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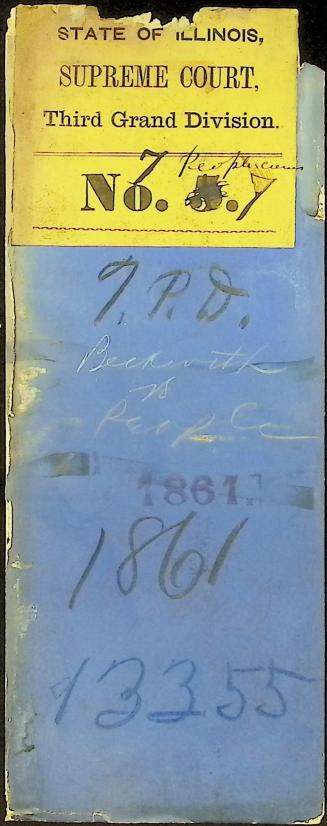
Supreme Court of Illinois

Beækwith

VS.

People

71641



STATE OF ILLINOIS, ss. The People of the State of Illinois, To the Clerk of the Koncunt Court for the County Occ Greeting: Because, In the record and proceedings, as also in the rendition of the judgments of a plea which was in the Corcuit Court of All Country, before the Judge thereof, between The People of the Mate of Illuvis plaintiffs and Oscar & Beefruith defendant, it is said manifest error hath intervened, to the injury of the aforesaid Os cur A. Beckwirth complainants and we being willing that error should be corrected, if any there be, in due form and manner, and that justice be done to the parties aforesaid, command you that if judgments thereof be given, you distinctly and openly, without delay, send to our fustices of the Supreme Court the record and proceedings of the plaint aforesaid, with all things touching the same, under your seal, so that we may have the same before our Justices aforesaid at OHawa, in the County of La Salle, on the first Tuesday after the third Monday in April next, that the record and proceedings, being inspected, we may cause to be done berein, to correct the error, what of right ought to be done according to law. Witness, The Hon. John D. Laton, Chief Justice of our said Court, and the Seal thereof, at Ollawa, this English day of Telbracery in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty one Rollingo Relouis By J. H. Geland DyogThe Perfole of the Slate of Deliver's No. 100 Performance of Sechwith WRIT OF ERROR. This M'sit of Essor is made a Supersedeas, and as such is to be obeyed by all concerned. Lorenzo Leland Bleck. By J. Heland. &yaz-FILE D'el 8th _ 1. D. 1861 : Sorenzo delanel.

STATE OF ILLINOIS - SUPREME COURT,

THIRD DIVISION-APRIL TERM, 1861,

OSCAR F. BECKWITH, Plaintiff in Error,

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, Defendants in Error.

INDICTMENT FOR ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO COMMIT MURDER.

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ABSTRACT OF THE RECORD.

- 1 Of the November Term of the Lee County Circuit Court A. D. 1860; before the Hon. John V. Eustace, Judge of the 22d Judicial Circuit.
- 1&2 On the fifth day of December A. D. 1860, (one of the regular days of said November Term) an indictment was found against the plaintiff in error, for an assault with intent to commit murder.
 - 2 On the same day the indictment was returned by the Grand Jury in open Court, endorsed "a True Bill," signed by the foreman, of the Grand Jury, and an order entered by the Court, that a Bench warrant issue for the arrest of the plaintiff in error, and that he be held to bail in the sum of five hundred dollars.
 - 2 The Eill of indictment so found by the Grand Jury, is in the the words and figures following, to wit:
 - 2 "STATE OF ILLINOIS LEE COUNTY. ss.
 - Of the November Term of the Lee County Circuit Court, in the year of our Lord 1860.
 - 2 The Grand Jurors, chosen, selected and sworn, in and for the 2 county of Lee, in the name, and by the authority of the people of the State of Illinois, upon their oaths present, that Oscar F. Beck-

with, late of the County of Lee, on the tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, at and within the County of Lee, aforesaid, unlawfully, wilfully, feloniously and of his malice aforethought, did then and there make an assault in and upon one Emily Ann Bennett, (wife of David H. Bennett,) in the peace of the said people, then and there bring, with a certain axe, made of iron, steel and wood, and with a certain butcher knife, made of iron, steel and wood, which he, the said Oscar F. Beckwith, in his hand, then and there, had and held, with intent, her, the said Emily Ann Bennett, with the axe and butcher knife, aforesaid, then and there feloniously, wilfully and of his malice aforethought, then and there to kill and murder, contrary to the form of the statute, made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the same people and State of Illinois."

3 "And the Grand Jurors aforesail, upon their oaths aforesaid, dofurther present, that Oscar F. Beckwith, late of the County of Lee, on the tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, at and within the County of Lee, aforesaid, unlawfully, wilfully, and feloniously and of his malice aforesaid, unlawfully, wilfully, and feloniously and of his malice aforesaid.

3 thought, did then and there make an assault, in and upon one Emily Ann Bennett, in the peace of the people of the State of Illinois,

3&4 then and there bring, with a certain axe made of Iron, steel and 4 wood, which he, the said Oscar F. Beckwith, in his hand did then and there, had and held, with intent, her, the said Emily Ann Bennett, with the axe aforesaid, then and there feloniously, wilfully, and of his malice aforethought, then and there to kill and murder, contrary to the form of the statute, in such case made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the same People of the

4 State of Illinois."

4 "And the Grand Jurors aforesaid upon their oaths aforesaid, do further present, that Oscar F. Beckwith, late of the County of Lee, on the tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, at and within the County of Lee, aforesaid, unlawfully, wilfully, feloniously, and of his malice aforethought, did then and there make an assault upon one Emily Ann Bebee, in the peace of the said people, then and there bring, with a certain butcher knife made of iron, wood and steel, which he, the said Oscar F. Beckwith, then and there had and held, with intent, her, the said Emily Ann Bebee, with the knife aforesaid, then and there feloniously, wilfully and of his malice aforethought, then and there

4 to kill and murder, contrary to the form of the statute in such case 5 made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the same people of the State of Illinois."

- On the filing of said bill of indictment on said the 7th day of December aforesaid, a Bench Warrant issued against the plaintiff in error, who was arrested and brought into Court, and furnished with a copy of the indictment, and also with the names of the Pettit Jurors, then in attendance at Court; also the names of the Grand Jurors who found said bill, and a list of the people's witnesses.
- 5 What follows in quotation marks is copied verbatim from the record.
- 6 "And afterwards to wit: on the eleventh day of December, aforesaid, as yet one of the regular days of said November Term, the following proceedings were had in this behalf, as appears to us of record, that is to say:

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, vs.
OSCAR F. BECKWITH.

"Indictment for an assault with intent to commit murder.

"On this day comes McCartney, States Attorney, and the prisoner being brought into Court, (and Stevens and Wood appearing as Counsel for said prisoner) now enters his motion to quash this indictment, which said motion is by the Court overruled; and the said prisoner being now arraigned for a plea, saith that he is "not guilty," in manner and form as charged in the indictment against him, and now come a Jury of good and lawful men. to-wit:"

6 Then follow the names of the jurors and the trial of said cause.

What follows in quotation marks is taken verbatim from the record.

- 6 After empanneling the jury, the Prosecuting Attorney moved the Court for leave to add the names of certain witnesses on the back of the indictment, which motion was overruled by the Court.
- 6 "And the said Jury having heard the evidence and the argument of counsel retire in in charge of a sworn officer to consider of their verdict. And afterwards on this day come the said Jury into

Court, and return the following verdiet, to-wit:

7 "We, the Jurors, find the defendant guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, with intent to inflict a bodily injury upon the person of Emily Ann Bennett, where the circumstances of the assault showed an abandoned and malignant heart.

"Under the indictment the Jury can find the defendant guilty or not guilty, in manner and form as charged in the indictment; or they may find him guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, with intent to inflict a bodily injury upon the person of Mrs. Bennett, if no considerable provocation appears, or if the circumstances shew

an abandoned and malignant heart."

And the Court refused to give the following instructions asked for by the plaintiff in error, to-wit:

"If the Jury believe that an assault was made when the defendant and prosecuting witness were engaged in a fight, and that the defendant had been provoked by words and actions on the part of the witness until his passions were so aroused that he may not have allowed the exercise of reason, the offence would only have been

9 manslaughter in case death had ensued.

Unless the Jury believe that the defendant committed the offence charged, coolly and deliberately, and under circumstances where he may be supposed to have acted without a sufficient degree of reason, they must find him not guilty."

ASSIGNMENTS OF ERROR.

1st. The Court erred in overruling the motion to quash the indictment.

- 2d. The Court erred in permitting a misjoinder of Counts.
- 3d. The Court erred in refusing certain instructions asked for by the plaintiff in error, and also in giving the fourth or last instruction.
- 4th. The Court erred in overruling the motion in arrest of judgment and in pronouncing any sentence or judgment upon the plaintiff in error.
- 5th. The record does not show upon what day or year the Jury rendered their verdict in the case.
- 6th. The record does not show affirmatively that the plaintiff in error was in Court, at the time the verdict was received and read.

JOHN STEVENS, Attorney for Plaintiff in Error.

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STATE OF ILLINOIS, SUPREME COURT.

THIRD GRAND DIVISION.

APRIL TERM, 1861.

OSCAR F. BECKWITH, Plaintiff in Error

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
Defendants, on Error.

BRIEF OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES.

John Stevens, of counsel for Plaintiff in Error, relies upon the following points and authorities.

I., The Court erred in overruling the motion of the plaintiff in error to quash the indictment, so far as the first and second counts are concerned.

1st. Because at common Law, in indictments for offences against the person, the words "with force and arms" are necessary.

5, Bac. Abr. 85 Indictment, G 6.

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These words are used in all approved precedents of indictments for this offence.

The statute leaves the words to be used, describing this offence, in indictments, as at common Law. Curtis vs. The People, (Breese 199).

This indictment does not contain those words.

2d. Because there is uncertainty in describing the offence committed, and the manner of its commission. An indictment should be certain, clear and explicit.

Barb. Crim. Law, 318. 5 Bac. Abr. 68, G 1-77, G 3.

It should charge the act to have been done with a deadly weapon: Ainsworth vs. The State: 5 Howard 242.

3. The conclusion of the count is insufficient, it does not contain the usual words "in such case."

II. The Court erred in permitting a misjoinder of counts.

The third count charges the defendant with an assault upon the person of Emily Ann Beebe, with intent to commit murder: the first and second counts, an assault, upon the person of Emily Ann Bennett with intent to commit murder.

Here two distinct offences or criminal transactions are charged. And in treasons or felonies, no more than one distinct offence or criminal transaction should regularly be charged upon the prisoner in one indictment.

Barb. Crim. Law 339. 2d ed.

III. The court erred in overruling the motion in arrest of judgment; and in pronouncing any sentence or judgment upon the plaintiff in error.

1st. Because the verdict of the jury was contrary to law; under an indictment for an assault with intent to commit murder, a party cannot be convicted of an assault with a deadly weapon with intent to commit a bodily injury—these not be-

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ing offences of the same degree or kindred character—the jury cannot convict of a different offence from that laid in the indictment.

Carpenter vs. The People, 4 Scam. 198; 1 Chit. Crim. Law 252; 12 Pickering 493-504-7; 7 Mass. 245; 1 Chit. Crim. Law 646; Breese 197; 7 Porter 500; 7 Missouri 180.

This rule is especially applicable in the present case: the offence for which the plaintiff in error was convicted is defined by statute, and when such is the case an indictment in order to sustain a conviction must either follow the language of the statute, or use words equivalent: and this indictment does not contain the words, or those of an equivalent meaning, used in the fifty second section of the criminal code.

The following authorities sustain the above rule,

Morse vs. The State, 6 Conn. 12; U. S. vs. Lancaster, 2 McLean 431; Updegraff vs. Commonwealth 6 S. & R. 5.

And, "It is a general rule, that unless the statute be recited, neither the words contra formam statue, nor any periphrase, intendment, or conclusion, will make good an indictment which does not bring the offence within all the material words of the statute."

5 Bac. Abr. 90, H. 3.

And, "When the words of a statute are descriptive of the nature of the offence, or the purview of the statute; or are necessary to give a summary jurisdiction, there it is necessary to specify in the particular words of such statute. An indictment grounded on a statute must purrue the description of the offence as contained in such statute."

5 Bac. Abr—notes—90, H. 3.

2d. Because the verdict of the jury was not broad enough, it does not find all the facts necessary to constitute the offence of an assault with intent to commit a great bodily injury, failing to show upon whom the assault had been made—only specifying the name of Emily Ann Bennett, as the person upon whom the plaintiff in error intended to afflict a bodily injury.

IV. The Record does not show upon what day or year the

jury rendered their verdict in the case.

V. The Record does not show affirmatively, that the Plaintiff in error was in court at the time the verdict of the jury was received and read, leaving the fact as to his being present or absent, to be inferred only from other portions of the record.

JOHN STEVENS, Counsel for Pl'ff. in Error.

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Oscen & Beckmith > Plff in hum The Profile of the State of Strifellowing from Ond how comes the said Osean & Broke with and stup that in the within of foregoing and in the underlie of the preference them is maniful from in the twint, then is maniful from the Coul weed in overaling the motion of the Recentiff in how to great the indictment. I "the coul breed in permitting a merpoint of 3 The count med in refusing certain instructions asked for & the plaintiff in snow & also in giving the fourth or last instruction. I The coul well in overmely the motion in and of hulfment - ting pronouncing any denterice or pulyment whom the Plenishff in more 3 The record does not show whom what day on you the pury rendered their verdist in the

that the plujuliff in live your in coul-al-the time the provided of the pury was received and real -Ahn Sleven for Altfl in how-All now ares the said Infendant ... Emor & says that in it record or proceeding afinesacil no Enir halis rictionened I. Junes States cally

State of Miners Heas in the Sol County Circuit Court in the DD, Judicial Conount of the State of Samois in the matter of the Snoply the State of Minnie Hamilifs seguinst Odern J. Sechundle Defendant upon um Indistruent for um apaunt with intent to commit Monniles - De it remandeend that at the November Sorm of the said dee Court-County Coverit Court AND 1860, Legum and holden at the Court House in the City of Dison in Said der County and the forthe Mountary of Noumber in the your aforeanied Treduct How John V. Einsteine Judge of the Javid Molontary States Minny for soud 22 Judicial Convenit Briganin & Show Click of Auron De Sounty and whow the fifth day of Gecentless in the your

days of soid Necenther Serm) The following is the matter of record in this hehalf, to wit; "In open But on this day come the Grand "fory and forsent the following Billy Andiotoneut to wit:"The Dropley the State of Stainsis Indistment for an afaint with intent to Commit House · Oden F. Beskinth Sinding (andused) A Some Bill) William S. Showpson At is ordendly the Court, that in Benow Warrant " issue against the said Defendant, and that he be held to Buil in the sum of Fine Hondard Dollars" and the Bill of Indistment so found by said hours following that is to say: " State of Allmois) so of the November Jenn I the der County arcuit Court in the year our Soul 1860 Indictment. The Frand forms chosen delected, and swarm in and for the County of dee, in the name and by the Multivity of the Proplet the State of Mimois, upon their Duthe present, that Coon & Grakerthe late of the County 1 1 1

of dee, on the Enthe day of October in the your of our Livel, One Shousand Eight Homemad and Sexty, at and within the County of der afmand, unlawfully welfully, felonisuely, and of his malice afon thought " shid there and there make our apault, in and upon one Emily and Sumeth (wife of David Ho Sumett) in the peace of the said Deople, then and there being unto westure lefe, made of over steel and world and with a contain Inther knife made of wow steel and wood which he the soud Odean & Best weith in his hand there and there had and held " with intent her the david Enerly from Franch furth Indictment " The axe, and butter knife appresaid, thew and their felouisusly, wilfully, and of his malice "aforthought there and three to kill and munder " country to the form of the Statute, made and "Answirled, and agreent the peace and dequity of the " some Prople of the State of Sumsion"

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" the said Prisoner by his said Comise enters his motion

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State of Minicis \ del County \ I. Janjamin & Show Club Afthe Coverit Court within & for said County in the State aferracial do hereby certify that the function of the received in down course, as appears by the books & files butiliente In testimony of which I have hereunto set my hourd and seal at the lity of Derow this write day of of foregary AM1861 Brujamin F. Show Clay State of Illinois of the bearing copy of the second contains a full and true history of the second proceedings on the first trial.

Mitref pur hand, this 28th day of faces

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Revivel Prople Oscar F. Grekurth_ File Fely 8. 1861. L. Veland

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SUPREME COURT, THIRD CRAND DIVISION. SUPERSEDEAS BOND.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, supreme court, supreme court, supreme court,							
To the Clerk of the Court for the County of BureauGreeting:							
Because, In the record and proceedings, as also in the rendition of							
the judgments of a plea which was in the but							
Court of Burene Country, before the Judge thereof, between The Repfle of the State of Illine's							
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defendant, it is said manifest error hath intervened, to the injury of the aforesaid de few down							
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as we are informed by the							
complainants and we being willing							
that error should be corrected, if any there be, in due form and manner,							
and that justice be done to the parties aforesaid, command you that if							
judgment thereof be given, you distinctly and openly, without delay, send							
to our Justices of the Supreme Court the record and proceedings of							
the plaint aforesaid, with all things touching the same, under your seal,							
so that we may have the same before our fusices aforesaid at Ollawa, in							
the Country of La Palle, on the first Tuesday after the third Monday							
in April next, that the record and proceedings, being inspected, we may							
cause to be done therein, to correct the error, what of right ought to be done							
according to law.							
Mitness, The Hon. John D. Katon, Chief							
Justice of our said Court, and the Seal							
thereof, at OHawa, this 21 day of							
Sefetules in the Year of Our Lord							
One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty							
11.00							
Leland Blerk of the Fuhreme Bourt. Leland Blerk of the Suhreme Bourt.							
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WRIT OF ERROR. This M'tit of Cttor is made a Supersedeas, and as such is to be obeyed by all concerned. Bleck. Bletk.