

Lounsbury "Will."

(Published by request.)

At a dinner of the New York Law School Alumni Association, there was read by Justice Walter Lloyd Smith the last will and testament of Charles Lounsbury, who died in the Cook County Asylum, at Dunning, Illinois. He had lost, in part at least, the full use of the gift of reason, but he must have been a man of beautiful soul, gentle, loving, helpful, else he never could have written and bequeathed to us such words as these:

"I, Charles Lounsbury, being of sound mind and disposing memory, do hereby make and publish this my last will and testament.

"I give to good fathers and mothers, in trust for their children, all good little words of praise and encouragement and all quaint pet names and endearments, and I charge said parents to use them justly and generously, as the needs of their children may require.

"I leave to children inclusively, all and every, the flowers of the fields and the blossoms of the woods, with the right to play among them freely, according to the custom of children, warning them at the same time against thistles and thorns. And I devise to children the banks of brooks and the golden sands beneath thereof, and the odors of the willows that dip therein, and the white clouds that float over giant trees. And I leave the children the long, long days, to be merry in a thousand ways, and the night, and the morn, and the train of the milky way, to wonder at, but subject, nevertheless, to the rights hereinafter given to lovers.

"I devise to boys jointly all the useful idle fields and commons where ball may be played, all pleasant waters where one may swim, all snow-clad hills where one may coast, and all streams and ponds where one may fish, or where, when grim winter comes, one may skate, to have and to hold the same for the period of their boyhood. And all meadows with clover blossoms and butterflies thereof, the woods and their appurtenances; the squirrels, and birds, and echoes, and strange noises, and all distant places which may be visited, together with the adventures there found. And I give to said boys each his place at the fire-side at nights, with all pictures that may be seen in the burning wood, to enjoy without let or hindrance and without any incumbrance of care.

"To lovers I devise their imaginary world with whatever they may need, as the stars of the sky, the red roses by the wall, the bloom of the hawthorn, the

sweet strains of music and aught else by which they may desire to figure to each other the lastingness and beauty of their love.

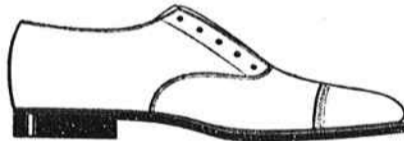
"To young men jointly I devise and bequeath all boisterous inspiring sports of rivalry, and I give to them disdain of weakness and undaunted confidence in their own strength. I give them the power to make lasting the friendships and of possessing companions, and to them exclusively I give all merry songs and brave choruses to sing with lusty voices.

"And to those who are no longer children, or youths or lovers, I leave memory, and I bequeath to them the volumes of the poems of Burns and Shakespere and of other poets, if there be others, to the end that they may live over the old days again, freely and fully, without tithe or diminution.

"To our loved ones with snowy crowns I bequeath the happiness of old age and the love and gratitude of their children until they fall asleep."



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