



The Curious Case of Lord Lymington

—1892—

There have been many curious guests checking in at Hadley's over the years.

One day in early autumn 1892, a gentleman checked in with his wife. He jumped on the hotel's grand piano, dazzling and charming guests. His wildly extravagant behaviour drew crowds and he proudly declared himself to be Lord Lymington.

One night they went to the theatre, specially seated in the vice regal box. Whispers spread about the presence of Lord and Lady Lymington. No one had ever heard of them, and no one recognised the crimson badge on his chest — seemingly the sign of some distinguished order. The next day, Lord Lymington played billiard at the Hobart Club. After skipping a few social cues there, his credentials were suspected and then investigated.

That night he was arrested at Hadley's.

His true identify was revealed as William Thomas Miller: an amateur musician who had fallen in love with a young theatre star in Melbourne. He had run away from Sydney to be with her, and then they had travelled to Hobart to be together. The problem was he was already married, and with children.

Sobbing and exceedingly embarrassed, he blamed a head injury and champagne for his behaviour, and he was charged with wife desertion.

References:

Launceston Examiner, 29 March 1892 p2c8

'THE CASE OF T. W. MILLER', *Launceston Examiner*, 1 Apr 1892, p.3 *Mercury*, 2 April 1892 p3c1.

'More about Miller', *The Daily Telegraph*, 16 Mar 1899, p. 7