

Hugh Vs. Higgs

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Court : US Supreme Court

Decided On : 1823

Appeal No. : 21 U.S. 697

Appellant : Hugh

Respondent : Higgs

Judgement :

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Hugh v. Higgs

21 U.S. (8 Wheat.) 697

ERROR TO THE CIRCUIT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SYLLABUS

No action at law will lie on the decretal order of a court of equity.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE MARSHALL delivered the opinion of the Court.

This is an action on the case, brought to recover the money which the plaintiff in error had been decreed by a court of chancery to pay to the defendants in error. The defendant in the court below contended that an

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action at common law did not lie on a decree in chancery and excepted to the opinion of that court overruling this objection. It is admitted by the opposite counsel that in general the action does not lie to recover money claimed under the decree of a court of equity, but he supposed that, in this case, the money had been received by the defendant below upon transactions which took place after the decree. Upon examining the record, we perceive that the money was in his hands as trustee at the time the order to pay it over was made.

An objection was also made to an opinion of the circuit court upon another part of the case. There was an agreement between the parties, under seal and having some relation to the money to which part of the claim relates, and the defendant below objected to the form of the action on that account. But we cannot discover from the bill of exceptions whether the money in contest was or was not received under that instrument. On that point, therefore, the Court gives no opinion. The judgment is to be reversed for error in the opinion of the court below, which declares the action to be sustainable on the decretal order of the court of chancery and the cause is remanded to the circuit court for further proceedings.

Judgment reversed.