

The Unveiled Woman.

JEALOUS RUSSIAN HUSBAND.

INTERESTING COURT CASE.

WIFE REFUSES TO CUT HUSBAND TO PIECES.

A case presenting some peculiar features was heard at the Magistrates' Court on Tuesday, before Mr. S. J. Mitchell, S.M., when Dora Gasieff proceeded against her husband, for unlawfully deserting her. The parties, who are Russians, were before Mr. Mitchell about a fortnight ago, when over an hour was spent in taking evidence. In the middle of the hearing, however, it was found that the witnesses could not understand the interpreter, so the case was adjourned until yesterday.

Mr. Stuart Ronald appeared for the defendant, while Detective Noblett watched the case for Mrs. Gasieff, an attractive and well-dressed young woman of about 20 years, who made a favorable impression with her pretty expressions and gestures whilst giving her evidence.

Through the interpreter, she said that her husband had been

through the interpreter, she said that her husband had been very cruel to her, and often got cross, when the baby cried.

The S.M.—What does he do when the baby cries?—Walks out of the room. (Laughter).

Continuing her story, she told the Court that she would have nothing more to do with the defendant. He often beat her, and she was frightened of him. Her condition would not allow her to work.

The S.M.—But has your husband deserted you?—I left him and went to stay with friends because I was afraid of him.

Mr. Ronald—There is no case to go on with then.

The S.M.—The charge should be amended.

Detective Noblett (to witness)—Do you remember what he did to you on Friday?—Yes, he beat me, and then gave me a razor and told me to cut him to bits with it. When I refused he locked me in a room by myself, and even took the cat out.

The S.M.—What did he take the cat out for?—So that I would be lonely. (Laughter).

How long were you in the room?—About an hour.

And who let you out?—Some Rus-

AND who let you out?—Some Russians came along and opened the door.

The S.M.—We shall have to amend the information.

Mr. Ronald—There is certainly no evidence to show that the defendant has deserted his wife. In fact, it is she who has left him. What would the charge be amended to?

The S.M.—One of cruelty.

In answer to further questions by the S.M., the witness said she had to go to Dr. Dawson some time ago because her husband had put black marks on her fingers.

The S.M.—She should have Dr. Dawson here.

Mr. Ronald drew the Court's attention to the long conversation that took place between the witness and the interpreter.

The S.M.—You should bring your own interpreter along.

Mr. Ronald—These Russians are very loth to come into Court, no matter what the considerations are.

The S.M.—Probably all the Russians in the town are interested on one side or other in this case.

Mr. Ronald, at this stage, managed to secure an additional interpreter from the body of the Court.

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The witness, when asked to sign her name to the charge sheet, said she was not able to write, so had to make her cross.

The S.M. (to witness)—Why didn't you bring the doctor along?—I couldn't make him understand.

The S.M. then went to the telephone and spoke to Dr. Dawson. He returned to the Court and told the interpreter to ask the witness when she was attended by the doctor. Upon being informed that it was two months ago the magistrate went to the 'phone again, and after a further conversation, remarked to the Court that Dr. Dawson remembered attending the witness, but could not recall the circumstances.

Detective Noblett—What happened when you got home from the Court last Saturday?—I went to a friend's place—Mrs. Romanoff.

The S.M. (to Mr. Ronald)—Is your client willing to pay his wife anything?

Mr. Ronald—The man is very fond of her, and wants her to return home, but it seems as though she has got tired of him. The pair were married last Easter here, and a Greek priest came all the way from Mel-

priest came all the way from Melbourne to perform the ceremony. It is quite apparent from the woman's dress that she is well provided for. The panama hat she is wearing is a most expensive one, and cost more money than many people could afford. Her dress shows that she is very well looked after.

The S.M.—That is often the case. People who can ill-afford it go in for expensive dress. In this country it frequently happens that the domestic servant dresses more expensively than her mistress.

Mr. Ronald—The husband will not give his wife any more money to spend, but wants her back home. He has always kept the house open for

her, but she has left him several times.

The S.M. (to witness)—Why have you left your husband several times?
—Because he wouldn't give me anything to eat.

Mr. Ronald—How much rent does your husband pay?—Fifteen shillings a week.

And the milkman calls regularly?
—No; he stopped calling some time ago because my husband wouldn't pay him.

pay him.

Mr. Ronald produced a number of receipts from trading establishments and asked if the witness had not had the goods mentioned in them.

Witness (pointing to Mrs. Ojosaff in Court)—I have been staying with her.

Mrs. Ojosaff (through an interpreter) said she wanted to explain something to the S.M.

Mr. Ronald proceeded to further question the witness and asked that she turn towards the magistrate when speaking to the interpreter. The expression of the face, he said, often conveyed more than an answer.

The interpreter (hotly and picking up his hat)—Excuse me, I go out if you talk like that about me.

Mr. Ronald—I was not talking about you, but someone else. Apparently you cannot understand English.

(At this stage Dr. Dawson entered the court, and, after conversing with the magistrate, left again).

Mr. Ronald—Whatever Dr. Dawson has said I hope will not affect the case.

The S.M.—Not in the least. The doctor told me that he remembered attending the witness, but without

attending the witness, but without his books could not recall the circumstances.

Detective Noblett—How many men are there in your husband's house?—Six, besides my husband.

Mr. Ronald—Do those men have their meals there or do they only sleep in the house?—No, they look after their own rooms.

The S.M.—This seems a hopeless case. I must either dismiss or adjourn it.

Mr. Ronald—The husband is quite willing to take his wife back.

The S.M.—As a slave?

Mr. Ronald—But those men boarding at the house look after themselves.

The S.M.—It's the condition of this woman that probably makes her afraid to go back. There are these six men in the house, and, although that sort of thing might occur in Russia it cannot be done here. I dare say the defendant came out of Australia expecting to lead the same life as in Russia, but she won't submit to it.

Detective Noblett—This man is a Circassian, and there the women wear veils. The defendant did not like the idea of his wife going about unveiled in the presence of men.

unveiled in the presence of men. That seems to be the cause of the whole of the trouble so far as we are able to ascertain.

Mr. Ronald—He is very anxious that his wife should return home.

The S.M.—So would any man if his wife kept six boarders in the house and got nothing for it. It is most unfortunate that nowadays many men look upon their wives merely as domestic servants. I can quite understand the plaintiff in this case objecting to live home. She is certainly wearing very good clothes, probably they are worth three times as much as she would have in a whole year in Russia.

The S.M. (to the interpreter)—Tell her she must go back and live with her husband. If he is cruel to her she can then come and see me again and bring someone who can translate.

Mrs. Gasieff, when told this by the interpreter, shook her head, and said she could never, never live with him again. She did not want to be made to work.

Mr. Ronald—The defendant must be told that while his wife is in her present condition he is not to ask her to do any work at all.

not to do any work at all.

This was impressed upon the defendant, and the case was dismissed.