

# Historic Canonchet, "House of Tragedy," Will No Longer Be Home of Spragues

**FOR SALE**—A HIGHLY IMPROVED estate at Narragansett Pier, R. I., consisting of 20 acres of land, with a beautiful furnished mansion, upon which and the stable green-house and other buildings about \$20,000 have been expended. The property is historically known as "Canonchet," the paternal home of Kate Chase Sprague (daughter of Salmon P. Chase), built about 25 years ago at the estate.

So runs the circular—the house of tragedy goes under the hammer! Who wants to buy it? You may have it, with the story of the loves and hates of men and women of a half century ago. With it go memories of other days of duty, divorce; of elopements, suicides, scandals and law suits without number.

Here Rowce Conkling was once a honored guest, and here law, diplomacy and political strategy were made and unmade. Blaine, Garfield, Beecher, Tilden, Ben Butler, Greeley, Dana, Grant were all honored guests here. His rooms and halls are replete with memory to-day as they were three decades ago.

Who wants to buy? Name your price. Canonchet, once the handsomest estate on the Atlantic coast, is for sale to the highest bidder. It is on the market because a girl chose to defy her parents—Inez Sprague has eloped with the son of her grandfather's bitter enemy.

As last of the direct line of the Spragues, she was to have inherited this baronial estate, worth over \$1,000,000 to-day. But she broke her engagement with J. Harbord Wemyss of Philadelphia, stayed in seclusion a year and then eloped with Harry Williams Stines, son of Judge Stines, associate justice of the supreme court of Rhode Island.

Can Never Forgive Her. "He did his utmost to accomplish my financial ruin," declared William Sprague, who was governor of Rhode Island when the north and south decided to discuss their differences at the cannon's mouth. "I can never forgive her."

The governor and Mrs. Sprague, his second wife, retired to Canonchet to make their plans. In order to gain time they said not a word when it was asserted that they had forgiven the bridling bride and that she and the bridegroom would be welcomed there.

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When the British first occupied the islands, it is estimated that there were about 100,000 Maoris in New Zealand.

The English found that their habitus for war, showing unusual ability in building, fortifying and defending, was not such as they experienced considerable difficulty in subduing them.

The Maoris were also skilled in several arts. They tilted the soil with

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It had \$40,000 worth of hand carving in the dining-room, and other objects of a similar extravagance. It stands to-day, dark but proud; heir of its beauty to the distinguished men and women of two continents.

Horace Greeley used to visit there and toast his shins before the library stove; Conkling's name is indelibly stamped upon the place and time, and the man whose memory goes back to the early seventies will recall the high jinks and the Sprague-Chase episode, which culminated in Conkling's flight from the governor's gun by way of the window, and a barred and bolted door.

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## Real Estate Exchange

OF WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL  
Exchange Bank, Birmingham, Mich.

The following is a partial list of Farms, City and Village Lots, and Real Estate generally which we have for sale. As our list is constantly changing, we request that parties will write us if they do not see what they want in this list.

- 177. One of the best-arranged and most improved lots in the village, and in abundance of the best building sites. One acre and 1/2. Price \$1,000.00.
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### WIFE CHASE SPRAGUE.

found beside the barrel on which he had written his far well.

Fate's Relentless Pursuit. In the autumn of 1897 Mrs. Inez Sprague having studied grand opera with some of the best French and Italian masters, appeared in Boston and made her debut with the Boston Symphony orchestra.

Domestic discord and estrangement now intervened to madden the principals in this drama. The three daughters, Ethel, Portia and Kitty, were being educated abroad.

Robert Thompson had been appointed trustee for the personal estate of his mother. On November 6, 1883, Willis was arrested for shooting at Thompson as he attempted to visit Canonchet. The boy was largely given to impulse, all his life his court jury resulted in his discharge.

Marriage Promised Much. Many had courted the girl. Finally last year, when she was 21, she became engaged to young Winempeny, a member of a prominent Boston family. By this marriage, the Wheaton fortune, coupled with Canonchet and its acres, might have been secured even between the Spragues and their enemies.

But fate was against it. One day last spring Miss Inez announced her betrothal to Mr. Winempeny. On a day in June she left Canonchet to go shopping in Providence. There on June 21, at St. Stephen's church, she married Harry Williams Stines without previous announcement. Rev. Herbert B. Denison officiated.

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