

HON. MR. JUSTICE BRITTON.

APRIL 6TH, 1914.

GNAM v. McNEIL.

6 O. W. N. 223.

*Contract—Settlement of Former Action — Dispute as to Terms—  
Action by Parish Priest—Evidence—Onus—Statute of Frauds.*

BRITTON, J., dismissed an action for damages for breach of an alleged agreement made by defendant, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Toronto, with plaintiff, a former parish priest to pay the costs of a certain former action brought by plaintiff against the Bishop of London, the damages sustained by him by reason of the alleged wrongful acts of the latter, and to restore him to his parish, holding that plaintiff had failed to establish the agreement alleged.

Action for damages for breach of an alleged agreement, tried at Sarnia without a jury.

R. I. Towers, for plaintiff.

D. L. McCarthy, K.C., and Monahan, for defendant.

HON. MR. JUSTICE BRITTON:—The plaintiff was and is a parish priest residing in Wyoming in the county of Lambton. Wyoming is in the diocese of London. The plaintiff and the Bishop of London had some differences which resulted in an action instituted by the plaintiff against the Bishop. That action was ripe for trial in March, 1913, when the defendant, who is the Archbishop of Toronto, intervened. He, by letter of 24th March, asked the plaintiff if he, the plaintiff, could conveniently go to Toronto and talk the matter over. The plaintiff went as requested and negotiations for a settlement were entered upon, but no concluded agreement was made. The plaintiff desired to consult his solicitor and lay the matter before him and if anything should be done the plaintiff wished that it should be done by the solicitor.

On the 4th April, 1913, Mr. McMillan, as plaintiff's solicitor, went to Toronto and had an interview with the defendant.

The agreement sued upon is one alleged to have been made between the plaintiff, by his attorney, D. S. McMillan, and the defendant. The contract was not in writing, but oral. The proof relied upon is that of Mr. McMillan who refreshed his memory by looking at a letter written by him