

**The Anstruther
Guest Book 1901-
1952**

(new window)

**The Decade of War
(1936-1946)**

**The Search for
Renée ...**

September 2004

*Click on the image for
source page ...*



**Renée Baldwin
Raper** and her

daughter, Corinne,

were visitors at the Anstruther's house, *Greyfriars*, at Redbourn in Hertfordshire for the weekend Friday 12th - Monday 15th January, 1940 and then again (probably for the weekend) Friday 22nd March, in late Winter, early Spring - when this photograph seems to have been taken.

The picture was taken by **Marjorie Freeman** who was staying at the house for the period October 2nd, 1939 to June 10th 1940. Marjorie Freeman, who died in the 1980s, became Godmother to Jean Anstruther's daughter.

By stretching the imagination just a fraction, it is possible to see the reflection of the photographer in the pane of glass just above Babs Anstruther's head. Babs Anstruther is seated behind and between Renée and Corinne. **Jean Anstruther**, daughter and only child (twelve years old at this time) of Douglas and Babs Anstruther, is seated to the right, holding one of the Jack Russell puppies.

The story begins ...

The name "renee baldwin raper" did **not** appear via the magic of a Google search; **Renée Baldwin Raper** - with the French acute accent, did, however - and so did a result for "*Baldwin Raper*" Corinne. A pleasant surprise - but odd.

The very English family surname stood out incongruously on a French Genealogy site. There was Corinne - and there, too, her mother - Renée. Game set and match. So that's who they were. Corinne Baldwin Raper and her mother, **Renée Benoit** - married to ... **M. Baldwin Raper**; Mr. Baldwin Raper; no first name, no dates - just a statement.

The immediate reaction was to consider sending a message to the site manager, explain the approach and enquire whether further details were known; but was this worth the journey? So many e-mails these days arrive at "lapsed" destinations and bounce back; besides, at least this person, Renée, now had an identifiable background - which is more than could be said for the majority of the 1936-1946 names in the Anstruther Guest Book. Leave it at that and provide a link.

Not so. Impossible.

Those who chase this dragon will know how compelling is that urge to find out more - ancestor or not - because even the slightest snippet of information with a family connection can nudge some other jigsaw fragment into place - besides, another question was forming in the margin. There was another name, **Magnus Geddes**, linked to each visit by Renée and her daughter. Who was he? He stayed when they stayed - as well as visiting several times in his own right. Douglas Anstruther seems to have followed the custom - begun by his father in the Guest Book - of placing two small circles adjacent to the names of people whom he identified as having some form of romantic association. Renée Baldwin Raper and Magnus Geddes received this **attention**. There was, clearly, a story here. So, nothing for it but to take a deep breath, dig down into the rusty French, send the message and hope for the best. Might be worth asking if the name *Geddes* "rang any bells" too. How do you say *that* in French?

The message went. Time passed.

When dealing with history - and especially with family history - it is just as well to be prepared for the unexpected. Occasionally, as the small hours of morning fight against any valiant attempt to sleep, something niggles; something insinuates itself into that tiny patch of grey behind the eyes and continues to tease. It won't let go; you know you are in a state of sleep of some kind and yet you are thinking as cogently as ever - and even watching yourself thinking, disconnected but as if from some mirror site somewhere close by.

On this occasion, the process was accompanied by an equally disconnected voice; a string of words - "*Go back and look at the photographs.*" It was a semi-conscious voice and not my own *thinking* voice at all - an indistinct, androgynous echo - insistent and set to a default speed of several megabytes per second. I wrestled with this for - probably far too long, and eventually had to give up any pretence to sleep. Thus it was that I spent two more hours of that early Saturday morning going through photographs.

The voice had provided 'sound' advice ... because, contained in an album which had been compiled by Marjorie Freeman at the time when she was staying at the house, I discovered the above picture - quite clearly labelled.



It was like clicking on the "I'm feeling lucky" button on Google and getting the exact page you want; only better - besides, the spine doesn't tingle in quite the same way with Google, does it? Here were two faces, two real people who had materialised into the present through a sixty four year old photograph. They were no longer just names written in a Guest Book - albeit names with a genealogical link to mark their lives. These people had interacted with members of the immediate family and could clearly be seen in a very domestic setting ... mending a jacket, wearing school clothes, sitting in the weak, Spring sunshine of an England at war.

The Story begins to fall into place ...

Persistent searches on the internet revealed that there could be only one such **Monsieur Baldwin Raper** who fitted into this jigsaw gap - Alfred. **Alfred Baldwin Raper** was a British Member of Parliament - possibly associated with the East Islington area of London. It is not known whether he had any brothers or sisters but his father was **Walter Raper** "of Gerrards Cross" in Buckinghamshire. The

Anstruther home at Redbourn in Hertfordshire and Gerrards Cross in the county of Buckinghamshire are in comparative close proximity, to the north and not far from London. The name of Walter Raper's wife is unknown but it may reasonably be suggested that her family name was Baldwin.

Alfred Baldwin Raper was born on the 8th May in 1889. His birth was registered in the June quarter of that year at Hackney, (Middlesex) London. This would make him a fraction older than Douglas Anstruther and some 12 years older than Babs (née Wormald) Anstruther who was born in September, 1901. Indeed, at the time of the 1901 census, Alfred B. Raper was recorded as being at boarding school - Highbury House School in Hastings, Sussex. His age is listed as 11. The Hastings school address was 20, Church Road.

The family – Raper, it seems, had close ties with Yorkshire, as did the Wormald family of **Sir John Wormald** whose youngest daughter, Babs, is pictured with Renée and Corinne. John Wormald died in 1933. Douglas' father was an MP – Harry Anstruther, who died in 1926. The connection with the **Wormald** family will be expanded later in the page.

Alfred Baldwin Raper married, on 7th June, 1922, when he was about 32, **Bessie (Elizabeth) Alice Tobin**, whose father was **William Andrew Tobin** "of Australia" where Bessie herself was born. It is not known if Alfred Baldwin Raper had been married previously. Bessie Alice Tobin, however, had previously been married to **Frederick William Burton Conyngham**, who was the **6th Marquess Conyngham** (in the Irish Peerage). That marriage took place in 1914. The couple divorced (she divorced him) in 1921. Bessie Alice Tobin married Alfred Baldwin Raper the following year (1922) and her former husband (died 1974) married Antoinette Winifred Thompson on the 8th November of that same year.

Bessie Alice Tobin (as Bessie Alice [Baldwin] Raper) was photographed by Bassano and a record of this photograph may be found at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

Renée Benoit

The following information is provided by Stéphane Benoit and is adapted here with gratitude.

The Benoit family lost track of Renée and Corinne many years ago. **Renée** was the daughter of Hector Benoit (Stéphane's great uncle) and Melle. Delebois. Renée had two brothers, **Hector** (Jnr.) and **Pierre**. Their father died young (aged 36) and the children were left in the care of their mother. Family anecdote recalls that their mother sent them off, as soon as she was able, to make their own ways in the world. Hector was sent to Vietnam to work in the rubber plantations and Pierre to Senegal to work in coffee. Renée was sent to England - "*probably to work as an "au pair" or similar*". Hector suffered from depression throughout his life; he was married but not happily. Pierre (born at Roubaix in 1910) tried to re-establish his life in France after the war but eventually decided to return to Senegal until he retired. At this point, he did return to France and settled himself in a small boarding house, which he left each morning and to which he returned at night. He never married.

Of Hector (Jnr.), Stéphane writes: "*J'ai bien connu Hector, un monsieur charmant ...*" and of Pierre, "*Mon père allait le voir quand il était dans le coin. Je*

*suis allé, il y a deux ou trois ans, à la mairie de Roubaix où il est né voir si son décès était noté sur les registres: Il ne l'était pas." Of Renée, Stéphane writes: "Quant à Renée, j'ai entendu parler d'elle mais sans plus. ... Quant au nom **Geddes**, it "rings a bell" mais je ne sais pas si c'est parmi mes relations ou celles de la famille. Ceci dit, je dois ajouter que les Benoit's, d'origine normande, se sont installé à Roubaix, ville de la laine ... "*

The mystery deepens ... and resolves a fraction ...

One of the sister sites developed with this "Family Vault" follows the illustrious history of the British engineering firm **Mather & Platt Ltd.** - a firm in which Sir John Wormald - father of Babs Anstruther - was a Managing Director. He was also the first Chairman of the French company Mather & Platt, set up in 1921. The engineering works (Park Works) for Mather & Platt, in France was at **Roubaix**.

Mather & Platt concentrated heavily upon Fire Protection and the production of sprinkler systems for factories and mills - and Roubaix was important in this respect in France. Roubaix equated to Yorkshire in Britain as far as wool mills and textile factories were concerned. The British company was taken over by Wormald International (Australia) in 1978. In France, the company survives today and goes from strength to strength. It is, perhaps, by the linking of **Mather & Platt** (France) - the city of **Roubaix** - and **Sir John Wormald** that the key to Renée's arrival in England is provided.

The final word? -

Not the final word ... some primary source echoes seem to answer a few questions - and, based on the known fact that in January and March 1940, Renée styles herself as "Renée **Baldwin Raper**" (which may be evidenced by [this link](#)) the following is part of the solution ...

Primary Source Material courtesy of Stéphane Benoit

"Je viens de retrouver le carnet d'adresses de mon père. "

(addresses edited in this page)

Alf. Baldwin Raper - Benoist (Voir Geddes)

... Floragatan, Stockholm

421-424 Australia House London WC2

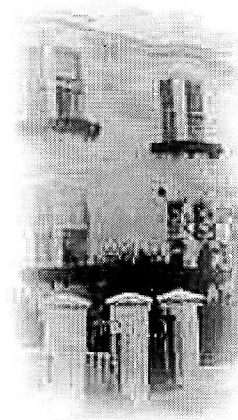
... Palace Court, London W2

... Knightsbridge, London EC4

Mrs Magnus Geddes (Renée Benoist) -> morte en 1978

... Sloane Street, London SW1

... Osborne Villas, Hove



Osborne Villas, Hove - a typical view.

Address Notes

The house in Stockholm's Floragatan still exists. Research, with thanks to **A.G.**, reveals that current memory (dating back to the

1960s/70s) does not recall the name, Alfred Baldwin Raper, nor any British former M.P. being associated with that address.

*"However ... **Greta Garbo** lived there occasionally (she had a male friend in the house) long before she became famous in Hollywood."*

Greta Garbo was born, Greta Lovisa Gustafsson, in 1905 and began her Hollywood career when she went to America in 1925.

Guest Book Annotation - Conclusion

*Douglas Anstruther's annotations in the Guest Book were significant, after all ... and a question pending an answer - was Magnus Geddes born **Magnus Mackay Geddes** - in 1908, in Yorkshire?*

The Wormald Connection

As a result of initial conjecture about the reason why the family **Benoit** and **Alfred Baldwin Raper** may have become associated, it is pleasing to see this piece of conjecture lifted out of the "*possible*" box and placed into the realms of the "*probable*". The coincidence is too great for there not to be a connection of some sort. **Roubaix** and **Mather & Platt in France** plus the fact that **Sir John Wormald** was the first Chairman of the French Company in 1921 - add up to a most "unusual" incidence of *connectivity* ...

The conjecture ...

For the following confirmation of detail, gratitude is expressed to both **Stéphane Benoit** and **Marcel Boschi**.

In correspondence between this site and **Stéphane Benoit** it was suggested as follows:-

"If Renée went to England from Roubaix as an au pair or similar, the question to be answered is - why England? Further, how is it that she met Alfred Baldwin Raper, London-based Member of Parliament? I sense that the city of Roubaix holds the key."

As seen, Babs Anstruther's family was Wormald.

Roubaix became the centre for the engineering arm of **Mather & Platt in France (Park Works)**. Mather & Platt in Britain was a celebrated engineering firm which pioneered the concept of Fire Protection and the production of sprinkler systems for (inter alia) factories and mills – and Roubaix was important in this respect in France. Roubaix equated to Yorkshire in Britain as far as wool was concerned. The French company of Mather & Platt, which still exists today, was founded in 1921 and **Sir John Wormald** was its first Chairman – he was a Director of the "parent" English company and was both based in London and very well

connected. He died in 1933, just seven years before the above photograph was taken.

Click on the small image (right) for a further photograph of the group. From this second picture, it seems that Jean and Corinne attended the **same** school.



Babs Anstruther was the youngest daughter of Sir John Wormald. Mather & Platt's main works in France centred on Roubaix and it seems to me that perhaps via some Wormald (Mather & Platt) connection, Renée may have obtained a position in England which led her to meet M. Baldwin Raper.

As life is curiously punctuated by "serendipity" – you may want to look at a comprehensive web site about Mather & Platt - www.gallopingfox.com/Boschi - that my colleague, Marcel Boschi, instigated in 2001. There is much there about Roubaix – and Marcel knows Roubaix well - as you will see.
... "

Writing subsequently and independently, **Marcel Boschi** - who was born and brought up in Roubaix - and who began his working life there at Mather & Platt - states as follows: (edited in this page)

" ... I knew Mr. **Robert Benoist** very well. He was a Mather & Platt representative and he worked at M+P with my father, **Ernest Boschi**. When I was young, I knew the sons of Robert Benoist ... I went to their home with my parents. One son - like his father - entered M+P and was also a rep.

I can say, too, that their relative, **Albert Dubocage** was one of my father's suppliers, providing him with the pipes and connections which were used to carry out the intallation of Grinnell Sprinklers. I knew Mr. Albert Dubocage when I was young. Albert Dubocage had a son who was also called Albert; both worked at the Limited Company, Albert Dubocage & Co. - rue de Tourcoing - in Roubaix ... "

There can be little doubt now that the "connectivity" theory stands up to the test.

Stéphane Benoit has been kind enough to confirm that "Ets Mather & Platt étaient des clients privilégiés des Ets Dubocage et ceci dès leur création, vers 1921. Ils le sont toujours." He adds, "Avant même la constitution des Ets M&P Roubaix, Albert Dubocage devait connaître quelqu'un en proche relation avec Sir John



Wormald."

The family Dubocage were immediate kin to Renée and her brothers - and it would be fair to state that the influence of this trading relationship between the companies of Dubocage and Mather & Platt - or their agency in France prior to the formation of the company - would have provided the human link between Roubaix and London - where Renée eventually found herself working "*as an "au pair" or similar*".

A member of the Benoist/Benoit or Dubocage families would have experienced the support of a Mather & Platt executive - someone who was sufficiently well positioned and who had connections in both countries - and who was able to see to it that Renée was well placed in London. Family Dubocage memory suggests the name of "Richardson".

In the picture adjacent (original courtesy of Marcel Boschi) may be seen the "team" photograph taken of the first Directors of the French company, Mather & Platt in March 1922. Sir John Wormald (the first Chairman) is seated front row centre. The names of the Directors and the story behind this picture may be seen by clicking on the image itself. The name of Richardson is not listed but this does not necessarily mean that one by that name was not involved in Britain and France in a senior capacity. Perhaps time and research will reveal this link. As to how her marriage to Alfred Baldwin Raper ended - with Renée as a widow or divorcée - is not known. She obviously married Magnus Geddes sometime after these visits to Redbourn in 1940.

Subsequent Research

During the post-war years leading up to his marriage to Elizabeth (Bessie Tobin) and whilst he was still a member of Parliament - Alfred Baldwin Raper was a frequent contributor to the **Letters Page** of *The Times* newspaper.

The Marriage and divorce of Elizabeth Alice Tobin and Alfred Baldwin Raper (details extracted from the contemporary legal archives of *The Times Newspaper*, London)

The couple had first met some two and a half years before they were married; however, the marriage between Alfred Baldwin Raper and Bessie Alice (Elizabeth Alice) Tobin **ended in divorce in 1925**. It was an acrimonious process of suit and counter-suit - with one Dan(iel) Metz cited as co-respondent. Alfred Baldwin Raper is described as a Timber Merchant, living at the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly and is later mentioned as being "*at one time member of Parliament for East Islington*".

Apparently, even as Alfred Baldwin Raper was preparing to marry Elizabeth, he had doubts about the wisdom of the match. He had known for some time that the effects of her previous marriage had left her unstable. As the Marchioness Conyngham, Elizabeth had divorced her first husband (suit heard in the House of Lords) "*on the grounds of his drunkenness and adultery*" and now it seemed that she, too, was using alcohol as a stimulant ...

"He had discovered before his marriage that Mrs. Raper had a violent temper and was sometimes very eccentric and strange in her manner, but at that time he had no reason to suspect the cause. She was also extravagant. Four days before the wedding she had a breakdown and was advised to go into a nursing home. Mr. Raper, by that time had discovered that the trouble was due to drink, but on her promise never to touch alcohol again he consented to the marriage ..."

It is mentioned that they honeymooned in Italy (Lake Como) and then returned via Paris where they stayed for a short while. More importantly, it is stated that there was one child of the marriage, a son, **John**, born on March 5th 1923.

The child appears to have been used as a pawn - being lodged first of all with Alfred's mother at Gerrards Cross in Buckinghamshire when divorce proceedings began and then spirited away from there by Elizabeth. No mention is given in the published Judgement, however, as to which party was given custody - but, since the Decree Nisi was granted on the grounds of the mother's adultery and since the Judgement for Costs brought down in 1926 - presumably after the Decree Nisi had become absolute - mentions that despite some expectations from Australia and England, Elizabeth had debts and was unlikely to be able to meet her costs, it may be assumed that custody of the son had been granted to the father.

Bessie (Elizabeth) Alice (Tobin) Raper - formerly Marchioness Conyngham, died in 1933 - but, from 1925/26 onwards, it is most probable that Alfred Baldwin Raper would have employed someone to look after his young son. This person was, clearly, **Renée Benoit** and it is likely that they formed an attachment during this time as they were subsequently married. Corinne would have been born in about 1930. Corinne (née Baldwin Raper) would have known Jean Anstruther - and, if still living, or with descendants still living - she is, or members of her descendant family are, warmly invited to make contact with this site.

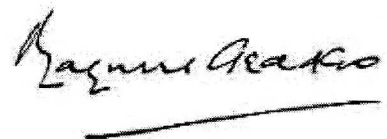
Post Script

The two facts - that

- Alfred Baldwin Raper is described at the time of these divorce proceedings as a "*Timber Merchant*" and as a *former* M.P. and that
- he is stated as living (in London) with his Club as his address

suggest that he would usually be based at his parental home in rural Buckinghamshire to where he took his young son at the outset of the breakdown in marriage and where the infant might be cared for by his mother, the child's grandmother. As only the child's grandmother is mentioned, perhaps Walter Raper was dead by the year 1925.

Trading as a Timber Merchant in Buckinghamshire would seem to be more likely than his trading in London. Thus, it may well have been to this house in Gerrards Cross that Renée first came to help with the baby John Raper. As *Renée Baldwin Raper* during the years that followed, it would have been (even in those days) just a short drive for her to visit Redbourn and the Anstruther home - and to meet up with her future second husband, **Magnus Geddes** ...



Magnus ...

October 2004

Robert Maxtone Graham - younger son of Joyce Anstruther (Jan Struther) - and Douglas Anstruther's nephew - offers the following conclusion to this story ...

" ... **Magnus Mackay Geddes** ... was the younger son of Rt Hon Eric Campbell

Geddes (who died 1937: see *Who Was Who*). Magnus was born 1908, educated at Rugby and Caius College, Cambridge, married in 1941 (they were divorced) Renée Angele Rosalie, **widow** of Alfred Baldwin Raper MP, and daughter of Hector Benoist of Lille, France. **He died** without issue, 20 Feb **1953**. Source: *Burke's Peerage*, under Lord Geddes. ... "

So, the story is ended ... unless ...

Galloping For Freelance

© **Notices**

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES.

MR. BALDWIN RAPER, M.P., AND
MARCHIONESS CONYNGHAM.

The marriage of Mr. J. Baldwin Raper, M.P., and Marchioness Conyngham will take place in London on June 7.

The Times, Tuesday, May 09, 1922; pg. 10; Issue 43026; col D

Mark

News in Brief

Category: News in Brief

**MARRIAGE
ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

It is announced in the Court news columns on page 11 that the marriage of Mr. A. Baldwin Raper, M.P., with Marchioness Conyngham will take place on June 7 at St. James's Church, Spanish-place, and that of Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. Craigie Halkett, C.M.G., D.S.O., and Miss Dalzell, on May 17, at Dawlish.

The arrangements for the marriage to-day of the Hon. H. Fitzalan Howard, only son of Lord and Lady FitzAlan of Derwent, and Miss Joyce Langdale are given, together with a list of many of the presents received; and the engagement of the Hon. E. G. M. Gibson, second son of the late Lord Ashbourne, is announced.

CRITICIZES MODERN WOMAN.

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

New York Times (1857-Current file); Jul 24, 1925; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times

pg. 13

CRITICIZES MODERN WOMAN.

**London Doctor Says Many Wreck
Health by Fast Living.**

Copyright, 1925, by The New York Times Company.

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, July 23.—Criticism of certain types of society women who "rattle around" too much and seek refuge in stimulants was made today by Dr. Hugh Crichton Miller, a well known neuro-pathologist, testifying in the divorce suit brought by Baldwin Raper, formerly a member of Parliament, against his wife, who was the Marquess of Conyngham before he married her.

Dr. Miller told how he saw Lady Conyngham in May, 1922, just before her second marriage and found her in an excitable uncontrollable condition. "It was very difficult to get anything consecutive out of her," he said. "I was very much impressed with her incapacity to take seriously the realities of life. I told her that she was on the eve of being married and that she had been rattling about a great deal too much and using alcohol to get through her life of undue excitement. I told her that if she was contemplating marriage it was time she realized she should mend her ways."

Continuing, Dr. Miller said that his description would apply to a number of modern women. "I see many to whom it exactly applies," he declared. "Very few of them are happily married, I may add."

Doctors, Counsel, Judge Score Modern Youth and Lack of Restraint, in London D...

By T.R. YBARRA. Copyright, 1925, by The New York Times Company. By Wireless to ...

New York Times (1857-Current file); Jul 25, 1925; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times

pg. 4

Doctors, Counsel, Judge Score Modern Youth and Lack of Restraint, in London Divorce

By T. R. YBARRA.

Copyright, 1925, by The New York Times Company.
By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, July 24.—“The chaperon is rapidly becoming as extinct as the dodo,” remarked a British lawyer at today's session of London's current court sensation—the divorce case of Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin Raper, which is daily packing the court room with curious spectators of both sexes.

The lawyer made the remark during one of those informal chats so often enlivening British trials, which invariably remind Americans of American court procedure, because they are so different.

The Judge joined in the lawyer's reflections, remarking that he did not know anything about fast modern life because he never had spent one hour in London unless forced to do so.

“Then you are unqualified to do justice in this case,” objected Mrs. Raper's counsel.

Today's session included testimony by noted London neurologists, who also contributed philosophical reflections on modern life. One, Sir William Arbuthnot Hale, described the typical modern female as “highly strung, nervous, suffering from the overstrain of looking for pleasure and excitement.”

Another, Dr. Bellfrage, remarked:

“In these days, when we have so many unhappy marriages, one's whole time would be taken up with matrimonial disputes if one got mixed up with the relations of husband and wife. I endeavor to skate over the subject as lightly as

possible, and I do not take sides one way or the other. I think that is the policy every busy doctor adopts.”

Apropos of his statement that the man and woman in the case were not suited to each other, the doctor said:

“I think everybody forms his own opinion on that at a wedding. It is one of the most interesting points in a wedding.”

That raised loud laughter in the court room. Mr. Justice Hill, the Judge trying the case, carefully sought to give the impression that he did not belong to any such jovial set as that of Mr. and Mrs. Raper, announcing that all he knew about the pranks of such circles he derived from evidence which he was forced to hear in divorce cases. It was at this point that the Judge announced he had never spent sixty consecutive minutes in London except under compulsion. Then Mrs. Raper's counsel resumed his philosophical reflections.

“I should doubt that there is more immorality now than in the days of our ancestors,” he said. “What I do think is that it is more easily found out. You have got a great deal creeping into this country from the United States and other countries. You have the frank companionship of man and woman which in the end leans toward immorality. The chaperon has almost disappeared and can be classed with the dodo.”

The Judge adjourned the trial over the week-end.

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.

FROBATE, DIVORCE, AND ADMIRALTY DIVISION.

CROSS-SUITS FOR DIVORCE.

**BALDWIN RAPER v. BALDWIN RAPER
AND METZ.**

BALDWIN RAPER v. BALDWIN RAPER.

(Before Mr. Justice Hill.)

By his petition in the first of these consolidated suits Alfred Baldwin Raper, a timber merchant, living at the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly, prayed for a judicial separation from Elizabeth Alice Baldwin Raper, formerly Elizabeth Marchioness Conyngham, on the ground of her alleged cruelty. By his supplemental petition he alleged that the respondent had committed adultery with Dan Metz, and he prayed for the dissolution of his marriage.

The respondent and the co-respondent by their answers denied the allegations in the petition and supplemental petition, and by her answer the respondent alleged that the petitioner had been guilty of unnatural practices. By her cross-petition she prayed for the dissolution of her marriage on that ground.

Sir Edward Marshall-Hall, K.C., Mr. Bayford, K.C., and Mr. W. Frampton were for Mr. Baldwin Raper; Sir Ellis Hume-Williams, K.C., and Mr. H. D. Grazebrook for Mrs. Baldwin Raper; and Mr. Willis, K.C., and Mr. T. Bucknill for Mr. Metz.

The previous hearings were reported in *The Times* of July 22 and 23.

Mrs. Raper, examined by SIR ELLIS HUME-WILLIAMS, said that it was not true that she had ever drunk a bottle of whisky in a day. When she left her husband at Liverpool and came to London she stayed for the first night at the Euston Hotel. Next day she spoke to her husband on the telephone. She wanted to go to their flat, and he said that she must write to him one of her usual affectionate letters. She did so, and she went to the flat.

She wanted to leave her husband, but she could not, as she had no money. At Viborg she found her husband's revolver among her handkerchiefs, and there was a quarrel about that, in the course of which he said that he wished it had gone off, and that some day it would. At Gothenburg he locked her in her room for the day. On that evening he insisted on her coming down to dine with him and several men. During the dinner he was so rude to her that she left the table and went to her room. She again threatened to leave him, and next day she went to see the British

The Times, 44023, 4 (25 July 1925)

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.

PROBATE, DIVORCE, AND ADMIRALTY DIVISION.

CROSS-SUITS FOR DIVORCE.

**BALDWIN RAPER v. BALDWIN RAPER
AND METZ.**

BALDWIN RAPER v. BALDWIN RAPER.

(Before MR. JUSTICE HILL.)

The hearing of these consolidated suits was continued. By his petition in the first Alfred Baldwin Raper, a timber merchant, living at the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly, prayed for a judicial separation from Elizabeth Alice Baldwin Raper, formerly Elizabeth Marchioness Conyngham, on the ground of her alleged cruelty. By his supplemental petition he alleged that the respondent had committed adultery with Dan Metz, and he prayed for the dissolution of his marriage.

The respondent and the co-respondent by their answers denied the allegations in the petition and supplemental petition, and by her answer the respondent alleged that the petitioner had been guilty of unnatural practices. By her cross-petition she prayed for the dissolution of her marriage on that ground.

Sir Edward Marshall-Hall, K.C., Mr. Bayford, K.C., and Mr. W. Frampton were for Mr. Baldwin Raper; Sir Ellis Hume-Williams, K.C., and Mr. H. D. Grazebrook for Mrs. Baldwin Raper; and Mr. Willis, K.C., and Mr. T. Bucknill for Mr. Metz.

The previous hearings were reported in *The Times* of July 22, 23, and 24.

Sir Arbuthnot Lane, examined by SIR ELLIS HUME-WILLIAMS, said that he had seen Mrs. Raper towards the end of September, 1924, in consultation with Dr. Belfrage. He saw no signs of secret drinking. He thought that she was either telling the truth or was a very clever liar.

Mrs. Steward, a trained nurse, examined by Mr. GRAZEBROOK, said that she had seen Mrs. Raper in January, 1923, and had attended her during her confinement in March, 1923. In January, Mrs. Raper was lame. She (the witness) asked her the cause of the lameness, and Mrs. Raper told her. On several occasions in March, 1923, she had found Mrs. Raper crying. On one occasion at dinner Mr. Raper had insisted on his wife's drinking champagne when she did not want to do so. He said that she had made him fetch it, and must drink it.

Cross-examined by SIR EDWARD MARSHALL-HALL, the witness said that she had become very friendly with Mrs. Raper. She had not gathered that Mrs. Raper disliked her husband.

LAW NOTICES, JULY 24.

House of Lords.

At 10.30:—McKinstery and anr. v. McCarroll (further hearing). At 2:—For Consideration.—Mersey Docks and Harbour Board v. Pacific Steam Navigation Company (the Orilia); Owners of s.s. Artemisa v. Owners of s.s. Douglas and ora.; Hunee v. Born Limitada Sociedad Anonima Commercial Financiera y Industrial of Buenos Aires v. H. A. Brightman and Co.

Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.—At 10.30:—Petitions.—The District Governor of Jerusalem and anr. v. Suleimna and anr.; St. Louis and ora. v. Madloux and ora.; Fournier v. the Canadian National Railway Company. Appeals.—Post v. Lancel and cross-appeal (consolidated) (pt. hd.); Peddie v. McDonald; the Broken Hill Proprietary Co., Ltd. v. the Municipal Council of Broken Hill.

IN THE BOARD ROOM.—At 10.30:—Petition.—Malik Raimi Bakshi v. L. Shamoo Nath. Appeals.—Lal Chand Marwari v. Mahant Ramrup Gtr and anr. and connected appeals (consolidated) (pt. hd.); Dadabhai Framji Cama v. Cowell Dorabil Panday and ora. and connected appeal (consolidated).

Court of Appeal.

COURT I. (THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, WARRENTON and SAUNDERS, L.J.J.).—At 10.30:—Appeals.—From the Chancery Division (Final List).—Brown v. The Sperry Gyroscope Co., Ltd. (pt. heard) (25); Same v. Same (26).

COURT II. (BANKES, SCRUTTON, and ATKIN, L.J.J.).—At 10.30:—Appeals.—From the Admiralty Division (Final List).—Sagporack—1924—Folio 556 (pt. heard) (3); Houtestroom—1925—Folio 5 (4). (Interlocutory List).—Susquehanna—1924—Folio 299 (1).

All applications for postponement of appeals, &c. must be made not later than 2 p.m.

Chancery Division.

COURT I. (BYE, J.).—At 10.30:—Motions.—Non-Witness List.—Flannery v. Forsdickina Aktieselskabet Norske Atlas (55); Re Amalgamated Union of Marine Workers Rules (Freston v. Colter) (106). At the Rising of the Court. In Court (as Chambers).—Re Rochford, dec. (Callipp v. Cawkell).

COURT II. (ASTBURY, J.).—At 10.30:—Causes for Trial (with witnesses).—Buckley v. Woodside Brick Co., Ltd. (pt. heard) (90); Ting v. the Hartshill Quarry Co., Ltd. (94); Jeffery v. Merton (95).

COURT III. (LAWRENCE, J.).—At 10.30:—Motions.—Short Cause.—Harlays Bank, Ltd. v. Dowding's Trustees. Petitions.—Re Martin Hall and Co., Ltd. and reduced and Cos. (C.) Act, 1908. Re Openshaw (Duckworth v. Openshaw); Re Manly (Hawkins v. Moore). Adjourned Summons.—Re Harton, dec. (Harton v. McLeod) (pt. heard) (94); Re Hodgkinson, dec. (Hodgkinson v. Hodgkinson) (94); Re Young, dec. (Young v. Robb) (95).

LORD CHANCELLOR'S COURT (RUSSELL, J.).—At 10.30:—Motions.—Adjourned Summons.—Re Jackson's Settled Trusts (Cook v. Jackson) (48); Re Davenport's Settlement (Cook v. Davenport) (49); Re Layther, dec. (Layther v. Layther) (50). At 3:—Re Morgan and the Guardianship of Infants (in camera).

COURT IV. (ROMER, J.).—At 10.30:—For Judgment.—Textile Patents, Ltd. v. Weinbrenner (86). For Hearing.—Cause for Trial (with witnesses).—Stoney v. Eastbourne R.D.C. (pt. hd.) (90).

COURT V. (TOMLIN, J.).—At 10.30:—Application for extension.—Duke of Westminster v. Cross. Cause for Trial (with witnesses).—Hartmann v. Anstern Reed, Ltd. (pt. hd.) (69).

King's Bench Division.

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE'S COURT (Divisional Court) (the LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, AVORY and SHEARMAN, J.J.).—At 10.30:—Ex parte Motions.—Crown Paper.—Wing v. Pickering (pt. hd.) (91); Jones v. Martin (104); Edmonton Guardians v. Mile End Old Town Guardians (87); The King v. Special Commrs. of Income Tax (expte. Peel Mills, Ltd.) (86); Daley v. Lees (88).

COURT III. (ROCHE, J.).—At 10.30:—Special Paper.—Gabriel Wade and English, Ltd. v. Goldberger (pt. hd.) (13); Same v. Same; Whiston S.S. Co., Ltd. v. Andrew

THE "WARNED" LIST.

The following cases will be at the head of next week's list, subject to any case left over from to-day's Cause List:—Non-Juries.—Niupoort and Gen. Aircraft Co. v. the King (fixed July 27) (132A); Byron v. Greenwood and ora. (1,021); Harris v. Robinson (2,705); T. H. Wright, Ltd. v. Fehslein (2,929); Shermans, Ltd. v. Atlas Wireless Co., Ltd. (fixed July 27) (1,591); Edwards and Son, Ltd. v. Andrews (fixed July 27) (2,539); Mackover v. Lipman (fixed July 27) (1,463); Denton Textile Assoc., Ltd. v. Burras (fixed July 27) (1,463); Clerk's Shoe Tree Co. v. Mason and Co. (fixed July 28); Webster v. Young (fixed July 28) (721); Bull and anr. v. Thompson (July 27) (1,430); Nicholls v. Grandfield and anr. (July 27) (1,543); Brookesfield Pine Works, Ltd. v. Todd and anr. (July 27) (1,010); Temple-Johnson v. Morris (1,600); Peristich v. Atlas Cigar Co. (July 28) (1,601).

Official Referees.

COURT II.—R.C.J., No. 756 (SIR FRANCIS NEWBOLT, K.C.).—At 10.30:—Robins v. Bishop; Jay v. Hills; Brattie, Child, and Co. v. the Globe and Rutgers Insoc. Co., Ltd.; Same v. the Canada National Fire Insoc. Co., Ltd.; Mayor of Lowestoft v. Hipperson. At 11.15:—Rothman v. United Cigarette Machinery Co., Ltd. (Judgt.).

ARRIVE COURTS, SWANSEA (MR. G. A. SCOTT).—At 10.30:—Rees and Kirby v. S. R. Anthracite Collieries, Ltd. (pt. hd.).

Railway and Canal Commission.

KING'S BENCH COURT VI. (SARKEY, J., MR. TRYDAG ATKINSON, K.C., and SIR LEWIS EDWARD, K.C.).—At 10.30:—The Treasury Solr. v. the Salop County Council and the Ellesmere Rural District Council (Ellesmere Magazine); the President of the Air Council v. the Devon County Council and the Plympton St. Mary Rural District Council (Cattewater Seaplane Station).

Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division.

COURT II. (THE PRESIDENT).—At 10.30:—Defended Causes, without Juries.—de la Lynde v. Besoon—Besoon v. de la Lynde and ora. (pt. hd.) (39); Keen, F. A. v. Keen, W. J. (51).

All applications must be made to the President at the sitting of the Court or immediately after the mid-day adjournment.

COURT I. (HILL, J.).—At 10.30:—Defended Cause, without Jury.—Baldwin, later v. Baldwin Raper and Metz—Baldwin Raper, E. A. v. Baldwin Raper, A. (pt. hd.) (45).

KING'S BENCH COURT I. (SWIFT, J.).—At 10.30:—Undefended Divorce Cause.—Box, N. v. Box, J. (pt. hd.).

COURT III. (BATESON, J.).—At 10.30:—Admiralty.—Glenshane and El Oso—1025. Folio 73 (Owners of S.S. Corcové v. Owners of S.S. Glenshane and Owners of S.S. El Oso), action for trial with witnesses (for judgment); Energin—1921. Folio 452 (Owners of dumb barges Mogy and Polly v. Owners of S.S. Energin), action for trial with witnesses.

Bankruptcy.

Bankruptcy—buildings, Carey-street, Lincoln's Inn. In Chambers—Room 36 (MR. REYN. MIZLON).—At 11:—Eyre, A. L. D.; Smith, Dr. W. H. D.; Weitztrah, M. (orse, Levy and Co.). At 2.15:—Hall, A. E.

COURT II. (MR. REGG. FRANCIS).—At 11:—Hall, E. & Lewis, J. A., Regnard, J. and Lewis, J. S. (orse, Lewis, Regnard, and Co.); Wine, W. H., Beveridge, J., and Henderson, C. W. (orse, Henderson's Import and Export Co.); Jacobs, L., Malpass, S. J. M., and Jacobs, M. (orse, Jacobs and Malpass); Havemeyer, E.; Greenbaum, A.; Goldbart, T. (orse, Gilbert, T. H.); Joby, M. A.; Leith, G. P.; Heiser, H. A.; Hewitson, J.; Lynn, L. E.; Holland, A.; Langthorne, H. A.; O'Keefe, F.; Kynaston, J. W.; Dawudu, Q. (orse, Johnson, T. B., orse, Johnson, T. B.). At 12:—Jacobs, R.; Ginsborg, H., and Alkvang, M. S. (orse, H. Ginsborg and Co.); Lund, W. H.; Gliddins, F. L.

MEETING OF CREDITORS IN BANKRUPTCY (THE OFFICIAL

Law Report, July 28.

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.

PROBATE, DIVORCE, AND
ADMIRALTY DIVISION.

CROSS-SUITS FOR DIVORCE.

**BALDWIN RAPER v. BALDWIN RAPER
AND METZ.**

BALDWIN RAPER v. BALDWIN RAPER.
(Before Mr. Justice Hill.)

By his petition in the first of these consolidated suits Alfred Baldwin Raper, a timber merchant, living at the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly, prayed for a judicial separation from Elizabeth Alice Baldwin Raper, formerly Elizabeth Marchioness Conyngham, on the ground of her alleged cruelty. By his supplemental petition he alleged that the respondent had committed adultery with Dan Metz, and he prayed for the dissolution of his marriage.

The respondent and the co-respondent by their answers denied the allegations in the petition and supplemental petition, and by her answer the respondent alleged that the petitioner had been guilty of unnatural practices. By her cross-petition she prayed for the dissolution of her marriage on that ground.

Sir Edward Marshall-Hall, K.C., Mr. Bayford, K.C., and Mr. W. Frampton were for Mr. Baldwin Raper; Sir Ellis Hume-Williams, K.C., and Mr. H. D. Grazebrook for Mrs. Baldwin Raper; and Mr. Willis, K.C., and Mr. T. Bucknill for Mr. Metz.

The previous hearings were reported in *The Times* of July 22, 23, 24, and 25.

SIR ELLIS HUME-WILLIAMS completed his address on behalf of Mrs. Raper, and SIR EDWARD MARSHALL-HALL replied on behalf of Mr. Raper.

His Lordship in giving judgment said:—The spouses were married in J 1922. The wife had divorced her first husband. The wife left her husband on July 11, 1924, and the open breach between them came in the middle of September, and the husband shortly after filed his petition for a judicial separation on the ground of the wife's cruelty. The wife on October 8 filed her petition for a divorce on the ground of unnatural conduct of the husband, and on October 12 she filed an answer giving details of the conduct of which she complained. In April, 1925, the husband filed a supplemental petition alleging adultery between his wife and Mr. Metz on two occasions, as to one of which no evidence has been offered, so I only have to deal with the charge of adultery at Mr. Metz's flat on November 14, 1924.

Except in one of its features this case does not differ from the usual sordid cases with which this Court is engaged. The charge against the husband is a very serious one, and I have given it the most careful consideration. The conduct of which the wife complains is

the evidence as to various occasions in detail. I dismiss her petition and the prayer of her answer.

The husband's petition for a judicial separation on the ground of cruelty is not much pressed. I generally accept his evidence, but I am not prepared to find that the conduct which he alleges amounts to legal cruelty by the wife. The real trouble to the husband was the constant quarrels. He had known the sort of woman he was marrying, and had been warned not to marry her. She was no doubt affected by alcohol at times, but she did take steps to check the habit, and apparently with success.

The charge of adultery depends wholly on the evidence of a Mr. and Mrs. Somers, who were in the service of the co-respondent, Mr. Metz. There is no mistake about the occasion of which they speak, as Mrs. Raper gave her name, and the co-respondent mentioned it the next day. It is material to consider the character of the parties concerned. Mr. Metz admitted impropriety at his flat with other women, and Mrs. Raper admitted that she had before her present marriage been intimate with two men other than her first husband. I am asked to disregard the evidence of the Somers, as there is no other evidence of affection between Mrs. Raper and Mr. Metz, and she was on her way to a dance. It is suggested that Mrs. Somers was vindictive because she had been dismissed. She was dismissed, but when dismissed was under a notice that she herself had given. The only suggestion against Mr. Somers is that he was under the thumb of his wife. On the whole, I consider that I must accept the evidence of Mr. and Mrs. Somers and act upon it. There will therefore be a decree nisi on the husband's supplemental petition.

After hearing argument with regard to costs,

His Lordship said that the husband would have his costs of the supplemental petition, except those appertaining to the charge not proved, against the co-respondent, the wife to have the usual order for her costs, and the petitioner to be entitled to add these (with a like exception as regards the costs of the charge not proved) to the costs payable by the co-respondent. Orders as to the costs of the husband's original petition and of the wife's petition to be reserved pending an inquiry as to the wife's means.

Solicitors.—Messrs. Myers and Sons; Messrs. Ridsdale and Son; Messrs. Broad and Son.

COURT GRANTS RAPER DIVORCE IN LONDON

***Judge Withholds Names Given by
Wife, Including That of 'High
Political Personage.'***

Copyright, 1925, by The New York Times Company.

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, July 28.—“Mrs. Raper either was lying or her brain is diseased,” said Mr. Justice Hill in dismissing today the divorce suit brought against Baldwin Raper, former Member of Parliament, by his wife, who before her marriage was Marchioness Conyngham. At the same time he granted Mr. Raper a decree in his counter-action.

The plaintiff had brought extraordinary charges against her husband, which the Court resolutely declined to believe, and had confessed her own misconduct with two men before marrying Mr. Raper. Their names were revealed only to the Judge, but it is stated that one man was killed in the war and that the other is a “high political personage,” who died after the suit was started, last October.

There has been much speculation concerning the identity of the men, and Sir Edward Marshall Hall, counsel for Mr. Raper, in addressing the jury today, said he had been asked in the House of Commons whether the man was Lord Curzon or Lord Milner, both of whom died recently. He declared that neither of these men was mentioned by Mrs. Raper.

Sir Edward asked of the Judge that the paper on which Mrs. Raper had written the two names be destroyed, but Mr. Justice Hill decided that sufficient secrecy would be obtained if the names were stricken out of the shorthand notes and the envelope containing them sealed up. Mr. Raper, in cross-suing his wife, named Dan Metz, importer and manufacturer, as the corespondent. The Judge found the wife's misconduct proved and granted the husband a divorce.

The Times, Wednesday, Jun 16, 1926; pg. 5; Issue
Mark 44299; col C

Probate, Divorce, And Admiralty Division.

Cross Suits For Divorce: Judgment As To Costs., Baldwin
Raper v. Baldwin Raper And Metz., Baldwin Raper v.
Baldwin Raper.

Category: Law

COLONEL LOVE TO WED MRS. RAPER IN LONDON

American Army Officer Will Be- come Third Husband of Former Countess of Conyngham.

Copyright, 1927, by The New York Times Company.
By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Jan. 5.—Mrs. Elizabeth Alice Raper, whose first marriage with the Marquess of Conyngham was dissolved by the House of Lords in 1921, and whose second husband, Baldwin Raper, Conservative ex-Member of Parliament, secured a divorce from her in 1925, is to marry Colonel James Monroe Love Jr., United States Army.

Notice for the marriage license has been entered in a London registry office and it is understood that the wedding will take place tomorrow.

Mrs. Raper, who is 30, is an Australian by birth. She married the Marquess of Conyngham in 1914. When the marriage was dissolved by the House of Lords, Mrs. Raper appeared in person to present her bill for this purpose, this procedure being rendered necessary by the fact that the Marquess is an Irish Peer. She married Mr. Raper in 1922 and, when he instituted divorce proceedings, she presented an unsuccessful counter-petition.

Colonel Love, who is 51, lives in Paris. He is a Virginian of Fairfax and is the eldest son of Judge James M. Love. He served in the Spanish American War, China, Mexico and France, and has only just retired. Interviewed today he stated that his engagement to Mrs. Raper was the result of a steadily increasing friendship which had its origin during the great war.

PROBATE, DIVORCE, AND
ADMIRALTY DIVISION.

CROSS SUITS FOR DIVORCE :
JUDGMENT AS TO COSTS.

BALDWIN RAPER v. BALDWIN RAPER
AND METZ.

BALDWIN RAPER v. BALDWIN RAPER.

(Before Mr. JUSTICE HILL.)

His LORDSHIP delivered a considered judgment as to costs in these consolidated suits, the hearing of which was reported in *The Times* of July 22, 23, 24, 25, and 29 of last year.

By his petition in the first suit, Alfred Baldwin Raper, a timber merchant, living at the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly, prayed for a judicial separation from Elizabeth Alice Baldwin Raper, formerly Elizabeth Marchioness Conyngham, on the ground of her alleged cruelty. By his supplemental petition he alleged that the respondent had committed adultery with Dan Metz, and he prayed for the dissolution of his marriage.

The respondent and the co-respondent, by their answers, denied the allegations on the petition and supplemental petition, and by her cross petition Mrs. Baldwin Raper alleged that her husband had been guilty of unnatural practices, and prayed for the dissolution of her marriage on that ground.

The husband's petition and the wife's cross petition were dismissed, but upon the husband's supplemental petition the Judge found that the wife had committed adultery with the co-respondent, and pronounced a decree nisi. He ordered that the husband should have his costs of the supplemental petition against the co-respondent, and that the wife was to have, in respect of the supplemental petition, the usual order for her costs. Orders as to the costs of the husband's original petition and of the wife's petition were reserved, pending an inquiry as to the wife's means.

Sir Edward Marshall-Hall, K.C., Mr. Bayford, K.C., and Mr. W. Frampton appeared for the husband; Sir Ellis Hume-Williams, K.C., and Mr. H. D. Grazebrook for the wife; and Mr. Willis, K.C., and Mr. T. Bucknell for the co-respondent.

JUDGMENT.

MR. JUSTICE HILL, in giving judgment, said:—The special facts of the case are as follows:—The husband is of small means. They are such that he would find it very difficult to pay all the wife's costs if ordered to do so. The wife has an income of £553 a year under the trusts of a will; the trustees of the trust property are in Australia, and the wife's interest is a protected life interest. She has a further income of £280 a year under a settlement on her marriage with her first husband; her interest is a life interest and there is no restraint upon anticipation. The trustees are in England. The wife is said to be

The Times, Thursday, Jul 23, 1925; pg. 5; Issue 44021; col

B

High Court Of Justice. Probate, Divorce, And
Admiralty Division., Cross-Suits For Divorce., Baldwin Raper
v. Baldwin Raper And Metz., Baldwin Raper v. Baldwin Raper.

**HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.
PROBATE, DIVORCE, AND
ADMIRALTY DIVISION.
CROSS-SUITS FOR DIVORCE.**

**BALDWIN RAPER v. BALDWIN RAPER
AND METZ.**

BALDWIN RAPER v. BALDWIN RAPER.

(Before Mr. Justice Hill.)

The hearing of these consolidated suits was continued. By his petition in the first, Alfred Baldwin Raper, a timber merchant, living at the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly, prayed for a judicial separation from Elizabeth Alice Baldwin Raper, formerly Elizabeth Marchioness Conyngham, on the ground of her alleged cruelty. By his supplemental petition he alleged that the respondent had committed adultery with Dan Metz, and he prayed for the dissolution of his marriage.

The respondent and the co-respondent by their answers denied the allegations in the petition and supplemental petition, and by her answer the respondent alleged that the petitioner had been guilty of unnatural practices. By her cross-petition she prayed for the dissolution of her marriage on that ground.

Sir Edward Marshall-Hall, K.C., Mr. Bayford, K.C., and Mr. W. Frampton were for Mr. Baldwin Raper; Sir Ellis Hume-Williams, K.C., and Mr. H. D. Grazebrook for Mrs. Baldwin Raper; and Mr. Willis, K.C., and Mr. T. Bucknill for Mr. Metz.

Dr. Beckett Overy, examined by Sir Edward Marshall-Hall, said that in March, 1922, he was called in to see Mrs. Baldwin Raper—or Lady Conyngham, as she was then. She was in a very excited condition, and he had at that time at the back of his mind the thought that alcohol might be the cause of it. After that he saw her a number of times in March and April; she was in the same excited state.

Sir Edward Marshall-Hall.—What were the circumstances in which she entered the nursing home at Hampstead?—I had seen her several times excited and uncontrolled, and, finding that her nervous condition was distinctly worse, I urged her to go into a nursing home. I attributed her symptoms to alcohol, though I did not find any physical indications that a large amount of alcohol had been consumed.

The witness went on to say that after a consultation with Dr. Crichton Miller on May 27 he advised Mr. Raper that the marriage ought not to take place.

Cross-examined by Sir Ellis Hume-Williams.—Mrs. Raper was very excitable and neurotic, and when she was excited a small quantity of alcohol would affect her.

Sir E. Hume-Williams.—We have heard her described as a "secret drinker." Did you see anything to warrant that conclusion?—If by a "secret drinker" is meant a person drinking every day, then I saw no evidence at all.

Is it true to say that her appearance and condition have never shown that she was a secret drinker?—I quite agree.

Does it come to more than this, that this was an excitable woman who had gone through a good deal of trouble and would be unduly stimulated by a very little alcohol?—That is the conclusion that I came to, that alcohol would act as a very quick exciter on an unstable nervous system.

MEDICAL EVIDENCE.

Dr. Hugh Crichton Miller gave evidence of his examination of Mrs. Raper on May 27, 1922. He said that he found her excitable and uncontrolled, and she struck him as a woman who had never tried to restrain her impulses. He was very much impressed by her incapacity to take seriously the realities of life and its responsibilities, especially in view of her approaching marriage. Her general condition led him to think that she was in the habit of taking alcohol. Last June she came to see him and asked him whether he was going to give evidence in the case, and then she made allegations against her husband. These, said the witness, were a dilution of those I

thought that Mr. Baldwin Raper was the sort of husband you describe.

You assumed that he would be both kind and firm?—Yes.

EVIDENCE AGAINST THE CO-RESPONDENT.

John Somers, valet to Mr. Metz at his maisonnette at Beaufort-gardens from August of last year until last January, said that a good many women visited Mr. Metz. On November 14 last Mrs. Baldwin Raper came to dinner. Mr. Metz and she dined alone, and after dinner they went into the sitting-room, and the door was shut. That was about 8.30, and about 8.45 he (the witness) heard the key in the door turn and the electric switches click. While he was working in the pantry he heard a sound, which came, he thought, from the sitting-room; it sounded as if someone were in pain or fainting, and he went to the sitting-room door. As he heard voices he assumed that everything was right, and went away. About 11.30 Mrs. Raper left with Mr. Metz. Next morning Mr. Metz told him that the woman was Mrs. Baldwin Raper, and that she was suing for a divorce from her second husband.

Cross-examined by Sir E. Hume-Williams.—His wife was employed by Mr. Metz as a cook-housekeeper.

Sir E. Hume-Williams.—You and your wife used to scrap a bit, didn't you?—Not exactly scrap, sir. Words.

And did your wife leave Mr. Metz's employment because you telephoned to him one day when he had invited two ladies to dinner that you and she had had a quarrel, and that she refused to cook the dinner?—No. I said that she had gone out, and that there would be no dinner.

And so Mr. Metz dismissed your wife?—She could have come back next morning if she liked, but she said that she was tired of cooking dinner for his ladies.

Did you try the sitting-room door to see if it were locked?—No, sir, because Mr. Metz told me not to do that when he engaged me.

He gave you no special directions for that night?—No. He told me when he engaged me to use my discretion whether to attempt to enter a room or not.

Cross-examined by Mr. Willis.—Mr. Metz went out with Mrs. Raper.

Mr. Willis.—He was in a dinner jacket and black tie, wasn't he? He would not go to a dance in a black tie?

Mr. Justice Hill.—I don't know. (Laughter.)

Mr. Willis.—These are my instructions, my Lord. (To the witness): Did you hear a gramophone that night?—Yes, about 10 o'clock. That was the usual thing, and perhaps a little dance to the gramophone tune. Mr. Metz's lady friends used to have a regular routine in the drawing-room.

The witness added that since the supplemental petition was served Mr. Metz had asked him to say that Mrs. Raper and he had left the maisonnette just after dinner that night because they were going to a dance at the Hyde Park Hotel.

Mrs. Ada Somers, the wife of the last witness, gave similar evidence.

That concluded the evidence for Mr. Raper.

MRS. RAPER'S EVIDENCE.

Mrs. Elizabeth Alice Baldwin Raper, examined by Sir Ellis Hume-Williams, said that she was formerly married to Lord Conyngham. That had been a very unhappy experience and she had divorced him in 1921. She first met Mr. Raper about two and a half years before she married him. He proposed several times before she accepted him. Her experiences during her first marriage had greatly affected her health and she consulted Dr. Belfrage. It was absolutely untrue to say that there had been intimacy between Mr. Raper and herself before marriage. When they married they were devoted to each other. The witness then gave evidence in support of the charges in her answer. After her honeymoon at Lake Como her husband and she left for Paris in July, 1922, and her husband drank brandy all the time in the train. They had to change trains at Basel and he seemed very drunk. She had to get a porter to help him into the train. While in Paris he was very rude to her, and during a quarrel he struck her. After that they returned to London and he seemed to lose all interest in her. He seemed bored with her, but was very demonstrative in his affection when other people were present.

In October, 1922, she accompanied her husband to England.

led him to think that she was in the habit of taking alcohol. Last June she came to see him and asked him whether he was going to give evidence in the case, and then she made allegations against her husband. These, said the witness, were a dilution of those I have heard in Court.

Mr. BAYFORD.—Did that strengthen the opinion which you had already formed?—I was interested to find that she was just exactly what she had been, in my opinion, in May, 1922.

Cross-examined.—She was neurotic and living too fast, and was taking stimulants to help her to do it.

SIR E. HUME-WILLIAMS.—That description would apply to a great number of modern women?—I suppose so.

Kind but firm treatment would be required to make a marriage with such a woman a happy one?—I had no hope of a happy marriage from the first time that I saw Mrs. Baldwin Raper, in spite of the fact that, rightly or wrongly, I

seemed to lose all interest in her. He seemed bored with her, but was very demonstrative in his affection when other people were present.

In October, 1922, she accompanied her husband to Finland. He drank a good deal during that time. He carried a revolver, and this was the cause of many quarrels between them as she was always afraid that it would go off. After one of these quarrels he kept her for 12 hours in the train without food as a punishment. In the early part of 1923 her husband was constantly giving dinner parties or going out to dine. He insisted on her being present, although she often pointed out that she was far too ill. On the very evening of the day on which the child had been born her husband had several guests to dinner and made no attempt to go upstairs to see her. He was very insistent that she should nurse the child, and said that if she did not it was unnatural. She even had to pretend to do so with the assistance of the nurse.

On April 5 she was dining downstairs again, and there was another quarrel with her husband. He said that it was affectation for her to have stayed so long in bed. He refused to allow the nurse to stay on any longer. He was very rude because she did not wish to drink champagne, and she had to leave the table. On an occasion at an hotel at Hove there was another violent quarrel because her husband had discovered that she had written to a man—a mutual friend—asking him down. She hoped that this man would influence him. He was very angry, and hit her with the telephone.

On another occasion, while they were staying at Dieppe, he was very angry with her, and struck her with a hairbrush. She intended to leave him and arranged her passage. Owing to the intercession of some friends, she did not go.

Dealing with her husband's allegations as to her drinking habits, the witness said that she had on occasions had recourse to stimulants while she had been ill. She had also just taken what everybody else did. There were occasions when that did not agree with her and had an unusual effect on her. Sometimes a very little alcohol would have a very great effect on her; especially spirits. She had consulted doctors. She went into the nursing home because Mr. Raper wanted her to. She had never known that any doctor had warned him not to marry her. Mr. Raper had never mentioned such a thing.

The Court adjourned until to-morrow.

Solicitors.—Messrs. Myers and Sons; Messrs. Ridsdale and Son; Messrs. Broad and Son.

The Times 44020, 5 (22 July 1925)

**HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.
PROBATE, DIVORCE, AND
ADMIRALTY DIVISION.
CROSS-SUITS FOR DIVORCE.**

**BALDWIN RAPER v. BALDWIN RAPER
AND METZ.**

**BALDWIN RAPER v. BALDWIN RAPER.
(Before MR. JUSTICE HILL.)**

By his petition in the first of these consolidated suits Alfred Baldwin Raper, a timber merchant, living at the Royal Air Force Club Piccadilly, prayed for a judicial separation from Elizabeth Alice Baldwin Raper, formerly Elizabeth Marchioness Conyngham, on the ground of her alleged cruelty. By his supplemental petition he alleged that the respondent had committed adultery with Dan Metz, and he prayed for the dissolution of his marriage.

The respondent and the co-respondent by their answers denied the allegations in the petition and supplemental petition, and by her answer the respondent alleged that the petitioner had been guilty of unnatural practices. By her cross-petition she prayed for the dissolution of her marriage on that ground.

4
husband, filed a petition for divorce. There was only one charge in that petition and there could be little doubt that it was put there in the hope that its very nature would coerce Mr. Raper into doing anything rather than fight in open Court. Five days later the wife filed her answer to Mr. Raper's petition, an extraordinary document.

Counsel read the document and suggested that the charges in it had been invented by a woman whose mind had been rendered abnormal by alcoholic excess, in the hope that her husband would not dare to face them. If the charges were true, it was incredible that the respondent could have written the affectionate letters to her husband which he would read. In one of these, written in January, 1924, she wrote from the Ladies' Athenæum Club:—

Darling mine,— I dined at home last night, and missed my old pet very much. He was sweet, so I played with John (the baby). He was sweet. I have just come from the Unionist meeting, full of old hags—

He did not intend to pander to public taste by reading out the names of the "old hags." The letter concluded:—

When are you coming back, darling mine? Do buck up, because I do love and miss you so.—Your old bed-tempered Cow.

On January 25, 1924, Mr. Raper wrote the following letter to his wife:—

My darling Betty—I need hardly say with what deep sorrow I have decided to leave you. I know I shall be frightfully unhappy without you, but, on the other hand, I am not an archangel, and it really seems to me that no ordinary mortal like myself could possibly hope to live happily or even peacefully with you. I don't propose to go over all the history of our past life together except to say this: I married you because I loved you, and I forgave you your horrible drunken outbreaks before and after our baby was born—just for the same reason. But the last eight months, thank goodness, out of fear for your own life, you have given up drink. On the other hand, there still only remains that one interest in your life, which is more to you than anything of anybody else in the world, in fact, it is your god—FOURSH.

Your always recurrent attacks of selfish temper—the moment I say or do the slightest thing which displeases you—have made my life intolerable. The result is that ever since we were married I am periodically living in hell, and at a time, too, when I am having a terrific struggle to try to make headway in business. For me to continue like this could only result in my having a complete nervous breakdown, which I neither desire nor can afford. I don't want to appear a prig, but I can certainly say without hesitation that during my married life I have done my utmost to make you happy, and to live and behave as a decent man should. The wildest stretch of imagination could not enable me to express the same sentiments about you as my wife.

I shall go to Duchess-street during the course of this evening to collect some clothes and will telephone daily to find out how John is. Whilst I am in Scotland next week I would suggest that you see Price, who will act on my behalf in arranging the details of our separation. I hope you will be very happy in the future and that not much longer time will elapse before you learn the great lesson that the god of Self is the god of Unhappiness—Your ever-loving Tu.

In reply Mrs. Raper wrote on February 6:—

My darling Tu,— You can imagine my deep distress during these last days since I have been alone. Our wish ought to be that there shall be no reference to any difference we have ever had, and I ask you to come back to me to a perfect reconciliation. My darling Tu, what happiness is there for either of us except we are together? My heart's love.—Betty.

After that there was a reconciliation.

After the separation and when Mrs. Raper had not the child away from her, Mr. Raper

(Before MR. JUSTICE HILL.)

By his petition in the first of these consolidated suits Alfred Baldwin Raper, a timber merchant, living at the Royal Air Force Club Piccadilly, prayed for a judicial separation from Elizabeth Alice Baldwin Raper, formerly Elizabeth Marchioness Conyngham, on the ground of her alleged cruelty. By his supplemental petition he alleged that the respondent had committed adultery with Dan Metz, and he prayed for the dissolution of his marriage.

The respondent and the co-respondent by their answers denied the allegations in the petition and supplemental petition, and by her answer the respondent alleged that the petitioner had been guilty of unnatural practices. By her cross-petition she prayed for the dissolution of her marriage on that ground.

Sir Edward Marshall-Hall, K.C., Mr. Bayford, K.C., and Mr. W. Frampton were for Mr. Baldwin Raper. Sir Ellis Hume-Williams, K.C., and Mr. H. D. Grazebrook for Mrs. Baldwin Raper and Mr. Willis, K.C., and Mr. T. Bucknill for Mr. Metz.

SIR EDWARD MARSHALL-HALL applied that the case might be heard *in camera*.

MR. JUSTICE HILL.—I quite recognize that to try this case in public may do harm to people afterwards, but I cannot on that ground order that it should not be tried in public. I have read the pleadings, and it is an odious and disgusting case, and I can't imagine that anybody will want to listen to it unless his duty requires it.

SIR EDWARD MARSHALL-HALL, opening the case for Mr. Baldwin Raper, said that Mr. Raper was at one time member of Parliament for East Islington. In 1922 he met the respondent, who had divorced Lord Conyngham, and she and Mr. Raper became great friends. They became engaged and were married on June 7, 1922, at St. James's, Spanish-place. There was one child, a boy, John, born on March 5, 1923. He had discovered before his marriage that Mrs. Raper had a violent temper and was sometimes very eccentric and strange in her manner, but at that time

don't want to appear a prig, but I can certainly say without hesitation that during my married life I have done my utmost to make you happy, and to live and behave as a decent man should. The wildest stretch of imagination could not enable me to express the same sentiments about you as my wife.

I shall go to Duchess-street during the course of this evening to collect some clothes and will telephone daily to find out how John is. Whilst I am in Scotland next week . . . I would suggest that you see Price, who will act on my behalf in arranging the details of our separation. I hope you will be very happy in the future and that not much longer time will elapse before you learn the great lesson that the god of Self is the god of Unhappiness.—Your ever-loving Tu.

In reply Mrs. Raper wrote on February 6:—

My darling Tu.— You can imagine my deep distress during these last days since I have been alone. Our wish ought to be that there shall be no reference to any difference we have ever had, and I ask you to come back to me to a perfect reconciliation. My darling Tu, what happiness is there for either of us except we are together? My heart's love.—BERRY.

After that there was a reconciliation.

After the separation and when Mrs. Raper had put the child away near Deal, Mr. Raper had his wife watched and he found that she seemed to be enjoying herself and generally having a good time. He afterwards learned of her intimacy with a Mr. Metz, whom he had met on one occasion, and whom he understood to be a man of means. He had let him his flat at Beaufort-gardens. By his supplemental petition Mr. Raper alleged that his wife had committed adultery with Dan Metz at that address on November 14, 1924, and February 23, 1925.

Mr. Raper gave evidence in support of his petition. He denied the charges made against him.

Mr. Raper was cross-examined by SIR ELLIS HUME-WILLIAMS as to the charges in his wife's answer and cross-petition.

SIR ELLIS HUME-WILLIAMS.—You knew that your wife had divorced her first husband?—Yes.

And that her first marriage had been very unhappy. Her allegations against her former husband were of drunkenness and adultery?—I believe so.

SIR EDWARD MARSHALL-HALL.—As the husband was an Irish peer, it was a House of Lords case.

SIR ELLIS HUME-WILLIAMS.—Did you

know that what she had gone through during her first marriage had very seriously affected her health?—No, I did not know that.

The witness was also cross-examined by Mr. WILLIS as to the charges against Mr. Metz. The hearing was adjourned until to-morrow.

Solicitors.—Messrs. Myers and Sons; Messrs. Ridsdale and Son; Messrs. Broad and Son.

Counsel went on to say that after the marriage Mrs. Raper was addicted to secret drinking, and he gave an account of assaults which, he said, had been committed by her on her husband. On September 15, 1924, Mr. Raper made up his mind that he would not live with her and he had his child removed to his mother's house at Gerrard's Cross. At midnight that night he went to his flat at Duchess-street and found his wife there. There was a most violent "scene," and Mrs. Raper smashed her mirror over her husband's head. At 3 o'clock in the morning she finally left and went to her mother. Later that day Mr. Raper told her definitely on the telephone that he could not resume cohabitation. Mrs. Raper knew that her only weapon against her husband was his great love for his child. She therefore went to Gerrard's Cross, and by a subterfuge got possession of the child. She had kept it ever since, thus depriving Mr. Raper of his child, and on September 24 Mr. Raper presented a petition for judicial separation, asking for the custody of the child.

On October 8, Mrs. Raper, who until then had given no sign of any complaint against her

The Times, 44020, 5 (22 July 1925)

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.

PROBATE, DIVORCE, AND
ADMIRALTY DIVISION.

CROSS-SUITS FOR DIVORCE.

BALDWIN RAPER v. BALDWIN RAPER
AND METZ.

BALDWIN RAPER v. BALDWIN RAPER.

(Before MR. JUSTICE HILL.)

By his petition in the first of these consolidated suits Alfred Baldwin Raper, a timber merchant, living at the Royal Air Force Club Piccadilly, prayed for a judicial separation from Elizabeth Alice Baldwin Raper, formerly Elizabeth Marchioness Conyngham, on the ground of her alleged cruelty. By his supplemental petition he alleged that the respondent had committed adultery with Dan Metz, and he prayed for the dissolution of his marriage.

The respondent and the co-respondent by their answers denied the allegations in the petition and supplemental petition, and by her answer the respondent alleged that the petitioner had been guilty of unnatural practices. By her cross-petition she prayed for the dissolution of her marriage on that ground.

Sir Edward Marshall-Hall, K.C., Mr. Bayford, K.C., and Mr. W. Frampton were for Mr. Baldwin Raper; Sir Ellis Hume-Williams, K.C., and Mr. H. D. Grazebrook for Mrs. Baldwin Raper; and Mr. Willis, K.C., and Mr. T. Bucknill for Mr. Metz.

SIR EDWARD MARSHALL-HALL applied that the case might be heard *in camera*.

MR. JUSTICE HILL.—I quite recognize that to try this case in public may do harm to people afterwards, but I cannot on that ground order that it should not be tried in public. I have read the pleadings, and it is an odious and disgusting case, and I can't imagine that anybody will want to listen to it unless his duty requires it.

SIR EDWARD MARSHALL-HALL, opening the case for Mr. Baldwin Raper, said that Mr. Raper was at one time member of Parliament for East Islington. In 1922 he met the respondent, who had divorced Lord Conyngham, and she and Mr. Raper became great friends. They became engaged and were married on June 7, 1922, at St. James's, Spanish-place. There was one child, a boy, John, born on March 5, 1923. He had discovered before his marriage that Mrs. Raper had a violent temper and was sometimes very eccentric and strange in her manner, but at that time he had no reason to suspect the cause. She was also extravagant. Four days before the wedding she had a breakdown and was advised to go into a nursing home. Mr. Raper, by that time, had discovered that the trouble was due to drink, but on her promise never to touch alcohol again he consented to the marriage.