

– APPENDIX 6 –

Some Court Cases and Appearances involving EW Pugin (EWP)

1866 (September): **Shaw vs Pugin**

At Ramsgate Magistrates Court: Arose from the refusal of the Harbour-master (Capt Francis Shaw) to allow a firework display in Ramsgate harbour on the evening of Regatta Day (as had become the custom). Capt EW Pugin, who was on the Regatta Committee, published a couple of letters that reflected severely on Shaw's conduct, and in which he declared he would hold him responsible for the consequences of his folly. Shaw detected a covert threat of personal violence against himself, and made representations to the magistrates who issued a warrant against EWP. After an inquiry lasting 4 hours, EWP was bound over to keep the peace for one month, and left the court, to much public applause and acclamation:

Pall Mall Gazette[(1866) 11 Sept]

1870 (August): **Hodgson vs Pugin**

At Ramsgate Police Court: EWP was committed to trial for publishing false and defamatory libels concerning the Ramsgate Post-master John Barnett Hodgson who had been a business associate in the Granville Hotel venture, and who had acted as an agent for EWP. The dispute, concerning a sum of £800 that EWP claimed was owing to him, arose from a letter sent by EWP to Hodgson's solicitors in which he described Hodgson as a rogue, a thief and a felon. EWP's brother-in-law, Lewis Peniston¹, represents him:

Derby Mercury[(1870) 24 Aug] *Leicester Chronicle*[(1870) 27 Aug]

1871 (February): **Burton vs Pugin**

At Ramsgate Magistrates Court: EWP was summoned before Ramsgate magistrates for assaulting Thomas James Burton. A cross-summons was called between the two parties, but neither party appeared, and the case was dismissed:

Pall Mall Gazette[(1871) 6 Feb]

1871 (February): **Hodgson vs Pugin, Pugin & Whelan**

At Ramsgate Magistrates Court: A continuation of the Hodgson case in which EWP's step-mother (Jane née Knill) and his secretary Bernard Whelan were summoned for maliciously publishing certain defamatory libels against Hodgson and his niece Miss Fanny Elizabeth Holt. After his lawyer Henry Purcell² withdrew, on behalf of EW Pugin, all imputations on their characters, and having stated that all the matters in dispute between the parties had been referred to the arbitration of Mr Macnamara, the case was dismissed:

Birmingham Daily Post[(1871) 13 Feb] *Leeds Mercury*[(1871) 14 Feb] *Pall Mall Gazette*[(1871) 13 Feb]

1871 (March): **Hodgson vs Pugin**

At Maidstone Spring Assizes: After a letter to Hodgson in which EWP expressed his unfeigned regret at his imputations against him, and his unqualified retraction of them, the charge was withdrawn; EWP made an unqualified retraction of his earlier imputations against Hodgson³:

Dover Express[(1871) 28 Jul] *Pall Mall Gazette*[(1871) 15 Mar]

¹ Lewis Peniston was the husband of EWP's sister Agnes.

² Henry Purcell married EW Pugin's half-sister Margaret (AWN Pugin's daughter by his third wife Jane (née Knill)); their son, Charles Henry Cuthbert, was the last member of the successor firm *Pugin & Pugin*.

³ In March 1871, EWP formally apologised to Hodgson in a Ramsgate newspaper.

1871 (August): Griggs vs Pugin

At Maidstone Summer Assizes: Brought by the clerk to the Magistrates, Griggs, in consequence of accusations made against him by EWP in letters and printed placards that he (Griggs) had assisted in bringing about an unjust conviction against a man called Stevens in a case of petty theft (of broccoli from a garden) in which EWP had attempted to assist the defendant. The jury ignored the two bills that were sent to them:

Kentish Gazette [(1870) 10 May]

1872 (July): Pugin vs Griggs

At Maidstone Assizes: An action to recover damages for malicious prosecution in the case *Griggs vs Pugin* (*vide sup*); the case was terminated through lack of evidence:

BN[(1872, 2 Aug) 92] *Jackson's Oxford Journal*[(1872) 18 Aug] *Pall Mall Gazette*[(1872) 27 Jul] *The Times*[(1872) 29 Jul]

1872 (July): Peniston⁴ vs Pugin

At the Court of Exchange, Guildhall: No details available, other than it involved a claim for £1000:

Daily News[(1872) 24 Jun] Fisher[(2017) 167] *The Times*[(1872) 3 Jul]

1872 (November): Coulthurst vs Pugin

The bankers Messrs Coutts & Co applied for an injunction to restrain EWP from claiming he was a partner in the bank, as he had done in his petition for bankruptcy following his failure to repay Coutts to whom he had earlier mortgaged the Granville Hotel for £100,000:

BN[(1872, 29 Nov) 432] *Leeds Mercury*[(1872) 23 Nov] *The Times*[(1872) 22 Nov]

1872-74 (March): Pugin vs Molloy

At the Guildhall: EW Pugin had sought to recover £2,240 in respect of designs and work done in connection with ecclesiastical buildings ([A(IIIb)-24], [C(b)-10], [D(b)-7]) in Hanley, Staffs, from the Parish Priest, Rev Molloy. Mr Justice Brett found for the plaintiff, with nominal damages:

The Tablet [(1870, 23 Jul) 112; (1874, 7 Mar, 14 Mar) 311, 341]

1873 (June): Pugin vs Kingsford & Garland

A case related to the *Hodgson-Pugin* dispute in which the accountants *Kingsford & Garland* were summoned by EW Pugin for detaining books relating to the business of *The South-Eastern Works* in Ramsgate where Hodgson was once manager; the charge was dismissed:

Bradford Observer[(1873) 4 Jun]

1874 (June–July): Herbert vs Pugin

Central Criminal Court: Before Mr Commissioner Kerr, involving a charge of false and defamatory libels in letters to JR Herbert RA, his wife, and their solicitor, arising from a financial grievance over the house (*The Chimes* [G(Ia)-8]) that EWP had designed for Herbert in Kilburn, which had been built in 1869. Mr Gladstone was called by both parties to give evidence. The jury found that the letters, although scurrilous, were not of a libellous nature, and EWP was thus found not guilty:

The Tablet[(1874, 6 Jun) 727] *The Times*[(1874) 15 Jul]

1874 (August): Herbert vs Purcell

At Bow Street Magistrates Court: EW Pugin appeared before Mr Flowers as a witness in this case in which ES Purcell, proprietor of the *Westminster Gazette* was summoned for publishing Pugin's defamatory letters to the Herbert family. The summons against Purcell was eventually withdrawn once it became apparent that the libellous material complained

⁴ See Footnote 1.

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of had been published separately in the form of a supplement that had been inserted into the *Gazette* without Purcell's knowledge or consent;

The Times[(1874) 15 Aug]

1874 (August-September): **Herbert vs Pugin**

At the Central Criminal Court: A second action brought before Baron Bramwell by JR Herbert, RA, subsequent to the receipt of further letters of a malicious libellous nature, which EWP had had published in the *Westminster Gazette*. EWP was found guilty, but, after making an ample and almost passionate apology to Mr Herbert, both personally and through his counsel, escaped a 6 months custodial sentence; he was ordered to enter into his own recognizances in the sum of £500, and two sureties each of £250, and to come to judgment when called upon:

Birmingham Daily Post[(1874) 25 Sept] *BN*[(1874, 25 Sept) 391] *The Tablet*[(1874, 26 Sept) 409] *The Times*[(1874) 24 Sept]

1874 (September): **Carter vs Pugin**

A London cabdriver, by the name of Carter, maintained that EWP had withheld a fare; the claim was dismissed for lack of evidence:

Daily News[(1874) 10 Sept]

1874 (September): **Pugin vs Button**

At Judges' Chambers: Button, a former attorney of EWP, was accused by EWP of neglecting his interests in case of *Herbert vs Pugin* (*vide sup*). Press reports of this case state that this was but one of some 25 actions currently being brought by EW Pugin against different people for slander, libel and negligence:

Pall Mall Gazette[(1874) 23 Sept] *The Times*[(1874) 23 Sept]

1874 (October-November): **Pugin vs Hodgson**

At Ramsgate Magistrates Court: EW Pugin summoned Hodgson on a charge of perjury alleged to have been committed in a dispute involving certain partnership accounts, which had been referred to arbitration under Mr Macnamara in Feb 1871 (*vide sup*). The case was dismissed, but later revived at the Maidstone Assizes in December 1874 (*vide infra*):

Birmingham Daily Post[(1874) 28 Oct, 2 Nov] *Pall Mall Gazette*[(1874) 27 Oct]

1874 (Dec): **Pugin vs Hodgson**

At Maidstone Assizes: Before Baron Bramwell, a Grand Jury returned a 'true bill', and the case was referred to the Maidstone Spring Assizes (*vide infra*):

Pall Mall Gazette[(1874) 9 Dec]

1874 (Dec): **Pugin vs Elliott**

At the Guildhall: Before Sir Francis Wyatt Truscott, EWP brought a charge against Rowland Angelo Elliott, printer & publisher of the *London Lantern*, of publishing, in three numbers of that periodical, a series of libels (connected with the case *Herbert vs Pugin* for which EW Pugin had *already* made an unconditional apology). These publications had been advertised on a hoarding on which was depicted a fool, dressed with cap and bells, holding up a mirror in which was reflected the face of EW Pugin, and below which was the caption: 'Good morrow, fool' (from *As You Like It*). The Grand Jury threw out the bill preferred against Elliott:

Daily News[(1874) 20 Nov] *The Times*[(1874) 20 Nov, 1 Dec]

1875 (March): **Pugin vs Hodgson**

At the Maidstone Spring Assizes: A revival, before Mr Justice Denman, of the 1874 perjury case; a not guilty verdict was returned and the defendant acquitted:

Birmingham Daily Post[(1875) 15 Mar] *The Times*[(1875) 15 Mar, 19 Mar]

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1875 (May): Pugin vs Bligh

At the Exchequer Court: An action against Edwin Bligh⁵, the editor of a Ramsgate newspaper to recover £25 lent. A verdict was taken by consent for nominal damages, the defendant expressing regret for certain expressions he had used:

Freeman's Journal[(1875) 3 May] *The Times*[(1875) 29 Apr]

1875 (?): Hayes vs King

Before Chief Baron Kelly: EWP appeared as a witness in this case involving his quantity surveyor Austin Hayes and Rev John King, OMI, the Parish Priest of EW Pugin's final church [A(IIIa)-77] in Rock Ferry; the dispute continued after EW Pugin's death in the case King vs Simmons at the Thames Police Court:

BN[(1875, 20 Aug) 195] *Law Times*[(1875, 14 Aug) 284] *The Times*[(1875) 15 Jul, 10 Aug]

⁵ Publisher of EW Pugin's pamphlet of 1867: *The Designs for the New Palace of Justice critically considered.*