

STOLEN TRUNKS.

SMART DETECTIVE WORK.

HUSBAND AND WIFE INVOLVED.

The cool manner in which two trunks were removed from the South Australian Hotel on the evening of March 24 was explained at the Adelaide Police Court on Tuesday (before Mr. W. Hall). Michael and Maggie Ankudinow, two young people, were charged, on the information of Eric Hope Arnold, with the larceny on March 24 of two cabin trunks and contents, which included large quantities of clothing, jewellery, and sporting outfits to the value of £200. Sub-inspector Nicholson prosecuted, and accused were not represented by counsel. Mrs. Ankudinow was very much affected in Court, and sobbed frequently.

Eric Hope Arnold, stock broker, resident at the South Australian Hotel, said the trunks and contents were his property. He valued them at £200. He left them in his room at the South Australian on the afternoon of March 24, and later in the day they were not there. In answer to Ankudinow witness said nothing was missing.

Christianna Thomas, housemaid at the South Australian Hotel, said she saw the accused at the hotel at 7.15 p.m. on March 24. They went upstairs, and she heard the woman say to her husband, "There is our luggage." They walked over to the trunks. Ankudinow asked witness if she would show him to No. 5 room, and another maid did so. They remained about a minute in the room, and when they came out the man said "We will now take our luggage I will run down and get a porter." The

and will run down and get a porter. The trunks were then taken downstairs. As accused were leaving the woman said, "We are taking our luggage downstairs, as we are leaving for England early in the morning."

William Ross G. Stevens, of Mile-End, said he was standing outside the South Australian Hotel at 7.15 p.m. on March 24. The male accused left the building and said to witness "Will you give me a hand with my luggage," and he answered in the affirmative. He followed Ankudinow upstairs in the hotel, and assisted him downstairs with the two trunks. They placed the articles on the footpath, and subsequently accused, witness, and two other boys carried them to the Gresham Hotel corner. A motor car was secured, the trunks were placed in them, and the two accused drove off.

Robert Niell, motor driver, said he took accused and two trunks to a house in Pulteney street. They did not pay for the hire of the car, but promised to do so next day.

Detective M. J. McMahon deposed that on the evening in question, in company with Plainclothes Constable Strangway, he went to the South Australian Hotel. After making enquiries they proceeded to a house in Pulteney street, opposite Ruthven Mansions, and arrived there at 9.15 p.m. In the front room there were a number of persons, and accused were with them. Witness questioned them regarding the missing trunks, and said a man and a woman answering to their description were seen to take them away. The male accused replied, "We never took any luggage from the hotel." In answer to further questions he said they lived at the house. When asked where she lived the woman said, "In Pulteney street," and when pressed she exclaimed, "To — with you." He took her

claimed, "To — with you." He took her back to the house, and the landlady stated that the accused occupied a room at the rear of the building. Witness and P.C. Strangway with accused went to the room, and on the floor saw the two trunks, together with a large quantity of clothing, which was thrown on a bed. Witness said to Ankudinow, "Where did you get that luggage?" and he replied, "They are my wife's luggage, and I assisted her to carry them here." The locks of the trunks had been burst open. Witness told accused, "I am quite satisfied they were stolen from the South Australian Hotel, and am going to arrest you on a charge of larceny." He cautioned them, and Mrs. Ankudinow said, "You can do what you like. The luggage belongs to us;" and her husband remarked, "Perhaps, Maggie, we have made a mistake. We have taken the wrong luggage." Witness said, "I have made enquiries. You have no luggage there." At the Watchhouse he found two leather labels with the name "E. H. Arnold" on them. Accused wanted him to go to the hotel, as he said the luggage was taken by mistake.

Both accused pleaded guilty, and were committed for sentence at the next sessions of the Criminal Court.