R v WILCOCK 41/80

41/1980

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION (ENGLAND)

R v WILCOCK

Lord Denman CJ, Patteson, Coleridge and Wightman JJ

(1845) 7 QB at 317

On a case stated, it was put that Statute 58 G. 3 enumerated amended acts including a reference to 13 G. 3 but no reference was made to 17 G. 3. It was clear that the reference was intended to be a reference to 17 G. 3., and that a mistake had been made by the legislature.

Lord Denman CJ said: "Secondly, whether the penalty is properly distributed by the adjudication, is assumed to depend on the question whether the act just alluded to was in these particulars repealed by stat. 58 G. 3. c. 51., which repeals "an Act passed in the thirteenth year" of G. 3, entitled "An Act for" etc.; and here is set out the title of stat. 17 G.3. c.56., not that of any act passed in the 13 G.3., nor, we presume, of any other act whatever. A mistake has been committed by the Legislature; but, having regard to the subject matter, and looking to the mere contents of the act itself, we cannot doubt that the intention was to repeal the 17 G.3., and that the incorrect year must be rejected.