

LOVE OF MONEY

KILLED HIS LOVE

Why Wealthy Ricardo Casanova Deserted His Beautiful Wife.

SHE WAS A SUICIDE'S WIDOW.

One of Cuba's Revolutions Destroyed Her Initial Dream of Love and Happiness—Her First Husband Was Vice Consul Phillips.

The exclusive story in the HERALD yesterday of the suit begun against one of the heirs of the millionaire Casanova has a sequel to it.

It is some months since Innocencio Casanova, the wealthy Cuban, died, leaving many millions to be divided among his few surviving relatives. One of them is his son Ricardo Casanova y Rodriguez, who has a wife whom he discarded a month or two after he married her in this city.

Mrs. Casanova is now suing him for limited divorce, and at the same time one of her friends, with whom she boarded after her desertion, is also suing the recreant husband for a board bill of over \$1,000, with interest for ten or twelve years.

Señora Casanova has a sad, a very sad history. Fate has been unkind to her, and she has suffered as few women have been made to suffer. One incident of her life was a tragic one—the suicide of her first husband, for she was a widow when she met Casanova. One of her friends told me the particulars yesterday.

ROSA'S BEAUTY AND HIGH BIRTH.

"Señora Casanova," said the gentleman, "was born at Holjyn, on the east of the Island of Cuba. She came of one of the best Spanish families on the island, and was highly educated. I remember her about 1867 as a tall, beautifully made girl. She had raven hair of remarkable abundance, and eyes that would melt a stone. Her skin was as white and lustrous as alabaster. She is little changed, notwithstanding all she has gone through.

"At Santiago de Cuba Rosa was the belle of the city. There she met Dr. Augustus E. Phillips. Dr. Phillips was Vice Consul at Santiago de Cuba, was a dentist and had made much money and had acquired some property. He was a native of Providence, R. I. They fell in love with each other, and the American lost no time in marrying the beautiful Cuban.

"In 1868 began the trouble with the revolutionists. In the confusion which resulted Americans were attacked and some were assassinated. Phillips bravely endeavored to protect his countrymen, and the Consulate was threatened. He ran up the Stars and Stripes and barricaded the house. Finally, however, he was forced to quit the island. His young Spanish wife was by her husband's side all the time. It was under the protection of the British Consul that they were escorted to the steamer.

"When the trouble ended Dr. Phillips was not reinstated by the Grant administration. He struggled hard to make a living at his profession here. He brought suit against the Spanish government for the confiscation and destruction of his property shortly after his expulsion in 1870, but the case has not been settled.

THE SUICIDE.

"Patients were few and funds were low. In 1873 he and his wife occupied a room in the fourth floor of the Crittenden Hotel, No. 1,144 Broadway. In October the doctor became entirely despondent, although his brave wife strove to cheer him up. One morning she found him studying anatomy. Too soon she discovered the reason why. On October 11 she went down to her own breakfast, and subsequently brought him up a cup of coffee.

"When Rosa opened the door to her horror and consternation she saw her husband lying in the middle of the room, dead, with his throat cut. It seemed that he had stood in a chair in front of the bureau mirror and drawn a razor across his throat, severing the jugular vein. He then got down, staggered to the middle of the room and fell dead.

"Poor Mrs. Phillips would have been destitute were it not that her friends sent her money. About 1876 or 1877 she met Ricardo Casanova, a son of Innocencio Casanova. In 1869 Innocencio was arrested in Cuba on suspicion of being implicated in the filibustering expedition of the Comandario. He proved his innocence and was released. He owned some of the richest sugar plantations on the island. He became a resident of the United States and acquired large and valuable property here. He owned the house No. 144 West Twenty-third street, which is now occupied by Mr. Cirilo Villaverde, who married a sister of Ricardo.

"Ricardo and Rosa were married on June 27, 1877. Ricardo told his wife that his father was exceedingly wealthy and that he expected him to marry into a rich family. If he knew he had married a poor woman, although she came of gentle birth, he would never get a cent from him. Under these circumstances the beautiful Cuban went to board at No. 112 Madison avenue, under the name of Mrs. Phillips. The lady who kept the house was a true gentlewoman. She was the widow of James Taylor, of Wall street, a lawyer who was graduated with William M. Evarts under Chancellor Walworth. Not a cent did Mrs. Taylor receive from Mrs. Phillips, and she was too kind, too generous to ask for payment, for she soon found out that her new lodger was in straitened circumstances.

A FRIEND IN NEED.

"It is untrue that Mrs. Taylor has assigned her claim for the board bill to any one. She knew nothing about Mr. Casanova. Ricardo visited the house daily, but always managed to elude Mrs. Taylor. Mrs. Phillips had a boy with her then about nine or ten years old. He had been sent from Cuba for educational purposes and Mrs. Phillips was taking care of him. Unfortunately she never received a dollar for her trouble, and as the boy's father failed in business he was sent home. She called him Publika.

"After two or three months Casanova's visits ceased. From the very beginning he had never given his wife a dollar. She was acquainted with Cyrus A. Stevens, who, I understand, has been a friend of Dr. Phillips. Mr. Stevens then lived at No. 94 Lafayette place, Brooklyn. He now resides at No. 144 West 103d street, this city. He holds the position of appraiser in the Custom House. In July, 1878, Mr. Stevens came over to New York and offered Mrs. Casanova a home with his family. She accepted the offer. It was only a few weeks ago that Mrs. Taylor learned that her fair lodger was married to the Cuban.

"Ricardo's brother-in-law, sister and brother José knew of the marriage, but they kept it secret. In Cuba not one of his friends or relatives knew that he had a wife in the United States. There is not the slightest doubt about the marriage, for the record can be seen in the Church of the Holy Martyr, in Second avenue.

"It may appear strange to you that Casanova never lived with his wife, but the true explanation is that avarice conquered love. He loved money more than he loved his wife. The effect of her beauty upon him was evanescent. I do not believe that there is another woman in the case. I did hear that he was rumored of some heiress in Cuba, but had he married her or anybody else there I think I would have heard of it.

CASANOVA'S MEANNESS.

"His father sold in 1871 the sugar estate 'La Armoria' for \$500,000 to make a profitable investment. He wanted Ricardo to wed money and that was Ricardo's own desire. Rosa was a handsome, accomplished and true lady, but she was poor, and the fact was he was afraid to let the old man know he had married the widow of a suicide. But he was a merchant himself and had plenty of money at one time. What he did with it I do not know. Not a dollar went to his wife. Among those who were kind to her was Miss Thompson, the artist.

"When Mrs. Casanova went to Cuba in 1883 after her recreant husband he would hold no communication with her directly. He promised her \$4,000 if she would get a divorce from him, but she indignantly spurned the offer. He has now entered into possession of millions as his share of his father's wealth, and he ought to be compelled to support his wife. She is suing him for a limited divorce. His relatives in this city have never done anything for the wife. In 1886 Ricardo was in this city and his wife threatened to arrest him for abandonment. His relatives interposed and he effected his escape and has not been heard of since so far as I have heard. His property here, however, is attached in the present suit."

Mrs. Casanova is living up town on the west side with a friend.