

POLES AT VARIANCE.

A defamation action in which both parties are members of the small Polish community in Brisbane, occupied the attention of Mr. W. E. H. Ferguson, Police Magistrate, in the Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Stefan Polotynski, of Vulture-street, South Brisbane, professor of music, claimed £200 damages from Zygmunt Witold Romaszkievicz, otherwise known as Sigismund Witold Romashkevich, of Rcssiter-street, Morningside, alleging that the defendant, on December 5 last, had published an article in the Polish newspaper, "Dom Polski," containing defamatory remarks in regard to the plaintiff and his newspaper, which was called "Polonia." The plaintiff alleged that the defendant meant that the plaintiff was an impostor, a person who had falsely assumed the title of count, and was a knave and idler, living on the charitable gifts of others.

The defence was that if the matter was published by the defendant—which he did not admit—then it was published in good faith for the protection of the interests of the defendant and of the Polish Association, of which the defendant was president, and also to refute defamatory matter published by the plaintiff.

The defendant counter-claimed £50, alleging that the plaintiff had published matter which suggested that the defendant was a man of no standing or education, and had "run away" from the Russian army. By reason of these matters the defendant had been injured in his credit and reputation.

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Mr. Brian O'Sullivan (instructed by Messrs. Fitzgerald and Walsh) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. H. Hutcheon (instructed by Messrs. MacLish, Macrossan, and Dowling) for the defendant.

After evidence had been heard, the case was adjourned until a date to be fixed.
