

Now, let us take some other circumstances that hinge upon this case. We find this woman living for a period of years with her husband; we find her husband providing her with all the comforts and luxuries that she could well desire. We find her with a family of two daughters, and without any cause whatever deliberately abandoning her home. We find her, against the protests of her husband, arranging different interviews with Pingle; we find her just previous to her abandonment of her home having an interview with him late at night evidently making arrangements to leave her husband. Now, is there a scintilla of evidence before us which would warrant this woman in abandoning her home, her husband and her family? Were the relations between them of such a nature as to warrant the very advanced course taken by her? I submit not. Is her conduct generally, as far as Pingle is concerned, compatible with her innocence? Can you reconcile it with the conduct of a woman who is innocent, chaste, true and loyal to her husband? I say not. We have to take into consideration her meetings with Pingle against her husband's protest; we have to take into consideration this meeting at Palmerston; the fact that this woman went deliberately with him to Detroit, came back to Canada, brought back to Detroit this man Pingle with her; they travelled in the same train, put up together in the same house and, from the evidence before us, there was only one bed in the house for the accommodation of the three parties referred to. Are these circumstances consistent with the innocence of this woman? Can any of us reconcile these facts as being compatible with the chastity, virtue and truth of a loyal woman? I say if there is anything that could stamp this woman as untrue and disloyal to the sanctity of the marriage vow it is the circumstances I have recited. I would now refer hon. gentlemen to some of the letters that have been put in here upon page 75 of the report of the Committee. There appears to have been a correspondence between her and this man Pingle from the time she abandoned her husband up to a very recent date. Will hon. gentlemen look at the latter part of exhibit No. 5, on page 75, and read the portion of the letter I am about to read, and after analyzing it say that they can come to the conclusion that this was a pure and innocent wife:—

"Have you been subpoenaed or had any trouble about anything; Fred, I would rather know the worst, please tell me everything. If you are called on tell the truth, I do not want any one to lie, to shield me."

Taking her own expression for it, to shield her the man had to lie; if he told the truth he would not shield her. That is the purport of the letter:—

"I think Bella's evidence will be a damage to herself more than to me. B. wants to come to Detroit and I told her to come on."

"You told me to trust you in everything, I do. I have implicit trust and confidence in you. If—is getting a divorce it will save me fifty dollars; he will have to hurry, I have a little the start. I do not care what Bella and everyone else swears to, so long as you stand by me and prove faithful and true."

Is that the language of an innocent woman? Is that the language of a woman clothed in the panoply of virtue and purity? I say not. I assert that guilt is stamped on every letter of it. Look again at exhibit No. 6, on the same page:—

"Fred when are you coming back."

An appeal to this man to come and cohabit with her as he had previously done:

"Fred if you were only here, there is plenty of room for another, even though that other be a man; providing the man be you. But, I don't suppose you will come till you get ready, no matter what I say, but, Fred dear, do not try my patience too much. Fred, I want you back very badly, and why won't you come. Write at once and tell me.

I am, as ever yours,
MAE."

Is that the language of a virtuous wife? Look again at exhibit No. 7:—

"DEAR FRED,—Bella is not here yet, and I am afraid she has not received my letter. I have just finished one to her, and was going to send it to R. J. Wells, Toronto, to post to her, but changed my mind, and will send it to you. I want you to read it, and if it is all right, send it, and if not, destroy it, and let me know your decision."

Then read the latter part:—

"I hope you are keeping sober. Make a desperate effort. I wish you would send me some money. I want a pair of boots very badly. I have had so much to pay for, that I have to do without clothes. Please, Fred dear, write to me as soon as you get this.

"From your own loving,
MAE."

"P.S.—I will be very anxious to know if you get this."

Would there be an appeal of this kind from this woman to such a man, if she were a virtuous woman? Can you conceive anything consistent with her marriage vows in writing letters of this kind? I now refer hon gentlemen to the next letter exhibit No. 8:—

"Dear Nellie and Florence, God keep you two children and may he protect you and keep you pure