

Transcription, March 2015:

*The Standard* (London) (10 Oct. 1872): 7 (anon.).

[p. 7]

‘The Late Wager Respecting the Rotundity of the World.’

*Mr. John Hampden*, 61, gentleman, residing at 31, Warwick-street, New-cross, was apprehended upon a warrant and charged before Mr. Flowers with libelling Mr. Alfred Russell Wallace.

It will be remembered that the defendant entered into a wager with Mr. Wallace some time ago respecting whether the world was round or flat. The defendant lost the wager, and had already been prosecuted for libelling complainant and Mr. Walsh, the editor of the *Field* newspaper, who acted upon the occasion as arbitrator.

Mr. John Henry Walsh now deposed that he received the post card produced, which he knew to be in the handwriting of the defendant. Witness had often received cards of a similar nature from the defendant. The writing was as follows:—“Your friend, A. R. Wallace, and his unprincipled associates, are still being posted as a gang of thieves, impostors, and swindlers. Have you any idea how long this is to last?”

The Defendant was about to enter into the details of the wager, but

Mr. Flowers said all he had to deal with was whether or not the card was a libel.

Mr. Wallace stated that the prisoner at his first trial for libel apologised, and was bound over for a year. He now said that his year was up, and he should go on at him (Mr. Wallace) as much as he liked.

Mr. Flowers committed the prisoner for trial, but said he would take two sureties in 40*l.* each.

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*The Alfred Russel Wallace Page*, Charles H. Smith, 2015.