

UNVEILING THE NORTH BEACH ADOPTIONS.

Police Exposing the Wick- edness That Has Shocked All.

ANOTHER ARREST MADE.

Eugene Pardini, a Shoemaker on Washington Street, Accused.

LEON MEYERS HELD FOR TRIAL.

Two of the Little Victims Tell Shock- ing Stories in Court—A Bribe Offered.

Gradually the veil is being lifted from the shocking crimes of Telegraph Hill, and with each new day comes the discovery of still more revolting details. And with each new day, too, outraged justice is rapidly reaching out after the culprits. In the Police Court yesterday two of the little girls told their stories, directly charging Leon Meyers, who was held in bonds of \$30,000 to appear for trial before the Superior Court.

There will be a mass-meeting of women to-day in Metropolitan Hall to take action upon the abominations. Eugene Pardini, proprietor of a shoe-store at 619 Washington street, was arrested yesterday afternoon by Secretary Frank Kane of the Pacific Coast Society for the Suppression of Vice and Policeman T. J. Coleman.

The arrest arose out of a conversation Secretary Kane had with the little girls in Matron Gilmore's room in the City Prison on Friday. Pardini is charged with the same offense as Lane, Meyers, Ratz and Hinshaw.

The arresting officers state that when Pardini was told what he was to be charged with, he voluntarily admitted the charge, but said that the little girls were to blame. When seen at the City Prison later, he denied all knowledge of the crime, and said he was innocent. Girls used to go to his store and annoy him, but he always drove them away.

He has retained ex-Judge Ferral and Attorney Pistolesi to defend him.

Pardini has been in the shoe business in this City for the past thirty years. He is about 50 years of age, and is considered a man of means. He is well known to several members of the Police Department who were his patrons.

Hinshaw still gives expression to his feelings of surprise and indignation at being charged with the crime. His attorneys have been telling him to keep silent, and when asked for further information, beyond a general denial, he would say nothing.

Mrs. Lindsey is reported on good authority to have been offered \$300 not to have her little daughter appear as a witness against the erring and ancient capitalist, Lane.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Leon Meyers Pleads Not Guilty, and Is Confronted by a Little Girl Victim.

After some readjustment of the time set for the hearing in the cases of Captain Lane, Leon Meyers and Philip Ratz, the men charged with crime upon a number of young girls, only the case of Leon Meyers came up before Judge Campbell yesterday afternoon. The cases against Lane and Ratz will be heard on Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. It is possible the Ratz hearing may be changed to a later day.

Attorney Firebaugh opened the proceedings in the Meyers case by a plea for more time, because he had a suit to dispose of in the United States Circuit Court.

"I must appear in the Circuit Court," persisted Mr. Firebaugh, "in a case that has already been set, and I should really like to be in attendance at this hearing."

"I should like to oblige you, Mr. Firebaugh, but you will have to put off your

"What case is set for this afternoon, Mr. Forbes?" inquired Judge Campbell. "The case of Leon Meyers, charged with felonious assault."

"Is Meyers present?" "Yes," replied five stalwart attorneys in unison. "How does he plead?" "Not guilty, your Honor."

"Call the first witness for the prosecution, Mr. Forbes."

"I desire to say," interposed Attorney Carroll Cook, "that while we have the right to have the courtroom cleared of all

"Suppose he should only want his friends present," said Judge Campbell. "Well, I suppose he has that right under the statute," replied Attorney Cook. "I would have no objection if all the ladies who desired to be present were admitted, but the terms of the law do not allow of the exercise of discretion on my part in the matter," said Judge Campbell. "But if your honor please"—began Attorney Firebaugh.

"The attorneys in this case," interrupted Judge Campbell, "may as well understand and be informed, that the court may exclude everybody, even the learned attorneys on both sides of this case. Make up your mind, gentlemen, as to any exceptions to the rule you insist upon."

"We insist upon the exclusion of all except the reporters," said Mr. Cook. "Bailliff," ordered the Judge, "clear the courtroom."

nearly every question Judge Campbell asked. "The court," said Attorney Sullivan, "is bound by the law governing the taking of testimony and if anything a Judge should be more cautious in examining witnesses than attorneys."

"That is just what I want to do," "But the witness should not be coached," persisted Mr. Sullivan. "I want to find out if that has been done," said the Judge. "If she has been coached, it can be made apparent."

"Do you know the defendant, Leon Meyers?" asked the Judge of the young witness. "Yes, that is Mr. Meyers there," pointing with the white whiskers. I saw him on Gold street. He keeps a stoneyard on that street."

The child's voice dropped at this point to almost a whisper. Meyers, standing

present at these preliminary hearings." The witness said that little Augustina Parritt had been present when Meyers had perpetrated the outrages charged. Meyers gave the witness 5 cents. In the course of various questions relating to dates the child was asked to relate the date to the times of her attendance at Sunday-school. "I have been," she said, after some thought, "to Sunday-school four times since then. I would have gone to-morrow," she suddenly added, "but I can't go now."

The witness then described the office of the defendant and its contents. She said there was a man having a long beard who kept ordering them away from the place. Everybody thought the child meant Lane, but she said it was Lane. She did not know who it was. She said she had gone with Augustina Parritt to Lane's place, and also Ratz's, although she had never

Her testimony, with some variations, was substantially identical with that of Lillie Lindsay, although she had been kept in another room while the child Lindsay was examined. This witness added some incidents to the details that would hardly occur to a child of her age unless she was telling the truth, and with a variation as to particulars of these details that indicated she knew what she was talking about. Then she signed her name to a recognition in plain writing and affixed a period with deliberate exactness. "He told me he had asked officer Walsh, on the block, to keep the girls away."

The taking of testimony was then concluded. It was apparent the defendant's attorneys expected that Meyers would be held for trial. They offered no testimony on the part of the defense.

After a few words about the testimony Judge Campbell held the defendant for trial in the Superior Court under a \$20,000 bond. The defendant's attorneys demurred at the amount of the bond, but the Judge refused to reduce it.

He also directed that the witnesses be held under \$500 bail to appear and testify in the Superior Court. He stated that he would write the consent given by the parents of the two children, Lillie Lindsay and Augustina Parritt, that they be kept at the home of the Girls' Aid Society until after the trial, at least, in the Superior Court.

Frank Kane, secretary of the Society for the Suppression of Vice, has applied to Judge Coffey for letters of guardianship over all the girls involved in the various cases now in the courts, and General John McCook, secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, will intervene as an applicant, also, for the guardianship of the children.

During the hearing Rev. C. O. Brown and Mrs. Rose French bent in written requests to Judge Campbell to be permitted to be present, but on objection on part of the defense the requests were denied.

The case of Lane will be heard Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

ON THE HILL SLOPE.

Glances at the Picturesque Community Which Gave the New Horror.

The broad, shelving western slope of Telegraph Hill is the scene of this new horror. The devil seems to have taken it for a playground. Yesterday it basked under a soft Italian sky.

From the top of this hill one might forget what spreads around his feet, look across the glassy bay, see the green hills rise in soft beauty through the haze, catch the charm of the glittering waters under the Golden Gate, let his eyes sweep westward and southward to other hills that displayed changing mazes and gardens, and then imagine this boldly obtrusive eminence changed into one of the most famous and delightful regions of the City clothed in the beauty of parks, gardens, boulevards and charming homes. Years may bring about such a transformation, but that is not the picture now.

This section of the City is peculiar and picturesque, and so society there. There is something in the social and moral conditions of that community, out of which this wickedness has developed. Perhaps it is money that in the last analysis largely makes Pacific avenue cleaner in all ways than Telegraph Hill. Poverty claims the ground from peak to base.

A CALL man strolled among the cosmopolitan people and dirty populous streets and alleys yesterday, talking with people here and there. He found both intense indignation at the crimes brought to light and stupid indifference among the people. Nowhere in the City are Lane and the others arrested with him denounced more fiercely than they are along Dupont and neighboring streets where decent business men and sturdy, honest laborers of foreign extraction discuss the affair. There is no serious talk of lynching, of course, but a thousand times a day over there around Telegraph Hill and the neighborhood of North Beach men declare that lynching would be too good.

"I tell you I like to be father of one such little girl," said a young fruit-dealer as he banged the bar in a corner grocery saloon with his fist. "I take him in pieces, no matter where he be. No trouble, no jury. This town need such excitement."

That man's talk was typical of what can be heard at any hour along Dupont street, north of Broadway.

Nothing seems to be heard from any of the parents. They are all poor, it is said, and are mostly foreigners. One hears stories about the parents of this and that little girl to the effect that they are drunk all the time and don't care anyhow. That, of course, is the case with but few of them. One hears that some of them were glad to have their little girls bring home two-bit pieces and nice little things now and then.

Officer Flannely came strolling down Dupont street, and stopped to answer a few questions. "No, I haven't heard a word from any of the parents," he said. "nor much from anybody, because people up here won't talk to a police officer. You see we are often going after little girls and all sorts of people, and there is a general hostility and suspicion among the people so far as policemen are concerned. Did you hear about Officer Rourke's experience in getting the little Christenson girl? Rourke went up there to her house on Union street, above Dupont, and the mother didn't make any objection to his taking the little girl away. I understand that she is a little nutty," but the girl's big brother, who is a

swearing that he would kill the first policeman that came into that house. We bluffed him out and went in, arrested him for disturbing the peace and searched the house, but didn't find the girl. Rourke got her next day at her aunt's down on Sixth street. When Rourke first got the girl that day, by the way, she was going with him to St. Charles place to point out a man."

Julia Christenson is a little girl of 13 years, with a great deal of the kind of worldly experience that may be gained in that part of the City. The "home" she has known is at 415 Union street. The cobbled pavement of that block slopes at an angle of about forty-five degrees, and the frame cottages, old and dirty, and the gay dirty tenements from Dupont to Kearny streets hold their full share of the population. At 415 Union street a little, narrow, much-worn and rickety stairway leads upward from close to the front door and a narrow hallway runs backward behind it. A little old woman with a faded straw hat and a much-worn shawl, which she gathered hastily about her to make herself more presentable, poked her head out of a little door at the end of the hallway and sharply demanded, "What do you want?" She didn't know what sort of an officer she was talking to and was somewhat guarded in the conversation which followed, while all the time the madkin walling away cursing of some drunken women resounded in some back room.

"I don't know anything about it, Mister," she protested, "and I can't find out. My girl is 13 years old and she is a good enough girl and I never wanted any of her support. I am a widow for five years. I don't know what she got them shoes. She said she found them. She never brought me home any money, but she said once in a while that she'd run an errand and had 10 cents or so, and sometimes she'd get candy and little things like that. Sometimes she wouldn't tell me where she got them. Yes, she was out all night last Saturday night, but I don't know where she was."

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LILLIAN LINDSAY TELLING HER AWFUL STORY TO POLICE JUDGE CAMPBELL.

[Sketched by a "Call" artist.]

persons except those indicated by the statute, we will not insist upon the strict enforcement of the rule as against the newspaper reporters. While I do not charge that the newspapers have incorrectly reported what has transpired in this court and before other law officials, I do say that much has been published that is not true, and as I know that the reporters will get an account of the proceedings anyhow, whether they are admitted or not, I want to make an exception in their case; but as

In a few minutes the larger portion of the spectators left the room and the defendant's attorneys appeared, satisfied, although the corps of newspapermen were considerably augmented by experienced men, such as Supervisor Joe King and about twenty-five others. "Call the first witness, Mr. Forbes," said Judge Campbell. "Lillie Lindsay."

"Is this the prosecuting witness?" "She is the child in whose behalf the prosecution has been instituted by her mother," said Prosecuting Attorney Forbes. "In a moment the small mite of humanity against whom the gross outrages are charged to have been perpetrated slowly made her way, guided by Policeman Rourke, who arrested the defendant and Leon Meyers, through those who had gathered themselves as closely as possible to the railing near the Judge's bench. She did not appear to be much embarrassed by the staring people. Her drawn and wasted face and expressionless eye, her listless movements and her apparent lack of understanding of the terrible situation in which she was a most important figure, silenced every tongue, even those of the five energetic attorneys for the defendant.

"Come here, little lady. Don't be alarmed," said Judge Campbell. She stepped within his sympathetic arms and then turned and gazed at the small crowd with a slight brightening of her eyes. "How old are you, my child?" inquired the Judge. "Ten years."

"Do you go to school?" "Yes, sir. I started last week."

"Where?" "The Broadway Grammar School."

"In what grade are you?" "The second grade."

"Do you like to go to school?" "Yes, sir. Mother says I must learn to read and write and things."

"Do you go to Sunday-school?" "Yes. My teachers are Sister Mary and Sister Josephs."

"What has this to do with the charge?" ejaculated Attorney Firebaugh. "I am simply trying to discover whether or not this child is a competent witness to be sworn to give evidence under oath," replied Judge Campbell.

"Do you know what will happen to you if you should tell stories in giving your evidence in this case?" "I would be arrested for life if I did not tell the truth."

"Gentlemen, I will admit this witness to be sworn."

"We object," said Mr. Cook, "as her answers and her age indicate that she does not comprehend the nature and character of an oath."

"Objection overruled."

"Make a record of the exception, Mr. Stenographer."

The child then, in response to questions, said that she had been confined in the City Prison; that Mrs. Smiley "for what ever you call her," she said, had had charge of her, and that Mrs. Smiley was only told her to tell all the truth. She said she lived with her mother on Green street—she thought 336 was the number.

Up to this point in the examination the attorneys took exception to the form of

told the shocking details. Step by step, by