

erroneously transmitted to the plaintiff by the defendant company. The blank on which the original message was written, contained, among other stipulations, one to the effect that the company would not be liable for an error in transmission, unless the message was repeated back from the station to which it was sent, as it might be for half the cost of first sending. The message received by the plaintiff was written on a similar blank, but was not repeated back as aforesaid. The plaintiff brought an action of tort. *Held*, that said stipulation was reasonable, and that, unless the said error would not have been prevented by the repetition of the message, the plaintiff could not recover.—*Ellis v. American Telegraphic Co.*, 13 Allen 226.

INTERESTING FEATURES IN RECENT ENGLISH LAW.

I.—It is not, perhaps, generally known to the American Bar with what degree of formal ceremony the different terms of the superior courts are opened, at Westminster Hall. The judges, all in full court dress, small-clothes and dress sword, and *chapeau bras*, and full-bottomed wigs, and the counsel of every grade, from the Queen's Advocate and the Attorney-General, down through the several degrees of sergeants and Queen's Counsel, to the humblest barrister, called to the bar but yesterday, all repair to the dwelling of the Lord Chancellor, to make their respects to the highest judicial dignitary of the realm. After a formal breakfast, near mid-day, in solemn procession, they take possession of the old hall, where the *Aula Regis* held its sessions almost from the time of the Conqueror. After formal opening of the several courts, an adjournment for the day follows, and all prepare for business on the next morning, at ten o'clock, or earlier if need be. The late Lord Justice Knight Bruce never attended these ceremonious openings of the term, from an invincible aversion to appearing in small-clothes. We conjecture some of his successors are coming to have similar feelings.

It is at Lincoln's Inn, where, after the

ceremonious opening of the term by the Lord Chancellor at Westminster Hall, the Courts of Chancery continue their ordinary sessions, and where all chancery causes are heard and determined. It may not be known to all American lawyers, that all the Courts of Chancery, with the exception of that of the Rolls perhaps, are but departments of the Court of Chancery, where the Lord Chancellor's authority is the paramount one. For instance, the three Vice Chancellors are, in contemplation of law, sitting merely as assistants to the Lord Chancellor. So, too, in the Court of Chancery Appeal, which, in point of fact, is generally held by the Lords Justices, the Lord Chancellor may preside and claim the assistance of the two Lords Justices. But in that case the Lords Justices sit in the Lord Chancellor's court-room, having another court-room in which they hear appeals by themselves. The mode in which the point is determined how many of the judges of Chancery Appeal shall sit upon any particular appeal, seems rather singular and unique to all Americans. It seems to depend upon the choice of the appellant. He may carry an appeal from one of the Vice Chancellors, or the Master of the Rolls, to the full Court of Chancery Appeal, when the Lord Chancellor will call to his aid the Lords Justices, to hear the appeal in the Court of Chancery, when the three judges will be present during the hearing and more commonly give judgments *seriatim*. Or if the appellant, in such cases, for any cause, prefer his appeal should be heard by the Lord Chancellor only, he may take it into that Court, to be heard by him alone. So also he may elect to bring his appeal to hearing before the Lords Justices alone, which is the more common course.

Appeals to the House of Lords may be taken direct from the Vice Chancellors, or the Master of the Rolls, or the party may go first, to any one of the Courts of Chancery Appeal, but he cannot appeal from one Court of Chancery Appeal to another, or from the Lord Chancellor, or Lords Justices, to the full Court of Chancery Appeal, or from the Lord Chancellor to the Lords Jus-