

## THE ALMSHOUSE INVESTIGATION.

The defence in the Tewksbury investigation resumed its testimony Wednesday, after an adjournment since Friday of last week. The witnesses on Wednesday were ex-Gov. Rice, Mrs. Bowen, the adopted mother of the much-talked-of Mary Eva Bowen, and David Blair of Lawrence, now in the milk business, who had been two years in the cooking department for paupers, at the almshouse, going there in the summer of 1870. Ex-Gov. Rice's testimony was rather damaging to himself and his party, though intended to be favorable. He said that while Governor he replied to letters addressed him by Messrs. Sanborn, Wrightington and Andrews complaining of the institution. In his reply, which he read, he expressed the heartiest desire of the writer to cooperate in all attempts for needed reform. Gov. Rice then said he was then only young in office and not prepared to proceed as rapidly as he might have done after more experience. He was convinced that many faults existed in the State institutions, but he did not claim that any reforms had resulted from his administration. Speaking of his visit to the almshouse while Governor, he said he did not go for the purpose of investigating charges, but simply and solely to make a general inspection, and acknowledges having notified Supt. Marsh by telegraph of his visit the day before it took place. This notification must have enabled the management to get things into improved order in anticipation of the visit of inspection; but it seems that this was hardly necessary, as Gov. Rice states that he simply "asked general questions as to the food, clothing, etc., of inmates." Of course Supt. Marsh gave satisfactory answers. If Gov. Butler was that kind of a Governor the Marsh family might continue to wax wealthy in the almshouse management till they died.

Mrs. Bowen's evidence was also damaging to the witness. She admitted that she had not as much as inquired into her adopted daughter's whereabouts after she left home and had her child; never sent her any comforts, or wrote to her, or wrote to any one about her. The daughter was then 10 years old. The loving mother supposed the authorities might be the means of reforming her. Did not leave her go to the bad, but thought she went there. Did not tell her of Mr. Bowen's death, nor tell her of the provisions of the will. In the will Eva was given only \$25. One niece had \$50; the other, \$1000. All the rest of the property went to her. The witness was sure that Mary Eva's reputation for truth and veracity was bad,—a statement which was doubtless very agreeable to the ears of the defence, since Mary Eva had been a very damaging witness against the almshouse management. But it is doubtful whether the word of this confessedly hard-hearted woman will be accepted for truth by the public.

The witness Blair was put on to give the management a good character, and did it in a small way, and stepped down and out.