Nothing in Them

Orphans' Home Staff

Thrown Out by a Meeting of the Board After Full Investigation.

The Trouble Raised by an Incompetent Employe Who Was Dismissed-Letters She Wrote and What She Said -The Board Have Full Confidence in the Staff-The Charges Cleared

"Much ado about nothing" and "A temptest in a teapot," is what the full board of trustees, and, in fact, nearly all connected with and interested in the Protestant Orphans' Home are inclined to term the allegations made against the matron and staff of that institution. Some seemingly serious charges were made against Miss Auld, the matron, Miss McLeod, the seamstress, and Miss Beatty, the warse, by Miss Flossie Fotheringham,

of Brucefield, Ont. The charges made were that Miss Auld is false, deceitful and designing. That Miss McLeod was the possessor of an ungovernable and vicious temper and devoid of those qualities which render a person capable of dealing with children in a proper manner. It was also charged that Miss McLeod, on more than one occasion, had struck a child named Harry Farr, and another named Oscar Crawford over the face with the butt-end of a horsewhip. Miss Auld was also charged with inflicting cruelty upon five little boys, by compelling them to stand with their little backs under the nozzle of a coldwater tap, after rising each morning. Some light was shown on the absurdity of these allegations yesterday.

BOARD CONSIDERS THE CHARGES Yesterday afternoon Mrs. A. Morphy, the president of the Protestant Orphans' Home board called a meeting to consider these charges and receive the report of the visiting committee. Those present at the meeting were: Those present at the meeting were:
Mrs. A. Morphy, Mrs. Gregsten, Mrs.
Edwards, Mrs. Webster, Mrs. J. Jeffrey, Mrs. A. Thomson, Mrs. C. McCallum, Mrs. S. Glass, Mrs. W. T.
Edge, Mrs. D. B. Dewar, Mrs. T. R.
Parker, Mrs. G. Robinson, Mrs. F.
A. Fitzgerald, Mrs. A. Scandrett, Mrs.
C. Sayer, Mrs. J. R. Shuttleworth, Miss
McWhinney, Rev. Robt. Johnston. McWhinney, Rev. Robt. Johnston, Rev. A. G. Stuart, Rev. Ira Smith, Dr. Niven, Dr. Stevenson, Andrew Thompson, John Wright, J. H. Flock, Q.C., Wm. Bowman, T. R. Parker, R. Shaw-Wood and V. Cronyn.

THE PRESIDENT'S EXPLANATION

After preliminary business Mrs. Morphy, the president, expressed her pleasure at the hearty response to her call for a full attendance, and hoped the result of the meeting would be such as to wipe off any stain on the fair name of the home. She reviewed the whole difficulty, stating that Miss Fotheringham, inspired by an innate desire to be philanthropic, sought a situation at the home, and entered on her duties as housemaid on Oct. 3. Mrs. Morphy said eringham could not perform them, being physically unable. The scrubbing was too much for her, and in this task Miss Auld had given all the help she could, but even that was not sufficient, as Miss Fotheringham was still unequal to the task. Mrs. Morphy said Miss Fotheringham had complained to her about the work on the stairs being too ardu s for her, on account of her failing health, but thought she would continue for the month. Three days later Mrs. Morphy called Miss Auld up by telephone, and asked how things were. In reply to inquiry about Miss Fotheringham, the matron said Miss Fotheringham was no better able to perform the necessary duties required of her, with the result that the work was getting behind, and that Miss Mc-Leod was doing Miss Fotheringham's work to the detriment of her own. Miss Fotheringham was called to the 'phone and was told that she had better leave as her health was failing. The young woman said she had only been there two weeks, and was told by Mrs. Morphy that she might go that day, which she did. Mrs. Morphy alleges that Miss Fotheringham, after leaving the home, made the charges mentioned against the staff, to Mr. Sanders, secretary of the Children's Aid Society, and Sheriff Cameron, and the complaints came to Mrs. Morphy's ears. When Miss Fotheringham went to Mrs. Morphy for her

physical strength and prowess until Doomsday, but the fact Doomsday, but the fact remains that he cannot look at a picture of an old-time knight, magnificent in his physical pro-portions, dauntless in his physical courage, and eager for a contest to the death with any comer, without a thrill of admiration. Mental superior admirable, but is the "game worth the candle," when it is won at the exical health and The unhealthy

man may gain the the admiration of men and oroughly gains their respect. ose arteries bound with the health carries with him a isity that command re-

Charges Against the Protestant wages, the president wanted to know the nature of the wrongs complained of, but Miss Fotheringham refused to say. As a result of this, Miss Fotheringham was requested to attend the regular monthly meeting, held on Nov. 7 (which has been alluded to by another paper as a secret meeting), at which Miss Fotheringham made her statement in the presence of Miss Mc-Leod and Miss Beattle—two of those whom she accused. Both ladies de-nied the charges emphatically. A committee consisting of Mrs. Gregsten, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. A. Thompson and Mrs. S. Glass, were appointed, and as three gentlemen of the advisory board — Mesers. T. McCormick, A. Thomson, and J. H. Flock, Q.C.-were present, they were asked to join with the la-dies in investigating the matter. Miss Auld was not present, and it was decided to go to the home on the following Wednesday, Nov. 9, to investigate the trouble, Miss Fotheringham to go with the committee to the home at Miss Fotheringham refused this invitation, and sent the following letter by messenger to Mrs. Morphy:

"Nov. 8, 1898. Dear Madam,— Morphy: Your letter received and contents noted. In reply, would say yesterday I gave the opportunity to any and every person present to ask of me what they desired concerning the subject in hand, as I wished to be done. I stated, and would again repeat that I said all I care to say to your board, and hope never to have to repeat it, and that I will not retract one word of what I have said. However, I willing to talk with any or all of the gentlemen, who were present, or with any other person who can themselves or keep within the bounds of common civility. But with the boisterous, unruly crowd with which I had to deal yesterday, I positively refuse to meet. I will not be present at your meeting tomorrow. Yours respectfully.

"F. F. FOTHERINGHAM." The second meeting was called for Thursday afternoon, at the art rooms, where the committee met Miss Auld and Miss Fotheringham. When the latter was asked to repeat the allegation, she said that "she had said all she was going to." Mr. Flock prevailed on her to let Dr. Niven hear her story, and repeated a portion of it, while Miss Auld looked on with blank astonishment. Miss Fotheringham then recited certain little incidents that to her seemed wrong, and the matron informed Miss Fotheringham that after years of experience she did what, in her judgment, was the best in all cases, and as Miss Fotheringham was inexperienced she was not in a posi-tion to give instruction.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT. The investigating committee, after considering the charges, prepared the following report, which was submitted to the board yesterday, as follows: the Trustees of the Protestant

Orphans' Home of London: At the last meeting of your board, Miss Fotheringham (who had been for some time employed as housemaid at the home) appeared and made some statements reflecting on the management of the home, the treatment of the children, and other matters; some the statements being contradicted at that time by employes of the home who were present, and your board apthe labors were such that Miss Foth- pointed a committee of three trustees to make inquiries into the matter referred to, and the committee beg leave to report as follows:

That notice was sent to Miss Forn eringham to meet the committee; but, by letter, to the president, she declined to meet them unless there were

me of the gentlemen present. The committee accordingly invited some of the advisory board to be present at a meeting, and they attended. Miss Fotheringham was present, as was also Miss Auld (matron of the home). Miss Fotheringham was requested to repeat the statements which she had made at the meeting of trustees, but she declined doing so, stating that she had made her statement before and had said she would not have any more to say on the subject, as she considered she had done what was her duty. Some of the members present, not having been at the former meeting. The statements which Miss Fotheringham had made were repeated for their benefit, in her presence, and after hearing further from Miss Fotheringham, and also from the matron, the committee concluded that, while they think Miss Fotheringham is conscientious, and believes in her opinthe treatment of some of children at some time was harsh, yet from our intimate knowledge of the onduct of the home, by frequent visitations on our part during past years, and there being in the institution a large number of children (many of whom had not had proper training at home), and from our knowledge and observation of the treatment accorded by the matron and assistants, and after consulting the physician of the home, we are of opinion that the reflections on the management, and as to harsh treatment of the children were, under all circumstances, uncall-

All of which is respectfully submit-

London, Nov. 21, A.D., 1898. This report was unanimously received and adopted. NO FAULT FOUND WITH THE

STAFF. Mrs. Morphy asked if any of those

present had any charge or complaint to make against Miss Auld, Miss Mc-Leod or Miss Beattie, and by a unanimous standing vote they expressed satisfaction and confidence in the staff.

Rev. Robert Johnston lamented that the matter had been carried to the public press before the board had had an opportunity to deal with it. was not sure that the public would be satisfied with the report of the committee, and suggested an investigation by disinterested parties. The institution was dependent upon public sympathy, and must go down if anything occurred by which that sympathy was to be lost. Personally he was satisfied to accept the report of the committee. He believed that Miss Fotheringham was sincere in her motives, but she may have been in error in concluding that the vigorous discipline which was ecessary was to her cruel and severe. le pointed out that in this home were orrigibles who had been placed re because they could not be dealt at home, and strict discipline was sary. The one great objection to mittee of disinterested parties it placed the board in a posing too much faith in news-Miss Fotheringham

> that should the estigate and

m about the matter.

her to say nothing

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much stronger and better position. Rev. Ira Smith concurred in this

Dr. Stevenson said the newspaper story was not worth wasting breath or time over. There never was five boys at the home at one time who had been under cold water treatment. There were, he said, two boys in the home whom it was necessary to have sleep in special beds on the floor, and each morning they had a cold bath on the back. It was presumption for Miss Fotheringham or a newspaper reporter to say what was the best treatment. One of the boys had improved wonderfully under this treatment, which was in use in any and all well-known hos-

ANOTHER LIE NAILED.

Dr. Niven said that the newspaper statement that Harry Farrar bore a mark on his face of having been hit with a whip was untrue. The truth was that the boy had received an injury to his face some time ago while fighting with another boy over a bell. There always would be a red mark there.

TWO INVESTIGATIONS ARE NOT NECESSARY.

Mr. Flock thought the report of the committee should suffice. He spoke of the absurd rumors to which people listened and believed, because they would not take time to consider. This home had for 24 years enjoyed a splendid reputation. It was open to public and government inspection at all times. Only a few months ago the government report was most flattering. Mrs. Harvey, the lady superintendent of the Children's Aid Society, had always found things as they should be, and her reports were always creditable to the home. If another investigation was to be made it should be a government one, when evidence on both sides should be taken. Mr. Flock said he had received a letter from Miss Fotheringham, dated Nov. 10, which he read for the benefit of the board.

MISS FOTHERINGHAM LATEST LETTER.

The writer said she would make one more and last appeal to Mr. Flock, regardless of society or board. "The com-plaint," it went on, "against Miss Mc-Leod was that she was unable to control herself, and had a most vicious temper, and consequently was no fit person to deal with children, especially where those children are particularly trying and aggravating, and self-control so great an essential. Of Miss Auld, I said she was false, deceptive and designing. The truth of these statements I tried to point out by relating incidents. In the two meetings that we have had, have these two women themments? And yet the conclusion arrived at was that the whole thing didn't amount to shucks." She then goes on to ask if the person to whom she wrote was dense, or if it were true that he didn't want to see, but brush the whole matter peremptorily from him, feeling that it was a "nasty business-a woman squabble-a dirty muddle, which would entail a great deal of work and no reward. Would it be treated as such if there were a couple of thousand dollars in it, instead of the comfort and spiritual welfare of the motherless and cast-off waifs. I appeal to you, as a man on your honor, to right wrongs, and come to the rescue of the innocent and oppressed. I appeal to you to act from this motive if you have no higher. I don't know whether you profess to have or not-Mr. McCormick does. Believe me," she concludes, "it is the love of God shed abroad in my heart causing me to reach out in love to all his creatures that causes me to take this step. I act from purely unselfish motives. Not that there is anything good in myself; it is not I, but Christ that worketh in me. Think of me as you will, but come to the rescue of those who cannot speak for themselves.'

Further, Mr. Flock pointed out that there were two lady visitors appointed for every week to see that everything was carried on at the home as it should

FREILD TOO SMALL.

Mr. Thomson lamented the fact that Miss Fotheringham's inspired zeal was so great that she found Brucefield too small for her labors. Miss Fotheringham had denied having given anything to the paper, but Mr. Thom-son said if she didn't she only made a mouthpiece of somebody else for the

FEEL SORE.

Mr. Cronyn said it seemed to him very much like a case of sore-head. Were he not connected with the home in any

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way he would say that Miss Fotheringham had come here with a theory and to teach something she didn't understand, and after being dismissed felt Mrs. Morphy pointed out that Miss

Auld had been at the home six years, had spent two years at the Aged People's Home, and nothing had ever been eaid against her. Miss McLeod had been at the home three years, and Miss Beattie for two. All had ever beet found faithful. Miss Auld had last year been offered a government po sition, and the following recommendar ion from Sheriff Cameron, which was given at that time to Miss Auld, was rev.d, as

"London, Nov. 4, 1897 .- I have, much pleasure in making it known that I have been acquainted with Miss Auld, superintendent of the Protestant Orphans' Home, for the past U ree years, and during the last year and a half, especially, I have been, as the president of the Children's Aid Society, brought into intimate contact with her work, methods and discipline, and have been impressed with her capacity for systematizing the motion of such an institution as the home is, and with her administrative qualities severally. If Miss Auld has any intention of leaving the services of the trustees of the home, they will have lost an employe whose place it will be difficult, in my opinion, to fill. (Signed)

whose prace ... (Signed) opinion, to fill. "D. M. CAMERON." Mrs. Gregsten expressed the opinion that when the institution was open for public inspection every day, there was not much room to worry about the

Mr. Bowman said that to have another investigation would only show a lack of confidence in the board, which was quite capable of managing its own affairs. Another committee would only submit a similar report to the one adopted, and he moved that the whole matter drop. Dr. Niven seconded, and the meeting broke up after two solid

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John Harris, of Wancouver, B. C., according to his on n statement, has sold five claims of Hanker Creek for \$50,000 cash. Harris was one of the first to leave 'Vancouver during the Klondike excivement during last year.

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