

FROM LOVE TO INDIFFERENCE

YOUNG GIRL'S INFATUATION.

ABDUCTION CHARGE FAILS.

SYDNEY, Wednesday.—Raleigh Melhuish Walsh, aged 22 years, formerly a seaman, was before the Court of Quarter Sessions to-day on a charge of having abducted Ivy Krausmann from the home of her father, Nathan Krausmann, at Enmore, with the intention of marrying her, she being only 16 years of age.

The girl, who is slight and pale, with good features, alleged that Walsh, when leaving for Brisbane, told her that she must go with him, as he would not go without her. She stipulated that they should be married first. A telegram was sent to get her mother out of the way on April 15, and she joined accused on the wharf. He said that it was too late to be married that day. They went to Brisbane by the same steamship, and on arrival were met by Detective McCarthy, and she was sent back to Sydney.

In cross-examination by Mr. James (for the accused), witness said that she told the detective that she went to Brisbane of her own accord, and paid her own fare, and that accused did not persuade her. She did this to shield him. She was somewhat grieved at being taken away from him.

Mr. James produced a letter which the girl had written to Walsh, telling him what story he should tell to her father. "I have told so many lies at home that we've got to stick to them," ran one line of the epistle. In the same letter she advised him to say that he had got a blank marriage form, which could be used in any part of the Commonwealth; that his intentions were highly honourable, but that he was not proud of the part he had played.

Mr. James (reading the letter).—"I feel

proud of the part he had played.

Mr. James (reading the letter).—"I feel so miserable sometimes that I spend hours thinking whether I ought to shoot or drown myself." Did you write that?

Witness.—Yes, but I think I was miserable about somebody else then.

In answer to further questions by Mr. James, witness said that when the detective stopped her at Brisbane accused went on to Mount Morgan, and she corresponded with him while he was there. When he returned to Sydney he worked for her father, and it was agreed that they should be engaged. "But," added witness, "he got on my nerves, always talking nonsense."

Mr. James.—He insisted on the engagement being kept up?—Yes.

Judge Docker (to witness).—You don't want to marry him now?

Witness (with emphasis).—No.

In his defence Walsh said that he first met the girl when she was surf bathing at Coogee, about a year before the date of this charge. When he told her in April last that he was going to Brisbane she replied, "Wherever you go I'll go." He said, "You'd better not, as it would only cause a disturbance at home." She wanted him to marry her. He did not give her any money to buy her ticket, nor did he tell her to travel under the name of Black. The first he knew of it was when she told him that she was going by the same vessel to Brisbane. On his return to Sydney they kept company until they had a quarrel at a rink, where she insisted on skating with other chaps, and told him she was "fed up" with him. After that he followed her about, and then these proceedings were taken.

Judge Docker, in his summing up, commented strongly on the danger of too much latitude being allowed to young girls. He said, "It is a great pity that young girls of the working class are allowed such liberty in their homes at an age when they are likely to learn more harm than good. Fortunately there seems to have been no harm done on this occasion."

The jury acquitted the accused, and he was discharged.

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