

of last year or the beginning of this year. She is put on the stand before the committee and examined, and what is her evidence? She is asked:

Q. How long did you remain at St. Albans?
—A. About six weeks I think.

Q. Then what did you do?—A. I had to come home because he was drinking and could not pay the board bill.

Now that was the only reason she had to leave him in St. Albans.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—That is a pretty good reason.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Is that a reason for divorce?

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—It was a good reason for going home.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—But not for leaving St. Albans with a view of obtaining a divorce.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—She could not remain there and starve to death.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—She states distinctly that she left St. Albans with no charge against him except that he was drinking.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—And was not able to pay the board bill.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Naturally, if he was drinking he could not pay his board bill. She knew enough of the law to be able to tell her friends that she could not secure a divorce in the United States, not being a resident there and could not get it in Canada on these grounds. After that she is asked this question. The evidence proceeds:—

Q. In consequence then of the receipt of a letter from some woman in Fairfax, Vermont, you determined to apply for a divorce in Canada?—A. Yes.

Q. Is this the letter, now shown you, which you received?—A. Yes.

Q. And is this the envelope in which it came?—A. Yes.

Q. How did you come to open it?—A. It was handed to me. Our girl brought it upstairs and I thought it was for myself, because my letters were always addressed Mrs. George Spratte, and I opened it.

Q. And you found what?—A. The letter.

Q. And in the letter was an accusation against your husband of the seduction of the girl—

By the Hon. Mr. Wilson:

Q. Had you some suspicion of your husband which caused you to open that letter?
—A. No, nothing of the kind.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN.

Now, here is a woman who up to the reception of this letter had no suspicion against her husband, giving her solemn declaration that until that letter was put in her hands she had no suspicion against her husband. The examination continues:

Q. It was merely accidental?—A. Quite accidental.

R- Mr. Haight, of Counsel for Petitioner:
Q. And after the receipt of that letter, I understand from your former answer to my question, you did not live or cohabit with your husband?—A. Oh, no, I did not.

Q. And you say that in June, 1905, you left your husband?—A. I left him.

Q. And after that date, did he contribute at all to your support?—A. No, never.

Q. Nor to the support of your child?—A. No.

By the Hon. Mr. Wilson:

Q. You left on account of information you received in a letter—is that it?—A. No, I did not get the letter until after I had left him.

There is the admission of the woman herself that the man was innocent of anything wrong until she got the anonymous letter signed 'J.M.B.' Then they bring a Miss Bushey, who was supposed to represent 'J.M.B.' the signer of the letter, and she turns out to be a scullery girl from the hotel at St. Albans, where Mr. Spratte had been boarding. The evidence is very short, but I will have to read it for hon. gentlemen who have not taken the pains to peruse it, to see the grounds on which this divorce is asked. Jennie Bushey of Fairfax, cook, was duly sworn and testified as follows:—

I am living at home with my parents at North Fairfax, Vermont.

Q. Did you ever meet one George Allison Spratte?—A. Yes.

Q. Whereabouts?—A. At St. Albans House, in St. Albans.

Q. And what were you doing there?—A. Cooking.

Q. You were cooking in the hotel?—A. Yes.

Q. What time was that?—A. That was in August, 1905.

It is quite essential that the month should be remembered. The evidence proceeds:

Q. And what was Spratte doing?—A. He was working at the freight depot.

Q. Of what railway, do you know?—A. I think the Boston and Maine, or the C. V.

Q. The Boston and Maine or the Central Vermont?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you meet him at the hotel?—A. Yes.

Q. Did he cultivate your acquaintance?—A. Yes.

Q. And what ultimately did this acquaintance develop? Did he profess any attachment to you?—A. Yes.