

"Whitesmith's Arms"; I called him out and asked him what he wanted; he said, "Can you fight?" I said, "No"; he then struck at me; I was quicker than he was; I struck him on the jaw; he fell down on the kerb, and I went home."

ALICE BROMFIELD (called by prisoner). I am prisoner's sister. I was with him when he called Newman out of the public-house and asked him what he wanted. Newman said, "Can you fight?" Prisoner said, "No." Newman half took off his coat, and said, "Come on, let us fight." My brother struck him and he fell down.

Cross-examined. It is not true that Newman had his hands in his pockets.

Prisoner, called upon, wrote in the dock a statement substantially identical with that read by Godley.

Verdict, Guilty of manslaughter, under provocation. (The coroner's jury had added to their verdict the following rider: "The jurors are of opinion that Wilcox, at the time he inflicted the blow, had received great provocation from the deceased.") Sentence, One month's hard labour.

BEFORE THE COMMON SERJEANT.

(Wednesday, September 18.)

BOWEN, Esther; keeping a brothel.

Mr. R. D. Muir and Mr. Kershaw prosecuted. Mr. Schultess Young and Mr. Sidney Williams defended.

Sergeant STEPHEN FAKES, 22 E. deposed to keeping casual observation on 13, Chesterfield Street, the house of prisoner, between June 17 and 23, during which time he saw several couples, man and woman, enter and leave the house, and in each case the woman being a prostitute. Witness had seen prisoner come outside when couples were about to leave, and look up and down the street.

Cross-examined: I do not know the names of the women; I did not ask. I have seen them accosting persons in Euston Road. They have not been convicted. I cannot mention any particular occasion when prisoner came out and looked up and down the street.

Police-constable ALFRED HENTY, 101 E, also deposed to keeping casual observation as above, between the same dates, and saw various couples (the woman a prostitute) enter and leave 13, Chesterfield Street, mostly corresponding with previous witnesses's observations. He had not seen anyone go to the house with luggage.

Cross-examined. I knew the women, but not their names. I do not suppose they would give their names. I could not tell you where I was standing when I made the observations; I was dodging all over the place. Miss Bowen frequently came out on the doorstep when the couples left.

Sergeant JAMES BRAND, 29 E. Between June 28 and July 4 I kept special observation on 13, Chesterfield Street, at various hours of the day. (Witness gave details of the times at which he had seen 23 couples enter and 20 leave the house—the women, with one exception consisting of three prostitutes; the men being different in each case.)

Cross-examined. I did not ask the women their names. There are two male lodgers in the house; I should be sorry to say that they are not respectable. I have seen single persons, men and women, who were unknown to me, enter the house, and leave.

Re-examined. There is no bar in the house. During the week that I watched, I saw seven men enter the house singly, and eight leave; nine women entered singly, and eight left. One man went there on July 1 with a bag, at 3.45, and left at 5.50 without the bag. He was not seen to go there again.

Further cross-examined. The descriptions of the women in my book are the descriptions of the three prostitutes, A, B, and C. There was another one, shabbily dressed, who was turned away, on July 1. She was with a man, and as I passed them I heard the man say, "She wants too much." On June 29, at 4.3, the woman who had entered at 3.30 came to the window on first floor and pulled down the blind, the upper part of her body being naked.

GODFREY WILLARD, 324 E, deposed to keeping observation at the same periods as last witness, and corroborated him as to the entries and exits of couples in every detail of time.

Cross-examined. I made my notes separately from the last witness. I saw the woman come to the window and pull the blind down; she was partly naked. The three women, A, B, and C, always wore the same dresses. Miss Bowen sometimes came and looked up and down the street; also the servant. I used to be with Sergeant Brand when watching; we were in plain clothes. On the night that the shabby couple came to the house, a traveller also came; he had a bag, and Miss Bowen gave him a key. There was another man with a bag on June 29. On Sunday, Miss Bowen, I believe, sat at the window with the blind up and a light on.

JOSEPH CURRY, 5, Chesterfield Street, caretaker of Liverpool Street Wesleyan Chapel. The entrance to the school-room is right opposite No. 13. During June and July I have seen prostitutes taking men into No. 13. I know the women by sight very well; they have stopped some of our young men connected with the chapel. I have seen the couples two or three times a week. After they have gone in, I have seen them go upstairs, and the lights put up on the first floor. I have also seen women partly dressed come and open the window and pull the blinds up. That was in the afternoon. I have also seen travellers go to the house with luggage, and they have been turned away, but I have seen some admitted. Some of the prostitutes have been alone, and some with men; sometimes the men go in afterwards.

Cross-examined. This is not the first time I have given evidence with regard to prostitutes. I have seen women at the windows partly dressed several times. I have not taken notes of the occasions. I do not think I said that I saw six travellers with luggage turned away in one afternoon. I do not remember whether I have seen it; it might be a bit of an exaggeration. I gave evidence against prisoner before the magistrate on a previous case. It is true that until two weeks before May 23, the date I gave evidence before the magistrate, I had not seen travellers admitted to the hotel. I knew there were two gentlemen staying in the house. The improper conduct of the house has been existing (off and on) since prisoner has been there—about 12 months. I am at the chapel in the evenings from 6 to about 11. I do not know the names of the women who speak to our young men. This case was reported by Rev. William Wheatley, who is at present in Ireland.

CHARLES WILLIAM PALMER, 8, Chesterfield Street, deposed to seeing men and women going to 13, Chesterfield Street, and using it as a brothel, and to seeing prisoner let prostitutes and men in.

Cross-examined. I have given evidence before against Miss Bowen. I saw a cab drive up one day with two ladies and gentlemen and luggage, and after one of the gentlemen had spoken to prisoner they drove away again. I have never seen anyone go in with latchkeys. I have watched prisoner's house for months, since she has been a disgrace to the street, and I have lost two good gentlemen through that house and the prostitutes in the street.

Inspector JOHN ROUSE, S.D., E. Division. On July 19 I went to prisoner's house, 13, Chesterfield Street. It has a board outside, "Bowen's Hotel." I read the warrant to prisoner, and she said, "Well, I let my rooms, I cannot say I don't let them, but I do not let them as a brothel. I have some lodgers now. They have been with me four years, man and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, and Mr. and Mrs. Bradford." I went to the first-floor front—this was 5.15 in the evening—and saw a man and woman in bed. They gave their names as Robinson. Mrs. Robinson said, "We are staying here for the night; came about 12 noon, went out and came in again." The man had a collar and tie on, but kept under the clothes. The woman also kept under the clothes, but her clothing was lying about the room. There was no luggage. I then went into the first-floor back with defendant. As we entered together, defendant said, "Oh, Mr. and Mrs. Bradford." There was a man and woman in bed, the woman sitting up, with her leg outside. She pulled a sheet in front of her, as we came into the room. The man kept himself covered up with the sheet. I asked them for their names and addresses, the woman said, "Mr. and Mrs. Bradford." They refused to give an address, or to answer questions. I explained that if they gave their address it would be for the benefit of Miss Bowen; they still refused. There was no luggage in the room. There were four other bedrooms; nobody in them. I saw the visitors' book, but there was no entry

for that date. Prisoner said she was out when they arrived. When charged at the station prisoner made no reply.

Cross-examined. The couples in the bedrooms blamed Miss Bowen for not telling them the police were coming. I explained to them that Miss Bowen did not know we were coming. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson gave their address, "36, Queen Margaret's Grove, Birmingham." I did not give that in evidence before. The letter of the 19th from F. Bradford engaging a room for the afternoon was produced at the police-court; that was the first I had seen of it. My attention was called to entries of "F. Bradford" in the visitors' book. I did not take possession of the visitors' book; Miss Bowen asked me to leave it with her, as that was her only protection. I went all over the house, and saw no luggage. Both the couples dressed and left the house (without any luggage) before I did. They said they would not come back. I did not know the women. Before raiding the house I had not heard that two couples had just entered. I do not choose my time for raiding.

(Defence).

ESTHER BOWEN (prisoner on oath). I started business in 1862, at 4, Warren Street, Clerkenwell; then I was at 4, Swinton Street, which I took off a magistrate; after that at 30, Argyle Street, where I stayed for 30 years. Then I went to 67, Euston Road. I took 13, Chesterfield Street in June, 1906, but remained at 67, Euston Road, where I had been for sixteen years, until September, 1906, when I removed to 13, Chesterfield Street, which I furnished properly. The furniture was insured for £800; it is very old-fashioned furniture. I have a lodger, Mr. Osborne, who has been with me nearly 40 years; also Mr. Boor and Mr. Marshall, an Australian barrister. I have some of the clergy who have been lodging for twenty years. I have had a Mr. and Mrs. Crawford for years, staying a week or ten days at a time. Mr. and Mrs. Bradford I have regular; they were Manchester people. The lady only came twice a year, but he always stopped there. Canon Garrett and his wife and daughter have stayed with me in Euston Road. Rev. Charles Williamson has stayed this week at my house. I have told him about this affair. Canon Miles stayed at the house last night; he always stays with me when he comes up. On the day the police came Mr. and Mrs. Robinson arrived at nine in the morning. They did not write that day. They came about every fortnight or three weeks. I cannot read or write; I get some of my gentlemen to do that. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson only came to the door in the morning, with two bags, which I put in my sitting room under the dining-table. They came again about 12, but I was not in; they went out again, and came back for tea, and had a rest. I was lying down myself when they came in; they ordered tea for five o'clock, but the police came at a quarter to five. I told the Inspector there was a man and wife in the house, who were quite respectable. He told me the charge, and I said, "Not

that; I am not dealing in that way." I denied it. When I went with the Inspector into the Robinsons' room, Mr. Robinson said, "What do you want? Get out of my room." When asked their names, both said, "Robinson." The Inspector told them about the matter, and Mr. Robinson said it was too bad. "Miss Bowen, how dare you keep a thing like that from us, what is it for?" The Inspector told them that I did not know the police were coming. Mrs. Robinson was very distressed about it; I think she thought I owed money. Then we went to Mr. and Mrs. Bradford's room. The letter produced is from them, "I shall be glad if you will reserve me room for to-morrow, Thursday night; my wife will call about nine o'clock, and I shall be greatly obliged if you will have a fire." That is the same kind of writing as I used to get from them. The letter did not come till I was arrested; it was brought to the Court next morning. They would very often arrive before the letter. Mr. Bradford said, "Didn't you get a letter?" I said, "No." His letters always go wrong. I do not know where the Bradfords live; I forget. I think Mr. Bradford wrote his name in the book. The magistrate advised me to keep a visitors' book, when I asked to be allowed to appeal. I came here because I wished to be tried before a judge and jury. I have never received prostitutes at all, knowingly or not knowingly. I have a lot of nieces and nephews, and I receive them, but no bad people. Many people come to the house, but I say "No, I never take people I do not know of, or never heard of." I have plenty of people recommended; the railways bring me people and send them. I charge 3s. 6d. each person for bed and breakfast. The regular lodgers—I have only gentlemen—have their dinner there. I have a little private income. Mr. Boor is in and out most of the day; he has no occupation; and Mr. Marshall has been a lot in. I wrote and went up to the Borough Council, and told them about all this; they said they were sorry; there was a Parliamentary Committee going to sit. I have never been convicted in all the 48 years. I have been a landlady, except in these proceedings. I told most of my visitors about this affair; all the gentlemen know it.

Cross-examined. Inspector Bryson did not caution me with regard to 67, Euston Road. He brought a letter which said that some woman had robbed a man in my house. I said it was not true. I was convicted in January and fined £3 and costs. The same kind of evidence was given by the police as to-day. When the police came on January 3 there was an old gentleman, about 50, and a lady about 40, in bed, strangers to me; they took the bed till five the next morning. I charge 3s. 6d. bed and breakfast for a single gentleman; for a couple, 7s. It is true the couple mentioned paid 5s.; they were going away before breakfast. I was convicted again in May this year, and fined £20 and £10 costs. I did not know of a petition to the vestry by my neighbours against me. There was a petition of my own to the Borough Council. I applied for a summons for perjury against Mr. Bryson. I do not know anybody named Louise Hicks, 10, Chesterfield Street, nor Louisa Temple, of the same

address, nor John Bateman. Curry and Palmer are in the conspiracy; it is all a conspiracy. When Bryson came to the house on April 4 there was a couple in the bedroom. They had been coming for two years. The man was standing at the foot of the bed when we entered the room. I thought he was partly dressed. The woman was in bed. They always brought luggage. They gave their address to the inspector. It is not true that they paid 5s. for the room. The gentleman came for tea and breakfast and the lodging, at 11 o'clock in the morning. He used to come regular once a fortnight, and pay the rent in the morning, and then he would say the wife will be coming at about two, may be later, and sometimes I never saw her till four. He always brought his bag, and the lady hers. I can't think of his name for the minute. He did not engage the room by letter. I did not tell the inspector so, nor say that I should not produce the letter, when he asked me. A man and woman did call when Bryson was there, and the man said "Good evening" to him. I said, "How dare you!" That same man came four days before and asked for a room, and I refused him. I said to Bryson, "You told him to come," and so he had; I could tell it. Mr. Bryson asked him if he had ever been here before; he said, "Oh yes, three months ago"; and he had not. Mr. Bradford always writes from the East End of London, and the wife comes from the North. I let rooms for the afternoon; they come as early as they like. The Bradfords had a bag; they keep one in the house; I put it in their room; I generally put it under the dressing table. Directly I get a letter I always arrange the things. I have other people's bags as well. I have about four bags in the house now of different people. I have known Mr. Bradford nearly three years. He has always the same wife. I can't remember Mr. Bradford's address; it was somewhere in the East End—Streatham way. A lot of people do not put their address on the letters. I never let my rooms late; I always go to bed at 11 and open at seven. The Robinsons come from Birmingham. When Mrs. Robinson wrote the letter with the London post mark she was staying in London with her sister. I do not know where the sister lives. Sometimes when a lady is in town she writes and says she will call and have a cup of tea; my lodgers make a friend of me as well. I put the Robinsons' bag in their bedroom the very day the Inspector came—about three o'clock. Mrs. Robinson was in bed lying down when the Inspector went in, completely covered with a sheet; it was a very hot day. Mrs. Bradford was sitting by the side of her bed with a white lace blouse on. Mrs. Bradford brought a little bag with her. I did not say when I went into the Bradfords' room, "Oh, Mr. and Mrs. Bradford!" I might have said, "I am sorry, Mr. and Mrs. Bradford, for this affair." It is not true to say Mrs. Bradford was naked except for her stockings. Mr. Robinson ordered the tea, and he had paid me 10s. at the door in the morning, which he never had a receipt for. He never got tea, because the Inspector came and everything was upset. The latter came about four and stopped two hours. I had a deaf and blind gentleman there, and

the Inspector let me stop and have tea, and send the blind gentleman home. Mr. Robinson could have had his tea; it was ready; we were only waiting for five o'clock.

Re-examined. I think Mrs. Bradford pulled a sheet in front of her when we went in; she was reading a novelette.

To the Common Serjeant. My ladies did not usually go to bed in the afternoon. The Bradfords and Robinsons went out before the Inspector left in order to get their teas; I could not attend to them as I was in custody; the maid went to take the blind man home. Mr. Mason, the writer of the card produced, with no address, stays with me overnight if he is going to catch a train in the morning; sometimes people do that.

Rev. CHARLES ARTHUR WILLIAMSON, Vicar of Bobbington, Staffs. I have known Miss Bowen for 23 years. I have stayed at her house, as also have my relations. I am staying there now. I have gone into the house at various times, coming up suddenly to town on business and giving no notice. I have always found it properly conducted, as far as I know. I have noticed people coming with luggage, and seen them admitted. I could not believe prisoner would be likely to keep a brothel. I have been in prisoner's house several times this year. I gave evidence at Clerkenwell in May. I have not noticed any couples arrive without luggage or go to bed in the afternoon. I should think that rather strange, because I have been in the habit of having afternoon tea there.

To the Common Serjeant. I brought a bag with me and left it in the bedroom generally. I wrote my name in the visitors' book. I know several of the people who have stayed at Miss Bowen's house. I do not know anybody of the name of Bradford or Robinson.

Rev. JOSEPH HENRY MILES, Rector of Pangbourne, gave similar evidence to the last witness. His wife and children and other friends had stayed at the house; he had slept there last night, and had always found the house very respectable. It was quite impossible to think that prisoner was the kind of person to keep a brothel.

EDWARD JOHN OSBORNE, Osborne Lodge, The Park, Cheltenham. I have known prisoner for over 30 years, and have stayed at her hotel whenever I have come to London, including her present address. I sometimes come up unexpectedly; have never seen any people of a doubtful character admitted. Prisoner's nephews and nieces constantly visit her at her house. If I had ever seen anything objectionable I should not have gone there. I have often spent whole evenings in the house.

Cross-examined. It was not my business to inquire about any couples that came to the house. I was not there between April 18 and July 18. I have not signed the visitors' book.

MARGARET HUGHES. I am general servant to prisoner, arriving at eight in the morning and going home about 11 at night. I have been with prisoner for nine years. I do work all over the house. I have never seen anyone like a prostitute admitted. Miss Bowen has refused lots of couples. The rooms are never let for less than a day and

night. I have never heard any disturbance in the house. The police evidence as to prostitutes entering between June 28 and July 4 is impossible. I take the visitors' tea and breakfast up to their rooms.

Cross-examined. I do the cooking; the kitchen is downstairs. Miss Bowen answers the door. I have once or twice taken tea to a bedroom—to a lady; not to a lady and gentleman. I have not known a lady and gentleman go to bed in the afternoon.

ALFRED SIDNEY GEDGE said he had known prisoner for over 15 years; he was the landlord's agent for 67, Euston Road when prisoner was there. She had always been respectable while he had known her.

WILLIAM EDWIN CHAPMAN spoke in favour of prisoner's character. Her furniture was insured through him for £600 or £800.

MARGARET HUGHES, recalled. I know Mr. and Mrs. Bradford; have seen them arrive; they always brought luggage. Mr. Bradford has left a bag once and called for it again. They have stayed for a week or fortnight sometimes; it may have been this year. I have seen the Robinsons; they stayed just a night and brought a small bag; they did not leave any luggage. They might leave a bag in the morning till they came in at night.

To the Common Serjeant. Mr. Bradford and Mr. Robinson always had the same wives with them.

FRANCIS RETCHIE MARSHALL. I am a Colonial barrister; at present secretary to a public company. I have lived at Miss Bowen's house for over seven years and have never seen anything objectionable going on. I am acquainted with some of the people who come to the hotel. I have the use of the front sitting-room, which gives a full view of everything that goes on. I have known persons of doubtful character turned away by prisoner. In regard to the police evidence, I was at home for two or three weeks before and for a couple of weeks after that particular one—June 28 to July 4. I came home sometimes at four and sometimes at six, and I am in a position to contradict absolutely that prostitutes were admitted at these times, and I say they did not come in, because I could have seen them—neither on those nor any other occasions. I can overhear what prisoner says when she receives any couples, and she is very indignant, in fact rude to them, if she thinks they are wrong people. I took special notice of these things in consequence of the convictions at the police-court. There were some people opposite who made it their special business to spy when anybody of the highest respectability came in; they seemed to make it their business to run about, like ants in a heap, making notes. I said to prisoner, "Well, it seems an extraordinary thing; there seems some more mischief brewing against you." I went with Mr. Boor to the Borough Council, at prisoner's request, and asked them to send a representative any time without notice to see how the house was conducted, and the town clerk told off Mr. Miller to do it. He never came to my knowledge. I regard it as absolutely impossible that prisoner could be the kind of person to keep a disorderly house.

Cross-examined. My interview with the town clerk was shortly after the second case at Clerkenwell. I know that the prosecution was instituted by the Council after my interview.

The Common Serjeant. (To the Jury.) Gentlemen, it is entirely for you, but do you want to hear any more evidence for the defence? If you think you can possibly convict you must go on with it.

The Jury elected to go on.

ERNEST BOOR, retired deputy-superintendent registrar, St. George's, Hanover Square, said he had lodged with prisoner for about 14 years, had never seen any persons of a doubtful character admitted to the house, and had been in and out at all times. He corroborated the last witness as to the interview with the town clerk of St. Pancras, and said it was utterly impossible that the police evidence as to the week from June 28 could be correct; he had made special observation at that time. He was still living in the house, and was thoroughly satisfied with prisoner's respectability. He had noticed on one occasion, when some respectable people came to the house, that a man opposite made some notes in a book as they left and also spoke to them.

(Thursday, September 19.)

On the Judge taking his seat the Jury intimated that they were satisfied with the evidence heard so far.

The Common Serjeant, taking this to mean a verdict of acquittal, was about to direct the prisoner to be discharged, when the Jury said that that was not their verdict.

His Lordship then asked Mr. Muir whether he thought he ought to pursue the prosecution any longer.

Mr. Muir signified his willingness to submit to his Lordship's view, and ask that the Jury be directed to return a verdict of acquittal.

The Jury said that their opinion was in the opposite direction.

The Common Serjeant. I think the verdict would be wrong, but the verdict will be yours. I am not going to dictate to you. I understood you stopped the case in the middle of the evidence for the defence because you were satisfied, otherwise I should not have stopped it.

The Foreman of the Jury. If the defence have any more substantial evidence to produce the Jury would be willing to listen to it.

The Common Serjeant. I do not think they would be wise to put it before you after what has passed.

The Jury then retired, and on returning into Court found a verdict of Guilty.

The Common Serjeant. Esther Bowen, you have been convicted by the Jury of keeping a brothel, after being twice convicted before

the police magistrate. I think the conviction is quite wrong, that on the whole, taking the evidence on both sides, the verdict should have been one of acquittal. You will be bound over to come up for judgment next Sessions on your own recognisances in £10.

BEFORE JUDGE LUMLEY SMITH.

(Wednesday, September 18.)

BARTON, Alfred (23, labourer); feloniously wounding William Heal, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm.

Mr. Arthur Gill prosecuted.

Police-constable WILLIAM HEAL, 827 V. On August 4, between 12 and one a.m., I was on duty in uniform in Falcon Road, Battersea, near Battersea Park Road. My attention was directed to a gang of youths, amongst them the prisoner, behaving very disorderly, knocking at shop doors and trying to hit lamps outside the shop. I spoke to prisoner and told him if he did not behave himself I should take him into custody. He answered, "All right, guv'nor," and they walked down towards the "Prince's Head." I followed down behind them, and he turned the corner at the "Prince's Head" into York Road. About 10 yards down the road he crossed over to a coffee stall at the corner of Winders Road. The next thing I heard cries of "Murder" a little way down High Street, the next turning to Winders Road. Going down to see what was the matter, I saw a crowd round three or four men fighting on the ground. I shone my lamp and bent over. There were 40 or 50 people there, and whilst I was looking at the men on the ground I felt something hit me on the head, and that is all I can remember. When I came to myself I saw prisoner in the custody of Sergeant Waterman, who was in plain clothes. I am still under the charge of the divisional surgeon, and have been on the sick list ever since.

Sergeant WILLIAM WATERMAN, 42 V. On the morning of Saturday, August 4, about quarter-past twelve, I was in High Street, Battersea, in plain clothes. I produce a plan of the neighbourhood which I have made. I saw a gang of lads coming down Falcon Road and I saw Police-constable Heal speak to them. As they came down prisoner went up York Road to the left, and 9 or 10 went in the direction of High Street, several others going across to the coffee stall at the corner of Winders Road. After a few minutes had elapsed the prisoner and the other man who had gone up York Road joined the others at the coffee stall, and a few minutes after that a disturbance took place in High Street. Police-constable Heal, who was standing at the "Prince's Head" corner, walked up to see what the disturbance was. I also walked into the crowd, and leaning over saw prisoner rush in from behind and strike Heal down with a blow of some instrument in his right hand, very much like the padded life preserver produced. I could not see distinctly what it was. I was