

dent had been found guilty of an assault. At the time of the assault he was a British subject, but had gone into rebellion and was serving under a commandant of the forces of the Orange Free State. His defence was that he was acting under superior orders. A point of law was reserved at the trial—viz., that the judge had misdirected the jury that the prisoner, being a rebel, such orders constituted no defence at law. The prisoner was convicted, and the Court upheld the conviction; but a majority of the judges expressed the opinion that there had been a misdirection, and the Attorney-General desired to obtain the opinion of the Judicial Committee on that point; but their lordships held that it being in the circumstances a mere abstract question of law it was not the proper subject for an appeal, and they refused the application.

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The *Central Law Journal* generally succeeds in having in each issue an excellent collection and review of cases on some subject of general interest. A recent article in that journal deals with the question when and in what cases the owner of animals which are nearly tame may be liable for their mischievous or wrongful acts. It discusses the subjects under the following heads:—General liability; scienter of the owner of animals; who may in legal contemplation be the owner of a vicious animal; defences and contributory negligence; and trespasses of domestic animals. The article concludes with a quotation from one of those breezy utterances peculiar to the Western States in which a learned Judge, doubtless a lover of that animal which more than any other bring grist to the legal mill:—"A man's dog stands by him in prosperity and poverty, in health and sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground, where the wintry winds blow, and the snow drives fiercely, if only he can be near his master's side. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer; he will lick the wounds and sores that come in encounter with the roughness of the world. He guards the sleep of the pauper master as if he were a prince. When all other friends desert, he remains. When riches take wings and reputation falls to pieces, he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens."