

The Liquor Law Troubles.

The Commonwealth, vs. Z. B. Porter.—At Watertown, on Saturday afternoon, the continued case of ZACHARIAH B. PORTER, lessee of the Cambridge Cattle Fair Hotel,—came up for hearing before Mr. Justice WHITE, in the Town Hall. The charge against Mr. PORTER is, that on the 22d of July, and "divers days and times since," he sold "to ISAAC SMITH, Jr., one glass of brandy.—to one PATRICK GRAHAM, two glasses of intoxicating or spirituous liquors, and to one DAVID BLAKE, one glass of spirituous liquor." The complainant or informer in the case, is Mr. Christopher C. Richardson, of Cambridge. Messrs. C. R. Train, and A. H. Nelson, appeared as counsel for the defence; and Messrs. D. W. Gooch, and R. H. Dana, for the Government.

Mr. TRAIN, at the opening of the Court, rose and said: That since coming into the Hall, his client had been informed of a circumstance in relation to the complainant, which, if proved, would render him incompetent to testify in the case, and also would render his complaint invalid. That circumstance was that Mr. RICHARDSON was an atheist.

Mr. NELSON stated that if the atheism of the complainant should, in the opinion of the Court, render his oath invalid, it would be useless to proceed with a hearing. He moved a postponement for a few days, so that Mr. PORTER might be enabled to procure the proper testimony.

The COURT inquired if Mr. PORTER was prepared to make an affidavit to the effect that, if time were allowed, he could prove the infidelity of Mr. RICHARDSON. His counsel replied affirmatively, and presented the following affidavit:

MIDDLESEX SS—*Commonwealth vs. Z. B. Porter.*—Before W. A. WHITE, Esq.—I, Zachariah B. Porter, on oath depose and say, that I am informed and believe, that Christopher C. Richardson, who is the complainant in the above entitled case, is an atheist, and that if time is allowed me for the purpose, I can establish the fact to the satisfaction of this Court. I further say, that I was not informed of the fact until within a short time, and since I came into the Court I am also informed that a Mr. Fillabrown, who is connected, either by blood or marriage with said Richardson, and other credible witnesses, whose names I have not yet learned, will testify to said fact. Z. B. PORTER.

Subscribed and sworn before me.

CHARLES R. TRAIN, Justice of the Peace.

Mr. Gooch said that as the government was not prepared to enter into a discussion of this question at this

time, and as it had had a postponement, no objection would be offered to a reasonable delay. The case was then adjourned to Friday morning at nine o'clock. There was no excitement in the town, and the number of persons present was not very large. The complainant, RICHARDSON, was absent, he being obliged to attend Court at East Cambridge, where he had summoned WILLIAM M. DANFORTH to appear before Mr. Justice LADD to answer to a charge of assault and battery. The assault consisted of a threat on the part of Mr. DANFORTH to pull Mr. RICHARDSON's nose, because he busied himself in the case of Mr. PORTER. The assault was proved to the satisfaction of Judge LADD, who ordered the defendant to pay a fine of \$5 and costs. Mr. DANFORTH appealed, and gave bail for his appearance before the Common Pleas Court, at Lowell, on the 3d Monday of October next.

This prosecution has occasioned a great deal of excitement in the County of Middlesex already, and the friendly relations of many neighbors have been interrupted by it. The inhabitants of Watertown are in a ferment; and at a town meeting on Thursday, to consider the question of granting the use of the town hall to Mr. WHITE, quite a tumultuous scene was witnessed. It was contended by one party that the Judge ought to find his own court-room. The temperance party finally passed, by a majority of seven, a vote to grant the hall for any religious, moral or political purpose, on the application of ten citizens.

The Court, on Saturday, was protected by a strong constabulary force. Their presence was sufficient to enforce respect, and the proceedings were conducted without hindrance.—*Boston Courier.*