



Crime and Punishment

Minety

Claims Court

Richard Price and others v John Jones and A Hinder

All the parties reside at Minety. Mr A W Boodle, solicitor, Swindon, appeared for the plaintiffs.

It appeared from the evidence that on the 9th May 1847, a club was started at the Old Inn, Minety. Trustees were appointed, who received a yearly payment for sick and infirm members. Mr James Moreton, who had since died, and Colonel Perry Keene, who is now lying dead, were trustees of the money invested in the Post Office Savings Bank, at Cirencester.

In 1875-6, a dispute took place as to what was done with the money, and it was alleged that the defendant Hinder took the bankbook away. A year or two after Hinder was in a public-house, when he showed the bank book to some of the members, and said there was £57 in the bank. The book was taken from him.

On the 30th July last a letter was sent from Messrs Janes and Forrester, solicitors, asking Hinder and John Jones, as Moreton was dead, to give an account of the money. No notice being taken, a second letter was written, when a reply was received from Hinder saying that he had consulted Jones, and after the treatment they had received, they refused to give an account.

Defendants, in answer to his Honour, said the money belonged to them to do the best they could with it. Hinder said the bank book was his property, and he was robbed of it.

His Honour: "That's what we are trying to see."

The rules of the club and bank book having been handed in, Mr Boodle said there were now sick members belonging to the society, but they did not receive any pay. Defendants (to his Honour): The dispute is between us and the members; we wouldn't advance the money. Mr Boodle said the defendants claimed the money as being theirs, and had drawn out and spent some of it. Nothing had been drawn out from the club since 1875, but £6 from the club was added to it last Whitsuntide. Defendant Jones produced the bank book, and told Hinder to hold his tongue and let the club be supported out of it, adding, "We don't want the money."

His Honour: Jones, you don't want the money? Jones: No, not exactly, I want every man to be helped as long as there's any money.

His Honour: What was the money for that you drew out on the 8th December 1862 – the £10? The defendants replied that they drew it out for their own use. Hinder complained of being robbed of the bank book, but his Honour told him that the least he said about the robbery the better.

His Honour, in summing up, said the defendants, by their own showing, must be removed as trustees, as they had drawn out sums of money, and Hinder seemed to think he was entitled to do what he liked with it. It was quite clear from their own evidence that they had not been dealing with the money as they ought. Hinder had drawn out moneys which must be made good, and notice given to the bank to stop withdrawals. The bank book he should order to be retained in court for the present.

Costs were allowed to the plaintiffs, and Mr Boodle promised to give notice to the Glamorganshire Banking Company at Cirencester.

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Continuation February 1886

All the parties reside at Minety, and the case was heard on 2nd November last, when defendants were ordered to pay the moneys belonging to the society, amounting to £75 14s 8d, standing in their name, the property of the Friendly Society, less £9 11s 8½d, paid into court.

Mr Boodle said if this had been done the matter would have ended, and the money would have been handed over to the new trustees.

His Honour ordered the money and costs to be paid into court within one week, and the amount would be handed by the registrar to the new trustees.

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