

final conclusion is reached. Judgments of such prodigious length, instead of settling, have a tendency to *unsettle* the law, and instead of sending away the defeated party contented, I can only say from my own experience, since I have presided in this court, that they rather generate appeals; for although the decree may be right, some of the various reasons for it may be questionable, and a false hope is excited that, impugning these, the decree may be reversed." This deliverance of the distinguished Chancellor so pithily embodies the moral we would point in the premises, that little more remains to be said. We would only add, if we may do so without appearing presumptuous, that a judge should never encumber his reasons with the facts of a case to an extent beyond that which is absolutely necessary to a clear understanding of his conclusions. If the case is a reportable one, the statement of its essential facts comes properly within the province of the reporter. For a judge, in pronouncing his decision upon a question of fact, to accompany it with an argument justifying it upon the evidence, is simply to fly in the face of the old adage that "One's conclusion may be right, but ten chances to one his reasons for reaching it will be wrong!" But that a judge in these days of a thoroughly educated profession and multitudinous libraries, should expand his reasons with dissertations upon elementary principles of law, and laboriously transcribe pages from authorities at every practitioner's hand, is simply intolerable, and should be held to be ample ground for his compulsory retirement from the Bench.

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A good story comes to us from one of the provinces down by the "sounding sea." In the old days preceding the organization of the Bar Society in the province, the examination of candidates for admission to the practice of the law was entrusted to a board consisting of a Judge of the Supreme Court and two barristers. This examination was conducted orally, and, as can be easily imagined, took upon itself the character of a most trying ordeal, or a merely perfunctory performance