

HOUGHTON'S TWO WIVES.

HE SAYS HE WAS DIVORCED NINE YEARS AGO, BUT CONTINUED TO LIVE WITH HIS WIFE.

The case of Mr. John J. Houghton and his two wives was the chief topic of conversation in Yonkers yesterday. A TIMES reporter visited Mr. Houghton at the Yonkers Police Station yesterday afternoon, and found, instead of an active and cheerful man, a completely broken-down individual. When asked what he had to say in defense of his position, he said that about nine years ago he commenced proceedings for a divorce from his first wife before the Surrogate of New-York on the ground of infidelity. He was subsequently informed by his counsel that he had won his case, and thereafter considered himself free to marry again. When asked where his papers were showing that he had been legally divorced from his wife, he said he never had any, and had been told they were unnecessary. He denies having lived with the woman after these proceedings as husband and wife, and never recognized her since as his wife. Furthermore, he did not recognize the youngest child of Mrs. Houghton as his child. This divorce is his only defense to the charge of bigamy, on which he is now under arrest. In regard to his paying wife No. 1 \$10 a week, wife No. 2 \$10 a week and \$5 for pin-money, when he was only receiving a salary of \$15 a week, he explained that he had some money of his own, which had been left him by his father.

To controvert this statement, Mrs. Houghton No. 1 tells a different story. She admitted that her husband began an action for divorce, which failed, and that they separated. About three months after their separation Mr. Houghton made overtures looking to a reconciliation, and they commenced living together again, and continued to do so from that time till last Sunday, when she for the first time heard that he had a second wife. She says one of the children now living was born about two years after the divorce proceedings.

In further denial of his story will be presented, at the continuation of his examination before Judge Baird, of Yonkers, to-morrow morning, the stenographer's minutes, connected with the Surrogate's Court in the City of New-York, on the contest under the will of the late Dr. Mairs, the father of wife No. 1. in July, 1879. They show that John J. Houghton, the accused, testified, at that time, that the alleged wife No. 1 was his wife, and that he lived with her as a husband from 1876 up to July 16, 1879. This contest related to the payment of a legacy to the adopted son of John J. Houghton and wife No. 1. At that time he claimed that his residence was with that wife from 1876, and that he moved about, from place to place, with her when she saw fit to change her residence.

The two wives were together yesterday at the residence of wife No. 2, in Yonkers, and they have determined to carry the case through to the end. Mr. William H. Cole, brother of wife No. 2, had an interview with Mr. Houghton, when he expressed his sympathy for him, and said he hoped, both for his sake and his second wife, that he would be able to clear himself, "but if he proved to be the dark villain that he now appears to be, he would pursue him to the bitter end."

The examination will be continued before Judge E. P. Baird, in the City Court of Yonkers, to-morrow morning, at 10 o'clock.