A SINGULAR SITUATION.

We again refer to the important subject brought up for discussion in the cases of *Goodall* v. *Clarke* and *Skinner* v. *Crown Life Insurance Company.*

There is at present no effective appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada in cases from the Province of Ontario when further directions are reserved. This is the practical result of two decisions recently given by that court quashing appeals though it is possible that by a circuitous practice an appeal may ultimately be had, though under difficulty and at great cost.

In both there was a judgment establishing liability and a reference to ascertain the amount.

In the former case the Referee's report, as varied by the Divisional Court and the Court of Appeal, found damages amounting to $1,765.00. An appeal to the Supreme Court from the judgment of the Court of Appeal was taken. It was quashed on the ground that there was no final judgment of the court ordering payment of that amount.

In the latter case the question of liability was appealed to the Court of Appeal which gave judgment affirming the trial judge. An appeal to the Supreme Court was quashed on the ground that the order of the Court of Appeal was interlocutory.

In the one case the liability and the amount of that liability appear to have been settled. All that was wanting was the formal order on further directions to pay it.

In the other case the defendants had in the order allowing an appeal direct from the trial judge to the Court of Appeal admitted that their liability would exceed $1,000, and had undertaken to make that admission upon the reference, if ultimately unsuccessful on the main issue. The combined effect of these two cases will render the usefulness of the Supreme Court much less real.

It ought to be possible, under any system of appeals, to have the question which is really in dispute, disposed of without forcing the parties to occupy a position fraught with difficulties of practice, full of uncertainty as to whether the real point