

and deposit another hundred pounds. The farmer did as he was bid, and then called on this lawyer to report the fact. That gentleman then told him to go alone to the inn-keeper and ask him for the hundred pounds. The farmer did so, and got it, but was as puzzled as ever, there still being a hundred pounds in the inn-keeper's possession. The lawyer, however, on being informed of the safe receipt of the money, next instructed him to take his friend with him and demand from the inn-keeper the hundred pounds which had been deposited in the witness's presence. Boniface, of course, protested and swore that the money had been repaid, but the presence of the witness silenced him, and the farmer got his money. A remarkable instance this of reposing confidence in your lawyer, and benefiting by his shrewdness and sagacity."

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CITATION OF AMERICAN DECISIONS IN THE ENGLISH LAW COURTS.—In our own courts American decisions are frequently cited in cases where the point is not covered by our own or English decisions, especially on questions of municipal and corporation law. The subject of how far such decisions are to be followed has attracted the attention of the English Court of Appeal, and we cite the following remarks on the subject from the *Solicitor's Journal*:—"In the course of the hearing of a case before the Court of Appeal, No. 2, on Wednesday, the Lord Chancellor took occasion to observe that the practice of citing American decisions in our courts as if they were of binding authority was growing to an extent to which he, for one, could not assent. Those decisions were worthy of all respect as expressing the opinions of very learned lawyers on analogous questions, but they could not be quoted as decisions binding our court on questions of English law. The Lords Justices (Cotton and Fry) joined in protesting against this mode of citation of American decisions. We believe that a similar protest was recently made by Lord Justice Fry, in Court of Appeal No. 1, on the occasion of the hearing of an important appeal which turned to a great extent upon the law of conspiracy. On that occasion a great number of American decisions were, however, cited without objection on the part of the other members of the court. We rather think that the practice to which the Lord Chancellor alluded owes its origin to the rapidly increasing practice of citation of American authorities by text-book writers. Since the late Mr. Benjamin, Q.C., in the first edition of his work on 'Sale of Personal Property,' published in 1868, inserted copious references to the decisions of the courts of his own country, as he modestly phrased it, 'in order to afford some compensation for the imperfections' of his book, but also, no doubt, with a view of rendering it useful on both sides of the Atlantic, the custom of giving American authorities in text-books has very largely increased, and American cases now find their way into English digests. A few years after Mr. Benjamin's treatise appeared, we remember discussing the subject of utility of American decisions to the advocate in English courts with a member of the common-law bar, now a distinguished judge in India, whose practice lay largely in a branch of the law upon which the decisions of the United States courts are specially valuable. 'Do I use them?' he said; 'yes, I use them con-