

**DR. ROLPH'S ADDRESS
TO THE JURY**

ON THE PART OF THE DEFENDANTS.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP :

Gentlemen of the Jury:

You perceive the art with which they have arranged what may be termed, the day's campaign. A learned Counsel (Mr. McNab), whom you have heard so often that you listen to him with the same indifference with which you hear me, opened the case, and informed you that another learned gentleman just by my side, (Mr. Draper), lately imported from York into this Town for the occasion, would wind up the matter, when every other tongue is silenced, with a finishing speech. At this very moment you seem to evince the richness of your expectations. When it falls to my lot to address you, it is as a tale thrice told; some look out at the window speculating upon the weather; others admire the new chandelier, while many are gaping, and all longing for those treasures of eloquence in reserve, presently to come from a tongue you never heard before, and from a head, of the contents of which fame has said so much. It would, indeed, be in vain for me to ask you to be insensible to an imposing address, an ingenious argument and gentlemanly elocution; but it is as much your duty to concede as it is mine to urge, that you should control these unavoidable and delusive influences by the correction and salutary restraints imposed upon you by the office you fill under the obligations and solemnities of an oath. If, therefore, your minds have gleaned from current reports ought that savors of prejudice against either of the litigatory parties, or, if the electric address of my learned friend should spread over you a momentary enchantment, pause for a while; raise up before yourselves the standard of your duty, that it may dissipate every prejudice and dispel his illusory charm.

Gentlemen, you have heard the accuser, Henry Hagle, Esquire, who charges the defendants with removing a Meeting House from the corner of Lot No. 50 to the corner of Lot No. 51, a distance of only a few yards, for which he modestly asks damages £500—and in behalf of the defendants, I have the satisfaction to know, that what they did they had a right to do.

We happily live in an age when Christians can, without the awe of authority or the ordeal of punishment, freely entertain their own opinions, and openly worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. These are rights now never questioned, except possibly by a few infested with a hatred against the civil and religious liberties of mankind; rights obtained by the glorious conduct of our forefathers at too great an expenditure of suffering and of blood to be lightly estimated now, or lightly sacrificed by the corruption and pusillanimity of a succeeding age. But you all know,