

448; L. Rep. 5 C. P. 451), however, the Court of Exchequer Chamber justified the finding of a jury that a check paid into the agent's banking account was payment to the principal under the following circumstances: The steward of a manor appointed the defendant's attorney as deputy steward to take the defendant's admittance. The defendant subsequently gave the attorney a crossed check for the fine and the steward's and attorney's fees. The check was duly honored by the defendant, and the money credited to the attorney's banking account, but, the attorney's balance being against him, his bankers refused to pay him the money. The court thought that the jury might have come to an opposite conclusion, but that there was sufficient evidence to entitle the jury to find that the copyholder had in paying the deputy steward paid the lord his fine. It is obvious that in that case, cash might have shared the same fate as the check, for, if it had been paid into the deputy steward's account, it would have been stopped by the bank and never have reached the lord of the manor.—*Law Times*.

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#### PUNCTUATION AND THE LAW.

From time to time it is announced in correspondence from Washington D. C., that the punctuation of acts passed by Congress is defective, and the legal advisers of the government are called upon to settle the knotty questions arising from these errors. Several instances of defective punctuation have been noted in the new Tariff Act, and similar errors occurred in the wording of the Tariff Act of 1890. None of the errors can be corrected without a joint resolution of the two houses, for the "law print" of the bill must be an exact copy, wording, spelling, punctuation and everything else contained in the enrolled bill, which is the copy that becomes a part of the archives of the government.

It is unfortunately too true that now, as in the time of Chaucer,

A reader that pointeth ill

A good sentence may oft spill.

Those who have tried by means of the law courts to take advantage of erroneous punctuation have had their trouble and bills of costs for their pains, and it may be said that a similar fate awaits the person who may endeavor to defeat by legal means the manifest intent of the law. One of the oldest legal maxims, as old as the law itself, is to the effect that bad grammar does not vitiate a