

R. H. KNAPP'S FATHER

COMES TO ATLANTA AND IS GREATLY SURPRISED

To Find His Son is Worse Than He Thought He Was—A Dead Brother's Estate Swept Away—Another Forgery Discovered—A Sad Story.

The father of R. H. Knapp, the defaulting real estate agent, is in the city.

The elder Mr. Knapp lives in Toronto, Canada, and came to Atlanta to look after the estate of a son who died in Florida. R. H. Knapp was appointed administrator of his brother's estate, and having given a sufficient bond, signed by his father-in-law, Wm. C. McNaught, was allowed to take charge of the property. This was about five years ago, and the proper returns were annually made to the courts in Florida, and none of Knapp's relatives suspected that he was not using the money lawfully.

When the news of Knapp's flight and the subsequent disclosures reached his kinsmen in Canada, they refused to believe the reports, and it was some time before any effort was made to disprove or confirm them. When it was known beyond doubt that the reports were true, steps were taken at once to ascertain what disposition R. H. Knapp had made of his brother's property, and the investigations which followed showed that not a dollar of it was left, but that all had gone with the rest of the money which Knapp had so recklessly and quickly gotten rid of in Atlanta.

The estate was worth about \$15,000, and was in such a shape that Knapp had the power to do with it as he chose.

As soon as these facts were ascertained the elder Mr. Knapp determined to visit Atlanta, to make a few personal investigations, and arrived here a few days ago. He found that the bond which his son had given was a forgery and that Mr. McNaught had not signed it. This discovery was a double blow, for it not only left the family of his dead son penniless, but fastened another crime upon the living son who had brought so much sorrow and trouble into the family.

As this was all the business which brought Mr. Knapp to the city, he will probably leave for his home to-day or to-morrow. He does not know where his son is, and has not heard from him since he left Atlanta. It had been reported in Atlanta that the absconding real estate agent had returned to his old home in Canada, but such is not the fact.

The elder Mr. Knapp is a venerable old gentleman, is said to be the soul of honor and honesty, and his son's conduct has been to him a source of much trouble.