

A LENGTHY SUIT.

A case is now proceeding before a Judge alone in the English Chancery Division which bids fair to throw *Jarndyce v. Jarndyce*—so well known to readers of "*Bleak House*"—completely in the shade; not perhaps in the matter of the years over which the litigation extended but in the matter of days on which it was before the Court. Nor, indeed, is there much chance of this piece of litigation coming to an end owing to the estate being all absorbed in costs as in *Jarndyce v. Jarndyce*.

The dispute concerns certain gold mines in South Africa and involves a sum of £500,000 or thereabouts. Although the fees paid to Counsel and witnesses and the costs generally are large they are not likely to absorb the whole of that sum.

The opening speeches and examination of witnesses took eighty-six days and the hearing is not yet concluded. It is anticipated that Counsel will occupy the Court for ten days more.

INSURING A JUDGE'S LIFE.

Litigants who become involved in a lengthy suit are faced, of course, with the prospect of having to pay a large sum in costs. Moreover, they are speculating upon the contingency that the learned Judge will live long enough to be able to pronounce judgment. Some years ago a heavy commercial suit came on for hearing shortly before the beginning of the Long Vacation. After trial which lasted a month the learned Judge intimated that he would reserve judgment until next term. Realising that if anything untoward happened to prevent his giving judgment the trial would have to begin *de-novo* before one of his learned brethren, the parties put their heads together and insured his life (at Lloyd's) over the Long Vacation in such sum as would pay the costs of a second trial. They agreed to treat the necessary premium as costs in the cause. Fortunately no claim had to be made upon the underwriters.

LAW REPORTS.

The Lord Chief Justice of England has recently given public expression to the view that too many cases are reported.