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TWO WOMEN.

Mrs. Fox, Ex-Employe of the Insane Asylum at Lexington, Charges Miss Thornton, the Matron,

With Surreptitiously Applying Various Asylum Edibles to the Gratuitousness of Her Friends.

The Board of Commissioners Sustain the Matron Unanimously and Vouch for Her Honesty.

TWO WOMEN IN ONE HOUSE, ETC.

[Special to the Courier-Journal.]

LEXINGTON, June 14.—This city is discussing in a quiet way a humiliating charge that has been suppressed in the home papers. Mrs. Fox, formerly Assistant Matron at the Eastern Kentucky Lunatic Asylum, situated in the suburbs of this city, made, on the 6th of May, an affidavit, of which this is a copy:

STATE OF KENTUCKY, COUNTY OF FAYETTE, SCT.—Before me, the undersigned, personally appeared before me, a Notary Public in and for the county and State aforesaid, Rosa Fox, who, being by me duly sworn according to law, states that she now is and for some time past has been employed as assistant Matron of the Eastern Lunatic Asylum, near Lexington, Ky.; and she states that the Matron, Miss Mary R. Thornton, frequently takes and appropriates to her own use, and gives away the supplies and provisions furnished and given out for the patients and employes of said asylum, and that great injustice and injury is done to said patients and employes by said Thornton; and that she is ready and willing to testify to said charges whenever herein made when called upon to do so.

ROSA FOX.

Sworn to before me by Rosa Fox, this 20th day of May, 1882.

D. G. FALCONER,
Notary Public, Fayette County.

WM. FOX INTERVIEWED.

I called upon Mrs. Fox, the ex-Matron. She is past fifty, dresses neatly and talks fluently. The following interview was elicited:

"What are your charges as sworn to in the affidavit?"

"My charges are that Miss Mary R. Thornton, the Matron, takes provisions belonging to the State from the asylum, which she has given to her friends."

"What articles of provision did she take?"

"Coffee, sugar, chickens and bacon; supplies that had been issued for the inmates of the asylum. She also took sugar, eggs and butter, which had been issued for the employes, and made cake of the articles, which she sent to her relatives and friends."

"How did she take them?"

"She has a brother-in-law who brings milk and butter to the asylum, and the articles mentioned were stored away in the butter buckets. I have seen the sugar done up in paper boxes and placed in the buckets. They were filled up by Miss Thornton and her sister, Conway Thornton. The coffee was done up in mustard cans that would hold eight pounds or so."

"When did you see this?"

"All through my term of service at the asylum, and I was there seventeen months lacking four days. She was rather careful the last two months I was there."

"How often did you notice?"

"Surely once a week, and sometimes more than that. Her sister occasionally carried ten away. I heard her sister say one day that she had some ten stored away

UNDER HER OVERSHOE,

but that she had room for a few chickens. Then Miss Thornton, the matron, tied up three dressed chickens and took them out of the asylum to the buggy, and drove off. This was done several times during my stay there."

"Are you positive that these things belonged to the asylum?"

"Very positive indeed, for they came under my care. She took them out of the store-room in my presence; so afterwards when I missed anything out of the room, to which we both had keys, I said nothing about it, for I knew that she, or some one to whom she gave the key, got them."

"Do you know of Mrs. Thornton giving the key to any one?"

"Yes; I have seen her sister with it often. I also saw her nephew, Bunky Jones, in the store-room with her key, but don't think he took off anything."

"Were the rules strict about the key?"

"I think they were very strict, and that no one was allowed to handle the keys to the store-room. Now, I have seen Rourke, the receiver, go out frequently and give his keys to Miss Thornton, who then took sugar and coffee from his store-room, which contained all the supplies of the asylum, and put them in her store-room."

"From where she distributed them?"

"As I have stated, I've also seen her make ice cream for her visiting relatives and send out skim-milk to the stockmen."

"When were you discharged?"

"Last Thursday."

In reply to a question as to the reason she said that there was a misunderstanding between Miss Thornton about a missing box of soap: "I knew nothing about it, and she insisted that I did; the matter went on until she took my keys, and then I came to town, and made the affidavit and I am ready to swear to every word of it. I shall make the same statement to the grand jury."

MISS THORNTON AND THE BOARD.

"I called on Miss Thornton at the asylum, but she politely refused to answer any questions, saying the Board of Directors would give me any information wanted. I requested an interview of Mr. Thos. Mitchell, Cashier of the Fourth National Bank and a member of the board. His statement was in substance as follows:

At a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Eastern Kentucky Lunatic Asylum, Wednesday, June 7, to investigate the charges preferred against the matron, Miss Thornton, by Mrs. Fox, the following members were present: Maj. F. P. Johnson, Dr. W. L. Atkins, Dr. S. Price, R. A. Thornton, Maj. B. G. Thomas and Thomas Mitchell, Esq. After hearing Mrs. Fox she was asked if she had any corroborancy to endorse her statements and she said none. The board then called upon officials and witnesses of the asylum and made a thorough investigation of the charge, and were unanimously of the opinion that the charges were not sustained in any particular. Hon. J. Fowler, Treasurer of the asylum, and Dr. W. O. Ratliff, Superintendent of the asylum, were the witnesses of the board, and speak in the highest terms of Miss Thornton as an honorable lady.

WHO MISS THORNTON IS.

Miss Thornton is a Virginia lady, having come to Kentucky after the war with her aged father, Mr. Anthony Thornton, of Caroline county, who was for thirty years a public official of undoubted character. She is a granddaughter of Judge Conway, of Virginia. She has been matron of the Eastern Kentucky Lunatic Asylum for about six years, and has enjoyed the entire confidence of the Board of Commissioners, and every officer of the asylum indorses her as a consistent and trustworthy lady.

M. E. V.S.

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