

**LINCOLNTON GIRL WINS  
VERDICT FOR \$20,000**

Windsor, Vt., Special to The Observer, May 28.—Nellie Russell Nelson, little girl from Lincolnton, N. C., suing the parents of Romney Webster Nelson, Harvard law student, for alienation, was awarded \$20,000 by a jury in the United States district court late tonight. It was one of the largest verdicts in similar cases in the history of Vermont courts.

The findings of the jury occasionally, to demonstration until the girl reached the steps outside the courthouse. There she was mobbed by friends who had followed the trial each day. Eager hands were stretched to congratulate the trembling, timid girl from the south, whose tears continued to flow, despite the fact that the verdict was in her favor.

The jury was out three hours. Romney's father appeared pleased, and was the first to reach the girl's side. The mother, however, wore a look of extreme disgust and anger.

Windsor, Vermont, May 28.—The \$20,000 alienation suit brought by Nellie Russell Nelson against her husband's parents reached the jury this evening, John W. Redmond, counsel for the Dixie girl, opening his plea late today.

Thomas S. Nelson, the "plating" co-defendant, with his wife, was the last witness heard. A letter from him to the daughter-in-law was read, as follows:

"Dear Nellie:  
"Romney came home today and told us the news that you were married. It was quite a surprise to us. Romney seemed to think you were the only girl for him, and I have been of the same opinion for some time and for two reasons. First, because you seem to have good influence over him in all ways, and, besides, Romney has good judgment."  
"We wish to thank your parents for their kindness in offering to keep you with them for the two years that Romney shall be in school. We shall hope they will be good enough to let us have you part of the time."  
"Now that I have a daughter, which both Mrs. Nelson and I have longed for, we shall be very choosy of her. You can be my boss while she is away."  
"Now, my girl, you both have our blessings. We will do all in our power to make you happy."  
"Lovingly, your Dad."  
"Thomas B. Nelson."

Some As His Daughter.  
The father-in-law testified his sentiments towards the girl were the same as though she were his own daughter. He denied having said that Romney made a mistake in marrying Nellie.

"Did you ever sit around the house and sneer at her?" he was asked.  
"No, I thought too much of her," answered the elder Mr. Nelson.

"Did you ever urge your son to get rid of Nellie?"  
"No. This separation has been one of the greatest griefs of my life."

Witness then stated under cross examination that his daughter-in-law was truthful, loyal, a girl of noticeably strong character. He was surprised to learn that she was going south and thought she was worried about sickness in her family.

According to Romney's father, the son wouldn't discuss his separation with him.

Asked to look upon his little daughter-in-law across the room, Nelson, proud, wealthy and dignified citizen of herabous for years, broke down and wept bitterly. "When she goes, there will be a lot to go with her," he sobbed, "for to me she was my little girl."

Son a Sorry Spectacle  
Nelson's son made a sorry sight on the stand under a grueling cross-examination. He admitted, with a smile, that he had used profanity to his wife. This provoked the anger of the court. He admitted that their only serious quarrel occurred when his wife insisted that he stay with her during the night.

Cooking and housekeeping were subject so distasteful to his southern bride, Romney said, that even her own room was "a mess." He was disappointed, he admitted, that she did not join in more aptly and help his mother.

"Did you testify that the only room she took care of was her own room?"  
"Yes. Her room was a mess. I had to pick up after her. She was lazy."  
"Did you ever use profanity to—"

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