

## MARY ELLEN WILSON.

MRS. CONNOLLY, THE GUARDIAN, FOUND GUILTY, AND SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT AT HARD LABOR.

Mary Connolly, the the discovery of whose inhuman treatment of the little waif, Mary Ellen Wilson, caused such excitement and indignation in the community, was placed on trial before Recorder Hackett yesterday, in the Court of General Sessions. The prisoner, whose appearance is any thing but prepossessing, sat immovable during the proceedings, never lifting her eyes from the ground, except when the child was first placed on the stand. Little Mary Ellen, an interesting-looking child, was neatly dressed in the new clothes provided for her by the humane ladies who have taken an interest in her, and has so much improved since her first appearance in the courts as to be scarcely recognized as the cowering, half-naked child rescued by Mr. Bergh's officers. The child was brought into court in charge of Mrs. Webb, the matron at Police Head-quarters. Mr. Bergh occupied a seat beside District Attorney Rollins, and took an active part in the proceedings. There were two indictments against the prisoner, one for feloniously assaulting Mary Ellen Wilson with a pair of scissors on the 7th of April, and the other for a series of assaults committed during the years 1873 and 1874. The trial yesterday was on the indictment charging felonious assault.

The little child was put upon the stand, and having been instructed by Recorder Hackett in the nature and responsibility of an oath, was sworn. At first she answered the questions put to her readily, but soon became frightened and gave way to sobs and tears. She was soon reassured, however, by the kind words of the Recorder and District Attorney Rollins, and intelligently detailed the story of her ill-treatment. The scar on her forehead when taken from Mrs. Connolly's house, had been inflicted, she said, by her "mamma" with a pair of scissors. Her "mamma," as she called Mrs. Connolly, had been ripping a quilt, which she held, and struck her with the scissors because she did not like how the quilt was held. The child stated that she had been repeatedly beaten with a long cane by her "mamma" without having done anything wrong. The general cruelty and neglect of Mrs. Connolly were also testified to by the child, as has already been published in the proceedings of the preliminary examinations. Mrs. Webb, Matron at Police Head-quarters, Detective McDougall, Alonzo S. Evans, of Mr. Bergh's society, Mrs. Wheeler of St. Luke's Mission, Mrs. Bingham, from whom the prisoner rented apartments, Mrs. States, and Charles Smith, testified to the bruises and filth on the child's body when rescued from Mrs. Connolly's, and to the instances of ill-treatment which had come to their knowledge. After an able argument from District Attorney Rollins and a charge of characteristic clearness from the Recorder, the jury retired, and after twenty minutes' deliberation, returned a verdict of guilty of assault and battery.

Recorder Hackett, addressing the prisoner, said that he had no doubt whatever of her guilt. She had been accorded every opportunity to prove her innocence, and the court was fully satisfied that she had been guilty of gross and wanton cruelty. He would have been satisfied if the jury had found her guilty of the higher offense charged. As a punishment to herself, but more as a warning to others, he would sentence her to the extreme penalty of the law—one year in the Penitentiary at hard labor. The prisoner heard her sentence without moving a muscle, and preserved the same hard, cruel expression of countenance displayed by her during the trial, while being conveyed to the Tombs.

A brother of Mrs. Connolly says that the child was legally adopted by the prisoner, who has the legal proofs in her possession, and will seek to gain the custody of the little one at the expiration of her term of punishment.

### WORKING MEN'S FREE READING-ROOM.

The announcement that the "Trinity Glee Club" would sing for the benefit of the working men and their friends, had the effect, last evening, of completely filling the pleasant rooms occupied by the reading-room with an orderly and appreciative company.

The programme was made up of both grave and humorous pieces, which were received by the audience with the heartiest tokens of approval.

Miss A. Ring presided at the piano and afforded additional pleasure by her excellent playing.

Mr. Howard Potter, during the evening, presented to the working men on behalf of Mr. James Brown and Mr. Lord 100 volumes of choice books. Mr. Potter expressed the interest he felt in the success of the First Ward Reading-room and Library, and said that he hoped its true value might soon be more extensively appreciated by the merchants and bankers of the lower wards. The library now contains some 250 volumes, and to meet the wants of those who constantly frequent the rooms, ought to possess double that number of books. Besides Mr. Potter the Trustees were represented by Mr. Stanton Blake, Mr. D. Edwin Hawley, and Mr. John Paton. A numerous company of ladies were also seated near the platform. After the close of the musical performances, refreshments, consisting of ice-cream and cake were served to all present.

Before the adjournment, on motion of Mr. Paton, a unanimous vote of thanks was given to the gentlemen composing the Glee Club for their contribution toward the entertainment of the evening.

The reading-room and library will continue open during the Summer months, and in the Autumn the lectures and entertainments will be resumed.