

in New Street, Christchurch. It was on the previous Easter Monday, about 9 a.m., that the body was found by a boy named Ford; and Mrs. Boyd, who kept the brothel, was present when the child was found. I presented a report on the 28th April to Inspector Pender, as follows:—

Christchurch Police Station, 28th April, 1883.

CONSTABLE G. Neale, No. 1553, respectfully begs to report in re concealment of a birth of a male child found by four boys in Mrs. Boyd's garden, New Street, Christchurch, on Easter Monday, 26th March, 1883.

Mrs. Neilson states that she had a conversation with a Mrs. Cumming, who resides in Salisbury Street. The conversation took place the day after Easter Monday, and that Mrs. Cumming should say that she saw the body of a dead male child at Mrs. Boyd's, New Street, on Easter Monday, and that the boy Ford had found the child in the corner of Mrs. Boyd's garden on Easter Monday, about 9 a.m., and that when the child was found it was wrapped up in brown paper. The after-birth was laid on the child, and it had its arms close up to its body. The child was small; and that Mrs. Boyd was present, when she saw the child and told the girls to go and bury it.

Mrs. Cumming states that Mrs. Ford sent for her to see her about doing some needlework. When she came to Mrs. Ford's house, Mrs. Ford took her up to Mrs. Boyd's to see a dead male child that had been found by her boys and others in Mrs. Boyd's garden a short time before. This was on Easter Monday; it would be about 9 a.m. The child was lying in the corner of the garden.

Thomas Verner Kennedy states: I was in Mrs. Boyd's garden on Easter Monday with three other boys—the two Fords and Mrs. Boyd's little boy. We found a parcel in the corner of the garden all over blood, and wrapped up in brown paper. We did not touch it. We were frightened.

Ernest Ford states: I was in Mrs. Boyd's garden with my brother and a boy named Kennedy, and Mrs. Boyd's son, on Easter Monday. We found a parcel in the left-hand corner of Mrs. Boyd's front garden. It was wrapped up in brown paper, and had a lot of blood on it.

Mrs. Mason states that she saw Amy Dyson on the Friday night before she died, and she told her she had been beaten by Mrs. Boyd and kicked in the side, some time ago, and that she had not got over it, and said, "I am very bad," and that the "Chestnut Filly" had told me—meaning a girl named Thompson—had seen Amy Dyson, and Amy Dyson had told her that Mrs. Boyd had kicked her in the side, and that she had never got over it, and that she believed that she was going to die, and she had not been right since she had been kicked by Mrs. Boyd.

Mrs. Cummings further states that a man named Hannan had been to Mrs. Boyd's a short time after the child was found, and had got four bottle of beer out of Mrs. Boyd, and had told her that he would inform the police. I also saw Mrs. Boyd that morning, the 28th April, in her own house. Mrs. Boyd was in Wellington. I have not seen Mrs. Boyd since Easter Monday until this morning.

Alice Hulbert states: I know nothing about the child that was found in Mrs. Boyd's garden. I was at Mrs. Boyd's house on Easter Monday. I did not assist to bury the child that was found. I do not know anything about it. Mrs. Boyd went to Wellington some time ago. She came back last Thursday by the "Hawea" steamer. She is staying at Addington. She is not in the house. She does not stop here. I have been to Wellington. I came back on the 3rd April with a girl named Miller that is living with Mrs. Boyd. I am living at Mrs. Boyd's, New Street. The two girls, Alice Willit and "the Crooked Neck," are at Dunedin. I do not know the name of the girl we call "Crooked Neck." They went away a few weeks ago. They were here last Easter Monday. A man named "Cockney Jack" went away with "the Crooked Neck" to Dunedin.

Joseph Hannan states that he heard that a child had been found in Mrs. Boyd's garden some time ago. He heard some women talking about it. A Mrs. Kennedy was one of them. Have spoken about the child being found in Mrs. Boyd's garden at different times in New Street, but have not spoken to Mrs. Boyd about it.

The constable begs to state that the place where the dead child was found has been pointed out by the boy Ford, and that the ground was dug up by Constable Daly and the constable on the 27th April, but the earth appeared to have been recently disturbed. To all appearances the body has been removed from where it was buried. The deceased Amy Dyson was kicked by Mrs. Boyd about the time the child was found; and Alice Hulbert, one of the girls who buried the child after it was found, being instructed to do so by Mrs. Boyd. Mrs. Boyd left for Wellington shortly after, and did not return until last Thursday, after Amy Dyson had died. The constable had made inquiry for the girl Thompson, *alias* the "Chestnut Filly," who stops at Mrs. Weston's. She has gone to Port Lyttelton, and will be back to-night. Also, a woman named Mrs. Jack has stated to some woman in New Street that Mrs. Boyd had kicked Amy Dyson in the stomach, and that killed her. The constable will see Mrs. Jack this evening. The constable called at Mrs. Boyd's this morning, and inquired for Mrs. Boyd, and Alice Hulbert informed the constable that Mrs. Boyd was not there. Mrs. Cummings saw Mrs. Boyd a short time before, in bed, at the house; the constable had inquired for her.

GEORGE NEALE, Constable No. 1553.

The Sergeant in Charge of Police, Christchurch.

On that report I was instructed by Inspector Pender, who was then in charge of Christchurch district, to make inquiry into the circumstances concerning the report of the 28th. I obtained certain evidence, which I forwarded to Inspector Pender, and Mrs. Boyd was subsequently committed for trial on a charge of concealment of birth. My complaint is that, had Inspector Pender made use of the evidence, which was forwarded by me to him in the ordinary course, at the trial in the Resident Magistrate's Court a charge of murder would have been preferred against Mrs. Boyd. Four witnesses in the case were not examined at the Resident Magistrate's Court, although subpoenaed, and their evidence had been taken by me.

4. Who were these witnesses?—They were William Wood, cab-driver, a resident of Christchurch; George Wakefield, labourer, residing at Sydenham, Christchurch; Jessie Thompson; and Mrs. Jack, a resident of Christchurch.

5. You had taken their evidence; they were subpoenaed, but were not called?—No; and I was told by the parties interested that one of them was paid to leave the Resident Magistrate's Court, at the Court, by a constable; and that another was paid in the street to stay away from the Court, and he never appeared in the Court.

6. Were you present when the payment was made?—No.

7. Who were the persons who told you this?—William Wood and George Wakefield, the two parties interested. That is the gist of the case, as to the four witnesses being withheld from the Resident Magistrate's Court.

8. *Colonel Pitt.*] What had Inspector Pender to do with these witnesses not being called?—If they were subpoenaed he knew they were subpoenaed.

9. *The Chairman.*] Who conducted the prosecution?—Inspector Pender, in the lower Court.

10. *Colonel Pitt.*] Did he tell you why he did not call them?—No.

11. Did you consider there had been a miscarriage of justice?—I did, and do to this day.

12. Why did you not, knowing all this evidence, as you say you did, lay an information for murder?—Because I would have been obstructed by the Inspector. I am positive of that.

13. *Mr. Poynton.*] Where is George Wakefield now?—A resident of Sydenham, unless he is dead. I do not know the whereabouts of Wood.