Elie Batiy Istortan. antoria. orkaos:


1 Privilege of the Press. A recrat decision on the ques Aon of press privilege by Judge cooley, of the Michgan supreme and Tribune, having comme Post severe terms on the official conuet of a police justice, and having harged official malfeasance upon $m$ in direct terms, was promptly proceeded against for libel by the ant's plen was that to attention to a 1 lo call public concern by criticising official misonduct was a matter of privilege, and that by presumption of law a paper.s motives in doing so must cious. In his charge to the jury
the judge who tried the case held the judge who tried the case held
that there was no such privilege, that there was no such privilege,
and that a publication arraigning and condemning the conduct of a public magistrate was subject to the same presumptions and the in regard to the character or acts of a private person. The supreme court reverses this ruling and in Cooley said:
No declaration of this or any
other court can convince the commen court can convince the comFew wrongs can be greater than
the public detraction which has only abuse, or profit from abus
for ittobobject. Few duties can plainer than to challenge public at.
tention to official disregard of the
principles which protect public principles which protect pubtic
and personal liberty. The matters
discoussed in the publication in discussed in the publication in
question were of grave public con-
cern, and therefore it was privicern, and therefore it was privil-
eged.
That is an admirable statement
of the true character of malicious of the true character of malicious
libel, and a clear, terse and prehensive presentation of the right and duty of the press to
take proper notice of the officin acts of public servants. Judge Cooley gives no warrant for
calumny. He says there is a calumny. He says there is a
"plain and palpable distinction" between this case and "publications that involve merely private gossip
and scandal." His decision rests and scandal." His decision rests
on common sense and will commend itself to the approval of the intelligent throughout the country. Few acts are baser than malicious assanlt on personal charac-
ter. The press or the tongue that ter. The press or the tongue that
wilfully maligns character by reason of malice or with the hope of gain, commits an outrage that wculd not be too severely panished But in plain, candid a critelony. But in plain, candid criticism or
manly denunciation of official manly denuncistion of official mis-
conduet, the press is simply dis conduct, the press is simply dis-
charging a high and imperative duty and the bench is that part of our system of government in which wrong doing is de-
servedly condemned with the servedly condemn
greatesi severity.
Has congress a right to lay
daty for any duty for any other purpose than to raise money wherewith "to pay
the debts and to provide for common defense and general wel
fare of the United States?

 W. B. Dilitard. office at st. hbiess, oregon. Kaul atiend terese ot Court at Astorna Notice.
giate and county
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