

## AN ERRING MINISTER.

REV. MR. THOMAS HENDERSON IS AGAIN IN TROUBLE

His Gallantry to Female Members of his Congregation Misunderstood—Why Some of his Followers are Angry—The Ferry Fund Causes Trouble.

Rev. Thomas Henderson pastor of the St. Philip's M. E. colored church is in trouble; in fact that is almost his normal condition as he has been in ill repute with most of his flock, since his arrest here some time ago, for a misdemeanor with a woman of his church, in Johnsville Pa. from whence he came. This time the Reverend Thomas owes his troubles to a dusky married lady of Bugtown.

It appears that Mr. Henderson was caught making love to the wife of a colored laborer named Burke, whom he met by appointment, in Wm. Agate's saloon on Prince William street one day last week.

The two were in an upstairs room with the door locked, but Mrs. Culley one of his congregation managed to get her eagle eye on the reverend masher and when she saw enough, she called a witness.

Mrs. Culley was so indignant with what she learned of the pastor's double life that she told it all to some of the deacons or pillars of the church.

As a result of the charges made against Mr. Henderson, a meeting of the flock was held at the pastors house on Monday evening last and the following paper was drawn up and signed:—

The officers and members of St. Philip's church met at the parsonage last evening to investigate a rumor respecting the moral character of the pastor. And after carefully examining the rumor could find nothing against the pastor, the officers and members unanimously moved that he be exonerated. Rev. Mr. Henderson has the confidence and best wishes of his flock; he is the most energetic minister that has ever been appointed to the church having done more spiritually, and financially for the good of the church than his predecessors.

(Signed)  
OFFICIAL BOARD, ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH.

The above was drawn up as a testimonial exonerating Mr. Henderson from the charges made by Mrs. Culley but the paper hasn't done its work, as there are many who attend that church that are justly indignant and greatly exercised over the matter. In fact so general has the feeling become among the congregation that almost all have left the church, to return only when Mr. Henderson is turned out.

Mrs. Culley's story is not believed by all Mr. Henderson's flock, but the common sense portion of the good church people wonder how Rev. Thomas came to be in the same room with Mrs. Burke and the door locked. Mr. Henderson when caught asked Mrs. Culley not to "give him away," but Mrs. Culley, owed the minister "one" for speaking slightly of her and a German street barber and she told all she knew.

The story related by Mrs. Culley to the church people of the pastor's actions was substance that as she saw the Rev. Mr. Henderson walk down Prince William St. in more than a business hurry, she followed just to see where he was going. She traced him to Agate's saloon and entered a few steps behind him. Mr. Agate thought Mrs. Culley belonged to the colored visitors of the day, and directed her upstairs. When she got to the floor above she heard a noise which sounded suspiciously like a kiss so she approached the door cautiously and peeped in the key hole. Mr. Henderson was there, and so was a woman, who turned out to be Mrs. Burke of Bugtown. Mrs. Burke was sitting on the divine's knee, and he was kissing and caressing her.

Mrs. Culley heard a conversation between the two, that was not intended for other ears than their own, and certainly not meant for print.

Mrs. Culley admitted that the revelation which she saw not an unexpected one, as she never had any faith in Mr. Henderson though her best friends had often tried to make her look upon Mr. Henderson in a more favorable light.

Her plan, she thought, was to send for Mr. McIntyre, and let him see what "sort" the parson was. Mr. McIntyre always goes where Mrs. Culley bids him, so he went to Agate's saloon on that afternoon. Mrs. Culley said, "now Danny dear if you want to see what kind of a man our minister is just peep your eye in that key hole."

Mr. McIntyre did as he was bid, and then knocked at the room door.

Mr. Henderson was in no hurry opening the door, but Mr. McIntyre called out, "Open the door Mr. Henderson, for you are a ruined man; Mrs. Culley has been here and trapped you." The pastor came out and in his confusion said he had only stepped in for a lunch and that he took Mrs. Burke with him to talk over some private family matters.

Both Mr. Henderson and Mr. McIntyre tried in vain and coaxed Mrs. Culley to say nothing, but she wanted her revenge, and she told it all.

She did not relate her story to idle ones of the church, she went straight to those with influence and made her complaint.

The call for an inquiry was made on Monday at the pastor's house on Queen

street. There was in attendance just eight persons including Mr. Henderson and his wife.

Others of the congregation were not told that a meeting was to be held, it was not for them, and as they might object to the signing of the paper exonerating Mr. Henderson and that would not do.

Mr. McIntyre called the meeting and Mr. Henderson decried it. Mrs. Culley was not present nor was any one except those whom Mr. McIntyre and Mr. Henderson chose to ask or admit. This is what the one faction of the church say of the other and meanwhile talk goes on among the entire colored population.

It is also said, that the Rev. Thomas Henderson paid attention to Mrs. Tillie Hogan of Carleton, and that his visits and attention to her become so persistent that she complained of him to some of the elders of the church.

Other rumors are that Mr. Henderson was a regular daily walker to Pokiook where still an old woman was the central attraction. Some members of St. Philip's church congregation say the reputation of the woman that Mr. Henderson was calling on at the latter place was not the most savory.

So general has the stories of Pastor Henderson's wrong doings become that more serious divisions in the church are threatened. Some of the congregation are outspoken enough to say Mr. Henderson is a bad man and a disgrace to his gown and that they will petition their bishop to have the wicked preacher removed.

There is another side to the story of the church divided against itself and there is also a second side to the story told by Mrs. Culley.

Both Mr. Henderson and Mr. McIntyre acknowledge there is a great deal of malice behind all these rumors, and they do not hesitate to say what causes it. Mr. McIntyre admits there is some truth in Mrs. Culley's story, and there is some exaggeration. He acknowledges finding Mr. Henderson in the seclusion of that saloon room, but said he "that was all right, a pastor can go where no other white man can."

"There is trouble in the church that dates back to last May," said Mr. McIntyre. The minister suited everybody in the church until he and myself started an investigation into the monies arising from the Ferry fund, which fund has been in the hands of Mr. T. C. Washington C. E. Brackett and Thos. Richardson without auditing for upwards of eleven years. When we struck that blow and asked for a showing, it fell so hard upon these three trustees that they and their followers became angry and left the church. "But continued Mr. McIntyre" in our meeting next June we will have a hot time of it.

Messrs Richardson, Washington and Brackett say McIntyre and Henderson are disappointed office seekers, as they have tried to get on the board of trustees of the Ferry trust but had a four-fifth vote against them.

The Ferry trust is the church ground and school at corner of Queen and Pitt streets left the colored people by Rev. Mr. Ferry, late pastor of St. David's church. From the school a rent of \$75.00 per annum is derived from the city. This the trustees spend annually in keeping up repairs. Messrs Henderson and McIntyre want a finger in the pie so it is said and this is where the trouble comes in.

One portion of St. Philip's congregation declare they will never enter the church again while Mr. Henderson presides over the flock and the end is not yet.

From the ladies of the church there comes some voices of decided condemnation while some few uphold the pastor.

Mrs. Henderson has become somewhat pacified and though she is suspicious of her husband, she is a sensible wife and thinks discretion the better part of valor.

At first the Rev. Thomas got a severe berating from his better half, but now the clouds have been pushed from the home though clouds considerably larger and darker are hovering over St. Philip's and its gushing and errant divine.

He had too Many Papers.

Persons passing through King square late in the evening are frequently accosted by small newboys who claim to have been "struck" for several papers. The other evening a lady was passing the fountain between nine and ten o'clock when a plaintive little plea was made to her and the familiar story of being "struck" was recounted. As the boy seemed evidently new at the business and was apparently cold and tired the twelve remaining papers were brought by the lady who advised the boy to go home and in future to take fewer papers. Upon arrival home a male member of the family suggested that perhaps the buyer had been "struck" with old papers. Upon examination it was found that eleven of the papers were at least two weeks old. This is quite an old trick with some of the newboys but they never succeed in fooling the same person twice no matter how pitiful the tale told.

## THEY LIVED ON CHARITY

A YOUNG COUPLE WHO DEFRAUDED A LOCAL SOCIETY.

Mr. and Mrs. Drury Asked for the Necessaries of Life but Got Luxuries Instead—How They Abused a Privilege—A Delightful Trip to Europe.

Mr. Wm. Drury has left St. John. So has Mrs. Wm Drury. The lady left this country in a blaze of glory as a cabin passenger on an Atlantic liner a short time ago and is now basking north European skies. Nothing definite is known regarding Mr. Drury's whereabouts but in this case it may be truly said that "their departure is deeply regretted by a large circle of friends."

In this case also the grief is not assumed for the occasion but is deep and genuine, and the causes which led to it are being vigorously discussed by the members of a charitable society connected with a prominent city church, who now are beginning to find out that charity in this instance meant a good deal more than they ever thought it did. They have learned considerable however since they made the acquaintance of Mr. and Mrs. Drury and the wisdom thus acquired cost the society mentioned above a good deal over one hundred dollars but in view of developments in the matter that is considered cheap indeed.

The facts of the case are as follows, About two months ago a young couple arrived in the city and settled in the parish where the society names does much good and effective work. The man gave the name of William Drury and was a genial sort of fellow of good address and appeared so thoroughly honest and frank that he made many friends. His wife was a bright clever person and impressed very favorably all whom she met. The couple belonged to the old country but had been in America for some time. Mr. Drury announced that he was the agent for a house which published religious works of all kinds, but according to his story the demand for this kind of literature was very small and his commissions correspondingly light.

In a strange city, life without plenty of ready cash was anything but a bed of roses to the guileless Drury's, and their straitened circumstances at last, through Mr. Drury, became known to the pastor of the church in question, who by the way is a foreigner himself and who is well known alike for his goodheartedness and a quick impulsive disposition.

Mr. Drury succeeded in getting the clergyman to go security for him so that the family might be able to obtain the bare necessities of life. The clergyman who by some arrangement with this particular society is allowed to do such things left orders with several firms to supply the couple with whatever was necessary; it was of course understood that he would be responsible for any debts contracted. The ideas of the clergyman and the young man in question differed widely as to the necessities of life and the accounts in the different stores grew with wonderful rapidity and would probably have gone on growing had not a little incident occurred to open the rectors eyes to the fact that matters were not being managed according to his ideas of honesty and economy. One of the dealers with whom Drury had an account finding that it was impossible to obtain any money from him sent an itemized bill to the minister and the scene which followed when it was received is said to have been exceedingly funny. The orders to the merchants were cancelled and when the irate clergyman sought an interview with his former protegee the latter was nowhere to be found having made it convenient to leave the city for a few days, taking with him a good supply of religious literature.

Mrs. Drury remained in the city and after a few days she called upon the secretary of the organization mentioned and told a very touching story of privation and distress. She had a plausible story of an expected remittance from some friends in the old country and on the strength of that succeeded in getting the society as a body to become responsible for her immediate expenses until such time as the money would arrive.

Later on a letter was produced for the benefit of the executive committee of the society, purporting to be from an aunt in Ireland in which a pressing invitation was given to the attractive niece to visit her affectionate relative. The letter was of a very flowery description and was a most interesting specimen of its kind.

By this time the pastor and members of the society had decided that it would be very much to their advantage to have the needy strangers removed from the city and in their thankfulness for the easy solution of the difficulty they presented Mrs. Drury with a ticket to Dublin. She was almost overwhelmed with the kindness shown, and fervent blessing were called down upon those who had befriended her. So amid a feeling of badly suppressed relief, on the

part of the ladies at least, Mrs. Drury sailed away from these shores.

After her departure the members of the society began to think it was time to find just how much the families stay in the city had affected them, so the bills were called in, and the itemized accounts caused a tremendous sensation; the storm which followed their reading threatened at one time to engulf the organization but matters were finally adjusted satisfactorily and the only course left was to pay up with the best grace possible.

If the clergyman and Mr. Drury failed to agree as to precisely what constituted the necessities of life the ideas of Mrs. Drury and the ladies aid society were equally as far apart in their judgment and in her accounts of immediate and pressing living expenses were an expensive set of false teeth, a dozen high priced cabinet photos, a Russia leather shopping bag and a large number of other costly trifles.

While the ladies here were discussing their wofully depleted treasury the object of their indignation was talking her way into the hearts of the captain and passengers of the steamer which was bearing her to her native shores.

Her short stay in St. John was worked for its utmost worth and the fair passenger's social standing here was looked upon as an established fact and before Mrs. Drury landed on the other side she had succeeded in obtaining an invitation to visit at the home of many of her fellow passengers. A few days ago the rector who had played so prominent a part in befriending Mr. and Mrs. Drury, received a very gushing letter from the latter plaintively asking him to write and tell her how her many friends here were getting along. The wrathful parson possibly passed the letter on to the charitable society to be answered but it is likely that both have had enough of their troublesome parishioner and are not likely to extend their acquaintance by any voluminous correspondence.

The system by which the society is managed seems to be somewhat lax in its methods of dispensing charity though the little experience related will no doubt be a valuable lesson to them in future.

They are Stranded.

The Lilly May White company of barn stromers struck St. John during the past week. They are stranded and are seeking aid in a new way heretofore unknown to broken down dramatic companies. The company headed by Miss Lilly May White and her husband E. N. Shaeffer have been doing the rural districts for the past two months.

The manager Mr. Shaffer made his advent into the city with the Wallace Hopper company about a year ago, and while in this capacity he met several of our merchants who sold several dollars worth of goods to Mr. Hopper. Mr. Shaffer is now trying to make the ghost walk on small sums given through charity by these merchants.

A few days ago he approached a King street merchant and introduced himself as Mr. Hoppers agent. The interview cost the merchant a five dollar bill. Several other merchants and business men have been touched for like sums and Mr. Shaeffer is still here working his little game.

Two Important Events.

"We have a holiday Monday, mamma," said a little girl on her return from school on Friday last week.

"You mean a week from Monday don't you, the 24th of May," was the response of the mother who did not for the moment remember Loyalist day.

"No I don't mean the Queens birthday," was the reply in a very disgusted tone of voice. "I mean next Monday the day the world was discovered."

This explanation was about as surprising as that assigned by another child for the holiday; "It's the day St. John was made you know" was her version of Loyalist day.

He Left Hurriedly.

Word from Greenwith Kings county states that William McCrackin a resident at that place left there hurriedly a short time ago leaving some half dozen lumbermen without their winters pay. McCrackin hired the men for the season and got out considerable lumber. After selling the winter's product the man in question suddenly departed with over \$600 in his pocket leaving his men without their earnings, ranging from \$40 to \$150. The case is really a pitiable one as the duped lumbermen are not in the best of circumstances most of them being married and with large families.

He Located Cousin Will.

A short time ago a native of Jemseg arrived at Indiantown on one of the river steamers. Noticing a friend on the wharf he called out "Good day Mr. T.—how are you, can you tell me where my cousin Will is working?"

"Well not exactly" answered Mr. T.—drily "but try the electric cars or the police force."

## A COUNT'S ESCAPADES.

VISCOUNT DE FRONSAC A GUEST OF SHERIFF RANKINE.

His Love for Nice Little Girls Gets Him Into Serious Trouble—He is Interested in Nellie DeGrasses Family History and Tries to Establish Her Identity.

Viscount Forsythe de Fronsac who gives his age as thirty eight but who looks forty-eight is the most distinguished visitor that deputy Sheriff Rankine has had at his King street east quarters for some years past. The Viscount was forcibly registered there on Sunday night last by the aid of Detective John King who arrested him on the serious sounding charge of abduction. The arrest was made on Sydney street just as Forsythe had left his boarding house.

Viscount de Fronsac was a lover of little girls especially if they were pretty and well developed and it is was this interesting failing that caused him to spend the week behind the bars upon the charge mentioned. The Viscount is no stranger here, as he spent some months in this city about a year ago as a music teacher and then indulged in the same tactics for which he was last Sunday arrested.

It was during the Viscount's former visit here that little Nellie Slocumb the 12 year old daughter of proprietor Slocumb of the hotel Ottawa disappeared.

Belle Slocumb was only missing about ten hours, but when she was found she was in a very dilapidated condition. Her pretty new clothing was all torn, and some of it missing; she was left alone in a field out the road. To the police and her father the child told how the "music teacher" had invited her for a walk and had ill used her. Forsythe was then sought by the irate father and by the police, but he slipped out of town.

This little episode of a year ago might have been forgotten had the noble Viscount not come back and renewed his former work with the young daughter of Dan Michaud of Princess street whom he met on King square on Saturday last.

Forsythe when here previously, had met Nellie Michaud and had taken a great regard for her. He was so much taken with little Nellie that he went to her mothers house and offered to give her piano lessons free.

The generous offer was accepted, but his first visit was his last. The count's weakness for kissing so alarmed Nellie that she told her parents of his actions. The result was the dismissal of the Viscount as a teacher. From the Michaud girl he turned his aged attention to several other little daughters of respectable people of Horsfield street, Paddock street, King street East, Sydney street, and in fact wherever he saw a pretty child.

His scheme was so he said, to get up a children's cantata, and by this method he gained access into many of the little girls homes. Candy and fairy tales were used to entice the little ones out the road, and the people of Fort Howe say he had a regular rendezvous out the Millidge Lane where he was almost daily seen with some little girl.

Last Sunday Mr. Forsythe enticed Nellie Michaud away from her home to Lily lake, hence to the public park and from there they returned to his lodging house, where they had dinner. Afterwards an afternoon stroll was arranged. The little girl with her lover or admirer spent the afternoon about Crouchville returning to the city about 6 o'clock, where a complaint had been made to the police by the child's parents, and Forsythe arrested.

To the little one the Viscount had told a funny fairy tale of how he was heir to a vast estate and that she was a near relative and would some day come in for considerable of the wealth.

Other stories and promises were poured into her youthful mind until he had secured the little ones promise to accompany him to Fredericton the following morning, but when the time for flight arrived the Viscount was in jail, and little Nellie was safe at home with her parents.

When taken before the police magistrate on Monday morning, the Viscount looked anything but contented. He twisted and turned and looked everybody over from head to foot. He tried to smile but it was only an attempt and generally proved a failure. But Viscount Frederick Gregory Forsythe de Fronsac was in no wise nervous when a chance afforded itself for him to tell in glowing terms who he was.

For the benefit of those who are interested and out of compliment to so distinguished a personage as Viscount Frederick Gregory Forsythe de Fronsac it is necessary a short description of him. He is about five feet eight inches tall, weighs not more than 140, has thin black hair sprinkled with gray and cut short. He once wore a moustache but his face is now clean shaven; he is sharp featured, wears spectacles and has a dry, brown complexion.

To the magistrate on Wednesday Forsythe related his past history and dug up his family tree root by root. He said he was a direct descendant of the de Fronsac's of France and they were on speaking terms

with Napoleon. He can also trace a branch of the Forsythe tree to the De Grasses.

Viscount de Fronsac said he meant no harm by the little girl. He saw in her face a resemblance to his family, and he felt sure he had found the missing link.

For fully two hours the Viscount told the court who he was and where he came from, and where he was going. In the latter the court differed with de Fronsac especially as de Fronsac spoke of going west, while the court has an idea that Dorchester lies to the north.

However another hearing will be given de Fronsac on Saturday and unless new evidence is introduced the count will be disposed of then.

The above are simply the facts as developed at the examination during the week, which certainly made matters seem somewhat dark for the illustrious prisoner. With a view to learning something of his past life a Progress representative called upon the count last Thursday evening. Although extremely nervous he managed to tell his own version of the unfortunate affair in an apparently straight-forward manner. So far as the case of the little Slocumb girl is concerned the count positively denies that he had any connection with it. He and Mr. Slocumb had not always got along very well together, but the trouble was about the board furnished. He believes that had there been any possible chance of an action it would have been taken then.

Asked as to why he had taken the little deGrasse girl to Crouchville instead of sending her back to her adopted parents he replied that she positively declined to go home and that as it was his usual custom when here three years ago to spend his Sunday afternoons in Crouchville, he had upon this occasion taken Nellie with him; she had told him such a pitiful story of ill-usage at the hands of her adopted parents that he wished to consult Mr. Cameron of Crouchville about the matter. The little girl's evidence was correct except in one or two unimportant parts. He had not written to Mrs. Hanson of Fredericton concerning the matter but intended consulting her when he went to that city.

De Fronsac says he was born in Montreal but when quite young the family removed to Portland Maine in which city he remained until he was grown up and where he received his early education. Later on he studied at Baltimore and had devoted all his energies to his work. He admitted that he had been very wild and dissipated but had never intentionally wronged anyone. His nervous disposition inclined him to the use of stimulants and this he presumed would go far towards pre-cluding his case.

He had however fast winter promised the Berkley Temple Guild at Boston to abstain from the use of liquors and he had taken nothing since. The Count claims to have written five historical pamphlets one of which is quoted in Carmichael's edition of Taswell-Langmeads constitutional history of England, and several other things which have not been published.

He is an easy and interesting conversationalist, or would be under more favorable circumstances and his manner is polished and courteous. None of those who knew him when he was here three years ago seem to know anything derogatory to his reputation and many speak of him as a quiet inoffensive person.

THEY COULDN'T FILL THE BILL.

Messrs. Hazen and Chesley Questioned as to Their Sentiments.

Messrs Hazen and Chesley were making a canvass of the I. C. R. officers and sheds on Saturday last when they met a Tartar in the person of a painter. It is not necessary to give his name.

The member approached him and said: "We are looking for votes as I suppose you know, and would very much like to get yours."

"I'm a conservative," said the painter, "have always been such, was born so, and have never voted yet for a liberal. I'm a straight prohibitionist, out and out, have always been so, and if I was not born a cold water man totally I never went farther away from it than milk. I'm an out and out anti-remedialist have always been so, and am now more so than ever: Can either of you gentlemen fill that bill?"

"No," said the members, we cannot fill it, Ellis or Tucker cannot fill it, and we don't believe anyone will be brought out that will fill it. Will you vote for us on that condition?"

"I expect to see a man in the field for St. John yet who can fill it and fill it well," said the painter, "if he don't come I'll take time to consider whether I can reduce the bill or not but I know I cannot reduce it to your capacity," and he began once more to ply his brush, while the canvassers turned to a more social atmosphere.

An Excursion to Hampton.

Those who are contemplating a trip out of town on Monday the 25th cannot enjoy themselves more than by taking advantage of that popular excursion to Hampton on the steamer "Clifton."