

the newspaper report of the ceremonial) was excluded not alone from the Sacraments, but 'from the company of all Christians.'

The Presbyterian 'Confession of Faith' (chap. xxx., 2-3-4) empowers the officers of the Church 'to shut that Kingdom (Heaven) against the impenitent, both by word and censures'; 'to proceed by admonition, suspension from the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper for a season, and by excommunication from the Church, according to the nature of the crime and demerit of the person.' The usage is an apostolic one. It is laid down by implication or in set terms by St. Paul—even to the avoidance of the person excommunicated—in II. Thess., iii., 6, 14, 15; I. Cor., v., 4, 5, 13; Tit., iii., 10. Sentences of excommunication were frequently resorted to during the Middle Ages. 'They were,' says Lingard, 'the principal weapons with which the clergy sought to protect themselves and their property from the cruelty and rapacity of the banditti in the service of the barons. They were feared by the most powerful and unprincipled, because at the same time that they excluded the culprit from the offices of religion, they also cut him off from the intercourse of society. Men were compelled to avoid the company of the excommunicated, unless they were willing to participate in punishment.' Nowadays the p'lecceman, the magistrate, and the judge of assize create, for certain kinds of 'banditti,' a well-guarded seclusion that renders ecclesiastical prohibition of intercourse with them unnecessary. But the spiritual penalty of excommunication still remains needful for certain forms of vice and evil-doing of which the criminal law does not take cognisance. And, for Catholics, one of these is the relation that has received the apt name of 'tandem polygamy.'

THE WALTHAM ORPHANAGE

THE COMMISSIONER'S INQUIRY

The postponed inquiry into the charges against the management of the Waltham Orphanage was resumed on Wednesday morning before Mr. H. W. Bishop, S.M., the Commissioner appointed (says the Christchurch 'Press').

The Charges

before the Commissioner were as follow:—

(1) That the Charitable Aid Orphanage is and has been improperly managed and controlled. (2) That the Charitable Aid Board has in its management and control of the Orphanage departed from the real purpose of such Orphanage, inasmuch as, instead of it being used entirely as a home for Orphanage children, it has been made, in very many cases, a receiving home to pass them along to other institutions and places. (3) That there is, and has been, an absence of sound moral training and teaching, apart from controversial doctrines, in the bringing up of the Orphanage children in such Orphanage, and no effort is made, or has been made, to form and strengthen the character and develop the intelligence of the children placed therein. (4) That the example and influence of those responsible for the children do not tend to implant in the children such foundations of conduct as are essential to make them good and upright and useful members of the community. (5) That the matron of such Orphanage has been unduly harsh in the treatment of certain of the children inmates of such Orphanage. (6) That she has dressed Orphanage children in grotesque costumes with the intention of holding them up to ridicule and merriment. (7) That she has taunted children with the fact of their relatives belonging to the unfortunate class of the community, and called them mockingly by the names of such relatives, and made flippant references to them. (8) That the persons or person responsible for the internal arrangements and economy of such Orphanage have been incompetent, inasmuch as there has been no proper feeding and no proper dietary arrangement, or system or fixed hours for meals, and distinction is, and was, made at such meals by having the table divided into two departments, containing different quantities and kinds of food. (9) That the children were improperly punished and for trifling offences by long periods of silence. (10) That there was no proper superintendence of the children, particularly in the bathroom and

bedrooms. (11) That the matron has used bad language and objectionable names to the children. (12) That the children Gertie Andrews, Emma Andrews, May Burbury, Eva Bashford, and Ellen Attwood have been ill-treated by those in charge at the Orphanage. (13) That neglect and inattention have been manifest in the care of the boy Percy Whittle during his illness and antecedent thereto by those in charge of such lad at the Orphanage. (14) That permission is asked to refer to other matters which form part of the grounds of complaint, and are set out in the report of the proceedings at the Charitable Aid Office.

The Evidence.

George Scott, ex-member of the Charitable Aid Board, continued his evidence, which was commenced at the previous sitting, on December 22. He said that Mrs. Carpenter's attention was called to the condition of Percy Whittle by Mrs. Peachy on August 6. The latter said the child was dying, and his mouth and nose were covered with sores. From the 6th August until August 25, the child was sent to school, although in such a delicate state, and on August 25 he had his ear boxed, and was sent to school after having dry bread for breakfast. On August 28 the doctor ordered the boy to the Hospital, and on August 30 witness and Messrs. Harris and Horrell (members of the Charitable Aid Board) saw the child, who was then merely a skeleton, and was practically dying. Witness enlarged on the fact that Mrs. Carpenter allowed the boy to go on from August 6 without attention when he was in such a delicate condition, and referred to the difficulty experienced in obtaining evidence in support of charges against the management. There was an Institution Committee on the Board, but of course nobody would suggest that they knew what was going on in regard to mis-management.

Witness went on to refer to what he alleged was the dietary of the Orphanage. On Sundays breakfast consisted of a piece of bread and butter and the rest of bread and dripping; there was no porridge. On the other days the children had porridge and bread and dripping, and it was only within the past twelve months that milk had been allowed for the porridge. That improvement was brought about by the strong efforts of Mrs. Wells, a member of the 'Charitable Aid Board. There were no regulations as to dinner, and for a very considerable time the children were deprived of potatoes. The vegetables consisted of swede turnips, cabbage, beet and carrots. 'But at the same table we find,' said witness, 'the assistant matron sitting there with mashed potatoes and butter for her dinner; whilst the Charitable Aid Board appears to have been too poor to purchase potatoes for the children, the assistant matron could have them. It is well known that there were two Catholic children in the Orphanage, and, of course, they were not allowed, by their religion, to eat meat on Fridays. In making my enquiries I find no effort whatever has been made to provide these two children with a satisfactory dinner for a Friday; they have been compelled to have soup made from meat and with meat in it. The matron and the secretary of the Board knew perfectly well that this was not the food that these children should have on Friday. Only on one occasion—and I am not sure about that—do I find that there was any fish for them. Coming to the tea, on Wednesday and Sunday the children had a piece of cake, and for the rest of the week they had bread and dripping and no cake, and the larger girls a piece of bread and butter. What I consider the worst feature in connection with the table is that the matron and the assistant matron and their friends sat, at the same table with the children, and had all the dainties it was possible for the Charitable Aid Board to provide.' Continuing, witness said in such an institution a certain amount of fruit was necessary to preserve the health of the children, but they had none provided; the only fruit they got was what they begged from the green-grocers or bought themselves. It was not until he moved in the matter that a case of fruit was sent down. Witness also alleged that the matron had admitted calling the children 'little devils' and other improper names. If the children did anything wrong, they were not allowed to speak to each other for days and weeks; he could prove that on one occasion a child was not allowed to speak to the others for a month. He could prove that some of the children had been sent to bed at 8.30 in the morning, and it was a very common practice to send them to bed immediately after tea. On August 27 he said the chairman of the Board paid a surprise visit to the Orphanage at about 6 o'clock p.m., and found two of the children had been sent to bed. Witness went on to give instances of alleged ill-treatment of inmates. One girl was locked up for a fortnight and another was kept in the orchard until 11 o'clock at night. He should prove that two of the children on August 26 got 'such

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