

1674, Serjeant *Plowden*, in *Eyston v. Studd*, *Plowden's Reports* 465: "Our law, like all others, consists of two parts, viz., of body and soul. The letter of the law is the body of the law, and the sense and reason of it is the soul, *quia ratio legis est anima legis*. And the law may be resembled to a nut, which has a shell, and a kernel within; the letter of the law represents the shell, and the sense of it the kernel. So you will receive no benefit by the law if you rely only upon the letter."

1783, Lord Chief Justice *Mansfield*, in *R. v. Bembridge*, *Howell's State Trials*, XXII, 155: "The law does not consist in particular instances, though it is explained by particular instances and rules; but the law consists of principles, which govern specific and individual cases as they happen to arise."

1835, Mr. *Joseph Chitty*, *Practice of the Law*, 2d edition, Preface to Part II: "We all confess, but few adequately perceive, why it is so difficult to recollect a dry rule of practice; and we incorrectly impute to a defect of memory what in reality is attributable to our never having adequately known the subject. The simple truth is that reason or principle is the appropriate food of the mind; and it follows that no position is received with adequate appetite unless it be associated with the reason upon which it is founded."

1897, Mr. Justice *Oliver Wendell Holmes*, Address at Boston: "A body of law is more rational and more civilized when every rule it contains is referred articulately and definitely to an end which it subserves and when the grounds for desiring that end are stated or are ready to be stated in words."