

## HOLMES ASKS MRS. PIETZEL'S AID.

### Promises Her a House if She Will Secure a Reprieve for Him.

PHILADELPHIA, May 5.—H. H. Holmes has been transferred from the cell in the county prison that he has occupied since the verdict of guilty was rendered against him for murdering Benjamin F. Pietzel to a newly fitted-up section that affords him more light and better ventilation. He is now confined in a cell that is only a few yards from the gallows, but the cell is so situated that the scaffold is removed from his vision. He can, however, hear the moving of timbers and the rapping of hammers in the construction of the gallows.

Mr. Rotan, the lawyer who defended Holmes, stated to-day that he had not yet drafted Holmes's will, because the condemned man so frequently makes changes in the document.

"Mrs. Pietzel has been given some money," Mr. Rotan continued, "and I have no doubt she will be amply provided for. She may have some difficulty, though, in collecting from estates that are tangled up in litigation and mortgages."

When Mr. Fahy, attorney for Mrs. Pietzel, was subsequently seen, he said:

"Mrs. Pietzel is preparing to return home to her people at Galva, Ill., and I expect that she will leave before the execution."

"Mrs. Pietzel did receive some money from Holmes," said Mr. Fahy. "She received just \$30, and that is about one-tenth of what her traveling expenses and the cost of her board here amounts to."

Mr. Fahy to-day made public a letter that Holmes wrote him May 1, as counsel for Mrs. Pietzel, in which the condemned man requested Mrs. Pietzel to ask Gov. Hastings for a reprieve. Mr. Fahy stated that his client could not conscientiously go before the Governor on such a mission, and if she did it would not avail. In the letter Holmes says:

On account of being refused a short reprieve, I cannot accomplish all I had hoped to in money matters without her aid. Coroner Castor's visit here has accomplished all I desired to do in that direction. But there is no necessity of losing the Chicago property, unless she so will it. I therefore make the following proposition, assuming that the Governor will give heed to a request from Mrs. Pietzel when he knows that she and other helpless ones and not I are to profit by it. You will by this time know that since November I have not made an effort to save life, but have bent all my energies to arranging other matters for a stay of five weeks, which will carry me over to foreclosure proceedings and allow me ample time to settle up affairs. I will give to Mrs. Pietzel a house and lot, clear of all incumbrances, accompanied by a lease from a tenant, paying \$10 per month, to May 1, 1897, and, after valuing the house and lot at only what it has been incumbered for, will pay to her in cash sufficient to make a total of \$2,000, no part of which shall be taken from the one-third set aside for her on April 18. The incumbrance to which I refer I can clear by an exchange with Chicago parties, and thus save paying out the money. Besides this gain to Mrs. Pietzel, she will still have one-third of what we can realize from the block at Sixty-third Street, and I am specially anxious to sell this in a way we have planned, as it allows me to pay off every dollar I owe in Chicago.

I would also beg Mrs. P. to remember that, while she may think me unfit to live, I am certainly unfit to die, and in return for what I can do for her should like an opportunity to read and otherwise try and prepare myself for death.

It is not believed any further serious attempts will be made to save Holmes.