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"LORDS IN KILTS"

**WIFE'S EVIDENCE AGAINST
A STUDENT OF ANCIANT MSS.**

Many curious stories were told in the Scottish Court of Sessions recently, of a husband who called himself a "lord," wore a kilt, studied ancient manuscripts, and built himself a temple of mirrors in his house in Scotland.

These statements were made in an undefended action for divorce brought by Rose Edith Kelly, aged thirty-five, against her husband, Alister Crowley, who both gave addresses in London.

The wife is the daughter of the Rev. F. F. Kelly, vicar of Camberwell. She was married in 1897 to Captain Frederick Thomas Skerrett, who died in August, 1899. In 1902, she was staying in Paris with her brother, Mr. Gerald Festus Kelly, an artist, and there made the acquaintance of the defendant.

"Was he then calling himself Alister Crowley?" asked counsel.

The reply was: "He was the Count Skellet. I knew, however, his real name was Alexander Edward Crowley. Later he called himself Macgregor, to identify himself with Scotland.

In July, 1903, she went to Strathpeffer, and again met Mr. Crowley, whose name had then become Alister Crowley Macgregor. He tried to identify himself with Scotland as much as possible, had bought a home in Invernessshire named Boleskine, and used to wear a kilt and all that sort of thing. At Strathpeffer, on August 11 he asked her to marry him, and she consented.

They were married next day in Scottish fashion, and went to stay at Boleskine. The marriage was registered in the usual way. Shortly after marriage the husband assumed the name of Lord Boleskine, because people in Scotland, he said, took the names of their property.

WIFE SENT HOME.

Counsel : I take it he is a little eccentric?—Oh, yes.

In July, 1904, a child was born who died twenty-one months later. For a year they travelled about in the East together, and in 1906 she and her husband were at Hong-kong. Her husband left her there to return home by America, telling her to go straight home. She was annoyed at being left in that condition.

She came back to England and joined her father in June, 1906. At her father's house a baby was born in September, 1906, and she was suing for the custody of that child. Then they lived at Chislehurst for two years, and in March 1908, she went to stay at Warwick-road, where the house was taken in her name, the defender wishing to avoid responsibility for the rent, as he was becoming a little impecunious.

They stayed there until the summer of this year, and she left because her husband had been treating her cruelly. He had been frequently bruising her. She left him on July 21.

On August 5, she learned from the charwoman that her husband had a woman staying with him the previous night. Some time before he had asked her to take care of a child for one of his most intimate friends. She, however, accidentally opened a letter addressed to him, which gave the address of the mother, a Miss Zweek, and she went to see her. She learned that her husband was the father of the child. Miss Zweek was a milliner in the Burlington Arcade.

Mrs. Danby, of Fulham, a charwoman, stated that she stayed the night at 21, Warwick-road. After Mrs. Crowley left, in order to finish some work, the husband, about midnight, on August 4, rang up for two cups of tea, which Mrs. Danby took up to the library. There she saw a short and dark woman, who was gaily dressed, and wore a lot of jewellery.

She heard a lot of laughter during the night, and in the morning took up two cups of tea to the husband and his companion.

Charles Randle, of Chelsea, chaffuer, said Miss Zweek, who was a friend of his wife, boarded with them. The defender, whose portrait he identified, frequently visited her.

Lord Salvesen (looking at the photograph) : He looks as if he belonged to the stage. Counsel : He is a literary character ; he rather affects the artistic.

VERY BRIGHT MACGREGOR TARTAN.

Some of Mr. Crowley's peculiarities were described by Gerald Festus Kelly, artist, who is brother of the wife. He said he became acquainted with Alister. Crowley in Cambridge about August, 1897. They were both undergraduates. Since then they had been intimately acquainted. The year after leaving Cambridge he went to Paris to study art, and Crowley was a frequent visitor at his studio, where he met his sister. Crowley was very fond of having Scottish blood in his veins, as he thought, and in 1900 or 1901 he bought Boleskine to be his permanent home. He had curious ideas of how to fit up the house. He had a room covered with mirrors, which he called a temple. He was a Cabalist, and studied ancient MSS.

When he got to Boleskine he took the name of Macgregor, to identify himself with Scotland. While travelling abroad he sometimes signed himself Crowley and sometimes Macgregor. He changed his name from Alexander to Alister because it was Scottish, but he retained the name of Alister Crowley for literary work. He got some mark of distinction from an Indian chief, and he announced his intention of calling himself "Lord Boleskine."

Counsel : That is the history of how he became a peer?—in every way he tried to identify himself with Scotland.

He took his title from Scotland, and Boleskine is a good estate?—Oh, yes. There is a good deal of land about it?—Yes; but it is perpendicular, most of it (laughter).

Boleskine, said Mr. Kelly, was a big house, and many objects of art were stored in it. When he went to Strathpeffer in 1903, Crowley was appearing in complete Highland costume, and the Macgregor tartan was very bright.

Lord Salvesen: Personally, I never could get up my admiration for the Macgregor tartan from an artistic point of view, although its associations were romantic.

Lord Salvesen thought the domicile had become Scottish whatever it was originally, and seeing also that the marriage took place in Scotland, he thought there was sufficient ground for granting a decree. Accordingly, his lordship granted a decree with custody of the child to the wife, with alimony at the rate of £1 per week.