

72. CHARLES RICHARD REDFEARN (36) , Feloniously marrying Sarah Ann Barker, his wife being then alive.

MR. WARBURTON *Prosecuted*.

SARAH OSBORNE . I live at 72, Strand—I was present at the marriage of the prisoner and my sister at Old Lambeth Church about sixteen years ago—they separated and then lived together again—I have seen my sister here to-day—I was in communication with her about 1892, she must then have been living at Brighton—I did not know the prisoner in 1892—I believe my sister last saw him about 1891—I believe they finally separated in 1889.

SARAH ANN BARKER . I live at 34, Bridge Road, Hammersmith—on February 24th, 1892, I went through a form of marriage with the prisoner at the Registry Office, Fulham—this is the certificate; he is described as a widower—I had known him some time before I married him—he first described himself as a widower, and afterwards told me (before our marriage) he had been divorced—I lived nearly two years with him, and then he deserted me, leaving me with a child, and without money—I went home to my mother, and have since been supporting myself and the child, as a barmaid—the child died three months ago—after he left me I received this telegram from him, "Come at once, Charles is dying, Russell"—Russell is his mother's name—I went to see him, and there was nothing the matter with him.

*Cross-examined by the Prisoner.* You did not tell me you were not divorced—I was engaged as a barmaid at the time—you did not say when you left for Newcastle that if anything happened to Mrs. Redfearn we would get married again to make it legal.

MARY ANN BECKERSON . I live at 34, Bridge Road, Hammersmith—the prisoner came to me with my cousin, the last witness, and told me he had been married, and showed me this certificate.

ALBERT PEDDER (*Sergeant E*). I produce the certificate of the marriage with Miss Barker.

ERNEST PARKES (40 E.R.) About six p. m. on November 26th, I was on duty in the Strand, when Mrs. Redfearn came to me, and stated in the prisoner's presence that she wished to give him into custody for committing bigamy—I asked her how she knew he had committed bigamy—she said, "I have the marriage certificate, but I have not it with me at the moment"—the prisoner said, "I know nothing about it"—I asked the prisoner and his wife to come to the station, and he was charged the next day and made no reply.

*The prisoner's statement before the Magistrate:* I wish to say that this was not done with any fraudulent intent. My first marriage was very unhappy, and we mutually agreed to part. I told Miss Barker I had a wife living.

*The Prisoner called*

ELIZABETH RUSSELL . I am the prisoner's mother—I often told Miss Barker you had a wife living before you married her; she visited my house for a short time before you were married—I did not know of your wedding with Miss Barker—when I first knew her in December, 1891, or January, 1892, I told her your wife was living, and that you were not free—I had a letter from you, and went to see you—you said, "We have done it"—I said, "Done what?"—he said, "Got married"—I said, "Oh, Charley! how dreadful; it will be found out," and then Miss Barker came out of the adjoining room, and I said the same to her—she said, "Never; it will never be found out"—I protested and said it would, and asked her on what grounds she felt so sure, and she said she would deny she had ever married him—that was in 1892, I think; I knew nothing of the marriage till the day after.

*By the COURT.* I did not know they were going to be married or I would have stopped it—my daughter, the prisoner's sister, sent this telegram—the prisoner may have done it in my name—she came and found he was not dying; I knew what he wanted her to come for, though I did not know he had sent this telegram—he wanted her to come up, and she would not—he did not desert her.

*Cross-examined.* He sometimes takes the name of Redfearn-Russell; I have married again—I did not send this telegram; I suppose the prisoner did it himself—I thought the first wife was living at Brighton, and that it was too late to tell her.

*Re-examined.* My daughter, who is in Manchester, also told Miss Barker that your wife was living—I thought it dreadful that a respectable young woman should be committing bigamy—I could not stop the marriage then, it was too late.

*The prisoner in his defence stated that he and his wife had agreed to separate, and that he had no intention of deceiving Miss Barker.*

*GUILTY .— Three Years' Penal Servitude.*

*NEW COURT.—Wednesday, December 11th, 1895.*

*Before Mr. Common Serjeant.*