

In the Westminster County Court, England, the case of *Nutt v. Hughes* was tried by his Honour Judge Lumley Smith, Q.C., in which a claim for £11 19s. 4d. was made by Mr. David Nutt, the publisher, the defendant being Mr. G. Hughes.

Mr. Sills, solicitor, represented the plaintiff.

The plaintiff, it was stated, published a book for the defendant called "Dvorak, Abu Fernus," and now sought payment of it after giving credit for nine books sold.

Defendant: I have an equitable defence. I applied for a special jury.

His Honour: Yes, you demanded a special jury of four publishers, four authors, and four professors of Arabic, and if possible, a laureate. (Laughter.) Where would we get the latter from?

Defendant: Mr. Swinburne, perhaps.

His Honour: We have only ordinary juries here, and if you had had one you would have had one a tailor, another a lodging-house keeper.

Defendant: I wanted a special jury.

His Honour: I will adjourn it for a common jury to be summoned.

Defendant: I do not want a common jury. He went on to protest that the action was premature. His counter-claim had not yet matured. He objected to the plaintiff having sent a copy of the book to the Royal Asiatic Society.

His Honour said he might bring his action, and asked, "Have you any more to say?"

Defendant: Yes, I have a great deal more to say. (More laughter.) It's a great hardship I cannot have a special jury.

His Honour: I am always afraid when people have odd ideas like this—

Defendant: Odd ideas! I have no odd ideas. (More laughter.)

His Honour: Do you want a jury?

Defendant: Not a common jury.

His Honour: Judgment for the plaintiff.

Defendant: I have more to say. I wanted 1,000 copies, and they have only printed 250. That is most damaging to an Orientalist.

His Honour: Mr. Nutt, was any number mentioned?

Mr. Nutt: No number was mentioned.

Defendant went on to complain that at first Mr. Nutt exhibited a copy of the book in the window. Why did he remove it?

His Honour: Have you anything more to say?

Defendant: Yes; a great deal more. (Laughter.)

His Honour: Then fire away. (More laughter.)

Defendant, in reply to his Honour, said he was at Magdalen College, Oxford, before he went to India. He held an Indian diploma in Arabic, and this book would no doubt be used as a key in the Arabic-English schools in India.

His Honour: You are liable for the £11. 19s. 4d.

Defendant: I insist upon being heard.

His Honour: I have heard you at great length.

Defendant: I have a few odd notes here (exhibiting a sheet of paper).

His Honour: Do you want time to pay?

Defendant (with great emphasis): I will not answer such questions until you have heard my case.

His Honour: Stand down.