

the platform. Mrs. Osborne stepped ashore at 25 minutes past nine, the train leaving 10 minutes later. The Chief Commissioner of the City police (Lieut.-colonel Smith) was present. In consequence of her prostrate condition the warrant was not served on Mrs. Osborne until she had entered the train.

During the journey to town Mrs. Osborne remained bathed in tears, as she had done since the departure from Paris. She sat in one of the end compartments of the centre saloon with her husband—who had accompanied her from the French capital—and Colonel Smith. When in the train she threw off the light-coloured ulster she had worn in crossing the Channel and sat dressed in black, her bonnet being cast aside. On arriving at London-bridge station, about 20 minutes after 11, Captain and Mrs. Osborne and Colonel Smith left the train and entered a cab with Inspector Taylor, while the other detective busied himself in looking after the luggage. It had been arranged that Captain Osborne should travel on to Charing-cross, but he eventually decided to alight with his wife. Only a few correspondents of papers were gathered to meet the train. A number of people, however, had assembled at Charing-cross, and considerable disappointment was expressed when the club train discharged its freight without Mrs. Osborne. The arrival at both stations was much later than usual—quite half an hour—the passage across the water having been delayed by rough weather. The party were driven to the City Police office, in Old Jewry.

On the journey to London Commissioner Smith and Inspectors Taylor and Davidson conversed with Captain Osborne about the possible late in store for Mrs. Osborne. The captain said she was full of courage, and would endure her punishment without flinching or murmuring. It was her duty, he said, to do so. There would be no talk of shirking. If she got off with a year, he would be content; if with less, he would regard it as a great mercy.

Captain and Mrs. Osborne had been in Spain, though the precise locality is not indicated. They are, it appears, anxious to conceal the names of those who have been kind to them in their exile. They were aware that a warrant had been issued, and the journey to Spain was undertaken principally that time might be secured for a careful consideration of the whole position. It has been suggested that detectives were acquainted with Mrs. Osborne's whereabouts, and that her return has been largely influenced by that fact. This, however, is denied, and it is alleged that whereas Mrs. Osborne got safely across the Pyrenees, the officers entrusted with the search went no further than Normandy. At any rate, so satisfied was Captain Osborne of the ability of his wife to leave Europe that he offered to take her to Buenos Ayres if she so desired. She refused this offer, however, and expressed her determination to return to England and take her trial, in order that she might put an end to her husband's exile. Captain Osborne was perfectly willing to sacrifice his military career to what his wife might regard as her own interests, but Mrs. Osborne would not hear of it.

#### AT THE GUILDHALL.

At half-past 10 on Friday morning Mrs Osborne, the central figure in the great "Pearl case," was brought up in Court No. 1, at the Guildhall, before the Lord Mayor, Alderman Evans, in answer to a charge connected with the case.

The greatest public interest was manifested in the proceedings, the crowd at the entrance to the Guildhall being increased by the constant arrival of liveriesmen coming up to record their votes for the election of a City Chamberlain. The representatives of the Press were admitted to the court a quarter of an hour before it was opened to the public, and were provided with seats in the jury box and the benches in the body of the court. Mrs. Osborne, accompanied by Captain Osborne, had previously entered the court and taken her place at the solicitors' table. Captain Osborne sat on the right of his wife, and Inspector Taylor was on her left. Mrs. Osborne wore a long black cloth jacket with an Astrachan lined collar, and a black hat trimmed with feathers, somewhat similar in shape to the hat that figured when the case was first heard before Mr. Justice Denman. A thick black net veil covered her face, but it could be seen that the unhappy lady is much thinner and more careworn than she appeared in the Queen's Bench court. She seemed quite broken down, and Captain Osborne was unremitting in his endeavours to console her. The terrible alteration that has taken place in her appearance and demeanour was generally commented upon. The Lady Mayoress, accompanied by Colonel Smith, Chief Commissioner of City Police, Sir R. Hanson, M.P., Sir J. Monckton, Mr. Alderman Ritchie, and Mr. Alderman Newton, occupied seats on the Bench. Mr. St. John Wortner, Captain Osborne's solicitor, entered the court at 20 minutes past 10, and after shaking hands with Mrs. Osborne, entered into close conversation with her husband. Later on a second detective officer took his seat on the left of Mrs. Osborne, who remained with her face covered in her hand. The delay that ensued through the non-arrival of the Treasury representative was most trying, and a cruel prolongation of the ordeal to which the unhappy prisoner was subjected. When the Lord Mayor had entered the court for the second time he engaged in a long conversation with Mr. Douglas, the chief clerk. While this was going on Mrs. Osborne became terribly oppressed by the atmosphere of the court and the strain that her position placed upon her. Captain Osborne handed her a glass of water, of which she partook with difficulty, and endeavoured to restore her composure by fanning her with a sheet of paper. Mr. Lewis Coward's appeal that the formal evidence might be taken, and the Lord Mayor's decision to wait until 11 o'clock, was followed by a considerable suggestion from his lordship that Mrs. Osborne should retire during the interval to Committee room No. 1, where the ventilation was better, and she would be more able to regain command of herself. Leaning heavily on the arm of Captain Osborne, and supported by one of the detectives on the left, she left the court. On nearing the door she stumbled, and would have fallen but for the assistance of Colonel Smith and other gentlemen who supported her out of the court-room.

On the Lord Mayor entering the court at 25 minutes to 11,

The clerk asked if the solicitor to the Treasury was present.

There was no response to the question, and Mr. Douglas then intimated to his lordship that the Treasury had been communicated with.

The Lord Mayor: Until the representative of the Treasury comes, of course we cannot proceed. I will adjourn the case for a few minutes.

At a later stage Mr. Lewis Coward (instructed by Mr. St. John Wortner) said he represented Mrs. Osborne. He hoped, for the sake of all parties concerned, that the case would be proceeded with without delay. The arrest might be proved and the information might be read over. Mrs. Osborne had surrendered entirely of her own action and entirely of her own free will.

The Lord Mayor (interposing): I may tell you that the Treasury is now being communicated with, and I have decided

to wait till 11 o'clock, and we are now approaching that hour.

Mr. Coward: As your lordship pleases.

The Lord Mayor suggested that Mrs. Osborne should wait in Committee-room No. 1, where there was better ventilation. Mrs. Osborne, leaning on her husband's arm, and supported by a detective, then left the court, but before she could reach the door she nearly fainted.

At half-past 11 o'clock Mr. H. Cuffe, representing the Treasury, entered the court, and had a brief conversation with Mr. Coward.

Mr. Douglas: Do you want the defendant brought in, my lord?

The Lord Mayor: Having regard to the state of her health, I think not. I have had her already before me.

Mr. Cuffe: I am sorry to have delayed the court, my lord, but it is owing to an entire misunderstanding. Permit me to formally announce the withdrawal of the warrant on the charge of obtaining money under false pretences that was issued by the City police.

The Lord Mayor: We have very patiently waited here for an hour.

Mr. Cuffe: I am exceedingly sorry. I was actually here at 10 o'clock this morning, and understood that my presence now would not be necessary.

The Lord Mayor: Surely you did not receive that officially from the Lord Mayor?

Mr. Cuffe: No, my lord; but I was given to understand that that would be the case. I was under the impression that the warrant had been taken out by the City police, and that any application would be made by them.

The Lord Mayor: The warrant surely was taken out at the instigation of the Treasury.

Mr. Cuffe: I was not aware that the Treasury was the informant.

The Lord Mayor: You must be aware that this warrant was taken out at the instigation of the Treasury. I have a very good memory, and it is in my recollection, and I believe I shall be borne out by the Chief Clerk, that at an early stage in the proceedings you were communicated with, and were made aware of the fact that the Treasury were the parties to this warrant.

Mr. Cuffe: Your lordship is perfectly correct, but that fact was out of my recollection at the moment. I am very sorry, and offer every apology.

The Lord Mayor: I accept it.

Mr. Coward: Do I understand that the warrant is issued at the instigation of the Treasury?

The Lord Mayor: Yes.

Mr. Coward: And do I understand that no evidence is to be offered?

The Lord Mayor: That is so.

Mr. Coward: Then may I now ask what is the course that will be taken by the Treasury?

The Lord Mayor interposed.

Mr. Coward: I was only proposing to ask my learned friend. Mrs. Osborne has surrendered to this charge.

The Lord Mayor: That has nothing to do with me. I am afraid I must limit it now to the stage at which we have arrived. No evidence is offered, and therefore the case is dismissed. [Applause in court, which was suppressed.]

#### PROCEEDINGS AT BOW-STREET.

At 10 minutes to one on Friday afternoon Mrs. Osborne was brought before Sir John Bridge at Bow-street under a warrant charging her with perjury.—Mr. De Rutzen occupied a seat by the side of the magistrate.—Mrs. Osborne seemed to have recovered from the attack of faintness that prostrated her in the Guildhall, and walked without assistance to the dock, where she took a seat and covered her face with her hand. Captain Osborne sat by her side, occasionally speaking to her in a low voice, and at times offering her smelling salts and a glass of water. The proceedings only lasted about 10 minutes, and at their termination she left the court leaning on her husband's arm. Very few of the public were in the court at the time.

Mr. H. Cuffe, addressing Sir John Bridge, said that he appeared to prosecute on a charge against Florence Ethel Osborne, of perjury, arising out of the case "Osborne v. Hargreave," tried in December last. The defendant returned from the Continent to Dover the previous night, where she was arrested by the City police. He did not propose to do more than prove the arrest, and should ask for Mrs. Osborne to be remanded till a convenient day next week.

Inspector Taylor was called and examined by Mr. Cuffe: You are an inspector of the City police?—Yes, sir.

Were you at Dover last night on the arrival of the boat from the Continent at 9.30?—I was.

Did you then see the defendant?—I did.

Did she land from that steamer?—She landed from the steamer Foam. Captain Osborne, her husband, was with her. I said, "I am an inspector of the City of London police."

Did you say that to her?—To both. I continued, "If you will step this way to the platform I will introduce you to Colonel Smith, the commissioner." I did so. We all came to London together, and alighted at London-bridge station.

Did she make any observation to you?—No, sir. She was taken to the Cloak-lane police-station, and the warrant was read to her by Inspector Seager.

In your presence?—Not in my presence. She was detained at Cloak-lane police-station for the night.

Was she brought up this morning?—She was brought up this morning at the Guildhall before the Lord Mayor, and discharged.

Cross-examined by Mr. Coward: You met Mrs. Osborne in consequence of a communication made by her or her husband?

Witness: I was sent to Dover by Colonel Smith, the Commissioner.

Did you understand that the time and place where she would surrender were stated?—I did not know the time exactly.

The Magistrate: Did you know the fact?

Witness: Yes, Sir John.

Mr. Coward: And in accordance with that communication you went there.

Witness: Yes.

You were present in court at the Guildhall this morning?—Mrs. Osborne was taken ill at the time; and she was removed to a committee-room.

But you are aware that the charge was dismissed?—Yes.

How comes it she is here now?—Under a warrant?

Did you see the warrant executed?—Yes.

By whom was it executed?—Mr. Swanson.

Where?—In the committee-room at the Guildhall.

It is a warrant for perjury?—Yes.

The warrant on which you arrested this lady at Dover was for obtaining money by false pretences?—That is so.

By whom was it issued?—By the Lord Mayor.

Do you know who laid the information on which that warrant was granted?—I believe Mr. Spink made it.

Inspector Swanson, of the Metropolitan police, said: In pursuance of a warrant I took the defendant into custody this morning. I read the warrant.

Was she then brought by you to Bow-street police-court?

Witness: She was then brought to Bow-street, and charged here.

Did she say anything?—She made no answer.

Mr. Coward: I should like to have the date of the warrant for the perjury.

Mr. Cuffe: The 1st of January.

Sir John Bridge then remanded the defendant till Friday next at 11 o'clock.