

a defendant may, if he pleases, set up a set-off, must sue in the superior Court; for he cannot compel the defendant to set up his claim by way of set-off, and he cannot, by voluntarily admitting a right to set-off, confer jurisdiction upon the inferior Court."

The appeal is allowed with costs.

---

KELLY, J.

OCTOBER 1ST, 1913.

COOPER v. JACK CANUCK PUBLISHING CO.

*Libel—Pleading—Statement of Claim—Cause of Action—Application of Defamatory Words to Particular Person—Parties—Joinder of Plaintiffs—Rule 66—Embarrassment—Particulars.*

Motion by the defendants to strike out the statement of claim in an action for libel on two grounds: (1) that it disclosed no cause of action; (2) for misjoinder of parties.

A. R. Hassard, for the defendants.

J. G. Farmer, K.C., for the plaintiffs.

KELLY, J.:—On neither ground do I think that the defendants are entitled to succeed. Without reviewing the authorities or discussing fully their effect or application here, I am of opinion that the first ground of the present application is met by such cases as *Le Fanu v. Malcomson* (1848), 1 H.L.C. 637, and *Albrecht v. Burkholder* (1889), 18 O.R. 287. In the former of these Lord Campbell (at pp. 667 and 668) says: "The first objection is that this libel applies to a class of persons, and that therefore an individual cannot apply it to himself. Now, I am of opinion that that is contrary to all reason, and is not supported by any authority. It may well happen that the singular number is used; and where a class is described, it may very well be that the slander refers to a particular individual. That is a matter of which evidence is to be laid before the jury, and the jurors are to determine whether, when a class is referred to, the individual who complains that the slander applies to him is, in point of fact, justified in making such complaint. That is clearly a reasonable principle, because, whether a man is called by one name, or whether he is called by another, or whether he is described by a pretended description of a class to which he is