

## A RHODE ISLAND SENSATION.

THE PAST TROUBLES OF MR. AND MRS. SLATER AND THEIR PRESENT CONDITION.

NEWPORT, July 3.—Two years ago last May Mr. John W. Slater, son of the late William S. Slater, one of Rhode Island's leading manufacturers and owner of the manufacturing village of Slaterville, a few miles from Providence, was married with great pomp and circumstance to Miss E. H. Gammell, daughter of Prof. William Gammell, and granddaughter of the late Robert Ives, one of Rhode Island's merchant princes and of the great firm of Brown and Ives. Mrs. Gammell is reckoned the richest woman in America, her property being placed at twenty millions or more. She is a member of the wealthiest family in Rhode Island, which, now that the glory of the Spragues has departed, hold the first place in Rhode Island's manufactures and commerce. Prof. Gammell has been, in former days, an honored Professor of Brown University, but he gave up the active duties of his Professorship several years ago. After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Slater went to housekeeping, and were counted by all a happy couple. At the end of a year, however, the marriage, which had been distasteful from the beginning to the Gammells, became irksome to young Slater and his wedded wife. Last Summer was spent by Mrs. Slater at the elegant villa of her parents at this resort, while young Slater took himself to Washington. In the Fall both returned to Providence, but matters were so arranged that husband and wife were not together at their house. When he was at home she was absent on a visit, and vice versa. Thus the Winter was passed at their residence in Providence. This Spring the disagreement culminated, it is said, in his filing papers with one of the Justices of the Supreme Court for a divorce from his wife on the ground that she refused to perform her marriage duties and live with him as his wife. In answer to this she filed counter-charges alleging against him numerous infidelities, and claiming that she could not under these circumstances live with him. All this time appearances were maintained by living together, and, as usual, in the Spring they went for a few weeks to the Slater homestead at Slaterville. While there, William S. Slater, his father, sickened, and a few days ago he died, leaving the bulk of his very large fortune to his son John W. Slater. This occurrence seemed suddenly to change the aspect of affairs, and young Mrs. Slater, encouraged by her family, was once more the smiling and loving wife outwardly. Last Friday she came down to the Woodworth villa here, which was hired by Mrs. Gammell for her son, Robert N. Gammell, and for Mr. and Mrs. Slater. On Saturday, to every one's surprise, Mr. Slater appeared at the cottage, and was received by Mrs. Slater with great effusion. He called at the Gammell villa on Sunday, and everybody seemed on the best of terms. What this means no one knows. Some say that their proceedings for a divorce will be dropped, and that Rhode Island will not be rent in twain by a great scandal in high life. Others believe that it is a blind, and that matters have gone so far that neither will yield, and that John W. Slater and his bride of two years will never live again as man and wife. The affair has been talked of at the club and among high circles for the last two days, and the very high standing of the parties implicated renders the story a tender morsel. Mr. Slater returned this morning to Providence to attend to his manufacturing interests. When he will again be at his nominal Newport home is a problem, and the affair remains in suspense.

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