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Oscar Wilde
Scrapbook

Vol. 5

replying. He contended that Mr. Wilde's conduct throughout had been that of an innocent man. He had courted every inquiry, and had surrendered to meet these charges, confident in the hope that as examination and examination went on these accusations would break down, as they had been breaking down these five weeks, and that at last he would get his vindication from the judgment of the jury upon the facts of the evidence before them. In conclusion, he submitted that on the evidence the jury could only return a verdict of not guilty. He then called Mr. Wilde.

WILDE IN THE BOX.

The prisoner then entered the witness-box, and was allowed to be seated while giving his evidence. He said this was the third time he had gone into the witness-box. He described the nature of his acquaintance with the Queensberry family and Lord Alfred Douglas, and stated that after Lord Queensberry left a card with an offensive inscription he at once instituted proceedings. In the course of his evidence in the Queensberry libel case he was asked certain questions with regard to Parker and Wood, in answer to which he made certain statements.

Sir E. Clarke: Were all those statements absolutely true?—Entirely.

Have you any qualification or alteration to make in regard to those statements?—No; I have no observation to make.

Is there any truth whatever in the accusations made against you in this indictment?—None whatever.

UNDER CROSS-EXAMINATION.

Cross-examined by the Solicitor-General, Wilde said he first made the acquaintance of Lord Alfred Douglas in 1892, and when Lord Queensberry objected to the intimacy between Lord Alfred Douglas and himself he was quite ready to cease the acquaintance. Lord Alfred, however, desired the acquaintance to be continued. Lord Alfred Douglas was now in Paris, where he went at witness's desire. Witness had been in communication with him.

You frequently correspond with Lord Alfred Douglas?—Yes.

Are the two letters that have been read samples of the style in which you addressed him?—I do not think I should say they were samples. The letter written from Torquay was a prose poem in answer to his poem.

"My own boy," is that the way in which you usually addressed him?—I do not say usually, but often. He was much younger than I was.

"Your sonnet is quite lovely. It is a marvel that those red, rose-leaf lips of yours should be made no less for the music of song than for the madness of kissing." Now, I ask you this, Mr. Wilde—do you consider that was a decent way of addressing a youth?—It is like a sonnet of Shakspeare. It was a farfastic, extravagant way of writing to a young man.

Was it decent?—Of course it was decent. It is a beautiful way for an artiste to write to a young man who has culture, charm, and distinction. Decency does not come into the question.

You understand the meaning of the word, sir?—Yes.

Then I ask you whether you consider it a decent mode of addressing a young man?—I can only give you the same answer. It was a literary mode of writing to another, intended to be a prose poem.

Do you consider it to be decent phraseology?—Oh, yes.

In regard to other portions of the letter witness said he referred in it to Hyacinthus, who was madly loved in Greek days. The letter was signed, "Always with undying love, yours, Oscar." Witness was devoted to Lord Alfred Douglas. He had had a refined and intellectual love for him. The other letter was not a prose poem. It was written after there had been a quarrel about something. The letter contained the following:—"Your letter was delightful red and yellow wine to me, but I am sad and out of sorts. You must not make scenes with me. They kill me; they wreck the loveliness of life. I cannot listen to your curved lips saying hideous things to me. Do not do it; you break my heart." The letter continued:—"You are the divine thing I want—the thing of grace and genius. But I do not know how to do it. Shall I come to Salisbury?" Witness said an artist in literature—a man of letters—always looks for literary expression, and that leads one to certain expressions. Lord Alfred Douglas had stayed with him three times at the Savoy Hotel. Their bedrooms adjoined, and the approach to witness's room was through Lord Alfred Douglas's. After the committal of the Marquess of Queensberry, witness and Lord Alfred Douglas left the country together.

You two alone?—Yes.

Witness further admitted that he had visited Taylor at Little College-street, and had met a number of young men there. He could not remember their names. He had never met Parker there.

Did Taylor strike you as being a pleasant companion?—Yes. I thought him very bright.

Pleasant?—Yes. Do you know what his occupation was?—I understood he had none.

Had any of those persons you met any occupations?—I did not ask them.

When you heard that Parker had slept with Taylor did that alter your opinion of Taylor?—I do not think I am called upon to express an opinion. If Parker was poor, and shared his bed, it would be a charity.

Witness added that he did not think there was anything wrong in Taylor sleeping with Wood.

Had any of these young men at Taylor's any intellectual attraction?—No, it was my vanity and love of admiration. I liked to be praised and made much of, and was gratified.

What, with the admiration of these boys?—At the admiration.

What possible gratification was it to you, who, we are told, was a successful literary man, to obtain the praise of these boys whose very names you cannot remember?—Praise from anybody is always delightful. Praise from other literary people is usually tainted with criticism. (Laughter.) It pleased me very much to be made much of. Witness added that it didn't occur to him that he could exercise any influence over these young men. With regard to the dinner at St. James's Restaurant, when Taylor brought the two Parkers, he didn't think Taylor ought to have told him who the Parkers were. Taylor knew that witness thought youth was such a pleasant thing to him that he would not have cared. He had no preference for one of the Parkers rather than the other. He called Charles Parker "Charlie," and told him to call him "Oscar." He did not remember taking a young man to the Savoy Hotel and dining with him alone at night. He did not dine there alone with Parker. Parker visited him at No. 10, St. James's-place.

He lunched with you and had tea with you alone?—Yes.

How many times did he visit you?—I think about seven or eight times. He stayed about an hour on each occasion.

The Solicitor-General next proceeded to cross-examine witness as to his relations with a man, named Scarfe.

Sir Edward Clarke objected on the ground that it was not relevant.

The Solicitor-General said he had a right to treat the witness as any other witness for the purpose of discrediting him.

His Lordship overruled the objection, but said if the bounds of fair play was overstepped the consequence would recoil on those who overstepped it.

Witness said Scarfe had visited him at No. 10, St. James's-street, and had lived with him alone in a private room at a hotel. Witness also said he met a boy, named Conway, on the beach at Worthing, and took him to Brighton for six weeks. He had also met a man, named Harrington. With regard to Alfred Wood, he met him at the Cafe Royal. He had been asked to give Wood assistance.

Why did you not give it him?—I did.

Why prolong the interval?—If you mean taking him to supper, I wished to be kind to him.

Did you take him to dinner alone in a private room?—Yes.

Witness added that he afterwards met Wood at the Cafe Royal. He was asked to interest himself in Wood. It was after the second meeting that he learned Wood was known to Taylor. He was afterwards told that Wood was minded to extort money from him on account of some letters which witness had written to Lord Alfred Douglas having come into his possession. Witness afterwards met Wood and the latter gave him the letters.

What did you give him?—Ultimately, I gave him £15.

What for?—Because he wished to go to America.

Do you mean to state that your payment of that money had no relation to the delivery of those letters?—None whatsoever.

You paid your money and you got the letters?—Yes.

Where are the letters?—I tore them up. You had gone to buy?—No; to bargain. To bargain for what?—For the letters.

And you took money for this purpose?—Yes. You took money for this purpose?—Yes.

And you got the letters?—Yes.

When did you destroy the letters?—I tore them up two or three days afterwards.

Witness added that on the next day he gave Wood a lunch at the Florence, and an additional sum of £5. Wood afterwards went to America.

Now I come to the Savoy Hotel. Were you visited at that hotel by many young men?—The majority of my friends are young.

You heard what the masseur said as to someone being in your bed. Is that untrue?—Entirely.

You contradict his testimony wholly?—Wholly.

May I take it your testimony is the same as regards the evidence of the chambermaid?—Yes.

This concluded the cross-examination, and the court adjourned for lunch.

On the court resuming, the prisoner, who had entered the dock, was again called into the witness-box. In re-examination by Sir Edward Clarke, he said Lord Alfred Douglas was in London during the police-court proceedings. Until the proceedings in these trials he certainly had no reason to believe that Taylor was a disreputable or immoral person. At the tea parties at Taylor's rooms the conversation was about the stage, music, and other things of that kind. Witness was perfectly well known at Ketners and the other hotels that had been mentioned. The first money he gave Wood was not from himself, but from Lord Alfred Douglas.

With regard to the letters you obtained from Wood, did you read them and find that they were of no importance?—None whatever.

Is there any pretence for saying that you gave £15 as the purchase money for these letters?—None whatever. I did not give him fifteen pence for them.

Was there anything in the letters which you objected to being published?—Nothing whatever, except, perhaps, they were a little too flippant and trivial.

The prisoner, who, during his examination, had stood in the box with one foot on the seat of the chair and his arms resting on his knee, then again stepped into the dock.

SIR EDWARD CLARKE SPEAKS.

Sir Edward Clarke then addressed the jury on behalf of the defence. He laid great stress upon the fact that Wilde had three times submitted himself to a searching and formidable cross-examination, and submitted that that fact alone was a strong assertion of innocence. He claimed that in all the pages of evidence given by Mr. Wilde in the Queensberry case there was not one statement—except as to the alleged visit to Park—which an independent witness had contradicted. He asked the jury to compare the manner in which Mr. Wilde had given his evidence and the way in which Wood gave his testimony, and to say that they believed that Mr. Wilde was honestly telling them what was in his mind. The duty of the jury was a simple and a clear one. A man who was assailed by tainted evidence gave to them a clear, coherent, and lucid account of the transactions in respect of which guilt was alleged against him, and was entitled to be believed by the jury, and to have his word accepted against a horde of blackmailers. If the word of these blackmailers was to be accepted against the defendant, then the profession of the blackmailer might become a more deadly mischief and danger than it had ever been before. He urged that the fact that neither Wood nor Parker ever made a charge against the defendant until the Queensberry case was heard, and had never tried to get money out of him, was powerful evidence in Wilde's favour. The case against the defendant rested on the evidence of Wood and Parker, which he submitted was not corroborated, and should not be relied upon. He, therefore, claimed a verdict of not guilty, and if the jury found it their duty to find a verdict of acquittal, then they would be glad to see that their verdict had saved from ruin a reputation which had been nearly quenched by the torrent of prejudice which had swept through the press and had left him, a distinguished man of letters, a brilliant Irishman, to live among them a life of honour and repute in the future, and to give in their maturity to literature those gifts of which they had hitherto only had the promise. Sir Edward Clarke then resumed his seat amid an outburst of applause, which was, however, promptly subdued.

The Solicitor-General then rose and began his reply for the prosecution. He said naturally, every instinct in them made the jury shrink from condemning a fellow-man of a crime such as that with which the defendant was charged, but it was only upon the evidence that they should condemn him. They could not appre-

ciate that evidence unless they knew what manner of man they were dealing with. He was said to be a man of culture and literary scholarship, and they would expect to find him associating with his equals in thought and literature, but they found him at 13, Little College-street, surrounded by these youths, whose admiration was so gratifying to him. In regard to the letters the prisoner obtained from Wood, he should ask the jury to say that his (the prisoner's) evidence was uncandid. He should ask them to come to the conclusion that he met Wood in order to buy these letters of which they had seen a sample, and that he dreaded that that letter should get into circulation, because he knew that any honourable man—he meant really a man—when he read such letters as he should have to call their attention to would detect in those letters the breath of an unnatural passion, which amongst Christian men could not be named without horror and dismay.

At this point the proceedings were adjourned until to-day (Saturday).

LORD ALFRED DOUGLAS AND THE PARIS "FIGARO." AN APOLOGY DEMANDED.

A Central News telegram from Paris says:—The "Figaro" on Friday published a telegram from Lord Alfred Douglas, dated Rouen, asking for an apology for the falsehoods he alleges that paper printed about the Queensberry affair, at the same time expressing great regret that it was his brother and not he himself who had "corrected" his father.

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WILDE IN PRISON.

WHAT HIS COURSE OF LIFE WILL BE.

OAKUM-PICKING AND THE TREADMILL.

REMINISCENCES OF HIS RISE AND FALL.

The "Evening News" of Monday contains the following:--

When Wilde heard his sentence the despair depicted in his shrinking face, as the crowded court rose and leaned towards him, was terrible to see.

"May I say nothing, my lord?" asked the distraught man, his brain reeling and his great intellect deserting him.

"No!" was the stern rebuff. Not the brilliant wit was doomed to the silence of solitary imprisonment, the man of fashion was condemned to shorn locks and the convict's garb, the voluptuary to the labour of the treadmill, the poet to the maddening torture of two years' hard labour.

One solitary voice raised the cry of "Shame!" to be rebuked instantly by an un pitying silence.

TWO PICTURES.

I met Wilde in his youth (says the "Evening News" representative) after he made his first memorable visit to America. His attire then was eccentric, but a justification of his doctrines. No man was more perfectly, more beautifully dressed. There was not a tinge in the colours of his apparel but completed the harmony. His long hair became him: his face was an oval, youthful, fresh, and bright with intelligence. How gross it has become!

Again I met him, sat with him at dinner in the library of the Shakspeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon. Mr. Henry Irving and the veteran journalist, Mr. George Augustus Sala, were also there. The assembly was a brilliant one. The occasion was the unveiling of Sir Ronald Gower's statue of Shakspeare, the beautiful work of art which stands on the green at the front of the theatre, facing the winding Avon and the church half-hidden in the foliage. Irving and Sala made brilliant speeches on the poet and the theatre, but when Wilde rose, again superbly, but more rationally attired, and delivered an address on sculpture, the assembly of artists, scholars, and historians listened with suppressed breathing and bowed their heads in acknowledgment of the man's superiority. Wilde was in his zenith then.

AND A THIRD.

The Oscar Wilde who came into the witness-box at the Old Bailey to support his charge against the Marquess of Queensberry was not the same man. Though still precise in his attire and still brilliant in wit, his features had acquired a coarseness that had robbed the man of his intellectual impressiveness.

When Wilde leaned on the rail of the dock on Saturday and heard the jury, in answer to the various charges, six times repeat the word "Guilty!" nothing more appalling than the hopelessness which crept into his sunken eyes have I ever looked upon. The lines visibly multiplied in the man's face, his huge body seemed to shrink into littleness, and as the gaoler touched him on the shoulder he reeled in bewilderment.

WHAT WILDE WILL DO NOW.

After sentence on Saturday Wilde was conveyed in a depressed and nervous condition to the cell at Newgate, and immediately after, when the warrants authorising his detention for two years had been prepared, was taken in the prison van to Holloway. Here he found the reception-warder waiting for him to deprive him of all loose cash and valuables; he was stripped to his shirt and placed before an officer, who proceeded to "take his description": to write down in the prison ledger a minute account of his appearance, his distinctive marks, the colour of his eyes, hair, complexion, any peculiarities, a broken finger, tattoo marks, moles, and so forth. Not being an old hand, having no previous convictions against him, he was not measured under the Bertillon system.

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28.5.95

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After the "description" was recorded, a matter of ten or fifteen minutes, he passed into the bathroom, where a hot bath awaited him, and while he was refreshing himself his shirt, the last vestige of his days of freedom, was removed. Emerging from the water he found a full suit of prison clothes ready for him, from the under linen to the loose shoes and ludicrous Scotch cap. The clothes are of the well-known dirty drab colour, plentifully adorned with broad arrows.

Being a large-framed man and of superior station, these clothes were perfectly new. Then the rules were read to him, and he was marched to a cell in the body of the prison, and shortly afterwards ate his first real prison meal—an allowance of thin porridge, the true skilly, and a small brown loaf.

OFF TO PENTONVILLE.

From Holloway he passed on Monday to Pentonville, close by, the prison for convicted prisoners, as Holloway takes only those awaiting their trial. The exact state of his health will have an important bearing upon his prison life. If he is passed sound and fit for first-class hard labour, he will be compelled to take his first month's exercise on the treadmill; six hours daily making an ascent of 6,000ft., twenty minutes on continuously, and then five minutes' rest. The necessity for close medical examination is obvious before a man is subjected to this labour, and Wilde will be auscultated and tapped and thoroughly overhauled before the decision is made.

THE PLANK BED.

During the first month, while on the wheel, Wilde will sleep on the plank bed, a bare board raised a few inches above the floor and supplied with sheets—clean sheets are given to each prisoner—two rugs, and a coverlet, but no mattress. His diet will be—

Cocoa and bread for breakfast at 7.30. Dinner at noon, one day bacon and beans, another soup, another cold Australian meat, and another brown flour suet puddings, with the last three repeated twice a week, potatoes with every dinner. And

Tea at 5.30, as already stated. After he has finished his spell on the wheel he will be put to some industrial employment, not play-writing, although it might be the most profitable for the prison department, but probably post bag-making, tailoring, or merely picking of oakum. He will exercise in the open air daily for an hour, walking with the rest of his ward in Indian file, no talking allowed.

He will be allowed no communication with outside, except by special permission, until he has completed three months of his sentence, and then he may write and receive one letter, and be visited for twenty minutes by three friends, but in the visiting cell, separated from them by wire blinds and in the presence of a warder. After the first letter and visit the same may be repeated at intervals of three months. But all these concessions are dependent, first, upon industry, and, next, upon conduct. The plank-bed cannot be escaped from until a certain number of marks, awarded only for work done, and in the same way letters and visits are accorded. Wilde will attend chapel every morning at nine o'clock, and twice on Sundays. He will be visited, if he wishes it, by the chaplain, and so often as he likes, also daily by the governor or deputy-governor.

HE MAY EARN TEN SHILLINGS.

A Government Inspector will visit him once a month and hear any representations of complaints, and the visiting committee of London magistrates call frequently at the prison for the same laudable purpose. On release, Wilde, if he has worked well and behaved well, will have earned the magnificent sum of 10s., which he can have all at once, or it will be doled out to him by the agent of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society; if he (Wilde) has elected to apply to that excellent institution to assist him in obtaining employment when once more free.

LORD QUEENSBERRY'S COSTS.

The proceedings in which the Marquess of Queensberry has been engaged in connection with Wilde have cost him about £2,000. He has made a claim to be repaid by the Treasury, but all they offered was £100. Lord Queensberry intends to press the matter on the Treasury, and if they should not reimburse the larger part of his expenditure he will ask some member to bring the subject before Parliament.

THE REPORTED BREAKDOWN.

INTERVIEW WITH THE GOVERNOR OF PENTONVILLE.

During the past few days unauthorised reports have been put in circulation regarding the health and mental condition of Oscar Wilde since his imprisonment in Pentonville Gaol. One report went so far as to state that Wilde had been placed in a padded room on account of his having developed violent insanity. From inquiries made in official quarters by a "Morning" reporter on Wednesday, it appears that the facts of the case are as follow:—On the Monday morning following his conviction Wilde was conveyed to Pentonville, and, after passing through various preliminary ordeals, was handed over to the prison doctor for examination. This medical inspection is rather a long process in the case of persons condemned to hard labour. The doctor was apparently satisfied with the condition of Wilde, and passed him as "fit" for first-class hard labour—which means six hours on the treadmill daily for the first month and the performance of other arduous duties. When the doctor had "passed" Wilde he was given his first dose of prison medicine. This consisted of a certain quantity of bromide of potassium, which is administered to all prisoners at stipulated intervals. In the case of a new prisoner, such as Wilde, this drug is given more frequently than to those who have served some time. For three days Wilde took his medicine without complaint, and performed his allotted task on the treadmill. At the end of this period, however, the changed conditions of life began to tell upon him, and he was suddenly taken ill. His illness commenced on the fourth day after his admittance. It was an attack of diarrhoea. This was followed by mental prostration and melancholy. For a time little was thought of his condition, as it was put down to what is known as "a prison head"—a complaint most new prisoners suffer from owing to the preliminary dose of bromide of potassium. This drug is said to produce in some people extreme melancholia. As soon as Wilde's case was diagnosed the doctor discontinued the use of the drug, but his condition did not improve, and he was thought to be in such a bad state that he was removed to the infirmary, where he was placed in a bed surrounded by screens, and watched night and day. At the end of two days the diarrhoea stopped, and, as a marked improvement was noticed in his state, he was taken back to his cell. The melancholia, however, continued. The doctor again examined him, and ordered him to be placed on second-class work. He gets up at six o'clock in the morning, and proceeds to clean and wash out his cell. At seven breakfast, consisting of cocoa and bread, is served. After the meal the prisoner is given an hour's exercise, and then returns to his cell to pick oakum until twelve o'clock. Then dinner, consisting sometimes of bacon and beans, sometimes of soup, and one day a week of cold meat, is brought to him. At half-past twelve he resumes the work of oakum-picking, and continues thus engaged until six o'clock, when tea is served. At seven o'clock he goes to bed. This is now the daily routine of Wilde's life. He is compelled to pick a certain quantity of oakum per day, is not allowed to converse with anyone, and, with the exception of his hour's exercise, is kept in solitary confinement in his cell. He is still suffering from a form of depression, but is said to be improving daily, although for a time his mental state gave the prison officials—who have treated him with the greatest kindness and consideration—some anxiety. With the exception of the melancholia, he has enjoyed fairly good health since his removal to Pentonville.

A CRUEL FABRICATION.

"I can't tell you anything," said the deputy-governor of Pentonville to a reporter, who called upon him, "without an order from the Home Secretary, but if you like to call at the governor's house he may be able to let you know what you want."

"Is there any truth," the reporter then asked the governor, Mr. Manning, "in the statements made in Wednesday's papers?" "None whatever," replied Mr. Manning, removing his gold-rimmed spectacles. "The whole thing is a cruel fabrication—cruel to the friends of the prisoner and to everybody else concerned."

"Is there anything else that you care to add to that statement?" queried the reporter. "Only this—that both the prisoners are going on very satisfactorily. We have no trouble whatever with them. I do not know who is responsible for the rumours that have got about, but they have put me to a lot of inconvenience—answering letters and inquiries, and so forth. I need scarcely assure you that I am anxious as anybody can be for the health of the prisoners."

"Is Wilde on the treadmill?" the reporter asked as a final query. "I am afraid," Mr. Manning replied, "that I must not answer that question. But you may be perfectly certain that no prisoner is put to any work here until he has been thoroughly examined and certified fit for it by the medical staff."

WILDE AND HIS MOTHER.

A London correspondent states that Lady Wilde, who has a passionate affection for her son Oscar, has suffered acutely since his conviction. She seldom leaves her home, and refuses to see visitors, unless they happen to be intimate acquaintances. With all his peculiarities, Oscar Wilde had a great reverence for his mother, and the consideration which he showed at all times was one of his most marked characteristics. One day, when a friend was talking to him about his mother's kindness of heart, he promptly rejoined, "You may well say that. No one knows her so well as I do, and I give you my word that from my earliest recollection I have never heard her say an unkind thing of any human creature. It's not everyone who could say that of a witty and clever mother."

LORD ALFRED DOUGLAS AND MR. LABOUCHERE.

Mr. Labouchere, writing in "Truth," says:—There is absolutely no truth in the reports recently published with regard to the prisoner Wilde and his mental condition. He is perfectly sound in mind and body. This I have on the highest and most unimpeachable authority. No doubt at first he suffered acutely. While Taylor took his sentence as coolly as an old hand, Wilde was terribly cast down, and was in a state of semi-collapse in his cell at Newgate prior to his transfer to Pentonville. But there he rapidly recovered himself, and something of that jaunty, rather defiant, demanour which he displayed at the first trial re-appeared. He is now, to all appearances, reconciled to his fate. His conduct is good, exemplary indeed; he gives but little trouble, and abides by the rules, which become, no doubt, less irksome in consequence. So far from his being any worse for the imprisonment, there seems every reason to anticipate that he will benefit by it physically, if not morally. No apprehension whatever need be felt that Wilde will not receive every care and attention to which he is entitled, for both the governor and medical officer at Pentonville are officials of long experience and known humanity. Mr. Manning, the governor, is generally admitted to be one of the best in the prison service. He is judicious, even-tempered, having due regard to the maintenance of discipline, yet with a kindly heart. Dr. Jones, who served with distinction in the Cavalry and in the old 52nd, is not only painstaking and careful, and thoroughly efficient in his profession, but he is a man of the world, and every prisoner, whatever his class or character, is perfectly certain to get proper treatment.

A LETTER FROM LORD ALFRED.

Mr. Labouchere, writing in "Truth" on Wednesday, says he has received a letter from Lord Alfred Douglas, in which the latter said, "I stayed for three weeks after Mr. Wilde's arrest, and visited him every day, and I did everything my mind could devise to help him, and I left on the day before his trial at his own most urgent request, and at the equally urgent request of his legal advisers, who assured me that my presence in the country could only do him harm, and that if I were called as a witness I should infallibly destroy what small chance he had of acquittal. Mr. Wilde's own counsel absolutely declined to call me as witness, fearing the harm I might do him in examination, so that had I been called as a witness at all it would have only been under a subpoena from the prosecution. Now, sir, you must give the devil his due, and, granting for the sake of argument that I am an exceptional young scoundrel, you have no right to call me a coward. Perhaps you will pause to consider whether or not it is consistent with cowardice to do what I did—remain for three weeks in London with the daily and momentary expectation of being arrested and consigned to a fate like Mr. Wilde's, receiving every day letters of warning, implored by all my friends and relatives to go and save myself, and held up to execration by every catch-penny rag in England."

After the "description" was recorded, a matter of ten or fifteen minutes, he passed into the bathroom, where a hot bath awaited him, and while he was refreshing himself his shirt, the last vestige of his days of freedom, was removed. Emerging from the water he found a full suit of prison clothes ready for him, from the under linen to the loose shoes and hideous Scotch cap. The clothes are of the well-known dirty drab colour, plentifully adorned with broad arrows.

Being a large-framed man and of superior station, these clothes were perfectly new. Then the rules were read to him, and he was marched to a cell in the body of the prison, and shortly afterwards ate his first real prison meal—an allowance of thin porridge, the true skilly, and a small brown loaf.

OFF TO PENTONVILLE.

From Holloway he passed on Monday to Pentonville, close by, the prison for convicted prisoners, as Holloway takes only those awaiting their trial. The exact state of his health will have an important bearing upon his prison life. If he is passed sound and fit for first class hard labour, he will be compelled to take his first month's exercise on the treadmill; six hours daily making an ascent of 6,000ft., twenty minutes on continuously, and then five minutes' rest. The necessity for close medical examination is obvious before a man is subjected to this labour, and Wilde will be ausculted and tapped and thoroughly overhauled before the decision is made.

THE PLANK BED.

During the first month, while on the wheel, Wilde will sleep on the plank bed, a bare board raised a few inches above the floor and supplied with sheets—clean sheets are given to each prisoner—two rugs, and a coverlet, but no mattress. His diet will be—

Cocoa and bread for breakfast at 7.30.

Dinner at noon, one day bacon and beans, another soup, another cold Australian meat, and another brown flour suet puddings, with the last three repeated twice a week, potatoes with every dinner. And

Tea at 5.30, as already stated.

After he has finished his spell on the wheel he will be put to some industrial employment, not play-writing, although it might be the most profitable for the prison department, but probably post bag-making, tailoring, or merely picking of oakum. He will exercise in the open air daily for an hour, walking with the rest of his ward in Indian file, no talking allowed.

He will be allowed no communication with outside, except by special permission, until he has completed three months of his sentence, and then he may write and receive one letter, and be visited for twenty minutes by three friends, but in the visiting cell, separated from them by wire blinds and in the presence of a warder. After the first letter and visit the same may be repeated at intervals of three months. But all these concessions are dependent, first, upon industry, and, next, upon conduct. The plank-bed cannot be escaped from until a certain number of marks, awarded only for work done, and in the same way letters and visits are accorded. Wilde will attend chapel every morning at nine o'clock, and twice on Sundays. He will be visited, if he wishes it, by the chaplain, and as often as he likes, also daily by the governor or deputy-governor.

HE MAY EARN TEN SHILLINGS.

A Government inspector will visit him once a month and hear any representations of complaints, and the visiting committee of London magistrates call frequently at the prison for the same laudable purpose. On release, Wilde, if he has worked well and behaved well, will have earned the magnificent sum of 10s., which he can have all at once, or it will be doled out to him by the agent of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, if he (Wilde) has elected to apply to that excellent institution to assist him in obtaining employment when once more free.

LORD QUEENSBERRY'S COSTS.

The proceedings in which the Marquess of Queensberry has been engaged in connection with Wilde have cost him about £2,000. He has made a claim to be recouped by the Treasury, but all they offered was £100. Lord Queensberry intends to press the matter on the Treasury, and if he is refused to reimburse the larger part of his expenditure he will ask some member to bring the subject before Parliament.

THE REPORTED BREAKDOWN.

INTERVIEW WITH THE GOVERNOR OF PENTONVILLE. 4

During the past few days unauthorised reports have been put in circulation regarding the health and mental condition of Oscar Wilde since his imprisonment in Pentonville Gaol. One report went so far as to state that Wilde had been placed in a padded room on account of his having developed violent insanity. From inquiries made in official quarters by a "Morning" reporter on Wednesday, it appears that the facts of the case are as follow:—On the Monday morning following his conviction Wilde was conveyed to Pentonville, and, after passing through various preliminary ordeals, was handed over to the prison doctor for examination. This medical inspection is rather a long process in the case of persons condemned to hard labour. The doctor was apparently satisfied with the condition of Wilde, and passed him as "fit" for first-class hard labour—which means six hours on the tread-mill daily for the first month and the performance of other arduous duties. When the doctor had "passed" Wilde he was given his first dose of prison medicine. This consisted of a certain quantity of bromide of potassium, which is administered to all prisoners at stipulated intervals. In the case of a new prisoner, such as Wilde, this drug is given more frequently than to those who have served some time. For three days Wilde took his medicine without complaint, and performed his allotted task on the tread-mill. At the end of this period, however, the changed conditions of life began to tell upon him, and he was suddenly taken ill. His illness commenced on the fourth day after his admittance. It was an attack of diarrhoea. This was followed by mental prostration and melancholy. For a time little was thought of his condition, as it was put down to what is known as "a prison head"—a complaint most new prisoners suffer from owing to the preliminary dose of bromide of potassium. This drug is said to produce in some people extreme melancholia. As soon as Wilde's case was diagnosed the doctor discontinued the use of the drug, but his condition did not improve, and he was thought to be in such a bad state that he was removed to the infirmary, where he was placed in a bed surrounded by screens, and watched night and day. At the end of two days the diarrhoea stopped, and, as a marked improvement was noticed in his state, he was taken back to his cell. The melancholia, however, continued. The doctor again examined him, and ordered him to be placed on second-class work. He gets up at six o'clock in the morning, and proceeds to clean and wash out his cell. At seven breakfast, consisting of cocoa and bread, is served. After the meal the prisoner is given an hour's exercise, and then returns to his cell to pick oakum until twelve o'clock. Then dinner, consisting sometimes of bacon and beans, sometimes of soup, and one day a week of cold meat, is brought to him. At half-past twelve he resumes the work of oakum-picking, and continues thus engaged until six o'clock, when tea is served. At seven o'clock he goes to bed. This is now the daily routine of Wilde's life. He is compelled to pick a certain quantity of oakum per day, is not allowed to converse with anyone, and, with the exception of his hour's exercise, is kept in solitary confinement in his cell. He is still suffering from a form of depression, but is said to be improving daily, although for a time his mental state gave the prison officials—who have treated him with the greatest kindness and consideration—some anxiety. With the exception of the melancholia, he has enjoyed fairly good health since his removal to Pentonville.

A CRUEL FABRICATION. 5

"I can't tell you anything," said the deputy-governor of Pentonville to a reporter, who called upon him, "without an order from the Home Secretary, but if you like to call at the governor's house he may be able to let you know what you want."

"Is there any truth," the reporter then asked the governor, Mr. Manning, "in the statements made in Wednesday's papers?" "None whatever," replied Mr. Manning, removing his gold-rimmed spectacles. "The whole thing is a cruel fabrication—cruel to the friends of the prisoner and to everybody else concerned."

"Is there anything else that you care to add to that statement?" queried the reporter. "Only this—that both the prisoners are going on very satisfactorily. We have no trouble whatever with them. I do not know who is responsible for the rumours that have got about, but they have put me to a lot of inconvenience—answering letters and inquiries, and so forth. I need scarcely assure you that I am anxious as anybody can be for the health of the prisoners."

"Is Wilde on the treadmill?" the reporter asked as a final query. "I am afraid," Mr. Manning replied, "that I must not answer that question. But you may be perfectly certain that no prisoner is sent to any work here until he has been thoroughly examined and certified fit for it by the medical staff."

WILDE AND HIS MOTHER.

6

A London correspondent states that Lady Wilde, who has a passionate affection for her son Oscar, has suffered acutely since his conviction. She seldom leaves her home, and refuses to see visitors, unless they happen to be intimate acquaintances. With all his peculiarities, Oscar Wilde had a great reverence for his mother, and the consideration which he showed at all times was one of his most marked characteristics. One day, when a friend was talking to him about his mother's kindness of heart, he promptly rejoined, "You may well say that. No one knows her so well as I do, and I give you my word that from my earliest recollection I have never heard her say an unkind thing of any human creature. It's not everyone who could say that of a witty and clever mother."

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LORD ALFRED DOUGLAS AND MR. LABOUCHERE.

Mr. Labouchere, writing in "Truth," says:—There is absolutely no truth in the reports recently published with regard to the prisoner Wilde and his mental condition. He is perfectly sound in mind and body. This I have on the highest and most unimpeachable authority. No doubt at first he suffered acutely. While Taylor took his sentence as coolly as an old hand, Wilde was terribly cast down, and was in a state of semi-collapse in his cell at Newgate prior to his transfer to Pentonville. But there he rapidly recovered himself, and something of that jaunty, rather defiant, demeanour which he displayed at the first trial re-appeared. He is now, to all appearances, reconciled to his fate. His conduct is good, exemplary indeed; he gives but little trouble, and abides by the rules, which become, no doubt, less irksome in consequence. So far from his being any worse for the imprisonment, there seems every reason to anticipate that he will benefit by it physically, if not morally. No apprehension whatever need be felt that Wilde will not receive every care and attention to which he is entitled, for both the governor and medical officer at Pentonville are officials of long experience and known humanity. Mr. Manning, the governor, is generally admitted to be one of the best in the prison service. He is judicious, even-tempered, having due regard to the maintenance of discipline, yet with a kindly heart. Dr. Innes, who served with distinction in the Cavalry and in the old 52nd, is not only painstaking and careful, and thoroughly efficient in his profession, but he is a man of the world, and every prisoner, whatever his class or character, is perfectly certain to get proper treatment.

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THE NOTORIOUS MR. WILDE.

The records of romance, and even of reality, furnish few, if any, instances where the tables have been turned with such pronounced definiteness as in the notorious case of Oscar Wilde against the Marquis of Queensberry. Hitherto the scandalous revelations of courts of law were mainly concerned with the gross indecencies, and the domestic horrors of people in high life whose animalism, nurtured by a lazy, luxurious mode of living, dominated all the ordinary rules and conventions by which men and women are supposed to regard and treat one another. But, as the times, the fashion in scandal changes, and in the era of the "new women," it is not astonishing to discover that the sex-problem is putting on a new face and marking out a fresh course for itself. It would be trite to recall the fact that ancient Rome, in the days of its idle and wealthy classes, furnishes a parallel and a precedent for the immoral revolution upon which we have just entered in this divine century.

Consider the combatants, who have attracted within the last few days the interest, the curiosity, the unwholesome attention of tens of thousands of English men and women. On the one side we have the Marquis of Queensberry—a man of considerable natural gifts, when compared with the majority of the hereditary automatons who happen to be of his own rank. Whatever may be his little weaknesses in the direction of the turf, and however eccentric his unmuscular patronage of the prize ring, it stands to his credit that he has had in his public life the courage of his opinions—he is not a mere man-doll. Avowedly because he is an Agnostic, he was intrigued out of his seat in the House of Lords, where he was an elected representative peer for Scotland—the land which is a pleasanter place from the point of view of its natural, rather than its theological mists. And Mr. Oscar Wilde, his accuser—what of him? A poet, a writer, a dramatist of the most brilliant achievement, equally distinguished throughout an honourable college career, and a more or less struggling existence as a man of letters: a personage to whom, a month ago, every reviler of the worst side of his life—which has the disadvantage, from which many worse men are saved, of being found out—would have fawned, cringed, and "lionized." Here indeed is the material of no ordinary exposure, and from it we shall learn more than enough of the corruption of modern life.

The morbid interest which the persons in the street have taken in the case throughout suggests certainly that there is a lack of moral stiffening—a decadence—in the community. Women, boys, girls, eagerly peruse the latest intelligence, and excitedly canvass it. Theatrical managers who are gaining a substantial fortune through the mind of Oscar Wilde, of Holloway Gaol, distrusting the hypocritical portion of the public, meanly erase the name from the play bills of a man whose offences, rank as they may be, have a certain pathetic side owing to his intellectual merits.

There is no defence for the vice of which Oscar Wilde is accused. Yet it is by no means either new or unfamiliar. Similar practices are carried on daily, in an intensely grosser form, under the eyes almost of English tourists in Oriental countries. It is not a noble sign of the national character of such nations that the vice is almost common-place; but the fact remains. In our own country, and especially in London, such practices have grown apace, unchecked by police authority or Vigilance Society. The reason doubtless is that the sinners and law breakers have, in the past, been such as could afford the costly orgies of the Cleveland-street Bacchalia.

We shall say not a word to prejudice the case of the unhappy man whose conduct is now undergoing investigation in a criminal court. But we may be allowed to point out that in a recent case Mr. Justice Wills sentenced a youth to seven years' penal servitude for threatening a well-known City merchant with exposure for having, as he alleged, committed with him an infamous crime. The Judge said that the conduct of the prosecutor was so suspicious that he would impose upon the prisoner the mitigated sentence mentioned above—having given penal servitude for life in similar instances previously. A long series of cases in England have shown that bestiality is rife in our Society. When such a crime is proved, the seducer ought not to be less lightly dealt with than the seduced. Moreover, the public will regard it as very extraordinary if, in the hearing of Wilde's case, there be any concealment of the names of "exalted" or other personages. Were it the case of a poor man, no names would be hidden under any mysterious formula, such as "Mr. B.," as we have seen in the Queensberry-Wilde trial. It is peculiar to notice how frequent are such suppressions when the allusion concerns persons probably of social status. The reputation of the Home Secretary and the Public Prosecutor are concerned in this matter, and the public expect that they will do their duty.

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OSCAR WILDE
CHARGED WITH INFAMOUS
CONDUCT.

THE PRISONER AT BOW STREET.

SHOCKING REVELATIONS.

ARREST OF TAYLOR.

THE SCENE IN COURT.

FULL AND SPECIAL REPORT.

Oscar Fingall O'Flaherty Wills Wilde, who was described as a gentleman, of 16, Tite-street, Chelsea, was charged on a warrant before Sir John Bridge, at Bow-street Police Court, with inciting other persons to commit crime, with committing offences against decency, and with offences under the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1885 (Clause 11).

The case was heard in the upper court, which was so crowded that the ushers had to take chairs in to accommodate the comers. The court was filled with men only, with the exception of one lady, quietly dressed in black, with close-fitting jacket and small bonnet, slightly relieved with a few violets, who was shown in from the prisoners' entrance, and given a seat immediately behind the prisoners' dock. When Sir John Bridge took his seat on the bench, only one gentleman, who had sat there alone for half an hour previously, had been allotted a position there—a distinguished-looking man whose name could not be ascertained. Among the crowd Sir Augustus Harris pushed his way in.

Sir John Bridge took his seat, and almost immediately

OSCAR ENTERED THE DOCK.
 He stared round uneasily, and fidgeted incessantly, stroking his face with his brown suede glove. After a whispered inquiry of the constable standing by him, he at down in the dock, and, with one arm outstretched along the back rail and the other elbow resting on the end rail, took what ease he might.

Mr. Gill explained that the charges at present to be dealt with were those of acts of indecency at the Savoy Hotel in March, 1893. In the upper part of the house in Little College-street there lived Taylor, a man closely identified with Wilde. Wilde would afterwards be charged with conspiring with Taylor. Parker was a valet out of place, who was in company with his brother, a groom, when, in the St. James's Restaurant, they were accosted by Wilde, who

OFFERED THEM DRINK.
 took from them their address, and invited them to Little College-street. On a subsequent day Alfred Parker drove with Wilde to the Savoy Hotel—some-where about March 13 or 14. Mr. Gill traced the loathsome story which the prosecution desire to prove. Dealing with the evidence of identification, Mr. Gill remarked that he was a man whom no one who once saw him would be likely to forget. Parker was leading a respectable life now, and it was painful that his story must be given. It would be corroborated in every step by his brother and by other witnesses, and as the prisoner was an available witness he would have an opportunity, if he chose, of repeating the evidence that he had given elsewhere. Mr. Gill's relentless story went on to deal with the other cases in which it would be shown that the prisoner had the audacity to commit these offences at the Savoy Hotel, at a hotel in Piccadilly, and even at his own house in Tite-street, when all his family were away.

Charles Parker, a slight, fair young fellow of medium height, well dressed, who stated that he had been a valet, was the first witness.

Mr. Gill: Are you nineteen years of age?—Yes, sir. You were formerly in service as a valet?—Yes.

Did you leave that employment at the end of February, 1893?—Yes.

At the beginning of March, 1893, you were out of employment?—Yes.

Have you a brother named William Parker?—Yes. He was out of employment at the same time. He had been a groom, and his last occupation was that of a butler.

Do you remember being in company with Taylor and going into the St. James's Restaurant?—Yes.

After about ten minutes a dark-complexioned, clean-shaven man, about twenty-five years of age, with black hair, brushed back from a high forehead, was put into the dock. Wilde received his fellow prisoner with a bow, and Taylor smiled and bowed at him. Wilde, after rising to let Taylor pass to the other end of the dock, sitting down again, whilst Taylor stood leaning forward and smiling smugly at the witness. The short evidence given by Parker was read over, and the examination continued.

Parker said that when he met Taylor he told witness that Mr. Oscar was "a good man."

What did you understand by that expression?—Good for money, I suppose.

Sir John Bridge: But did he say why he wanted to introduce Wilde?

Witness: Because he liked boys. (Sensation.)

The Witness proceeded to say that he was introduced to Wilde two days later. He was given the address in Little College-street by Taylor at the restaurant, and he and his brother called there. He forgot who admitted him, but when inside he saw the rooms which Taylor lived in. They were three in number—a bedroom, drawing-room, and kind of kitchen. The drawing-room was well furnished. The bedroom had a very low bed in it—not more than a foot or foot and a half from the ground. The rooms were not lit; of that I am sure. There was nobody there but Taylor.

What did he say to you?—That he had arranged for me to be introduced to Mr. Wilde, either at Kettner's Restaurant or the Solferino.

When were you to be introduced?—In the evening, at dinner, at half-past seven. Nothing more was said, and all three left the house together. That evening my brother and I went to the restaurant, whichever it was. We went upstairs to a private room. Previously we had met Taylor at the St. James's bar.

Was there a table laid for dinner?—Yes, for four.

Did the prisoner Wilde shortly after come in?—Yes.

Had you ever seen him before?—Never. Taylor introduced us, and we had dinner together.

Was it a good dinner?—A very good dinner. We had champagne.

Did you smoke?—Yes, cigarettes.

Did you see who paid for the dinner?—I saw Wilde write out a cheque.

At the end of the dinner did Wilde ask you anything?—Yes. He said, "This is the boy for me. Will you come to the Savoy Hotel with me?"

Did you go?—Yes; we drove in a hansom. It was about ten o'clock. We went to the second or third floor of the hotel.

When you got to the rooms where did you go?—Into the sitting-room. No one else was there. Drink was brought into the room.

What did he order?—Whiskey and soda.

What took place afterwards?—He asked me into his bedroom, which opened off the sitting-room. We went there.

Mr. Gill: Did you undress? Yes.

Both of you?—Yes.

Sir John: Did you take them all off? Witness

(bluntly): Yes.

Mr. Gill: Both went naked into bed? Witness:

Yes.

Mr. Gill: I don't propose to take this further, Sir John, in any detail. (To the witness.) Acts of indecency took place between you in the bed?—Yes. I was there about two hours. He gave me £2 and told me to come again in about a week. I went. It was about eleven o'clock at night. I was shown to the same room—his sitting-room. I had supper with him—chicken and champagne. We smoked. I was alone with him after supper. We went into the bedroom afterwards, and the same kind of thing took place as had taken place before. I remained about an hour and a half. Then dressed and went away. He gave me £3 that time.

Sir John Bridge: Did he say why £3 instead of £2?—Oh, he told me to buy some clothes. I saw Wilde again from time to time. I forgot how I got the St. James's-street address. I went there in the afternoon between four and five o'clock. I had tea with Wilde. Afterwards we went into his bedroom, but not into bed. Acts of indecency took place. Sometimes I went to St. James's-street every day.

Have you had lunch there?—Yes. I went to the Crystal Palace with Wilde after meeting him at St. James's-place, and had lunch with him. I have dined at both Solferino's and Kettner's with him alone.

Do you remember going with him to music halls?—Yes; he was in a box at the Pavilion.

Afterwards where did you go?—I went with him to St. James's-place. He let himself in with his keys, and I went with him.

SIMILAR ACTS TOOK PLACE.
 and we came out and left the place together. We drove part of the way to Park-walk, Chelsea. I got out and he drove on. I had a room at 50, Park-walk.

Did Wilde ever come there?—Yes, once.

Did he walk or come by cab?—By cab.

Did he come into your room?—Yes.

Did he keep the cab waiting?—Yes.

Your room was a bedroom?—Yes. Nothing took place on that occasion.

What time was it?—It was at night.

The Magistrate: Why did he come?—Just to see me.

Mr. Gill: After that there was some unpleasantness with the landlady, and you left?—Yes.

How far is it to Tite-street from Camera-square?—I think about half an hour's walk. I think he visited me at Camera-square, but I am not certain.

How did you go to the Albemarle Hotel?—I was taken there.

Did you see Wilde there?—Yes.

When did you last see Wilde before these matters took place?—About eight or nine months ago. He was driving past in a hansom. He stopped, shook hands, and spoke. He asked me how I was. He said I was as pretty as ever (witness laughed at this). Taylor, after

OSCAR WILDE

CHARGED WITH INFAMOUS
CONDUCT.

THE PRISONER AT BOW STREET.

SHOCKING REVELATIONS.

ARREST OF TAYLOR.

THE SCENE IN COURT.

FULL AND SPECIAL REPORT.

Oscar Fingall O'Flaherty Wills Wilde, who was described as a gentleman, of 13, Tite-street, Chelsea, was charged on a warrant before Sir John Bridge, at Bow-street Police Court, with inciting other persons to commit crime, with committing offences against decency, and with offences under the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1885 (Clause 11).

The case was heard in the upper court, which was so crowded that the ushers had to take chairs in to accommodate the comers. The court was filled with men only, with the exception of one lady, quietly dressed in black, with close-fitting jacket and small bonnet, slightly relieved with a few violets, who was shown in from the prisoners' entrance, and given a seat immediately behind the prisoners' dock. When Sir John Bridge took his seat on the bench, only one gentleman, who had sat there alone for half an hour previously, had been allotted a position there—a distinguished-looking man whose name could not be ascertained. Among the crowd Sir Augustus Harris pushed his way in.

Sir John Bridge took his seat, and almost immediately

OSCAR ENTERED THE DOCK.

He stared round uneasily, and fidgeted incessantly, stroking his face with his brown suede glove. After a whispered inquiry of the constable standing by him, he sat down in the dock, and, with one arm outstretched along the back rail and the other elbow resting on the end rail, took what ease he might.

Mr. Gill explained that the charges at present to be dealt with were those of acts of indecency at the Savoy Hotel in March, 1893. In the upper part of the house in Little College-street there lived Taylor, a man closely identified with Wilde. Wilde would afterwards be charged with conspiring with Taylor. Parker was a valet out of place, who was in company with his brother, a groom, when, in the St. James's Restaurant, they were accosted by Wilde, who

OFFERED THEM DRINK,

took from them their address, and invited them to Little College-street. On a subsequent day Alfred Parker drove with Wilde to the Savoy Hotel—some where about March 13 or 14. Mr. Gill traced the loathsome story which the prosecution desire to prove. Dealing with the evidence of identification, Mr. Gill remarked that he was a man whom no one who once saw him would be likely to forget. Parker was leading a respectable life now, and it was painful that his story must be given. It would be corroborated in every step by his brother and by other witnesses, and as the prisoner was an available witness he would have an opportunity, if he chose, of repeating the evidence that he had given elsewhere. Mr. Gill's relentless story went on to deal with the other cases in which it would be shown that the prisoner had the audacity to commit these offences at the Savoy Hotel, at a hotel in Piccadilly, and even at his own house in Tite-street, when all his family were away.

Charles Parker, a slight, fair young fellow of medium height, well dressed, who stated that he had been a valet, was the first witness.

Mr. Gill: Are you nineteen years of age?—Yes, sir.

You were formerly in service as a valet?—Yes.

Did you leave that employment at the end of February, 1893?—Yes.

At the beginning of March, 1893, you were out of employment?—Yes.

Have you a brother named William Parker?—Yes.

He was out of employment at the same time. He had been a groom, and his last occupation was that of a butler.

Do you remember being in company with Taylor and going into the St. James's Restaurant?—Yes.

After about ten minutes a dark-complexioned, clean-shaven man, about twenty-five years of age, with black hair, brushed back from a high forehead, was put into the dock. Wilde received his fellow prisoner with a bow, and Taylor smiled and bowed at him. Wilde, after rising to let Taylor pass to the other end of the dock, sitting down, whilst Taylor stood leaning forward and smiling sneeringly at the witness.

The short evidence given by Parker was read over, and the examination continued.

Parker said that when he met Taylor he told witness that Mr. Oscar was "a good man."

What did you understand by that expression?—Good for money, I suppose.

Sir John Bridge: But did he say why he wanted to introduce Wilde?

Witness: Because he liked boys. (Sensation.)

The Witness proceeded to say that he was introduced to Wilde two days later. He was given the address in Little College-street by Taylor at the restaurant, and he and his brother called there. He forgot who admitted him, but when inside he saw the rooms which Taylor lived in. They were three in number—a bedroom, drawing-room, and kind of kitchen. The drawing-room was well furnished. The bedroom had a very low bed in it—not more than a foot or foot and a half from the ground. The rooms were not lit; of that I am sure. There was nobody there but Taylor.

What did he say to you?—That he had arranged for me to be introduced to Mr. Wilde, either at Kettner's Restaurant or the Solferino.

When were you to be introduced?—In the evening, at dinner, at half-past seven. Nothing more was said, and all three left the house together. That evening my brother and I went to the restaurant, whichever it was. We went upstairs to a private room. Previously we had met Taylor at the St. James's bar.

Was there a table laid for dinner?—Yes, for four.

Did the prisoner Wilde shortly after come in?—Yes.

Had you ever seen him before?—Never. Taylor introduced us, and we had dinner together.

Was it a good dinner?—A very good dinner. We had champagne.

Did you smoke?—Yes, cigarettes.

Did you see who paid for the dinner?—I saw Wilde write out a cheque.

At the end of the dinner did Wilde ask you anything?—Yes. He said, "This is the boy for me. Will you come to the Savoy Hotel with me?"

Did you go?—Yes; we drove in a hansom. It was about ten o'clock. We went to the second or third floor of the hotel.

When you got to the rooms where did you go?—Into the sitting-room. No one else was there. Drink was brought into the room.

What did he order?—Whiskey and soda.

What took place afterwards?—He asked me into his bedroom, which opened off the sitting-room. We went there.

Mr. Gill: Did you undress? Yes.

Both of you?—Yes.

Sir John: Did you take them all off? Witness (bluntly): Yes.

Mr. Gill: Both went naked into bed? Witness: Yes.

Mr. Gill: I don't propose to take this further, Sir John, in any detail. (To the witness.) Acts of indecency took place between you in the bed?—Yes. I was there about two hours. He gave me £2 and told me to come again in about a week. I went. It was about eleven o'clock at night. I was shown to the same room—his sitting-room. I had supper with him—chicken and champagne. We smoked. I was alone with him after supper. We went into the bedroom afterwards, and the same kind of thing took place as had taken place before. I remained about an hour and a half. Then dressed and went away. He gave me £3 that time.

Sir John Bridge: Did he say why £3 instead of £2?—Oh, he told me to buy some clothes. I saw Wilde again from time to time. I forget how I got the St. James's-street address. I went there in the afternoon between four and five o'clock. I had tea with Wilde. Afterwards we went into his bedroom, but not into bed. Acts of indecency took place. Sometimes I went to St. James's-street every day.

Have you had lunch there?—Yes. I went to the Crystal Palace with Wilde after meeting him at St. James's-place, and had lunch with him. I have dined at both Solferino's and Kettner's with him alone.

Do you remember going with him to music halls?—Yes; he was in a box at the Pavilion.

Afterwards where did you go?—I went with him to St. James's-place. He let himself in with his keys, and I went with him.

SIMILAR ACTS TOOK PLACE,

and we came out and left the place together. We drove part of the way to Park-walk, Chelsea. I got out and he drove on. I had a room at 50, Park-walk.

Did Wilde ever come there?—Yes, once.

Did he walk or come by cab?—By cab.

Did he come into your room?—Yes.

Did he keep the cab waiting?—Yes.

Your room was a bedroom?—Yes. Nothing took place on that occasion.

What time was it?—It was at night.

The Magistrate: Why did he come?—Just to see me.

Mr. Gill: After that there was some unpleasantness with the landlady, and you left?—Yes.

How far is it to Tite-street from Camera-square?—I think about half an hour's walk. I think he visited me at Camera-square, but I am not certain.

How did you go to the Albemarle Hotel?—I was taken there.

Did you see Wilde there?—Yes.

When did you last see Wilde before these matters took place?—About eight or nine months ago. He was driving past in a hansom. He stopped, shook hands,

and spoke. He asked me how I was. He said I was as pretty as ever (witness laughed at 223). Taylor, after

leaving Little College-street, went to Chapel-street, close to Park-walk.

Were you with Taylor when you were both arrested last year?—Yes; that was in connection with the Fitzroy-square incident.

After that, did you give up all companionship of this kind?—Yes.

Have you seen Wood at Taylor's?—No.

Have you seen Atkin?—Yes.

Did you see the woman's dress at either of those places?—No. I did not see Scarfe at St. James's-place.

When you went to St. James's-place were you always alone?—Nearly always.

Did you pawn the silver cigarette-case and ring?—Yes. After I ceased companionship with these people I went into the country, where Mr. Charles Russell came to me for the other case.

At this point Mr. Humphreys, barrister, who had appeared for Wilde at the Central Criminal Court, arrived, and had a conversation with the prisoner Wilde as he passed behind the dock. Afterwards Mr. Humphreys announced that he attended to defend, but the charge had "so taken his client by surprise" that he was not prepared to cross-examine Parker. He was not sure it would be necessary here, but, if so, would give the prosecution notice.

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William Parker, brother of the previous witness, said: I was formerly in employment as a groom, I and my brother in March, 1893, were out of employment, and on one occasion in the bar of St. James's Restaurant we were together, and a man accosted us. I recognise Taylor as that man.

Counsel tried to get the witness to say why Oscar Wilde's name was mentioned, and for what purpose, but the witness could not remember any particular words used, though he said he understood the sense of what was said, and the intention was, the witness said, "The same as women." Later, the questions being pressed, the witness became faint and unnerved, and had to sit down.

Continuing his evidence, he presently said, "Taylor got my name and address on this paper, which was in my handwriting, and said he should like to introduce us, as Oscar Wilde was a good man for money."

Sir John Bridge: Money for those who were THE SAME AS WOMEN?

Witness: Yes.

Sir John: What women? Witness: Women that walk the streets?

Sir John: The money was for the same as those women?—Yes.

The witness was then taken to the incident of the call at Taylor's rooms, the appointment for dinner the same night, and the introduction to Wilde, who made the request to Charles in his (witness's) presence, and the departure of the two. Witness said that he and Taylor afterwards left together, parting in Piccadilly. It was the only time he met the prisoner Wilde.

Mr. Travers said he did not think it would be necessary to cross-examine the witness on behalf of the prisoner Wilde. He only wished to know if the date could be fixed.

Witness: It was some time in March.

Taylor said he would ask no questions. The next witness was Mrs. Ellen Grant, 13, Little College-street. She said: I am the wife of William Alfred Grant. The prisoner Alfred Taylor occupied rooms in that house from January, 1892, to August, 1893. The rooms consist of bedroom, sitting-room, bathroom, and kitchen, for which he paid £3 a month. The rooms were furnished very nicely. The linen in the bedrooms was very good. The windows were very dark, especially in the sitting-room. Art muslin was strained over the glass, and there were dark curtains and muslin curtains. There was no daylight. It was lit by candles. There was no bedstead; it was a spring mattress on the ground. He furnished the place himself. He kept no servants.

Did he cook for himself?—Yes.

Was he visited by many gentlemen?—Yes; a great many gentlemen.

Were they young?—Yes; quite young.

He had no wife?—I was always given to understand he was a bachelor. No woman lived with him there.

How old were the young gentlemen who called?—From sixteen upwards. If Taylor was dressed, he opened the door himself; if not, I did.

Have you seen ladies' clothes there?—Well, veils and things for fancy dress. But no ordinary dress. Taylor was fond of scent and of burning scent. There were large numbers of scent bottles. The gentlemen who came used to come to tea.

Did not recognise the other prisoner as having been at the rooms.

Here, at the request of Sir John, Wilde stood up; but the witness still said she failed to identify him, and Wilde sank back into his hard seat in the corner of the dock and spread out his arms, partially hiding his face, as he had done almost all through.

The witness, in reply to questions, said sometimes young men stopped all night in the house. The names of several of those mentioned at the Central Criminal Court were put to the witness, and two or three she said were there for days at a time, sleeping with Taylor and shaving the rooms. There were tea parties—

always men—and she had heard him addressing one as "Oscar" and others as "Charlie dear," &c. Witness on one occasion allowed a gentleman, who said he was a friend of Taylor's, to see the rooms; but witness afterwards learnt that he was a police-sergeant. (Laughter.) Witness knew the house was being watched, and the police-sergeant visit was shortly before Taylor left. He went suddenly, telling her he was going on the Saturday and leaving on the Sunday.

Sir John Bridge: There was no brass plate on the door?

Witness: Oh, no. He said he was a gentleman.

Alfred Woods, a clerk, said: I know the prisoner Taylor, and was staying with him in Little College-street in January, 1893. I had been out of employment about a week. I did not know that Taylor had any legitimate employment whatever.

Do you know the other prisoner?—Yes, I know Oscar Wilde.

When did you make his acquaintance?—At the Café Royal, and I think it must have been some time in January, 1893. It was about three months before I went to America. I was alone when I met him. It was about nine o'clock in the evening when I met him. We went to the Florence in Rupert-street, and there we had supper together in a private room. We had champagne. After supper we went to, I think, Tite-street. He said his family were at Torquay. We went into the house. There seemed to be nobody about, and he let himself in by a latch-key. We went to his bedroom, and there we had something to drink. I stayed for three or four hours.

The witness was asked by Mr. Gill in general terms if acts of indecency took place, to which the Witness said "Yes," and then Mr. Humphreys objected to a leading question.

Sir John Bridge said it would not help the prisoner Wilde to have details, but, as the objection was raised, the witness would have to state the facts.

The evidence was then given, being of course unreportable, and the witness excused himself by saying that he was the worse for drink at the time. Nevertheless he admitted, on further examination, that he made further visits to Tite-street, and to similar acts following the supper which took place, drink being plentiful.

Asked by Sir John where the supper came from, the Witness said that the prisoner Oscar and himself went down to the pantry and found it. There was no servant seen by him at any time. Witness said he had seen Oscar Wilde at Taylor's rooms in Little College-street. Witness had lodged in Langham-street, having a bed and sitting-room combined. Wilde called on him there one afternoon and stayed about twenty minutes, but witness did not remember anything taking place there. "Wilde gave me money," said the Witness, on several occasions, £3 and £4 at a time, and also gave me a watch and a chain." The acquaintance ceased when witness left for America in March, 1893.

Mr. Gill: How did your leaving come about?—I told Taylor, said the Witness, that I would like to get away from these people.

Sir John: Who do you mean by these people? Witness: Wilde and others.

Mr. Gill: Let us leave others out at present. You had become acquainted with others who attended these tea parties at Taylor's, and some of them are out of the country at present? Witness: Yes.

You wanted to go abroad, and told Taylor so?—Yes. I heard Taylor telling him that I wanted to go to America, and Wilde asked me if I had any letters, and I said yes. Taylor sent me a telegram to meet Wilde, and I went to his rooms. Wilde then gave me two £10 notes and two £5 notes.

Mr. Gill: Did you give him any letters then?—He asked me for them; he seemed very anxious to get them.

Sir John: Did you give him letters of his that day?

Mr. Gill: Not his, Sir John—other people's.

The next day, continued the Witness, I lunched with Wilde at the Florence. That was the last time I saw him. He sent me £5 by messenger after the lunch. I have been to the Savoy to Wilde.

Sidney Mayvon said he had been to Little College-street and the Albemarle Hotel with Wilde, but the latter had never given him money.

The case was adjourned. Bail was applied for on behalf of Mr. Oscar Wilde and refused.

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Wilde was dressed precisely as on the first examination, while Taylor had simply discarded his overcoat, and was then smartly and neatly attired in a dark morning suit. Wilde, who appeared much paler than on the previous occasion, bowed respectfully to the Magistrate as he entered the dock. Taylor appeared quite unconcerned, and smiled at the apparent interest his appearance excited.

Sir Edward Clarke, Q.C., M.P., rising at once, said he had had an opportunity of reading the depositions taken at the first hearing, and he had decided not to ask for the witnesses to be recalled for cross-examination, as probably no cross-examination could affect the result so far as this court was concerned, and, of course, it was desirable that the investigation should be conducted in as short a time as possible.

Sir John Bridge: It seems incumbent upon all of us to get the matter through as quickly as possible. Mr. Newton said he should be obliged to ask for the witnesses to be recalled in order that he might cross-examine them on behalf of Taylor.

The lad Charles Parker was first recalled. He is respectably dressed, in apparently new clothes. He denied that he was introduced to Taylor by a man named Harrington, and adhered to his statement that Taylor first accosted him in a restaurant. He recognised, he said, the peril of prosecution in which he himself stood, but he denied with an air very like that of honest indignation that he had been guilty of improprieties before he met Wilde. He declared that he knew nothing of its being Taylor's birthday on that occasion when he was first taken to dine with Wilde.

He knew the man Atkins who was mentioned at the Old Bailey in connection with the blackmailing letters, but he knew him only as a comedian, and not as a notorious blackmailer who

LIVED BY ACCUSATIONS AGAINST GENTLEMEN.

He left his own employment as valet because the gentleman could not afford to keep him. He was afterwards accused of stealing his master's clothes. He was arrested in the Fitzroy-square raid last year, but he declared he only knew one other man concerned in that little adventure. That was Taylor. Then Mr. Newton touched a more serious point.

"Just before that did you not get £30, in conjunction with two other persons, by threatening to accuse a gentleman of a crime?"

"I didn't. The others gave it to me."

They had extorted it from a gentleman?—I think that is right.

They extorted more than the £30?—I think so. That was your share?—Yes.

Had you been guilty of impropriety with that gentleman?—Yes.

Then it was hush money?—I don't know that.

Sir John Bridge: Isn't that substantially what it was?—I don't know what they gave it to me for. They didn't tell me it was to keep my mouth shut. They only told me who it came from.

The quiet, assured tone in which he announced this literally stunned the astonished court. Wilde leaning back in the corner of the dock, a dull, lifeless expression in his eyes, took no notice. Taylor pretended to be delighted.

William Parker was to have been recalled, but he had not been brought to the court.

Frederick Atkins, a pale-eyed lad of twenty, in a green cord waistcoat with pale blue spots, a blue oxford shirt, and a jacket of rough brown tweed, deposed that he first knew the prisoner Taylor and the establishment at Little College-street. Taylor introduced him to Wilde in November, 1893, when all three, and another man—one of the nameless men of the Old Bailey proceedings—dined together at the Florence Hotel in Soho. Wilde asked witness if he would like to go to Paris with him.

AS HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY.

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Wilde was dressed precisely as on the first examination, while Taylor had simply discarded his overcoat, and was then smartly and neatly attired in a dark morning suit. Wilde, who appeared much paler than on the previous occasion, bowed respectfully to the Magistrate as he entered the dock. Taylor appeared quite unconcerned, and smiled at the apparent interest his appearance excited.

Sir Edward Clarke, Q.C., M.P., rising at once, said he had had an opportunity of reading the depositions taken at the first hearing, and he had decided not to ask for the witnesses to be recalled for cross-examination, as probably no cross-examination could affect the result so far as this court was concerned, and, of course, it was desirable that the investigation should be conducted in as short a time as possible.

Sir John Bridge: It seems incumbent upon all of us to get the matter through as quickly as possible.

Mr. Newton said he should be obliged to ask for the witnesses to be recalled in order that he might cross-examine them on behalf of Taylor.

The lad Charles Parker was first recalled. He is respectably dressed, in apparently new clothes. He denied that he was introduced to Taylor by a man named Harrington, and adhered to his statement that Taylor first accosted him in a restaurant. He recognised, he said, the peril of prosecution in which he himself stood, but he denied with an air very like that of honest indignation that he had been guilty of improprieties before he met Wilde. He declared that he knew nothing of its being Taylor's birthday on that occasion when he was first taken to dine with Wilde.

He knew the man Atkins who was mentioned at the Old Bailey in connection with the blackmailing letters, but he knew him only as a comedian, and not as a notorious blackmailer who

LIVED BY ACCUSATIONS AGAINST GENTLEMEN. He left his own employment as valet because the gentleman could not afford to keep him. He was afterwards accused of stealing his master's clothes. He was arrested in the Fitzroy-square raid last year, but he declared he only knew one other man concerned in that little adventure. That was Taylor. Then Mr. Newton touched a more serious point.

"Just before that did you not get £30, in conjunction with two other persons, by threatening to accuse a gentleman of a crime?"

"I didn't. The others gave it to me."

They had extorted it from a gentleman?—I think that is right.

They extorted more than the £30?—I think so.

That was your share?—Yes.

Had you been guilty of impropriety with that gentleman?—Yes.

Then it was hush money?—I don't know that.

Sir John Bridge: Isn't that substantially what it was?—I don't know what they gave it to me for. They didn't tell me it was to keep my mouth shut. They only told me who it came from.

The quiet, assured tone in which he announced this literally stunned the astounded court. Wilde leaning back in the corner of the dock, a dull, lifeless expression in his eyes, took no notice. Taylor pretended to be delighted.

William Parker was to have been recalled, but he had not been brought to the court.

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"You are starving me," he said to the warden on Tuesday, after consuming a large plate of chicken. "Tell them to send larger quantities."

Wilde writes out his own menu. This is his menu for Wednesday: Breakfast: Four boiled eggs, toast, bread and butter, coffee, &c. Luncheon: Ramp steak, potatoes, tomatoes, bread, cheese, half-pint claret. (More claret persistently ordered, but always struck out by the prison officials.) Dinner: Roast fowl, grilled sole, potatoes, rice pudding, claret. (Claret disallowed, tea substituted.) Wilde is denied the privilege of a table-cloth, and is not permitted the luxury of a claret-glass. Still, one can drink claret out of a prison tin, so he doesn't raise objection to the tin, though he deprecates the scarcity of the claret. He has repeated his request for a cigarette in vain. His only visitors are his solicitor and Lord Alfred Douglas, who has seen him daily and conducted what monetary affairs have been needful.

The crusade against Oscar Wilde is spreading in America. The Committees of the St. Louis Free Library and the Newark (New Jersey) Free Library have decided to withdraw from circulation and to destroy all works in their catalogues bearing his name.

OTHER SERIOUS CHARGES.

A man of respectable attire and manners, alleged to be John Charles Goodchild, alias Pat Greville, who was before the Court at Worship-street last week, charged with inciting a boy to commit an unnameable crime, was brought up on remand on Thursday. The prisoner refused his name and address or any account of himself. Now the police, it was said, had discovered all about him in a most singular way. He is a chemist's assistant, qualified, and had been in employment with an East-end surgeon, and living in the house. Owing to his arrest and consequent absence from home, his employer reported him as mysteriously disappeared. The police, having circulated his photographed likeness, he was recognised as being in custody. Then his bedroom was searched, and a diary written up for three years past, containing a record of the foulest crimes committed by him, discovered and identified as the prisoner's own handwriting. It showed that the prisoner had been concerned in the Cleveland-street scandals. Night attire for boys was also found. The statement of Mr. Page, surgeon of the G Division, was taken, and, on the statement of the police, the prisoner remanded again, for the Treasury to be communicated with and legal aid obtained.

Walter Woolterton, of Norfolk-villas, Bayswater, was committed for trial at West London in respect of his conduct towards a boy in a boat-race crowd. A Y.M.C.A. branch secretary gave him a good character, but the Magistrate required £200 bail.

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Oscar Wilde's physical system has survived, or his intellect has triumphed. The prison exercise, it may be, has done "B 24"—as Wilde is numbered at Holloway—much good. "I never walk," he told Mr. Carson, in the Old Bailey. He walks now (with the others) daily, and is enjoying the novelty of rational exercise.

"You are starving me," he said to the warder on Tuesday, after consuming a large plate of chicken. "Tell them to send larger quantities."

Wilde writes out his own menu. This is his menu for Wednesday: Breakfast: Four boiled eggs, toast, bread and butter, coffee, &c. Luncheon: 'Rump steak, potatoes, tomatoes, bread, cheese, half-pint claret. (More claret persistently ordered, but always struck out by the prison officials.) Dinner: Roast fowl, grilled sole, potatoes, rice pudding, claret. (Claret disallowed, tea substituted.) Wilde is denied the privilege of a table-cloth, and is not permitted the luxury of a claret-glass. Still, one can drink claret out of a prison tin, so he doesn't raise objection to the tin, though he deplures the scarcity of the claret. He has repeated his request for a cigarette in vain. His only visitors are his solicitor and Lord Alfred Douglas, who has seen him daily and conducted what monetary affairs have been needful.

The crusade against Oscar Wilde is spreading in America. The Committees of the St. Louis Free Library and the Newark (New Jersey) Free Library have decided to withdraw from circulation and to destroy all works in their catalogues bearing his name.

OTHER SERIOUS CHARGES.

A man of respectable attire and manners, alleged to be John Charles Goodchild, alias Pat Greville, who was before the Court at Worship-street last week, charged with inciting a boy to commit an unnameable crime, was brought up on remand on Thursday. The prisoner refused his name and address or any account of himself. Now the police, it was said, had discovered all about him in a most singular way. He is a chemist's assistant, qualified, and had been in employment with an East-end surgeon, and living in the house. Owing to his arrest and consequent absence from home, his employer reported him as mysteriously disappeared. The police, having circulated his photographed likeness, he was recognised as being in custody. Then his bedroom was searched, and a diary written up for three years past, containing a record of the foulest crimes committed by him, discovered and identified as the prisoner's own handwriting. It showed that the prisoner had been concerned in the Cleveland-street scandals. Night attire for boys was also found. The statement of Mr. Page, surgeon of the G Division, was taken, and, on the statement of the police, the prisoner remanded again, for the Treasury to be communicated with and legal aid obtained.

Walter Woolterton, of Norfolk-villas, Bayswater, was committed for trial at West London in respect of his conduct towards a boy in a public house. A Y.M.C.A. branch secretary gave him a good character, but the Magistrate required £200 bail.

TRIAL AT THE OLD BAILEY.

THE SCENE IN COURT.

ASTOUNDING EVIDENCE.

A PLEA OF "NOT GUILTY."

OSCAR LOOKS ILL.

TAYLOR COMES UP SMILING.

The trial of Oscar Wilde and Alfred Taylor was begun at the Old Bailey on Friday morning. As at the extraordinary case that was heard at the last sessions only three weeks ago, when Wilde was prosecutor and the Marquis of Queensberry was in the dock charged with criminal libel, the public interest in the proceedings was intense. The Old Court was thronged. The gallery, as before, was from an early hour packed with a most unusually well-dressed crowd.

Mr. C. F. Gill, Mr. Horace Avory, and Mr. A. Gill had charge of the prosecution, on behalf of the Public Prosecutor. Wilde was defended by Sir Edward Clarke, Q.C., Mr. Charles Mathews, and Mr. Travers Humphreys. Mr. J. P. Grain and Mr. Paul Taylor appeared for the prisoner Taylor, and Mr. Leonard Kershaw held a watching brief for the witness Mavor.

Punctually at 10.30 the Judge, Mr. Justice Charles, in his scarlet robes, but with his small wig, not the great heavy-bottomed one kept for special occasions and the opening of country assizes, entered the court, bowing to the jury and the bar, and took his seat on the right of the Lord Mayor.

THE PRISONERS WERE BROUGHT INTO THE DOCK. Wilde, looking almost haggard, and fallen away from his old fleshiness, wore the dark overcoat and suede gloves which have been his attire throughout these painful cases, and still carried his scrupulously-brushed silk hat. Taylor for the first time wore an overcoat of light brown cloth with a collar of slightly darker velvet, and was suede-gloved like his companion. He was neatly groomed as ever, but his fresh-coloured face wore a much more serious expression than when he was first brought up at Bow-street, though he seldom stopped grinning. Wilde carried in his hand a small blue volume, possibly a volume of his poems, which he placed on the ledge of the dock before him. He straightened himself up and sighed as he looked over at the Bench.

The Clerk of Arraigns, having read the principal of the

TWENTY-FIVE COUNTS OF THE INDICTMENTS against the prisoners, called upon Wilde to plead first.

Sir Edward Clarke took a preliminary technical objection, to the effect that his client should be asked to plead under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, under which he could give evidence or to the charge of conspiracy with Taylor. Both charges were mixed up in the indictment, and it put his client to some disadvantage. The Judge, however, ruled that he was bound by decided cases, and this course could not be adopted.

PRISONERS PLEAD "NOT GUILTY."

Wilde was then again called upon to plead, and in clear tones replied, "Not guilty." Taylor was next called upon, and rather huskily replied in the same words. Both prisoners were then provided with chairs in the dock.

Sir Edward Clarke rose again and demanded that the prosecution should now elect whether they would proceed under the charge of indecency or that of conspiracy. While this second question was being discussed the prisoners divested themselves of their greatcoats and made themselves as comfortable as the circumstances would permit.

Mr. Gill replied that the question of election was one entirely for the discretion of the Judge.

His Lordship said it was impossible for him to put the prosecution to election. The fact that the dual indictment was inconvenient would not justify him in requiring the prosecution to abandon one section of it.

FOR THE PROSECUTION.

Mr. C. F. Gill opened the case for the prosecution. With regard to the nature of the case, he was sure the jury had read and heard much. He asked them to dismiss from their mind anything they know of the case, and listen to the evidence to be brought before them with impartiality. Mr. Gill narrated the history of the case from March 1, when Wilde took out a warrant for the arrest of the Marquis of Queensberry on a charge of libel, to the collapse of the case against the Marquis through "certain disclosures" made in the hearing of the case, and the subsequent story of arrest and the committal. Mr. Gill described the nature of the offences with which the men were separately and jointly charged. Briefly, they were against Wilde for acts of indecency and against Taylor of procuring facility for Wilde 2019-03-16 indecency, and also with himself committing indecency. Taylor, two years ago,

took, at a rental of £3 a month, the upper rooms over a closed baker's shop in Little College-street. The rooms he had furnished in a remarkable manner, draped and furnished in a curious way, perfumed and lighted always by artificial light. Taylor was then a man without profession. He had no servant in these remarkable rooms, and was visited here by Wilde and several young men. The young men mentioned in the indictment were Charles and William Parker, Alf Wood, Sidney Mavor, Fred Atkins, and Edward Shelley. The history of Wilde's visit to Paris with Atkins, the money supplied to Wood to enable him to go out to America, the case of the letters addressed "to a certain person" by Wilde, and used, as it was alleged, for the purpose of obtaining money from him; the history of the Savoy Hotel incidents; the suppers at the Florence, Rupert-street; the presents of cigarette-cases, and many other incidents of the case, more or less well known, were repeated by Mr. Gill. And in closing he said he thought that when the jury had heard the evidence they would come to the conclusion that the prisoners were guilty.

There was no sound in the court, except the moving of the people and their seats, when Mr. Gill sat down—no expression of feeling one way or the other, as so frequently marked the Queensberry trial. But when, as immediately followed, the first witness was called, and Charles Parker stepped forward, the vulgar curiosity to get a good view of the fellow caused several of the well-dressed men in court to produce opera-glasses! They did not appear proud of the act; they did it as furtively as they could, and then hid the glasses in their hats or beneath their coats.

THE FIRST WITNESS.

Charles Parker, pale with the story he had to tell, related how when he and his brother William were out of service in February, 1893, Taylor, a stranger to them then, spoke to them in the St. James's Restaurant, and, after suggesting to them the disgusting means whereby they might obtain plenty of money, offered to introduce them to Wilde. He told of the supper with Wilde at Kettner's, when the tables were lit with red-shaded candles and champagne was plentiful, and of the visit with Wilde to his private rooms at the Savoy Hotel. Whilst he described what happened there and at a subsequent visit to Wilde's house in Tite-street a death-like silence reigned in the court. Mr. Gill said he did not propose to go into actual details of what happened unless his lordship wished.

His Lordship said that Mr. Gill would have to follow whatever course he thought best himself, but that the jury would probably want to know something of what was done.

Wilde leaned over the front of the dock to whisper a few sentences into the ear of Mr. Charles Mathews, who nodded and left the court. Almost as if by accident Mr. Gill elicited a piece of evidence against Wilde

MORE REVOLTING

than anything which has yet been told in the case. When Mr. Gill went on to refer to the arrest of the witness and Taylor in the Fitzroy-square raid in August, 1894, Mr. Grain rose for the first time and quietly protested against the introduction of matter extraneous to the indictment. "Surely I have enough to answer!" he said. Mr. Gill said he only desired to show that after that incident the witness ceased his acquaintance with Taylor, and went into the country, where he enlisted in the army. It was there Lord Queensberry's solicitor found him when seeking evidence in support of the plea of justification.

When the Court adjourned for luncheon Wilde looked positively ill. Taylor, however, was apparently more cheerful, and took some trouble to scrutinize carefully the people in the public gallery.

CROSS-EXAMINATION.

Cross-examined by Sir Edward, Charles Parker said he enlisted in August last. It was true, he said, that two days before he was arrested in August last two men, Allen and the man Wood, who was a witness in this case, had extorted a large sum of money from a gentleman who had had immoral relationship with him, and Wood and Allen gave him (Charles Parker) £30 as his share of the money extorted. He had been in Allen's house. He couldn't say when the immorality with the gentleman took place, from whom the money was extorted. The immorality took place a fortnight before the arrest in Fitzroy-square. Cameron-square, where Parker lived, was where the indecency took place.

A STARTLING STATEMENT.

Did you not invite the gentleman to go to the house with you?—Well, he asked might he go.

How much did Wood and Allen get out of the gentleman?—£300 or £400. (Sensation.)

What did you do with your £30?—Spent it in about a couple of days.

Charles Parker was then asked to write on a sheet of paper the name and address of the person with whom he had been employed as valet before being out of work and meeting Wilde. The name being given, Parker said he had been in the gentleman's employ nine months. It was true he had taken away with him from that gentleman shirts and other clothing, which had since been taken back. He had a written character from the employer, but this was given to him before he took away the clothes. When Taylor met him at the house of Wilde, he quite understood what was meant. Certainly when he called on Taylor he knew what he

wanted him to do, and meant to do it and get money. He knew Mr. Wilde was a dramatist and had much to do with the stage, and the first time he met Wilde he told him he wanted to go on the stage. He told Wilde that his father was a horse dealer. He knew the purpose with which he went to meet Wilde. Wilde talked in brilliant style at the dinner-table when they had the first dinner in Rupert-street. He knew the young fellow Wood, Charles Parker said, and he knew Wood had possession of letters written by Wilde, but he didn't know Wood managed to get money from Wilde. He knew the man Allen spoken of and another named Clayburn, whose acquaintance he made early in 1894. He knew how Wood got possession of Wilde's letters, and that the letters were not Wood's, and that he had taken them out of somebody's clothes. The rooms Wilde had at St. James's-place were not secret rooms. The rooms were pretty open and there were men-servants about. The sitting-room was a sort of library, well filled with books. He used to call there to see Wilde, without special invitation, and he was asked up to his rooms. While he was there he had seen gentlemen call to see Wilde about his business.

Mr. Grain then took up the cross-examination on behalf of Taylor. Parker knew a man named Harrington. Harrington did not introduce him to Taylor; but was in the St. James's with them. He was hard up at the time, with only a few shillings in his pocket, but was not in debt.

Mr. Grain read over part of the young fellow's deposition, and he acknowledged his statements were wrong.

SEVERAL LITTLE SURPRISES

were now to be burst upon the Court.

Mr. Grain elicited that six months after the witness made Taylor's acquaintance he went to Paris with another person.

A composer?—Yes.

An operatic composer?—Yes.

How long were you in Paris with that person?—A month.

In what capacity?—As valet.

Did he pay you wages?—Yes; two louis a month.

Did you share the same room?—No.

You saw him every day?—Yes, I visited him every morning.

To valet him?—Yes.

In further cross-examination the Witness said he knew the lad Atkins and another named Burton. They were living together when he made their acquaintance.

Did you go to Monte Carlo with Burton?—Yes.

How long were you there?—Only a few days.

This concluded Mr. Grain's cross-examination, and Mr. Gill rose to re-examine. In reply to his (Mr. Gill's) questions, Parker said he knew Lord Alfred Douglas. He was introduced to him by Taylor. He knew, too, that the letters for which Wood received £30 were written by Wilde. Then Mr. Gill found a plausible explanation of the apparent inconsistency discovered by Mr. Grain, by eliciting that the misconduct in Chelsea occurred at the Chapel-street lodging, and not at Camera-square. After being almost three hours in the box the witness was dismissed, and Mr. Gill called

PARKER'S BROTHER IN THE BOX.

William Parker, the brother, was next called. He is the lad who had been a groom, and is a year older than Charles, and rougher in voice and manner. In March, 1893, he and his brother Charles lived at 9, Hunter-street, Euston-road. He repeated the statement of the previous witness as to their meeting with Taylor at St. James's Restaurant, and subsequent introduction to Wilde. William Parker wrote the address on a piece of paper, handed it to Taylor, and afterwards found in Taylor's hat-box. He met Wilde only on one occasion, the night of the dinner, from which his brother drove away to the Savoy with Wilde. His evidence was chiefly directed against Alfred Taylor.

In cross-examination he said he knew the purpose for which he and his brother were introduced to Wilde.

A FEMALE WITNESS.

A woman was brought into court at a quarter to four. This was Ellen Grant, who said she resided at 13, Little College-street. She was not the landlady, but she and her husband had a portion of the house in which Taylor had rooms. For a few weeks Mrs. Grant assisted Taylor in his household duties. He had no female servant and did his own cooking with a gas stove. Taylor's rooms were curtained and draped, and no daylight was admitted. He had no gas, but lit his rooms by oil lamps and candles with coloured shades over the light. The bed was a spring bed, which lay on the floor of the bedroom. Mrs. Grant had seen women's shoes and stockings, and "Mr. Taylor's wig"—a fair-haired woman's wig with curls, it was. His night-shirt was fastened with a gold brooch. She knew among his visitors there were no women, but were several young men of from sixteen years old to thirty. She had seen Alfred Woods there. He stayed with Taylor three weeks. Sidney Mavor frequently stayed in the house; so did Charles Mason and one Maehlin. Mrs. Grant said Taylor and his gentleman friends used to call one another "Charlie dear," "My dear boy," &c. A sergeant of police visited the house in May last year, and she showed the sergeant over the house. Taylor had several woman's broods 235

Cross-examined Mrs. Grant said she never saw Wilde at Taylor's rooms. The curtains on the window

were heavy curtains covered with muslin curtains and over them a thin, strained muslin, which effectually kept out the light. The walls and ceiling were draped. Lucy Roundly, 50, Park-walk, Chelsea, an elderly widow, said Charles Parker had a bedroom in her house for a couple of months in 1893. She gave him notice to quit because of something she'd heard. Alfred Wood, the young man who had letters addressed by Wilde to Lord Alfred Douglas was under examination when the Court was adjourned at five o'clock.

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HIS PERSONAL FEELINGS.

on a particular point to override his sense of abstract justice, to the prejudice of the man charged before him. If a police Magistrate of twenty years' experience shows such flagrant prejudice, what can be expected from the men who will at the Old Bailey form the jury of what the law humorously terms Mr. Oscar Wilde's "peers"?

There are a thousand other things that might be said, but I am not the person to say them, nor is it my place to make any reply to the precious bit of cant and bad grammar which appears over Lord Queensberry's signature in your issue of to-day, and which I feel I may safely leave to the tender mercies of Mr. Robert Buchanan, whom I hereby beg to thank, in the name of justice, of sanity, and of Christian charity, for his noble letter.

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE.

The Central News says: "Important conferences were held at Whitehall recently by the authorities regarding the disclosures which have been made in the case against Oscar Wilde. Some of the witnesses have been under close examination. So far no further arrests have been made."

REYNOLDS'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER, May 5, 1895
REYNOLDS'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER, May 12, 1895
REYNOLDS'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER, May 19, 1895

Next the judge dwelt on what Sir Edward Clarke had called the literary part of the case. It was attempted to show by cross-examination of Wilde as to works he has published, especially in regard to the book called "Dorian Gray," that he was a man of

MOST UNPRINCIPLED CHARACTER

with regard to the relation of men to boys. His lordship had not read "Dorian Gray," and assumed that the jury had not. Sir Edward Clarke had quoted from Coleridge, "Judge no man by his books," but his lordship would prefer to say "Confound no man with the characters of the persons he creates." Because a novelist put into the mouth of his villain the most abominable sentiments it must not be assumed that he shared them. As to the "Chameleon," the only connection proved between that magazine and Wilde was that it was prefaced by two pages of "Phrases and Philosophies for the Use of the Young" by the prisoner, of which it was sufficient to say that some were amusing, some cynical, some, if his lordship might be allowed to criticise, silly, but wicked, no. With that disgusting story, "The Priest and the Acolyte," Wilde had nothing whatever to do. In the same "Chameleon" were two sonnets by Lord Alfred Douglas, one called "In Praise of Shame," and the other "The Two Loves." It was alleged that these sonnets had an immoral and unnatural tendency, and that Wilde had approved of them. What was it he had said with reference to them? His lordship, with an admirable elocutionary art, read the sonnet, "In Praise of Shame." Of the other he only quoted some lines. Wilde looked up with a fresh interest at this judicial appreciation of the literary form if not of the sentiments of the poems. His lordship proceeded to quote the Wilde letter beginning "Your sonnet is quite lovely, and it is a marvel that your red rose-leaf lips should be made as much for the music of song as for the madness of kissing," as well as that other from the Savoy Hotel, written in 1893, in which Wilde began, "Dearest of all boys,—Your letter was delightful, red and yellow wine to me." He asked if Mr. Carson was right in regarding these letters as of a horrible and indecent character; and here his lordship repeated much that Oscar had said in

DEFINITION OF THE LOVE

which is as the love of David and Jonathan, or that which Plato called the beginning of wisdom. This was a part of the case on which the jury must exercise their own judgment.

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in the eyes of the public from whom the jury who must try his case will be drawn, and that he is practically being delivered over bound to the fury of a cowardly and brutal mob. Sir John Bridge, in refusing bail to-day, stated that he knew of no graver offence than that with which Mr. Wilde is charged. Mr. Wilde, as a matter of fact, is charged with a "misdemeanour" punishable by two years' imprisonment with or without hard labour *as a maximum penalty*; therefore, the offence with which he is charged is, in the eye of the law, which Sir John Bridge is supposed to represent, comparatively trifling. I should very much like to know how, in view of this fact, Sir John Bridge can reconcile what he said with his conscience, and with his position as the absolutely impartial exponent of the law, and whether it is not obvious that, in saying what he did, he allowed

HIS PERSONAL FEELINGS

on a particular point to override his sense of abstract justice, to the prejudice of the man charged before him. If a police Magistrate of twenty years' experience shows such flagrant prejudice, what can be expected from the men who will at the Old Bailey form the jury of what the law humorously terms Mr. Oscar Wilde's "peers"?

There are a thousand other things that might be said, but I am not the person to say them, nor is it my place to make any reply to the precious bit of cant and bad grammar which appears over Lord Queensberry's signature in your issue of to-day, and which I feel I may safely leave to the tender mercies of Mr. Robert Buchanan, whom I hereby beg to thank, in the name of justice, of sanity, and of Christian charity, for his noble letter.

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE.

The Central News says: "Important conferences were held at Whitehall recently by the authorities regarding the disclosures which have been made in the case against Oscar Wilde. Some of the witnesses have been under close examination. So far no further arrests have been made."