

—The Henpeck'd Husband.—

Elizabeth Looms, of Husbands Bosworth, charged her so-called "liege lord" with threatening to do her bodily harm. Defendant (who was deaf), discharged his pockets of two slates, pencils, and a quantity of papers, carefully folded and tied up. The particulars of complainant's evidence were written down on a slate, and the questions he was requested to answer.—Complainant said defendant had beaten her several times, and the last time he struck her over the knuckles and said he would murder her: at last she was obliged to leave him and take the children with her.—Defendant had his defence written down, and commenced to read it. After they were married (he did not state how long ago), he gave her £10, and since then had given her £4 more: she had spent all this, beside his wages; and not only this, but ran him a great deal into debt—the bills for which he had to show. She went on to such a length in fetching things out in his name, that he was compelled to have her cried round the town, as she said she would ruin him. One day she drank six-pennyworth of gin at two draughts: he was obliged to hold her in the chair to prevent her from falling out, and also to hold her clothes down. She had told him "there were plenty of women at Leicester, and he might go there," besides using more immoral language. She had struck him many times; made him lame; pulled his neckerchief very tight round his neck. For all this ill-treatment he had not beaten her again, and he would say from the bottom of his heart, that a man who would strike a woman was no man at all. Ever since harvest he had taken her home 11s. per week, and the boy 2s. 6d.; then there was what she earned herself, and the girl. He never had a sixpence in his pocket at any time, without asking her for one—no, not even a halfpenny, and yet she was not satisfied. After much more in the same style, defendant brought his defence to a close; and the magistrates bound him over in his own recognisance of £5, and a surety of like amount, to keep the peace for twelve months.—