

time of her seduction, because I held that the truth of all the allegations of the action being denied, the fact and extent of damage were in issue, as well as the other allegations. Objection being made to this ruling I reserved the point and no motion has been made to reject it; that question, therefore, is not before me now. and I have only to decide whether any damages are due, and to what amount. I consider the evidence of bad character, previous to the act of defendant, of no weight whatever; this poor orphan, who was both young and pretty is said to have been *légère*, thoughtless in her conduct towards the other sex. No one goes so far as to prove even any conventional impropriety, much less anything really wrong. Strange to say, those who would insinuate anything against her are young men, one of them a former suitor. This does not say much for the chivalry of the present age, at all events, as far as the parish of Laprairie is concerned. Several women have been examined, all of them respectable matrons, and none of them condemn her; now when a young woman having any mental or personal graces escape the detractions of her own sex, it may be safely said she is very lucky; when she incurs those of the other sex, it may perhaps be equally true that the men have been very unlucky. However, this may be the defendant must take some intelligible ground. If he has been deceived and has promised marriage to a prostitute in ignorance of her previous character, I can understand that he is to pay no damages to his deceiver. Here a child has been born and the law presumes a promise of marriage and the defendant does not urge any such defence, but he contends, if his defence means anything at all, that the wrong and the suffering of the plaintiff are not so great as they would have been, if the plaintiff had been more demure and less attractive. In my judgment, nothing can be more monstrous, base or unmanly than such a defence unless it rests with certainty upon the absolute badness of character and consequent deception which is certainly not the case here.