

*A Darlington Debtor's Adventures.—**Singular Evidence.*—Wm. Aiskew Jackson, late wine and spirit merchant, of Darlington, was brought up in charge of two warders from Durham Gaol to undergo his first examination. Mr Ed. Wooler (Darlington) appeared for debtor, Mr Crombie (York) for the Tadcaster Brewery Co., and Mr W. Briggs (Derby) for Ind, Coope, & Co.—Mr Wooler said debtor wished to apologise for setting the Court at defiance, and wished to make his submission to the Court in person.—In reply to the Official Receiver, debtor said a petition was filed against him in August last, and he filed his statement of affairs on October 8th, 1887. His first examination was fixed for the 28th September, but was adjourned until the 19th October, in consequence of debtor's illness. He did not attend the adjourned examination. He intended to come, but was put into a damp bed at Hawes, and was taken very ill at Appleby.—When did you leave home (I call it abscond, but you do not appear to like that term)? On the morning when I should have come here.—The Registrar: Then the damp bed came after that, eh? Yes. (Laughter.)—By the Official Receiver: When he left home on the 19th October he went to Hawes to see if he could raise any money from a friend there. He did not succeed in raising any money there. On the Sunday he went to the Moor Cock Inn on the moor near Hawes Junction, and stayed there until the Monday morning. He went as an ordinary traveller. He had never seen the landlord before.—You knew you were wanted here? Yes.—And you went there to be really out of the way—is that the fact? Not altogether, sir. On the Monday he went to Kirkby Stephen and stayed there until Tuesday. At Kirkby Stephen he stayed at a temperance hotel, and he had some medicine from a doctor. On Tuesday he went to Appleby—to a temperance hotel for the first night.—Why did you go to Appleby? Well, I really intended to go to Carlisle to get a Turkish bath—(laughter)—but I was taken bad on the way. He stayed at Appleby until the Monday following. He was very ill there, nearly all the time in bed at the King's Head Hotel.—The Official Receiver: I thought you went to a temperance hotel? I did; but I went from there to the King's Head to get such things as soup and better attendance.—The Official Receiver: And something to drink? And hot bottles, &c. (Laughter.) He went from Appleby to Bowes, to the old inn in the village, the landlord of which he had known some years before. He stayed two or three hours in Bowes. He did not know then that there was a warrant out against him. He went from there to Barnard Castle.—Did you not go to the King's Head Hotel? I went to a temperance hotel first, but they had no accommodation.—No drink you mean? You stayed at the King's Head, the first hotel in the town? Yes; I went to another, but they had no beds. He stayed there until Wednesday—a fortnight after he left home.—Had you heard there was a warrant out

against you at that time? Yes, that was when I heard it.—Who told you? The waiter's boots.—How had he got to know? I do not know, sir.—Where did you go from there? I got a ride as far as Piercebridge in the afternoon and then walked to Dalton-on-Tees.—Who gave you a ride? Didn't you hire a trap? Yes.—From the King's Head? No; from a cab proprietor. Next morning debtor went to Dalton Junction, and thence to York. He stayed at a temperance hotel in the Square. (Laughter. He was in York on Thursday and Friday nights.—Why did you go to York? I did not know what I was doing. It made no matter which way I went.—The Registrar: But you went right into the enemies' camp—next door to Mr Crombie's office. (Laughter.) Have you some friends in York? No, sir.—Who were all those people you had at a dinner party in York? I had no dinner party. I did not eat six ounces all the time I was in York.—Were you not at the Station Hotel? No, never in my life.—Or at any hotel in York? Only in the White Swan, and I only had a small whisky and soda there.—You entertained no one in York during these three days? Dear me! no, sir. He went from York to Retford, and walked to Tucksford to see a friend named Walker, who kept an inn there. He was there five or six weeks.—What were you doing all that time? Nothing. Debtor went to see a doctor there—saw him every day for two or three weeks. He was suffering from chronic bronchitis. His bill was 7s 6d. (Laughter. The week before Christmas debtor went to Sheffield, where he stayed at the Tontine Inn. From there he went to Doncaster, where he stayed at the Reindeer.—The first hotel in Doncaster isn't it? No.—But I know it is the very first hotel in the town. He stayed in Doncaster until the Wednesday before Christmas. He spent Christmas at his own house in Darlington; where he stayed until February 2nd. He left Darlington again on February 2nd, and went to Liverpool, where he lived in lodgings until a month ago, when he returned to Darlington staying two nights in Northallerton and a day at Osmotherley on his way back. He walked from Cowton, not having money to carry him all the way, and was arrested the day after he arrived. He intended to give himself up.—What did this little jaunt of yours cost you—or, rather your creditors? It did not cost me much, sir. I hadn't it to spend.—Did you keep any account what it cost you? No; but I could tell you very nearly—about £12 or £13.—That is all it cost you? Yes.—That was not all it cost you? His mother gave him £3. He got £2 from the funds of the Masonic Society at Liverpool. Mr Jackson, traveller for Messrs Plews & Co.—no relation of his—gave him £2. He got £2 10s at twice from his brother in Guisbrough. He borrowed £10 from Mr Garrington, of the Comet Hotel, Croft.—And £2 you got from the lodge? Yes; out of the funds.—Did you get anything else? Yes; the treasurer twice gave me 10s out of his own pocket.—Is that all the money you got? Yes, except what I got from private gentlemen—brother Masons.—Can you tell us

the names of some of them? I did not know them, except that they were Masons.—Do you mean to say you went about begging money from strangers in Liverpool? When I came across a Mason, sir, yes.—How much would you get in that way? Perhaps £3 or £4.—Was there not a subscription got up for you in Darlington? Not to my knowledge.—Debtor was then examined at great length with regard to his business transactions. He began business as a wine and spirit merchant in 1880, having previously kept the Queen's Head, and before that the Three Blue Bells Inn in Blackwellgate, Darlington. He had £100 of his own and mortgaged some houses for £500 more to start business with. His gross liabilities were £4,856 14s 4d, and of these £1,606 19s 9d were expected to rank for dividend as unsecured.—What assets have you? I have nothing in the world. Debtor borrowed £270 of a Mr Snowden, of Croft, to whom he assigned all his book debts. He owed £2,663 to creditors fully secured, and £995 to creditors partly secured, the latter being estimated to rank for £400 4s 10d against the estate. He assigned a quantity of spirits and wines in bond, valued at £70 or £80, to Mr Waldy, solicitor, as security for law costs and £9 paid out of his (Mr Waldy's) pocket into Court in an action brought against him by the Tadcaster Brewery Company. He had put down Ind, Coope, & Co. as debtors to his estate for £1,060 8s 11d, although they had obtained judgment against him. His wife's trustees had a second mortgage for £485 on his property in Victoria-road as security for money she lent him many years ago.—Debtor was, on the application of the Official Receiver, ordered to supply a profit and loss account showing all purchases and sales for the past year, and a cash account.—Mr Wooler protested that it was impossible for debtor, a prisoner in gaol, to furnish these accounts.—The Registrar said he should make the order. It was debtor's own fault if he was unable to comply with it.—Examination adjourned until the 18th inst.

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