

**EXTRAORDINARY CASE.—THE BLIND  
BEGGAR and Eliza —.**

Mahomet Abraham, the blind black beggarman, and Eliza, the unfortunate young creature who was a few days ago found in his company by one of the officers of the Mendicity Association, were brought up on Wednesday for further examination before Alderman Hooper, at the Mansion-house.

As might be expected the justice-room and the avenues to it were crowded, although no public notice had been given of the appointed time for resuming the inquiry. The couple were examined separately.

Mahomet Abraham was first put to the bar. His hair had been before he left the Compter combed and brushed, and his face and hands looked as if they had been well mopped. His dog, which walked up stairs before him, took a turn amongst the crowd, but very soon smelling out his master seemed determined not to stray away from the scent, which many of the spectators seemed not to relish half so much.

Major, the officer of the Mendicity Society, who apprehended Mahomet, having repeated the evidence which he gave on the first examination, said there were persons present who could further inform the alderman upon the subject, and the female's father was also in the house.

George Foster, a policeman, said: I know Mahomet these five or six years, and had him once in custody about two years ago. He had then in his possession 2s. or 3s., which I saw him receive in Cheapside in a short time. I have seen him in the streets begging within the last five or six weeks.

Alderman Hooper: Was he led by anybody?—Policeman: Merely by a dog.

Alderman Hooper: Is that the dog which you saw with him when you took him into custody?—Mahomet: No, no, your lordship; my old dog is dead. I have this dog only a short time. I have been these eight years begging, and ever so many people have seen me. This dog comes now to beg along with me.

Alderman Hooper: Mahomet, do you wish to say anything about this charge against you of begging? Mahomet: I told your lordship that I had been begging these eight years; and so I have all through London everywhere, and I have nothing else to live upon. I must beg.

Alderman Hooper: How long have you been in England? Mahomet: Upwards of eight years.

Alderman Hooper: And what were you before you came to England? Mahomet: I was a sailor, and I came from Calcutta, and got cold in my eyes, one of which is stoneblind. I have a glimmer of light with my left eye, but I cannot see anything at all. God help me.

Alderman Hooper: How long have you been acquainted with Eliza? Mahomet: Nine months.

Alderman Hooper: And how did your knowledge of her begin?

Mahomet said, as well as our reporter could catch his words, which very few seemed to be able to comprehend, "I went out one night to buy some victuals for my dog. It was late, and I called out to the people I heard passing by, 'Where can I get any dog's meat?' At last Eliza heard me, and she came and took me to a cat's meat shop, where I got what I wanted, and I asked her to come home and take a cup of tea with me, and I would try and make her comfortable. So she agreed to come home with me, and we had our tea, and then she said, as it was a quarter to eleven o'clock, she was shut out, and she did not know where to go."

Alderman Hooper: Where did you live at that time? Mahomet: In George-yard. I told her whenever she was shut out to come to me, and she should have what she wanted.

Alderman Hooper: And she has lived with you ever since? Mahomet: She has; but she never went begging with me. I never begged with anybody but my dog.

Mr. Coleman, of the office of the Registrar General of Seamen, said, in answer to a question from Alderman Hooper, that by the 7th and 8th Vic., cap. 12, the defendant could, as a *Malay*, be sent back to India, at the expense of the owners, by the Lords of the Admiralty.

Mahomet shook his head, and in other ways expressed his unwillingness to be disposed of in such a manner.

Alderman Hooper (to Mahomet): You are a well known beggar about London, and you are perfectly aware that in begging you have acted illegally. I shall remand you for a week, in order to make arrangements for sending you back to your own country, which I consider is a much better way of getting rid of you than by dealing with you as we deal with other beggars. I shall communicate with the proper authorities upon the subject.

Mahomet was then taken from the bar, and Eliza was immediately afterwards put in his place; she appeared to be quite at her ease, but did not act with levity.

Major (the Mendicity officer) having repeated the evidence given by him on the previous occasion, Alderman Hooper in the following manner questioned, and received very prompt answers from her.

Alderman Hooper: How long have you known Mahomet Abraham? Eliza: Nearly ten months. I met him at the house of a person whose name I do not know in George-yard, where he lodged before we went to our present lodgings.

Alderman Hooper: How did your acquaintance with such a person commence? Eliza: He spoke to me first, and asked me to have a cup of tea with him. I consented.

Alderman Hooper: What then? Eliza: Why, then, he would not let me go away.

Alderman Hooper: And did you not wish to leave him? Eliza: No.

Alderman Hooper: What! not go from a perfect stranger to you! and such a stranger? Why did you leave your father's house? Eliza: I could not bear to be confined to my own room, and it was thought proper to confine me to that room, because I said something which was not considered proper in the presence of children.

Alderman Hooper: Was there not some man mixed up with your objection to remain at your own home? Eliza: I knew several men.

Alderman Hooper: I mean a married gentleman? Eliza: There was one; but the moment I found that he was married I dropped his acquaintance. When I first became acquainted with him I had no idea that he was a married man. I first saw him from my window, and I meant to introduce him to my mother; but finding that he had a wife already, there was no further acquaintance. I had been at a milliner's establishment, but she failed.

Alderman Hooper: Do you know that you have been violating the law in going about with this beggar; to say nothing at all about the disgrace with which you cover yourself and your family by so dreadful a course of life? Eliza: It was, I assure your lordship, the first time I had ever been with him in the streets. I merely went to put him over the crossing. I shall not do so again, I declare to you.

Alderman Hooper: I have been given to understand by your relations and friends that they are willing, notwithstanding all that has occurred, to act for your benefit, and save you from the chance of such frightful associations, and I wish to know from you whether you are willing to go abroad? Eliza: Most certainly I am willing to go. I wish to go abroad as soon as possible—the sooner the better.

Alderman Hooper: Very well. I shall communicate with those who have it in their power and inclination to send you away from this scene of your disgrace; and I shall consign you to the care of proper persons for a week; in which time I dare say preparations will be made for your departure.

The wretched girl then walked away from the bar, and the justice-room was immediately empty.