

of the courts of all the states and of the federal courts in every district in one series of volumes has of itself, by increasing the accessibility, increased the need of access to the reports of the decisions of all the states, and with the growth of the country and the lapse of time, the volume of the reported cases has become almost intolerable. There is dissatisfaction in the profession because of this burden, and this dissatisfaction has often been expressed in the reports of this committee. While recognizing the difficulties inherent in the situation, the committee has insisted upon the necessity of lessening the rate of increase in the volume of the reports, and that this may be done by discrimination in the publication of opinions and by shortening the opinions themselves. This Association cannot control either the courts or the publishers, but it can at least let it be known whether or not it is in favour of the existing plan of publishing all the opinions of the higher courts or of publishing only those which, in the judgment of competent reporters, are of real value in the statement and development of the law, and it may also be respectfully submitted to the courts, that in view of the increasing volume of reported cases, it is desirable that opinions that are to be reported should be as brief as is consistent with a clear statement of the facts and the legal principles applied to them and an expression of the controlling reasons for the decision. Discrimination and exclusion are the more important in the series of reports which is to serve the Bar of the whole country, and it is in this series that there is the least selection and that the avowed purpose is to publish all cases. So long as the law is built upon the authority of decided cases there is need for the publication of all the cases in which the law is developed and by which its principles are applied to new conditions, but there is no need, at least in a series intended for general use throughout the country, for reporting decisions that deal only with questions of fact or in which familiar principles are applied to ordinary states of fact. The citation of such cases is not helpful to the courts, nor does it tend to the thoughtful study of the law. The principles of law have been well set-