ASCONTY SWEARS BISHOP FIRED SHOTS AT HIM

Troubles of the Syrian Colony Heard in the Butler Street Court.

WRANGLE OVER INTERPRETERS.

One Complaint Against Bishop Hawaweeny Dismissed—Decision Reserved in Ascenty Case.

The hearing in the case of Bishop Raphael Hawaweeny, of the Syrian Church, and five of his parishioners who were accused of having shot at Abdo Ascenty, of 15 West street, Manhattan, on the night of September 18 last, was finally brought to a hearing in the Butler street court, before Magistrate Tighe, this morning, and the examination proceeded until a late hour in the afternoon. There was a large attendance of the members of the Syrian colony of New York, and the Russian Consul General, who is a friend of the Bishop, was an interested spectator. A number of dark-eyed women whose millinery (was of a uniformly bright shade of red were in court—women who might be widows at a moment's notice, so high is the feeling in the case at the present time.

James W. Osborne, who appears as the Bishop's counsel, and his assistant, William Howard, jr., were in court, and the opposite faction was represented by Lawyer Charles LeBarbier and Assistant District Attorney Smith, the latter in his capacity of prosecuting attorney. For the Bishop, who declared that he never had had a revolver in his hand, was flatly accused of having shot at Ascenty no less than twice on the eventful night of the assault.

There was a riot on Pacific street, near Clinton, on the night in question, and the Bishop's story is that he was attacked by some of his enemies, and that he never assaulted anyone. He claimed that he was simply on his way from a sick parishioner's house when he was attacked. There seemed to be shooting from all quarters and Ascenty fell with a bullet in his left leg. There were several collateral complaints to be heard in the court this morning, one that the Bishop had attempted to shoot a policeman of the Amity street station, and another that the Bishop and thirteen of his sympathizers had conspired to kill Anees Shibley. The case first taken up was that of the bishop and six new others, who, it is claimed, in the shooting of Ascenty.

There was difficulty from the outset, due in a large measure to the excitable character of the Syrian, who grouped about the bench and would not sit down, even when ordered to do so by the Magistrate. Then the question of an interpreter was taken up, and Anees Shibley stepped forward to put Ascenty's statements into English. That was the signal for an outcry from Mr. Osborn, who is the bishop's counsel. Shibley is one of the bishop's bitterest enemies.

"You can interpret for me," shouted Mr. Osborne. "You are an ex-convict."

"You wouldn't dare to talk that way to me outside," said Shibley. "Don't you dare to do it in court."

Thereat Shibley walked in the direction of Mr. Osborne with his eyes blazing, at.

Mr. Osborne recoiled a bit. "You're not coming over here to assault me now, are you?" questioned the lawyer.

"You know I am not, Mr. Osborne," said Shibley. "But you have said something about me that I resent."

Magistrate Tighe told the lawyers that if Shibley was objectionable to Mr. Osborne he would not be asked to interpret. Michael Keyfouh, who boasted that he had interpreted in the General Sessions, and who is a friend of the bishop, stepped up and said that he would do the job. Mr. LeBarbier did not object and so Keyfouh was permitted to take the oath. But from that time on there was a constant wrangle between the two interpreters, for Shibley had been permitted to stand there to see that Keyfouh did no wrong in his interpretation. Shibley was fiery all the way through. Bishop Hawaweeny sat near where he stood and once Shibler appealed to the court for protection from the mild-looking cleric.

"Judge," shouted Shibley, his eyes flashing and waving his hands in the air with melodramatic vigor. "I want you to protect me from the bishop. He has just called me a thief and a robber, and has said that I stole money from the poor."

Half a dozen of the bishop's adherents crowded up to the bench and assured Magistrate Tighe that the bishop had not said a word. Hawaweeny nodded his head in endorsement of the charge, and the magistrate told all hands to sit down and be quiet.

Ascenty's story was that he had come to Brooklyn from his saloon in West street, Manhattan, on the night of the assault, to see a friend. He was on Pacific street, near Clinton, on his way home when he saw a number of men. The Bishop, he said, stepped out from the throng and deliberately fired two shots at him. He was sure the Bishop had fired. Then the shooting became general and the police came. Ascenty said he had been shot in the leg.

In the course of the long cross examination Mr. Osborne did not shake the witness' evidence about the shooting. He was very sure that the Bishop had fired the shots.

Mr. Osborne went into a rather tiresome questioning of the witness about the doctors who had attended him for the wound in the leg. "Excuse me, your honor, for taking up your time with these details," said Mr. Osborne. "I'm only a dead one."

"Go on," said Magistrate Tighe, kindly.

Later the witness said that he remembered that the newspaper Al Houda had been shipped to the Bishop but that was after he had been shot. He read the newspapers then.

"Oh," said Mr. Osborne, recently defeated as Tammany's candidate for District Attorney in New York County. "the only way to make you read the newspapers is to shoot you. I wish I had been shot before I read some of the things the newspapers have been saying about me in the last three weeks."

The second witness was Hubert Flannery, of 4 Barrow street, Manhattan, who lived at 195 Clinton street at the time of the shooting and who said very distinctly that he saw the Bishop fire two shots at the Syrian.

After the hearing of this witness the testimony of the police was taken up on the assault case. The officer who said that the Bishop had drawn a revolver on him was not so very sure of the matter and that case against the Bishop was dismissed.

The other case against the Bishop, for the alleged assault on Ascenty was too dispose of, and the magistrate postponed decision. His five parishioners, also concerned in this case, were also held for the grand jury.

At or a recess the magistrate took up the twenty-two charges made by Shibley and the chances are that the case will not be concluded before very late in the afternoon.