



A Clergyman Charged With Assault

At the Swindon Police-court on Thursday the Rev. Henry William Chippendale, curate of Lydiard Tregoze Church, and residing at Wootton Bassett, was charged with assaulting Captain Richard Bradford, of Midge Hall, Lydiard Tregoze. The parties had been on bad term with each other for some considerable time, and on Sept 16th, defendant went to complainant's house with an order to see him respecting a complaint sent to complainant as secretary, treasurer, and one of the managers of the school of the parish, defendant having kept the class too long at a religious lesson which he had given them the previous day. Complainant said he told defendant the complaint would be laid before a meeting of the managers of the school, which would be held the following Monday. Defendant asked if he was going to be summoned to the meeting, and said his conduct was to be considered. Complainant told him, not being a manager of the school, but simply the superintendent of its religious instruction, he would not be allowed to attend the meeting. Upon this, and without further provocation, defendant jumped up from his chair – they were sitting together in complainant's drawing-room – came towards him in a threatening manner, and put his hands in his (complainant's) face. Complainant, thinking he meant to strike him, put up his hands in self-defence, and told the defendant if he did not leave the room he would kick him out. Defendant totally denied using his hands to complainant, who, he said, used abusive language towards him. Complainant admitted calling him "a dirty cur," after the assault had been committed. Ultimately, on the suggestion of the Bench, defendant apologised and the matter ended.

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