

[Eng. Rep.]

REG. V. CASTRO.

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defence the jury expressed their opinion in opposition to the claimant's alleged identity, and the claimant elected to be nonsuited. Bovill, C. J., who tried the case, then committed the claimant for perjury, and upon his Lordship's suggestion the prosecution was undertaken by the Treasury. Subsequently true bills for perjury and forgery were found against him by the grand jury at the Central Criminal Court; and those true bills, which are the indictments in this case, were removed upon *certiorari* by the prosecution into this court. The trial of the defendant for perjury has, upon the application of the Attorney-General, been fixed to be held at Bar, and to be commenced during next Easter term. Defendant, who is on bail, has, with his friends, been addressing public meetings in various parts of the country, convened by them for the purpose of obtaining funds in aid of the defence at the forthcoming trial.

Two of these public meetings were held at St. James' Hall, in the county of Middlesex, on the 11th and 12th Dec. last. Mr. Onslow, Mr. Whalley, and the defendant were present on both occasions. On the 11th Dec. Mr. Whalley, who was in the chair, addressed the meeting, and introduced Mr. Onslow, who then addressed the meeting and spoke in these terms:

It may be as well that I should explain to you that our object in addressing the British public had its origin on these grounds. We were refused in the House of Commons replies to questions we put to the Ministers. Our mouths were shut in that House, and knowing, as we do, that we are supporting the right man in a good and honest complaint, we have nothing left but to appeal to public opinion. We don't ask you to say whether he is or is not Sir Roger Tichborne; but we ask you to say and believe that he is an Englishman, and, as an Englishman, that he is justly entitled to fair play, which is the birthright of everyone of our countrymen. (Cheers.) Now, I maintain that in the late trial he did not receive the fair play he is entitled to. The long-winded speech of the Attorney-General, lasting 21 days (hisses), was never replied to, and we have a perfect right to assume that had Sergeant Ballantine been permitted to reply he would have turned the minds of the jury and of the public as much as they were turned by the Attorney-General. (Cheers.)

Mr. Onslow concluded a long speech by saying that in the great undertaking in which they were engaged they had obtained information, and would bring forward witnesses on the trial, that would, if the claimant were treated with

the justice he had a right to demand, lead to his honourable and triumphant acquittal.

At the second meeting held on the next day, at which a Mr. Skipworth was in the chair, Mr. Whalley spoke thus:

There are then, gentlemen, in this case two questions. In the first place is this man truly Sir Roger Tichborne? (Loud cries of "Yes, yes.") In the second place is that fact known? Now, mark and observe this, because these are words which I speak with a due sense of responsibility to those whom I meet in social life, to the House of Commons, where I have and shall again pledge all that I have worked and laboured for during twenty years on the strength of my convictions—is that fact, if fact it be, known to the Attorney-General? has it been known to him throughout this prosecution? is it known to Her Majesty's Government, or to Mr. Gladstone, or, which is the same thing, have they given 100,000*l.*, or whatever other money they have given, out of your pockets, have they given that money to prosecute this man and to convict him of offences without taking the ordinary and proper means at their command for ascertaining the fact whether he be really guilty of perjury or not?

And again:

I have charged the Tichborne family, I have charged directly and in print the Doughtys, the Radcliffes, and the whole lot of them together, with knowing that he is the man, and combining in a conspiracy against him. (Loud cheers.) Now, ladies and gentlemen, you will naturally say how can we listen to such a Don Quixote as that? What a fool that man must be to throw himself into a quarrel that in no manner concerns him, merely as to the question whether this gentleman or somebody else is entitled to certain estates in Hampshire, and here it is, ladies and gentlemen, that I come to the real question which concerns you and me, and the hundreds of thousands of men that I have addressed throughout the country. Here we come now to the public question. Gentlemen, the time has not come when either I should be justified in speaking or you would be prepared to listen to those possibilities of conspiracy in a matter of this kind, which I do believe, it is my hope, my expectation, the very object for which I exert myself in this case, will in due time become more fully developed and understood by the people of this country. What is the nature of this conspiracy? What is the origin? What are the grounds on which, six years ago, these people met in a drawing-room in London, and said we will defy the laws of