

by Romney of Mrs. Siddon's and her sister, although when the defendant bought it it was said to have been by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The defendant, however, backed his own opinion and gave the warranty. When at length the truth was revealed he acted like a man—consenting to return the money paid and to pay the costs. He also offered the picture, which is an artistic work of no small merit, to the British nation. The learned Judge took occasion to express the opinion which he had formed, namely, that the picture was not a Romney.

WHEN EXPERTS DIFFER.

The feelings of the experts whose judgment was at fault can be more easily imagined than described. One of the most distinguished had gone so far as to say that the Almighty himself would not convince him the picture was other than a Romney! As the *Times* pointed out in a leading article on May 24: "They (the experts) have erred, but there is balm in Gilead. They have only to recall the history of the bust by Richard Lucas with two square yards of British quilting material in its inside that Dr. Bode bought as a Leonardo da Vinci for the Kaiser Frederick Museum in 1908. The Prussian House of Lords, it will be remembered, afterwards affirmed by vote, in the teeth of evidence that the English artist's work—stuffing presumably and all—is and remains a Leonardo." But it is always a difficult matter to convince a Prussian of anything, as the British nation is at present finding to its cost.

ANONYMOUS LIBELS.

The writer being minded to spend a very brief holiday in a West country village, was advised before he went to read a certain novel which could tell him a deal about the place. Having procured a copy of the novel from Mudies he read it. The novelist drew a very accurate picture of the village—under a different name; but he did more. He chose, as the puppets in his imaginary show, many of the local celebrities, "holding them up"—in the language of the law of libel—"to hatred, ridicule and contempt." The names, of course, were carefully concealed. In some cases,