

are two children—two or three. Will you believe that, although this is a man of very considerable means according to the evidence, so little parental love has he in his makeup or composition, so utter is his disregard for the common decencies of life, that he does not go before the courts today, if this woman has been guilty of adultery and he can prove it, to have it ordered that she shall be dispossessed of the custody of the children and they shall be remanded to his care. If the statements alleged by him are true, why does he not go to the courts and say: I, the father of those children, do not propose to allow this woman, who is an unworthy woman, to have charge of them; I will take them into my own charge. To make it even worse than that, after an arrangement had been made by which he was to pay her a certain amount of money for maintenance—

Mr. MORPHY: That has nothing to do with the case. The man is taking care of his own children.

Mr. W. H. BENNETT: My hon. friend came late into the case. He did not hear the evidence.

Mr. NORTHUP: I hold in my hand the judgment of the court—Sir William Mulock—between these parties.

Mr. W. H. BENNETT: An action for alimony was brought by her, as I understand, and she was adjudged a certain amount, and the complainant in this case failed to pay the amount; he has not paid her anything since November last.

Mr. NORTHUP: Not the case at all.

Mr. W. H. BENNETT: I happened to glance at one of the copies of the evidence to-night, and it is evident that they went all around the bush to beat this woman out; they even tried to make her out a thief when she was working hard at the occupation she took up as a milliner in Chicago; they tried to prove that she had been guilty of stealing. At every turn she took they had detectives on the track, or some evidence of that class to try and vilify her and beat down her reputation. We hear a great deal about detectives. We know that once you put a detective on the track to hunt down a woman, it is his business, in order to secure further occupation, to get a committal. Why, a case was reported in Toronto a few days ago; a detective was called in with some others to make an arrest, and while they were making the arrest he actually stole some \$20 which he found lying around, and they had to arrest the

[Mr. W. H. Bennett.]

detective. That is a fair sample of detective work, and all the evidence against this woman is, in the main, the evidence of detectives. This man comes here, not with clean hands, but with disgustingly filthy hands, the hands of a party to procuring an abortion, and he wants the House of Commons to grant him a divorce so that he may go out and marry again. I am not going to vote for any divorce of this kind, and I am willing to leave the parties where they are.

Mr. EDWARDS: I am in a rather peculiar position so far as this particular case is concerned, inasmuch as I must confess that I never heard of it until late this afternoon; in fact it was after six o'clock before I knew that such a case had been before the Senate and that my name was connected with it as sponsor for the Bill in this House. I do not know who takes it upon himself to attach the name of a member who is not even a member of the Private Bills Committee to a Bill to come before this House. I want to assure the committee that in this case it was done without my sanction and without my knowledge. As I said, I did not even know that such a case had been before the Senate until after six o'clock, when I was informed that the first hour to-night would be given up to Private Bills and that I was sponsor for one of the Bills. I understand that only a few members of the Senate committee gave attention to this Bill, only some eight or nine, and the Bill passed the Senate committee by a very small majority. We have been told that only a small proportion of the House of Commons committee gave consideration to the matter, and the time is very short for giving consideration to it now. I am disposed to favour the motion of the hon. member for South Perth (Mr. Steele), because I certainly know, from a glance at one page of the evidence, that the hon. member for Simcoe (Mr. W. H. Bennett) was absolutely wrong in regard to this woman stealing, because the evidence shows that she admitted that herself. That is, however, only one point, but I think there is no doubt about that.

Mr. GRAHAM: That is not a reason for divorce.

Mr. EDWARDS: At page 156 of the evidence I find the following:

Q. When you were recently in Chicago did you take a situation?—A. Yes I did.

Q. With whom?—A. Marshall Field's.

Q. How long were you with them?—A. Well, I do not just know, I was with them several months.