

SICKLES ATTACKS WIFE WHO AIDED HIM

It Was Not Necessary for Her to
Pawn Jewels to Pay Judgment
Against Him, He Says.

SHE NOW HOLDS THE CLAIM

And Can Enforce It at Any Time—
Will Do Nothing to Annoy Him,
His Wife Retorts.

Mrs. Daniel E. Sickles was bitterly attacked in a statement issued yesterday by her husband, Gen. Daniel E. Sickles, from his home at 23 Fifth Avenue. He declared that she did not have to pawn her jewels to pay the \$8,000 judgment against him, as she had an ample fortune of her own; that she did not pay the judgment, but had it transferred to herself, and could enforce it against him at any time; that some of the jewels she pawned belonged to him, and that his wife had \$20,000 worth of silverware in her Madrid home which belonged to him.

Mrs. Sickles denied last night that she intended to evict Gen. Sickles from his home, on which she holds a mortgage for \$40,000, which with the interest now amounts to \$54,000. She declared through her son that she had no intention of foreclosing the mortgage. Earlier in the day when she was shown the statement issued by Gen. Sickles she said:

"I will do nothing to annoy or hurt him; after all he is the father of my children, and I bear his name."

Afterward Stanton Sickles, on behalf of his mother, who was ill, made an attack upon his father, who he declared was responsible for the long separation from his wife.

The General's statement began by saying:

To My Comrades and Friends: I am reluctantly constrained to notice the vicious misrepresentation given to the newspapers regarding my relation with my wife and her intervention in my affairs. These false assertions have made such an unfavorable impression on my comrades and friends that I cannot remain silent any longer.

It is asserted, for example, that my wife pawned her jewels to pay the judgment obtained against me by the Lincoln Trust Company for \$8,000. It was not necessary for her to pawn jewels. She has an ample fortune of her own. And besides, an army comrade had already arranged to satisfy that judgment. The fact is, she has not paid that judgment. She had it transferred to herself, and she now holds it and can enforce it at any time she may choose to do so. Moreover, many of the jewels she pawned belong to me. They were in the possession of my mother and my daughter, Laura Buchanan Sickles, and were appropriated by my wife in 1876, after the decease of my mother in Madrid. They were never the property of my wife. I never gave them to her.

My wife has now in her possession in Madrid more than \$20,000 worth of silver plate belonging to me—a dinner service for thirty-six persons, including a silver-gilt dessert set. Also many valuable pieces of silver bought by me at the sale of royal plate in the Palace of Madrid. She has besides in her possession all the costly furniture that was in my Paris residence, all of which was sent by her to Madrid from Paris in 1880.

Sickles then says:

"I have not lived with Mrs. S. since 1880, for good and sufficient reasons, which I have heretofore forborne and declined to discuss." After explaining his reasons, Gen. Sickles says:

When I separated from my wife in 1880 I was not even acquainted with my friend, Miss Eleanor Earle Wilmerding, whose name has been so often mentioned as the cause of the separation, for whom I have the highest esteem. Neither Miss Wilmerding nor any other of my friends have taken any part whatsoever in connection with my financial affairs, nor the present situation of my domestic affairs.

Mrs. S. has never resided in my home in New York.

My purpose in making this statement is to refute, once for all, the falsehoods which have been recently published about me.

D. E. SICKLES,

Major General U. S. A., Retired.

Mrs. Sickles, who is the daughter of the late Chevalier de Creagh of Madrid, a Spanish Councillor of State, was married to Gen. Sickles Nov. 28, 1871, at the American Legation at Madrid while Gen. Sickles was Minister to Spain. She was brought up in the Court of Spain. She was the niece of the Marchioness of Novaliches, the Mistress of the Robes at the Court of Queen Isabella. They have one son, Stanton Sickles, and one daughter, Mrs. Eda Crackenthorpe, wife of the former Secretary of the British Embassy in Vienna.

Mrs. Sickles came to this country in 1908. For a time she lived in a house in Ninth Street, near Fifth Avenue, in the rear of Gen. Sickles's Fifth Avenue home. Mrs. Sickles has lived of late in the Hotel Marlton, in West Eighth Street. Yesterday she packed up her effects and moved to 7 Fifth Avenue, a boarding house, immediately after Gen. Sickles's statement was shown to her.

Before moving to the boarding house yesterday, Mrs. Sickles said:

"I shall do nothing to hurt the General." Then referring to his housekeeper, Miss Eleanor E. Wilmerding, she added: "Miss Wilmerding has the General in her power."

"There's a God above, and we must act according to His will," Mrs. Sickles continued. "I came here to act only in the interests of the General. As to the plate he speaks of—well, a man and wife often buy things together, and the silver is as much mine as his. This is the first time he has ever asked for it."

In her new home Mrs. Sickles declined to make any further statement, but she authorized her son, Stanton Sickles, to dictate a statement to reporters. He declared the friendship of the General for a woman in this city was the cause of his separation from his wife.

"The fearful statement of Gen. Sickles concerning my mother makes it necessary for me to disclose his friendship for this person," said Stanton Sickles. The woman he mentioned is not Mrs. Wilmerding.

After giving the name of the woman to whom he referred, together with other reasons which he said explained why his father came alone to New York and left his mother in Paris, he said:

"My father returned to the United States for the first time without my mother Sept. 5, 1876. I was 4 years old at the time, and my sister, Mrs. Edna Crackenthorpe, was 2 years old. My grandmother, the General's mother, and my half-sister, Laura Buchanan Sickles, my father's daughter by his first marriage, were living with us at the time

and stayed in Paris with us. Our home was at 8 Rue de Presbourg. My father's trip to America was a pressing business engagement connected with an unpaid settlement against the Erie Railroad, and instead of returning in three or four months, as expected, my father did not go back to Paris until June, 1877."

Stanton Sickles declared his father had only stayed two weeks with his family in Paris when he again returned to New York and did not go to Paris again until Aug. 15, 1879. The friendship which took his father away from his home began in April, 1878, and continued until 1897. young Sickles declared, when, he said, "I broke it up."

In 1881, when Gen. Sickles returned to Paris and closed up his home there, his mother, Sickles said, went to the home of her father, the Chevalier de Creagh, in Madrid, as her physician told her to take her children there for their health. Gen. Sickles returned alone to New York, the son declared.

"My father and mother never met after that until I brought my mother to New York on Aug. 27, 1908, after our return from Athens, where I had been stationed in the American Legation," Stanton Sickles said. "During the lapse of years from April, 1881, to August, 1908, my mother tried several times to come to New York, but was always prevented by violent protests from the General."

Gen. Sickles has never drawn a pension for the loss of his leg, which was shot away at the battle of Gettysburg, but he has received pay as a retired officer of the army. He retired with the rank of Major General, which in the active service carries a salary of \$8,000 a year. He receives \$6,000 a year. If he wished he could also draw a pension of \$72 a month for his leg.

Gen. Sickles last night refused to add to his statement or to comment upon the statement of his son. Miss Wilmerding, his housekeeper, would not see reporters.