

CENTRAL POLICE COURT.

YARRA-STREET.

Wednesday, April 17.

(Before W. Bonney, Esq., Police Magistrate.)

RAPE.

Emanuel Reed, a man about thirty years of age, a laborer, was charged with criminally assaulting Matilda Bulleen, on the 17th March last, at Duncead.

Prosecutrix, a girl of very idiotic appearance, apparently about 15 but who stated she was aged about 19, deposed that on the 17th March last she was at service with a Mr Thomas Skelton, at Duncead, and that about 4 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, while the master and mistress were absent, the prisoner came to the house and asked for a chisel and saw. He came inside, and giving the children some grapes, told them to go out and play. He then shut the door, and, seizing hold of the prosecutrix threw her upon the sofa. The witness here described the commission of the offence. Prosecutrix told prisoner to let her go. Saw a boy named Rowling looking through the parlor window. Did not cry out or give any alarm, but tried to push prisoner away. Prisoner remained about ten minutes in the house. Told Mrs Skelton of the assault when she came home, and she said it was wrong of her to do it.

By Mr M'Cormick (for the prisoner)—It was Mrs Skelton first mentioned it to her. Did not tell her mother of it. The boy Rowling asked her what she and Reed (the prisoner) had been doing, and prosecutrix replied "Nothing."

By Police Magistrate—Did not like to say. Threatened Rowling with a stick when he mentioned it. Had never before had connexion with any one. Did not cry out or make any noise.

William Rowling a boy about 14, said he remembered the 17th March last. Was at Skelton's place at Duncead and saw the prisoner Reed and the girl Bulleen. Saw them through the window. The man was not exposed but the girl was. Told the girl subsequently he would tell her father; and she threatened to beat him with a stick.

By Mr M'Cormick—When he looked through the window the girl was making no noise. She was lying on the sofa. Reed was in the house about ten minutes. Ran away immediately after looking in.

Sergeant Toohy—Arrested the prisoner the day before. Told him the charge, when he admitted it, and said he had known the girl Bulleen similarly for a hundred times or more during the last two years.

Prosecutrix recalled by the Police Magistrate—The prisoner had connexion with me a great many times at Duncead. I never objected to it. Did not try to keep him away from me. I never mentioned the matter before because I was never found out. Should not have mentioned it now if other parties had not discovered it. Know I am 19 because my mother told me so. Prisoner never obtained my consent under any kind of threat.

This cool admission closed the case, and the prisoner was at once discharged.

In giving the above evidence the prosecutrix appeared utterly oblivious to all sense of shame and it is fair as well as charitable to suppose that she really is what her appearance denotes—an imbecile.

THE WARS OF THE ROSES.—Mrs Martha Chiddle summoned Mrs Ellen Ford for having wilfully and maliciously injured her property by

throwing potatoes through her window in the dead hour of night. The defence was that Mrs Martha Chiddle systematically annoyed the fair Helen by hanging cats on her street door knocker. Mr Frazer for the defendant assured the bench moreover that Mrs Chiddle was a very spiteful woman. She had lately got the defendant fined 40s, and now here she was wanting to "thrust her into it again." The Police Magistrate begged Mr Frazer not to indulge in such ultra-refined language—it was beyond the comprehension of the bench. Mrs Ford was adjudged to pay a compensation of 5s, a fine of 20s, and costs 2s 6d.

DR. AND CO.—George Thomas v John Jones—Goods sold and delivered, L10 7s 4d. No appearance of defendant. Order for amount claimed and 2s 6d costs.

M'Donald v. Robbison—L3 7s 11 for jam sold and delivered. An adjourned case; no appearance of plaintiff. Case dismissed.

A COMPLICATED DISASTER.—Mr Thos. Rochford, a master tailor, appeared in the witness box to prefer a charge against Mrs Eliza Wheeler for using most improper language towards him. A very juvenile female representative of the Wheelers appeared to answer the complaint. Mr Bonney to defendant—Well, what have you to say to this? Defendant—I know nothing at all about it, your Worship. Complainant—No, your worship, she never insulted me, it was Eliza Wheeler. Defendant said her name was Eliza Wheeler. Complainant—Well, go and fetch your mother. The elder now took the place of the younger Wheeler, and assuaged the bench with tears in her eyes that she wouldn't say an improper word for the world, especially to Mr Rochford. She was merely singing a plaintive ballad entitled "The Tailor and the Mouse," under the impression that Mr Rochford was passionately fond of music. Mr Rochford called Mary Corbett to prove the objectionable words used. Miss Corbett mounted the witness box, and asked at once if Mr Rochford intended to pay her her day's wages for doing this little bit of business for him. Mr Rochford smiled a bland refusal, whereupon Miss Corbett turned on her heel and left the Court. The Wheelers triumphed by the dismissal of the case, but Rochford had the consolation of hearing from a friendly policeman that he had a capital reason to go to the County Court with, and one in which he would be certain to get heavy damages.

LUNATICS.—John Garry, William Anderson, and a boy named Thomas Young, charged as being of unsound mind, were remanded for medical enquiry. The boy Young, who has been sent down from Colac, has been firing the properties of some ten or twelve persons living in that district.