

suit of that officer's investigation is given below, and the Minister of Public Instruction thinks that the report should be published, in justice to all concerned. From it a true account of the incident may be gathered. It will be seen that the published allegations were not sustained, and were quite incorrect, as the child was neither called out of her class, chastised, nor sent home, nor was the quoted allusion to Dr. Dill Macky made. In Mr. Wheeler's speech he appears also to have urged the duty of the people to see that only properly-qualified teachers were appointed to teach in public schools, who would not pervert, or attempt to pervert, the children's minds with the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church. It so happens that the teacher complained of in this case is a Presbyterian; but, apart from that altogether, it may be stated that the departmental rules and practice require all teachers to be qualified, and strictly forbid and prevent any attempts at perversion. "Nothing must ever be said or done by any teacher in a pupil's hearing or presence calculated to offend the religious views of that pupil, or of any other in the school, or of the parents of any pupil." And thus a trio of yellow 'yarns' go up in smoke.

### AN ORANGE LIE NAILED

Towards the close of our 'Current Topics' of this issue reference is made to the charge made by an Orange leader, one Wheeler, in reference to a teacher in the Woollahra public school, New South Wales. The charge ran as follows:—

'It is the duty of the people to see that only properly qualified men and women are appointed to teach in the public schools—teachers who will not pervert the children's minds with the tenets or doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church. (Applause). In this connection a little episode occurred in the Woollahra electorate only on Tuesday which I want to refer to. A little girl went to a public school with a small piece of orange ribbon pinned to her breast. She was called out of her class by the teacher, chastised, and sent home, because that piece of ribbon reminded her (the teacher) of that "renegade and blackguard, Dr. Dill Macky." (Laughter, followed by great cheers and rounds of Kentish fire for Dr. Macky). I want you to understand that a little episode of that character is not going to pass unchallenged—(cheers)—because it is no part of the duty of a public school teacher to find fault with any scholar who wore a piece of green or yellow ribbon. (Cheers).'

The following is the report of the official investigation into the charges:—

#### Woollahra Superior Public School.

Complaint against Miss Galloway, the mistress of the infant department:

On Monday, 25th ult., an inquiry into the complaint above referred to was conducted in the presence of all concerned, including the head master, Miss Galloway, Mrs. Little, Mr. Little, and the child, Margaret Little. Though I allowed Mr. Little to be present, I refused to allow him to take any part in the proceedings.

No attempt was made to question the child, as I considered her too young (6½ years old) to give reliable evidence.

The facts of this case are soon told. On July 12 Margaret Little was sent to school with a piece of yellow ribbon pinned to the front of her dress. At first no notice was taken of the badge. The pupils, Margaret amongst the number, were sent out of school at 11 o'clock, as usual, to play, and while so engaged a boy named Sullivan pushed Margaret down. This was noticed by the teachers in charge and reported.

When the children returned to duty Miss Galloway called out Sullivan and Margaret Little to the front of the class, inquired into the conduct of Sullivan, found him to be in fault, and, as a punishment, gave him two strokes on the hand with a cane. Just as the two children were returning to their places in the class, Miss Galloway noticed for the first time the orange-colored ribbon on the child's dress and hair. Margaret was at once asked to take it off, but she replied, 'It is sewn on.' Then Miss Galloway directed her to leave the ribbon at home in the afternoon, and added, 'If you bring it back I shall punish you.' Margaret then went on with her lessons as usual, and at 12.30 was dismissed with all the other children for dinner. Of course the child told her mother what the teacher had threatened to do.

'After dinner Mrs. Little took Margaret back to school without removing the ribbon. She first called upon the head master, Mr. Saxby, and told him what Miss Galloway had threatened. He explained that no teacher could punish for such an act, and gave it as his opinion that Miss Galloway had been misinterpreted. 'Go,' he added, 'to Miss Galloway yourself, and discuss the matter with her.' Acting at once on this advice, Mrs. Little took her child to Miss Galloway. An altercation then took place, during which Miss Galloway informed Mrs. Little that if the child returned to school with the ribbon on her dress, that ribbon would be taken off. The right of a teacher to do this was challenged, and the head master was referred to by Mrs. Little as opposed to such action. Thereupon Miss Galloway, followed by Mrs. Little, went to Mr. Saxby, whom they found on the boys' playground, and, after being questioned about what he had said to Mrs. Little, he put the interview short by saying to Miss Galloway, 'if I have no right to interfere, it is useless to say any more.' All then separated, but as Mrs. Little was turning away to take her child home she once more asked Miss Galloway: 'Do you intend to punish my child if I send her this afternoon with the ribbon on?' To this Miss Galloway replied 'Yes.' This reply closed the conversation. Mrs. Little returned home with her daughter, and explained to her husband what had happened. He determined to defy Miss Galloway in this matter, and so sent the child back to school with the ribbon still on her dress. Mrs. Little accompanied her daughter to the school, handed her to Miss Galloway with an apology for her lateness, and without further comment she again returned home. Miss Galloway received the child, sent her to her class, and took no steps to carry out her oft-repeated threat with reference to the wearing of the ribbon.

Miss Galloway has been in charge of the infants' department at Woollahra more than 20 years. During all that time she has discharged her duties to the satisfaction of her superior officers and the commendation of the local public.

No attempt was made to pervert the child's mind with the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church. She was not called out of her class for wearing yellow ribbon, she was not chastised for that or anything else, she was not sent home for that, nor did Miss Galloway use the expressions 'renegade' and 'blackguard' as descriptive of Dr. Dill Macky or of anyone else.

(Signed) M. WILLIS,  
Senior Inspector.

North Sydney, August 2.

#### The Orange Lie.

'Here we have,' says the 'Catholic Press,' 'an excellent example of the Orange lie. The man Wheeler clearly stated that the child was chastised and sent home for wearing a ribbon that reminded her (the teacher) of that renegade and blackguard Dr. Dill Macky.' Obviously Wheeler led the public to believe that the teacher was a Catholic, and that her Catholic sympathies were leading her to influence the minds of the children towards her beliefs. The petty incident was magnified into an awful example of what Catholics are capable of in any position of influence. It was certainly Wheeler's intention to work up anti-Catholic hostility by relating this anecdote. Yet the teacher was a Presbyterian, and could scarcely be accused of Catholic sympathies. It was the little boy, Sullivan, and not Margaret Little, who was chastised. The teacher did not call Dr. Macky either a "renegade" or a "blackguard," although, as a member of his denomination she is probably ashamed of him. It is apparent that the teacher, no matter what her religion was, could have acted in no other way. She probably suspected that little Sullivan's patriotism was at the bottom of little Margaret's misadventure, and whilst she punished him for his action she appreciated the fact that Margaret's peace and comfort were not best consulted by her mother when she sewed a party badge upon her dress and sent her among her schoolmates in a recognised militant guise. As it is laid down by the department for the guidance of teachers that "nothing must ever be said or done by any teacher in a pupil's hearing or presence calculated to offend the religious views of that pupil or of any pupil in the school," so teachers must find it also necessary to protect the religious convictions of one pupil from the rancor of another, and take such steps as they might find necessary to keep the atmosphere of their classes free from any sectarian taint. If anyone should have been spanked it should have been Margaret's very foolish mother, whose bitterness and ignorance led her to attempt to upset the serenity of a little children's playground.

'However, we are not concerned with the ethics of the teacher's conduct and do not intend to discuss it,