

CHAPTER XXXIX.

THE CHILDREN'S COURT

IN 1892 we instituted the Children's Court. It was not really a separate court, but we set apart a small room in the lower part of the City Hall, with a table and a few chairs, and I was accustomed to go down to that room to try all charges against children, in order to keep them out of the public court. I allowed no one in except the parties immediately interested in the case being tried. The child or children stood in front of the table opposite to me, the clerk sat at the end of the table, the Crown Attorney at my elbow. The representatives of the Children's Aid Society, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, were both present. I would hear the evidence, and the parents were generally present. If I felt that punishment was necessary, I would send the child to the Children's Aid Society, or the Roman Catholic School for children, for a few days, and give the culprits a scolding, and warn them to behave themselves in the future. Sometimes I put a fine on for the par-