

*Defendants.* Parson Moral Police, and Parson Nihil.

The case was ably argued for the plaintiffs by lawyers Keene and Slowsure; for defendants, lawyers Gabble and Noisy

*Lawer Slowsure.* "My lord, this is the most important case which was ever submitted to the consideration of any judge or any jury, from the days of the emperor Ho-Whang to the present time; and I can assure your lordship that there is not a lawyer whose nails or head are long enough, to measure its enormity. I swear, by Con-fut-tse, that had Goddamnhim, or any other gentleman of that stamp, met with such rough handling as my clients, he would either have burst asunder, or have had satisfaction—Blood, I say—blood——"

Here *Parson Nihil* requested permission to speak a word, which was granted. "My lord, my case is rather different from the other defendant. I know I have done wrong, very wrong indeed; but I am nothing at all, at all; as is my name, so am I; never worse, I hope, except in this instance, than a chip in brose." *Court.* "Is that truly the case?" *Keene.* "He is not always just so innocent as he now appears." *Court.* "Nihil, what do you want?" *Nihil.* "To withdraw my plea, if the court and plaintiffs please." (Much consultation.) *Court.* "The plaintiffs consent, but the court must mark such misconduct with disapprobation; you, Parson Nihil, must not only prostrate yourself, as the law commands, three times, but also one inch of your nails must be cut off, etc. Now go on."

*Slowsure.* "My lord, your indulgence to the other defendant, is honourable to the court and plaintiffs; but I hope the court will make this defendant also cry *mea culpa*, before it has done with