

Mr. Wilson Adam's Case

GREAT TRESPASS CASE.

Snooks versus Hookorbycrook and others. Tried before Mr. Chief Justice Grumbler. Counsel for the Plaintiff, Mr. Wilson Adam; for the Defendants, Hon. Cameron Hilyard.

Mr. Wilson Adam states the case for the Plaintiff:

This serious case is good my Lord proffered
By Snooks, my client, 'gainst a reckless herd
Of trespassers who did, in August last,
Some seven or eight times, come it quite too fast.
'Tis known to you and to the jury all,
Within this city towers a sacred Hall,
Time honoured barriers bar the entrance there
To all, save those the people shall declare,
By solemn act, as worthy of a place
Within the precincts of that Hall of Grace.
Our charge is this—no good my Lord declare,
Hookorbycrook did force an entrance there;
We boldly state, that, that most treacherous wight
Trampled to dust the people's sacred right,
Did despite foul to justice, and the cause
Of liberty, fair truth and righteous laws.
We claim—the majesty of law to vindicate—
The full extent of penalty the state
Awards. Not for ourselves, we scorn all motted gain;
We fight, that truth may flourish—justice reign
In glorious triumph o'er this noble land
And bare-faced tricksters all convicted stand.
What check have we on anarchy and strife?
What pledge, my lord, that property or life
Shall be secure; that freedom shall not rust
If thus the people's rights are trampled in the dust?
If men high placed may frown in reckless might
On constitutional and hallowed right?
Must we stand by and see them set at naught,
That glorious system for which patriots fought
In ages past, which heroes bled to wring
From feudal despots, be they peers or King.
No! no! my Lord within our veins still flows
That blood, which with unquenchable daring, rose
Antagonistic to the tyrant's might,
Resolved to perish or secure the right,
That blood still nerves, still prompts us to demand
Justice, stern justice to this outrageous land.
I apprehend defendants will not dare
Deny the charge; perchance some quibbles rare,
Some fine hair splitting and absurd pretence
Of right of entrance, may in weak defence
Be urged by them; you gentlemen must weigh
The case presented by them here to-day,
You must determine if high handed might,
Can laugh to scorn our people's noblest right.
You must decide if Ministers may frown
And scoff at Constitution, Law and Crown.
I leave the case, convinced that you will deal
As may be best for Canada's fair weal.

Witnesses having been called to substantiate the case for the Plaintiff, the Hon. Cameron Hilyard, addresses the jury for the Defendants:—

My Lord, and you—aw gentlemen have heard
The case as by the plaintiff now proffered.
They charge my clients with a trespass—aw;
I say 'twas not a trespass; right and law
Were on their side, and I will shortly show
You, gentlemen, the case is clearly so.
By solemn act, the people to that Hall,
A right of entrance gave to each and all;
Have they then forfeited that solemn right,
I claim—aw—no! The Plaintiff sought to blight
Their spotless fame, you gentlemen will see
It issue fairer from this troubled sea.
Do they pretend the right was not bestowed?
Aw—no! forthwith, they vainly strive to lead
Your memories with a misty, cloudy weight
Of words—tough liberty! the people's right! the state!
Such terms as these; but will they—aw—swail
To give truth's semblance to their flimsy tale?
No, gentlemen! I feel they will not when
I state my clients are all Honest men,
Just men and true, who scorn the shuffling tricks,
So freely practiced by these shameless Gits.
But to advance—you gentlemen have seen

They had free access to the questioned scene,
In lawful form bestowed, could then that right
Expire? In some few cases—aw—I grant it might,
You know twelve men are chosen—I suppose,
By Sir Head Bailiff, gentlemen from those
Who have by right free access to the Hall,
To rule and govern. Those on whom may fall
The Bailiff's choice, compelled by wholesome law
Must seek afresh an entrance, and if—aw—
The people should refuse to grant the right,
Each man commits a trespass,—luckless wight—
Who seeks by force an entrance. Gentleman,
My clients each were called, each straightway then
Sought for fresh right, obtained it and sat down
Within the Hall as servants of the Crown.
But storms arose, led on by one tall fool,
'Twas soon decreed my clients should not rule,
His office each resigned, the Bailiff then
As once called on some other gentleman
Their places to assume; and fiercer grew
The stormy strife and they, discarded too,
Full soon gave way, and Sir Head Bailiff then
To office called my clients back again;
Now comes the point, here gentlemen we join
An issue with the Plaintiff—aw—in foins,
Here rests the case; he says my client ought
Straight from the common people to have sought
New lease of right; we say they still retained
Their previous right, and—aw—I—aw—am pained
To witness their absurd—aw—and display
Of desperate ignorance in court to-day.
You gentlemen at least well know, an Act
Was passed to regulate—aw—yes in fact,
This very case; it clearly states to all
That a director of the sacred Hall,
If he resign, and then within four weeks
Assumes a different office—aw—he keeps
His right intact. 'Twas this my clients did,
And yet these people—aw—would—aw—would
Their entrance, and say—aw—they trespass there.
'Tis infamous my Lord, I—I, declare,
'Tis infamous, am not I by far,
The most profound of Lawyer's at the Bar:
Have I not read the Act? Did I not say,
During my canvass of the City, pray,
Hookorbycrook was right? Did I not mean
To join them too, and think you I'd be soon,
To associate with—aw—with men who dare
Transgress the law? but I—aw—I forbear,
I'll cease to wrong you by the thought you could,
For one short moment—aw—believe I would.
I am quite affected, 'tis most cruel—aw—
To bring this case when I've defined the law;
It cuts me close, they knew my views were strong,
And yet they harshly say I—aw—am wrong;
But you, you gentlemen, will scorn to dart
The spear more deeply in my wounded heart;
You'll give a verdict for my clients still;
I feel, I know—aw—aw—I'm sure you will.

(He sits down completely overpowered by his emotions.)

Mr. Wilson Adams replies:—

Well, gentlemen, I think you must have been
Diverted by this most affecting scene.
I apprehend the learned gentleman
Should keep his pathos, if at least he can,
For fit occasions; we have stormer stuff
Than pompous vanity in head. Enough!
I'll leave it, and proceed at once to show
My client's cause is right, and plainly so.
We know the Act from which defendants quote;
We know, it does permit a change of coat,
If 'tis within a month effected, and,
We further know, it gives them no support will stand
A moment's glance, if with impartial view
We search the subject calmly through and through,
That not permits a change, but pray what then?
Does it one moment, can it, gentlemen,
Permit the twelve directors to resume
Their state, and place within the sacred room.
'Twas meant for one, they claim it for the whole;
We claim it had, and could have no control,
When twist their resignation and returns,
A new board interposed; but yet more stern,

Against them seems the case if we review
Their basely perjured course. Full well they knew
They must change offices, if they would claim
The shadow of a right to 'scape from blame;
But yet defendants anxious to secure
The place and office each had held before,
Devised a plan, a blushing, shameless plan,
To gain their point. Believe it if you can,
Each one accepted by a solemn act,
An office, swearing to perform intact
Its several duties; yes, when each, know well
Ere noon had sounded from the morrow's bell,
He would throw up the seals, and straight resume
His previous office in the sacred room.
We claim they had no right to enter there,
We claim the statute can't be pressed to bear
Them scatheless through the fire, and can but deem
Their course throughout a lawless, shameless scheme.
We hold them guilty, of an outrage vile,
Against the people's rights. We boldly style
Them perjured, base usurpers of the seat
Each occupies, and claim that you shall mete
The due reward of wrong, that truth and right
May triumph yet, or bold unscrupulous might;
That shuffling tricksters may convicted stand,
And justice once more smile upon the land.

At the conclusion of Mr. W. Adams' address, Mr. Chief Justice GRUMBLER summed up the evidence with his usual impartiality, fearing, however, that we have already trespassed too much on the patience of our readers, we refrain from giving his charge to the jury in full, suffice it to state, that it abounded with striking evidences of legal and constitutional lore.

The Jury having retired, and finding it impossible to agree upon a verdict, are still locked up.

Stupid as usual.

—In an article headed "Gen. Williams of Kara," the *Atlas* has the following:

"Should not Toronto in some manner do honor to the able Nova Scotian who proved himself so good a British Commissioner and then a General in visiting Russia in Turkey. He is in Hamilton and should be told how his talents and virtues are admired in the Canadian metropolis."

Can any rational being tell us the meaning of the first sentence? "Prove himself so good a British Commissioner and then a General in visiting Russia in Turkey." Can the power of nonsense further go? What is meant by "visiting Russia in Turkey?"

We can only save the *Atlas'* geography by supposing the "visiting" spoken of to be an epithem for "chastising" Russia in Turkey. If this explanation is not satisfactory, the editor must apply himself to the study of geography as well as to that of English grammar.

He is in Hamilton, and should be told," &c. The convenience of his location will be evident, because a letter is sure to reach Hamilton two days after it is mailed, and it would be so convenient for Councilman Parry to write to Sir F. W. Williams to tell of "how his talents, &c., are admired in Toronto." For good English and ingenious contrivances nothing can beat the *Atlas*.

Strange Happiness.

"We could rejoice over improved methods of making and applying manures"—*Colonist*.

—There is no accounting for taste; but instead of rejoicing we should certainly hold our nose over the operation.

Chance for a Pedestrian Government.

"Our Government have a wild untrodden field before them."—*Colonist*.

—Just the sort of place, we should think, for a cricket-ground or a game of foot-ball.