

A VALUABLE ESTATE.

Suit to Have the Deed Set Aside—The Charges Made.

Johana Sweeney filed a sensational suit in the circuit court yesterday, in which Attorney Jay Boright is the defendant. In her petition the plaintiff lays bare what she alleges to have been peculiar proceedings by which the defendant imposed upon her and her late husband, James Sweeney, a deed by which he conveyed to himself all of their estate, valued at \$200,000, minus a few thousand dollars, instead of making a will, as he was told to.

William Sweeney was the colored preacher and philanthropist who died a few weeks ago, leaving a fortune of \$200,000 invested in a half block of real estate on East Eighteenth street. His widow now alleges that in January, 1890, her husband employed Attorney Boright to make his will; that they supposed he had done so; he told them they would both have to sign it, and so she signed it with her husband. John W. Benstine and William F. Wykoff were witnesses. She says the lawyer explained that his own name was inserted there as executor.

Neither she nor her husband could read or write and they trusted the attorney. She took the alleged will and put it away, but by some means the defendant became possessed of it. But she did not know its real nature until two days ago, when the defendant filed it in the recorder's office as a deed of conveyance. After providing that the plaintiff should pay \$1,500 to the colored orphans' home and \$5,000 to the Kansas City Safe Deposit and Savings bank, to be held in trust for James Cameron, and \$5 to Henry Calloway, the instrument conveyed all of the north half of block W, Lockridge's addition, including a church and valuable rental property on Eighteenth street, to the defendant attorney. The plaintiff asks the court to set the deed aside.

This deed figured with Attorney Boright before the grand jury when an indictment was found against him a year and a half ago, but the indictment was quashed on technicalities. The deed was laid by for further action in the prosecuting attorney's office; but it disappeared in some manner never explained, and the proceedings against Boright were dropped.

The plaintiff in this case supposed the paper had been destroyed until notified on the Fourth of July by her attorney, W. B. C. Brown, that Boright had filed it.

A few weeks ago Attorney Brown filed for probate a will left by Sweeney and drawn up by his former partner, the late J. K. Cravens, after the discovery of the alleged fraudulent conduct of Boright. Mr. Boright said yesterday that his contract with Sweeney was an honest one and he should fight in the courts for the establishment of his claims to the property; that he had been misrepresented in the matter.