

"E" Company, which was my Company—he deserted after this robbery in July—I am sure he is the same man.

*Cross-examined.* I had to pay you and tell you your duties and parades—I can say nothing about the robbery.

GUILTY.—*Twelve Months' Hard Labour.*

35. GEORGE SIMPSON(40), Stealing an overcoat, the property of Thomas Smith.

*MR. BURNIE Prosecuted.*

JOHN FIELD. I am salesman to Thomas Smith, 77, Bishopgate Street Without, tailor and outfitter—about 5.10 on 2nd September my attention was called by a gentleman who had the prisoner by the collar—the prisoner had this overcoat (*produced*) over his arm—it is my master's property—I had seen it two minutes before, hanging three feet inside the door—I asked the prisoner what he was doing with the coat in his possession—he said he was looking at the coat and it fell off the nail on to his arm—the nail was driven at an angle, and the coat was so hanging that it could not fall—I said "If the coat fell on to your arm there was no necessity for you to walk down Bishopgate Street with it"—at that time he was three feet from the door—he made no answer—the gentleman said that when he first saw the prisoner he saw him take the coat from the nail, lift it down, and he was walking down the street; he got as far as the end of the shop when he caught him by the collar and brought him back.

CHARLES SPINNEY (*City Policeman*). The prisoner was given into my custody by the last witness—he said "I was looking at the coat and it fell off in my hands"—I took him to the station—the charge was read over to him and I asked him if he understood it—he said "No"—the charge was read over and he said "I know nothing at all about it."

NOT GUILTY.

36. LEO SERNÉ (34), Unlawfully obtaining by false pretences from James Philips and Charles Graves 10*l.* and 5*l.* with intent to defraud.

*MR. HORACE AVORY Prosecuted; MR. FULTON Defended.*

CHARLES GRAVES. I am a member of the firm of Philips and Graves, 8, Cross Lane, shipbrokers—we are agents for the Netherlands Steamship Company—the Holland, a ship of theirs, arrived in this country on 15th September—soon after its arrival I saw the prisoner at my office—I was sitting close to the place he applied at—I spoke in English; he understood me apparently, and spoke to me in English—he said he came for the delivery of a box of bulbs—the box was missing; it could not be found on board—nothing else was said then—about a week afterwards he came again and pressed very hardly for the payment of 15*l.* for the goods—whenever I was there I spoke to him in English—I made every inquiry about the case, but could not learn any trace of it—he brought this written claim, to the office—I should say it is in his handwriting—I saw him sign his name on the back of a cheque—this was left at the office: "7, Manchester Street, King's Cross, 27th September. To Leo Serné, for the case of bulbs lost in the transit between Hamburg and London, as per value, 15*l.*"—on 3rd October we paid him 10*l.* by this cheque (*produced*), which was cashed in the office—he endorsed it in my presence, and the money was handed to him—on 9th October the remaining 5*l.* was paid him by the cashier in the office, and he signed this receipt: "Received the above sum of 15*l.* in

settlement of all claims;" across the stamp "Leo Serné"—on both of those occasions he appeared to understand perfectly what was said in English—it was upon the faith that the case was really missing that I advanced him the 15*l.*—I should certainly not have done so if I had known he had got the case—this is the bill of lading of the case—it was produced by the prisoner when he came—he endorsed it and we paid him in exchange for it.

*Cross-examined.* I saw him write the "Leo Serné" across the stamp—there is a similarity between the signature and the document itself—I will not admit that the "Leo Serné" has every attribute of a foreigner's handwriting, and the upper portion every attribute of an Englishman's—nearly all foreigners have a different way of writing from an Englishman—I come in contact with a great many foreigners—"Leo Serné" is undoubtedly in a foreign handwriting—his signature is also on each bill of lading—I do not speak Dutch, I speak a little German—if the case had been opened and some bulbs taken out in the transit we should certainly have paid the claim—I did not see anybody with the prisoner when he came; I am not aware anybody else was with him—he said, "I wish delivery of this case of bulbs"—he spoke with an altered intonation—the case of bulbs was not to be found anywhere at that time—the clerks in the office were present—I had no difficulty in understanding what he said—I saw him a few days afterwards—he was alone then as far as I knew, I saw no one with him—we said we were very sorry we could not find his case, every search had been made for it, and therefore we must make him recon-pense for it—his English was such that we could understand fully what he wanted—he made no objection—the first time he came he made no claim for loss of contents—he said, "I must have my case of bulbs"—I said, "Unfortunately we cannot trace it"—there was a similar conversation on the second occasion—I will not pledge my oath he used the word "delivery"—he said each time, "I wish to have my case of bulbs"—he said not a word about the inside of it.

*Re-examined.* He never said a word about having found the case, or that bulbs were missing out of it—this letter (*produced*) dated 24th September was written from our firm by one of our clerks. (*This stated that the case of flower roots for which he held the bill of lading had not arrived by s.s. Holland*)—he came to see me after that—he did not say a word about my being mistaken in supposing it had not arrived.

HENRY ROSS. I am Custom House agent at the Lobby Coffee-house—it is part of my duty to pass the entries—on 18th September the prisoner asked me in the ordinary way to pass the entry for a case—I spoke English to him, I do not speak Dutch—I asked him the value of it, and he said 1*l.*—I said it was very trivial and said, "Where is your invoice?"—he could not produce it—he had a companion with him—he was asked whether that was right, and he said, "Say 1*l.*"—he gave me the description, and I entered it as a case of flower roots—there is no duty on flower roots—it would have made no difference whether he described it as 15*l.* or 1*l.*—in the ordinary way I sent down a landing order to get signed into the lobby—this is it (*produced*).

*Cross-examined.* He speaks the most imperfect English, I could not understand him—I got at the bottom of the matter about the 1*l.* from his companion—I could not understand a word the man said; I tried to, and then I applied to the friend to know what he came about, and he

interpreted all he wanted—there is no pretence for saying the man could speak English.

*Re-examined.* The prisoner spoke to me, but I could not understand what he said; it was not the sort of English I could understand, it was Dutch to me.

ISRAAC EMANUEL RONCKEMMER. I am a fish hawker, and live at 14, Tewkesbury New Buildings, Whitechapel—I have known the prisoner about seven or eight weeks—I went with him to the Custom House on a Monday or Tuesday in September—I saw Mr. Ross, and Mr. Serné got a landing order from him—I spoke to Mr. Ross in the prisoner's presence—the prisoner first of all came to me and asked me if I wanted to do some jobs or work, to fetch a case of bulbs from the ship, and he would pay me for it—I said I would—somebody told me I could not get the case till I had been to the Custom House, and three of us, Serné, Mr. Smith, whom I don't think is here, and myself, went to the Custom House—the gentleman there asked the value of the case, and I could not tell, and asked Mr. Serné, and he said in Dutch "1*l.*," and I told it to the gentleman in English—when he had paid 2*s.* 6*d.* in the Custom House we went on board the ship and could not get the case, and went to Messrs. Philips and Graves's office—the next morning the prisoner came to me and said he had got a letter from the man who took the case of roots from the ship by mistake to his own house, and wanted him to fetch them away, as if he did not they would be sent back to Messrs. Philips and Graves—he showed me the letter; I did not read it—I, Serné, and Smith went to the Kingsland Road together to Mr. Runté's, and saw there a lady and that little boy about the case—I took the case, as Mr. Serné told me, to 3, Tewkesbury New Buildings, where Smith used to live—I left it on the pavement; the *missus* came out, and I told her to take care of it—Serné and Smith did not go with me—there was an address on the case, but I did not read it—as far as I saw the case was in good condition when I took it away, it was not broken at all.

*Cross-examined.* I did the talking at the Custom House; I did not go with him for that. I went to fetch the case away—he said he could not speak too much English, and I said I would do it for him as good as I could—I am Dutch—I don't think I wrote anything for him—I was to have 4*s.* a day for this business—it came to 16*s.*, and he said he would make it all right and give me 1*l.*—I have never had a farthing—Serné asked me to go with him for a Saturday—I said I could not as I had not got an overcoat—he said he had got 13 or 14, and would give me one, and a pair of trousers and a waistcoat—I had the overcoat, not the other things—I have got the overcoat now, I don't think he wanted me to give that back—I am sure he put the value of the case at 1*l.*, I am sure it was not 15*l.*—I went to the police-court 12 or 14 days afterwards—Mr. Smith came to me and said, "Haven't you heard anything of Serné?"—I said no, I hadn't—he said, "Well, I have lent him 3*l.* 10*s.*, and afterwards I lent him 11*s.* and three pawn-tickets, and then he went to the police-station and told the Court that he had lost the ticket of a watch, and got the watch," and he promised Mr. Smith if he got the 15*l.* from Messrs. Philips and Graves that he would give him 3*l.*, and Smith said if I didn't go to Messrs. Philips and Graves Mr. Serné would round on me, as he must have his 16*s.*—that was the reason I went to Philips and Graves—I don't know if I have ever seen this declaration document



before—I don't know that I ever heard anything about it.—I gave evidence at the police-court—I have often spoken English to the prisoner when an Englishman was with us—he could understand some words—I could only understand a word here and there—he speaks sometimes an English and sometimes a Dutch word—if somebody talked in English he would say “What is that?” and I would explain it to him.

*Re-examined.* I think I have heard other people talking English to him many times, but I could not say what it was.

EDWARD RUNTÉ. I live at 15, Little Essex Street, Kingsland Road—my aunt arrived on Sunday night, 16th September, in London by the s.s. Holland, and came to stay with us—on Monday morning I saw a case which came with her luggage, but which did not belong to her—there was a name and address on the case—I took a letter to that name and address, which was in the Euston Road, “Leo Serné”—they gave me three numbers to inquire at, and I took the letter to a house in Manchester Street, where he lived, and left it there—I don't remember if it was No. 7—on Wednesday morning, the 19th, the prisoner, the last witness, and another man came to our house—we delivered up the case to them, and they took it away—when the case was delivered to them it was in good condition; there was no sign of its having been broken open—besides the name and address on the case there was “L.S.”

RICHARD PINNEY. I am a clerk in the employment of Messrs. Philips and Graves—I arrived by the steam ship Holland from Rotterdam on Sunday, the 17th—I saw the prisoner I think on the following Tuesday at the office of Philips and Graves—he came to apply for the release of a case of bulbs, and he presented the bill of lading—he spoke English sufficiently clearly for me to understand him—he spoke no other language while there, and no one spoke to him in any other language in my presence—I saw him several times during September; on each occasion he came to claim the case of bulbs, which could not be found—he never said anything about having found it—I was present when the first sum of 10*l.* was paid; I cannot say about the second payment—on 18th October Ronckemmer called at the office and made a communication to me, which I reported to my principals, with the result that I went to Little Essex Street, Kingsland Road, and then to Devonshire House, Bishopsgate Street, where I found the prisoner had an office—his name was on the door—he was not in—I went downstairs, and remained at the street door till he came, and I went up to him and said “Good morning, Mr. Serné, you have seen me before; you probably remember me. I have called with reference to the case of bulbs, for which you received 15*l.*, and which was not lost as you said, and which you know all about”—he seemed rather surprised—I said “You have made yourself amenable to the law, and my instructions are to give you into custody”—he hesitated, and then at last said “I have not got 15*l.* now, but if you will wait here I will send and try and get it”—I forbade his going, and remained there, and sent a message to our principals—I allowed him to go upstairs to his office, and I went up after I had sent to the office—I knocked at the door—ultimately he opened it, and wanted me to go inside—I said “No, I can communicate all I have to say here; I am extremely sorry, but I have instructions to give you into custody for obtaining the 15*l.* fraudulently from my people”—he said he did not wish to go through the streets in the company of a policeman, and then I walked

with him to the nearest police-station—he never said a word about having made the claim in respect of bulbs missing from the case—the first we heard of that was when he was charged at the Mansion House.

*Cross-examined.* This is the first time I have given evidence in this matter—I went to ascertain whether he had an office there or not—I did not give him into custody at once, because I thought it best to communicate with my principals, and know from them whether they would allow him to do what he suggested—I went there by the firm's directions—a lad was in the office when I got there—I did not ask for the 15*l.*—I said he had no right to receive the 15*l.*—he said he wanted time to get it, and I sent to our firm for their ultimatum—I saw him write his name—he spoke English—he understood what I said—he said "Will you wait till I go and get 15*l.*"—he spoke well enough to be understood; he hesitated—I should not think the Leo Serané on this and the upper part of it are in the same handwriting.

JOSEPH TETHER (*City Policeman* 891). The prisoner was given into my custody by Mr. Pinney, on a charge of obtaining money by false pretences—we asked him at the station if he had the money and the case, and he said he had—I was present at the Mansion House when the prisoner made a statement—it was not made in English, but interpreted by the interpreter—I found some documents in the prisoner's possession—this is one of them (*produced*).

*Cross-examined.* He made the statement in Dutch, and it was interpreted—I did not make a note of the conversation—he does not speak very good English—he could not be understood at the Court, and it was proposed that an interpreter should be sent for.

*The Prisoner's Statement before the Magistrate.* "A couple of days before the case arrived here I received a letter from Philips and Graves, enclosing the bill of lading of a case of bulbs. I took Ronckemmer with me to the Custom House. I went from there to the s.s. Holland to see about the case, and there I had the answer that my case could not be found; that very likely it was already delivered on shore. I went to Messrs. Philips and Graves after this, and they told me that the case had gone to a wharf, and I should have it the next day. The next day I went to Philips and Graves, but the case was nowhere to be found. When I came home I had a letter that my case had come ashore at Blackwall with the passengers' luggage, and then I went to the place I had the letter from to fetch the case. I took the case away with Ronckemmer. I took the case in the presence of four witnesses, and instead of bulbs being in it of the value of 20*l.* they were not of the value of 10*l.* After that I went to Philips and Graves's office to claim the case. I made the claim not for the loss of the case, but for the loss of the bulbs. I can bring witnesses. I signed the claim to receive the money, but I did not know what was written down. I call no witnesses here.

GUILTY.—*Eighteen Months' Hard Labour.*

---

OLD COURT.—*Wednesday, November 21st, 1883.*

*Before Mr. Justice Stephen.*

37. HANNAH PETERS (21) was charged, on the Coroner's Inquisition only, with the manslaughter of Kate Peters.