

TROUBLE AT STANPIT OVER PAPER THROWN IN GARDEN. Assault Charges.

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At Christchurch Police Court on Monday two cases of assault and battery were brought against Mrs. Ellen Jessie Gates, of 5. Coronation Villas, Stanpit, by Mrs. Kathleen White, 2 Queen's Road, who alleged that defendant had assaulted both her and her daughter. Mrs. Gates also summoned Mrs. White for alleged assault and battery.

In evidence, Mrs. Gates stated that at approximately 1 o'clock on March 4th she went outside to empty her dustbin and found some paper in the garden. She said that her son told her that Sheila White had thrown it over and she asked the child if she had done so. Mrs. Gates stated that she took Sheila White by the shoulder to make her pick up the paper and she came willingly. Defendant stated that later the child's mother came to her house, but she locked the door and would have nothing to do with her. Mrs. White said she wanted to ask her a civil question and she (defendant) said that she went outside and asked Mrs. White to go. Defendant alleged that she was closing the side gate trying to get rid of Mrs. White as quickly as she could, when Mrs. White turned round and slapped her face.

Answering Mr. Butcher, Mrs. Gates denied striking Mrs. White first and she stated that she put up her hand only in self-defence.

John Bradley, of Coronation Villas, stated that he was in the front room at the time and saw the little girl pick the paper up and go home. He continued that 10 to 15 minutes later Mrs. White knocked at the door. He said that he next saw Mrs. Gates trying to force the door shut and Mrs. White was half between the door. Questioned by Mr. G. B. S. Butcher, defending, as to whether he had seen any blood on Mrs. White's face, witness replied: "I saw a small mark by her nose."

Gerald Norman Gates, aged eleven, stated that on 4th March Mrs. White was leaving by the side gate when she turned round and hit his mother, who had a job to get away from her.

Mr. Butcher said that defendant had admitted that she took the child by the shoulder and made her pick up the paper and she also admitted she shut the gate on Mrs. White. He submitted that the summons against Mrs. White be dismissed and that Mrs. Gates had convicted herself on the other two charges.

The charge of assaulting the child was dismissed and Mrs. Gates and Mrs. White were each bound over for one year.

Major W. O. Campbell and Mrs. N. Barnes were the magistrates.