

The case of William Thompson, which was referred to the Court of Criminal Appeal this week by the Home Secretary, was perhaps even a more extraordinary instance of the miscarriage of justice than that of Mr. Adolph Beck. No less than twenty-one witnesses, against whose good faith not one word could be said, had positively identified the accused as the man who had committed the frauds in question, while apparently the watch-chains of the two men were identical. It has now been established beyond a doubt that the man convicted was not the man who was guilty, and the convictions obtained have been quashed and the appellant released. As was only to be expected, every assistance was furnished by the police and the Treasury to unravel the whole affair once a reasonable doubt had been established, but the case is another instance of the difficulty that always arises where identity is in dispute.—*Exch.*

DEFENDANT RESTS.—The soldier was up on a summary court-martial before the Colonel on a charge of neglect of duty. When the prosecution was in, the Colonel turned to the accused and growled at him:—

“Have you any witnesses?”

“No, n-o,” muttered the accused.

“You rest then, do you—you want to rest then, do you—you want to rest?” yelled the Colonel.

“Yes—yes—I would like to, Colonel,” he replied, glancing around behind him. “My legs are pretty tired—I would like to rest, yes, sir; but I don't see any place to sit down.”—*Green Bag.*

SENT BACK TO COURT.—Sir William Wightman held office in the old Court of Queen's Bench, in London, far beyond the prescribed time, and at last, on the eve of the “long vacation,” he took a sort of farewell of his brother judges. However, when the summer was over, he turned up smiling at Westminster Hall. “Why, Brother Wightman,” said Sir Alexander Cockburn, “you told us that you intended to send in your resignation to the Lord Chancellor before the end of August.” “So I did,” said Sir William, “but when I went home and told my wife, she said, ‘Why, William, what on earth do you think that we can do with you messing about the house all day!’ So, you see, I was obliged to come down to court again.”—*Ex.*