

Great Britain, shall have any force or effect, unless the seal of such City, Borough or Town Corporate shall be affixed thereto.

From the London Courier, June 13.

Court of Common Pleas.

Before the Chief Justice and a Common Jury.

DEFAMATION:

BAKER v. SPRAT.

This was stated to be an action by which the plaintiff sought to recover a compensation in damages for certain defamatory words spoken by the defendant, and by which he, the plaintiff, had suffered great injury in his business.

Mr. Serjeant Lens, for the plaintiff, flattered to the jury that the parties were both respectable tradesmen in High-street, Shadwell, and the defendant for some strange motive, best known to himself, had thought proper not only publicly to accuse the plaintiff of having committed a highway robbery, but had actually made it his business to place himself before the shop of the plaintiff, and, by malicious and unfounded representations, prevent his customers from going into it. These facts would be fully proved, and he had no doubt they would give such a verdict as would mark their sense of such wicked and scandalous conduct. The learned serjeant then called Charles Thompson, who stated himself to be an apprentice to the plaintiff, Mr. Baker, who is a pork-butcher, in High-street, Shadwell. Mr. Sprat, the defendant, is a hair-dresser, and lives opposite to his master. On the 27th March, Mr. Sprat's assistant was sweeping before his door, and witness heard Miss Gregory, sister-in-law to Mr. Baker, say, "Oh, for shame! don't be so unneighbourly as to sweep your dirt here!" upon which Mr. Sprat came to his door, and said, "Go in, and wash your dirty—(chemise)." Mr. Baker hearing this, immediately went out, and remonstrated with Mr. Sprat, when he replied, "Who knocked the man down in the field? What money have you in your pocket?—if you want a pound note, I will give you one."

Miss Eleanor Wilhelmina Gregory, (a rose withering on its virgin thorn) said she was the lady alluded to by the last witness; and she corroborated the first part of his evidence; but stated the defamatory words to be "who knocked the man down, and robbed him? And what money had he in his pocket?"

Cross-examined by Mr. Serjeant Vaughan; Witness is still a spinster; and though she had lived in Shadwell forty years, she had never heard a bad word before! Indeed, she thought she should never have known what bad language was had it not been for Mr. Sprat's conduct in this affair. She really did not know the meaning of the word "smock," and that was the reason she had spoken it out so plainly in her evidence. She did not know that Mr. Sprat was married, nor did she know whether there were any little master or miss Sprats; "there might be a whole shoal of Sprats, for any thing she knew to the contrary." She did not hear her brother-in-law, the plaintiff, say to Mr. Sprat "Go and keep your house of ill-fame, and take your wife off the town!" She was sure he had no witnesses to prove that, though it was true that her brother-in-law came out boldly, and like a man, to take her part, and she walked away into the house, "being perfectly convinced that Mr. Sprat's language was not fit for any lady's ear."

The next witness was the portly Mrs. Julia Bates, hostess of the Jolly Bacchus public house, Shadwell; and she swore, that, on the 15th of April, she heard Mr. Sprat say to the plaintiff, "I have never robbed any man, as you have." Moreover, she saw him standing before the plaintiff's door, with above one hundred and fifty people about him; and she heard him say to them, "don't go into his shop: he has poisoned hundreds of his customers with his kagmag! Mr. Newly sells good meat; let every one go there, and they'll be well served." In consequence of these words she had never been in the shop since.

Cross-examined by Mr. Serjeant Vaughan: Pray, ma'am, did you believe this laid story about poisoning? "Believe it! no, indeed. I know Mr. Baker too well." Then he has not lost your custom, it seems? "Oh, yes, but he has though." How so, if you did not believe these wonderful stories which you said were told of him, why did you withdraw your powerful support?—"Oh, I had a reason for that." I dare say you have—a Wapping reason. Now tell me truly, as you are a lady, any more, a land-lady, and the very picture of propriety, "bearing your blushing honours thick upon you," whether, in case the plaintiff obtains a verdict, he has not promised to have a feast at your house to-night? "No, nor he has not done that, neither; so you are out of it for once. But if you must have it, I did not like to buy my meat at a shop as had been scandalized with selling kagmag; and so I shall bid you good afternoon." (Offering to leave the box.) No, no, Mrs. Julia Bates, I have not done with you yet; you know that I have a great deal to say to you yet. "How should I know? I never was in a place of this sort in my life before, and I hope I never shall be again." Aye! very like Wapping or Shadwell is more to your taste. "Don't you fancy at Shadwell quite so much. It's not such a place as you seem to think for; there are folks there that keeps their carriages, let me tell you." Yes, we see what sort of carriage they keep, by your own bearing, Mrs. Julia Bates; but pray will you be kind enough to explain to us what you mean by "kag-

mag?" "Oh! I dare say you know what I mean well enough, Sir. At least you know what mag is, it seems, by your talking so fast to me." Here the court was convulsed with laughter, and the comely witness left the box in smiling triumph.

Henry Collyer was present on the 27th of March, and heard the defendant say, "who knocked the man down?" &c. &c. The defendant was sweeping before his door at the time.

Mr. Serjeant Vaughan: "And so, Sir, you actually heard the defendant hold this language?"

"Witness: "Hold what, Sir? I did not say he was holding anything but a broom?" (Laughter.)

Timothy Newton was present on the 15th of April, and heard the defendant, before the plaintiff's door, telling the people that he dealt in kagmag; and he had never dealt at his shop since.

Mr. Serjeant Vaughan: Pray, Sir, what are you? "Me, Sir? I am in the tailoring line." A tailor! Gentlemen, the witness is a tailor! Now mark me, Sir. On the oath of a tailor, did you, or did you not, cut out this suit for the plaintiff?—"Me, Sir—no, yes, no, Sir; I—I never worked for him yet." Oh! Oh! very well. So then, if he gains this suit by your means, he has promised that you shall cut and make one for him in your own particular line, as you call it? "Oh dear sir—I don't exactly understand—I never made any thing for Mr. Baker, and perhaps I never may." And pray, sir, what is the reason you have never dealt with the plaintiff since this notable 15th of April that you talk of? Did you believe that he was a dealer in kagmag? "Why, no, sir, not exactly kagmag; but I live such a distance off of him now, that it would not suit me altogether." Very well! very well! Mr. Taylor, I have now quite done with you—Oh, you are a wonderful man!

Several other witnesses were called to prove the extensive and respectable business which the plaintiff had carried on; and others to explain the word "kagmag," some of whom thought it meant meat that had been kept too long after it was killed; others, that it meant lean, poor meat; and others, again, thought it meant meat which had never been killed at all!

The whole body of evidence having been gone through, Mr. Serjeant Vaughan addressed the jury for the defence.—"Gentlemen," said he, "I will not take up much of your time, for I know you are of opinion with me that this action has not a leg to stand upon; notwithstanding they have employed their special pleaders, and made nine counts in the declaration! Gentlemen, I will take upon myself to say, and I will say it in the emphatic words of that declaration itself, that the whole of those nine counts are kagmag! that the declaration itself is kagmag!! and every part of the action from beginning to end is kagmag too!!! (laughter) Why, gentlemen, who have they called in support of their case? First, there is the immaculate spinster, Miss Eleanor Wilhelmina Gregory, who has lived in Shadwell 40 years and never heard a bad word in her life! In Shadwell, gentlemen!! Then comes the Wapping landlady! that gorgeous personage, Miss Julia Bates—"you're incorrect again, sir," cried Mrs. Bates, from the lower end of the court, "my name is not Julia." "I beg your pardon, madam," said the learned serjeant, "what is it then?—not that its very material, for—a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." "Oh! hard sir, my name is Juliet!" "Juliet," continued the learned serjeant, "surely I have the gift of second sight; how else could I have quoted Juliet herself in my address to you. But as I was saying, gentlemen, here is the lovely Juliet herself (somewhat en bon point, it is true, but no matter for that,) she—even she does not tell you that she believed the slander which she says she heard; and therefore the plaintiff cannot have suffered the loss of her great custom. Then there is the magnanimous tailor, Mr. Newton; what has he proved, but that he does not now deal with the plaintiff because he lives at a distance. The evidence as to the charge of robbery is directly at variance with itself; and then again all the witnesses are at variance with the declaration; for that expressly states that he had poisoned hundreds of his customers with his kag; and you know, gentlemen, that all the witnesses have described it in the compound term kagmag. (Loud laughter.) Why, gentlemen, the true matter to have set out on the record would have been, that the word 'kagmag' had been spoken at Shadwell, and that at Shadwell kagmag is no slander. (More laughter.) Upon the whole, gentlemen, I do not scruple to say, without intending the slightest offence to my learned brother, that it is a nasty case, and ought not to have been brought into court; and if you give 40s. damages, you may as well give the national debt."—The Chief Justice then shortly charged the jury, and they instantly returned a verdict for the plaintiff Damages—One Farthing.

Such was the impression made on the susceptible mind of the amiable Juliet Bates, by the flattering comparison made by Mr. Serjeant Vaughan between her and the fair heroine of Shakespeare, that, in order to complete the figure, she resolved to take the learned Serjeant for her Romeo, followed him to the entrance of Guildhall, and was only prevented by force from joining him in his carriage. The learned Serjeant was happy to decline the honour of her company.

The Holy City.—A traveller recently returned from Syria relates, that the city of Jerusalem is now in the most deplorable state. Its population scarcely amounts to 12,000 inhabitants, who mostly

profess the Mahometan religion.—The Turkish soldiers of the garrison are in possession of the keys of the holy sepulchre, and allow no one to enter who does not pay beforehand for his admission. Every stranger is obliged to give 18 francs for every visit he pays to the sacred tomb. The sight of Jerusalem in our days recalls to mind the most terrible prophecies of Jeremiah. It is even deserted by the traveller, either through diminution of faith, or dread of the persecutions of the Musselmans.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BOSTON, Sept. 18.

Last night we were favored by Captain Frost, of the ship *Wolcott*, with Liverpool papers to the 16th and London to the 12th ult.

Important Occurrence.

The meeting of the Reformers, at Manchester, had been dispersed by several regiments and corps of cavalry; and between forty and fifty men, women, and children, wounded; and three men killed. The meeting, it was estimated, consisted of 70,000; and was headed by Mr. Hunt, who was taken into custody. All the flags, caps of liberty, &c. were taken, destroyed, or carried off in triumph by the cavalry. Two of the cavalry were wounded. The women who carried banners, it is said, fought most courageously to defend them, and one was cut down with the banner in her hand. Some accounts say, the riot act was not read before the cavalry made their charges. Among the flags, was a black one, bearing "Universal Representation, or Death." The meeting is described in the Liverpool papers as very orderly, and Hunt had only addressed them, when they were dispersed. The wounded carried from the field filled six coaches, three carts, and three litters; five women dreadfully wounded were among them. The meeting was held the 16th August. Bills of Indictment have been found against Major Cartwright, Mr. Wooler, editor of the *Black Dwarf*, and others, concerned in the election of Sir Charles Wolesey, as an extra Member of Parliament.

From the Cork Morning Intelligencer of August 21.

Through the London papers, we have had all the preparations which Hunt and his party thought necessary for the successful getting up of the meeting at Manchester on Monday last. Having pronounced his own opinion of its being both constitutional and legal, this firebrand of sedition thought it quite dishonourable to his patriotism to consult any other authority, and the meeting was accordingly held under his wicked instigation.

Of this meeting we regret to say, that private letters from Manchester, from the most respectable sources, received in town this morning, give very alarming and distressing representations—his civil power, it appears, was as decided in preventing, as Hunt was in holding the meeting; and the result has been, that many lives have paid the forfeiture of supporting him in his nefarious desperation.

From the Morning Papers.

Riots at Manchester

On Monday the 16th of August, the Reform meeting was held at Manchester. There were not less at this meeting than 100,000 people collected from all the villages round for 20 miles. Orator Hunt was the leader. The approach of the different bodies of the deluded populace, of which it was constituted, was made with all manner of outward display, in order to impose forbearance on the civil authorities. Banners and bands of music added their effect to the march of the different divisions of the reformers, which was conducted with something like military precision. Among the former were several bearing the following inscriptions and devices:—"Let us die like men, and not be sold as slaves!"—"No corn laws—Annual parliaments, and universal suffrage—Major Cartwright's bill"—The Rose, supported on each side by the Shamrock and Thistle, with two hands united, and the word union among them. Three different flags, bearing the cap of liberty, on the flag staff. "Equal representation or death!"—Taxation, with false representation, is unjust and tyrannical."

Women, in considerable numbers were united in these processions, and advanced with them to the general place of meeting in Peter's Square. When every thing of preliminary arrangement had concluded, Hunt with his immediate party, mounted a platform prepared for their reception, from whence he proceeded to address the multitude. His harangue was suffered to go on one hour, until the riot act had been read in due form, and then he was interrupted by a body of cavalry, acting under the orders of the civil magistrates. They made a full charge in full gallop, amongst the crowd to the platform on which he was placed, cut it down with their swords, and took Hunt and all on the stage prisoners. They then made a second charge to disperse the people, in which hundreds were thrown down and rode over. Five lost their lives, and about 100 were severely wounded. All continued confusion till evening, when the mob broke some windows in the New Cross. The 88th foot then fired on them and killed four men; they were assailed by the mob with stones and brickbats, and one dragoon was knocked down by a blow, and has since died. On the 17th all was alarm, and the streets crowded with militia. Orders were issued for all the shops to be closed, and it was reported that some thousands were coming to Manchester with pikes and arms. Cannon was placed in

the streets, but the mob seemed desperate, and determined to have revenge. [Our accounts are no later than the 17th.]

Among the prisoners taken were Hunt, Johnston, Knight, Moorehouse, Saxton, T. Hollins, S. Smith, P. Clarke, J. Hindley, J. Seiner, T. Crabtree, C. Shaw, D. Shaw, J. Fielding, W. Mafon, J. Halham, T. Dawson, J. J. Langley, J. Davis, J. Unwin, J. Green, Ann Coates, W. Ranshaw, W. Finn, J. Lang, J. Edwards, G. White, A. O'Neil, J. Kershaw, J. Swinells, D. Byrnes, G. Bell, J. Bell, J. Higgins, W. Barnes, J. Mills, J. Howe, T. Bencroft, M. Conroy, T. Miller, T. Helmark, W. Chartler.

Further particulars—From the Manchester Exchange Herald of Tuesday morning.

Soon after twelve o'clock, the Magistrates and a body of Constables repaired to the ground to which the brigaded reformers had marched, and, in consequence of depositions made before several of his majesty's justices of the peace, by many of the most respectable inhabitants of the towns of Manchester and Salford in which they stated their apprehension of riot and tumult, as the probable consequence of such an assembly of persons from distant townships, marched thither under banners so explicit of rebellious intentions, the riot act was read, but it did not appear to be much attended to by the infuriated crowd, who continued to laugh and scowl at the constables, &c. in attendance.

At one o'clock, another procession passed the exchange, escorting Hunt to the place of meeting; for the great man, perhaps to enhance his consequence, made the would-be legislators wait for him, although their advertisements stated that the chair would be taken at 12 o'clock. The leader of this band, bore a large club, and he was followed by some hundreds of men and boys, who marched in columns with military step, to the music of a regular band, dressed in grey uniforms. By the colours which were displayed, the van at least were from Oldham. After them was borne a board, elevated on a pole, and, as if in down right mockery, on both sides was painted "order, order." Almost immediately before the barouche in which Hunt rode, was borne the same flag and cap of liberty which were displayed on his first visit to Manchester. On the box of the carriage was seated a woman wearing a flag; and, in the open carriage, stood the main pivot of mischief; several other persons were seated in it, but we did not learn their names. The carriage was followed by many hundred men and boys in the order above described, with colours flying. They marched through Denigate, in which, and in all the other streets through which they passed, the shops were all shut up.

On arriving at the hustings, Mr. Hunt and his friends ascended it, amidst the shouts of the greatest assemblage of people ever collected at one point in Manchester. We understand the Travelling Orator had begun to address the Reformers, when, an hour having expired after the reading of the Riot Act, the Warrants of the Magistrates were carried into effect. The Yeomanry Cavalry, in support of the Police officers armed with Warrants from the Magistrates dashed through the crowd, surrounded the hustings, and arrested Henry Hunt, Joseph Johnston, John Tyas, Geo. Swift, John Thacker, Sexton, Robt. Wile, Thomas Taylor, Mary Waterworth, Sarah Hargreave, and Eliza Grant, who were carried off the field, and sent immediately, under escort, to the New Bailey prison, whilst the caps of Liberty and the Banners of Rebellion were destroyed and trampled in the dirt along with many hundreds of persons, who were thrown down in the consequent confusion. At the moment the seizure was made by the Yeomanry, the fifteenth Hussars, and the 31st and 88th regiments of foot, brigade of artillery, and the Cheshire Yeomanry, made their appearance on the ground, which was soon cleared of the immense body of people who had so lately occupied it with shouts of triumph. In carrying this into effect, we are concerned to state, that several persons were killed, trampled to death upon the spot, and many others wounded, some by the sabres of the Cavalry, and others by the trampling of the horses. At the moment of surrounding the hustings, a shower of brick bats and paving stones were hurled at the Yeomanry, several of whom were struck, one so severely, that he dropped the reins and his horse fell, by which he was pitched off, and his skull was fractured. He was carried to the Infirmary and at four o'clock all hope of his recovery was fled. Besides this gentleman, there were seventeen other patients brought in from the scene of action, (one of whom is since dead,) and 30 other persons, whose wounds being slight, they were dressed and sent home. Besides the above, we understand that six other persons were killed, one of whom was Mr. Ashworth, of the Market-place, who was on duty as a special constable.

The people, who had marched in town by thousands, seemed unwilling to depart home for several hours; but with a view to the preservation of the peace, the magistrates ordered all the public houses to be cleared at a very early hour in the evening. This had a tendency to abate the storm of confusion; but, at eight o'clock, the mob was so outrageous in the vicinity of the New Cross, that the Riot Act was read, after the constables had exercised the greatest possible patience in the endeavor to disperse the tumultuous multitude.

There is every reason to fear that the military will be obliged to act in a way which every friend of humanity will deplore, for the forbearance they have shown has been tried to the extreme. At half past nine o'clock, when this paper went to

press, we were in possession of little more than rumor—the result can only be given in a second edition.

A second edition of the same paper mentions:

Excepting the riot at the New Cross before mentioned, at which two men were shot, and taken to the infirmary, where one of them had a leg taken off, the night was passed in comparative peace. Indeed, in the centre of the town, there was almost an uncommon silence, only broken by the distant trampling of the patrolling cavalry. The report of numbers killed at that unusually riotous place, the New Cross, in the tumult last night, are so vague and contradictory, that we refrain to repeat them.

In our first edition, we had trusted to what we deemed a correct authority, and stated that six persons had died in the Infirmary yesterday, of their wounds; we are happy to learn this morning, that only one has died there; and that the gentleman belonging to the Manchester yeomanry corps, who was thought dying at 4 o'clock yesterday, and whose actual death was mentioned with confidence last night, has passed a comparatively good night.

In surrounding the hustings, and in dispersing the meeting yesterday, the spirit and promptitude of action to admirably displayed by the yeomanry cavalry, was accompanied by a temper and forbearance, which has been spoken of by persons of all parties in terms of approbation.

Hunt, Johnston, Knight, Moorhouse, Saxton, and the other leaders of the reformers, who were taken yesterday, have passed the night in separate cells. They have had leisure for reflection, which, it is to be hoped, will prove salutary.

We are glad to perceive, by the above, that the private statements are given with some exaggeration, owing to the difficulty of collecting facts from the great disorder and confusion which prevailed in Manchester. The accounts come down, it will be observed, but to 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning.

The Cork Intelligencer of August 21, says—"The sensible and loyal part of the community are coming forward, as they ought, to preserve not only a marked line of demarcation between themselves and those that are debauched into a love of revolution, but also to lend their serious services for the protection of the state, and the maintenance of the public tranquillity, which is so deeply involved in the present juncture."

London, August 14.

The Paris papers of Tuesday and Wednesday last, have been received. We are informed from Madrid, that the British Ambassador in communicating to the court of Spain, the law recently passed by our parliament, preventing British subjects from affording any relief to the Patriots of South America, intimated at the same time that it was the intention of the British Government not only to enforce the provisions of this law with vigour, but also to send a Squadron of ships of war to the American seas, to restrain the pirates who sail under the flags of the Independent States. The Vengeur and the Superb are now preparing for this service.

The Madrid letters to the 1st inst. do not set at rest the important question, whether the treaty for the cession of the Floridas to the United States, will or will not be ratified by Ferdinand.

There has been very numerous promotions of Admirals, Generals, &c. in the British navy and army.

Nothing authentic respecting the Spanish Treaty.

The British Government are determined to use all the means in their power to suppress the spirit of insurgency which is increasing at a great rate; and they appear to be aided by all classes of subjects, except those of the labouring class.

Mr. Canning had gone to the continent on a tour of a few weeks.

Disturbances are said to have broken out in Sicily.

Commodore Sir G. R. Collier, in the *Tartar*, had arrived in England, from the Coast of Africa.

The British ship *Erne*, of 20 guns, is lost on one of the Cape de Verd islands—crew saved.

Flour fine in London Aug. 16, was sold at 60 to 66s. per sack

The average prices of grain, for the week ending 7th August, being the 5th of the 6 weeks, by which the next quarterly import average will be made up, for wheat 76s. 2d. The ports of Great Britain are now closed against the admission for home consumption, of all descriptions of grain, pulse and flour, from any port or place between the rivers Eyder and Bidasson; barley, oats and pease, imported from any other ports, would still remain admissible until the 15th August.

The Prince Regent was continuing his excursion in the royal yacht.

It is mentioned in the London papers, that the present harvest throughout England is the finest and most abundant that has been known for many years.

Extract of a letter, received at Baltimore, dated

HAMBURG, July 27, 1819.

The accounts from Prussia continue to wear a gloomy aspect. The unfortunate division between the king and his subjects threatens some serious consequences. It is said that Field Marshal Blucher is watched closely—Gneisenau, next to Blucher in rank, and Governor of Berlin, is under actual arrest. The Prince, Army and people form one party, while the king with his ministry and the nobility form the other. Time only can tell what the consequence will be."