

rich in the returns from the public which they serve; the service is a great and beneficial one, it is true, and deserves to be well paid, but the public has a right to demand the best service which may be rendered within reasonable limits. It is not unreasonable to demand that telegrams which announce the illness of near relatives or friends should be delivered with the greatest possible promptness and that a failure to do so should be met with a policy of the law which will tend to prevent the wrong of it. It is morally certain that in those States where the law recognizes the pain and suffering caused by such delays in question as an element of damages there are fewer delays than in those jurisdictions which do not. The law is a rule of civil conduct prescribed by the highest power of the State not only to command what is right but to prohibit what is wrong. Now it is a fair question to ask, and one worthy the serious consideration of every one, which of these jurisdictions is making it possible to best prevent a kind of a wrong which it is a burning shame to permit to go unpunished?

Why mental suffering may not be expected to follow certain wrongful acts which might give rise to them as certainly as that physical pain should follow wrongful acts which result in bodily injury, is indeed difficult to understand when we consider how many uncertain elements are permitted to enter into the policy of the law in order to prevent wrongs. When parties enter into contracts which are to run a period of years, and one of them wrongfully refuses to be further bound by its terms, the conditions existing on the day of the breach are taken into consideration in order to estimate the profits for the future, which the injured party might have made by a faithful performance of it. There might be shewn to be many elements of uncertainty in the future of the contract, but the policy of the law to prevent wrongs leaves them out of consideration. It would seem in those cases which do not recognize the mental suffering which results from a wrongful delay in delivering a telegram to a mother, a husband or a father, or any one who ought to be informed and had a right to the prompt delivery, that the element of the law which is intended to prevent wrongs was left out of considera-