, her health had greatly improved before leaving Boston, and, at no time during her married life, had she been better than the month or two preceding her departure. As her happiness was dependent upon her health, this improvement was clearly indicated in the following letter written to Louisville a short time before she left Boston. This letter was written at Nahant, about the 20th of July, and we trust that the following extract will be read attentively by all who assert that Mr. Lawrence was unkind to his wife while there :—"I have never been so happy at any period of my married life as now. Mr. Lawrence is most kind and affectionate, and I forget society while with him. Whatever my past faults may have been, they will never return. I shall strive, in every way, to make my husband happy, and will comply in everything to his wishes."

Mrs. Ward, in a letter to Mr. Lawrence written about the same time, says—"Your last letter informed us that Sally is very happy. For this we are indebted to you. We have too much reliance on your noble nature to doubt that your utmost efforts will be exerted to make her contented and happy in her new home." In this connection, we will give an extract from a letter written by Mrs. Lawrence to her husband, since reaching Louisville. She says :—"You know I have no reason but ill health for remaining at home, and to have such stories public! There is nothing to keep us apart. I have made no complaint of anything

against you, and have always spoken of you in the kindest manner since reaching home."

It is well known that certain stories have been set on foot, representing that personal violence had been exerted towards Mrs. Lawrence by her husband. To one and all such tales we can give an unqualified denial. At no time, while living together, did Mrs. Lawrence receive any harsh, or even unkind treatment from her husband, as her above acknowledgement clearly indicates. She was accustomed, whenever opposed, no matter how trivial the cause, to shriek at the top of her voice, and we leave it to others to say how long a time would transpire in a public hotel before such a peculiarity would give rise to stories of cruelty and abuse.

It is not assumed that Mrs. Lawrence went to Louisville to reside, but simply to make a visit during the month of September, promising, as her own letters acknowledge, to return by the first of October. It may appear singular that, for the purpose of this short visit, Mrs. Lawrence should have been compelled to take with her the entire wardrobe which she possessed—a wardrobe, we unhesitatingly say, as extensive as that of any lady in the country. Yet such is the fact. Every dress and robe—though they numbered nearly eighty—garments adapted to the winters of Boston and the summers of Louisville—shawls and cloaks—were all carried off to answer the purpose of a three or four weeks' visit. All that remained behind was a trunk of respectable size, which Mrs. Lawrence, at leaving, told her husband contained most of her dresses; but, on examination, nothing was found therein but two or three dressing gowns for a sick room, which some invalids would have first thought of taking with them.

Not long after Mrs. Lawrence arrived in Louisville, Mr. Ward wrote a letter to her husband, in which he proposed that Mr. Lawrence should at once repair to that city, and there take up his abode. It was stated that the parents of Mrs. Lawrence could not consent to her residing in Boston. The language of the letter (dated August 30th) was—"Her return to Boston is not a debateable question." The residue of the letter proposed that Mr. Lawrence should give up all his other plans and arrangements, and, without any expression of regret on account of the house in Beacon street, he was asked at once to Louisville and reside.—The letter made known certain facts with great minuteness. It stated the rent of houses in Louisville; it told the sums requisite for living, either handsomely or extravagantly, in that city; it mentioned certain kinds of business in the



West, which could not fail of being profitable ; and certain investments that would prove highly advantageous ; and it considerably informed Mr Lawrence that he could purchase his furniture either in New York or Louisville.

The reply of Mr Lawrence was courteous, but decided. After expressing surprise at this unexpected course, he says :—"It is far from being my wish to do anything which might risk my wife's health, since you think the cold weather here would prove so dangerous." He then asked that Mr Ward would bring his daughter to New York by the first of October, (according to the spirit of his promise,) where he would embark with her for the West Indies, to spend the winter at one or several of the islands, as Mrs Lawrence might elect ; or, should she prefer, he would proceed with her to Rio Janeiro, and there pass the winter months.—Mr Lawrence mentioned that there were overwhelming reasons against his residing in Louisville. What those reasons were, we deem it hardly necessary to name.

Mr. Ward's answer (dated Sept. 19th) said that the state of his daughter's health demanded her mother's care and advice. The question of Mrs. Lawrence's return, and the kind invitations of her husband, were thus answered :—"I cannot bring her, nor will I consent to a voyage to the West Indies."

But Mr. Lawrence's efforts to obtain the return of his wife, did not terminate here. In a letter to Mrs. Lawrence, (dated October,) he repeats his offer to take her to a warm climate, and expresses his willingness to repair with her to the Mediterranean. This offer was distinctly and coldly declined, and a third, expressed in most affectionate language, met with the same return.

This is the tone of Mr. Lawrence's invitations. This letter of October says :—"Accept of this offer, I entreat you, dear Sallie ; and if you are not well and happy, it will not, I assure you, be your husband's fault, for I shall do everything to render you so." Another letter in October says :—"I now write you once again, to urge, to entreat you, if you have any love for me or yourself, to return. I ask you, dear Sallie, to come back to me. In the sight of God and man, you are my wife—with me you have sworn to live, and from me you have no right to remain."

From the time Mrs. Lawrence reached Louisville, her health, according to her own letters, began rapidly to improve. Every letter affirmed the same thing, and so speedily was the change, that, in less than two weeks, she wrote

that she had already attended one party, and felt well enough for a little dissipation. Under date of October 7th, she wrote to a relative of Mr. Lawrence, that Louisville was then very gay, that the color had again given her cheek the hue of returning health, and that a fancy ball was soon to take place, which she was to attend as a "Circassian slave," for which a beautiful new dress had just been received. "Louisville has been extremely gay—we have had masquerades, fancy balls, tableaux, and parties." Mrs. Lawrence's constant attendance at those parties can be clearly proved. In this gay season she was the gayest of the ladies of Louisville, and we leave it to those who then saw her, to say whether the happy belle seemed to them like a pining invalid !

The following extracts apparently imply that the conduct of Mrs. Lawrence, while in Boston, was not altogether unexceptionable.

This is the opinion of her mother :—"Sallie has given you (Mr. Lawrence) great cause for dissatisfaction. God only knows how deeply I have lamented it. I have never been disposed to uphold her in her folly." In a letter to her daughter, Mrs. Ward further says :—"Never shall Emily (a younger sister) change as you did. It is all there, but you will not give it room. It is crowded out by folly and fashion. My child, you could be just as perfect as then, if you would give nature its sway. My great dread is, that the world will learn of your difficulties, and I cannot bear the idea of their triumph. If you do better in future, the past will soon be forgotten, even if it should be known."

This was her father's opinion :—"Independent of your own happiness, you are unauthorized to destroy the peace and happiness of two families. You can be anything, you please in Boston, but it depends upon yourself. All you have to do is to act the part of a woman, and not that of a child."

This is Mrs. Lawrence's own opinion :—"I have learned a sad lesson in the past year, which will profit me. The past has taught us both a lesson, which I have profited by. Let all be forgotten, my husband." Elsewhere she says :—"I feel how wrong I have acted, and the injustice I have done my real disposition, for it seems to me like insanity. I only wish my folly had escaped notice."

Mrs. Ward entertained feelings of enmity towards Mrs. Abbot Lawrence, which no circumstances could justify, and which she did not seek to disguise from her daughter. The cause of the animosity was this :—Mrs. Abbot



Lawrence wrote a letter to Mr. Ward, (dated May 31st,) according to a previous agreement, in which she commented on some of the faults of Mrs. Bigelow Lawrence, and proposed means whereby they might be corrected. The whole tone of the letter was kind and affectionate in the extreme, and could only have proceeded from a warm heart, and one that lamented deeply the errors that were sought to be remedied. But this letter, instead of being received with favor, was read in anger; it was sent back to Boston, that "Sallie might see what her dear mother said of her," and from this time, until Mrs. Lawrence left for Louisville, every letter she received from her mother, so far as known, expressed undisguised hostility against the mother of her husband. This is the language of one letter:—"O, that letter, my child, had like to craze me. I have never been well since. You know I am a proud woman, Sallie, and to have such a woman speaking so of my daughter! Sallie, have nothing to do with her. She will be your ruin." In another place she says:—"We shall have another letter of complaints from Mrs. Lawrence soon, about your extravagance. They must have cost at least a quarter each. This is no jest with me, Sallie. Read your dear mother's letter again, and you will readily conclude so." But, poor woman, she did not know what many of her own terms meant; (written 'turns ment.') When little is given, little is required." Elsewhere she says:—"The woman says your education has been neglected. She does not know what education is. Sallie, only treat her with the coldest and most distant respect." In another letter, Mrs. Ward concludes a fresh volume of abuse, by saying:—"Sallie, beware of her; she is a wolf in sheep's clothing."

Thus stood the case:—Mrs. Lawrence had repaired to her former home, under circumstances that were certainly significant, and which implied anything but a design to return. She apparently had gone to Louisville, in accordance with a previous purpose, and her husband was invited to follow her to a city that did not promise him a very happy or independent life. He was solicited to resign the ties of friendship, and the pleasant associations of home, and to repair at once to the society of strangers, and the intimate companionship of her who regarded his own mother with aversion and contempt. He was asked to place his wife under the care of a mother who had always let her pursue her own way, and under the counsels of a mother who bore to him an enmity that could never be forgotten. Despite her errors and her folly,

Mrs. Lawrence had been kindly and affectionately invited back, not to expose her health to the rigor of a New England winter, but to repair to the most delightful climate that heart could wish. Once, twice, and thrice, that invitation had been offered, and coldly, unfeelingly declined. We will not say what motives wedded her so closely to Louisville, or whether chagrin and disappointment clouded the memories that gathered around her sojourn in Boston. We will not say whether other reasons than those which lie upon the surface, bore her to Louisville and bound her there. All prospect, or even possibility of her return, had at least passed away, and the last letter she wrote to her husband indicated, with too certain a precision, that, in her opinion, the gulf that separated them was impassable. Her parents had assumed privileges that were unwarranted, and had exerted them in a stern manner, which forgot entirely the feelings, the rights, and the happiness of the husband. That husband well knew the extravagance of his wife; a short but sad experience had taught him that there was nothing, however costly, or however foolish, that she did not obtain, provided she desired it; that her purchases were regulated by no method, and controlled by no discretion; that year after year, bills might be presented to him to an almost unlimited amount, solely on her account, and that for all and everything she might procure, he, wronged, insulted, abandoned, as he had been, was liable. He remembered, too, her pride and place, and he felt assured that every measure of duplicity would be employed, both to abuse himself and explain the shame of her own desertion. Under these circumstances, the advertisement appeared. Who could have done otherwise? What other resource was before him? And who, knowing his wrongs, will now come forward to arraign his motives or impugn his conduct?

The foregoing statement does but partial justice to the cause of Mr. Lawrence. Much that is contained in the letters has been passed over in silence, that the lovers of scandal would be too happy to read. Remarks upon ladies of Louisville, and relatives of Mr. Lawrence, in Boston, might have been published, that would make no new friends, and might surprise some old ones. Certain peculiarities, that are not considered ornaments in epistolary correspondence, have been suppressed. Nothing has been stated that has not been deemed essential in vindicating the course and conduct of Mr. Lawrence, and everything herein contained, has been brought forth by the zeal of the defenders of Mrs. Lawrence, and the rancour of her rela-

tives. Let these last indulge in no murmurs or complaints. They have here no witnesses against them but themselves. There is nothing here stated that has not been rendered necessary by their own acts and agency. And

whatever may be the judgment which the world's tribunal shall hereafter record in reference to this unhappy trouble, that judgment, if adverse to their own wishes, they have invited upon themselves.