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THE COURT OF COMMON LAW.
The THE AUTHORSHIP OF THE BORDEAUX AND THE PRIVATE LETTERS OF JUNIUS.

There is considerable affinity between the contents and purpose of the private letters attributed to Captain Dreyfus and those of the Private Letters of Junius to his publisher Woodfall, first published in 1814. Some of the issues raised are of greatest interest. The counterfoil of the communication of a treasonable or seditionary document. And, as in the case of the Bordeaux, it is the handwriting of these Private Letters which has been most vigorously placed in evidence. The handwriting of Junius was never equally scrutinized and compared against any other instance. And, certainly, no one would ascribe any literar merit to the bordelean. The bordelean was never signed nor dated, but he believed to have been written in 1872. The letters of Junius, on the other hand, are written by a man who, if not Junius, was certainly not a man of rank. And, certainly, no one would ascribe any literary merit to the bordelean.

The bordelean was neither signed nor dated, but it is possible that he may have been written in 1872. The letters of Junius, on the other hand, are written by a man who, if not Junius, was certainly not a man of rank. And, certainly, no one would ascribe any literary merit to the bordelean.

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Mr. Justice Kenny is wisely adhering to the plan of hearing the vaca-
motions according to their place on the list, in spite of a strong appeal
made by Mr. Stritch, Q.C., in favour of the old practice of the barristers
and men, as well as grahamites. Here a point of difference arises.
No one has ever suggested that Junius traced any of his eighty old private letters. Chabot declared that Junius's
handwriting was that of Francis, only disguised to the extent of altering the
slope and size of the characters, but not to the extent of altering the
radical forms of the letters. M. Berrillon contends that Captain Dreyfus
"discor" his hand very elaborately when he wrote the bordelean.
Another point of difference arises. Junius's well-known right hand has
attracted the attention of all students by its elegance and legibility. But
the bordelean is written in sloping characters, and the calligraphy is so
illogical as to be nearly illegible.

A curious fact, and one not without interest in the Bordeaux case, is
that both Junius and the writer of la fin de siècle bordelean adopted the French
method of dividing paragraphs numerically, 1, 2, 3. In the case of Junius, the
numbers are used to distinguish one meeting in his writings, has given rise to the inference that he was an extremely
cultivated man. In the case of the bordelean the notation certainly
does not apply to a Bordelean, man, but it does apply to a writer of a
work of a foreign spy, as was the case with the document that is known
to have completely misled General Bonvallet. But the circumstance which
of the most general interest is the overshadowing and predominant influence
derived from the reading of la fin de siècle bordelean in the case of the Letter
and the bordelean of 1894. Even at this date, now that all the
Junius controversy is "open field," the editor of the autobiography of
Junius, the "Some Observations, when he points out "the extraordinary super-
realism" between the dates of the Bordeaux and Junius, feels compelled
to warn the reader not to derive any conclusive inference from the fact,
deference to the opinion of the expert Chabot, that Junius's handwriting is Francis's handwriting slightly disguised. In the
same way the fascination of M. Bertillon's methods of reasoning accord-
ing to direct testimony struck the balance in the deliberations of the
court-martial of 1894, and may do the same in the case of that of 1890.
The weight of the evidence, in the literary question of the authorship of
the Letters of Junius, as in the legal question awaiting solution at Renois, is
the opinion of the expert in handwriting. The fact that most points of
similarity can be shown to exist between the Private Letters of Junius and
the bordelean tends to the conclusion that the problem of authorship, in
the one case as in the other, is insoluble. This conclusion becomes in-
vivable when it is considered how much more Junius exposed himself to
detection than the writer of the bordelean ---a single document. The
envelope in which the bordelean was sent has never been placed together
and still remains itself; nor, apparently, are there any traces of it sub-
mitted to the court. There are no similarities of prothesis in the bordelean
which might lead to identification as in the case of the famous forged
letter of the 9th Jan. 1882 which came under the cognizance of the special
commission that sat under the chairmanship of Lord Ilchester in 1887 in
this country. The opening words of the bordelean ---sans nouvelle---
are clearly pointed to there being a difficulty of communication between the
two letters. Judging by the time that it was sent, and such a
difficulty is easily presumed in cases of this kind: Junius experienced it.
But surely no inference of any weight can be drawn from Dreyfus having
repeated these two words in letters to the Ile de Diabre. Sans
nouvelle is not a characteristic phrase, and is the most natural expression
for a man to employ who was entirely cut off from the outer world as
Dreyfus was.

The irish notes

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Maurice (who was, and is, a solicitor) in an action for libel moving against
a town councillor in Cork. The words complained of imputed
that the plaintiff had resorted to unprofessional and unfair methods of
gaining practice as a solicitor, and the jury found for him and gave him
55 damages. After Mr. Healy had left the court, he was mobbed by a crowd of persons who disapproved of his conduct in certain matters.
When he reached the Victoria Hotel, in which he was staying, he was
accosted by a Mr. O'Brien Dalan, a prominent Tipperary man, who was
connected with his conduct as a politician. Mr. Dalan went with Mr. Healy to his bedroom, and while there struck him a severe blow on the face, breaking his nose, and giving him a painful contusion about the eye.
Mr. Healy, however, is not in the least worried, as he has already declared.
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