

# FORMER INMATES WHO MAKE AFFIDAVITS TO SUPP



Mrs. Theresa Yerks.



Mrs. Annie Miles.



Mrs. Mary L. Hibbins.



Emma Scott.



Mrs. Hattie Amer.



Mrs. Sarah Reynolds.

## PIERCE VICTIMS ARE MISSING.

### Some of the Children Who Were to Testify Taken to Unknown Places.

### Lady Managers Have Been Doing All They Could to Help and Save Him.

### They May Decide to Suspend Him Temporarily During the Investigation.

## NEW WITNESSES AID THE JOURNAL.

### Pierce Used to Go Through the Girls' Dormitory in His Shirt Sleeves with a Whip at Night, They Say.

The lawyers for the prosecution in the Westchester Home case will examine a dozen or more new witnesses before Referee Guernsey, in the Supreme Court investigation at White Plains, today. The testimony of these witnesses, it is said, will corroborate many of the charges of cruelty against Superintendent Pierce made on the stand at the last session by Miss Emma Platt, Mrs. Theresa Yerks, Nora Adams and John Tynan. Other evidence to be introduced, it is averred, implicates some of the women managers and matrons of the institution in acts of cruelty to the children similar to those charged against Pierce.

The proofs of Pierce's cruelty adduced at the last session of the investigation have roused public indignation to a high state. While heretofore the criticism has been directed against the Superintendent, it is now outspoken against the Board of Managers, who defend him, and it is everywhere proclaimed by citizens of responsibility and good standing in Westchester County that criminal proceedings will be begun against Pierce if he remains within the jurisdiction of the local courts after the close of the investigation. The lawyers for the prosecution in the present proceedings are urged to press the matter to the end, if it results in the annulment of the Home's charter as a benevolent institution.

New witnesses against Pierce are coming to light daily, and offers of financial aid have been made to Messrs. Van Kleeck, Dykman and Marshall, lawyers for the people, from many sources. A prominent Brooklyn lady yesterday offered to contribute \$250 toward the legal expenses yet to be incurred, in case the matter was pushed to the last extreme. Merchants at White Plains, and others in different parts of Westchester County have also made tenders of aid, and a movement was started yesterday, when it became known that the attorneys were working under a general retainer, without any guarantee of fees or expenses, to provide for their retainer payment. Since it is now known that the policy of the Board of Managers is to prolong the investigation and increase the expense, the opponents of Pierce are insisting that the prosecution shall be equally persistent and well provided with funds.

### PIERCE'S OTHER WHIPS AND IRONS.

When Pierce appears in court to-day he will be asked to produce the several weapons of child punishment that he omitted to produce on the referee's order at the last session. A dozen or more witnesses have represented to the lawyers for the prosecution that the No. 2 Norway iron chains exhibited at the last session are among the lightest and longest by which the children at the Home are bound, and that there are heavy cat-o-nine-tails, rattans, ferules and horsewhips, with which Pierce is alleged to have drawn blood from the children, yet to be shown.

Several former dependents of the institution, who have knowledge of Pierce's conduct, have been found, and will testify at future hearings of the investigation to acts of even greater cruelty than those that have been recently made public. Pierce has visited, either personally or by agent, nearly all of them, as well as many of the former inmates. The lawyers for the prosecution have observed his terrifying influence on many former inmates, now grown men and women—some of them with children of their own—who will admit on questioning that they were inhumanly flogged,

but who fear Pierce too much to appear against him in a court of law.

Pierce is devoting all of his time not occupied in the search for children who can be depended upon to defend him in court to the securing of testimonials of good character from his friends. In this work he is assisted by two ladies of the Board of Managers, upon whom the testimony to be presented on Monday will seriously reflect. They have found practically no sympathy in White Plains, and the testimonials for Pierce thus far obtained have come from persons who know nothing of the actual condition of affairs at the Home.

### CHEERING UP THE ATTENDANTS.

A "sociable" took place at the Home one night last week. Some of the lady managers had "dropped in," and a few of Pierce's adherents from the Methodist church of White Plains. To all appearances it was an affair innocent of ulterior purpose. The lady managers and the Superintendent were contributing, in an informal way, to the material joys of the attendants, whose routine life, it is alleged, is not so joyous as it might be. Miss Witson, the head matron; Miss McDonald, the Superintendent's secretary; Miss Ophelia Wright, Miss Marock, Mrs. Carpenter, Miss Nichols and Mrs. McDonald, sub-matrons in the several departments of the institution, were invited. So the matrons were all there. They were treated so nicely that it almost took their breath away.

As the newspapers are excluded from the Home, and the mails are supervised by the Superintendent personally before they are distributed to the inmates, nobody within its walls knows much about the scandals current in the outside world. So, at the "sociable" Pierce's predicament was referred to as a passing incident, that could not fall to brighten the lustre of his star when the clouds had rolled away.

### FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE.

Pierce was snarling itself. His countenance was so mild that the matrons forgot, for once, that they had ever been oppressed by his authority. The lash and chains were out of mind. When near the close of the evening the lady managers referred feelingly to the Superintendent's troubles, and to his humility and patience under trial, the matrons sympathized with him, and said it was a shame. Whereupon the lady managers produced a document, typewritten on long legal-cap paper, with eyelids and ribbons at the top, just like ex-Judge Mills and, perhaps, other lawyers use in the preparation of evidence for court cases. The document was a wonder in its way.

Mr. Pierce, it went on to say, was being persecuted for righteousness sake. His calumniators were persons of no responsibility. The reports against him were inspired by evil-minded persons, who had a grudge against him. The principal witnesses who accused him were incorrigible children that Mr. Pierce had tried in vain to rescue from hereditary tendencies to evil. As for Mr. Pierce himself, he was gentle, humane, self-sacrificing, prudent and about everything else good. The lady managers and the attendants were represented as believing all this, and as standing by him in his troubles.

Miss Witson, head matron, signed it. Several of the witnesses against Pierce have asserted that Miss Witson herself is dexterous in the use of the cat-o-nine-tails, and has been known to carry it concealed in the sleeve of her institutional dress. One or two of the sub-matrons followed her example and signed the testimonial cheerfully. Two or three others signed it because they knew it would cost them their positions if they did not. Two of the sub-matrons were absent, and one of them—a new one—refused pointblank.

In the meantime, the institution is more closely guarded than any State prison. No one is permitted to enter it, or to speak to an inmate or employe. Louis Hall, a scared little boy, who is sometimes sent to the village for the mail, is reported to have been whipped for having been addressed by a reporter. Pierce and members of his family, aided by Miss Witson, Mrs. McDonald and Miss McDonald, and several husky male employes, patrol the grounds and the rooms of the institution constantly. Once in a while a child gets out of doors unattended for a few minutes, but is immediately snatched back by some ambushed sentinel.

Occasionally a scared, plucked little face appears at the window. The forty children in the nursery take a walk once a day, but they have all been threatened with punishment if they speak to anybody. Their matron is instructed not to allow them to approach any one, and they wander aimlessly along the cheerless country road, afraid to laugh or play, lest they should be reported to their tyrant. Parents who have called at the Home to see their children have been refused permission. No child can send a letter out of the institution to its mother,

father or friend, until the letter is read and approved by Pierce. The incoming letters are all opened and read by him before the children to whom they are addressed are allowed to see them. The children are absolutely isolated from everybody but their keepers, and the keepers are as helpless and cowed as the children.

### GETTING RID OF VICTIMS.

Pierce and the lady managers are, at the same time, gradually depopulating the Home of the most unmerciful forms of punishment inflicted there. The lawyers for the prosecution have evidence that several boys and girls whom they proposed to subpoena to testify to floggings, chainings and hair cuttings have been removed from the institution to unknown places. Before the investi-

Board of Managers to-day, and that ex-Judge Mills will announce his suspension at the opening of Referee Guernsey's court. The lawyers for the prosecution think that the dramatic effect of such a proceeding will be somewhat impaired by certain forthcoming evidence which they will introduce to prove that Pierce and his superiors have already done all that can be done to prevent the actual facts in the case from coming to light. It is claimed by the prosecution that ever since the Board of Managers demanded an investigation they have abetted Pierce in his efforts to suppress the scandals involving the Home, and to place the narrowest possible limits upon the knowledge from which the referee will draw his report. Pierce's reinstatement, it is believed, would follow

months he met her in the hall one day and accused her of having brushed her hair higher than usual, which she denied having done.

Pierce repeated his accusation, and she again denied it.

"Do you mean to say, Jane, that I am telling a lie?" asked Pierce.

"It certainly is a lie if you say that my hair is arranged differently than usual."

### PIERCE STRUCK THE YOUNG WOMAN.

Whereupon Pierce slapped her in the face. In her resentment of the insult she returned the blow and Pierce ordered her to go to bed. She refused to go and Pierce threatened if she did not to put her in bed himself and keep her there if he had to hold her all night. Jennie did not want to hurt her sister's feelings by having trouble

on her wrists and a chain on her ankles and made her sleep in them.

## Soaked the Thongs in Water.

WILLIAM GRANTHAM, A FARMER'S helper, now living at Nepera Park, near Yonkers; I am ten years old, and live with my parents at Nepera Park, Yonkers. I was an inmate of the Home only four months, leaving there last Summer. While I was an inmate of that place I saw a great many boys terribly beaten for almost nothing. Some of the girls were whipped under a sheet in bed, with the cat-o-nine-tails. I used to see Pierce soak the cat-o-nine-tails over night in water, so as it would hurt more. I know of a lot of boys that had the chains on their legs, and some of the girls had them on too. Pierce used to hit the boys as hard

by my Thirtynine. Home only to for talking at den, which I did. den. For running av. the chains put on me.

During that time Pierce beat bare body twice a week. a practice of Pierce to look at all dees' teeth about once every two three months, and if he thought the ought to come out he would pull them out himself. He pulled one of my teeth out one day that was not decayed and nearly killed me. Carrie Miller had the chains on her feet and handcuffs on her hands at the same time for about four months. I have seen at least fifty boys chained during my stay in the Home. I remember one time that five boys were chained together all in a row, and at night they had five beds pushed together so that they could keep the chains on them even at night. I remember one time when Pierce sent about twenty boys in the garden to pull weeds. When he came down in the garden, a few minutes later, he saw one boy named Sam Evans sitting down, and Pierce told him to go to the barn and he would attend to him. I saw him beat young Evans with the horse whip until he bled fearfully. One day Pierce sent me to the kitchen, and then he came in and scoured my tongue with bath brick and kerosene oil for telling a story to Miss Merrick. There were other boys there that had their tongues treated in the same way, and sometimes with ashes. I have seen Pierce beat little babies with the cat-o-nine-tails because they could not get up on the benches quick enough, and also strike them over the head with a song book for going to sleep in Sunday-school. I have also seen Pierce make children stand with their hands behind their back and bend their heads down under the table for an hour at a time. I have had to do it myself. When I left the Home the last time I went to a place in Rosedale, and when I left there Pierce would not let me in the Home again, and I did not have any place to sleep.

EDDIE GROVES.

Sworn to before me this 23rd day of January, 1909.

HENRISE B. CALDWELL, Notary Public, Westchester Co.

## Flogged Boys Every Morning.

CHARLES H. OLMESTEAD, BEING DULY sworn, deposes and says that he is twenty-three years of age and resides in the village of Peekskill, N. Y.; that at the age of eleven years and after the death of his parents, he was committed to the Westchester Temporary Home for Destitute Children, where he remained for the period of two years, during which time his board was paid by his guardian; that while he was there there were in the Home about one hundred boys; that it was the practice of Superintendent Pierce to lash with a heavy strap from twelve to fifteen boys night and morning. The boys were usually stripped and lashed till the blood ran. These punishments were mostly inflicted for speaking while going to bed, or in bed, or at the table while eating; that the most serious offense he ever knew a boy to be charged with was going outside the limits or over the line in the field in which they were permitted to exercise; that on one occasion five boys were obliged to wear upon their backs a large card with these words: "I am a thief." They had gone over a fence and gotten some apples from a tree; they wore this large card upon their backs for two weeks.

Sworn to before me this 18th day of January, 1909.

JOHN M. DIGNITY, Notary Public.

## Took Off His Coat to Whip.

CHARLES H. LOCKWOOD, BEING DULY sworn, says that he resides in the village of White Plains, N. Y., and is twenty-one years of age; that when he was fifteen years old he was committed to Westchester Temporary Home for Destitute Children, of which James W. Pierce was superintendent. That during his stay in the said Home it was the practice of the said Pierce to strip the boys of all their clothing and lash them with a cat-o-nine-tails until the blood ran down their bodies; that such punishment was applied to at least twenty boys each night during the period of his stay in the Home. The boys were stripped, marched up in lines in the bath room, when the said Pierce would take off his coat and apply the cat-o-nine-tails with all his strength. From fifteen to twenty blows were thus delivered upon the person of each boy. That it was also the practice to place both handcuffs and leg chains upon the boys, leaving such handcuffs and leg chains upon the boys day and night.

Sworn to before me this 18th day of January, 1909.

JOHN M. DIGNITY, Notary Public.



Superintendent Pierce of the House for Destitute Children.

gation gets far enough along for the consideration of testimony from the Home, it will be found, doubtless, that many valuable witnesses for the prosecution have been spirited away to remote places, known only to the superintendent and the lady managers who are assisting him in his efforts to conceal the truth about the Home. Four boys were sent away by the Harlem road yesterday, and a little girl who can testify to the truth of many of the statements already published was taken a long distance across the country on Thursday. The prosecution will demand the production of all children thus removed, as they are fully informed of the identity of every child who was an inmate of the Home on the day the investigation began.

It was rumored at White Plains yesterday that Pierce is to be suspended by the

such a suspension as a matter of course.

Mrs. Jennie F. Montell, the wife of a carpenter living at White Plains, had charge of the nursery at the Pierce Home for fifteen months ending in 1903. She is the daughter of Mrs. Mary McDonald, the present head laundress at the institution, and the half-sister of Julia McDonald, the present secretary. She was only sixteen years old when she took charge of the nursery at the suggestion of her sister, who knew of her fondness for children. This suggestion was made one afternoon when Jennie called at the Home, and she readily adopted it.

She was not legally committed to the institution, and Pierce was not in any way justified in including her in the application of his rigorous discipline to the inmates. After she had been there several

with Pierce, so she retired.

Mrs. Montell saw Pierce punish Stella Adams in bed, and has seen him go through the dormitory in his shirt sleeves arousing the girls to be whipped when he had returned to the Home after they had retired.

Sarah Reynolds, who is now the wife of Herbert Reynolds, of Fortchester, and whose unfortunate life at the Home and other places where she was sent by Pierce has been referred to before, was compelled by Pierce to put on her night dress, fold it up under her arms, get into bed and cover herself with a sheet. He whipped her for about fifteen minutes on the back and both sides, and then asked her whether she would now run away again. When she told him she would, he whipped her again for another fifteen minutes, until she was covered with bruises and cuts, from which the blood flowed. Not satisfied with this, he put a pair of handcuffs

as he could. He used to make a new cat-o-nine-tails about every two weeks, because the other would get worn out.

While I was in the Home I saw Pierce cut off some of the girls' hair because they were caught talking to the boys. There was another boy in the Home the same time as I was there, whose name was Henry Brant, and he can tell you the same things that I tell. He is ten years old and lives near me at Nepera Park. We both go to public school, No. 1, and we do not want to go back to the Home again, because we don't like Mr. Pierce.

## Saw Fifty Boys Chained.

EDWARD GROVES, A CLERK IN A WHITE Plains store, being duly sworn, says: I am eighteen years old, and live in White Plains. I was sent to the Home in 1886

Sworn to before me this 18th day of January, 1909.

JOHN M. DIGNITY, Notary Public.

## INSTRUMENTS USED BY SUPERINTENDENT PIERCE IN FLOGGING AND CHAINING CHILDREN.

