

GAVE FORTUNE TO HIS WIFE

So Albert Crosby Says He Possesses Only Some "Old Clothes."

EXAMINATION IN BANKRUPTCY

Creditors in Indiana Locate Him Through a Famous Painting in a Palatial Home on Cape Cod.

The destitution of a once wealthy man, the affluence of a wife once poor, and the patient pursuit of old creditors were the elements of the story developed yesterday by the examination in bankruptcy proceedings of Albert Crosby, formerly owner of Crosby's Opera House, in Chicago, now the occupant of one of the show places of the Cape Cod country.

The examination was conducted before Referee Royal S. Crane. Julius Lehmann is trustee for the alleged bankrupt's property, and creditors were represented by Judge M. Winfield of Logansport, Ind., who is a State Senator, and by Edgar A. Fellows of 320 Broadway.

Mr. Crosby was originally a Cape Cod man. He is now portly and florid, with closely trimmed white beard, and he was attired yesterday in a suit of black broadcloth, with an old-fashioned wide-skirted coat. He was accompanied by his wife, who is evidently fifteen years or more younger than he. She is a large, fine-looking woman, with brilliant dark eyes. She was on crutches, having, she explained, a stiff knee. Mr. Crosby went from Cape Cod to Chicago in 1860. He engaged in the manufacture of ale and beer, and dealt in whisky. He founded the famous McAvoy Brewing Company. He made money very fast, and when the big fire came owned not only the brewery, but Crosby's Opera House and an art gallery, in which he had collected many American paintings, including Bierstadt's "In the Yosemite Valley."

He secured a divorce from his wife, settling a large sum of money on her, and married a young actress, also divorced, whose stage name was Georgia Garretson. She was originally Miss Sauerbach.

Mr. Crosby was on the bond of David A. Gage, City Treasurer of Chicago, who defaulted in a very large sum. By buying timber lands and making barrels in Indiana Mr. Crosby contracted debts of \$30,000 in that State. Judgments were obtained against him in Indiana, and the City of Chicago also got judgment for \$500,000. Then it was found that he had no assets.

On examination yesterday he said he was very fond of his second wife, and very grateful to her for saving many of his most valuable paintings at the time of the fire. Therefore he gave her property in "wads"—so to speak. Real estate, railway and brewing stocks were all turned over to her. He retained only his position as Vice President of the McAvoy Brewing Company, and in that capacity as an humble employe of a corporation in which he had no interest, drew a salary of \$1,000 a month and traveled in Europe.

He and his wife remained abroad several years, and were lost sight of. Four years ago Judge Winfield, while spending a Summer on Cape Cod, was taken to Brewster to see some of the show places there. Among others was the Crosby Art Gallery. The name of Crosby is common there, and did not attract his attention, but the chief picture in the gallery, "In the Yosemite," is not common. Judge Winfield had seen it often in Chicago. Being the lawyer for the Jeroloman estate, one of the largest of the Indiana creditors, Judge Winfield immediately began suit in Massachusetts and secured judgments there against Mr. Crosby, which the Supreme Court of the State has recently affirmed.

Mr. Crosby then came to this city and, claiming residence here, filed his petition in bankruptcy. He described his assets as consisting of a few old clothes. His liabilities include \$50,000 due his wife and the Indiana judgments.

Mrs. Crosby testified yesterday that she owns the estate at Brewster, has \$160,000 cash in bank, mortgages for \$160,000 more, real estate valued at \$50,000 and furniture and paintings valued at \$12,000, besides her claim for \$50,000 against Mr. Crosby for advances made by her to him from time to time.

Mr. Crosby said he had owned nothing since 1875, when he gave his all to his wife. Since then he has lived by borrowing from her, he asserts. They usually spend the Winters abroad and the Summers at Brewster.

"Are you a resident of New York?" he was asked.

"Yes," he answered.

"Where do you live here?"

"Around at different hotels."

"Ever voted here?"

"Never voted anywhere in my life."

"What would you do if you wanted money and your wife was not at home?"

"That never happens. I hardly ever have any use for money."

Husband and wife were separated during their respective examinations, but their stories coincided.