Cunningham Brand. All

Mr. LINCOLN AND THE CHINIQUY CASE.

The writings of Father Chiniquy, the reformed catholic priest, have made this case somewhat famous and have given to the readers of his writings an entirely erroneous impression of the real facts in the case.

Sometime about the year 1854 or 55 Father Chiniquy in an address from his pulpit at St. Ann's, Kankakee county, Illinois, is said to have charged Mr. Peter Spink, one of his parishioners, with having sworn falsely in a certain suit then recently tried. Spink, unwilling to rest under the charge, brought suit against the priest in an action on the S case in the Circuit Court of Kankakee county. Before trial a change of venue was taken by the defendant to the county of Champaign, in the same state. At the June term, 1856, the cause came to trial. After the cause came to the latter county, Mr. Lincoln, who for many years on his round of the old 8th circuit, attended the terms of the Champaign Court, and participate in thes trial, and was actually engaged in the same when the news from the Philadelphia convention came showing that he had been sotgd for as a candidate for vice president, but was defeated by Mr. Dayton by a small vote. The trial resulted in a mistrial, the jury failing to agree upon a verdict. The continuance of the case to the next term followed, at which term, by the advice of friends of both parties, the case was settled, and thus ended a cause, unimportant in itself, except as it has been magnified in the history of it written by the defendant. The terms of the settlement were reduced to writing by the hand of Mr. Lincoln and reads as follows:

"Peter Spink,)
vs)
Charles Chiniquy.)

This day came the parties, and the defendant denies that he has ever charged, or believed the plaintiff to be guilty of perjury; that whatever he has said from which such a charge could be inforred, he said on the information of others, protesting his own disbelief in the charge; and that he now disclaims any belief in the truth of such charge against said plaintiff. It is therefore, by agreement of the parties, ordered that this suit be dismissed, each party paying his own cost. The defendant to pay his part of the cost heretofore ordered to be paid by said pltf."

This paper was entered as the judgment of the court in the case by David Davis, who became ajudge of the federal supreme Court.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library