

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3.

[Before His Honor Mr. Justice Stow and
Juries.]

FALSELY ACCUSING OF AN UNNATURAL OFFENCE.

George Evans (52), pleaded not guilty to a charge of feloniously accusing *David Bennett* with having committed an unnatural offence at Findon-road, Hindmarsh, on November 27, 1877.

The details of the case are unfit for publication. The evidence disclosed that a most infamous accusation, which could not possibly have been committed as alleged by the prisoner, had been brought against the prosecutor for the purpose of extorting money. The prisoner told two witnesses that he had on a previous occasion brought a similar charge against his employer and had received £10 not to inform against him. In regard to the present charge against the prosecutor he said he would hush the matter up if he received a few pounds. The prisoner's appearance in the dock was not prepossessing, and he cross-examined the witnesses in a most impudent way. The Jury after a brief retirement found the prisoner guilty.

His Honor, addressing the prisoner, said—
You have been found guilty of accusing a person of an abominable crime, and of which the evidence showed him to be innocent. If it had not been for his good fortune in having persons about when you say that he committed the deed he would have rested under a horrible imputation, which would also have affected his father, mother, and family. You made this false accusation to extort money, and the crime is one of the worst that a man could commit. You do not deserve mercy or compassion in your position. You were sentenced to two years' imprisonment for assault with intent to commit a rape on May 14, 1855; to one year's imprisonment for indecently assaulting a girl under seven years of age on October 2, 1856; for indecent assault you were sentenced to three months' imprisonment on January 11, 1861; for wife desertion you received 14 days' imprisonment on July 9, 1862; for assault one month's imprisonment on January 7, 1868; for larceny on March 10, 1874, you received nine months' imprisonment; for threatening language you were mulcted in a fine or seven days' imprisonment on June 22, 1875; for attempting to commit suicide you were sentenced to 21 days' imprisonment and bound over to keep the peace on March 31, 1875; for non-maintenance of wife and children were sent to gaol for 14 days on August 20, 1875; for the same offence you received two months' imprisonment on January 11, 1877; for threatening to kill your

wife you received a month's imprisonment on April 23, 1877; and for non-maintenance of your wife you were sent to gaol for 14 days on June 5, 1877. You are an old offender, and such men as you are should not be allowed to prey upon society. You will be imprisoned with hard labor for the term of your natural life.

UNNATURAL OFFENCE.

William Lucas (27) pleaded not guilty to a charge of committing an unnatural offence at Unley on November 14. The evidence was unfit for publication. The Jury found the prisoner guilty of an attempt, and he was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labor for one year.

STEALING FROM THE PERSON.

James Patrick Burke (18) pleaded not guilty to a charge of stealing two watches, valued at £10, and £4 in money, from the person of *William Wheeler*, at Adelaide, on January 13. The prosecutor was drinking in the Shamrock Hotel, and went to lie down in company with another man in Light-square. On awakening he found that he had lost his watches and money. The prisoner said that he bought one of the watches for 5s., and subsequently sold it again for £1. He knew nothing whatever about the other watch and money. The prisoner was found not guilty.