REPORT OF THE EVIDENCE OF GEORGE HUDSON, ESQ., M.P: ON THE TRIAL OF THE CAUSE OF RICHARDSON VERSUS WODSON

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Report of the evidence of George Hudson, Esq., M.P: on the trial of the cause of Richardson versus Wodson by Anonymous

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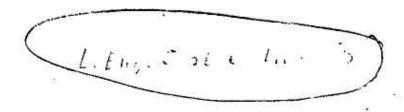


MR. HUDSON'S EVIDENCE

IN THE CASE OF

RICHARDSON v. WODSON.

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REPORT OF THE EVIDENCE

GEORGE HUDSON, ESQ., M.P.

ON THE TRIAL OF THE CAUSE OF

RICHARDSON persus WODSON,

York Summer Assises, 1850.

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INTRODUCTION.

The evidence of which the following pages contain a report, was given by Mr. George Hudson, M.P. for Sunderland, on the recent trial of the cause of *Richardson v. Wodson*, which took place at the York Summer Assizes, July 18th, 1850.

The plaintiff, Mr. James Richardson, brought this action against the proprietors of the "Yorkshireman" newspaper, for an alleged libel in reference to his conduct as Solicitor of the York Union Bank, and while acting as co-director with Mr. Hudson of several of the Northern Railways.

To establish by his own admissions the charges that had been made against him (and with which it was sought to connect Mr. Richardson), Mr. Hudson was called as a witness by the defendant.

His direct Examination assumed, under these circumstances, the shape and spirit of a most rigid and searching Cross-examination, in which Mr. Hudson was, without notice, and therefore without time for thought or preparation, called on to detail and explain the minutest particulars relating to those transactions which have been the occasion of so much public observation and obloquy.

All that the consummate skill and practised ingenuity of the learned Serjeant who cross-examined could suggest, was with masterly dexterity exerted to elicit every point which could appear to make his conduct censurable, or throw suspicion on the purity of his motives.

It was manifest that Mr. Hudson's answers, as well as the manner in which he gave them under an ordeal such as this, produced a marked and most powerful impression in his favour even upon those who had entered the Court with the strongest prejudices against him.

Some of his friends are anxious that a full and accurate Report of this remarkable Evidence should be submitted to the perusal of fair and candid men.

The following pages contain the best report of that evidence which it is possible to obtain. The reports of the trial, which appeared in the different newspapers, have been carefully collated, and the whole revised and corrected by a gentleman of the Bar, assisted by notes taken at the time of the trial in court. Finally, these pages are offered to the public in the conviction that those who desire to do justice to a deeply-injured individual will form their opinion of the transactions which they detail, not from the uncertain representations of rumour, but from the unquestionable facts established in a Court of Justice, under the solemn sanction of an oath, with all those aids to the investigation of truth which the most searching and minute cross-examination could supply.

Inner Temple, August 21st, 1850.