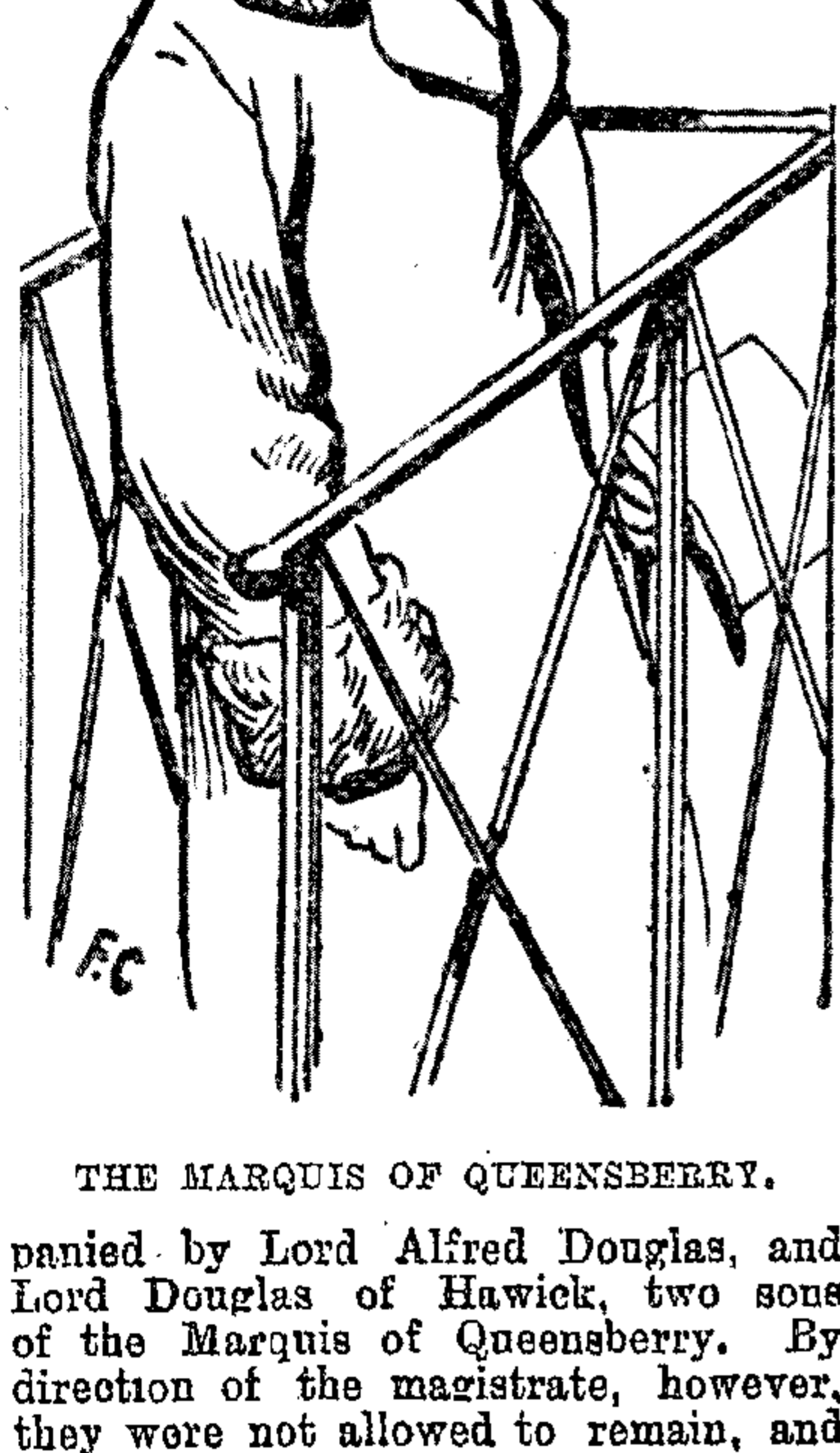


# CHARGE OF LIBELLING OSCAR WILDE.

## COMMITTAL OF THE MARQUIS OF QUEENSBERRY.

The Marquis of Queensberry surrendered before Mr. Newton at Marlborough-street police-court, on Saturday, to his bail, to answer the charge of having published a certain libel, in the shape of objectionable words written on a visiting card, concerning Mr. Oscar Wilde on Feb. 19, 1895.

Great interest was manifested in the proceedings, and there were numerous applications from persons of position asking to be accommodated with seats. The court was densely crowded long before the case came on for hearing. Mr. Wilde, attired in a long dark blue overcoat with velvet cuffs, entered the court shortly after half-past 11, accom-

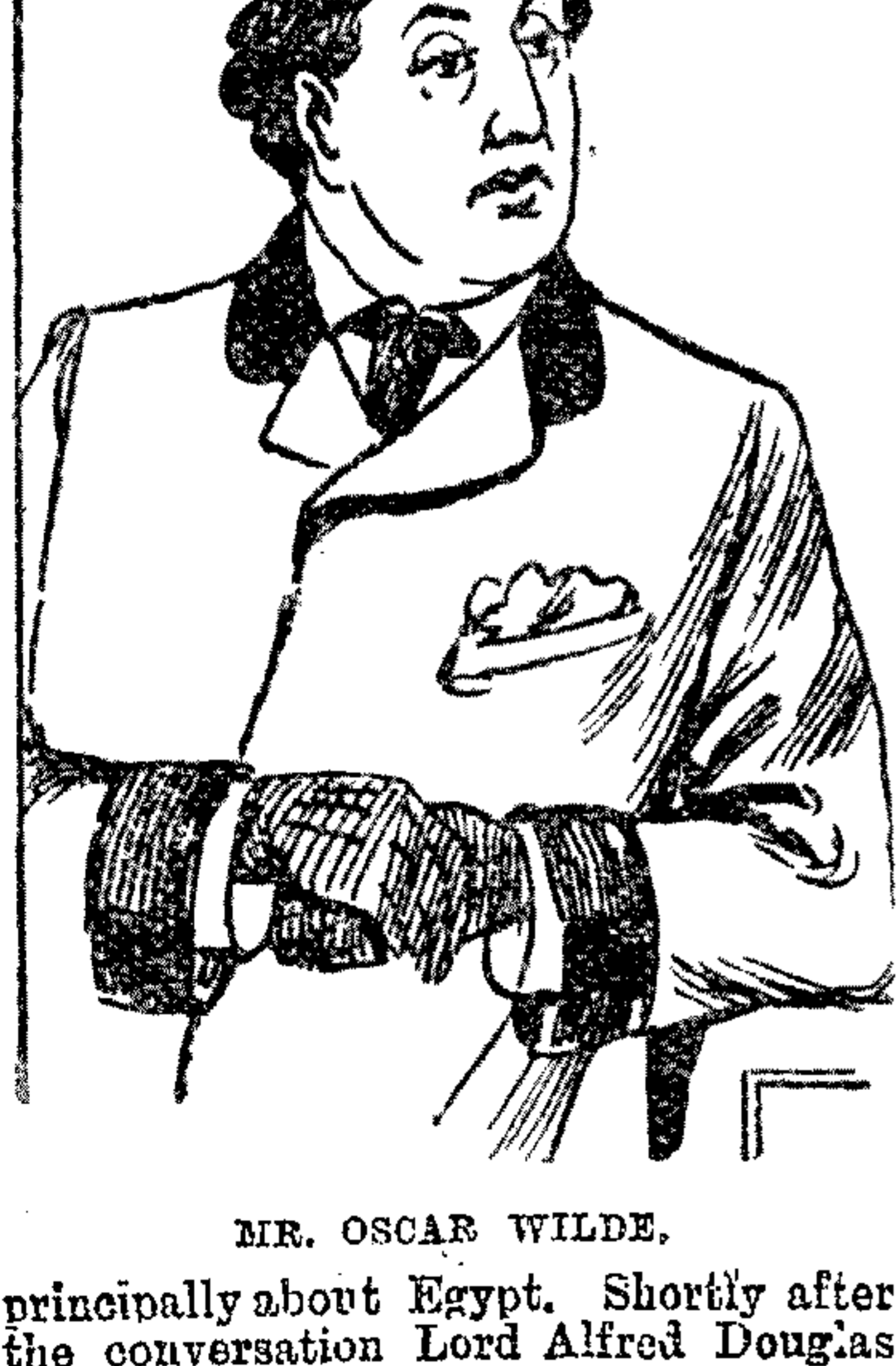


THE MARQUIS OF QUEENSBERRY.

panied by Lord Alfred Douglas, and Lord Douglas of Hawick, two sons of the Marquis of Queensberry. By direction of the magistrate, however, they were not allowed to remain, and left the court again, looking somewhat surprised and crestfallen. The defendant, in the meantime, had taken his place in the dock, but only for a moment, his lordship being accommodated immediately afterwards, by direction of Mr. Newton, with a chair next to his solicitor, and afterwards with a seat at the side of the court behind his counsel.

Mr. C. O. Humphreys, solicitor, prosecuted; and Mr. E. H. Carson, Q.C., M.P., appeared for the Marquis of Queensberry.

Mr. Oscar Wilde said: I am a dramatist and author, and take a great interest in matters of art, and reside in Fite-street, S.W.; I am acquainted with the defendant and many members of his family. I first became acquainted with the defendant in 1892, but I believe I had met him once before that time. I remember lunching with Lord Alfred Douglas, the defendant's son, at the Café Royal, in 1892. The defendant came into the room when we were lunching by the invitation of his son. He shook hands with both of us, and had lunch with us. I did not see Lord Queensberry again until, I should think, the early part of March, 1894. That was on an occasion when I was lunching at the Café Royal with Lord Alfred Douglas. The defendant came into the room while I was lunching, and walked up to the table I was at. He shook hands with both of us, and I invited him to lunch. This occurred just after Lord Alfred had returned from Egypt. There was a general conversation between the three of us,



MR. OSCAR WILDE.

principally about Egypt. Shortly after the conversation Lord Alfred Douglas showed him a letter.

Mr. Newton: I am inquiring whether this card is a libel, and not into any other matter.

Mr. Humphreys: I propose to go into other libels.

Mr. Carson: I am anxious, sir, that the letter should be put in, as Lord Queensberry is anxious to have that course taken in the interests of his son.

Mr. Newton: If the letter is put in it will open the door to difficulties hereafter.

Mr. Humphreys: I am willing to accede to your suggestion, sir. I am certainly reluctant that one of the letters should be read in public, as the names of exalted persons are used.

Mr. Wilde, continuing: I have been handed letters which have been written by Lord Queensberry.

Mr. Carson: I object to those letters being referred to unless they are read.

Mr. Newton: I think your objection is a good one.

Mr. Humphreys: They need not be further referred to.

Mr. Wilde (continuing his evidence) said: On Thursday, Feb. 28, I drove up to the Albemarle club, having recently returned from Algiers. On entering the club I spoke to the hall porter, who handed me the envelope produced. My name is written on the back of the envelope. When it was handed to me the hall porter said, "Lord Queensberry desired me to hand you this when you came to the club." The porter then gave me the envelope which contained the card which has been produced. On the back of the card was written:—"4.30 | 18 | 2 | '95.

I read what was on the card as well as I could, and I immediately communicated with my solicitor, and had an interview with him on the following day—1st March. On that day I applied for a warrant for the apprehension of Lord Queensberry.

Mr. Newton: I suggest that you, Mr. Humphreys, and Mr. Carson should accompany me into the room here and have a word.

The magistrate, Mr. Humphreys, and Mr. Carson then left the court.

After a short interval they returned into court, when Mr. Carson rose to cross-examine Mr. Wilde.

Mr. Newton: How far will your cross-examination go?

Mr. Carson: It will go to show that Lord Queensberry was anxious to put an end to the acquaintanceship of his son with Mr. Wilde.

Mr. Humphreys held that Mr. Carson could not go into any extraneous matters, and cited in support of his contention the case of "The Queen v. Carden."

Mr. Carson: I propose to ask certain questions to show how it was Lord Queensberry came to write this card, it being connected with previous letters that had been written to Mr. Wilde, Lord Queensberry thought that, having regard to the morality of his son, he was justified in taking steps to put a stop to the continuance of his acquaintanceship with Mr. Oscar Wilde.

Mr. Newton objected to the matter being gone into.

Detective-inspector Greet's evidence, which was given when the case was before the court last week, and which referred to the arrest of his lordship, was then read over.

Mr. Newton: John Sholto Douglas, Marquis of Queensberry, now is the time for you to make an answer to the charge; but remember whatever you say will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence against you on your trial.

The Marquis of Queensberry: I have simply to say that I wrote that card simply with the intention of bringing the matter to a head, having been unable to meet Mr. Wilde otherwise, and to save my son, and I abide by what I wrote.

Mr. Newton then formally committed the defendant for trial at the Central Criminal court, allowing the same bail as before, namely, one surety in the sum of 500l.

## THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE ON THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

The Liverpool Spring assizes were opened on Tuesday, the Lord Chief Justice presiding in the Crown court. His lordship, in arguing the grand jury, referred to the recent report of the head-constable of Liverpool, which announced a marked diminution of cases of drunkenness in the city. He thought they might attribute the improvement to several causes—in part to the active vigilance displayed by the police in supervising the carrying on of the business of public-houses, in part to the care that licensees themselves displayed in not giving drink to persons unfit to receive it, in part also to the diminished number of houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, and, lastly, he thought some of the diminution might be attributed to the improvement in the intelligence of the people. He noticed that the diminution of drunkenness synchronised with a diminution in the number of public-houses. If that were more than an accidental coincidence, if there were a relation between the two of cause and effect, then certainly it suggested matter for very grave consideration on the part of those who were charged with the granting, withdrawal, or renewal of public-house licences.

## A WOMAN OVERBOARD.

A mysterious occurrence was reported on Monday at Belfast by the captain of the cross-Channel steamer Hare. It appears that while the vessel was proceeding to Belfast from Glasgow that morning, and when about mid-Channel, a man and woman, named Dorman and M'Larnon (steerage passengers), came on deck, and a few minutes later the woman disappeared over the vessel's side. Dorman's version of the affair is that the woman committed suicide.

## MIDNIGHT MARCH OF SALVATIONISTS.

—The Salvation army authorities on Tuesday commenced a somewhat novel plan of campaign in connection with the rescue work which is carried on of a night in the West-end of London. At half-past 11 o'clock a contingent of Salvationists, consisting largely of provincial officers, men and women, numbering from five to six hundred, started from Regent hall in Oxford-street. Accompanied by two brass bands, they marched through the thoroughfares of Regent-street and Piccadilly and back to the barracks, where a midnight meeting was held. The procession provoked a considerable amount of attention among the promenaders of Piccadilly and Regent-street, and although a few boisterous youths endeavoured by their shouting to create an opposition, they did not meet with much success. Whether the army attracted to their place of meeting quite the class of people that they desired is an open question; but their hall—which will accommodate upwards of 2,000—in Oxford-street, was filled shortly after midnight. Mr. Bramwell Booth (chief of the Salvation Army staff) presided at a characteristic meeting which was subsequently addressed by Mrs. Bramwell Booth, who is the superintendent of the rescue movement, and has especially interested herself in the midnight mission work in the west of London, which has hitherto been carried on by the women workers associated with the army.

## ALLEGED OUTRAGE.—

William West, described as a labourer, of 17, Kembal-street, Ipswich, was charged at Ipswich Borough police-court on Monday with burglariously entering a dwelling house and committing a criminal assault upon a servant girl, aged 15 years. The house where the crime is alleged to have taken place is at the corner of Cauldwell Hall-road and Freehold-road, and is occupied by Miss Butler, who was formerly principal of a ladies' school in the borough. The girl stated that at about one o'clock on Sunday morning she was awakened by footsteps in the house, and a few minutes later the accused entered her bedroom. She screamed, whereupon the man put his hand over her mouth, and threatened to take her life if she again cried out. In her fright she told him he could take what valuables he liked, but he replied that robbery was not his object. After that he sat down and smoked a pipe for about an hour, the girl alleged, and the assault complained of followed. As soon as he was gone she aroused her mistress, and as the moonlight had enabled her to see the man distinctly, a description of him was given to the police. The accused was remanded.

"THE EDITOR of the 'Medical Annual' speaks in the highest terms of Cadbury's Cocoa as a beverage and a food for invalids, on account of its absolute purity, high quality, and great solubility, and counsels the medical profession to remember in recommending Cocoa, that the name of Cadbury on any packet is a guarantee of purity."—[Adv.]