

strange story lizzie smith

ROMANCE OUTDONE.

Lizzie Peck's Mysterious Story—Love by Photograph—Substitution—Divorce Proceedings, Lost Property and Forgery.

(S. F. Call, February 26th.)

A short time since a young colored woman known as Lizzie Peck was arrested on a charge of forgery, the alleged offense consisting in procuring goods upon orders falsely signed with the name of Mary Pleasant, whom the accused claims as her mother. Lizzie now tells:

A REMARKABLY STRANGE STORY.

She alleges that she was attending a first-class private school in Boston, where she and her sister were left by their parents on their departure for California. About a year afterward her mother wrote her, informing her that a wealthy colored man in San Francisco had become enamored of her from seeing her picture, and that the mother had promised him the hand of the girl. With this came a letter from the lover himself, making an offer of marriage. Another letter shortly came to hand, enclosing his picture, and showing him to be a man advanced in years. At the same time she received from her mother a sum of money sufficient for her passage, with order to repair to San Francisco and be married.

SUBSTITUTION.

Having conceived an affection for a young man about her own age, the girl conceived the idea of sending her sister, who somewhat resembled her, to fulfill the matrimonial contract, and accordingly a ticket was purchased and the sister departed. The next morn she received an epistle from the mother, flaming with wrath, ordering her to depart instantly for San Francisco, or be prepared to support herself in future, as not another dollar should she receive from home.

A SEPARATION.

She came to this city, and against her will was married to her adorer. In a few months they separated, and the wife began an action for divorce, asking for a share of the property. About this time the sister died, and the heroine of the story was herself dangerously ill for a long time. On recovery she bethought herself of her divorce-business, and waited on her lawyer to learn the result. To her astonishment she found that the mother had represented to the attorney that she was the one who had died, and that the case had been stricken from the docket. She and her husband were on friendly terms, though she refused to live with him, and he often supplied her with money. Finally he died, assuring his wife that she should be provided for.

ALLEGATION AGAINST THE MOTHER.

She alleges that during his last illness her mother prevented her having access to him, and persuaded him that as the daughter was incapable of transacting business judiciously, the best way to insure her a competence would be to leave the property to her (the mother) to be used for the daughter's benefit. Accordingly, by deed of gift, the dying man conveyed to Mrs. Pleasant property worth over \$10,000. The girl alleges that she never received any benefits from the \$120 per month of rents collected from this property, and that the present prosecution is a plan to get rid of her importunities. She alleges that the difference between her mother and herself arose from causes which will be explained on the trial in a way to create a sensation in certain quarters.