

Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 8.0, 21 February 2020), April 1892, trial of GEORGE ONSLOW (37) (t18920404-434).

GEORGE ONSLOW, Theft > simple larceny, 4th April 1892.

434. GEORGE ONSLOW (37) , Stealing a bag, a dressing-case, five shirts, and a variety of articles, the property of the Great Eastern Railway Company.

MR. SANDS *Prosecuted*, and MR. LEVER *Defended*.

ROBERT ALLEN BAILEY REYNOLDS . I live at the Shrubbery, Barking, Essex—on Saturday, September 12th, 1891, I was a passenger from Fenchurch Street to George Lane, near Woodford—I had a brown leather Gladstone-bag, about twenty-two inches long, with a strap and a brass lock, with my initials—I also had a portmanteau, which arrived

safely—the bag contained a coat and vest, a sponge and bag, a nailbrush, a dressing-case, and some iron dumb—bells covered with leather; most of the clothes were marked with my name in full, and so was the sponge-bag—I gave the bag to a porter, but did not see him put it into the train—when I got to George Lane Station my bag was not to be found—these things (*produced*) are mine; this sponge-bag is marked with my name in full; this handkerchief is marked with my initials, and this coat and waistcoat—the total value of what I lost is £20 3s. 6d., and the value of what I have found is about £3.

Cross-examined. No attempt has been made to alter any of the initials.

ALFRED MOORE . I am a porter at Fenchurch Street Station—on a Saturday last September Mr. Reynolds gave me a bag and portmanteau—the train was going to George Lane at 6.8; it would stop at Stepney—I labelled them for George Lane, and put them into the break van—I know Stepney Station; I have been there twenty-three years; the train would stop very near the head of the stairs where people go in and out.

Cross-examined. It was a fast train—I am not certain whether it would stop at Stratford and Leytonstone—there is always a porter to take the tickets opposite the exit of Stepney Station.

JOHN MAY . I am a guard on the Great Eastern Bail way, and keep a train book, giving an account of what time the trains start and when they stop—on Saturday, September 12th, I was the rear guard of the 6.3 train; I was in charge of the luggage van—we stopped at Stepney at 6.10, and my van stopped rather beyond the staircase—I had to get out there and help people, and shut the doors, leaving the van door open, and no one with it—my back was turned to it—Stepney is a small station, and there is not a large staff of servants—a number of passengers get out there, and there would be more on a Saturday afternoon.

Cross-examined. The 6.3 stopped at Stratford and Leyton—anyone taking a bag would have to pass along the Stepney platform, and there was a porter to take the tickets—I did not notice the prisoner about the platform.

Re-examined, There were a number of people getting in and out—it is not the porter's duty to stop anyone who shows his ticket.

EMILY BURLING . I am the wife of Frederick Burling, of 3, Prince's Place, North Street, Limehouse—in August and September I was living at 13, Kirk's Place, Limehouse, which is near Stepney Station in August and September last the prisoner and his wife lodged with me; they lodged there in August

and September for about six weeks, and left at the end of September or the beginning of October—he used to go out about 9.10 and come home between seven and eight—he did not tell me what he was—a man named Rymel used to come to see him—my little girl's birthday is September 15th of and on the Saturday before that the prisoner and Mr. Rymel came home with a young man who was carrying a bag, the prisoner was very *tight*; he took a brown bag from the lad and gave him some money—the bag stopped there two or three days—I did not see it in his room; I did not go in—next day I heard something about a reward; I spoke to Mrs. Onslow about it, but not to the prisoner; she went upstairs; it was after nine a.m.—I did not see the bag tilt the evening, when Rymel and the prisoner came, and Rymel said, "Fetch my bag down"; the little girl brought it down, and Rymel put it on a chair, and afterwards left the house with it—the prisoner

remained in the house a fortnight or three weeks after that—I next saw Rymel in Osborne's public-house; he took a public-house after that.

Cross-examined. I only knew Rymel by his coming backwards and forwards to the prisoner; I know nothing against him—the prisoner moved into my house from the house which he kept, he was only with me two months; he now keeps the Three Mariners—he has a wife and ten children; nine of them lived at my house—he did not complain to me that things were missing from his rooms, or that he locked up his rooms to prevent it—my husband comes home at all hours from five o'clock to eleven—I was first spoken to about this, last Thursday fortnight; I have no doubt it was September 12th, because it was the Saturday before my little girl's birthday, and I told the constable so—I first heard of the £5 reward on the following Monday or Tuesday—it was a very large bag, the boy could scarcely carry it—that was between six and seven p.m.; it was getting dark—there was a lamp, but I cannot say whether it was lighted—I am certain the bag was brown—this bag (*a black one*) is the one Mrs. Onslow goes to market with; it was bigger than this, like a portmanteau, with a handle in the middle.

Re-examined. He had two rooms at four shillings and sixpence a week; the whole of the nine children lived there—there is no foundation for saying that I or anyone took things from his room, nor has he ever charged me with it.

EMILY BURLING, *the younger.* I am Mrs. Burling's niece—I was living with her last September—Mr. and Mrs. Onslow had rooms there, and a Mr. Rymel used to come to see them—on the Saturday before my little cousin's birthday, Rymel and the prisoner came between six and seven p.m.; they had a lad with them with a bag, which they took upstairs—Rymel afterwards went out by himself, and the prisoner went out with his wife about a quarter of an hour after the bag was brought; each had a parcel—I went up to their room and saw a brown leather bag open and half full of clothes—I saw a pair of iron dumb—bells in the house, covered with white washleather, and some scented soap, and a toothbrush like this (*produced*)—I never saw any scented soap in the room before the bag came—I used to go into the room sometimes, but I never saw the dumb—bells there before—I went up after they went out, because one of the children called me—they took the bag out on the Monday or Tuesday night—I had heard about a reward, but I had not spoken about it to the prisoner—Rymel was a respectable gentleman, with bushy whiskers.

Cross-examined. I do not know whether Rymel was a general dealer—the bag was under the window; there was no attempt at concealing it.

HENRY GOLDSWORTHY. I am assistant to Mr. Ashbridge, a pawnbroker, at 508, Commercial Road, Ratcliff—I produce a duplicate for this coat and waistcoat (*produced*), pawned for eleven shillings on 12th September, in the evening, in the name of John Webb, 10, Belgrave Street—I gave them up to the police—I cannot identify the prisoner; it was the last pledge taken in, and we leave off at 9.30.

Cross-examined. There are a good many people about Limehouse who sell odds and ends of clothing; they job about, selling things to sailors—I do not know Rymel—there was nothing extraordinary in the coat; we have plenty of seafaring customers who wear very good clothes.

GEORGE MELHUIH (Police Inspector K). On 18th March I went with

Inspector Steward to search the prisoner's premises, the Three Mariners, and in a box in a sitting-room behind the bar I found a gentleman's white handkerchief, with the initials "R. A. B. R."—I went upstairs and found this sponge-bag and brushes, with the name on the bag.—I met the prisoner that afternoon in Arbour Square, and said, "Onslow, I am a police officer; I have received information that in September last you stole a Gladstone-bag from the railway, and you pawned a coat and waistcoat at Mr. Ashbridge's which were in it; I have searched your house this morning, and found this sponge, and bag, and brushes"—he said, "I know nothing about the charge; I bought the things of Mr. Charles Rymel; this is a conspiracy"—I took him to the station—he said, "Have you seen Mr. Rymel? Don't forget I had the brushes at Woolwich"—he did not tell me where Rymel lived—it is common knowledge that Rymel is dead—I know Mrs. Burling's house; it is within a mile of Stepney Station, and about the same from the pawnbroker's.

Cross-examined. I did not go or send to Victoria Park Hospital—Rymel died in the Union on the 15th, and I arrested the prisoner on the 18th—he was not coming to give himself up; I sent an officer to call him out of the public-house; he referred me to the dead man.

Re-examined. I have identified Rymel as the man who died in the Union on March 15th; a man had a summons to appear at the inquest.

The prisoner's brother gave him a good character.

GUILTY — *Six Months' Hard Labour.*