

A JEALOUS WOMAN'S RAGE.

FRANK MORDAUNT'S WIFE MAKING TROUBLE WITH THE "OLD SHIPMATES" COMPANY.

Miss Laura H. Wallace, who is a native of St. Louis, and the daughter of an old stage favorite, was much excited on Thursday when she sought a private interview with Justice Duffy. She told him that Mrs. Fanny Mordaunt, wife of the actor Frank Mordaunt, had for some time persecuted her and tried to break up her engagement in the "Old Shipmates" Company, that on Wednesday she menaced her at her residence, No. 124 Washington-place, beat her, threw a pitcher at her, and threatened to take her life. She pretended that Miss Wallace had alienated the affections of "her Frank." Miss Wallace assured the magistrate that this accusation was utterly false; that she acted with Frank Mordaunt in "Old Shipmates," but she had not the slightest affection for him. Justice Duffy issued a summons for Mrs. Mordaunt, but a mistake was made in the address and she was not found at her home, No. 339 West Forty-seventh-street, until Friday night by Court Officer Michael Kelly. Kelly says that when the summons was served Mrs. Mordaunt became violently agitated and exhibited intense hatred of Miss Wallace, of whom she spoke coarsely. Her passion increased, and in her frenzy she proved a veritable Meg Merrilies. Extending her arms she crooked her fingers and expressed a wish to get them "just once" in "her hair." Then she fainted twice and Kelly was compelled to use cold water liberally to restore her. When he left her she was completely exhausted with rage. The summons was returnable at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Mr. John M. Burke, manager of the "Old Shipmates" Company, Mr. Waite, the stage manager, Nelse Waldron, Mrs. Coleman, Miss Wallace's landlady, and some ladies, friends of Mrs. Mordaunt, awaited the arrival of the complainant and defendant. Miss Wallace did not appear, but sent a note to her counsel that she was sick. She promised to prosecute Mrs. Mordaunt as soon as she was able to leave her bed. Mrs. Mordaunt, richly attired, came to court in a carriage with her daughter Josie, and Mrs. Nelse Waldron. She appeared to be ill and carried an envelope in her hand. The party was met in the lobby of the court by Nelse Waldron, who appeared to be very angry, and snatched and tore up the envelope before an officer could interfere. He was compelled to give up the fragments, which contained a certificate from Dr. Ferdinand Beach, of No. 212 West Forty-fifth-street, that Mrs. Mordaunt suffered from congestion of the brain and that any undue excitement would aggravate her condition. Waldron then left the court building, forcing his wife to accompany him. Mrs. Mordaunt went to an examination room and Justice Duffy informed her that Miss Wallace could not be present. She acted like an irrational person. She was tearful and her utterances were spasmodic. She denounced Miss Wallace, said she caught her coming out of "Frank's" room in a St. Louis hotel at 6 o'clock in the morning, that she found part of her apparel in the room, and that she entered her husband's room without knocking. In New-York she had passed as Mrs. Waldron, and she had taken "Frank" away from her. He had treated her (Mrs. Mordaunt) brutally, compelling her, in a railroad train, to bathe Miss Wallace's face when she pretended to faint. Justice Duffy put an end to these scandalous stories by asking Mrs. Mordaunt if she had assaulted Miss Wallace. She replied that she could not say. She had gone to her house, but she would not have gone there if she had not been insane. Justice Duffy was about to adjourn the case sine die, when Mr. Burke said that he had to complain that Mrs. Mordaunt endeavored to hurt the interests of his company by tearing up "Old Shipmates" lithographs exhibited in show-windows. She did this in Howard's Troy Laundry, at Thirty-seventh-street and Broadway. Justice Duffy adjourned the case until March 5, at the Essex Market Police Court, and cautioned Mrs. Mordaunt not to molest Miss Wallace or to interfere with the business of the theatrical company. She left the court, with her daughter, after abusing Mr. Burke.

A friend of Mr. and Mrs. Mordaunt said that there had been trouble between them for 10 years. Mrs. Mordaunt, although she received the greater part of her husband's earnings and lived in luxury, rarely was at peace with him. She caught up with the "Old Shipmates" Company five weeks ago at St. Louis. Mordaunt has the rôle of Captain Marline Weathergauge and Miss Wallace that of the widow—Mrs. Cherry Jones. Mrs. Mordaunt first wrangled with her husband about money matters, and created scenes which compelled three hotel proprietors to ask them to seek other quarters. Mordaunt was compelled to begin proceedings to prevent his wife from molesting him at Pope's Theatre, but they made up their differences, and Mrs. Mordaunt went with the company to Bloomington, Decatur, and Chicago, and arrived in New-York two weeks ago. Then there was a grand fight about Miss Wallace, and Mordaunt fled from his home, declaring that he could no longer submit to his wife's conduct. He has not since seen her, but his friends know where to find him. The company rehearsed at Irving Hall, and will appear at the Cosmopolitan Theatre to-morrow. Mrs. Mordaunt has promised not to go there and create a disturbance. Miss Wallace said last evening that she regretted that she was compelled to take measures to protect herself, but she believed that Mrs. Mordaunt wished to drive her out of the company. She insisted that none of her scandalous allegations were true.

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