

*Reg. v. Hetherington*, 5 *Jur.* 529 (1841). There were three counts each of which set out a passage of the work prosecuted. The first passage begins, "What wretched stuff this Bible (meaning that part of the Holy Bible called the Old Testament) is to be sure! What a random idiot its author must be!" And goes on to advise that it should be burnt, "that posterity may never know that we believed in such abominable trash," and more to the same purpose in very violent language. The second count is founded on a passage which says: "The great question between you and me is, Is the Bible the Word of God, or is it not? I assert that it is not the Word of God, and you assert that it is. And I not only assert it is not the Word of God but that it is a book containing more blunders, more ignorance, and more nonsense, than any book to be found in the universe." The third count is founded on a passage in which the author says his object is "to expose this book (meaning the Old Testament) in such a manner that the children of the Stockport Sunday school will reject it with contempt" &c. The case was tried before Lord Denman and he "told the jury that if they thought the libel tended to question or cast disgrace upon the Old Testament it was a libel". In term the verdict was upheld, Littledale, J., said: "The Old Testament independently, of its connection with, and of its prospective reference to, christianity, contains the law of Almighty God; and therefore, I have no doubt that this is a libel in law, as it has been found to be in fact by the jury."

*Reg. v. Noxon* (1841). In this case a jury found the defendant guilty of publishing a profane libel upon proof that he as a bookseller sold a copy of Shelley. "Queen Mab" was thought to contain blasphemy.

*Reg. v. Pooley* (1857). The defendant was convicted for writing, upon a gate on a public road, some foolish and irreverent words about the potato rot, the bible, and his hatred of christianity.

*Cowan v. Milbourne*, *L. R.* 2 *Ex.* 230 (1867). This was