

FAMILY THREATENED.

RETURNED SOLDIER IN COURT.

Wearing a returned soldier's uniform, Isaac Lazarus appeared in the Police Court yesterday morning charged with behaving in an offensive manner in Mitchell Street on Sunday night. He pleaded not guilty.

Costable Goode said that at 7 o'clock on Sunday night, in consequence of a complaint, he went to the defendant's house in Calvin Street. On his arrival he had quietened down, but a little later witness returned with Senior Constable Finlayson, and as they were nearing the house the accused came out and made off into Mitchell Street. When near Heywood's Coffee Palace they met Lazarus, who was standing near the fence with his head in his hands. When witness spoke to him he replied, "I am going mad; lock me up for my own safety and life." The defendant had been threatening to take his life. Lazarus returned from Melbourne on Saturday by the first train, he having only recently come from the front. On Saturday and Sunday he was drinking. He threatened the life of the whole family, and on Sunday afternoon he took one of his sons to the cemetery and showed him the ground in which, he said, they would all be buried by Tuesday. He laid himself on the grave of one of his children, rolling over the grave like a madman.

To Inspector Beckwith: We met him in Mitchell Street. He was waving his hat.

Lazarus: When I went to the cemetery what I did say to the boy was that I wished to God I was with the boy. As regards the drinking a man who could

regards the drinking, a man who could drink would be a poor man who could not drink half a bottle of whisky from Saturday to Sunday.

Continuing, the defendant made charges against his family and how he found the home on his return.

Inspector Beckwith said that his wife and family were afraid to live with him. He said that he intended cutting their throats and as soon as the shops opened on Monday he would purchase a revolver and would shoot them.

Lazarus, on oath, said that on his return from the front he called on his son who shut the door in his face. He then saw that there was something wrong. He went to a house in Williamson Street but did not find his wife and family. They had shifted to another place. He was concerned. He had a large family and had reared eight of them. He fought for them. When he came home he did not think it a terrible offence to drink half a bottle of whisky in two days.

Mr. Berriman: It is hard to know just what to do with this man. He is a returned soldier, but he had better give up the drink if he wants to keep from trouble.

A daughter of the defendant said that her father sailed 15 months ago. He returned on Saturday. On his arrival home he behaved like a madman, and the whole of the family were afraid of him. He did not seem to realise that he had a wife and family.

Inspector Beckwith: He had a comfortable home to come to.

Lazarus accused his daughter of telling lies.

The daughter, continuing, said he would not eat his meals, saying that he was

The daughter, continuing, said he would not eat his meals, saying that he was afraid it would be poisoned.

Mr. Berriman: You will be remanded until to-morrow.

Lazarus: Will you grant bail?

Mr. Berriman: No bail. You will be a different man to-morrow.