

A DOUBLE DIVORCE SUIT.

The Segelbaum Case in Court--The Plaintiffs' Unhappy Life.

Before Judge Rea yesterday morning were begun the divorce suit of Max Segelbaum against Adele Segelbaum and the wife's suit against the husband. The troubles of the unhappy couple have been aired in court two or three times before, and so did not attract much of an audience. Some time in 1883 Mrs. Segelbaum sued her husband for divorce on the ground of cruel treatment, but the suit was dismissed. In the present actions Mr. Segelbaum charges his wife with desertion, and she alleges cruel and inhuman treatment on his part. Mrs. Segelbaum was formerly a clerk in her husband's store, the first clerk he ever employed, in fact, and was married to him in Milwaukee. They have two children, Albert, aged ten, and Irene, seven years of age. When the case opened yesterday there were a large number of friends of both parties present, among them Rabbi Illiowizi, the pastor of the church to which Mr. Segelbaum belongs. He has tried in vain to bring about a reconciliation between Mr. and Mrs. Segelbaum. Mrs. Segelbaum was dressed in black, and wore a heavy veil which nearly hid her face. She smiled slightly as her husband took the stand, and told the story of his married life--how the love between himself and his wife had gradually cooled until it was simple torture to live together. Some four or five years after they were married little difficulties arose, which grew worse and worse, and, after being denied a divorce in 1883, Mrs. Segelbaum left her husband, and removed her things from his home. There was some trouble over the children, and it is over them that the breach has widened until all hopes of a happy reunion has been lost.

Mr. Segelbaum was evidently smarting from his wrongs, real or imaginary, when he began his story, but he told about the unpleasant domestic episodes in a calm and collected voice. Said he:

I wrote her several letters after she commenced her suite for divorce, but never received any replies. I finally heard she was moving furniture from the house, and I said I would stop it. I took two drays and went to the house, but was not admitted. I went to the side door and Adele stood there combing her hair. I went in and told her I had come to move the furniture and take the children. She said: "It is no matter to me what you do, you are nothing to me." She took the children and went to the next house. I got them again under habeas corpus proceedings. She visited them every week or two, but gradually dropped off, but never entirely. At Christmas, in 1884, I sent my wife a book of music, to show her I had not forgotten her, and asked her to come back to me again, but I never received any reply. About Oct. 1, 1865, I went to see her, to try and bring about a reconciliation, but she met me at the door and told me she did not care to see me any more. Other letters were written but no reply came. Jan. 4, 1886, I wrote to her telling her I would deed her a house and lot in Oak Lake, valued at some \$8,000, if she would take the children and live with me again. She sent me the following letter:

"Max--My love for my children and anxiety for Albert's health calls for the following suggestion: I cannot live with you as your wife, but if you will deed the house in Oak Lake to me I will endeavor to make a home for our children where you can live, and I will do all I can to make it comfortable. ADELE."

"A few days after this," continued Mr. Segelbaum, "we had an interview at my sister's residence. There I told her it was time we were coming to our senses, and asked her how she would like to begin all over again. She replied that it could never be, as she disliked me so. Finally she consented to live in the same house with me, and ate at the same table but had a separate room, which she kept securely chained and locked. My arm was then broken, about Christmas, 1886, and I asked her to bathe it. She said she didn't care to, but finally did. The next morning she refused to do it, and said she didn't come there for that. On Friday night I took the children and blessed them, as is our creed. She snatched them away and said it was old-fashioned. Then she began absenting herself from the table and the old things came on again. During that summer we sat at the table, when my mother cautioned Albert about going out in the wet. Adele said: 'Never mind what that old witch says.' I said, 'You stop your venomous mouth or you leave this table. My mother is as good as you.' She said, 'Why don't you get a divorce? I'll go to Dakota with you and you can get one in a year.' From that time it was like fire and water."

The cross-examination brought out nothing new, except that Mr. and Mrs. Segelbaum had had numerous disputes over Mrs. Segelbaum's refusal to live in the same apartments with her husband. The most trivial matters seem to have furnished ground for the hottest kind of disputes. Mr. Segelbaum's story in regard to his unhappy life was corroborated by a girl who formerly worked for the family. The case will be continued to-day.