

"I value my Lord Marquis of Dorchester no more than I value the dog at my feet." Even a lunatic may be held liable to an action for a libel or slander, unless his insanity is well-known to all who hear or read his words.

Mr. Odgers thinks it well that there should be a criminal remedy for libel, because most libellers are penniless, and a civil action has no terrors for them.

Our author tells us that "an Irish court will take judicial notice of the nature of a post-card, and will presume that others beside the persons to whom it is addressed will read what is written thereon." Why hold up an Irish court in this way? Why suggest that in Ireland people will look at cards addressed to others?

When a marriageable damsel brings an action for libel or slander, and tries to prove special damages, it will not do to allege that in consequence thereof she "had lost several suitors;" that is too general, for the names of her admirers, if any such there were, could hardly escape the plaintiff's memory. So it is held by judges of the male sex; how it will be when the fair daughters of the law put on the ermine, will, perhaps, soon be decided out West. When in consequence of a slander, which he did not believe, a father in New York State refused to give his daughter a silk dress and a course of lessons on the piano, which he had promised her, it was held that this was not such special damage as would sustain an action.

It would appear that an infant between seven and fourteen might be found guilty of a criminal libel, if evidence was given of a disposition prematurely wicked. A man may stumble into libel as easily as some do into poetry; a compositor will be criminally liable for setting up the type of a libel, and so will the man whose business it is merely to clap down the press. On the other hand, the proprietor of a newspaper will be held liable for an accidental slip made by his printer's man in setting up the type.

The chapter on blasphemy and heresy might almost be read on Sunday, so much is there in it on theology. Mr. Odgers' book is, indeed, most interesting; the Byronic line on his title page, "Dead scandals form good subjects for dissection," is true; and we hope that it is equally true that "Dead scandals form good subjects" for reviewing.

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