

His Lordship—And you thought it right she should marry again? She wished me to give her away, and I did so. (Laughter.)

His Lordship—You helped her to commit bigamy. Take care you do not do it again or you will get yourself into trouble.

Alice Roseby was next called, and said she saw Wardle drink one glass of the quart.

His Lordship—Who was the bargain made with? With George Chisnal.

His Lordship—I am not sure that you are not guilty of bigamy, or of being an accessory before the fact. You must not do this sort of thing again. People have no right to sell their wives for a quart of beer or anything else. (Laughter.)

George Chisnal, the second husband, apparently just out of his teens, was the next witness called.

His Lordship—How did you come to marry this woman? Witness (in the Lancashire vernacular)—Hoo did a what? (Laughter.) Question repeated—A bowt her (Laughter.)

His Lordship—You are not fool enough to suppose you can buy another man's wife? Oi. (Laughter.)

His Lordship—How much did you give for her? Sixpence. (Great laughter.)

His Lordship—You are as guilty as she is. You are an accessory before the fact to her committing bigamy. You have committed bigamy yourself. Everybody has committed bigamy in this case. (Laughter.) Go down.

The witness left the box with alacrity, but was immediately recalled by his Lordship, who asked him how long he had lived with the prisoner.

Witness—Going on for three years.

His Lordship—Do you want to take her back again? Awl keep her if you loike. (Laughter.)

His Lordship—You need not keep her if you do not want. She is Wardle's wife.

Mr. Swift, addressing his lordship, said all he wished to say on behalf of this unfortunate woman was this—that she seemed to have met with a bad husband, in the first place, and an ignorant man in the second. He could only venture to hope that his lordship would not think it a case in which she ought to be punished—at least, not severely.

His Lordship directed that Wardle should be called, and this was done without eliciting any answer.

His Lordship—(addressing the prisoner)—It is absolutely necessary that I should pass some punishment upon you in order that people may understand that men have no more right to sell their wives than they have to sell other people's wives, or to sell other people's horses or cows, or anything of the kind. You cannot make that a legal transaction. So many of you seem to be ignorant of that, that it is necessary I should give you some punishment in order that you may understand it. It is not necessary that it should be long, but you must be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for one week.

MERCANTILE FAILURES.

According to Messrs. Dun, Wiman & Co. the record of mercantile failures in the Dominion and Newfoundland last year compared with preceding periods, stands as follows:—

	Number.	Liabilities.
1883	1,384	\$15,949,361
1882	787	8,587,657
1881	635	5,751,207
1880	907	7,988,077
1879	1,902	29,347,937
1878	1,697	23,908,677

The increase in the list for last year seems at first glance somewhat serious, but an analysis by provinces gives the following result:

	Number.	Liabilities.
Ontario	567	\$4,700,000
Quebec	438	6,400,000
New Brunswick	48	747,000
Nova Scotia	89	1,068,000
Prince Edward Island	5	40,000
Newfoundland	5	48,000
Manitoba	232	2,869,000
	1,384	\$15,872,000

GENERAL NOTES.

The oldest peer of Great Britain, the Earl of Buckingham, who recently attained his 90th year, is in priest's orders. Besides him eight other peers are in holy orders, namely, the Marquis of Donegal (Dean of Raphoe), the Earls of Delaware, Carlisle, and Stamford, Lord Plunket (Bishop of Meath), Lord Sayne and Sele (Archdeacon of Hereford), Lord Scarsdale, and Lord Hawke. The Earl of Mulgrave, heir apparent to the Marquisate of Normanby, is also a clergyman.