

HENDERSON vs. STEVENSON, L. R. 2 H. L. (Sc.), 470

Come, all ye students of the law,
And I will tell to ye,
All how Lieutenant Stevenson
Sailed out upon the sea.

It seems he dwelt in Dublin town,
But said, "I will be lavin'
This Emerald Isle for one short while,
And hie me to Whitehaven."

He bid farewell to all his friends,
And just before the start he
Packt up his hats and shoes and spats,
And ate a supper hearty.

Fain was the man to go by rail,
By sea he grew so sick, it
Made him to quail and grow green-pale
To buy the steamboat ticket.

And yet a ticket he did buy,
A brave man and no craven—
Upon the face of it he read,
"From Dublin to Whitehaven."

He went on board with all his gear,
Behind he left not any,
Clothes overlaid with rich gold braid
Had cost a pretty penny.

But sirs, the captain of that barque,
By drink was stupid driven,
And sad to say ere dawn of day,
His ship was wrecked and riven.

Her spars broke off like sealing-wax,
The sails were carried over,
The crew was drowned, our hero found
Himself in such a smother.

Of surf and weed he could not swim,
Hill high the breakers ran,
He clutched a mast and so was cast
Upon the Isle of Man.

He in a kindly peasant's hut
Was fed and warmed and dried,
Yet from the shock and wounding rock
Was like unto have died.

Anon, we find in June he brought
And action to recover
What he had lost when wrecked and tost
From that steam packet over.

Defendants, on high horses, cried,
 "We'll not pay that indeed, sir,
 'Tis you must lose, did you not choose
 Our notice plain to read, sir?"

"On back of every ticket, sir,
 You'll find our firm does not incur
 The smallest liability
 For loss, or injury, or delay

"To travellers upon the way,
 Thro' lack of due ability
 On part of captain or of crew,
 'Tis writ full plain, and we maintain
 No damages are due."

"Not so," the good Lord Chancellor cried,
 "You cannot thus find grace,
 The words you quote were never wrote
 Upon the ticket's face.

"'Tis plain Respondent never knew
 Of any such agreement,
 Nor did contract, by word or act,
 'Ere he upon the sea went."

Lord Chelmsford said, "My Lords, I can
 Have little hesitation,
 'Tis plain as day they must convey
 Safe to his destination

"This passenger whose cash they took,
 For service to be rendered,
 Who never heard or read a word,
 Of what to us is tendered."

Lord Hatherly, "'Tis shown to us,
 The clerk who kept the wicket
 Beyond a doubt, did not point out
 The words upon the ticket.

"And they were printed on the back,
 Unlikely to be seen,
 There's naught to show the Court below
 In error to have been."

And Lord O'Hagan, from the Isle
 That's green and has no frosts,
 Sir, "Sirs, I feel that this appeal,
 Should be dismissed with costs."

M. E. F. from *Crustula Juris*.