

station for someone. When witness got to the shop in Wellesley-street he found a considerable crowd, probably 150 people, gathered outside. The crowd extended above and below the shop and into the roadway. Witness saw Mr Rimmer in the shop, and asked what was the trouble. He replied that some people had torn down some placards which he had put on his shop window, and he wanted them taken into custody. Witness went outside and tried to get the crowd to disperse. He saw a number of placards on the window, and produced four which were pasted inside. There were several pasted on the outside. Witness found he could not get them off so he had them scraped off as they were of an offensive character. The crowd were apparently in a very angry mood, shouting out "Bring him out!" "Tear him out!" and similar expressions referring to the defendant. They made one or two rushes towards the shop door. Witness pointed out to Mr Rimmer that the placards were worded in a most offensive manner, and unless he took them down his property would undoubtedly be destroyed or damaged, and that he would most likely be injured himself. Defendant, however, absolutely refused to remove the placards although witness did all he could to persuade him. He asserted that if the people destroyed the announcements he would put up fresh ones. Witness added that he tried to remonstrate with the crowd but finding that he could do nothing single-handed he got a constable to keep the crowd in order, and secured a warrant from His Worship for Mr Rimmer's arrest. If the placards had not been removed there would have been a serious disturbance.

To Mr Reed: Witness told defendant it would be impossible for the police to give him proper protection while he exhibited such writings. Witness tried to louse the crowd on. Some of the crowd were undoubtedly of the larrikin element and some were respectfully dressed.

Was not the disturbing element purely a larrikin element?—No; I think not.

Sergeant Hendry said that in laying the information from memory he made a mistake in accusing defendant of writing "Mother Ignatius was a prostitute." Another name was used.

Mr. Reed then read a quotation from the placards exhibited by defendant, and asked whether the attack was not on Anglican ministers principally.

Sergeant Hendry replied that the attack, he thought, was on the Roman Catholics.

Continuing, witness said that he believed the accusation of Bible-burning referred to the recent alleged Bible-burning in Fiji. He said that the placards were highly offensive, and were such as were calculated to provoke a breach of the peace.

Witness said that defendant stated that he himself and he alone was responsible for the placards.

Sergeant Hendry then read the following from one of the placards: "Who degrades woman and makes her the slave of his vile passion? The priest of Rome by his immoral confession and sham absolution!"

Witness also read the following copy of a placard he saw on the window: "Catholics say their church is infallible, yet their cardinals, Baronius and Henry, say in their church history that many of the Popes were guilty of adultery, murders, debauchery, that the bastard, John XL, the son of Pope Sergius, was consecrated Pope through the influence of his prostitute Mother Marosian; yet to-day hundreds of Anglican ministers are praying for 'Our Holy Father-in-God,

the Pope,' and that he will hasten the day when he will receive them back into his fold. Let the canting hypocrites go to Rome and worship its God."

The defendant in the witness box stated that he was a spice and coffee merchant carrying on business in Wellesley-street. He wished to deny that he had stated in the placards that the Church of Rome was a brothel.

Mr Reed: What was it that caused you to start this attack on the Catholic Church?

Witness: For years I have been in the habit of exhibiting in my window papers which I thought were beneficial to the public, either against the drink, or anything which I thought was detrimental. I have said nothing against any special Church. Sometimes I have spoken against some ministers who were saying the Bible was a forgery, and I exposed their names and what was said. I have no special animus against any denomination." Witness added that when the Bible-burning occurred in Fiji he determined to show the people what the Church of Rome was, by cuttings from the newspapers and their own books. For several months he had exhibited different things which he thought beneficial, not intending to raise the ire of the people. He had customers who were Roman Catholics, and when the election was on he published a number of statements respecting the liquor traffic. Dr Campbell was one of his customers, but he did not object, believing that witness had the same right to his opinions as he had himself.

Cross-examined by Sub-inspector Black, witness admitted that one of the placards read: "Who degrades woman and makes her the slave of his vile passion? The priest of Rome by his immoral confession and sham absolution." "Do you know that such placards would be highly offensive to members of the Roman Catholic Church?—When people do wrong the truth cuts them."

Witness said the only effect he intended was that Roman Catholics should think and see if what he said was true or not. Witness admitted refusing to take the placards down, thinking that he was fully within his rights. Sergt. Hendry said after asking witness to take the placards down that he should do nothing with the crowd. After the window was smashed he did not remove the placards.

Mr Reed said that Mr Rimmer's explanation was quite clear on this point. The fact was that when Mr Rimmer's windows were broken he got his back up.

His Worship: Of course, the breaking of the windows cannot be defended, and speaking as a magistrate I think the breakers of the windows should be here as well as Mr Rimmer.

THE DECISION.

His Worship in giving judgment ordering the defendant to find a surety of £50 to keep the peace for six months said that the whole of the words mentioned in the information had not been proved. Several placards against the defendant. If they were provoked by the placards they should have taken the legal remedy, but at the same time he thought that the exhibition of such placards was calculated to provoke a breach of the peace, and the section applied. Therefore the defendant must be asked to enter into recognisances. He did not suppose Mr Rimmer intended to do anything wrong. He seemed to him to be a religious enthusiast, but he had gone a bit too far. He (the magistrate) supposed it was correct

that if it had been pointed out to Mr Rimmer that what he was doing would have created a disturbance, he would not have done it. He said he refused to take the placards down because he was not going to be browbeaten by his windows being broken. He would take that into consideration, and the fact that the people who broke them had no right to do so, and he would do what was asked in the information, viz., ask defendant to enter into recognisances to keep the peace.

Presentation to Mr. Kidd.

A number of citizens assembled on June 15 at the City Council Chambers for the purpose of making a presentation to the late Mayor, Mr Alfred Kidd, M.H.R., in recognition of his past services to the city. The Hon. E. Mitchellson, on behalf of the donors, handed to Mr Kidd an illuminated address, of which the following is the text:—

"To His Worship the Mayor, Alfred Kidd, Esq., M.H.R.—We, the undersigned citizens of Auckland, cannot allow you to retire from the office of Mayor without conveying to you our deep sense of the ability you have displayed as a Councillor for many years, and subsequently in the more important position of Chief Magistrate of the city. During the 18 years of office, 12 of which you served continuously as chairman of several important committees, you evinced conspicuous devotion to public duty. We must congratulate you on the very efficient manner in which you supervised the numerous works which have been brought to a successful issue during your term of office, notably the Queen street improvement, the electric tramways, the fire brigade station, and water supply, thus making Auckland the most up-to-date city in New Zealand. We sincerely hope that you and Mrs Kidd may be long spared to enjoy the esteem of the inhabitants of Auckland." Appended were a large number of signatures of leading citizens, the first three being those of Sir John Logan Campbell, Right Rev. Mr. Lennihan, and the Hon. E. Mitchellson, Mayor of Auckland. The address has been most artistically illuminated by Mr Sinter.

Two fine water-colour sketches by Mr Perrett were also handed to Mr Kidd as a present to his wife. One was a scene at Wanganui, and the other a Lake view. Mr Kidd suitably expressed the thanks of his wife and himself.

Need for More Police.

The city police force is in need of more men, and the intention of Mr C. J. Farr to move that the City Council take action in this matter calls to mind the fact that a new police station for the Ponsonby and Newton district is an equally urgent necessity. A few months ago the City Council leased to the Police Department some plots of land on Ponsonby-road near the Reservoir, and close to the Unitarian Church. The Department intends to build a commodious station on the site for the accommodation of a large number of unmarried constables, but, as far as we can ascertain, matters are not in a very advanced condition, although there is a very pressing need for the building. Ponsonby, Newton, and Grey Lynn have grown to be such extensive and thickly-populated districts that the police arrangements, which did not keep pace with the extensions, are quite inadequate. The old Newton police station in West-street cannot be extended, as there is no room, and it absolutely fails to properly meet the necessities of police work. Ponsonby Station in Jervois-road has been made more useful by the addition of another storey to the brick building, thus enabling several rooms previously occupied by the married officer in charge to be utilised by the police and public. The alterations have just been completed, and the station is now large enough to cope with the requirements of the neighbourhood, but the officers there and at Newton have to cover a district which is much too unwieldy, and there is an imperative necessity both for an increase in the numerical strength of the force and the provision of the new station near the Reservoir.

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