



Jissen Women's University Rare Books
Honma Hisao Collection

Digital Archives of Mason Library

Oscar Wilde
Scrapbook

Vol. **13**

successful: a tracheotomy, an opening of the skull, and a removal of the organs of will. For a little while he could pretend to himself that all would be well, that he could write a play and then come to Paris and "be again the King of Life." But his will was gone. He could only talk of his projects, and he came to Paris with his play unwritten.

"I am so Lonely."

Various friends tried desperately to give him confidence. Stuart Merrill gave a dinner in his honour, but some of the guests did not appear, and Wilde was made, perhaps, more miserable by their absence than if the dinner had not taken place. It is hard for a King to become a knight, and Wilde's power of leadership was gone. With him it was always the throne or nothing, and when some who had known him closed their doors on him, he would call on no one for fear of a similar rebuff. Gide and a friend passed him sitting before a *café*. He ordered drinks for them, and Gide was

sitting down in front of him with his back towards the passers-by, when Wilde begged him to sit beside him. "Oh! sit here, by me. I am so lonely just now." He was without the money to pay for the drinks.

"Afin de Finir ma Semaine."

In spite of his poverty, for though he had an allowance, he was frequently penniless (Merrill has a pathetic note from him asking for a very little sum "*afin de finir ma semaine*"), he refused in any way to profit by his condemnation. Fernand Xau offered him a weekly article to write. His messenger imprudently said, "After the noise of your condemnation you are sure of a great success." Wilde straightened himself, and replied, "Thank you. My successes before the condemnation are sufficient for me."

He went to Italy, to Switzerland, and to the South of France, returning always to Paris. During the Paris exhibition he used to spend two or three evenings a week in the exhibition grounds. Paul



*Berneval-sur-Mer.
The beach, cliffs, and casino.*

OSCAR WILDE'S FRIENDS.

LORD A. DOUGLAS'S STORY.

Though Oscar Wilde has been dead for 13 years, the notoriety of his name is kept alive by an apparently endless succession of quarrels among his friends and his friends' friends. Ultimately it will be possible to strip Wilde's writings of the adventitious interest of social celebrity and of scandal, and to estimate their intrinsic value. Before this estimate is likely to be made by the present generation some measure of agreement will be necessary on the facts of Wilde's career; and although Lord Alfred Douglas's *OSCAR WILDE AND MYSELF* (Long, 10s. 6d. net.) is not the kind of soft answer which will turn away the wrath of his various opponents, it will help people to form their estimate of the facts of the intimacy and confirm their probable impression of Oscar Wilde's character and talents.

Lord Alfred Douglas has a pungent or even feline literary touch, but his general statement of the relations between Oscar Wilde and himself is straightforward and credible. He has frankly outgrown any excessive admiration for Wilde either as a writer or a man. The process of disillusionment was completed by the discovery of Wilde's attacks in the unpublished portions of "De Profundis." The writer denies that he knew the extent and character of Wilde's viciousness until after legal proceedings had been begun, and makes some true and incisive observations on Wilde's craving for notoriety, which falsified his talent and substituted imitativeness and shallow epigram for what might have been independent genius. But the time has not yet come for a final appreciation, nor is Lord Alfred Douglas the critic to undertake it. He is fairly entitled to tell his story of the relationship, though it would have been all the better for being told more shortly and with less references to a number of people of very small real importance.

Fort and Madame Fort (the Suzon of the "Ballades"), who were his companions on some of these occasions, speak of him with tears in their eyes. Wilde seemed to them very gentle, not outwardly unhappy, and interested in everything. The depths of the man, they felt, had come much nearer to the surface.

Died "beyond his Means."

On November 30th, 1900, he died. He had been turned out of an hotel, a couple of years before, because he could not pay his bill, when the landlord of the Hotel d'Alsace, 13 Rue des Beaux Arts, took him in, paid what was owing, and recovered his luggage for him. He made this house his home in Paris, until he died, as he put it, "beyond his means." His health failed, and he drank and hurried the failure. Mr. Robert Ross nursed him, and brought a priest to ease his dissolution. It so happened that neither he nor any other close friend was with Wilde when he died. Paul Fort saw him just before his death and just after.

He describes the small, dingy hotel, the passages, and the smell of disinfectants about the room where Wilde lay. He was one of the few who followed Wilde's coffin.

In Paris, where he had moved in glory as a Roman Emperor, or a Bacchus of the East, the remains of Wilde headed a pitiful procession. Of those who filled the two cabs of which it was composed, several went about their business before reaching the cemetery. No bell tolled. The church hung no mourning curtains round its entrance, and admitted the body by a small side door. When Wilde came to Paris the boulevards fluttered with his name. When at last he left, his departure was almost unnoticed. A *sergent-de-ville* saluted the coffin with magnificence; he did not know whose body it contained.

Oscar Wilde was buried in the cemetery at Bagneux on December 3rd, 1900. On July 20th, 1909, his coffin was removed to Père-Lachaise, where a monument, on which Mr. Jacob Epstein is already working, will eventually be erected over his grave.

A. R.

SOME IDEAS FROM OSCAR WILDE

Cynicism is merely the art of seeing things as they are, instead of as they ought to be.

Three addresses always inspire confidence, even in a tradesman.

Women spoil every romance by trying to make it last for ever.

In literature mere egotism is delightful.

It is difficult not to be unjust to what one loves.

Nowadays people know the price of everything and the value of nothing.

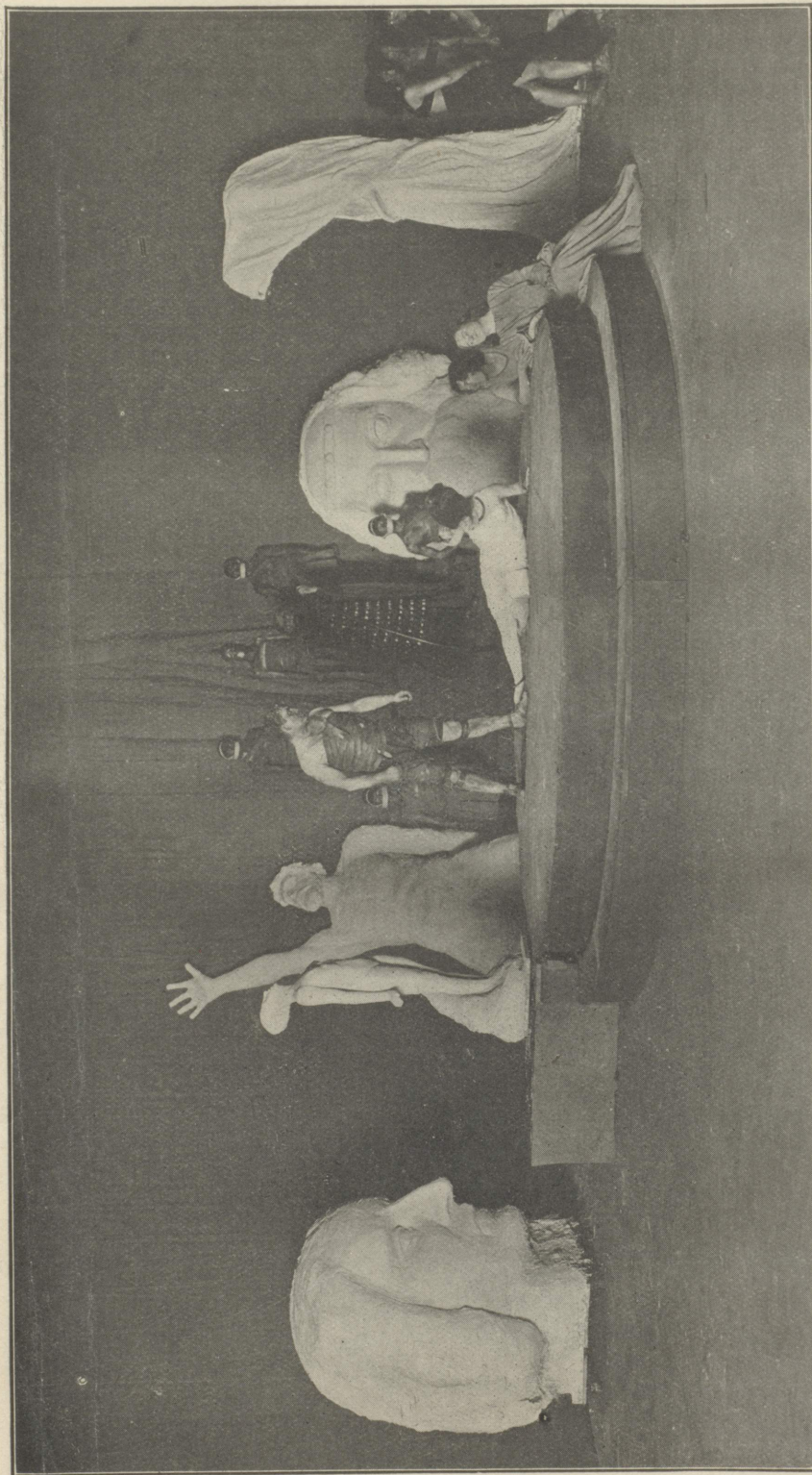
A man cannot be too careful in the choice of his enemies.

The man who can call a spade a spade should be compelled to use one.



THE LATE MISS MABEL BEARDSLEY

Whose recent death has been the cause of much sorrow and regret in literary and artistic circles. Miss Beardsley, who acted under her maiden name, was the wife of Mr. George Bealby, the well-known actor. Miss Beardsley was a sister of the late Aubrey Beardsley, the great decorative artist, who inaugurated that clever publication, "The Yellow Book," and was herself a regular contributor to "The Saturday Review" and other periodicals. She commenced her stage career with Sir Herbert Tree's company at the Haymarket in 1895.



The Tragedy of "Medusa" at the Berlin Modern Theatre. This picture shows in a striking manner how effective can be the modern ideas of stage setting which are being adopted by Continental playhouses.

Fort and Madame Fort (the Suzon of the "Ballades"), who were his companions on some of these occasions, speak of him with tears in their eyes. Wilde seemed to them very gentle, not outwardly unhappy, and interested in everything. The depths of the man, they felt, had come much nearer to the surface.

Died "beyond his Means."

On November 30th, 1900, he died. He had been turned out of an hotel, a couple of years before, because he could not pay his bill, when the landlord of the Hotel d'Alsace, 13 Rue des Beaux Arts, took him in, paid what was owing, and recovered his luggage for him. He made this house his home in Paris, until he died, as he put it, "beyond his means." His health failed, and he drank and hurried the failure. Mr. Robert Ross nursed him, and brought a priest to ease his dissolution. It so happened that neither he nor any other close friend was with Wilde when he died. Paul Fort saw him just before his death and just after.

He describes the small, dingy hotel, the passages, and the smell of disinfectants about the room where Wilde lay. He was one of the few who followed Wilde's coffin.

In Paris, where he had moved in glory as a Roman Emperor, or a Bacchus of the East, the remains of Wilde headed a pitiful procession. Of those who filled the two cabs of which it was composed, several went about their business before reaching the cemetery. No bell tolled. The church hung no mourning curtains round its entrance, and admitted the body by a small side door. When Wilde came to Paris the boulevards fluttered with his name. When at last he left, his departure was almost unnoticed. A *sergent-de-ville* saluted the coffin with magnificence; he did not know whose body it contained.

Oscar Wilde was buried in the cemetery at Bagneux on December 3rd, 1900. On July 20th, 1909, his coffin was removed to Père-Lachaise, where a monument, on which Mr. Jacob Epstein is already working, will eventually be erected over his grave.

A. R.

SOME IDEAS FROM OSCAR WILDE

Cynicism is merely the art of seeing things as they are, instead of as they ought to be.

Three addresses always inspire confidence, even in a tradesman.

Women spoil every romance by trying to make it last for ever.

In literature mere egotism is delightful.

It is difficult not to be unjust to what one loves.

Nowadays people know the price of everything and the value of nothing.

A man cannot be too careful in the choice of his enemies.

The man who can call a spade a spade should be compelled to use one.



The Tragedy of "Medusa" at the Berlin Modern Theatre. This picture shows in a striking manner how effective can be the modern ideas of stage setting which are being adopted by Continental playhouses.

2019-03-18

Jessen Women's University Library

126



THE LATE MISS MABEL BEARDSLEY

Whose recent death has been the cause of much sorrow and regret in literary and artistic circles. Miss Beardsley, who acted under her maiden name, was the wife of Mr. George Bealby, the well-known actor. Miss Beardsley was a sister of the late Aubrey Beardsley, the great decorative artist, who inaugurated that clever publication, "The Yellow Book," and was herself a regular contributor to "The Saturday Review" and other periodicals. She commenced her stage career with Sir Hervey's Theatre, Haymarket in 1895

SPECIAL LAW REPORTS

KING'S BENCH DIVISION.

Before Mr. Justice DARLING and a Special Jury.

RELIGION AND THE PRESS.

A MINISTER'S LETTER.

LORD A. DOUGLAS AND SIR E. CARSON.

Matters of acute controversy in the sphere of religion were introduced into an action for libel, which was further marked by sharp passages between a witness and counsel.

The Welsford Press (Ltd.), of which Lord Alfred Douglas is a director, and which owns the weekly journal the "Academy," sued the *Daily News* (Ltd.) and Dr. Horton, the well-known Nonconformist minister, for damages for libel alleged to be contained in a letter written by Dr. Horton and published in the *Daily News* on March 16 last year. Defendants denied that the words bore the meaning alleged, and pleaded fair comment.

Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., and Mr. Cannon (instructed by Fiennes, Clinton, and Co.) appeared for plaintiffs; Sir Edward Carson, K.C., and Mr. Adkins (instructed by Shepheard and Walters) for Dr. Horton; and Mr. Hugh Fraser and Mr. Walker (instructed by Lloyd George, Roberts, and Co.) for the *Daily News* (Ltd.).

In opening the case, Lord Robert Cecil said that plaintiffs were charged with being hypocrites and insincere persons, pretending that their paper, the "Academy," was written from an Anglican standpoint, whereas they were really in the pay and acting as agents of the Church of Rome. The charge was contained in a letter from Dr. Horton to the *Daily News*, which was headed "Rome and the Press," "Dr. R. F. Horton on the Subtle Influences." The passage complained of was as follows:

Some well-known organs—e.g., the "Academy," have passed into Roman hands. That once famous literary paper passes its verdict on our current literature with the bias of Rome. Good books are those which favour Rome. Books which criticise or oppose Rome are ipso facto bad. This paper, therefore, is to be ranked, though the public doesn't know it, with the "Tablet," the "Monk," and the "Universe." This is all quite legitimate, but the public should know when a paper becomes the organ of Roman propaganda.

There was not, said Sir Robert, a word of truth in these statements, and on the following day the *Daily News* published the following paragraph, which was, however, very far from being a sincere or sufficient apology:

We are asked to state . . . that none of the directors of the "Academy" is a Roman Catholic. Lord Alfred Douglas, the editor, is not a Roman Catholic; Mr. T. W. H. Crosland, a director, is a Protestant, and the son of a Protestant; Sir Edward Tennant, M.P., is a Protestant; and the second largest shareholder is also a Protestant. We are also informed that the "Academy" does not give preference to Roman Catholics in offering employment; that the books are reviewed for the columns of the "Academy" by those who are best capable of dealing with them from a literary standpoint; and that, further, those who are responsible for the management of the paper are unable to find an instance of any book that has been treated in the manner described by Dr. Horton. We have pleasure in publishing this unqualified disclaimer, and regret that we should inadvertently have been the medium of misrepresenting the conduct of our contemporary.

On March 18, Dr. Horton sent to the *Daily News* a letter, which, said counsel, made matters considerably worse:

I deeply regret that I have been misinformed about the "Academy" and my error has involved you in the difficulties which you meet by your paragraph this morning. Permit me through your columns to offer a sincere apology to the editor and the directors of that journal. What misled me was that a copy was sent to me containing a review of a book of mine, entitled "My Belief." Or rather, it was not a review but a violent tirade against me from the Roman point of view.

I was surprised at this polemical bias in a literary journal, and on inquiry from a journalistic friend I was told that the "Academy" had passed into Roman Catholic hands. I did not resent it, nor was I astonished. I simply supposed it to be a fact. No one, I think, who

read the article I referred to, entitled "The Logic of Dissent," could blame me for drawing the inference or for believing the statement which seemed to explain it. But in view of what you publish to-day I beg to withdraw what I said and to express my thankfulness that the journal as a whole is Protestant.

May I, however, point out how the episode illustrates my main contention? Even where the editor and managers of a paper are Protestant the Roman influence finds a way to dictate the treatment of a work which advocates Protestant principles. Sorry as I am to have misrepresented the "Academy," I cannot alter my general view of Roman influence in the Press.

His Lordship: Did Mr. Horton send a copy of his book to the "Academy" for review?

Lord R. Cecil: Yes, or his publishers did.

His Lordship: And then he was displeased with the notice? That often happens.

Lord R. Cecil: Yes.

Sir E. Carson: He was displeased because his book was written from a Protestant point of view, and was reviewed from a Roman point of view.

Lord R. Cecil: The writer of the review is not a Roman Catholic, and it was not written from a Roman Catholic point of view.

Lord Alfred Douglas, of 63, Lincoln's Inn-fields, said he had been the editor of the "Academy" for three years. He was a member of the Church of England, and not a Roman Catholic. No one connected with the paper belonged to the Roman Catholic Church, nor had belonged to it during his editorship.

Lord R. Cecil: Is it true your verdict on current literature is given with a bias in favour of Rome?—No.

Is it true the "Academy" may be ranked with the "Tablet," the "Monk," and the "Universe"?—Certainly not.

Dr. Horton's book, continued witness, was sent by him for review to Mr. Arthur Machen.

Is he a Roman Catholic?—No, an Anglican, a member of the Church of England.

Witness gave no directions with the book, which he sent with some others, and whose subject, he thought, would interest Mr. Machen. The attitude of the "Academy" in religious controversy was that of the High Church. It was similar to that of the "Saturday Review" and of the "Church Times."

Sir E. Carson (cross-examining): The "Academy" has been strongly against Protestantism?—It has been very strongly against Nonconformity.

It has been strongly against Protestantism in the English Church?

His Lordship: I don't understand that.

Sir E. Carson (to plaintiff): The "Academy" has been strongly against Reformation Protestantism?—Against the way in which the Reformation has been distorted and used for improper purposes.

Do you call yourself a Protestant?—No. I strongly object to the description. I believe in the Holy Catholic Church, as I say in church every Sunday. If you go to church, I suppose you say the Apostles' Creed.

His Lordship: You object to the word "Protestant"?

Witness: I say it is unscientific.

Sir E. Carson: A horrible word?—It is a horrible word to me.

And you don't hesitate to insult people who call themselves Protestants?—I don't insult them.

His Lordship (to Sir E. Carson): Perhaps you can tell me where the word "Protestant" comes from, and when it was first used?

Sir E. Carson: From the time of the Reformation, as I understand. It means a protest against the doctrines of the Catholic Church.

Witness: The word is nowhere used in the Prayer Book, and is not, therefore, the way in which a member of the Church of England should describe himself.

Sir E. Carson: Did you know Mr. Machen hated the Reformation?—I knew it after I read his article.

Counsel quoted from an article by Mr. Machen in the "Academy" of Dec. 7, 1907, the following passage:

I curse the Protestant Reformation, then. With heart and soul do I curse and hate it, and detest it with all its works and abominable operations, internal and external. I loathe and abhor it as a most hideous blasphemy, the greatest woe, the extremist horror that ever fell upon mortals since the foundation of the world.

Are not those offensive words?—You may take them so.

"I curse the Protestant Reformation." Is that literature?—I expect I am a better judge of literature than you are. It is simply foolish to take out a single passage and say, "Is that literature?" I think the article is a very fine piece of writing.

Sir E. Carson: I will read it again.

Witness: Please don't. You don't read it very well.

Sir E. Carson: Don't be impatient. Are not those words offensive to Protestants?—I suppose they are; but the Church of England is not Protestant, nor am I.

At all events, they are anti-Protestant?—Yes; but that does not make me a Roman Catholic. You don't seem to understand.

His Lordship: I want to understand. You say you are a member of the Church of England, but not a Protestant, and that the Church of England is not a Protestant Church.

Witness: That is my view, and it is that of the High Church party and of Lord Halifax, and, I think, of Lord Robert Cecil.

Lord R. Cecil: No.

His Lordship: You do not say that the Church of England is the Roman Catholic Church?

Witness: No, it is the Catholic continuation of the Church as it was before the Reformation. The Church was not interrupted, though certain abuses were removed, at the Reformation. It is the Catholic Church of Christ, and goes on just the same. The Roman Catholic Church is one branch and the Anglican community another branch of the Catholic Church.

His Lordship: You say you look on the Reformation as having removed certain abuses from the Church of England, but that, having been cleansed of those abuses, it is not a Protestant Church? It is not like the Church of Calvin?—God forbid.

Sir E. Carson: As a member of the Church of

England, do you refuse to obey the laws of the Church of England?—Certainly not.

Have you not written again and again calling on people to dispute those laws as laid down by the Privy Council?—I don't recognise the Privy Council. What has the Privy Council got to do with the Church of Christ?

But it is the tribunal set up by the law of the land?—I don't recognise it.

Further questioned by Sir Edward in reference to his views on the Catholic Church, witness said: You are in profound ignorance of the position. I can't undertake to teach you in ten minutes what it would take you three years to learn.

Sir E. Carson (reading): "What we wish to hear is High Mass, and nothing but High Mass." Isn't that a Romish view?—Certainly not.

What do you say about this: "If a man refuse to call Holy Communion Mass he is not a true Catholic, but a disloyal apostate, a rotten branch on the living tree"?—That is the extreme High Church view taken by Mr. Machen.

You selected him to review Dr. Horton's book?—I had never heard of Dr. Horton before. Why should I?

Dealing with criticisms of the Rev. Dr. Aked which appeared in the "Academy," Sir Edward asked: "Isn't Dr. Aked one of the most respected Presbyterian ministers in America?"

Witness: I don't respect him.

Sir E. Carson: I suggest you respect no one but yourself?—You know nothing about the people I respect. We don't move in the same circles.

Sir E. Carson: I am thankful for that.

Witness: I say ditto.

Sir E. Carson: The "Academy" speaks of Dr. Aked's "weekly dose of heresy, schism, and imbecility." Isn't that a gross insult?—It is not very nice to Dr. Aked.

His Lordship: Did Mr. Machen write that?—Yes. It is signed by him.

Sir E. Carson: On Oct. 5, 1907, there is an article containing a reference to "Stiggins, the Red-Nosed Man, Chadband, and Dr. Clifford." Didn't that mean that Dr. Clifford was a hypocrite?—Certainly. I think he is a most objectionable person.

In further cross-examination, witness said he did not complain of being called a Roman Catholic, but of the suggestion that he was hired in favour of Roman Catholicism.

On being told by his lordship that he must not cross-examine Sir Edward Carson, witness said: Sir Edward appears to think that if one is not a Protestant, one must be a Roman Catholic.

His Lordship: Still you must not cross-examine him.

Questioned by Sir E. Carson as to references in the "Academy" to incense, candlesticks, and vestments, witness said: Don't you know that they are used in churches in London?

Sir E. Carson read a further passage from the "Academy."

Witness: You read like a child from a Board school. I admit the paper is entirely anti-Protestant. You need not go on reading.

Sir E. Carson (having read more extracts from the "Academy"): If I find a paper advocating that there should be a holy water stoup in the porch of a church might I not say that that was advocating Roman Catholic policy?—You might, but you know nothing about the history of the Church.

Do you call it honest criticism to send a book for review to a man whose views are diametrically opposed to it?—Yes. The *Daily News* doesn't get a Front Bench Opposition man to write on Conservatism.

In reply to other questions, witness said: Once you allow private judgment in matters of dogma you become a Protestant. Once begin private judgment and you may come to say you don't believe in the divinity of Christ, as a good many so-called Free Church ministers do.

Witness admitted that the "Academy" had said of the Rev. R. J. Campbell, "We have not the least doubt that Mr. Campbell will become a good Catholic before long. . . . By Catholic we don't necessarily mean Roman Catholic. . . . We advise him to stop preaching for two years, read, listen, and cultivate humility."

Mr. Arthur Machen, journalist and author, said that his review of Dr. Horton's book, "My Belief," was a fair one. He was not a Roman Catholic and had not been subsidised by the Roman Catholic Church.

Sir E. Carson (cross-examining): You would be offended if anybody called you a Protestant?—I should indeed.

You reviewed the book from the frame of mind of disliking Protestantism?—Certainly.

And the Reformation?—In great part.

You hate the Reformation?—Certainly.

You reviewed the book as an impartial critic?—An impartial critic is not one who knows nothing about what he is criticising.

Re-examined Mr. Machen said that Protestantism was an unfortunate influence introduced into the Church in the sixteenth century, chiefly from abroad.

His Lordship: Was Luther the influence?—No, Calvin principally.

Luther, added witness, was less disagreeable than Calvin, Zwingli, and others.

His Lordship: What about Knox?—I prefer to say nothing.

Replying further to his lordship, Mr. Machen said he was quite satisfied with Erasmus. He described the policy of Henry VIII as one of loot. Witness's review was an attempt to show that Dr. Horton was ignorant, and had a very imperfect knowledge of reasoning processes.

Mr. T. W. Crosland, assistant editor of the "Academy," said he was a Methodist. So far as he was concerned the "Academy" had not "passed into Roman hands."

SPECIAL LAW REPORTS

KING'S BENCH DIVISION.

Before Mr. Justice DARLING and a Special Jury.

RELIGION AND THE PRESS.

A MINISTER'S LETTER.

LORD A. DOUGLAS AND SIR E. CARSON.

Matters of acute controversy in the sphere of religion were introduced into an action for libel, which was further marked by sharp passages between a witness and counsel.

The Welsford Press (Ltd.), of which Lord Alfred Douglas is a director, and which owns the weekly journal the "Academy," sued the *Daily News* (Ltd.) and Dr. Horton, the well-known Nonconformist minister, for damages for libel alleged to be contained in a letter written by Dr. Horton and published in the *Daily News* on March 16 last year. Defendants denied that the words bore the meaning alleged, and pleaded fair comment.

Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., and Mr. Cannon (instructed by Fiennes, Clinton, and Co.) appeared for plaintiffs; Sir Edward Carson, K.C., and Mr. Adkins (instructed by Shepheards and Walters) for Dr. Horton; and Mr. Hugh Fraser and Mr. Walker (instructed by Lloyd George, Roberts, and Co.) for the *Daily News* (Ltd.).

In opening the case, Lord Robert Cecil said that plaintiffs were charged with being hypocrites and insincere persons, pretending that their paper, the "Academy," was written from an Anglican standpoint, whereas they were really in the pay and acting as agents of the Church of Rome. The charge was contained in a letter from Dr. Horton to the *Daily News*, which was headed "Rome and the Press," "Dr. R. F. Horton on the Subtle Influences." The passage complained of was as follows:

Some well-known organs—e.g., the "Academy," have passed into Roman hands. That once famous literary paper passes its verdict on our current literature with the bias of Rome. Good books are those which favour Rome. Books which criticise or oppose Rome are ipso facto bad. This paper, therefore, is to be ranked, though the public doesn't know it, with the "Tablet," the "Monk," and the "Universe." This is all quite legitimate, but the public should know when a paper becomes the organ of Roman propaganda.

There was not, said Sir Robert, a word of truth in these statements, and on the following day the *Daily News* published the following paragraph, which was, however, very far from being a sincere or sufficient apology:

We are asked to state . . . that none of the directors of the "Academy" is a Roman Catholic. Lord Alfred Douglas, the editor, is not a Roman Catholic; Mr. T. W. H. Grosland, a director, is a Protestant, and the son of a Protestant; Sir Edward Tennant, M.P., is a Protestant; and the second largest shareholder is also a Protestant. We are also informed that the "Academy" does not give preference to Roman Catholics in offering employment; that the books are reviewed for the columns of the "Academy" by those who are best capable of dealing with them from a literary standpoint; and that, further, those who are responsible for the management of the paper are unable to find an instance of any book that has been treated in the manner described by Dr. Horton. We have pleasure in publishing this unqualified disclaimer, and regret that we should inadvertently have been the medium of misrepresenting the conduct of our contemporary.

On March 18, Dr. Horton sent to the *Daily News* a letter, which, said counsel, made matters considerably worse:

I deeply regret that I have been misinformed about the "Academy" and my error has involved you in the difficulties which you meet by your paragraph this morning. Permit me through your columns to offer a sincere apology to the editor and the directors of that journal. What misled me was that a copy was sent to me containing a review of a book of mine, entitled "My Belief." Or rather, it was not a review but a violent tirade against me from the Roman point of view.

I was surprised at this polemical bias in a literary journal, and on inquiry from a journalist I was told that the "Academy" had passed into Roman Catholic hands. I did not resent it, nor was I astonished. I simply supposed it to be a fact. No one, I think, who

read the article I referred to, entitled "The Logic of Dissent," could blame me for drawing the inference or for believing the statement which seemed to explain it. But in view of what you publish to-day I beg to withdraw what I said and to express my thankfulness that the journal as a whole is Protestant.

May I, however, point out how the episode illustrates my main contention? Even where the editor and managers of a paper are Protestant the Roman influence finds a way to dictate the treatment of a work which advocates Protestant principles. Sorry as I am to have misrepresented the "Academy," I cannot alter my general view of Roman influence in the Press.

His Lordship: Did Mr. Horton send a copy of his book to the "Academy" for review?

Lord R. Cecil: Yes, or his publishers did.

His Lordship: And then he was displeased with the notice? That often happens.

Lord R. Cecil: Yes.

Sir E. Carson: He was displeased because his book was written from a Protestant point of view, and was reviewed from a Roman point of view.

Lord R. Cecil: The writer of the review is not a Roman Catholic, and it was not written from a Roman Catholic point of view.

Lord Alfred Douglas, of 63, Lincoln's Inn-fields, said he had been the editor of the "Academy" for three years. He was a member of the Church of England, and not a Roman Catholic. No one connected with the paper belonged to the Roman Catholic Church, nor had belonged to it during his editorship.

Lord R. Cecil: Is it true your verdict on current literature is given with a bias in favour of Rome?—No.

Is it true the "Academy" may be ranked with the "Tablet," the "Monk," and the "Universe"?—Certainly not.

Dr. Horton's book, continued witness, was sent by him for review to Mr. Arthur Machen.

Is he a Roman Catholic?—No, an Anglican, a member of the Church of England.

Witness gave no directions with the book, which he sent with some others, and whose subject, he thought, would interest Mr. Machen. The attitude of the "Academy" in religious controversy was that of the High Church. It was similar to that of the "Saturday Review" and of the "Church Times."

Sir E. Carson (cross-examining): The "Academy" has been strongly against Protestantism?—It has been very strongly against Nonconformity.

It has been strongly against Protestantism in the English Church?

His Lordship: I don't understand that.

Sir E. Carson (to plaintiff): The "Academy" has been strongly against Reformation Protestantism?—Against the way in which the Reformation has been distorted and used for improper purposes.

Do you call yourself a Protestant?—No. I strongly object to the description. I believe in the Holy Catholic Church, as I say in church every Sunday. If you go to church, I suppose you say the Apostles' Creed.

His Lordship: You object to the word "Protestant"?

Witness: I say it is unscientific.

Sir E. Carson: A horrible word?—It is a horrible word to me.

And you don't hesitate to insult people who call themselves Protestants?—I don't insult them.

His Lordship (to Sir E. Carson): Perhaps you can tell me where the word "Protestant" comes from, and when it was first used?

Sir E. Carson: From the time of the Reformation, as I understand. It means a protest against the doctrines of the Catholic Church.

Witness: The word is nowhere used in the Prayer Book, and is not, therefore, the way in which a member of the Church of England should describe himself.

Sir E. Carson: Did you know Mr. Machen hated the Reformation?—I knew it after I read his article.

Counsel quoted from an article by Mr. Machen in the "Academy" of Dec. 7, 1907, the following passage:

I curse the Protestant Reformation, then. With heart and soul do I curse and hate it, and detest it with all its works and abominable operations, internal and external. I loathe and abhor it as a most hideous blasphemy, the greatest woe, the extremest horror that ever fell upon mortals since the foundation of the world.

Are not those offensive words?—You may take them so.

"I curse the Protestant Reformation." Is that literature?—I expect I am a better judge of literature than you are. It is simply foolish to take out a single passage and say, "Is that literature?" I think the article is a very fine piece of writing.

Sir E. Carson: I will read it again.

Witness: Please don't. You don't read it very well.

Sir E. Carson: Don't be impertinent. Are not those words offensive to Protestants?—I suppose they are; but the Church of England is not Protestant, nor am I.

At all events, they are anti-Protestant?—Yes; but that does not make me a Roman Catholic. You don't seem to understand.

His Lordship: I want to understand. You say you are a member of the Church of England, but not a Protestant, and that the Church of England is not a Protestant Church.

Witness: That is my view, and it is that of the High Church party and of Lord Halifax, and, I think, of Lord Robert Cecil.

Lord R. Cecil: No.

His Lordship: You do not say that the Church of England is the Roman Catholic Church?

Witness: No, it is the Catholic continuation of the Church as it was before the Reformation. The Church was not interrupted, though certain abuses were removed, at the Reformation. It is the Catholic Church of Christ, and goes on just the same. The Roman Catholic Church is one branch and the Anglican community another branch of the Catholic Church.

His Lordship: You say you look on the Reformation as having removed certain abuses from the Church of England, but that, having been cleaned of those abuses, it is not a Protestant Church? It is not like the Church of Calvin?—God forbid.

Sir E. Carson: As a member of the Church of

England, do you refuse to obey the laws of the Church of England?—Certainly not.

Have you not written again and again calling on people to dispute those laws as laid down by the Privy Council?—I don't recognise the Privy Council. What has the Privy Council got to do with the Church of Christ?

But it is the tribunal set up by the law of the land?—I don't recognise it.

Further questioned by Sir Edward in reference to his views on the Catholic Church, witness said: You are in profound ignorance of the position. I can't undertake to teach you in ten minutes what it would take you three years to learn.

Sir E. Carson (reading): "What we wish to hear is High Mass, and nothing but High Mass." Isn't that a Romish view?—Certainly not.

What do you say about this: "If a man refuse to call Holy Communion Mass he is not a true Catholic, but a disloyal apostate, a rotten branch on the living tree"?—That is the extreme High Church view taken by Mr. Machen.

You selected him to review Dr. Horton's book?—I had never heard of Dr. Horton before. Why should I?

Dealing with criticisms of the Rev. Dr. Aked which appeared in the "Academy," Sir Edward asked: "Isn't Dr. Aked one of the most respected Presbyterian ministers in America?"

Witness: I don't respect him.

Sir E. Carson: I suggest you respect no one but yourself?—You know nothing about the people I respect. We don't move in the same circles.

Sir E. Carson: I am thankful for that.

Witness: I say ditto.

Sir E. Carson: The "Academy" speaks of Dr. Aked's "weekly dose of heresy, schism, and imbecility." Isn't that a gross insult?—It is not very nice to Dr. Aked.

His Lordship: Did Mr. Machen write that?—Yes. It is signed by him.

Sir E. Carson: On Oct. 5, 1907, there is an article containing a reference to "Stiggins, the Red-Nosed Man, Chadband, and Dr. Clifford." Didn't that mean that Dr. Clifford was a hypocrite?—Certainly. I think he is a most objectionable person.

In further cross-examination, witness said he did not complain of being called a Roman Catholic, but of the suggestion that he was hired in favour of Roman Catholicism.

On being told by his lordship that he must not cross-examine Sir Edward Carson, witness said: Sir Edward appears to think that if one is not a Protestant, one must be a Roman Catholic.

His Lordship: Still you must not cross-examine him.

Questioned by Sir E. Carson as to references in the "Academy" to incense, candlesticks, and vestments, witness said: Don't you know that they are used in churches in London?

Sir E. Carson read a further passage from the "Academy."

Witness: You read like a child from a Board school. I admit the paper is entirely anti-Protestant. You need not go on reading.

Sir E. Carson (having read more extracts from the "Academy"): If I find a paper advocating that there should be a holy water stoup in the porch of a church might I not say that that was advocating Roman Catholic policy?—You might, but you know nothing about the history of the Church.

Do you call it honest criticism to send a book for review to a man whose views are diametrically opposed to it?—Yes. The *Daily News* doesn't get a Front Bench Opposition man to write on Conservatism.

In reply to other questions, witness said: Once you allow private judgment in matters of dogma you become a Protestant. Once begin private judgment and you may come to say you don't believe in the divinity of Christ, as a good many so-called Free Church ministers do.

Witness admitted that the "Academy" had said of the Rev. R. J. Campbell, "We have not the least doubt that Mr. Campbell will become a good Catholic before long. . . . By Catholic we don't necessarily mean Roman Catholic. . . . We advise him to stop preaching for two years, read, listen, and cultivate humility."

Mr. Arthur Machen, journalist and author, said that his review of Dr. Horton's book, "My Belief," was a fair one. He was not a Roman Catholic and had not been subsidised by the Roman Catholic Church.

Sir E. Carson (cross-examining): You would be offended if anybody called you a Protestant?—I should indeed.

You reviewed the book from the frame of mind of disliking Protestantism?—Certainly.

And the Reformation?—In great part.

You hate the Reformation?—Certainly.

You reviewed the book as an impartial critic?—An impartial critic is not one who knows nothing about what he is criticising.

Re-examined Mr. Machen said that Protestantism was an unfortunate influence introduced into the Church in the sixteenth century, chiefly from abroad.

His Lordship: Was Luther the influence?—No, Calvin principally.

Luther, added witness, was less disagreeable than Calvin, Zwingle, and others.

His Lordship: What about Knox?—I prefer to say nothing.

Replying further to his lordship, Mr. Machen said he was quite satisfied with Erasmus. He described the policy of Henry VIII as one of loot. Witness's review was an attempt to show that Dr. Horton was ignorant, and had a very imperfect knowledge of reasoning processes.

Mr. T. W. Crosland, assistant editor of the "Academy," said he was a Methodist. So far as he was concerned the "Academy" had not "passed the time of its life."

Dr. Horton, called for the defence, stated that he was an M.A., and formerly Fellow of New College, Oxford, and D.D. of Yale University. He was minister of Lyndhurst-road Congregational Church, Hampstead, and a Protestant. He had ascertained from the Catholic "Who's Who" that Lord Archibald Douglas, a relative of Lord Alfred, was a Roman Catholic. The friend who told him that the editor of the "Academy" was a Roman Catholic was on the "Christian World." He would not like to state what distinction he drew between a "Catholic" and a "Roman Catholic." It might sound uncomplimentary.

Cross-examined by Lord R. Cecil: There was an "apostolate" of the Press working in favour of Roman Catholicism in this country. There were very few papers on which the apostolate had not secured an agent, whose business it was to excise any piece of news or any speech or notice of a book which told against Rome. Just as she sent missionaries to the heathen, so Rome sent missionaries to this country, and part of the propaganda was to appoint suitable men to influence the Press. Such men were on the staffs of papers without the knowledge of their employers.

His Lordship: Is this a hypothesis of your own, or do you know it for a fact? Can you give names, either of papers or people?—It would be perfectly impossible to give names.

His Lordship: How do you know of it?—It is admitted by the Roman Catholic Church, and can be traced in the papers.

The work, added witness, was done secretly, and directly attention was directed to it it was withdrawn. He regarded Roman Catholicism as the ruin of the country in which it became established. In his book he described Roman Catholicism as the antithesis of Christianity.

Lord R. Cecil: Did you find Lord Alfred Douglas's name in the Catholic "Who's Who"?—No, but I didn't know he was a man of importance.

Sir E. Carson, addressing the jury, said that for a paper like the "Academy" to bring an action for libel, having regard to its own antecedents, was an abuse of the law of libel and of the process of the Court. Dr. Horton's criticism was perfectly fair, and he made no suggestion of corruption on the part of the "Academy." The evidence of Lord Alfred Douglas and of Mr. Machen showed that they wished to drive Protestantism out of the Church of England, and in those circumstances it was absurd for plaintiffs to ask damages for being accused of having a Roman Catholic bias.

His lordship, in summing up to the jury, observed that the question whether or not the alleged libel constituted fair comment must not be determined by their attitude towards the theological views of Dr. Horton and of Lord Alfred Douglas. After four centuries it seemed sad that this dispute should be gone into. The Reformation was a compromise between a number of conflicting ideas; but we did not seem to have got much beyond the lines written 200 years ago:

A godly thorough reformation,
Which always must be carried on,
And still be doing, never done,
As if religion were intended
For anything else but to be mended.

After prolonged deliberation, the jury stated that they could not agree, but, at his lordship's request, having again retired, they subsequently returned a verdict for defendants, at the same time expressing the view that Dr. Horton should have taken more care to ascertain the facts before writing his letter.

His lordship entered judgment for both defendants, with costs.

LORD ALFRED DOUGLAS

THE WILDE CASE.

1913
Plaintiff Resents Counsel's Questions.

A libel action brought by Lord Alfred Douglas, third son of the eighth Marquess of Queensberry, against Mr. Arthur Ransome and *The Times* Book Club, came before Mr. Justice Darling and a special jury to-day.

The alleged libel was contained in a book entitled "Oscar Wilde: a Critical Study. By Arthur Ransome."

Mr. Cecil Hayes appeared for the plaintiff, Mr. J. H. Campbell, K.C., and Mr. McCardie were for Mr. Ransome, and Mr. F. E. Smith, K.C., Mr. Eustace Hills and Mr. W. G. Howard Gritten for *The Times* Book Club.

The defence of *The Times* Book Club was that it was not known that the book contained a libel when it was published.

Mr. Ransome pleaded justification, and said that the words complained of were true in substance and fact.

In the course of the case, Mr. Justice Darling made an appeal to the Press not to report some of the evidence which it was necessary to bring forward.

"In my opinion," said his lordship, "a trial like this, if fully reported, does incalculable harm."

"GRAVE CHARGES."

Counsel's Interpretation of the Author's Statement.

Mr. Hayes, opening the case, said that Lord Alfred Douglas is now forty-two years of age. He is married, and has one son ten years of age.

Mr. Ransome's book was published early last year.

"This case," said Mr. Hayes, "is one of the most remarkable that it has ever fallen to the lot of a jury in these courts to try."

"It is remarkable for the daring of the words or the libel, and makes charges of the gravest character against the plaintiff."

The effect of the libel, went on counsel, was that Lord Alfred Douglas was responsible for the public disgrace and public infamy of the late Oscar Wilde; that he was instrumental in bringing about the disgrace of Oscar Wilde.

It was also charged against Lord Alfred, said counsel, that after Oscar Wilde was released, and went to Naples, Lord Alfred went to Naples and lived on him; that he was actuated by mercenary motives; and that when Oscar Wilde's allowance stopped Lord Alfred abandoned him and left him penniless.

Counsel referred to the defence of *The Times* Book Club. It was one, he said, that one would expect from a firm of such standing. It was said that *The Times* Book Club did not know the book contained a libel; that there was no negligence, and the book was not such as would contain a libel.

Mr. Ransome's age was 25 or 27, continued counsel. He was not a contemporary of Oscar Wilde or Lord Alfred Douglas, and as ages and dates were important, he asked the jury to bear them in mind.

Counsel gave a few cardinal facts, as he described them. Lord Alfred Douglas made the acquaintance of Oscar Wilde in 1891, at the time he was an undergraduate at Magdalen College, Oxford. Lord Alfred Douglas was then 21, and Oscar Wilde, who himself had been at Magdalen College, was 28, and a distinguished figure in the literary world.

He went on to speak of "a story of disgrace," which he was bound to mention, and said it meant that he had to unfold one of the most unpleasant episodes of the last generation.

"THE BEFORE—AND AFTER."

Oscar Wilde was sent to prison in 1895. He was released in 1897, and died in Paris in 1900. "In the life of every public man who has had a downfall," said counsel, "there are two periods—the before and the after."

"If he happens to be a man of social position, public position, or intellectual distinction, he has many friends in the 'before' period, but at the moment of public disgrace and infamy there will be a stampede."

Lord Alfred Douglas was a friend of Oscar Wilde "before" and a friend "after." When Oscar Wilde came out of prison in 1897 he was a disgraced man, an outcast whose name was a byword among men.

He decided that the name Oscar Wilde should be dead for ever, and he changed it to "Sebastian Melmoth."

He fled from England for ever, added counsel, and went to Dieppe, afterwards going to Naples, in the autumn of 1897.

Lord Alfred Douglas had a villa at Naples in 1896, and he had also taken it for the winter of 1897. He put the villa at the disposal of Oscar Wilde, allowed him to go and live there, and paid his fare from Paris to Naples.

At this period Oscar Wilde had an allowance from his wife of £2 19s. 6d. a week, and Lord Alfred Douglas gave him money.

Acting on the advice of his mother, Lord Alfred Douglas thought it better to come away from Naples, and he left there in November, 1897. Before leaving he gave Oscar Wilde the villa, paid the rent in advance, and gave Wilde £200 to carry it on with.

Oscar Wilde left Naples a few months afterwards, and went to Paris, where Lord Alfred Douglas was living. The latter supplied Wilde with money, and when he fell ill in 1900 paid the expenses of the illness, paid for the funeral when Wilde died, and followed him to the grave in the little cemetery in Paris.

THE ALLEGED LIBEL.

Counsel then read from Mr. Ransome's book the alleged libel. The first quotation was the following:—

The letter, a manuscript of eighty close written pages on twenty folio sheets, was not addressed to Mr. Ross, but to a man to whom Wilde felt that he owed some at least of the circumstances of his public disgrace.

It was begun as a rebuke of this friend, whose actions even subsequent to the trials had been such as to cause Wilde considerable pain.

The second quotation, containing an alleged libel, was as follows:—

He had left prison with an improved physique, and now that he was able to work there was hope that he would not risk the loss of it by leaving this life of comparative simplicity.

Suddenly, however, he flung aside his plans and resolutions, desperately explaining that his folly was inevitable.

The iterated entreaty of a man whose friendship had already cost him more than it was worth, and a newly-felt loneliness at Berneval destroyed his resolution.

He became restless, and went to Rouen, where it rained, and he was miserable; then back to Dieppe; a few days later, with his poem still unfinished, he was in Naples sharing a momentary magnificence with the friend whose conduct he had condemned, whose influence he had feared.

"The insinuation is," said counsel, "that as soon as Wilde had no money the plaintiff left him."

A VERY SERIOUS ISSUE.

Mr. Hayes said that if the words the jury had heard were true Lord Alfred Douglas would be branded as the most despicable of men, and would "be destroyed for all time, not only in his life, but as long as the memory of his name stood."

Wilde was a brilliant literary man, and a Bohemian who had travelled on the Continent and in America, and his friendship would be attractive to a young man of 31.

"No doubt Wilde was anxious to get

into society," said Mr. Hayes, "and readily availed himself of the opportunity afforded him by Lord Alfred Douglas, who could introduce him to some of the highest people in Society."

Counsel, who had in his hand a copy of Lord Alfred Douglas's bank account at that time, mentioned a sum of £125, and several others of £25, which were given by plaintiff to Oscar Wilde in 1900, and said that was a disproof that Lord Alfred Douglas was associating with Wilde from mercenary motives.

Counsel went on to say that Lord Alfred Douglas had only seen Mr. Ransome once. The book, Mr. Hayes pointed out, is dedicated to Mr. Robert Ross, the literary executor of Oscar Wilde. Lord Alfred and Mr. Ross had had a quarrel.

PLAINTIFF'S STORY.

His Introduction To Oscar Wilde at Magdalen.

Lord Alfred Douglas then went into the witness-box.

He is now living, he said, in Church-row, Hampstead. He was at school at Winchester. He went up to Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1889, and stayed there until 1893.

In 1891 he made the acquaintance of Oscar Wilde. Mr. Lionel Johnson, the poet, introduced them.

Lord Alfred said that at Oxford he paid attention to literature. He had always been interested in literature.

He knew that Oscar Wilde had also been at Magdalen, and had been a great friend of the president of Magdalen. He got a double first and won the Newdigate prize.

Counsel suggested that this was a very great distinction.

Lord Alfred replied that good and bad poets had won the Newdigate. Matthew Arnold had won it and Ruskin.

The Judge: Was Ruskin a poet? (Laughter).

Lord Alfred said that he met Mrs. Wilde at the same time that he met her husband. Oscar Wilde was then living in Chelsea.

During the Long Vacation of 1891 he stayed with Wilde at Babbicombe. They became very great friends.

Counsel mentioned a relation of the witness.

The Judge: Why bring in people who possibly do not want to be mentioned?

In reply to questions, Lord Alfred said that Oscar Wilde came down four times to Magdalen while he was in residence.

When Oscar Wilde came out of prison at the end of the year 1897 he came to Naples and stayed with him.

He knew that he had an allowance of £150 a year from his wife. He sent Wilde the money to come to Naples.

Dr. Horton, called for the defence, stated that he was an M.A., and formerly Fellow of New College, Oxford, and D.D. of Yale University. He was minister of Lyndhurst-road Congregational Church, Hampstead, and a Protestant. He had ascertained from the Catholic "Who's Who" that Lord Archibald Douglas, a relative of Lord Alfred, was a Roman Catholic. The friend who told him that the editor of the "Academy" was a Roman Catholic was on the "Christian World." He would not like to state what distinction he drew between a "Catholic" and a "Roman Catholic." It might sound uncomplimentary.

Cross-examined by Lord R. Cecil: There was an "apostolate" of the Press working in favour of Roman Catholicism in this country. There were very few papers on which the apostolate had not secured an agent, whose business it was to excise any piece of news or any speech or notice of a book which told against Rome. Just as she sent missionaries to the heathen, so Rome sent missionaries to this country, and part of the propaganda was to appoint suitable men to influence the Press. Such men were on the staffs of papers without the knowledge of their employers.

His Lordship: Is this a hypothesis of your own, or do you know it for a fact? Can you give names, either of papers or people?—It would be perfectly impossible to give names.

His Lordship: How do you know of it?—It is admitted by the Roman Catholic Church, and can be traced in the papers.

The work, added witness, was done secretly, and directly attention was directed to it it was withdrawn. He regarded Roman Catholicism as the ruin of the country in which it became established. In his book he described Roman Catholicism as the antithesis of Christianity.

Lord R. Cecil: Did you find Lord Alfred Douglas's name in the Catholic "Who's Who"?—No, but I didn't know he was a man of importance.

Sir E. Carson, addressing the jury, said that for a paper like the "Academy" to bring an action for libel, having regard to its own antecedents, was an abuse of the law of libel and of the process of the Court. Dr. Horton's criticism was perfectly fair, and he made no suggestion of corruption on the part of the "Academy." The evidence of Lord Alfred Douglas and of Mr. Machen showed that they wished to drive Protestantism out of the Church of England, and in those circumstances it was absurd for plaintiffs to ask damages for being accused of having a Roman Catholic bias.

His lordship, in summing up to the jury, observed that the question whether or not the alleged libel constituted fair comment must not be determined by their attitude towards the theological views of Dr. Horton and of Lord Alfred Douglas. After four centuries it seemed sad that this dispute should be gone into. The Reformation was a compromise between a number of conflicting ideas; but we did not seem to have got much beyond the lines written 200 years ago:

A godly thorough reformation,
Which always must be carried on,
And still be doing, never done,
As if religion were intended
For anything else but to be mended.

After prolonged deliberation, the jury stated that they could not agree, but, at his lordship's request, having again retired, they subsequently returned a verdict for defendants, at the same time expressing the view that Dr. Horton should have taken more care to ascertain the facts before writing his letter.

His lordship entered judgment for both defendants, with costs.

THE WILDE CASE.

april 1913
 Plaintiff Resents Counsel's
 Questions.

A libel action brought by Lord Alfred Douglas, third son of the eighth Marquess of Queensberry, against Mr. Arthur Ransome and *The Times* Book Club, came before Mr. Justice Darling and a special jury to-day.

The alleged libel was contained in a book entitled "Oscar Wilde: a Critical Study. By Arthur Ransome."

Mr. Cecil Hayes appeared for the plaintiff, Mr. J. H. Campbell, K.C., and Mr. McCardie were for Mr. Ransome, and Mr. F. E. Smith, K.C., Mr. Eustace Hills and Mr. W. G. Howard Gritten for *The Times* Book Club.

The defence of *The Times* Book Club was that it was not known that the book contained a libel when it was published.

Mr. Ransome pleaded justification, and said that the words complained of were true in substance and fact.

In the course of the case, Mr. Justice Darling made an appeal to the Press not to report some of the evidence which it was necessary to bring forward.

"In my opinion," said his lordship, "a trial like this, if fully reported, does incalculable harm."

"GRAVE CHARGES."

Counsel's Interpretation of the Author's Statement.

Mr. Hayes, opening the case, said that Lord Alfred Douglas is now forty-two years of age. He is married, and has one son ten years of age.

Mr. Ransome's book was published early last year.

"This case," said Mr. Hayes, "is one of the most remarkable that it has ever fallen to the lot of a jury in these courts to try."

"It is remarkable for the daring of the words of the libel, and makes charges of the gravest character against the plaintiff."

The effect of the libel, went on counsel, was that Lord Alfred Douglas was responsible for the public disgrace and public infamy of the late Oscar Wilde; that he was instrumental in bringing about the disgrace of Oscar Wilde.

It was also charged against Lord Alfred, said counsel, that after Oscar Wilde was released, and went to Naples, Lord Alfred went to Naples and lived on him; that he was actuated by mercenary motives; and that when Oscar Wilde's allowance stopped Lord Alfred abandoned him and left him penniless.

Counsel referred to the defence of *The Times* Book Club. It was one, he said, that one would expect from a firm of such standing. It was said that *The Times* Book Club had published a libel; that there was no negligence, and the book was not such as would contain a libel.

Mr. Ransome's age was 25 or 27, continued counsel. He was not a contemporary of Oscar Wilde or Lord Alfred Douglas, and as ages and dates were important, he asked the jury to bear them in mind.

Counsel gave a few cardinal facts, as he described them. Lord Alfred Douglas made the acquaintance of Oscar Wilde in 1891, at the time he was an undergraduate at Magdalen College, Oxford. Lord Alfred Douglas was then 21, and Oscar Wilde, who himself had been at Magdalen College, was 38, and a distinguished figure in the literary world.

He went on to speak of "a story of disgrace," which he was bound to mention, and said it meant that he had to unfold one of the most unpleasant episodes of the last generation.

"THE BEFORE—AND AFTER."

Oscar Wilde was sent to prison in 1895. He was released in 1897, and died in Paris in 1900. "In the life of every public man who has had a downfall," said counsel, "there are two periods—the before and the after.

"If he happens to be a man of social position, public position, or intellectual distinction, he has many friends in the 'before' period, but at the moment of public disgrace and infamy there will be a stampede."

Lord Alfred Douglas was a friend of Oscar Wilde "before" and a friend "after." When Oscar Wilde came out of prison in 1897 he was a disgraced man, an outcast whose name was a byword among men.

He decided that the name Oscar Wilde should be dead for ever, and he changed it to "Sebastian Melmoth."

He fled from England for ever, added counsel, and went to Dieppe, afterwards going to Naples, in the autumn of 1897.

Lord Alfred Douglas had a villa at Naples in 1896, and he had also taken it for the winter of 1897. He put the villa at the disposal of Oscar Wilde, allowed him to go and live there, and paid his fare from Paris to Naples.

At this period Oscar Wilde had an allowance from his wife of £2 19s. 6d. a week, and Lord Alfred Douglas gave him money.

Acting on the advice of his mother, Lord Alfred Douglas thought it better to come away from Naples, and he left there in November, 1897. Before leaving he gave Oscar Wilde the villa, paid the rent in advance, and gave Wilde £200 to carry it on with.

Oscar Wilde left Naples a few months afterwards, and went to Paris, where Lord Alfred Douglas was living. The latter supplied Wilde with money, and when he fell ill in 1900 paid the expenses of the illness, paid for the funeral when Wilde died, and followed him to the grave in the little cemetery in Paris.

THE ALLEGED LIBEL.

Counsel then read from Mr. Ransome's book the alleged libel. The first quotation was the following:—

The letter, a manuscript of eighty close written pages on twenty folio sheets, was not addressed to Mr. Ross, but to a man to whom Wilde felt that he owed some at least of the circumstances of his public disgrace.

It was begun as a rebuke of this friend, whose actions even subsequent to the trials had been such as to cause Wilde considerable pain.

The second quotation, containing an alleged libel, was as follows:—

He had left prison with an improved physique, and now that he was able to work there was hope that he would not risk the loss of it by leaving this life of comparative simplicity.

Suddenly, however, he flung aside his plans and resolutions, desperately explaining that his folly was inevitable.

The iterated entreaty of a man whose friendship was more than it was worth, and a newly-felt loneliness at Berneval destroyed his resolution.

He became restless, and went to Rouen, where it rained, and he was miserable; then back to Dieppe; a few days later, with his poem still unfinished, he was in Naples sharing a momentary magnificence with the friend whose conduct he had condemned, whose influence he had feared.

"The insinuation is," said counsel, "that as soon as Wilde had no money the plaintiff left him."

A VERY SERIOUS ISSUE.

Mr. Hayes said that if the words the jury had heard were true Lord Alfred Douglas would be branded as the most despicable of men, and would "be destroyed for all time, not only in his life, but as long as the memory of his name stood."

Wilde was a brilliant literary man, and a Bohemian who had travelled on the Continent and in America, and his friendship would be attractive to a young man of 21.

"No doubt Wilde was anxious to get

into society," said Mr. Hayes, "and readily availed himself of the opportunity afforded him by Lord Alfred Douglas, who could introduce him to some of the highest people in Society."

Counsel, who had in his hand a copy of Lord Alfred Douglas's bank account at that time, mentioned a sum of £125, and several others of £25, which were given by plaintiff to Oscar Wilde in 1900, and said that was a disproof that Lord Alfred Douglas was associating with Wilde from mercenary motives.

Counsel went on to say that Lord Alfred Douglas had only seen Mr. Ransome once.

The book, Mr. Hayes pointed out, is dedicated to Mr. Robert Ross, the literary executor of Oscar Wilde. Lord Alfred and Mr. Ross had had a quarrel.

PLAINTIFF'S STORY.

His Introduction To Oscar Wilde at Magdalen.

Lord Alfred Douglas then went into the witness-box.

He is now living, he said, in Church-row, Hampstead. He was at school at Winchester. He went up to Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1889, and stayed there until 1893.

In 1891 he made the acquaintance of Oscar Wilde. Mr. Lionel Johnson, the poet, introduced them.

Lord Alfred said that at Oxford he paid attention to literature. He had always been interested in literature.

He knew that Oscar Wilde had also been at Magdalen, and had been a great friend of the president of Magdalen. He got a double first and won the Newdigate prize.

Counsel suggested that this was a very great distinction.

Lord Alfred replied that good and bad poets had won the Newdigate. Matthew Arnold had won it and Ruskin.

The Judge: Was Ruskin a poet?

(Laughter).

Lord Alfred said that he met Mrs. Wilde at the same time that he met her husband. Oscar Wilde was then living in Chelsea.

During the Long Vacation of 1891 he stayed with Wilde at Babbicombe. They became very great friends.

Counsel mentioned a relation of the witness.

The Judge: Why bring in people who possibly do not want to be mentioned?

In reply to questions, Lord Alfred said that Oscar Wilde came down four times to Magdalen while he was in residence.

When Oscar Wilde came out of prison at the end of the year 1897 he came to Naples and stayed with him.

He knew that he had an allowance of £150 a year from his wife. He sent Wilde the money to come to Naples.

The villa at Naples where they stayed was rented by him. Four servants were kept. Oscar Wilde did not contribute to the upkeep of the villa.

They stayed at the villa three months. He then left because of representations made to him. He left £200 with Oscar Wilde to go on with.

GAVE WILDE MONEY.

Afterwards he saw Oscar Wilde in Paris on several occasions. He used to give him cheques and ready money.

Oscar Wilde was passing under the name of Sebastian Melmoth, the name of a character in a book written by his great uncle.

The plaintiff read out a list of cheques given by him to Wilde in the year 1900 before he died in September. They amounted to £380.

There was another £400 in cash, said Lord Alfred.

The last cheque was for £25, made out to Mr. Ross. It was in connection with Oscar Wilde's funeral.

Lord Alfred then said:—"If you gave him £100 on Monday it was gone by Saturday. He was hopelessly extravagant. He would come and say it was all gone. Every time I saw him he wanted money."

The Judge: What did he do with it?

Lord Alfred: He spent it. (Laughter.)

The witness went on to say that he attended Oscar Wilde's funeral.

The alleged libel was first brought to his notice by his wife.

Speaking of the legal proceedings he took, Lord Alfred said that he first applied for an injunction. He claimed damages when justification was pleaded.

PLAINTIFF INDIGNANT.

Lord Alfred Douglas was cross-examined by Mr. Campbell.

Am I right in saying that Oscar Wilde instituted proceedings for criminal libel against your father, the Marquess of Queensberry?" asked counsel.

"Yes, he did," was the reply.

It was in March, 1895?—I expect so. You have got it there.

At the trial you went to court with Oscar Wilde?—Yes, I did.

On the cross-examination of Oscar Wilde in that trial the case broke down?—Yes, that is a matter of common knowledge.

That was on April 5th, 1895, and on the same evening Oscar Wilde was arrested?—Yes.

And he was brought to trial on May 1st?—You have got it all there.

Did you fly the country on that same day?—Fly the country! What do you mean.

Mr. Hayes said that was a most improper question to put to the witness, but the judge said it must be put.

"Did you fly the country before his trial?" said Mr. Campbell again?—No. I went to see him every day while he was in prison in Holloway before the case came on.

Mr. Campbell sharply told Lord Alfred Douglas that he was not asking him anything as to circumstances before the trial came on. The witness, who had been showing signs of restiveness, retorted: "Make it clear what you are asking, and I will answer."

In reply to further questions Lord Alfred Douglas said he went abroad before the trial of Oscar Wilde came on, and stayed there till he came out of prison.

He said he first met Wilde in 1891, but he denied that he was threatened with disgrace when he was at Magdalen College in 1891. He resented the question in such a manner that the judge intervened.

"Well, he has no right to make such a suggestion," said the witness angrily.

Asked if he was the friend of Oscar Wilde during the trial at the Old Bailey, Lord Alfred Douglas said: "I supported him against my father. I would have supported any other man in his position if my father had accused him wrongly."

He said he had not seen a book called "Oscar Wilde, Three Times Tried."

"You say that," asked Mr. Campbell. "Yes. I will say it again if you like," was the retort, which called from the judge a reproof and the remark, "You must restrain yourself."

"SCENES MAKE ME SAD."

Mr. Campbell suggested that the witness had not only seen the book, but had consulted someone as to taking proceedings on certain statements made in it. The book was handed to the witness, who said he believed it had been mentioned to him, but he had not seen it before.

A copy of a letter from Oscar Wilde was handed to Lord Alfred Douglas, but he said he had never received such a letter.

Another letter was handed to him, and he said it was one he had from Oscar Wilde.

In this Wilde, writing from the Savoy Hotel, said: "Bosie, you must not make scenes with me; they nake me sad". . . . Why are you not here? I fear I must leave, no money, no credit, and a heart of lead."

"Bosie" was the name applied to you by your familiar friends?" asked counsel.—Yes.

"Was your attention called to an article in *Truth*," went on counsel, "after you had left the country, in which *Truth* spoke in strong language about you?"—I don't remember.

Did *Truth* say: "This Lord Alfred Douglas seems to me to be an exceptional young scoundrel"? Do you remember reading that?—No, I don't remember that. Go on reading, I may remember later on.

Did you have any correspondence with Mr. Labouchere about it?—I don't remember.

Counsel then read a letter written from France to the editor of *Truth* in 1895 by Lord Alfred Douglas. It referred to statements made about him in the paper, and said the remark he objected to was that he

went away and left his friend in the lurch. That, the letter said, was untrue.

IN AN ORATORICAL WAY.

Lord Alfred was questioned about certain statements and views given in the letter.

"I was writing in an excited, oratorical sort of way," he said. "I suppose I was out of my mind when I wrote it."

The Judge: Is it true, as you say in the letter, that at the time of Wilde's trial you were implored by your friends and relations to go away and save yourself?—Yes. The letter shows the frightful state of mind I got into through association with such a horrible man.

Mr. Campbell: You say your degeneracy was brought about by your association with Oscar Wilde?

"I don't say I am degenerate," replied the plaintiff indignantly.

The Judge: He has said that Wilde was a "horrible man."

Lord Alfred Douglas: Yes, I do say he was a horrible man. He was an incarnate devil.

Mr. Campbell made an allusion to "shameless and abominable letters," and Lord Alfred Douglas said, "I had written what he taught me. I was trying to defend him."

JUDGE'S QUESTIONS.

Returned to Wilde Because He Was Sorry for Him.

The Judge: This letter was written in 1895, and this man, who had betrayed you, went to gaol for two years. He did five years after this letter was written.

You became very intimate with him after he came out of prison, you succoured him, and gave him large sums of money. Had you realised when he came out of prison the depths to which this man had betrayed you?

Lord Alfred Douglas: Yes, I knew.

The Judge: Then why did you go near him again?

Lord Alfred Douglas: I was sorry for him. My lord, and I thought he had had his punishment. I thought it was good that someone should stick by him in the interests of literature. I thought literature was more valuable than morals, and that it was right to stick to him.

Another letter was read, and Lord Alfred Douglas said he "evidently" had written it.

"I don't know what state of mind I was in when I wrote it," he said. "I suppose I must have had some grounds for it. I suppose I had been told. I had heard it through Wilde."

In reply to the judge, Lord Alfred Douglas said Oscar Wilde was guilty. "He never attempted to deny it to me," he said. "He told me. That was when he asked me not to desert him."

"TRYING TO RUIN ME."

Mr. Campbell asked: Were you not a boon companion to this man all these years?—I was a companion.

Were you not in his company during the whole of 1892, 1893, and 1894?—Certainly not.

When counsel put another question, Lord Alfred exclaimed angrily: "What purpose is served by this? He is trying to ruin me and my wife and my child. I wish him joy of it."

The Judge: If this has come out you have only yourself to thank.

Lord Alfred then demanded: Have I shown any disposition to tell lies in the witness-box?

Counsel mentioned a book on Oscar Wilde by Robert Sherrard. "Was the author a friend of yours?" he asked.

"I lent him money," replied Lord Alfred. Did you instruct your solicitor, Mr. Arthur Newton, to take proceedings for libel? asked counsel with regard to a book.

"That was before the book was published," said Lord Arthur. "I told Mr. Newton to take steps to prevent anything being put in against me."

After some questions on an article on William Morris in a French paper, Mr. Campbell asked the witness to look at some letters. They were written by him to Oscar Wilde.

Lord Alfred (angrily): I don't know why you should have all these stolen letters. Where did you get them?

The reading of one letter was received with great indignation by Lord Alfred, who said to Mr. Campbell: "You are representing people who are angry with me because I am leading a decent life. They are trying to take their revenge. That is what you are standing there for."

Counsel asked with regard to the letters, "Do you think this sort of letter was likely to have a healing effect on Oscar Wilde?"

"I think he was past healing," said the witness.

SIR G. LEWIS ATTACKED.

Mr. Campbell then asked about the events that led up to the arrest of Oscar Wilde. Was not the Marquess of Queensberry urging the witness to leave Oscar Wilde? he asked.

Lord Alfred: Part of the time he was. The witness added: It is not very nice for me to have to stand here and say things about my dead father. He had been divorced from my mother. There was a long-standing family feud.

Lord Alfred said he knew his father was extremely anxious to terminate his friendship with Oscar Wilde. Letters between his father and himself were read in court when Oscar Wilde brought his action.

There was another outburst by the witness here. He complained that Sir George Lewis, who was his father's solicitor, was producing letters written confidentially in order to prejudice him. "It is the office of a notorious blackmailer," he said.

"Is there anybody else you would like to attack?" asked Mr. Campbell.

"No, but if I did I should not wait for you to ask me," replied Lord Alfred.

Mr. Campbell said Sir George Lewis asked him to state that what the witness said was not true.

JUDGE'S STERN REBUKE.

Mr. Hayes protested against a solicitor making a statement from the well of the court, but the judge said: "The witness has said a very offensive thing, and if a solicitor, in such a case, does something irregular, I shall not restrict him."

Turning to the witness, he sternly said: "You must conduct yourself like any other witness."

A postcard which Lord Alfred had sent to his father was read. In this he said:

If Oscar Wilde prosecuted you in the criminal courts for libel, you would get seven years' penal servitude. . . . If you try to assault me I shall defend myself with a loaded revolver.

If I shot you or he shot you we would be completely justified. . . . You are a violent and dangerous ruffian, and if you were dead many people would not miss you.

Lord Alfred Douglas: Before my father died we had an absolute reconciliation. He was sorry for what he had done, and left me every penny he could in his will.

Mr. Campbell: Even after your father's death did you write a letter comparing him with Jack the Ripper?

Lord Alfred Douglas: I don't think so.

Counsel read a letter which was a reply by Lord Alfred Douglas to one written by Oscar Wilde to Mr. Robert Ross, and sent on to Lord Alfred at Wilde's request.

LETTERS DESTROYED.

Reference was made to certain letters, and the writer, in refusing to give them up, said "the recollections of those letters, the memories they may give me, even if they give me no hope, will perhaps prevent me putting an end to a life which has now no *raison d'être*."

If Oscar asks me to kill myself I will do so, but I could not give up the letters which are part of my life, the only part not poisoned and cankered. I will put them in a packet and seal them up. I know what Oscar says is true. I know I have ruined his life.

The letter to which this was answer was then read. Wilde was writing from prison, and in his letter made a request that Mr. Ross should obtain his letters from Lord Alfred Douglas. The letter finished with the sentence, "He has ruined my life. That should content him."

The Judge: What has become of the letters referred to?

Lord Alfred Douglas: I have destroyed them.

The hearing was adjourned.

Mr. Justice Darling's court was again crowded to-day, when the hearing was resumed of the libel action by Lord Alfred Bruce Douglas, who is claiming damages against Mr. Arthur Ransome, author of a book entitled "Oscar Wilde—A Critical Study." The "Times" Book Club is also added as a defendant for circulating the book, and the plaintiff claims an injunction restraining further publication.

Mr. Ransome pleads justification, and the "Times" Book Club denies any negligence, and says it was unaware of any libellous matter in the book.

Mr. Cecil Hayes and Mr. Benjamin appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. J. H. Campbell, K.C., and Mr. McCardie represented Mr. Ransome; and Mr. F. E. Smith, K.C., Mr. Eustace Hills, and Mr. Howard Gritten represented the "Times" Book Club.

At the request of counsel for the plaintiff Mr. McCardie to-day read the remaining portions of the suppressed portion of Oscar Wilde's "De Profundis."

The villa at Naples where they stayed was rented by him. Four servants were kept. Oscar Wilde did not contribute to the upkeep of the villa.

They stayed at the villa three months. He then left because of representations made to him. He left £200 with Oscar Wilde to go on with.

GAVE WILDE MONEY,

Afterwards he saw Oscar Wilde in Paris on several occasions. He used to give him cheques and ready money.

Oscar Wilde was passing under the name of Sebastian Melmoth, the name of a character in a book written by his great uncle.

The plaintiff read out a list of cheques given by him to Wilde in the year 1900 before he died in September. They amounted to £380.

There was another £400 in cash, said Lord Alfred.

The last cheque was for £25, made out to Mr. Ross. It was in connection with Oscar Wilde's funeral.

Lord Alfred then said:—"If you gave him £100 on Monday it was gone by Saturday. He was hopelessly extravagant. He would come and say it was all gone. Every time I saw him he wanted money."

The Judge: What did he do with it?

Lord Alfred: He spent it. (Laughter.)

The witness went on to say that he attended Oscar Wilde's funeral.

The alleged libel was first brought to his notice by his wife.

Speaking of the legal proceedings he took, Lord Alfred said that he first applied for an injunction. He claimed damages when justification was pleaded.

PLAINTIFF INDIGNANT.

Lord Alfred Douglas was cross-examined by Mr. Campbell.

Am I right in saying that Oscar Wilde instituted proceedings for criminal libel against your father, the Marquess of Queensberry?" asked counsel.

"Yes, he did," was the reply.

It was in March, 1895?—I expect so. You have got it there.

At the trial you went to court with Oscar Wilde?—Yes, I did.

On the cross-examination of Oscar Wilde in that trial the case broke down?—Yes, that is a matter of common knowledge.

That was on April 5th, 1895, and on the same evening Oscar Wilde was arrested?—Yes.

And he was brought to trial on May 1st?—You have got it all there.

Did you fly the country on that same day?—Fly the country! What do you mean.

Mr. Hayes said that was a most improper question to put to the witness, but the judge said it must be put.

"Did you fly the country before his trial?" said Mr. Campbell again?—No. I went to see him every day while he was in prison in Holloway before the case came on.

Mr. Campbell sharply told Lord Alfred Douglas that he was not asking him anything as to circumstances before the trial came on. The witness, who had been showing signs of restiveness, retorted: "Make it clear what you are asking, and I will answer."

In reply to further questions Lord Alfred Douglas said he went abroad before the trial of Oscar Wilde came on, and stayed there till he came out of prison.

He said he first met Wilde in 1891, but he denied that he was threatened with disgrace when he was at Magdalen College in 1891. He resented the question in such a manner that the judge intervened.

"Well, he has no right to make such a suggestion," said the witness angrily.

Asked if he was the friend of Oscar Wilde during the trial at the Old Bailey, Lord Alfred Douglas said: "I supported him against my father. I would have supported any other man in his position if my father had accused him wrongly."

He said he had been a boy called "Oscar Wilde, three times tried."

"You say that," asked Mr. Campbell.

"Yes. I will say it again if you like," was the retort, which called for the judge a reproof and the remark, "You must restrain yourself."

"SCENES MAKE ME SAD."

Mr. Campbell suggested that the witness had not only seen the book, but had consulted someone as to taking proceedings on certain statements made in it. The book was handed to the witness, who said he believed it had been mentioned to him, but he had not seen it before.

A copy of a letter from Oscar Wilde was handed to Lord Alfred Douglas, but he said he had never received such a letter.

Another letter was handed to him, and he said it was one he had from Oscar Wilde.

In this Wilde, writing from the Savoy Hotel, said: "Bosie, you must not make scenes with me; they nake me sad". . . . Why are you not here? I fear I must leave, no money, no credit, and a heart of lead."

"'Bosie' was the name applied to you by your familiar friends?" asked counsel.—Yes.

"Was your attention called to an article in *Truth*," went on counsel, "after you had left the country, in which *Truth* spoke in strong language about you?"—I don't remember.

Did *Truth* say: "This Lord Alfred Douglas seems to me to be an exceptional young scoundrel"? Do you remember reading that?—No, I don't remember that. Go on reading, I may remember later on.

Did you have any correspondence with Mr. Labouchere about it?—I don't remember.

Counsel then read a letter written from France to the editor of *Truth* in 1895 by Lord Alfred Douglas. It referred to statements made about him in the paper, and said the remark he objected to was that he

went away and left his friend in the lurch. That, the letter said, was untrue.

IN AN ORATORICAL WAY.

Lord Alfred was questioned about certain statements and views given in the letter.

"I was writing in an excited, oratorical sort of way," he said. "I suppose I was out of my mind when I wrote it."

The Judge: Is it true, as you say in the letter, that at the time of Wilde's trial you were implored by your friends and relations to go away and save yourself?—Yes. The letter shows the frightful state of mind I got into through association with such a horrible man.

Mr. Campbell: You say your degeneracy was brought about by your association with Oscar Wilde?

"I don't say I am degenerate," replied the plaintiff indignantly.

The Judge: He has said that Wilde was a "horrible man."

Lord Alfred Douglas: Yes, I do say he was a horrible man. He was an incarnate devil.

Mr. Campbell made an allusion to "shameless and abominable letters," and Lord Alfred Douglas said, "I had written what he taught me. I was trying to defend him."

JUDGE'S QUESTIONS.

Returned to Wilde Because He Was Sorry for Him.

The Judge: This letter was written in 1895, and this man, who had betrayed you, went to gaol for two years. He died five years after this letter was written.

You became very intimate with him after he came out of prison, you succoured him, and gave him large sums of money. How do you realise when he came out to the depths to which this man had betrayed you?

Lord Alfred Douglas: Yes, I knew.

The Judge: Then why did you go near him again?

Lord Alfred Douglas: I was sorry for him. My lord, and I thought he had had his punishment. I thought it was good that someone should stick by him in the interests of literature. I thought literature was more valuable than morals, and that it was right to stick to him.

Another letter was read, and Lord Alfred Douglas said he "evidently" had written it.

"I don't know what state of mind I was in when I wrote it," he said. "I suppose I must have had some grounds for it. I suppose I had been told. I had heard it through Wilde."

In reply to the judge, Lord Alfred Douglas said Oscar Wilde was guilty. "He never attempted to deny it to me," he said. "He told me. That was when he asked me not to desert him."

"TRYING TO RUIN ME."

Mr. Campbell asked: Were you not a boon companion to this man all these years?—I was a companion.

Were you not in his company during the whole of 1892, 1893, and 1894?—Certainly not.

When counsel put another question, Lord Alfred exclaimed angrily: "What purpose is served by this? He is trying to ruin me and my wife and my child. I wish him joy of it."

The Judge: If this has come out you have only yourself to thank.

Lord Alfred then demanded: Have I shown any disposition to tell lies in the witness-box?

Counsel mentioned a book on Oscar Wilde by Robert Sherrard. "Was the author a friend of yours?" he asked.

"I lent him money," replied Lord Alfred.

Did you instruct your solicitor, Mr. Arthur Newton, to take proceedings for libel? asked counsel with regard to a book.

"That was before the book was published," said Lord Arthur. "I told Mr. Newton to take steps to prevent anything being put in against me."

After some questions on an article on William Morris in a French paper, Mr. Campbell asked the witness to look at some letters. They were written by him to Oscar Wilde.

Lord Alfred (angrily): I don't know why you should have all these stolen letters. Where did you get them?

The reading of one letter was received with great indignation by Lord Alfred, who said to Mr. Campbell: "You are representing people who are angry with me because I am leading a decent life. They are trying to take their revenge. That is what you are standing there for."

Counsel asked with regard to the letters, "Do you think this sort of letter was likely to have a healing effect on Oscar Wilde?"

"I think he was past healing," said the witness.

SIR G. LEWIS ATTACKED.

Mr. Campbell then asked about the events that led up to the arrest of Oscar Wilde. Was not the Marquess of Queensberry urging the witness to leave Oscar Wilde? he asked.

Lord Alfred: Part of the time he was. The Witness added: It is not very nice for me to have to stand here and say things about my dead father. He had been divorced from my mother. There was a long-standing family feud.

Lord Alfred said he knew his father was extremely anxious to terminate his friendship with Oscar Wilde. Letters between his father and himself were read in court when Oscar Wilde brought his action.

There was another outburst by the witness here. He complained that Sir George Lewis, who was his father's solicitor, was producing letters written confidentially in order to prejudice him. "It is the office of a notorious blackmailer," he said.

"Is there anybody else you would like to attack?" asked Mr. Campbell.

"No, but if I did I should not wait for you to ask me."

Mr. Campbell said Sir George Lewis asked him to state that what the witness said was not true.

JUDGE'S STERN REBUKE.

Mr. Hayes protested against a solicitor making a statement from the well of the court, but the judge said: "The witness has said a very offensive thing, and if a solicitor, in such a case, does something irregular, I shall not restrict him."

Turning to the witness, he sternly said: "You must conduct yourself like any other witness."

A postcard which Lord Alfred had sent to his father was read. In this he said:

If Oscar Wilde prosecuted you in the criminal courts for libel, you would get seven years' penal servitude. . . . If you try to assault me I shall defend myself with a loaded revolver.

If I shot you or he shot you we would be completely justified. . . . You are a violent and dangerous ruffian, and if you were dead many people would not miss you.

Lord Alfred Douglas: Before my father died we had an absolute reconciliation. He was sorry for what he had done, and left me every penny he could in his will.

Mr. Campbell: Even after your father's death did you write a letter comparing him with Jack the Ripper?

Lord Alfred Douglas: I don't think so. Counsel read a letter which was a reply by Lord Alfred Douglas to one written by Oscar Wilde to Mr. Robert Ross, and sent on to Lord Alfred at Wilde's request.

LETTERS DESTROYED.

Reference was made to certain letters, and the writer, in refusing to give them up, said "the recollections of those letters, the memories they may give me, even if they give me no hope, will perhaps prevent me putting an end to a life which has now no raison d'être."

If Oscar asks me to kill myself I will do so, but I could not give up the letters which are part of my life, the only part not poisoned and cankered. I will put them in a packet and seal them up. I know what Oscar says is true. I know I have ruined his life.

The letter to which this was answer was then read. Wilde was writing from prison, and in his letter made a request that Mr. Ross should obtain his letters from Lord Alfred Douglas. The letter finished with the sentence, "He has ruined my life. That should content him."

The Judge: What has become of the letters referred to?

Lord Alfred Douglas: I have destroyed them.

The hearing was adjourned.

Mr. Justice Darling's court was aggroded to-day, when the hearing was resumed of the libel action by Lord Alfred Douglas, who is claiming damages against Mr. Arthur Ransome, author of a book entitled "Oscar Wilde—A Critical Study." The "Times" Book Club is also added as a defendant for circulating the book, and the plaintiff claims an injunction restraining further publication.

Mr. Ransome pleads justification, and the "Times" Book Club denies any negligence and says it was unaware of any libellous matter in the book.

Mr. Cecil Hayes and Mr. Benjamin appear for the plaintiff; Mr. J. H. Campbell, K.C., and Mr. McCardie represented Mr. Ransome and Mr. F. E. Smith, K.C., Mr. Eustace Hill and Mr. Howard Gritten represented the "Times" Book Club.

At the request of counsel for the plaintiff, Mr. McCardie to-day read the remaining portions of the suppressed portion of Oscar Wilde's "De Profundis."

Mr. Justice Darling's court was again crowded to-day, when the hearing was resumed of the libel action by Lord Alfred Bruce Douglas, who is claiming damages against Mr. Arthur Ransome, author of a book entitled "Oscar Wilde—A Critical Study." The "Times" Book Club is also added as a defendant for circulating the book, and the plaintiff claims an injunction restraining further publication.

Mr. Ransome pleads justification, and the "Times" Book Club denies any negligence, and says it was unaware of any libellous matter in the book.

Mr. Cecil Hayes and Mr. Benjamin appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. J. H. Campbell, K.C., and Mr. McCardie represented Mr. Ransome; and Mr. F. E. Smith, K.C., Mr. Eustace Hills, and Mr. Howard Gritten represented the "Times" Book Club.

At the request of counsel for the plaintiff Mr. McCarty, who is reading portions of the suppressed portion of Oscar Wilde's "De Profundis."

"Is He in Court?"

Mr. McCardie had been reading for a considerable time when Mr. Justice Darling asked where Lord Alfred Douglas was. "Is he in court?" inquired the judge. "I have been looking round without being able to see him."

Mr. Hayes said he was in court when the reading commenced, but had asked to be allowed to go outside. "I had not noticed that he was still absent," added Mr. Hayes.

His Lordship.—Let somebody fetch him. One of the reasons why this is being read is because the plaintiff is to be cross-examined and examined upon it.

Mr. Campbell.—It is being read at the request of his own counsel.

His Lordship.—I know it is—in order apparently that he may enjoy himself out of court. Stop until he comes in, Mr. McCardie.

There was a pause for a few minutes, then the judge told counsel to proceed with the reading of the document. "I will deal with his treatment of the court when he does come," said the judge.

The Foreman of the Jury.—As far as the jury are concerned, we are quite satisfied with the reading as far as it has gone.

Lord Alfred Returns.

Later Lord Alfred Douglas returned into court and proceeding to the witness-box, placed his silk hat on the floor of the bench and took a seat. For a moment he looked round the court, then he opened and glanced at the New Testament on which he had taken oath.

"Lord Alfred Douglas," said the judge, "is it —?"

The plaintiff here interposed.—I am afraid your lordship is annoyed with me for—

The Judge (sternly).—Lord Alfred Douglas, is it upon your instructions that your counsel desired that the whole of this document written by Oscar Wilde should be read?

The Plaintiff.—Yes, my lord.

The Judge.—Then why did you absent yourself while it was being done?

The Plaintiff.—Well, my lord, I asked my counsel to ask if I might go out, and I was told it was not necessary—

The Judge.—Go out where?

The Plaintiff.—To go outside, as I did not wish to stay and hear it all read. I asked your lordship yesterday if I might go out, and your lordship volunteered the remark that you did not wonder I asked leave to go out.

Judge's Warning.

The Judge.—Nothing of the sort. I said I was not surprised you had asked leave to sit down. Let me warn you, Lord Alfred Douglas, that you are the plaintiff in this case, and if you absent yourself again when your presence is necessary I will immediately enter judgment against you.

Lord Alfred.—My lord, I should not think of doing so, and I apologise most humbly.

The Judge.—You might at least have asked my leave.

The Plaintiff.—I was advised not to. I was told it was unnecessary.

(Continued on Next Page.)

Mr. McCardie then continued the reading of the document.

His Lordship (interrupting the reading).—We are not half way through this yet. Mr. Hayes, do you want to go through all this?

Mr. Hayes said he did not wish it all to be read, and asked that he might read the last two pages, as it showed that there was a desire for reconciliation, and it showed that Wilde was a man of moods.

Further Cross-Examination.

Mr. Hayes read two pages, and Mr. Campbell resumed the cross-examination. The plaintiff admitted that a letter put to him was in his writing. It went as follows:—

"I have left Worthing, as you see. I had great fun there, though the last few days the strain of being the bone of contention between Oscar and Mrs. Oscar began to make itself felt."

The Plaintiff.—I suppose it related to some quarrel. They were always quarrelling, and I used to stand between them. You spring letters on me that I have not seen for twenty years. They ought not to be disclosed.

Mr. Campbell read one of the plaintiff's letters in which reference was made to getting money from Wilde: "It was a sweet humiliation, an exquisite pleasure to both of us. If I had any money of my own I should like to give it to him—legally, I mean—so that I should always be dependent on him, and always have to ask him for anything I wanted."

Mr. Campbell.—Is it true that from 1891 to 1895 you were living on Oscar Wilde?—No.

Another Rebuke.

The plaintiff proceeded to explain that Wilde had money from him, and then interrupted Mr. Campbell, who was in the course of putting a further question.

His Lordship.—Will you not be impertinent? You have already answered the question, and you are not entitled to interrupt counsel.

The Plaintiff.—I accept your rebuke, my lord.

His Lordship.—Don't merely accept my view. Will you act on it?

Plaintiff.—I said I accept your rebuke, my lord.

His Lordship.—Well, you will act on it.

The plaintiff again attempted to speak, and again the judge stopped him, remarking, "Will you be silent until you are asked another question?"

Replying to Mr. Campbell, the plaintiff said that his opinion of Wilde had changed when he heard the passages from "De Profundis" read yesterday. "When I heard the passages," said Lord Alfred Douglas, "I thought he was a fiend."

Counsel read another letter of the plaintiff's regarding Wilde.

The plaintiff said that merely showed what a faithful friend he was to Wilde. "If I stick up for him," he said, "I am a brute and a swine. If I don't stick up for him, I am a traitor."

His Lordship.—Who has said you were a brute and a swine?"

The Plaintiff.—Well, my lord, that is the inference.

His lordship translated a passage from "La Revue Blanche" appearing over Lord Alfred Douglas's name in which allegations were made against those attending the great English public schools and universities, and against professional men.

The plaintiff denied having written the article, but said the charges made were true.

Later, with regard to the present case, Lord Alfred Douglas said he could easily stop it.

His Lordship.—It would be easy enough for you to go away. But I should bring you back, as I did this morning.

The Plaintiff.—Oh, no, my lord, I did not mean that.

His Lordship.—Mr. Campbell, need you take this case any further? Do you think if you get more you will advance it?

Mr. Campbell said there was another point he wished to ask about.

Mr. Hayes.—Don't you think we have got quite far enough with this evidence of credibility? (Laughter.)

His Lordship.—I may think so, but I should not like to say it.

Mr. Hayes' remark that further evidence of that kind would waste the time of the Court was greeted with loud laughter.

Mr. Campbell.—I am very sorry, my lord, that I have incurred my friend's censure. (Renewed laughter.)

Wilde's Allowance.

"Did you know," asked Mr. Campbell, "that the £150 a year allowed to Oscar Wilde for life was from his wife's property?"

Lord Alfred said he always thought it was from his own property which he surrendered to his wife.

The plaintiff dissented from a statement by counsel that the deed under which the allowance was made stipulated that Wilde and he should not live in the same house or hotel.

Turning to a letter written by Lord Alfred Douglas to Mr. Robert Ross, counsel read: "My longing to see him simply eats at my heart day and night."

Mr. Campbell read another letter regarding a poem about the Devil written by Lord Alfred Douglas.

Counsel.—You wrote that?
"It is a horrible thing to have written," said Lord Alfred.

The Judge.—Do you think you can excuse a letter like that?—The Witness: No; but I don't think it was really meant seriously. I think it reflects as much upon the person who received it as the person who wrote it.

"Very likely," said the judge.

Lord Alfred.—Then I am to be sacrificed to help rehabilitate Mr. Ross!

In another letter from Oscar Wilde to Mr. Ross there was this passage: "I have not read your letter to Constance (Mrs. Wilde). I

would sooner leave it to you. You have tact, affection, and kindness, and I would sooner return it unread. The facts at Naples are very brief. . . . Bosie promised that I should never want for anything. After four months I accepted his offer, but when we met on our way to Naples I found that he had no money and no plans, and had forgotten all his promises. His one idea was that I should raise money for us both."

The Plaintiff.—That was written at the very time he was receiving the £200.

The plaintiff denied that his mother threatened to deprive him of his allowance if he did not give up Wilde.

Counsel then called attention to a letter from Lord Alfred to Mr. Ross about Wilde. "If he gets on well enough," it ran, "please tell him that my whole heart and soul is with him."

On the subject of "De Profundis" the plaintiff said he thought it the meanest and most horrible thing he had ever seen. It was

the height and depth of meanness and treachery. "I had been devoted to the man," he added later, "and perhaps with an excess of Quixotic generosity."

Mr. Campbell explained that his question yesterday suggesting that the plaintiff had compared his father to "Jack the Ripper" in a letter after his father's death was a mistake. He had ascertained that the comparison was in a booklet previously written.

Mr. F. E. Smith cross-examined on behalf of the "Times" Book Club, and elicited that unless one knew something beyond what was in the book in question the reader would not think of the plaintiff.

Did Not Interrupt Wilde.

Re-examined by Mr. Hayes, the plaintiff said that so far from interrupting Wilde in his work, he helped him a lot with the dialogue of some of his plays.

Lord Alfred said he had also written some ballads himself. One of them was "The City of the Soul."

Counsel, reading from this poem, used the word "gaol" instead of "goal." Loud laughter greeted the mistake, counsel remarking that he was glad to have contributed to the seriousness of the case. (Laughter.)

The Judge.—Whoever wrote that must have spent a good deal of time over the Scottish ballads.

Mr. Hayes.—All originality is unconscious plagiarism, my lord.

His Lordship.—Even your joke about gaol and goal. (Laughter.)

Another Rebuke.

The plaintiff interrupted counsel in putting a question, and the judge turned sharply to him, remarking: "Lord Alfred Douglas, I shall not warn you again. Will you understand from me, once and for all, that nothing in your position entitles you to treat the court differently from any other person."

The Plaintiff.—Am I not entitled?

His Lordship.—You are not entitled from that position to insult counsel.

The Plaintiff.—I was not insulting him.

Mr. Hayes put a question regarding the reasons for the plaintiff not writing to Wilde when the latter was in prison.

Mr. Campbell objected, and Mr. Hayes maintained that the question was admissible.

His lordship said he need not argue the point with Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell.—I think I have been very patient, my lord.

Mr. Hayes (to the witness).—It cannot be said that you were the cause of Wilde's public disgrace, according to Mr. Ransome's own showing?—The Plaintiff: No.

The Judge.—He was not publicly disgraced till 1895, but deserved to be long before.

Mr. Hayes.—Yes, he deserved to be in 1886, according to Mr. Ransome.

Mr. Campbell (interposing) read several extracts from a book entitled "Lord Alfred Douglas—Poems," printed in Paris in 1896.

The plaintiff said that the poems were written purely in an abstract strain. If one were taught to read Catullus and Plato at school surely one could write in imitation of their works.

This concluded the plaintiff's evidence.

Mr. Needie, assistant editor of the "Burlington Magazine," giving evidence, said he conveyed the sum of £200 from the plaintiff's mother to Oscar Wilde.

This closed the plaintiff's case.

“Is He in Court?”

Mr. McCardie had been reading for a considerable time when Mr. Justice Darling asked where Lord Alfred Douglas was. “Is he in court?” inquired the judge. “I have been looking round without being able to see him.”

Mr. Hayes said he was in court when the reading commenced, but had asked to be allowed to go outside. “I had not noticed that he was still absent,” added Mr. Hayes.

His Lordship.—Let somebody fetch him. One of the reasons why this is being read is because the plaintiff is to be cross-examined and examined upon it.

Mr. Campbell.—It is being read at the request of his own counsel.

His Lordship.—I know it is—in order apparently that he may enjoy himself out of court. Stop until he comes in, Mr. McCardie.

There was a pause for a few minutes, then the judge told counsel to proceed with the reading of the document. “I will deal with his treatment of the court when he does come,” said the judge.

The Foreman of the Jury.—As far as the jury are concerned, we are quite satisfied with the reading as far as it has gone.

Lord Alfred Returns.

Later Lord Alfred Douglas returned into court and proceeding to the witness-box, placed his silk hat on the floor of the bench and took a seat. For a moment he looked round the court, then he opened and glanced at the New Testament on which he had taken oath.

“Lord Alfred Douglas,” said the judge, “is it —?”

The plaintiff here interposed.—I am afraid your lordship is annoyed with me for—

The Judge (sternly).—Lord Alfred Douglas, is it upon your instructions that your counsel desired that the whole of this document written by Oscar Wilde should be read?

The Plaintiff.—Yes, my lord.

The Judge.—Then why did you absent yourself while it was being done?

The Plaintiff.—Well, my lord, I asked my counsel to ask if I might go out, and I was told it was not necessary—

The Judge.—Go out where?

The Plaintiff.—To go outside, as I did not wish to stay and hear it all read. I asked your lordship yesterday if I might go out, and your lordship volunteered the remark that you did not wonder I asked leave to go out.

Judge's Warning.

The Judge.—Nothing of the sort. I said I was not surprised you had asked leave to sit down. Let me warn you, Lord Alfred Douglas, that you are the plaintiff in this case, and if you absent yourself again when your presence is necessary I will immediately enter judgment against you.

Lord Alfred.—My lord, I should not think of doing so, and I apologise most humbly.

The Judge.—You might at least have asked my leave.

The Plaintiff.—I was advised not to. I was told it was not necessary.

Mr. McCardie then continued the reading of the document.

His Lordship (interrupting the reading).—We are not half way through this yet. Mr. Hayes, do you want to go through all this?

Mr. Hayes said he did not wish it all to be read, and asked that he might read the last two pages, as it showed that there was a desire for reconciliation, and it showed that Wilde was a man of moods.

Further Cross-Examination.

Mr. Hayes read two pages, and Mr. Campbell resumed the cross-examination. The plaintiff admitted that a letter put to him was in his writing. It went as follows:—

“I have left Worthing, as you see. I had great fun there, though the last few days the strain of being the bone of contention between Oscar and Mrs. Oscar began to make itself felt.”

The Plaintiff.—I suppose it related to some quarrel. They were always quarrelling, and I used to stand between them. You spring letters on me that I have not seen for twenty years. They ought not to be disclosed.

Mr. Campbell read one of the plaintiff's letters in which reference was made to getting money from Wilde: “It was a sweet humiliation, an exquisite pleasure to both of us. If I had any money of my own I should like to give it to him—legally, I mean—so that I should always be dependent on him, and always have to ask him for anything I wanted.”

Mr. Campbell.—Is it true that from 1891 to 1895 you were living on Oscar Wilde?—No.

Another Rebuke.

The plaintiff proceeded to explain that Wilde had money from him, and then interrupted Mr. Campbell, who was in the course of putting a further question.

His Lordship.—Will you not be impertinent? You have already answered the question, and you are not entitled to interrupt counsel.

The Plaintiff.—I accept your rebuke, my lord.

His Lordship.—Don't merely accept my view. Will you act on it?

Plaintiff.—I said I accept your rebuke, my lord.

His Lordship.—Well, you will act on it.

The plaintiff again attempted to speak, and again the judge stopped him, remarking, “Will you be silent until you are asked another question?”

Replying to Mr. Campbell, the plaintiff said that his opinion of Wilde had changed when he heard the passages from “De Profundis” read yesterday. “When I heard the passages,” said Lord Alfred Douglas, “I thought he was a fiend.”

Counsel read another letter of the plaintiff's regarding Wilde.

The plaintiff said that merely showed what a faithful friend he was to Wilde. “If I stick up for him,” he said, “I am a brute and a swine. If I don't stick up for him, I am a traitor.”

His Lordship.—Who has said you were a brute and a swine?”

The Plaintiff.—Well, my lord, that is the inference.

His lordship translated a passage from “La Revue Blanche” appearing over Lord Alfred Douglas's name, in which allegations were made against those attending the great English public schools and universities, and against professional men.

The plaintiff denied having written the article, but said the charges made were true.

Later, with regard to the present case, Lord Alfred Douglas said he could easily stop it.

His Lordship.—It would be easy enough for you to go away. But I should bring you back, as I did this morning.

The Plaintiff.—Oh, no, my lord, I did not mean that.

His Lordship.—Mr. Campbell, need you take this case any further? Do you think if you get more you will advance it?

Mr. Campbell said there was another point he wished to ask about.

Mr. Hayes.—Don't you think we have got quite far enough with this evidence of credibility? (Laughter.)

His Lordship.—I may think so, but I should not like to say it.

Mr. Hayes' remark that further evidence of that kind would waste the time of the Court was greeted with loud laughter.

Mr. Campbell.—I am very sorry, my lord, that I have incurred my friend's censure. (Renewed laughter.)

Wilde's Allowance.

"Did you know," asked Mr. Campbell, "that the £150 a year allowed to Oscar Wilde for life was from his wife's property?"

Lord Alfred said he always thought it was from his own property which he surrendered to his wife.

The plaintiff dissented from a statement by counsel that the deed under which the allowance was made stipulated that Wilde and he should not live in the same house or hotel.

Turning to a letter written by Lord Alfred Douglas to Mr. Robert Ross, counsel read: "My longing to see him simply eats at my heart day and night."

Mr. Campbell read another letter regarding a poem about the Devil written by Lord Alfred Douglas.

Counsel.—You wrote that?

"It is a horrible thing to have written," said Lord Alfred.

The Judge.—Do you think you can excuse a letter like that?—The Witness: No; but I don't think it was really meant seriously. I think it reflects as much upon the person who received it as the person who wrote it.

"Very likely," said the judge.

Lord Alfred.—Then I am to be sacrificed to help rehabilitate Mr. Ross!

In another letter from Oscar Wilde to Mr. Ross there was this passage: "I have not read your letter to Constance (Mrs. Wilde). I

would sooner leave it to you. You have tact, affection, and kindness, and I would sooner return it unread. The facts at Naples are very brief. . . . Bosie promised that I should never want for anything. After four months I accepted his offer, but when we met on our way to Naples I found that he had no money and no plans, and had forgotten all his promises. His one idea was that I should raise money for us both."

The Plaintiff.—That was written at the very time he was receiving the £200.

The plaintiff denied that his mother threatened to deprive him of his allowance if he did not give up Wilde.

Counsel then called attention to a letter from Lord Alfred to Mr. Ross about Wilde. "If he gets on well enough," it ran, "please tell him that my whole heart and soul is with him."

On the subject of the allowance the plaintiff said he thought it the meanest and most horrible thing he had ever seen. It was

the height and depth of meanness and treachery. "I had been devoted to the man," he added later, "and perhaps with an excess of Quixotic generosity."

Mr. Campbell explained that his question yesterday suggesting that the plaintiff had compared his father to "Jack the Ripper" in a letter after his father's death was a mistake. He had ascertained that the comparison was in a booklet previously written.

Mr. F. E. Smith cross-examined on behalf of the "Times" Book Club, and elicited that unless one knew something beyond what was in the book in question the reader would not think of the plaintiff.

Did Not Interrupt Wilde.

Re-examined by Mr. Hayes, the plaintiff said that so far from interrupting Wilde in his work, he helped him a lot with the dialogue of some of his plays.

Lord Alfred said he had also written some ballads himself. One of them was "The City of the Soul."

Counsel, reading from this poem, used the word "gaol" instead of "goal." Loud laughter greeted the mistake, counsel remarking that he was glad to have contributed to the seriousness of the case. (Laughter.)

The Judge.—Whoever wrote that must have spent a good deal of time over the Scottish ballads.

Mr. Hayes.—All originality is unconscious plagiarism, my lord.

His Lordship.—Even your joke about gaol and goal. (Laughter.)

Another Rebuke.

The plaintiff interrupted counsel in putting a question, and the judge turned sharply to him, remarking: "Lord Alfred Douglas, I shall not warn you again. Will you understand from me, once and for all, that nothing in your position entitles you to treat the court differently from any other person."

The Plaintiff.—Am I not entitled?

His Lordship.—You are not entitled from that position to insult counsel.

The Plaintiff.—I was not insulting him.

Mr. Hayes put a question regarding the reasons for the plaintiff not writing to Wilde when the latter was in prison.

Mr. Campbell objected, and Mr. Hayes maintained that the question was admissible.

His lordship said he need not argue the point with Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell.—I think I have been very patient, my lord.

Mr. Hayes (to the witness).—It cannot be said that you were the cause of Wilde's public disgrace, according to Mr. Ransome's own showing?—The Plaintiff: No.

The Judge.—He was not publicly disgraced till 1895, but deserved to be long before.

Mr. Hayes.—Yes, he deserved to be in 1886, according to Mr. Ransome.

Mr. Campbell (interposing) read several extracts from a book entitled "Lord Alfred Douglas—Poems," printed in Paris in 1896.

The plaintiff said that the poems were written purely in an abstract strain. If one were taught to read Catullus and Plato at school surely one could write in imitation of their works.

This concluded the plaintiff's evidence.

Mr. Needie, assistant editor of the "Burlington Magazine," giving evidence, said he conveyed the sum of £200 from the plaintiff's mother to Oscar Wilde.

This closed the plaintiff's evidence.

Mr. F. E. Smith said that as far as the "Times" Book Club was concerned, he made the formal submission that there was no case for the jury on the evidence given by Lord Alfred Douglas.

His lordship said he would leave it to the jury.

Sir Frederick Kenyon, director and chief librarian of the British Museum, was called.

The foreman of the jury asked with regard to the "De Profundis" manuscript: Is this manuscript available to the general public?

Sir Frederick.—No. It was ordered to be locked up.

Continuing, the witness said that when the manuscript was accepted by the Museum authorities it was not to be opened till 1960.

The hearing was adjourned till Monday.

Standard

and The Times's Gazette

FOR ANY TWO OTHER PENNY EVENING

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1913.

LORD A. DOUGLAS.

EVIDENCE FOR DEFENCE IN
LIBEL ACTION.

"TIMES" CLUB METHODS.

Mr. Justice Darling's Court, in the King's Bench Division, was crowded when the hearing was resumed to-day of the action by Lord Alfred Bruce Douglas, third son of the eighth Marquess of Queensberry, against Mr. Arthur Ransome (author of "Oscar Wilde—a Critical Study"), and the "Times" Book Club.

The plaintiff asserted that certain statements in the book associating him with Oscar Wilde imputed that he stayed with Wilde for mercenary reasons, was instrumental in bringing about his public disgrace, and left him as soon as Wilde's allowance was stopped.

A plate-layer named George Brown, aged fifty, was knocked down at Christchurch to-day.

RAILWAY FATALITY.

The hearing was adjourned.

Mr. Hayes had not finished his speech when the two

"Lord Alfred's style was somewhere between was not in the same street as Swinburne, and Counsel quoted Shakespeare, who, he said, that it sounds like a valentine. (Laughter.)

His Lordship.—Did Swinburne really write poet.

of Swinburne, and he read a few lines by that written by the plaintiff were not unlike those Counsel remarked that some of the poems witness-box as the plaintiff had.

neither he nor Mr. Ransome had entered the spirited the defence, was sitting in court, but Mr. Hayes said Mr. Robert Ross, who had in-

Replying on behalf of Lord Alfred Douglas, On Behalf of Lord Alfred.

the facts.

they referred, because such people knew all were not news to people who knew to whom by name to the individual referred to, and passages from the book, which gave no clue case into court, and had chosen three isolated chosen, with amazing stupidity, to bring this Ransome. Lord Alfred Douglas, he said, had

Mr. Campbell followed in defence of Mr. Three Passages.

The concluding stage was reached by Mr. Justice Darling and a special jury in the King's Bench Division to-day of the action in which Lord Alfred Douglas (third son of the eighth Marquess of Queensberry), alleging libel, sought damages against Mr. Arthur Ransome (author of "Oscar Wilde: A Critical Study") and the "Times" Book Club.

The plaintiff asserted that certain statements in the book mentioned associating him with Oscar Wilde imputed that he stayed with Wilde for mercenary reasons, was instrumental in bringing about his public disgrace, and left him as soon as Wilde's allowance was stopped.

Counsel for the plaintiff were Mr. Cecil Hayes and Mr. Harold Benjamin, Mr. J. H. Campbell, K.C., and Mr. McCardie representing Mr. Ransome, and Mr. F. E. Smith, K.C., and Mr. Eustace Hills the "Times" Book Club.

Wilde's Literary Executor.

Mr. Hayes' speech contained another reference to Mr. Robert Ross (Wilde's literary executor) not having been called as a witness.

His Lordship.—If you think there is anything he can prove, you can call him now. I give you permission.

Mr. Hayes suggested that it was for the defence to put him in the box, then he would have been able to cross-examine him.

His Lordship.—You can call him, and if I think he is a hostile witness I will let you cross-examine him. I have listened in vain for any reason why the defence should have called him.

Mr. Hayes referred to Mr. Ransome not having given evidence.

Mr. Campbell said it was difficult to imagine what the author could have proved, in view of the documents used in the case.

Mr. Hayes described the ordeal of cross-examination through which Lord Alfred passed in the witness-box as the vivisection of the soul. Have they thrown mud? he went on. Why, they have thrown brimstone and thunderbolts. (Laughter.) Then Mr. Campbell complained that Lord Alfred fenced with him. Would not anybody fence with a man with a double-edged sword slashing at him all day long?

Some Wilde Epigrams.

Mr. Hayes recalled some of Wilde's epigrams: "It is better to be beautiful than good." "What a thing for a good-looking young undergraduate to read! Again, "To be natural is to be obvious; to be obvious is to be inartistic." "Examinations are pure humbug from beginning to end. If a man is a gentleman he knows quite enough. If he is not a gentleman, whatever he knows is bad for him." "There is no such thing as a moral book or an immoral book. Books are well-written or badly-written, that is all."

Another of Wilde's epigrams was: "One can resist everything except temptation."

"I just quote these things," Mr. Hayes observed, "to show what sort of influence they might have on a young man who read them."

His Lordship.—When were these gems first published?

Mr. Hayes.—They were published last year for the first time, but Oscar Wilde wrote them in his "Intentions" and "Phrases for the Young." "Intentions" came out in book form in 1888 or 1889, and "Phrases for the Young" appeared in the "Chameleon" in 1892.

His Lordship.—Do you say these are what corrupted Lord Alfred Douglas?

Counsel.—No, I am afraid Lord Alfred was not the only young man who read them.

His Lordship.—I have not said there were no more corrupt young men.

Counsel.—I am showing the jury the early influence of Wilde upon Douglas.

His Lordship.—Your mind is so complicated compared with mine. I only wanted to know the date, to see if Lord Alfred Douglas read these things before he became as bad as you say he did.

Counsel.—I don't say he became as bad as he did. (Laughter.) I am showing where he got the phrase, "In those days I thought more of literature than of morals, but I don't think that now."

The Allowance to Wilde.

Coming to the £3 a week allowed to Wilde by his wife when he came out of prison and went to stay at Lord Alfred Douglas's villa in Naples, Mr. Hayes said it was not extravagant. In these modern days we all know of what very little use £3 a week is. It is fortunate they did not have motors and taxicabs in Naples in those days. (Laughter.) With chivalry, or knight errantry if you like, this young lord had the courage in those days, in the face of the whole world, to invite a man whose name was a by-word among men to stay with him at his villa in Naples, and then let him have the villa, this man who might otherwise have been as lonely as a leper.

Mr. Hayes recalled the £25 contributed by the plaintiff to the expenses of Wilde's funeral in Paris.

His Lordship.—And somebody has put a monument over him fit for Napoleon. (Laughter.)

Mr. Hayes.—Since his regeneration they

have put up a monument. He is risen from the dead.

Mr. F. E. Smith.—There is no evidence of that.

Mummies as Witnesses.

Reverting to the evidence, Mr. Hayes said it was a good thing Lord Alfred Douglas did not live 2000 years ago, because counsel for the defence would have gone to the British Museum, from which he obtained the unpublished parts of Oscar Wilde's "De Profundis," and would have called some of the mummies as witnesses.

Mr. Campbell interjected a remark, and was met by the retort that "he might be a mummy himself one day." (Laughter.)

Mr. Hayes.—He would have brought these mummies willingly, and put them into the box, because I could not cross-examine them. (Laughter.)

Counsel repeated that Mr. Ransome had not given evidence. "He may be the most blameless person in the world, and I have no doubt, by his appearance, he is. (Loud laughter.) He has been sitting here for the last four days to give importance to the play."

During his counsel's speech, Lord Alfred Douglas entered the court, and Mr. Justice Darling said he would have a question to put to him later.

Lord Alfred went into the witness-box when his counsel sat down.

Judge's Questions to Plaintiff.

Mr. Justice Darling.—You heard your counsel's account of how it was you came to bring this action—the conversation between yourself and Lady Alfred Douglas when she obtained a copy of the book from the "Times" Book Club. Did you hear that?

Mr. F. E. Smith said that as far as the "Times" Book Club was concerned, he made the formal submission that there was no case for the jury on the evidence given by Lord Alfred Douglas.

His lordship said he would leave it to the jury.

Sir Frederick Kenyon, director and chief librarian of the British Museum, was called.

The foreman of the jury asked with regard to the "De Profundis" manuscript: Is this manuscript available to the general public?

Sir Frederick.—No. It was ordered to be locked up.

Continuing, the witness said that when the manuscript was accepted by the Museum authorities it was not to be opened till 1960.

The hearing was adjourned till Monday.

Standard 's Gazette

FOR ANY TWO OTHER PENNY EVENING

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1913.

LORD A. DOUGLAS.

EVIDENCE FOR DEFENCE IN LIBEL ACTION.

"TIMES" CLUB METHODS.

Mr. Justice Darling's Court, in the King's Bench Division, was crowded when the hearing was resumed to-day of the action by Lord Alfred Bruce Douglas, third son of the eighth Marquess of Queensberry, against Mr. Arthur Ransome (author of "Oscar Wilde—a Critical Study"), and the "Times" Book Club.

The plaintiff asserted that certain statements in the book associating him with Oscar Wilde imputed that he stayed with Wilde for mercenary reasons, was instrumental in bringing about his public disgrace, and left him as soon as Wilde's allowance was stopped.

Mr. Ransome pleaded justification for the words complained of, and the other defendants denied negligence, said they sold the book in the ordinary way of their business, and were not aware that it contained a libel.

Counsel for the plaintiff were Mr. Cecil Hayes and Mr. Harold Benjamin, Mr. J. H. Campbell, K.C., and Mr. McCardie representing Mr. Ransome, and Mr. F. E. Smith, K.C., and Mr. Eustace Hills the "Times" Book Club.

Mr. Smith called Mr. Alfred Butes, director and manager of the "Times" Book Club. It carried on, he said, two businesses, as a library and as booksellers, and all books were carefully examined.

His Lordship.—Carefully read?

Carefully Looked Through.

Witness.—Carefully looked through for the purpose of seeing that they contain nothing indecent, improper, or libellous. A committee met each morning to see all the books to be issued that day, either in the library or in the sales department. Apart from that committee, books were occasionally referred to Mr. Hudson, the secretary of the company, who was a literary man.

With reference to the book in this case, Mr. Butes said it was sent to them about February 14 last year. He examined it rather more carefully than usual.

Counsel.—Why?—The Witness: Because a few weeks before we had had a reprint of Oscar Wilde's trial, and looking that through, I decided that it was certainly not a proper book to circulate. I was rather surprised to receive another book on the same subject, and I looked at it with particular care. The other book was entitled "Oscar Wilde: Three Times Tried."

His Lordship.—Was it a verbatim report of the trial?—The Witness: Yes.

Mr. Smith.—That is not so. Many passages at the trial were suppressed.

Mr. Campbell.—The worst parts were left out.

The witness added that when complaint was made of the book now in dispute, copies of it were withdrawn from circulation among the library subscribers, and no more were sold. Mr. Ransome was a well-known author of well-established reputation, and was the author of "Edgar Allan Poe."

Mr. Butes said he and others saw nothing objectionable in the book.

Mr. Hayes, cross-examining, then read a passage from the volume.

For Literary Students.

The Witness.—I should certainly have raised a question had I noticed that part. Pressed about it, Mr. Butes said it was a book for literary students, and the passage read would probably pass.

Mr. Hayes.—Would you think it suitable for young lady subscribers?—The Witness. "Oscar Wilde" is not a book for young ladies.

But you have young lady subscribers?—Yes,

(Continued on Next Page.)

The concluding stage was reached by Mr. Justice Darling and a special jury in the King's Bench Division to-day of the action in which Lord Alfred Douglas (third son of the eighth Marquess of Queensberry), alleging libel, sought damages against Mr. Arthur Ransome (author of "Oscar Wilde: A Critical Study") and the "Times" Book Club.

The plaintiff asserted that certain statements in the book mentioned associating him with Oscar Wilde imputed that he stayed with Wilde for mercenary reasons, was instrumental in bringing about his public disgrace, and left him as soon as Wilde's allowance was stopped.

Counsel for the plaintiff were Mr. Cecil Hayes and Mr. Harold Benjamin, Mr. J. H. Campbell, K.C., and Mr. McCardie representing Mr. Ransome, and Mr. F. E. Smith, K.C., and Mr. Eustace Hills the "Times" Book Club.

Wilde's Literary Executor.

Mr. Hayes' speech contained another reference to Mr. Robert Ross (Wilde's literary executor) not having been called as a witness.

His Lordship.—If you think there is anything he can prove, you can call him now. I give you permission.

Mr. Hayes suggested that it was for the defence to put him in the box, then he would have been able to cross-examine him.

His Lordship.—You can call him, and if I think he is a hostile witness I will let you cross-examine him. I have listened in vain for any reason why the defence should have called him.

Mr. Hayes referred to Mr. Ransome not having given evidence.

Mr. Campbell said it was difficult to imagine what the author could have proved, in view of the documents used in the case.

Mr. Hayes described the ordeal of cross-examination through which Lord Alfred passed in the witness-box as the vivisection of the soul. Have they thrown mud? he went on. Why, they have thrown brimstone and thunderbolts. (Laughter.) Then Mr. Campbell complained that Lord Alfred fenced with him. Would not anybody fence with a man with a double-edged sword slashing at him all day long?

Some Wilde Epigrams.

Mr. Hayes recalled some of Wilde's epigrams: "It is better to be beautiful than good." What a thing for a good-looking young undergraduate to read! Again, "To be natural is to be obvious; to be obvious is to be inartistic." "Examinations are pure humbug from beginning to end. If a man is a gentleman he knows quite enough. If he is not a gentleman, whatever he knows is bad for him." "There is no such thing as a moral book or an immoral book. Books are well-written or badly-written, that is all."

Another of Wilde's epigrams was: "One can resist everything except temptation."

"I just quote these things," Mr. Hayes observed, "to show what sort of influence they might have on a young man who read them."

His Lordship.—When were these gems first published?

Mr. Hayes.—They were published last year for the first time, but Oscar Wilde wrote them in his "Intentions" and "Phrases for the Young." "Intentions" came out in book form in 1888 or 1889, and "Phrases for the Young" appeared in the "Chameleon" in 1892.

But how can you prevent any young lady subscriber from getting it?—In nearly every case we get written applications for books, and we have the right of substituting something different from what they want.

His Lordship.—If you are asked for "Oscar Wilde—a Critical Study," you send "Wordsworth." (Laughter.)

The Witness.—I should like to say our subscribers expect us to do that. (Loud laughter.)

Mr. Hayes.—Substitute Wordsworth?—The Witness: Well, to exercise the right of substitution.

Mr. Butes said that he now considered the passage read by counsel distinctly undesirable.

His Lordship (to Counsel).—Do you say they should not circulate any book except those which all young ladies can open and read?

Mr. Hayes.—No.

His Lordship.—Unless you are prepared to say that that is the criterion, what is the point of it?

Mr. Hayes.—I am coming to married women in a minute, and to Lady Alfred Douglas, who herself got out the book. (To the witness) Now, how about the alleged libel?

His Lordship.—On whom? You cannot libel the dead, or else what about Caligula? (Laughter.) Have you read Lord Campbell's "Lives of the Judges"?

Mr. Hayes.—Lord Campbell, or Mr. Campbell, my lord (indicating counsel for Mr. Ransome)? (Laughter.)

Mr. Butes, in reply to further questions, said he concluded the book was a critical study, and contained nothing improper, indecent, or libellous.

Later Mr. Smith asked what was the point of certain other questions put to the witness.

Mr. Hayes.—You are a little previous, Mr. Smith. If you will wait I will show you, and then you can sit on it if you like.

It was then stated that Mr. Ransome translated "A Night in Luxembourg."

What It Is.

His Lordship (to the witness).—If it is a place to spend a night in, tell us what it is. (Laughter.)

Mr. Butes.—It is a picture gallery, my lord.

Mr. Hayes.—A picture palace? (Loud laughter.)

During the subsequent cross-examination, Mr. Smith and Mr. Campbell took exception to questions asked.

Mr. Hayes.—You are getting angry.

His Lordship.—Who?

Mr. Hayes.—The allies. (Laughter.)

His Lordship.—You must never think people in a court of law are as angry as they seem.

Lord Alfred Douglas.—Hear, hear.

Mr. Butes added that there were about 100,000 books in the library, and an enormous number of subscribers.

Other evidence having been given, the case for the "Times" Book Club was closed, and Mr. Smith addressed the jury.

If the standard by which books were to be judged, Mr. Smith said, was that they should contain nothing that might harm a young girl, he thought they would have to take a very pessimistic view of modern literature, and there would be a wholesale clearance from the shelves of public and private libraries.

Three Passages.

Mr. Campbell followed in defence of Mr. Ransome. Lord Alfred Douglas, he said, had chosen, with amazing stupidity, to bring this case into court, and had chosen three isolated passages from the book, which gave no clue by name to the individual referred to, and were not news to people who knew to whom they referred, because such people knew all the facts.

On Behalf of Lord Alfred.

Replying on behalf of Lord Alfred Douglas, Mr. Hayes said Mr. Robert Ross, who had inspired the defence, was sitting in court, but neither he nor Mr. Ransome had entered the witness-box as the plaintiff had.

Counsel remarked that some of the poems written by the plaintiff were not unlike those of Swinburne, and he read a few lines by that poet.

His Lordship.—Did Swinburne really write that? It sounds like a valentine. (Laughter.)

Counsel quoted Shakespeare, who, he said, was not in the same street as Swinburne, and "Lord Alfred's style was somewhere between the two."

Mr. Hayes had not finished his speech when the hearing was adjourned.

RAILWAY FATALITY.

A platelayer named George Brown, aged fifty, was knocked down at Christchurch to-

Mr. F. E. Smith said that as far as the "Times" Book Club was concerned, he made the formal submission that there was no case for the jury on the evidence given by Lord Alfred Douglas.

His lordship said he would leave it to the jury.

Sir Frederick Kenyon, director and chief librarian of the British Museum, was called.

The foreman of the jury asked with regard to the "De Profundis" manuscript: Is this manuscript available to the general public?

Sir Frederick.--No. It was ordered to be locked up

Continuing, the witness said that when the manuscript was deposited in the British Museum authorities it was not to be opened till 1960.

The hearing was adjourned till Monday.

Standard

's Gazette

FOR ANY TWO OTHER PENNY EVENING

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1913.

LORD A. DOUGLAS.

EVIDENCE FOR DEFENCE IN LIBEL ACTION.

"TIMES" CLUB METHODS.

Mr. Justice Darling's Court, in the King's Bench Division, was crowded when the hearing was resumed to-day of the action by Lord Alfred Bruce Douglas, third son of the eighth Marquess of Queensberry, against Mr. Arthur Ransome (author of "Oscar Wilde—a Critical Study"), and the "Times" Book Club.

The plaintiff asserted that certain statements in the book associating him with Oscar Wilde imputed that he stayed with Wilde for mercenary reasons, was instrumental in bringing about his public disgrace, and left him as soon as Wilde's allowance was stopped.

Mr. Ransome pleaded justification for the words complained of, and the other defendants denied negligence, said they sold the book in the ordinary way of their business, and were not aware that it contained a libel.

Counsel for the plaintiff were Mr. Cecil Hayes and Mr. Harold Benjamin, Mr. J. H. Campbell, K.C., and Mr. McCardie representing Mr. Ransome, and Mr. F. E. Smith, K.C., and Mr. Eustace Hills the "Times" Book Club.

Mr. Smith called Mr. Alfred Butes, director and manager of the "Times" Book Club. It carried on, he said, two businesses, as a library and as booksellers, and all books were carefully examined.

His Lordship.—Carefully read?

Carefully Looked Through.

Witness.—Carefully looked through for the purpose of seeing that they contain nothing indecent, improper, or libellous. A committee met each morning to see all the books to be issued that day, either in the library or in the sales department. Apart from that committee, books were occasionally referred to Mr. Hudson, the secretary of the company, who was a literary man.

With reference to the book in this case, Mr. Butes said it was sent to them about February 14 last year. He examined it rather more carefully than usual.

Counsel.—Why?—The Witness: Because a few weeks before we had had a reprint of Oscar Wilde's trial, and looking that through, I decided that it was certainly not a proper book to circulate. I was rather surprised to receive another book on the same subject, and I looked at it with particular care. The other book was entitled "Oscar Wilde: Three Times Tried."

His Lordship.—Was it a verbatim report of the trial?—The Witness: Yes.

Mr. Smith.—That is not so. Many passages at the trial were suppressed.

Mr. Campbell.—The worst parts were left out.

The witness added that when complaint was made of the book now in dispute, copies of it were withdrawn from circulation among the library subscribers, and no more were sold. Mr. Ransome was a well-known author of well-established reputation, and was the author of "Edgar Allan Poe."

Mr. Butes said he and others saw nothing objectionable in the book.

Mr. Hayes, cross-examining, then read a passage from the volume.

For Literary Students.

The Witness.—I should certainly have raised a question had I noticed that part. Pressed about it, Mr. Butes said it was a book for literary students, and the passage read would probably pass.

Mr. Hayes.—Would you think it suitable for young lady subscribers?—The Witness. "Oscar Wilde" is not a book for young ladies.

But you have young lady subscribers?—Yes,

mon. (Laughter.)

But how can you prevent any young lady subscriber from getting it?—In nearly every case we get written applications for books, and we have the right of substituting something different from what they want.

His Lordship.—If you are asked for "Oscar Wilde—a Critical Study," you send "Wordsworth." (Laughter.)

The Witness.—I should like to say our subscribers expect us to do that. (Loud laughter.)

Mr. Hayes.—Substitute Wordsworth?—The Witness: Well, to exercise the right of substitution.

Mr. Butes said that he now considered the passage read by counsel distinctly undesirable.

His Lordship (to Counsel).—Do you say they should not circulate any book except those which all young ladies can open and read?

Mr. Hayes.—No.

His Lordship.—Unless you are prepared to say that that is the criterion, what is the point of it?

Mr. Hayes.—I am coming to married women in a minute, and to Lady Alfred Douglas, who herself got out the book. (To the witness) Now, how about the alleged libel?

His Lordship.—On whom? You cannot libel the dead, or else what about Caligula? (Laughter.) Have you read Lord Campbell's "Lives of the Judges"?

Mr. Hayes.—Lord Campbell, or Mr. Campbell, my lord (indicating counsel for Mr. Ransome)? (Laughter.)

Mr. Butes, in reply to further questions, said he concluded the book was a critical study, and contained nothing improper, indecent, or libellous.

Later Mr. Smith asked what was the point of certain other questions put to the witness.

Mr. Hayes.—You are a little previous, Mr. Smith. If you will wait I will show you, and then you can sit on it if you like.

It was then stated that Mr. Ransome translated "A Night in Luxembourg."

What It Is.

His Lordship (to the witness).—If it is a place to spend a night in, tell us what it is. (Laughter.)

Mr. Butes.—It is a picture gallery, my lord.

Mr. Hayes.—A picture palace? (Loud laughter.)

During the subsequent cross-examination, Mr. Smith and Mr. Campbell took exception to questions asked.

Mr. Hayes.—You are getting angry.

His Lordship.—Who?

Mr. Hayes.—The allies. (Laughter.)

His Lordship.—You must never think people in a court of law are as angry as they seem.

Lord Alfred Douglas.—Hear, hear.

Mr. Butes added that there were about 100,000 books in the library, and an enormous number of subscribers.

Other evidence having been given, the case for the "Times" Book Club was closed, and Mr. Smith addressed the jury.

If the standard by which books were to be judged, Mr. Smith said, was that they should contain nothing that might harm a young girl, he thought they would have to take a very pessimistic view of modern literature, and there would be a wholesale clearance from the shelves of public and private libraries.

Three Passages.

Mr. Campbell followed in defence of Mr. Ransome. Lord Alfred Douglas, he said, had chosen, with amazing stupidity, to bring this case into court, and had chosen three isolated passages from the book, which gave no clue by name to the individual referred to, and were not news to people who knew to whom they referred, because such people knew all the facts.

On Behalf of Lord Alfred.

Replying on behalf of Lord Alfred Douglas, Mr. Hayes said Mr. Robert Ross, who had inspired the defence, was sitting in court, but neither he nor Mr. Ransome had entered the witness-box as the plaintiff had.

Counsel remarked that some of the poems written by the plaintiff were not unlike those of Swinburne, and he read a few lines by that poet.

His Lordship.—Did Swinburne really write that? It sounds like a valentine. (Laughter.)

Counsel quoted Shakespeare, who, he said, was not in the same street as Swinburne, and "Lord Alfred's style was somewhere between the two."

Mr. Hayes had not finished his speech when the hearing was adjourned.

RAILWAY FATALITY.

Jisse 2016-06-18 University Library

A platelayer named George Brown, aged fifty, was knocked down at Christchurch to-

The concluding stage was reached by Mr. Justice Darling and a special jury in the King's Bench Division to-day of the action in which Lord Alfred Douglas (third son of the eighth Marquess of Queensberry), alleging libel, sought damages against Mr. Arthur Ransome (author of "Oscar Wilde: A Critical Study") and the "Times" Book Club.

The plaintiff asserted that certain statements in the book mentioned associating him with Oscar Wilde imputed that he stayed with Wilde for mercenary reasons, was instrumental in bringing about his public disgrace, and left him as soon as Wilde's allowance was stopped.

Counsel for the plaintiff were Mr. Cecil Hayes and Mr. Harold Benjamin, Mr. J. H. Campbell, K.C., and Mr. McCardie representing Mr. Ransome, and Mr. F. E. Smith, K.C., and Mr. Eustace Hills the "Times" Book Club.

Wilde's Literary Executor.

Mr. Hayes' speech contained another reference to Mr. Robert Ross (Wilde's literary executor) not having been called as a witness.

His Lordship.—If you think there is anything he can prove, you can call him now. I give you permission.

Mr. Hayes suggested that it was for the defence to put him in the box, then he would have been able to cross-examine him.

His Lordship.—You can call him, and if I think he is a hostile witness I will let you cross-examine him. I have listened in vain for any reason why the defence should have called him.

Mr. Hayes referred to Mr. Ransome not having given evidence.

Mr. Campbell said it was difficult to imagine what the author could have proved, in view of the documents used in the case.

Mr. Hayes described the ordeal of cross-examination through which Lord Alfred passed in the witness-box as the vivisection of the soul. Have they thrown mud? he went on. Why, they have thrown brimstone and thunderbolts. (Laughter.) Then Mr. Campbell complained that Lord Alfred fenced with him. Would not anybody fence with a man with a double-edged sword slashing at him all day long?

Some Wilde Epigrams.

Mr. Hayes recalled some of Wilde's epigrams: "It is better to be beautiful than good." What a thing for a good-looking young undergraduate to read! Again, "To be natural is to be obvious; to be obvious is to be inartistic." "Examinations are pure humbug from beginning to end. If a man is a gentleman he knows quite enough. If he is not a gentleman, whatever he knows is bad for him." "There is no such thing as a moral book or an immoral book. Books are well-written or badly-written, that is all." Another of Wilde's epigrams was: "One can resist everything except temptation."

"I just quote these things," Mr. Hayes observed, "to show what sort of influence they might have on a young man who read them."

His Lordship.—When were these gems first published?

Mr. Hayes.—They were published last year for the first time, but Oscar Wilde wrote them in his "Intentions" and "Phrases for the Young." "Intentions" came out in book form in 1888 or 1889, and "Phrases for the Young" appeared in the "Chameleon" in 1892.

His Lordship.—Do you say these are what corrupted Lord Alfred Douglas?

Counsel.—No, I am afraid Lord Alfred was not the only young man who read them.

His Lordship.—I have not said there were no more corrupt young men.

Counsel.—I am showing the jury the early influence of Wilde upon Douglas.

His Lordship.—Your mind is so complicated compared with mine. I only wanted to know the date, to see if Lord Alfred Douglas read these things before he became as bad as you say he did.

Counsel.—I don't say he became as bad as he did. (Laughter.) I am showing where he got the phrase, "In those days I thought more of literature than of morals, but I don't think that now."

The Allowance to Wilde.

Coming to the £3 a week allowed to Wilde by his wife when he came out of prison and went to stay at Lord Alfred Douglas's villa in Naples, Mr. Hayes said it was not extravagant. In these modern days we all know of what very little use £3 a week is. It is fortunate they did not have motors and taxicabs in Naples in those days. (Laughter.) With chivalry, or knight errantry if you like, this young lord had the courage in those days, in the face of the whole world, to invite a man whose name was a by-word among men to stay with him at his villa in Naples, and then let him have the villa, this man who might otherwise have been as lonely as a leper.

Mr. Hayes recalled the £25 contributed by the plaintiff to the expenses of Wilde's funeral in Paris.

His Lordship.—And somebody has put a monument over him fit for Napoleon. (Laughter.)

Mr. Hayes.—Since his regeneration they

have put up a monument. He is risen from the dead.

Mr. F. E. Smith.—There is no evidence of that.

Mummies as Witnesses.

Reverting to the evidence, Mr. Hayes said it was a good thing Lord Alfred Douglas did not live 2000 years ago, because counsel for the defence would have gone to the British Museum, from which he obtained the unpublished parts of Oscar Wilde's "De Profundis," and would have called some of the mummies as witnesses.

Mr. Campbell interjected a remark, and was met by the retort that "he might be a mummy himself one day." (Laughter.)

Mr. Hayes.—He would have brought these mummies willingly, and put them into the box, because I could not cross-examine them. (Laughter.)

Counsel repeated that Mr. Ransome had not given evidence. "He may be the most blameless person in the world, and I have no doubt, by his appearance, he is. (Loud laughter.) He has been sitting here for the last four days to give importance to the play."

During his counsel's speech, Lord Alfred Douglas entered the court, and Mr. Justice Darling said he would have a question to put to him later.

Lord Alfred went into the witness-box when his counsel sat down.

Judge's Questions to Plaintiff.

Mr. Justice Darling.—You heard your counsel's account of how it was you came to bring this action—the conversation between Lady Alfred Douglas when she obtained a copy of the book from the "Times" Book Club. Did you hear that?

Lord Alfred.—I can't say I did.
Mr. Justice Darling.—Weren't you here?—
Lord Alfred: Just at that minute I was out of court.

Is it by the request of Lady Alfred Douglas that you are bringing this action?—It is not exactly at her request. She showed me the book, and asked what I was going to do about it. I said I supposed I should bring an action, and she agreed. She has always thought I should, and so have all my relations and all my family. I consulted them all. That was in the March of last year?—Yes.

Then I understand you to say it was not at her request further than the way you put it. Did she believe what was said against you or not?—Of course not; she knew it was not true; she knew all the circumstances when she married me.

Now, some expressions were used yesterday as to this having broken up your home. You say Lady Alfred Douglas did not believe this, and knew all the circumstances when she married you?—Yes.

Is she still living with you?—I can neither say she is living with me nor that she is not living with me. She is now staying with her father. I have received affectionate letters from her during the past fortnight. I expect her to return to me.

Have you left her?—I don't think it fair to ask such a question.

Are you on good terms with her father?—No, I never have been. When I say that, I mean I have been on good terms with him outwardly, but he has always tried to make mischief between me and my wife, and has always been an enemy of mine.

Summing-up.

Mr. Justice Darling summed up, describing the case as a disagreeable one. Oscar Wilde was a great literary artist. He was a great master of words, and, whether one liked his ideas or not, undoubtedly everybody agreed that he was a great artist in words. He wrote plays that were played still, and Mr. Ransome did a very natural thing when he set to work to write a critical study of Wilde. Wilde got the maximum sentence of two years for the offence of which he was convicted. In Reading Gaol he wrote "De Profundis." He may have been very bad, but he was a very remarkable man.

He was glad Lady Alfred Douglas did not know the contents of the letters that had been disclosed in this case, his lordship continued, adding, "I hope she never will. I asked the Press when this case began to publish as little of it as they felt their duty would allow them, and I am glad to say that for the sake of the newspapers in England, so far as I have seen, their own good feeling has led them to omit the disgusting parts in this case and make it as decent as it could be made."

His lordship left several questions to the jury, who retired to consider their decision.

When his lordship had finished his summing up, a juryman asked whether it was a fact that Lord Alfred Douglas instigated the proceedings for alleged criminal libel brought against his father, Lord Queensberry, by Oscar Wilde.

His lordship said he understood that was so.

On Behalf of Lady Alfred.

After the jury had retired, Mr. Campbell said he was instructed to state that Sir George Lewis had been authorised by Lady Alfred Douglas to say that so far from her having instigated the present proceedings, she had done all she could to prevent them.

Mr. Hayes protested against such a statement.

His Lordship.—Does the plaintiff want to go into the witness-box to contradict it?

Mr. Hayes.—He is not here, but I have not the slightest doubt he would.

His Lordship.—No, he is not here, and I have never known the court treated as Lord Alfred Douglas has chosen to treat this court. If he wishes to contradict what Mr. Campbell says, he might at least be here to hear what is said.

Mr. Hayes.—I agree, and I apologise, my lord.

His Lordship.—You cannot apologise for him. You are here, and you have nothing to apologise for; he is not here, and does not apologise.

Mr. Hayes was about to make a submission on a point of law, when his lordship checked him, saying: "If you have anything further to say you can say it to the Court of Appeal."

The Verdict.

The jury returned a verdict for the defendants.

Judgment accordingly, with costs.

hardly say, never admired Beardsley's drawings. It thought them hideous. If the "Beardsley woman" could have been incarnated, she would have been singularly unattractive. Then how could anyone admire her on paper? Besides, she was all out of drawing. Look at her arm! Beardsley didn't know how to draw. The public itself could draw better than that. Nevertheless, the public took great interest in all Beardsley's work, as it does in the work of any new artist who either edifies or shocks it. That Beardsley's work really did shock the public, there can be no doubt. There can be equally little doubt that the public like being shocked, and sympathy would, therefore, be superfluous. But, at the same time, there are, of course, people who do honestly dislike and deplore the morbid spirit that seemed to inspire Beardsley's work, and at such people I should not wish to sneer—on the contrary, I respect their feeling, which I know to be perfectly genuine. Nor should I seek to deny that of Beardsley's work—more especially in some of his early work—there is much that is morbid. But it must be remembered that, when he first began to publish his drawings, he had hardly emerged from that school-boy age when the mind is generally apt to brood on unpleasant subjects, and much



of his work, which some people regarded as the sign of a corrupt nature, was really the outcome of a perfectly normal phase of mind, finding an abnormal outlet through premature skill in art. I think, too, that he had a boyish delight in shocking people, and that it was often of mere mischief that he chose, as in many of his grotesques for the *Bon-Mots* series, to present such horribly ugly notions. Many

of those who knew Beardsley only through his work generally imagined that he must be a man of somewhat forbidding character. His powerful, morbid fancy really repelled them, and to them the very beauty of its expression may have seemed a kind of added poison. But I, or anyone else who ever saw him at his home, knew that whatever was morbid in his work reflected only one side of his nature. I knew him to be of a kindly, generous, and affectionate disposition; a devoted son and brother; a very loyal friend. He lived, when I first saw him and till some two years later, in Cambridge



(From "Bon-Mots.")

Street, where he shared a house with his mother and sister. Here, every Thursday afternoon, was held a kind of little *salon*, which was always well attended. Aubrey himself was always present, very neatly dressed, handing round cake and bread-and-butter, and talking to each of his mother's guests in turn. There were always three or four new drawings of his passed from hand to hand, and he was always delighted with praise from any of his friends. I think it was at these little half-formal, half-intimate receptions that one saw him at his best. With all his affectations, he had that inborn kindliness which is the beginning of all good manners. He was essentially a good host.



ALI BABA IN THE WOOD.
(By kind permission of Leonard Smithers, Esq.)

Aubrey Beardsley

Lord Alfred.—I can't say I did.

Mr. Justice Darling.—Weren't you here?—

Lord Alfred: Just at that minute I was out of court.

Is it by the request of Lady Alfred Douglas that you are bringing this action?—It is not exactly at her request. She showed me the book, and asked what I was going to do about it. I said I supposed I should bring an action, and she agreed. She has always thought I should, and so have all my relations and all my family. I consulted them all.

That was in the March of last year?—Yes.

Then I understand you to say it was not at her request further than the way you put it. Did she believe what was said against you or not?—Of course not; she knew it was not true; she knew all the circumstances when she married me.

Now, some expressions were used yesterday as to this having broken up your home. You say Lady Alfred Douglas did not believe this, and knew all the circumstances when she married you?—Yes.

Is she still living with you?—I can neither say she is living with me nor that she is not living with me. She is now staying with her father. I have received affectionate letters from her during the past fortnight. I expect her to return to me.

Have you left her?—I don't think it fair to ask such a question.

Are you on good terms with her father?—No, I never have been. When I say that, I mean I have been on good terms with him outwardly, but he has always tried to make mischief between me and my wife, and has always been an enemy of mine.

Summing-up.

Mr. Justice Darling summed up, describing the case as a disagreeable one. Oscar Wilde was a great literary artist. He was a great master of words, and, whether one liked his ideas or not, undoubtedly everybody agreed that he was a great artist in words. He wrote plays that were played still, and Mr. Ransome did a very natural thing when he set to work to write a critical study of Wilde. Wilde got the maximum sentence of two years for the offence of which he was convicted. In Reading Gaol he wrote "De Profundis." He may have been very bad, but he was a very remarkable man.

He was glad Lady Alfred Douglas did not know the contents of the letters that had been disclosed in this case, his lordship continued, adding, "I hope she never will. I asked the Press when this case began to publish as little of it as they felt their duty would allow them, and I am glad to say that for the sake of the newspapers in England, so far as I have seen, their own good feeling has led them to omit the disgusting parts in this case and make it as decent as it could be made."

His lordship left several questions to the jury, who retired to consider their decision.

When his lordship had finished his summing up, a juryman asked whether it was a fact that Lord Alfred Douglas instigated the proceedings for alleged criminal libel brought against his father, Lord Queensberry, by Oscar Wilde.

His lordship said he understood that was so.

On Behalf of Lady Alfred.

After the jury had retired, Mr. Campbell said he was instructed to state that Sir George Lewis had been authorised by Lady Alfred Douglas to say that she had never having Jissen Women's University Library present proceedings, she had done all she could to prevent them.

Mr. Hayes protested against such a statement.

His Lordship.—Does the plaintiff want to go into the witness-box to contradict it?

Mr. Hayes.—He is not here, but I have not the slightest doubt he would.

His Lordship.—No, he is not here, and I have never known the court treated as Lord Alfred Douglas has chosen to treat this court. If he wishes to contradict what Mr. Campbell says, he might at least be here to hear what is said.

Mr. Hayes.—I agree, and I apologise, my lord.

His Lordship.—You cannot apologise for him. You are here, and you have nothing to apologise for; he is not here, and does not apologise.

Mr. Hayes was about to make a submission on a point of law, when his lordship checked him, saying: "If you have anything further to say you can say it to the Court of Appeal."

The Verdict.

The jury returned a verdict for the defendants.

Judgment accordingly, with costs.

hardly say, never admired Beardsley's drawings. It thought them hideous. If the "Beardsley woman" could have been incarnated, she would have been singularly unattractive. Then how could anyone admire her on paper? Besides, she was all out of drawing. Look at her arm! Beardsley didn't know how to draw. The public itself could draw better than that. Nevertheless, the public took great interest in all Beardsley's work, as it does in the work of any new artist who either edifies or shocks it. That Beardsley's work really did shock the public, there can be no doubt. There can be equally little doubt that the public like being shocked, and sympathy would, therefore, be superfluous. But, at the same time, there are, of course, people who do honestly dislike and deplore the morbid spirit that seemed to inspire Beardsley's work, and at such people I should not wish to sneer—on the contrary, I respect their feeling, which I know to be perfectly genuine. Nor should I seek to deny that of Beardsley's work—more especially in some of his early work—there is much that is morbid. But it must be remembered that, when he first began to publish his drawings, he had hardly emerged from that school-boy age when the mind is generally apt to brood on unpleasant subjects, and much

of his work, which some people regarded as the sign of a corrupt nature, was really the outcome of a perfectly normal phase of mind, finding an abnormal outlet through premature skill in art. I think, too, that he had a boyish delight in shocking people, and that it was often of mere mischief that he chose, as in many of his grotesques

present such horribly ugly notions. Many

of those who knew Beardsley only through his work generally imagined that he must be a man of somewhat forbidding character. His powerful, morbid fancy really repelled them, and to them the very beauty of its expression may have seemed a kind of added poison. But I, or anyone else who ever saw him at his home, knew that whatever was morbid in his work reflected only one side of his nature. I knew him to be of a kindly, generous, and affectionate disposition; a devoted son and brother; a very loyal friend. He lived, when I first saw him and till some two years later, in Cambridge



(From "Bon-Mots.")

Street, where he shared a house with his mother and sister. Here, every Thursday afternoon, was held a kind of little *salon*, which was always well attended. Aubrey himself was always present, very neatly dressed, handing round cake and bread-and-butter, and talking to each of his mother's guests in turn. There were always three or four new drawings of his passed from hand to hand, and he was always delighted with praise from any of his friends. I think it was at these little half-formal, half-intimate receptions that one saw him at his best. With all his affectations, he had that inborn kindness beginning of all good manners. He was essentially a good host.





ALI BABA IN THE WOOD.

(By kind permission of Leonard Smithers, Esq.)

Aubrey Beardsley

good example. The well-known drawings which, later, he made for *The Yellow Book* were, with their black masses and very fine lines, arrived at through simplification of the method in "*La Femme Incomprise*." These were the drawings that first excited the wrath of the general public and of the book-reviewers. Most of the qualified art-critics, also, were very angry. They did not know what to make of these drawings, which were referable to no established school or known method in art.

Beardsley was not at all discouraged by the contempt with which his *technique* was treated. On the contrary, he revelled in his unfavourable press-cuttings, knowing how little they signified. I think it was in the third number of *The Yellow Book* that two pictures by hitherto-unknown artists were reproduced. One was a large head of Mantegna, by Philip Broughton; the other, a pastel-study of a Frenchwoman, by Albert Foschter. Both the drawings had rather a success with the reviewers, one of whom advised Beardsley "to study and profit by the sound and scholarly draughtsmanship of which Mr. Philip Broughton furnishes another example in his familiar manner." Beardsley, who had made both the drawings and invented both the signatures, was greatly amused and delighted.

Meanwhile, Beardsley's acknowledged drawings produced a large crop of imitators, both

itself has lost its sting, and the time when an artist could be "snuffed out by an article" is altogether bygone. Nowadays, it is only through his imitators that an artist can be made to suffer. He sees his power vulgarised and distorted by a hundred apes. Beardsley's *Yellow Book* manner was bound to allure incompetent draughtsmen. It *looked* so simple and so easy—a few blots and random curves, and there you were. Needless to say, the results were appalling. But Beardsley was always, in many ways, developing and



(From "Bon-Mots.")

modifying his method, and so was always ahead of his apish retinue. His imitators never got so far as to attempt his later manner, the manner of his *Rape of the*



The Return of Tannhäuser to the Venusberg.

(Drawn and presented to J. M. Dent, Esq. Never before reproduced.)

technical phases through which Beardsley passed, would be outside the scope of this brief essay. But I should like to remind my readers that, as he grew older, he became gradually more "human," less curious of horrible things. Of this tendency the best example is perhaps his "Ave atque Vale," in *The Savoy*. Nothing could be more dramatic, more moving and simple, than the figure of that Roman who mourns his friend. The drawing was meant to illustrate one of Catullus' Odes, which Beardsley himself had thus rendered:

"By ways remote and distant waters sped,
Brother, to thy sad grave-side am I come,
That I may give the last gifts to the dead,
And vainly parley with thine ashes dumb:
Since she who now bestows and now denies
Hath ta'en thee, hapless brother, from mine eyes.

"But lo! these gifts, the heirlooms of past years,
Are made sad things to grace thy coffin-shell,
Take them, all drenched with a brother's tears,
And, brother, for all time, hail and farewell!"

These lines, which seem to me no less beautiful than the drawing itself, were written shortly before Beardsley left England for the last time. On the eve of his departure, he was received by



MERLIN TAKETH THE
CHILD ARTHUR INTO
HIS KEEPING

From "Le Morte d'Arthur."

The
(Dr
Ne
tech
pass
this
rem
he l
curi
den
"A
cou
and
who
was
Ode
ren

Father Sebastian into the Catholic Church, to which he had long inclined. His conversion was no mere passing whim, as some people supposed it to be; it was made from true emotional and intellectual impulse. From that time to his death he was a pious and devout Catholic, whose religion consoled him for all the bodily sufferings he underwent. Almost to the very last he was full of fresh schemes for work. When, at length, he knew that his life could but outlast a few more days, he awaited death with perfect resignation. He died last month, at Mentone, in the presence of his mother and his sister.

Thus ended this brief, tragic, brilliant life. It had been filled with a larger measure of sweet and bitter experience than is given to most men who die in their old age. Aubrey Beardsley was famous in his youth, and to be famous in one's youth has been called the most gracious gift that the gods can bestow. And, unless I am mistaken, he enjoyed his fame, and was proud of it, though, as a great artist who had a sense of humour, he was perhaps, a little ashamed of it too, now and then. For the rest, was he happy in his life? I do not know. In a fashion, I think he was. He knew that his life must be short, and so he lived and loved every hour of it with a kind of jealous intensity. He had that absolute power of "living in the moment" which is given only to the doomed man—that kind of self-conscious happiness, the delight in still clinging to the thing whose worth you have only realised through the knowledge that it will soon be taken from you. For him, as for the school-boy

whose holidays are near their close, every hour—every minute, even—had its value. His drawing, his compositions in prose and in verse, his reading—these things were not enough to satisfy his strenuous demands on life. He was himself an accomplished musician, he was a great frequenter of concerts, and seldom, when he was in London, did he miss a "Wagner night" at Covent Garden. He loved dining-out, and, in fact, gaiety of any kind. His restlessness was, I suppose, one of the symptoms of his malady.

He was always most content where there was the greatest noise and bustle, the largest number of people, and the most brilliant light. The "domino-room" at the Café Royal had always a great fascination for him: he liked the mirrors and the florid gilding, the little parties of foreigners and the smoke and the clatter of the dominoes being shuffled on the marble tables. Yet, though he took such a keen delight in all manifestations of life, he himself, despite his energy and his high spirits,

his frankness and thoughtfulness, seemed always rather remote, rather detached from ordinary conditions, a kind of independent spectator. He enjoyed life, but he was never wholly of it. This kind of aloofness has been noted in all great artists. Their power isolates them. It is because they stand at a little distance that they can see so much. No man ever *saw* more than Beardsley. He was infinitely sensitive to the aspect of all things around him. And that, I think, was the basis of his genius. All the greatest fantastic art postulates the power to see things, unerringly, as they are.



good example. The well-known drawings which, later, he made for *The Yellow Book* were, with their black masses and very fine lines, arrived at through simplification of the method in "*La Femme Incomprise*." These were the drawings that first excited the wrath of the general public and of the book-reviewers. Most of the qualified art-critics, also, were very angry. They did not know what to make of these drawings, which were referable to no est-



ablished school or known method in art. Beardsley was not at all discouraged by the contempt with which his *technique* was treated. On the contrary, he revelled in his unfavourable press-cuttings, knowing how little they signified. I think it was in the third number of *The Yellow Book* that two pictures by hitherto-unknown artists were reproduced. One was a large head of Mantegna, by Philip Broughton; the other, a pastel-study of a Frenchwoman, by Albert Foschter. Both the drawings had rather a success with the reviewers, one of whom advised Beardsley "to study and profit by the sound and scholarly draughtsmanship of which Mr. Philip Broughton furnishes another example in his familiar manner." Beardsley, who had made both the drawings and invented both the signatures, was greatly amused and delighted.

Meanwhile, Beardsley's acknowledged drawings had secured a large crop of imitators, both

itself has lost its sting, and the time when an artist could be "snuffed out by an article" is altogether bygone. Nowadays, it is only through his imitators that an artist can be made to suffer. He sees his power vulgarised and distorted by a hundred apes. Beardsley's *Yellow Book* manner was bound to allure incompetent draughtsmen. It *looked* so simple and so easy—a few blots and random curves, and there you were. Needless to say, the results were appalling. But Beardsley was always, in many ways, developing and



(From "Bon-Mots.")

modifying his method, and so was always ahead of his apish retinue. His imitators never got so far as to attempt his later manner, the manner of his *Rape of the*





The Return of Tannhäuser to the Venusberg.

(Drawn and presented to J. M. Dent, Esq.
Never before reproduced.)

technical phases through which Beardsley passed, would be outside the scope of this brief essay. But I should like to remind my readers that, as he grew older, he became gradually more "human," less curious of horrible things. Of this tendency the best example is perhaps his "Ave atque Vale," in *The Savoy*. Nothing could be more dramatic, more moving and simple, than the figure of that Roman who mourns his friend. The drawing was meant to illustrate one of Catullus' Odes, which Beardsley himself had thus rendered:

"By ways remote and distant waters sped,
Brother, to thy sad grave-side am I come,
That I may give the last gifts to the dead,
And vainly parley with thine ashes dumb:
Since she who now bestows and now denies
Hath ta'en thee, hapless brother, from mine eyes.

"But lo! these gifts, the heirlooms of past years,
Are made sad things to grace thy coffin-shell,
Take them, all drenched with a brother's tears,
And, brother, for all time, hail and farewell!"

These lines, which seem to me no less beautiful than the drawing itself, were written shortly before Beardsley left England for the last time. On the eve of his departure, he was received by



MERLIN TAKETH THE
CHILD ARTHUR INTO
HIS KEEPING

Father Sebastian into the Catholic Church, to which he had long inclined. His conversion was no mere passing whim, as some people supposed it to be; it was made from true emotional and intellectual impulse. From that time to his death he was a pious and devout Catholic, whose religion consoled him for all the bodily sufferings he underwent. Almost to the very last he was full of fresh schemes for work. When, at length, he knew that his life could but outlast a few more days, he awaited death with perfect resignation. He died last month, at Mentone, in the presence of his mother and his sister.

Thus ended this brief, tragic, brilliant life. It had been filled with a larger measure of sweet and bitter experience than is given to most men who die in their old age. Aubrey Beardsley was famous in his youth, and to be famous in one's youth has been called the most gracious gift that the gods can bestow. And, unless I am mistaken, he enjoyed his fame, and was proud of it, though, as a great artist who had a sense of humour, he was perhaps, a little ashamed of it too, now and then. For the rest, was he happy in his life? I do not know. In a fashion, I think he was. He knew that his life must be short, and so he lived and loved every hour of it with a kind of jealous intensity. He had that absolute power of "living in the moment" which is given only to the doomed man—that kind of self-conscious happiness, the delight in still clinging to the thing whose worth you have only realised through the knowledge that it will soon be taken from you. For him, as for the school-boy

whose holidays are near their close, every hour—every minute, even—had its value. His drawing, his compositions in prose and in verse, his reading—these things were not enough to satisfy his strenuous demands on life. He was himself an accomplished musician, he was a great frequenter of concerts, and seldom, when he was in London, did he miss a "Wagner night" at Covent Garden. He loved dining-out, and, in fact, gaiety of any kind. His restlessness was, I suppose, one of the symptoms of his malady.

He was always most content where there was the greatest noise and bustle, the largest number of people, and the most brilliant light. The "domino-room" at the Café Royal had always a great fascination for him: he liked the mirrors and the florid gilding, the little parties of foreigners and the smoke and the clatter of the dominoes being shuffled on the marble tables. Yet, though he took such a keen delight in all manifestations of life, he himself, despite his energy and his high spirits,

his frankness and thoughtfulness, seemed always rather remote, rather detached from ordinary conditions, a kind of independent spectator. He enjoyed life, but he was never wholly of it. This kind of aloofness has been noted in all great artists. Their power isolates them. It is because they stand at a little distance that they can see so much. No man ever *saw* more than Beardsley. He was infinitely sensitive to the aspect of all things around him. And that, I think, was the basis of his genius. All the greatest fantastic art postulates the power to see things, unerringly, as they are.



LORD SHOLTO DOUGLAS DIVORCES HIS WIFE.



Lord Sholto Douglas, brother of the Marquess of Queensberry, yesterday obtained a divorce from his wife, formerly Miss Loretta Mooney.



Lady Sholto Douglas is an Irish-Californian, at one time a San Francisco dance-ball artist, and married Lord Sholto in 1895. Her elder son was killed in action.



LADY SHOLTO DOUGLAS DIVORCED.

Lord Sholto Douglas and Lady Sholto Douglas, from whom he was granted a divorce yesterday. The marriage took place in California, it was stated, Lord Sholto using the name of "Montgomery."

was re-assured. This was the largest total of new business in the company's history. The combined life accounts produced a total premium income of £1,134,000 after deducting the premiums paid for re-assurances. At the close of the year the life and annuity funds amounted to £17,978,000, an increase of £262,600 during the year.

In the fire department of the Royal Insurance Company the net premiums amounted to £6,088,900 and the losses were £2,702,800, and the surplus of £1,114,900 has been carried to profit and loss account, from which the sum of £400,000 has been transferred to the fire fund. This fund has been further increased by the transfer of £600,000 from the reserve fund. In the life department the new business was £4,302,600, and the total premiums were £1,056,900 after deducting re-assurances. After transferring £130,000 to profit and loss account the life and annuity funds amount to £12,906,100.

THE MONEY MARKET. Smaller Supplies.

In Lombard-street yesterday floating supplies of credit were less abundant and rates for loans stiffer. No money was available at less than 5½ per cent., and day-to-day loans changed hands up to 6½ per cent. The amount due for repayment to the Bank of England was paid off, but a few bills were discounted at the official minimum.

In the discount market the supply of bills was small and there was little inquiry for them. Business accordingly was quiet. Rates were unchanged and firm.

Silver and Gold Higher.

On some Chinese buying the price of silver rose ¼d to 58½d. per oz. for cash and 58¼d. for future delivery.

Gold rose 2d. to £5 8s. 2d. per oz., and the moderate amount sold was divided between South Africa and India.

New York	3.81¾-3.83¾	Madrid	22.95-22.97.
Paris	51.80-51.10	Lisbon	11¼d.-12¼d.
Brussels	49.80-51.10	Bombay	2s.1½d.-2s.1¾d.
Rome	73.50-74.00	Calcutta	2s.1½d.-2s.1¾d.
Berlin	155-167	Hong Kong	4s.-4s.2d.
Switzerland	21.64-21.67	Singapore	2s.3¼d.-2s.4d.
Amsterdam	10.49-10.51	Shanghai	5s.10d.-6s.2d.
Christiania	21.15-21.28	Rio	16¼d.
Stockholm	18.30-18.36	Buenos Aires	60¼d.-60½d.
Copenhagen	23.55-23.60	Valparaiso	12¼d.



OOO
Specially Written
by
LADBROKE
BLACK.
OOO

OPENING CHAPTERS.

STELLA MERRIVALE, who has lived a secluded life with her stepfather, Henry Lomas, is told by him that he is going abroad, and that during his absence he is sending her to stay with her uncle,

GUY SEYMOUR, who lives at Bristow Towers, Yorkshire. Stella has never heard of his existence. She sets off alone, and on the journey encounters RICHARD MORTON, a young land-agent, who seems vastly surprised when he learns of her destination. For Guy Seymour has an evil local reputation, and is not known to possess kith or kin. Seymour displays sardonic incredulity when she claims him as her relative, but he allows her to remain. Subsequently he learns that Henry Lomas is a fugitive from justice, and he believes Stella to be an adventuress.

He makes passionate love to her, but she repulses him. Discovering at last her false position, she flees the house in horror.

In a strong scene between Richard Morton and Seymour, Morton declares his love for Stella. Seymour is overcome by an attack of rage.

A BROKEN RESOLVE.

A moment before Guy Seymour had stood like some thunder-cloud, vibrant with immense forces, charged to the full with the strength of a madman; and now he lay prone on the floor—a great huddled mass of humanity.

The climax had come so utterly unexpected at a moment, indeed, when he was rousing himself to meet the supreme test he had demanded. Richard Morton stood staring at that figure there as if it were something unreal.

From somewhere on the other side of the steps there was the sound of a door opening and his footsteps, and then suddenly a tall man before whom Morton vaguely remembered having seen Seymour flung himself on his knees by Guy's side.

"The Lord save us, sir, what have ye done to him?"

Morton regarded him blankly. "Nothing," he stammered. "He was suddenly taken ill. It seems to me like a seizure of some kind."

With difficulty O'Donovan had turned his head over, and was now supporting his head on his knee.

"A seizure, that's what you call it, is it? You seem to know all about it."

"Perhaps you can tell me what it is?" the doctor inquired of O'Donovan.

"Deed, an' that's just what I'm afeared of, the gentleman that fetched ye called the master was mighty angry with me, and he could hear everything that was said where I was sitting. Words were passed between them, and then I heard the sound of a fall, and I came and found myself lying on the floor."

The doctor regarded him curiously. "I'm not asking you to divulge if you'd sooner not, but could you cause of the trouble between Mr. Morton and the master?"

O'Donovan looked at him with a peculiar twinkle in one eye. "Sure, what is it that makes you ask me?"

"You mean the ladies?" the doctor asked in great perplexity. "But how was the case between Mr. Morton and the master? As you must be aware, the master never visits this house."

Pressed on the point, O'Donovan as he knew of the story of Stella and Guy Seymour and Richard Morton, said the doctor, "Humph,"

finished. "I heard some of the talk about that woman, though I never imagined that Mr. Morton of a gentleman to be attracted by a girl like her."

LORD SHOLTO DOUGLAS DIVORCES HIS WIFE.



Lord Sholto Douglas, brother of the Marquess of Queensberry, yesterday obtained a divorce from his wife, formerly Miss Loretta Mooney.



Lady Sholto Douglas is an Irish-Californian, at one time a San Francisco dance-ball artist, and married Lord Sholto Douglas in 1905. Her elder son was killed in action.



○○○
Specially Written
by
**LADBROKE
BLACK.**
○○○

OPENING CHAPTERS.

STELLA MERRIVALE, who has lived a secluded life with her stepfather, Henry Lomas, is told by him that he is going abroad, and that during his absence he is sending her to stay with her uncle,

GUY SEYMOUR, who lives at Bristow Towers, Yorkshire. Stella has never heard of his existence. She sets off alone, and on the journey encounters

RICHARD MORTON, a young land-agent, who seems vastly surprised when he learns of her destination. For Guy Seymour has an evil local reputation, and is not known to possess kith or kin.

Seymour displays sardonic incredulity when she claims him as her relative, but he allows her to remain. Subsequently he learns that Henry Lomas is a fugitive from justice, and he believes Stella to be an adventuress.

He makes passionate love to her, but she repulses him. Discovering at last her false position, she flees the house in horror.

In a strong scene between Richard Morton and Seymour, Morton declares his love for Stella. Seymour is overcome by an attack of rage.

A BROKEN RESOLVE.

A moment before Guy Seymour had stood like some thunder-cloud, vibrant with immortal forces, charged to the full with the strength of a madman; and now he lay prone the floor—a great huddled mass of humanity.

The climax had come so utterly unexpected at a moment, indeed, when he was rousing himself to meet the supreme test he had demanded. Richard Morton stood staring at that figure there as if it were something unreal.

From somewhere on the other side of the hall there was the sound of a door opening and his footsteps, and then suddenly a tall man before whom Morton vaguely remembered having seen before flung himself on his knees by Guy Seymour's side.

"The Lord save us, sir, what have ye done to him?"

Morton regarded him blankly. "Nothing," he stammered. "He was suddenly taken ill. It seems to me like a seizure of some kind."

With difficulty O'Donovan had turned his head over his shoulder, now resting his head on his knee.

"A seizure, that's what you call it, is it? You seem to know a good deal about it."

"Perhaps you can tell me what happened?" the doctor inquired of O'Donovan.

"Deed, an' that's just what I, a gentleman that fetched ye called the master was mighty angry could hear everything that was said where I was sitting. Words, a passed between them, and then I the sound of a fall, and I can find him lying on the floor."

The doctor regarded him curiously. "I'm not asking you to divulge if you'd sooner not, but could cause of the trouble between Mr. master?"

O'Donovan looked at him with on one side and a peculiar twinkle. "Sure, what is it that makes between men?"

"You mean the ladies?" the doctor in great perplexity. "But how been the case between Mr. Morton and master? As you must be aware, he dale ever visits this house."

Pressed on the point, O'Donovan as he knew of the story of Stella with Guy Seymour and Richard Morton.

"Humph," said the doctor, finished. "I heard some of the talk about that woman, though. But I never imagined that Mr. Morton of gentleman to be attracted by a



LADY SHOLTO DOUGLAS DIVORCED.

Lord Sholto Douglas and Lady Sholto Douglas, from whom he was divorced. The marriage took place in California, it was stated, Lord Sholto using the name of "Montgomery."

crown,
 3. Ship-
 market,
 ort, for
 shares
 as dull.
 ranged.
 very in
 gaining
 Lyons
 cing as
 ratively

hat has
 , prices
 of sup-
 ng the
 at, and
 of late.
 s prior
 cept in
 s, after
 Royal
 s had a
 8 15-16
 to 15½
 e divi-
 er cent.

better
 mostly

 ear has
 mpany.
 ay, the
 48 per
 40 per
 paid for

uraging
 ld that
 nd that
 future
 ort was
 res im-

 which,
 helped
 firmer.

was re-assured. This was the largest total of new business in the company's history. The combined life accounts produced a total premium income of £1,134,000 after deducting the premiums paid for re-assurances. At the close of the year the life and annuity funds amounted to £17,978,000, an increase of £262,600 during the year.

In the fire department of the Royal Insurance Company the net premiums amounted to £6,088,900 and the losses were £2,702,800, and the surplus of £1,114,900 has been carried to profit and loss account, from which the sum of £400,000 has been transferred to the fire fund. This fund has been further increased by the transfer of £600,000 from the reserve fund. In the life department the new business was £4,302,600, and the total premiums were £1,056,900 after deducting re-assurances. After transferring £130,000 to profit and loss account the life and annuity funds amount to £12,906,100.

THE MONEY MARKET.

Smaller Supplies.

In Lombard-street yesterday floating supplies of credit were less abundant and rates for loans stiffer. No money was available at less than 5½ per cent., and day-to-day loans changed hands up to 6½ per cent. The amount due for repayment to the Bank of England was paid off, but a few bills were discounted at the official minimum.

In the discount market the supply of bills was small and there was little inquiry for them. Business accordingly was quiet. Rates were unchanged and firm.

Silver and Gold Higher.

On some Chinese buying the price of silver rose ¼d to 58½d. per oz. for cash and 58¼d. for future delivery.

Gold rose 2d. to £5 8s. 2d. per oz., and the moderate amount sold was divided between South Africa and India.

New York	3.81¾—3.83¾	Madrid	22.95—22.97.
Paris	51.80—53.10	Lisbon	11 ¼d.—12 ¼d.
Brussels	49.80—51.10	Bombay	2s. 1 ½d.—2s. 1 ¾d.
Rome	73.50—74.00	Calcutta	2s 1 ½d.—2s. 1 ¾d.
Berlin	155—167	Hong Kong	4s.—4s. 2d.
Switzerland	21.61—21.67	Singapore	7s. 3 ¼d.—7s. 4d.
Amsterdam	10.49—10.51	Shanghai	5s. 10d.—6s. 2d.
Christiania	21.15—21.28	Rio	16 ½d.
Stockholm	18.30—18.36	Buenos Aires	60 ¼d.—60 ½d.
Copenhagen	23.55—23.60	Valparaiso	12 ¼d.

For

Gilbert

DURRANT'S PRESS CUTTINGS

St. Andrew's House, 32 to 34 Holborn Viaduct
and 3 St. Andrew Street Holborn Circus, E.C. 1

TELEPHONE: CITY 4963.

Sunday Times

186 Strand, W.C.2.

Cutting from issue dated *10 June* 1923

An Oscar Wilde Poem.

Sir,—In a review of Mr. E. A. Ward's "Recollections of a Savage" your reviewer refers to a story in the book about Oscar Wilde writing a poem in praise of the charms of "Little Sally," an artist's model. "Under the Balcony," the poem in question, which begins,

O beautiful star with the crimson mouth!
O moon with the brows of gold!

was published in the Shakespearean Show Book, in aid of the Chelsea Hospital for Women, in May, 1884. In the *Pall Mall Gazette*, June 3, 1884, a parody of the poem appeared,

Beautiful star with the crimson lips
And flagrant daffodil hair,

and it was stated that the poem (not the parody, apparently) "was originally conceived as an address to Miss Ellen Terry, on her departure for America." It would be interesting to know which of the two ascriptions is correct.

In an unauthorised American edition of Wilde's "Poems" (New York, 1907) the two stanzas of the *Pall Mall Gazette* parody are given as part of Wilde's original poem, which, for reasons which we are not at liberty to divulge, it was deemed wiser to reconstruct

—a curious lapse of literary judgment on the part of the editor of the volume, Mr. Richard Le Gallienne.

STUART MASON.

Abercorn Place, N.W.

OLD HIGHGATE.

A CITY set upon a hill,
Whose steep and devious ways
Amid the rush of life keep still
The charm of by-gone days.

Another thirty years perchance,
Ere builders shall deface,
And sweep away the old romance
With miles of common-place :

'Till then this wooded northern height
Will treasure many a name
That history has not ceased to write
Upon the roll of Fame.

Here Francis Earl of Verulam
Closed upon earth his eyes,
To know the mysteries hidden from
The learned and the wise.

And here stands Mistress Ireton's room,
Where one can fancy now
That Milton's music chased the gloom
From Cromwell's rugged brow.

Down Highgate Hill the merry king
Rode on, and did not fail
To hold carouse and revelling
With ill-starred Lauderdale.

Here Andrew Marvel rose betimes
And spent his happiest hours
Weaving his quaint conceits and rhymes
Amid his garden flowers.

And with the advancing tide of years
Dawns yet a halcyon time,
When many a famous name appears—
The Poets in their prime.

Here came the brightest wits from town ;
Those trees the grove that front
Perchance saw Shelley strolling down
And chattering with Leigh Hunt.

'Tis more than seventy years ago,
And in these very streets,
That Coleridge pacing to and fro
Came face to face with Keats.

'Twas here Blake laboured and complained ;
And yonder you may see
Where Mrs. Barbauld entertained
Fine company to tea !

Here authors opened friendly doors ;
And reminiscence blends
The Baillies and the Hannah Mores,
The Howitts and their friends.

And last, distinct from all the rest,
What pleasant memories rise
Of Lamb with his fantastic jest,
And strange pathetic eyes !

Still Highgate keeps a nameless charm
'Mid modern jar and fret,
A touch of subtle old-world calm
Is lingering round it yet.

And though the rising tide assails,
The brave old Suburb stands,
And still defends its hills and dales
From eager, grasping hands.

Long may it guard its storied past—
Long may it hold its sway
Against the great Iconoclast,
The builder of to-day !

CHRISTIAN BURKE.

OLD HIGHGATE.

A CITY set upon a hill,
Whose steep and devious ways
Amid the rush of life keep still
The charm of by-gone days.

Another thirty years perchance,
Ere builders shall deface,
And sweep away the old romance
With miles of common-place :

'Till then this wooded northern height
Will treasure many a name
That history has not ceased to write
Upon the roll of Fame.

Here Francis Earl of Verulam
Closed upon earth his eyes,
To know the mysteries hidden from
The learned and the wise.

And here stands Mistress Ireton's room,
Where one can fancy now
That Milton's music chased the gloom
From Cromwell's rugged brow.

Down Highgate Hill the merry king
Rode on, and did not fail
To hold carouse and reveling
With ill-starred Lauderdale.

Here Andrew Marvel rose betimes
And spent his happiest hours
Weaving his quaint conceits and rhymes
Amid his garden flowers.

And with the advancing tide of years
Dawns yet a halcyon time,
When many a famous name appears—
The Poets in their prime.

Here came the brightest wits from town ;
Those trees the grove that front
Perchance saw Shelley strolling down
And chattering with Leigh Hunt.

'Tis more than seventy years ago,
And in these very streets,
That Coleridge pacing to and fro
Came face to face with Keats.

'Twas here Blake laboured and complained ;
And yonder you may see
Where Mrs. Barbauld entertained
Fine company to tea !

Here authors opened friendly doors ;
And reminiscence blends
The Baillies and the Hannah Mores,
The Howitts and their friends.

And last, distinct from all the rest,
What pleasant memories rise
Of Lamb with his fantastic jest,
And strange pathetic eyes !

Still Highgate keeps a nameless charm
'Mid modern jar and fret,
A touch of subtle old-world calm
Is lingering round it yet.

And though the rising tide assails,
The brave old Suburb stands,
And still defends its hills and dales
From eager, grasping hands.

Long may it guard its storied past—
Long may it hold its sway
Against the great Iconoclast,
The builder of to-day !

CHRISTIAN BURKE.

