

Considerable attention has been given in England to the simplification of pleading and procedure. But it would appear that in actual practice there is still something wanting, for at the commencement of a recent trial, for negligence and breach of contract, the Lord Chief Justice called attention to the unsatisfactory system of pleading which was now so much in vogue. "Pleadings were drawn, in which the senseless sinuosities of the statement of claim gave rise to redundant denials in the defence, and the result was that there were several pages of printed matter where a few paragraphs would have sufficed. Such pleadings appeared to be drawn after the worst examples of the Court of Chancery."

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A whole volume would hardly suffice to contain the eccentric efforts at legislation made by ambitious legislators. Some of them are ludicrous and nothing more, and they expire in the laughter they excite. Of this class is a law suggested by a law-maker in Michigan, who proposed that bills of fare in public dining-rooms must be printed in the English language only. This gentleman deserved some sympathy, for it is stated that being in a Chicago hotel lately, where the bill of fare was in French, he ordered five items, aggregating 80 cents, and discovered that he had asked for potatoes prepared in five different styles, and nothing else. Even in England there has been a curious proposition in a bill styled the "Verminous Persons Bill," the object of which is stated to be to enable persons infested with vermin to be cleansed and disinfected without going to a workhouse or casual ward; and for that purpose to have the use gratis of the apparatus, if any, possessed by any local authority for cleansing them and their clothing from vermin. It is not stated what examination the authority is to make before granting the use of its apparatus for catching the vermin. But the fatal defect is that it is proposed to make the cleansing optional. It is to be feared that in such case the authorities will not be troubled with many calls for the application of the law.