

Margaret E. Knight Diary

15th March 1868

Dear Diary,

Today I proved my intelligence even though I only received a simple education, when I fought for the right to put my name to my invention. Early this morning I arrived at the courtroom to face the man who was determined to steal my ideas. I felt nervous but I knew I was strong enough to win and be recognised as the designer of flat-bottomed paper bags.

The court case lasted a few hours and many witnesses were called. Charles Annan was the man who had spied on me and stolen my ideas for his own. He had no evidence apart from his claim that 'women were not intelligent enough to invent something so useful'. Of course, this is not true. I proved that women are both intelligent enough to invent useful objects and also wise enough to keep detailed notes safely hidden. My nerves disappeared as the judge said that Charles Annan had obviously stolen my blueprint. The right to the design stays with me.

My hope for the future is that paper bags will all begin to follow my design and I will continue to develop more useful inventions.

Margaret E Knight



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15th March 1868

Dear Diary,

Despite having only received a simple education, today I proved my intelligence when I fought for the right to put my name to my invention. After an early start, I arrived at the courtroom to face the man who was determined to steal my ideas. Nerves filled me but I knew I was strong enough to win and receive recognition for being the designer of flat-bottomed paper bags.

The court case lasted a few hours with many witnesses called. Charles Annan, the man who had spied on me and stolen my ideas for his own, had no evidence. His claim that 'women were not intelligent enough to invent something so innovative' was proven wrong when I presented my evidence. I showed that women are both intelligent enough to invent useful objects and wise enough to hide detailed notes in the event of a theft like this one. My anxiety lifted as the judge proclaimed that Charles Annan had obviously stolen my blueprint and the right to the design remains with me.

My hope for the future is that paper bags will all begin to follow my design and I will continue to develop more useful inventions.

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15th March 1868

Dear Diary,

Despite having only received a simple education, today I proved my intelligence when I fought for the right to put my name to my invention. After an early start, I arrived at the courtroom to face the man who was determined to steal my ideas. Butterflies flew around my stomach but I knew I was strong enough to win and patent my design for flat-bottomed paper bags.

The court case lasted a few hours with many witnesses called. Charles Annan, who had been spying as my prototype was being created and had stolen my ideas for his own, had no evidence apart from his claim that 'women were not intelligent enough to invent something so innovative'. Of course, this is not true and I proved that women are not only intelligent enough to invent useful objects but we are also wise enough to keep detailed notes safely stored in the event of a theft like this one. My anxiety lifted as the judge proclaimed that Charles Annan had obviously stolen my blueprint and the right to patent the design remains with me.

My hope for the future is that paper bags will all begin to follow my design and I will continue to develop more useful inventions.

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