

SEIZED AIGRETTES TO BE AUCTIONED

**Treasury Reverses Its Decision,
Though Audubon Societies
Contend Sale Is Illegal.**

LAW NEVER YET ENFORCED

**Though Passed in 1900, Feather Im-
porters' Association Says There
Have Been No Prosecutions.**

Reversing a previous decision the Solicitor of the Treasury Department now holds that the \$1,500 worth of aigrettes seized on the Lamport & Holt Line steamships Verdi and Tennyson some months ago will not have to be destroyed. They will be sold in the regular course of events by United States Marshal Henkel. The final decision reached the Collector of the Port yesterday, and it means a victory for the Feather Importers' Association of New York over the National Association of Audubon Societies.

When it was first announced that the aigrettes would be sold at auction the Audubon Society protested on the ground that such a sale would be against the best interests of the public and the law.

This was also the opinion of the Solicitor of the Treasury. He held that as under Chapter 20 of the Laws of the State of 1900 it is a misdemeanor to sell heron plumage in this State, and as the Act of Congress of 1900 provides that birds or the parts of birds imported into a State become subject to the State law the seized plumage must be destroyed.

The announcement of this decision brought a protest from the feather importers through Benjamin F. Feiner of 35 Nassau Street. The importers contended that to burn or destroy the seized aigrettes was contrary to law and would establish a dangerous precedent in classing imported aigrettes with the domestic article and making both liable to destruction.

He argued if the aigrettes in the possession of the Government were destroyed it would endanger the sale of imported articles of that class, and importers stood to lose millions of dollars. Both sides were given time to file briefs, and the case was reopened by the Treasury Department. Yesterday the order came to the Collector to sell the aigrettes.

In reversing the first decision the question of law is evaded by the officials, and it is simply said that the plumage can be sold, as there have been no prosecutions under the State law here for several years.

WILL OF JOHN CROSBY BROWN.

**Whole of His Estate Goes to the
Widow and Six Children.**

John Crosby Brown, head of Brown Brothers & Co., who died at Brighthurst, his Summer residence at St. Cloud, West Orange, N. J., on June 25, left the whole of his large fortune to his family. His will, which has been admitted to probate in Essex County, N. J., bequeaths Brighthurst, an extensive estate, and his city residence, 36 East Thirty-seventh Street, Manhattan, to the widow, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Brown, together with the contents of the two places.

The remainder of the estate is to be divided into seven parts, one for the widow and each of the six children. The latter are Prof. William Adams Brown of Union Theological Seminary, Thacher Magoon Brown and James Crosby Brown, who are in the banking house; Eliza Coe Moore, wife of the Rev. Dr. Edwin C. Moore of Harvard University; Mary Magoon Brown and Amy Brighthurst Brown. The three sons are named as executors.

The will was executed on Jan. 5, 1906. The value of the estate is not given.