

THE RECORDER'S MATINEE.

THE CONFUSION OF WITNESSES.

Mary Jane Blair, the Woman Shaped Like a Dough-Ball—Her Dress, Manicure and Evidence—Miss Amanda Lindsey Lost Her Pocket-Book and Mingo Blair Found It—Mingo Blair's Friend's is Kept in—All the Trouble Arose From the Loss of Two Purse Instead of One—Defendant Discharged and Young Mingo Carried Away to Jail.

Solomon said that in a multitude of cases there is much confusion, but in this case the recorder's court yesterday afternoon he would have been puzzled by the confusion of witnesses there is in this case.

It is a case of the loss of money in the Little Rock negro church. Lou Dorrittee, Miss Mary Walker, and Amanda Lindsey were under the charge of obtaining money under false pretences, as much as they went and claimed to be the lost purses of one Jim Lindsey which Jim had lost in the said church. All the parties and witnesses were negroes of the most pronounced, vulgar type and Mary Jane is a character worth study.

Mary Jane is nearly the shape of a dough ball. So full is her bust that her chest rests upon it as upon a cushion. She wears a plain hard-brimmed man's straw hat. Her jacket was made of cheap, coarse stuff which she obtained in a winter or two ago, and the buttons on it were as large of circumference as a potted ham can. Her arms hung clear of her body. In one hand she carried a chateaine, idly. Her jaws were so fat that her mouth is kept at the swelling pucker.

"De mawlin' after dee sayed de money was lost," said Mary Jane, "dat Miss Dorrittee woman come to my house ten minutes befo' de o'clock. Me an' my husband, huzband was sit er layin' in bed. When she hit de do', I says, 'Who dat?'"

"She sayed, 'Hit 's me,' en when she sayed dat I ketch'd 'er voice en I put up en crack'd de do'."

"Who does you want, Miss Dorrittee?" I asks her.

"'Wut did yo' little boy tell you las' night when he come home?'"

"Nunt'n," see I. "Why? Wut had he after he come?"

"He sayed dat he see dat Lindsey's pocket book las' night whar she drapp'd hit in de Little Rock chu'ch," dat was wut she sayed.

"When she had told me dat, I whir' round 'round in my back to whar Mingo was my little boy, but as I r'emin' is Henry Neal—whar Mingo was sleepin', I see, shakin' him, see I, 'Mingo, gimme dat pocket book,' Mingo he got 's grumblin' en I see, 'None er yo' shakin' talk, now, boy. No wudn, now, turn you. Jis' gimme dat pocket book.' So Mingo dive down en come up wid hit."

"'Wut kind of book was it?'"

"'A little sortle deec, kid-kin lined purse. I look at it, en I sayed to Miss Dorrittee, 'You go on off en fetch huzband's wut lost de money.'"

"So, 'bout half-pas' ten huzband come en we get um de book, en thank de Lawd we is outer dis thing fum now on."

"'How much was in de purse?'"

"'Four one dollar bills, three thubben new en de ern old.'"

"Which one was de old one?" de court inquired, and de question so puzzled 'em dat dey was at de table made no effort to answer it.

"A tall swart belle wearing a fascinaton and other things and by name Ailee Ann, started off, 'Miss Janie Blair, "

"My name's Mary Jane Blair, of hit's me you is 'farrin' to," corrected Mary Jane, turning round on her heel.

"'Did you see de pocket book?'" de court asked, to bring her to de point.

"'Yes, sir. Hit was a brown pocket book wid a silver chain. I looked at it good, good. Inside dar was fo' dollars in greenbacks.'"

"Blair himself, whose distinction is in being Mary Jane's husband and Mingo's father, corroborated his wife, except he said that it was a little, dark looking, yellow pocket book. "Miss Lindsey come to my house cryin' en sayin', 'Dat's my pocket book,' en I says to my wife, 'I believe it is hern.'"

"'Who is your wife?'"

"'Dis woman,'" and Blair raised his eyes weckly to de staring windows of Mary Jane's soul. There was something ludicrous about de tableau which is hard to reproduce.

"'Have you ever been indicted?'" de lawyer asked Blair.

"Blair hemmed and hawed and evaded. "Answer de question!" ordered de court.

"'Yes,'" Blair admitted.

"'What about?'"

"'Oh, dat eon't nobody's concern, but mine. Hit was fust for little ructions 'round my own fireplace.'"

"'Ructions with Mary Jane were enough to give him concern.'"

"'What did you say?'" de court requested. "Ructions?'"

"'Oh, say hit was a row en de done wid hit,'" snorted Mary Jane to her lord, and he started and trembled like a guilty thing surprised.

"The defendant whose name appeared on de warrant as Lou Dorrittee swore that people just called her by that name because they did not know any better. That her sure enough name is Mary Walker."

"My little boy didn't tell me anything about de other little boy takin' de money till de (Miss Lindsey) come. She knowed that that little boy run ad miss. He had de supper wid my boy de night befo'. She ex me if I knowed dat little boy's name. En when I sayed yes, she ex me, 'Wut you be so please en kine,' she ex me, en I sayed I knowed en would."

"'Didn't she tell you how much there was in de pocket book?'"

her face when he declared, "You are discharged."

"It comes clear," he explained, as if to himself, "that there were lost two pocket books some weeks apart, and that this woman was only after her own."

He ordered Mingo Blair, alias Henry Neal, into custody for the theft of the purse and the boy's case will be heard to-day. The cop took Mingo into the barracks. Presently there started up a great boo-hooing back there.

"Is dat my chile? Is dat my chile?" cried Mary Jane, flinging herself through the crowd. "Whar is my Mingo, my chile?"

She made for him like a charging Amazon, and consided him until the patrol wagon had torn him from her breast. "Don't you fret, now, Mingo. Don't you take hit to heart, now, chile. Tomorrow we'll get you outer dis, en you can't be but one night away fum yo' mammy."

Mingo rode away to jail sobbing and drying his eyes and nose with his ragged sleeve. It was a sad street cry to remember.

NEW SWITCHBOARD.

Charlotte Office of the Southern Bell Telephone Company is installing a New Section Accommodate Increased Business. A force of six men are now engaged in installing a new section of switchboard in the central office of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, on East Fourth street, and will be at work for several weeks before the installation is complete. This new board is in addition to the section installed in March, and will require three additional operators on the local telephone force, increasing the capacity 400 subscribers. The present switchboard is multiple and has a capacity of 4,800 subscribers, but on account of the increased business of the local office, it has been found necessary to put in the additional section. The Charlotte central office already has a membership of 1,200 subscribers, but business in the increase so constantly that new sections of switchboard have to be installed every few months.

THE FIRE LOSSES.

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Charlotte Druggist Weds a Young Lady From Monroe—Charlotteans Who Attended the Quiet Wedding Ceremony at the Home of the Bride's Parents.

Quite a number of Charlotte people attended the marriage last night at Monroe of Miss Mary Ellen Flow, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Flow, of Charlotte, and Mr. S. L. Alexander, of Charlotte. It was a quiet home wedding, attended by only a few relatives and intimate friends of the contracting persons. Mr. and Mrs. Alexander came to Charlotte last night, and will be at home on North Poplar street, Rev. George H. Atkinson performed the ceremony.

The party of Charlotteans who attended comprised the following: Miss Jessie and Miss Daisy Henderson, Dr. C. S. McLaughlin, Dr. I. W. Jamison. They were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Alexander, of Chester, S. C.

Mrs. Alexander is a very attractive young woman. The groom is a member of the firm of S. L. Alexander & Company, druggists, of this city, and has a wide circle of friends, who will extend best wishes to the couple.

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