This Public Bill originated in the House of Representatives, and, having this day passed as now printed, is transmitted to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.

House of Representatives, 5th July, 1905.

[As reported from the Joint Statutes Revision Committee.] 26th July, 1905.

Hon. Mr. McGowan.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

Title.

1. Short Title. 2. Section 196 of principal Act (relating to the crime of defiling girls between the ages of

twelve and sixteen) amended.

3. Power to clear the Court. Proviso.

4. Power to forbid report of proceedings.

A BILL INTITULED

An Acr to amend "The Criminal Code Act, 1893."

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as 5 follows:--

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Criminal Code Amend-Short Title. ment Act, 1905"; and it shall form part of and be read together with "The Criminal Code Act, 1893."

2. Section one hundred and ninety-six of "The Criminal Code Section 196 of 2. Section one numered and innerty-six of "The Criminal Code section to or principal Act (relating to the twelve-and sixteen) is hereby amended by repealing the words "one month," and substituting in lieu thereof the words "six months." ages of twelve and ages No person shall be convicted for any offence under the said section one sixteen) amended. hundred and ninety-six upon the evidence of the girl, unless corrobo-15 rated in some material particular by other testimony to the satisfaction of the Court.

3. Where on any trial before any Court of justice the Court is Power to clear the of opinion that the interests of public morality require that all or any Court. persons should be excluded from the Court, it may exclude such 20 persons therefrom accordingly who are under-twenty one years of age:

Provided that such power shall not be exercised for the purpose Proviso. of excluding the prosecutor or the accused, or his counsel or solicitor. or any accredited newspaper reporter.

4. The Court in any such case may also, by order, forbid the Power to forbid 25 publication of any report or account of the evidence therein, either report of as to the whole or any portion thereof; and the breach of any such order, or any colourable or attempted evasion thereof, may be dealt with as contempt of Court.