

Newspaper men have opportunities for airing and making the most of their grievances in reference to the subject of libels; but a recent case referred to by the *Law Times* (Eng.) was, as therein said, an unpleasant surprise. Too often, newspapers contain libellous and unfair statements, which go broadcast, and no apology can ever undo the wrong done. The only way to insure less recklessness on the part of the writers, would seem to be a money fine. The item we refer to is as follows:—

“The law of libel as it affects newspapers has naturally been a subject of discussion during the present week at the meeting of the Institute of Journalists. No doubt the result of the case of *Hulton and Co. v. Jones*, 101 L.T. Rep. 831, (1910), A.C. 20, was an unpleasant surprise, but the soundness of that decision cannot be doubted. Owing to the wide publicity given to a defamatory statement that appears in the columns of a newspaper, the verdicts of juries have clearly shewn their disposition to treat libels in the press seriously, and, although we do not for one moment suggest the existing law should not be amended in some respect, such amendments, to our mind, ought to be directed more towards the existing practice and procedure in actions for libel and slander rather than the principles which apply to the law of defamation itself.”

Many of our readers will remember the incident which caused the suit of *Laidlaw v. Russell Sage*, in New York, some years ago. It will be remembered that the multi-millionaire, Sage, used his bookkeeper, Laidlaw, as a shield to protect him from a bomb hurled at him. Norcross, the bomb thrower, was blown to pieces, and the bookkeeper was much mangled by the explosion, but the millionaire escaped unhurt. The latter declined to make any compensation to the man who thus saved his life, thereby earning for himself undying infamy. The jury gave Laidlaw a verdict for \$40,000, but it was set aside by the courts on some legal technicality, and the unfortunate bookkeeper never received a cent from the heartless and shameless Russell Sage. Broken in