

# LIBEL SUIT BEFORE JUDGE MURPHY

Halverson vs. Glasmann First One of Many Libel Suits  
Has Its Preliminary Hearing Before Judge John D.  
Murphy—Case Continued Until This Morning.

Yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock in Judge Murphy's court one of the famous or infamous libel suits filed by Geo. Halverson against William Glasmann was heard. The following editorial which appeared in the Standard and Examiner, Geo. Halverson in his complaint says, William Glasmann is responsible for:

## THE LAW AND MALICE.

Kill-the-Town Halverson was never intended to masquerade in the role of a reformer. His hatreds are too intense for his curly little head to hold anything in addition to malice. To be a reformer there must be some attribute above and beyond the dross of the world. The meanest, lowest-minded scrub on earth can be filled with the promptings of revenge and can pretend to serve a good cause by inflicting his hatreds upon those he dislikes, but true greatness, when given power, never stoops to the base level of using the law as an instrument of spite. The honest man, with a public duty to perform, prefers to err on the side of leniency in dealing with his enemies. The honest man is above debasing his calling in order to humiliate an opponent.

The thought occurs, What is the object of the law? Here is a broad question, but there is one self-evident truth involved in the answer that is apropos to the present case, and that is that when the law is perverted to base purposes, it fails to serve the purpose of law. When back of a prosecution of a technical violation of law there is confessed malice, then the law is made but an instrument destructive of good will among men and is turned from its high purpose to incite discord, bitterness and enmity, and ceases to be justice—the essence of law.

Halverson was told he was killing the town. He replied, "I don't care." Being a salaried officer, why should he care?

The case should be tried by the county attorney, Nathan J. Harris, but owing to the fact that Jim Kimball was more familiar with the case, with Halverson's consent, Kimball took charge of the prosecution.

He required, however, repeated promptings from Mr. Halverson. Attorney A. G. Horn represented William Glasmann, while Attorney R. S. Farnsworth represented The Standard Publishing company, which was made a joint defendant with Mr. Glasmann, but the latter asked for separate trials, which were granted.

Mr. Halverson cited as his first witness Deputy County Clerk Van Dyke, who testified that The Standard corporation papers were filed in his office and that an affidavit of publication made in 1895 showed Mr. Glasmann was the manager of the advertising department eleven years ago. Judge Horn objected. He said that the document was rather ancient, while Judge Murphy said a document showing Glasmann to be manager of the advertising department could not be used to prove him an editorial manager.

The next witness was George Halverson, who testified that he was an attorney in the Craig, Chambers, Moyes and Paine councilmanic cases but it seems that he got luke warm in the prosecutions after Chambers and Craig's cases had been decided by the supreme court. He said he felt it his duty as district attorney to prosecute Chambers and that he was against the filing of the papers against Craig, but did enter the case after papers were filed, that the case was dismissed without his consent, but he took no action to prevent its dismissal, but in fact said the case was dismissed by J. D. Skeen without consulting him. He said he did not get any money for dismissing the Craig case and did not get any money for prosecuting either Craig or Chambers. Kimball objected to Judge Horn bringing out all this matter. Judge Horn said that Halverson butted in to these cases as district attorney when he had no right to do so and then he complained because The Standard criticized such action. Judge Murphy, however, said Judge Horn had drawn out enough on that line.

Halverson then said that Mr. Glasman testified before Judge Maughan that he, Glasmann, was the general manager of The Standard Publishing company, but on cross-examination admitted it might have been "business manager" and not general manager.

Halverson said the Craig case was filed in opposition to his advise and he was sure he was not consulted as to the dismissal of same.

Judge Horn said: "Your interest seems to have lagged when the supreme court had ruled on the cases," and Halverson said, "Yes."

Theodore Tracy, the assistant business manager and secretary of The Standard Publishing company, was Halverson's last witness. He testified that the Standard Publishing company leased its circulation to Lamar-Nelson and that Mr. Glasmann was the business manager of The Standard Publishing company.

\* This closed the evidence for the prosecution and George Halverson.

Judge Horn then arose and without offering any witnesses, asked that the case be dismissed because the prosecution had made no case against Mr. Glasmann.

Jim Kimball then offered to furnish some authorities to prove his side and the court allowed him until this

morning at 10:30 o'clock to present his authorities.

Halverson brought two criminal libel suits against each, The Standard Mr. Glasmann and Frank Francis and the cases will be taken up within the next few days and disposed of. Much good humor is being indulged in as the punishment for criminal libel is confinement in the county jail. Mr. Glasmann is being jolled about moving the postoffice to the county jail. Mr. Francis is being accused of trying to move his editorial rooms to the county court house.