

however, does not apply, for the reason that in this case the question at issue was whether the First Parish in Sudbury owned the land upon which had been built a school house, or whether the Town of Sudbury owned the land. The Court decided that the land belonged to the First Parish, and, therefore the Town of Sudbury lost the building which it had placed upon the land.

Much ingenuity has also been shown in commenting on Shakespeare's apparent knowledge of Ecclesiastical Law in the grave-digger's scene in Hamlet. But, when we consider the source from which he derived the material for this scene, it is apparent that no special technical learning in the law was necessary to produce this scene. It is based upon the case of *Hales v. Petit*, reported in Plowden, and was a case which created a great deal of comment at the time on account of the quibbles and fine spun theories of the lawyers and the extraordinary opinion of the Court, which was the subject of considerable ridicule, and undoubtedly prompted Shakespeare to write this scene.