THE “FRUITS OF PHILOSOPHY”

Mr. Bradlaugh and Mrs. Besant attended before Sir Thomas Dakin at the Guildhall Police-court, in order to protect themselves in the eyes of the public and the Court of Queen's Bench. Mr. Bradlaugh and that he and Mrs. Besant had been committed from that court for trial, and they were tried and convicted in the Court of Queen's Bench, but pending an appeal from the conviction, they were let out on their own nominal recognisances, they pledging their words of honour to do nothing either directly or indirectly to assist the publication of the book, but, on the contrary, to do all in their power to suppress the sale or it. It had come to their knowledge that Messrs. Martin, Boundy, and Co., of 30, Ludgate-hill, were sending out circulars stating that they were ready to supply a copy of the pamphlet for private circulation for 3s.; the book having been previously sold at6d. a copy. He went to them and they assured him they were not selling it. He was not satisfied with that explanation, but caused a registered letter to be sent from the country to them, asking for a copy of the book, and only two days ago he got the book sent back by post. He made that statement on, behalf of Mrs. Besant and himself, so that it might be publicly known that they were in no way parties to that nefarious circulation. Sir Thomas Dakin said he presumed that Mr. Bradlaugh made that statement in defence of himself and Mrs. Besant, to show that they had nothing to do with the circulation. Mr. Bradlaugh said that was precisely the case. They did not wish it to be believed that he and Mrs. Besant were taking advantage of their liberty to play fast and loose with the Court which had shown them so much courtesy. Sir Thomas Dakin said he thought it was a case which the police ought to take up. Inspector Pitney said he would report the case to the Commissioner.

Mr. Bradlaugh and Mrs. Besant thanked Sir Thomas Dakin for hi courtesy and retired.