

Dr. Ralph V. Aulick **(- 3 Oct 1872)**

The Evening Star, October 4, 1872

Dr. Ralph V. Aulick, aged 33 years, son of Commodore Aulick died suddenly yesterday afternoon of heart disease. The funeral will take place at 5 o'clock on Saturday from the corner of 18th and I streets.

The Evening Star, November 2, 1872

The Aulick Will Case

Today, in the case of the contested will of the late Dr. Ralph V. Aulick, the following issues were made for a jury in the circuit court: 1st, Whether the said Ralph V. Aulick, at the time of signing the said paper writing purporting to be his last will and testament, was of sound and disposing mind, and capable of executing a valid deed or contract. 2d. Whether the execution of said paper writing by the said Ralph V. Aulick was procured by artifice or under influence on the part of the said Emma T. Aulick or any other person or persons.

The Evening Star, January 2, 1873

Romance in the Circuit Court

The Aulick Will Case

A Secret Marriage and the Husband's Sudden Death

With Will in Favor of the Wife Sustained by the Court

This morning in the circuit court, (Judge Carter,) the case of Aulick agt. Aulick was called. It will be recollected that Dr. Ralph V. Aulick, a son of Commodore Aulick, died very suddenly at his father's residence in this city, some months ago, the family believing at the time that he was unmarried. On the following morning, a young lady, employed in the Treasury department, known as Miss Oler, on hearing the announcement of his death read from a newspaper, fainted, and it was soon made known that the deceased was her husband.

In October last the will of the deceased (made in Philadelphia in May last) was filed in the probate court, by which he left his property--consisting of ten shares of Cincinnati Gas Light company's stock, worth nearly \$30,000--to his widow. The father of deceased filed a caveat to the will, and the judge ordered that issues be made for trial at the circuit court. Accordingly the issues were made as follows: 1st. Whether the testator was at the time of making the paper-writing purporting to be his last will and testament, of sound and disposing mind, and capable of making a valid deed or contract; and 2d. Whether the execution of said paper was procured by fraud, artifice, or undue influence.

This morning, when the case was called, Mr. Davidge, who appeared for the caveators (plaintiffs) said that he had made diligent use of the time allowed by the court to prepare the case, and he had come to the conclusion that he had not evidence sufficiently strong to maintain either of the issues. He stated that the deceased in 1871 was afflicted with a severe malady, which attacked his brain, and that subsequently the family entertained the belief that the disease had somewhat impaired his mind, in March, 1872, he was married in the neighboring city of Baltimore, and he took pleasure in stating that he had found that the marriage was duly solemnized, although it was a clandestine marriage and the knowledge of it was carefully concealed from his family. In May following the will was made bequeathing all his estate to his wife. The bulk of his property was in stock, and in justification of the action of the family he would state that the stock was received by the deceased from his father, January 8th, 1864, to whom he gave a paper obligating himself that he would neither sell or dispose of said stock

during the lifetime of his father without first consulting him. He was a young man who was under a solemn obligation to his father, and yet he broke that obligation. Not being armed with that degree of evidence which would warrant his going to a jury with a probability of success, they were unwilling that the frailties of this young man should be dragged from their dread abode. He would further state, that after conferring with the family, they cheerfully agreed not to further interpose objections to the probate of the will. He was willing that the court or counsel on the other side should take any course they saw fit--to call the plaintiff or go the jury.

Mr. Merrick, for the widow, said that there was no course to take but to obtain a verdict. A jury was accordingly sworn, and the issues being read, they returned a verdict that the testator was of sound mind at the time of making the will, and that it was not procured by fraud, artifice or undue influence.