

DAMNING OUTRAGE.

**A Youthful Victim of an Old Man's
Lust—The Fordyce Bradbury
Rape Case—A Little
More Law De-
manded.**

Yesterday, at the office of Squire Caldwell, Thomas Bradbury, charged with outraging the person of Annie Laura Fordyce, a becoming little miss of fourteen years, was tried and discharged from custody, the evidence before the Squire not being sufficient, in the opinion of the court, to hold the prisoner. During the progress of the trial, however, facts were developed, if the evidence of witnesses be accepted as facts, that show a crime to have been committed that is too horrible for even the lowest brute who lives and breathes under the blue canopy of heaven to countenance. The most disgusting, the most revolting, and we must say, the most damning outrage that has ever occurred in the annals of the history of the city—one which would tarnish the name of the devil himself, were he to be guilty of such a crime—has been committed, and the perpetrator through a supposed lack of evidence allowed to go unpunished. Even if the charge of rape be not sustained, the crime still remains too horrible to contemplate, and the failure of the law to provide for the punishment of a man guilty of enticing a little girl of the age of fourteen years into his room, as the evidence in this case clearly illustrates was done, and there having criminal connection with her, even be it with her consent, only adds to the great danger to which the little daughters of our citizens are subjected, and a danger from the effects of which there can be no redemption, once having fallen a victim. Among the witnesses examined yesterday were, for the defense Messrs. Wash Pumphrey, Wm. Phillips, Block, Chas. H. Berry, Andrew White and E. B. Dovener, and for the prosecution, Annie Laura Fordyce, the youthful victim of man's lust, Mrs. S. E. Gaylor, the mother, and Dr. Hervey. The evidence adduced is too disgusting and revolting for publication. The substance, however, was to the effect that Bradbury had confessed to other parties that he had criminal intercourse with his victim at various times, but with her consent, and to substantiate the theory that the morals of the girl were not such as they should be, G. W. Pumphrey, a butcher testified to the effect that he had credited her for goods purchased from him for privileges which should condemn and place him below the level of the veriest brute. The evidence of Mr. Charles H. Berry was to the effect that he had given the mother of the girl five dollars (he thinking that the girl was enucleate) and had promised to give twenty-five dollars more in order to send her to Allegheny, Pa., and place her in charge of a physician for the purpose of having an abortion produced. This, he says, he proposed doing for the benefit of Bradbury, and in order to quiet the mother of the girl. Dr. Hervey, the physician who was called in to attend on the girl, testified that he had made an examination of Annie Fordyce, at the request of her mother, on the 13th of February, ten days after the outrage was alleged to have been committed, and found every evidence of virginity up to a recent date. He said that the hymen was badly ruptured, the girl seriously injured and there was every evidence of an outrage. Yet in view of this fact, and the fact that Bradbury's own witnesses had testified that he had acknowledged to them that he had had criminal intercourse with the girl, an *alibi* was proved, and the man who, according to his own confession, if the evidence of his own witnesses is to be relied upon, has been instrumental in blighting the life of a youthful innocent, now stalks the streets an "innocent" man, according to law.

This failure of the law to protect the virgin purity of youthful daughters and sisters, cries out aloud for a remedy, and unless that remedy be found through legal means, the avenging hand of the father or brother of injured innocence is sure to fall on the offending head of him who is not possessed of that common decency shown by brutes to the opposite sex.