

MATILDA HERON;S DAUGHTER.**CHOOSING A GUARDIAN FOR "BIJOU"—**

SHE SELECTS MR. ALBERT M. PALMER TO ACT IN THAT CAPACITY—HER AMBITION TO BECOME A GREAT ACTRESS—LETTER FROM DION BOUCICAULT.

During the latter part of Matilda Heron's lifetime she became very solicitous about the guardianship of her daughter, Helen Wallace Stoepel, better known as "Bijou Heron," whom she had trained for the stage. She had asked several of her friends to become the guardian of her daughter, among others A. Oakey Hall, Dr. William H. White, and Mr. James J. Traynor, the Administration Clerk in the Surrogate's office. Mr. Traynor accepted the position and qualified as guardian in 1873. At the time of Matilda Heron's death Dr. White was not aware that Mr. Traynor had qualified as guardian, and he applied on Monday last at the Surrogate's office for letters of guardianship, but, on finding that Mr. Traynor had been appointed, he withdrew his petition. "Bijou" has become warmly attached to Mr. Traynor and his wife, and the feeling was reciprocated, but, as "Bijou" had expressed her unalterable intention to make the stage her profession, saying that nothing could prevent her from giving herself up wholly to it, Mr. Traynor thought that—although his ward was not yet quite 14 years old, and has not the legal right to select her guardian until she has completed her fourteenth year—he would waive his claim and consult her interests, which he deemed would be best served by her accepting as her guardian a gentleman holding a prominent position in the theatrical profession. "Bijou" accepted the suggestion, and yesterday afternoon went down to the Surrogate's Court with Mrs. Martha Carey, with whom she has been residing at the corner of Third-avenue and Eighteenth-street. She and her companion were clad in deep mourning. Although "Bijou" is not 14 years old, she has the appearance of a young woman of 18. She is tall and slender, with an exceedingly well proportioned figure, an oval face, large and expressive eyes, and a countenance beaming with smiles. There is an air of sprightliness in her manner, softened by sweetness and amiability, which renders her extremely interesting. Her father is Mr. Robert Stoepel formerly well known in musical circles in this City, but at present engaged in leading the orchestra at the Lyceum Theatre, London. Matilda Heron obtained a divorce from him seven years ago, and the custody of their child "Bijou," whom her mother named Helen Wallace, after the heroine whom Sir William Wallace, the Scottish chieftain, is reputed to have espoused. Just previous to "Bijou" arriving at the Surrogate's Court yesterday, Mr. J. Augustus Page, of No. 233 Broadway, who is the legal adviser of Mr. Stoepel, was there, but said he would not interfere with any step "Bijou" wished to take, as he had no instructions from her father. Mr. Traynor and "Bijou" had quite a long interview, at the close of which Mr. Traynor said that she had concluded to choose as guardian Mr. Albert M. Palmer, of Shook & Palmer, managers of the Union Square Theatre, with whom she has an engagement, under which she recently appeared in the play of "Miss Multon." Mr. Palmer called at the Surrogate's office later in the afternoon, cheerfully accepted the position to which the young lady had chosen him, and filed a bond in the sum of \$5,000, Mr. Shook becoming his surety. In the course of conversation with "Bijou," she stated her preference for remaining in this country, and said that she would soon publish two original plays completed by her mother a short time previous to her death. She says she has no aversion to her father, and that it is probable that, notwithstanding she has a good education, some of her friends might feel disposed to have her enter a female college, but that she will not go to England to see her father nor go to any seminary or college, as she is passionately wedded to her profession and will allow nothing to distract her attention from continuing in it under the supervision of the friends who have stood by her thus far in her attempts. "Bijou" left the Surrogate's office saying she was sure now that she was in a fair way of satisfying the ambition of her life—to be a great actress. Bijou received the following letter from Mr. Dion Boucicault, from Cincinnati, under date of the 9th inst.:

MY DEAR BIJOU: I am very sorry that I am not in New-York that I might replace your father by your side at this moment. You know I am his oldest friend—the oldest he has in the world—and his love for you is very great. He has no other object in the world. When the news of your dear mother's death reached me, I cable-d him and received his reply. He begs you to go to him, and I am sure you will do so as soon as you can. He is all now that is left to you in the world, and you have yet to learn how good and simple-hearted and noble he is. I who have known and loved him for 31 years have never had an unkind word, or a moment's difference with him in all this life of friendship. You are all to him now, and I am sure your heart turns toward him, and you long to be with him. He desires me to provide for all you may require, and to act for you as if I were your father. Mr. Wallace will call upon you. I sent also Mr. J. Pinard, but he did not like to distress you. Let me know what you require, as your father wishes I should represent him. Your very affectionate friend,
DION BOUCICAULT.