

and, after a short courtship, during which he represented himself to be a bachelor, they became engaged, and were married at Christ Church, Kensington, Liverpool, in December, 1885. They lived together for some time, but in July, 1887, the second wife discovered that her supposed husband had in 1860 married a girl called Mary Ham at the Roman Catholic Church at Newton Forbes, county Longford, and that this first wife was still alive. The prisoner before the magistrates made the following statement: 'I left my wife ten years ago, and I have not seen or heard of her since. I thought she was dead.' Counsel for the prosecution admitted that he had no evidence to show whether the prisoner had left his wife or not, or whether the prisoner knew at any time during the last seven years that she was alive.—The learned judge held that the prisoner must prove continual absence from his wife for seven years, and that then it would be for the prosecution to satisfy the jury that he knew at some time during the last seven years that his wife was alive.—A witness was called for the defence, who said that he had been a fellow workman of the prisoner's during the last eight years in Liverpool, and that he had never heard the prisoner mention his first wife during that time.—Upon this his lordship directed the jury to acquit the prisoner.

#### THE NATIONAL LEAGUE PROCLAMATION.

In the House of Lords, on August 9, the Marquis of Salisbury said: 'My lords, it may be convenient to your lordships that I should announce that the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, by and with the advice of the Privy Council, has to-day by proclamation declared the National League to be a dangerous association under section 6 of the Crimes Act, and has thus taken power under that statute to prohibit and suppress that association by order in any district where such a step may be required to prevent intimidation and interference with the administration of the law. The proclamation, which I will lay on the table, is in the following terms: "By the Lord-Lieutenant and Privy

Council in Ireland. A Special Proclamation. Whereas we are satisfied that there exists in Ireland an association known by the name of 'The Irish National League,' and that the said association in parts of Ireland promotes and incites to acts of violence and intimidation, and interferes with the administration of the law. Now we, the Lord-Lieutenant-General, and General Governor of Ireland, by and with the advice of the Privy Council, by virtue of section 6 of the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, and of every power and authority in that behalf, do by this our special proclamation, declare from the date hereof the said association known as the Irish National League to be dangerous. This proclamation shall be promulgated by the same being published in the *Dublin Gazette*, and by a printed copy thereof being posted at every police station or barracks, and every place in which Divisional Police Courts or petty sessions are held respectively in Ireland. Given at the Council Chamber, Dublin Castle, this 19th day of August, 1887. God save the Queen." A similar announcement on the same day was made by the secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland in the House of Commons.

#### DAMAGES AGAINST A BANK CLERK.

On August 18, at the Middlesex Sheriff's Court, Red Lion Square, before Mr. Under-Sheriff Burchell and a special jury, the case of *The London and Brazilian Bank (Lim.) v. Kester Wilson Sefton* came on for hearing. Judgment had been allowed to go by default, and the case was heard for the assessment of damages.—Mr. C. T. Gyles, barrister, who appeared for the plaintiffs, stated that the defendant entered into the service of the bank under an agreement for three years from November 1, 1884, at a salary of 360*l.* a year, together with his expenses to Rio, where he was employed, amounting to 40*l.* Although the defendant had his salary voluntarily raised by the bank to 450*l.*, he suddenly left without notice or permission on December 22, 1886, ten months before the expiration of the agreement, and forthwith went into the service of the International