

"Punctuation is no part of the statute." *Hammock v. Farmer's Trust and Loan Company*, 105 U. S. 71.

"For the purpose of arriving at the true meaning of a statute, courts read with such stops as are manifestly required." *United States v. Locher*, 134 U. S. 624, opinion given by Chief Justice Melville Fuller.

"Punctuation in written contracts may sometimes shed light upon the meaning of parties, but it must never be allowed to overturn what seems the plain meaning of the whole contract." *Osborn v. Farwell*, 87 Ill. 89.

"Punctuation may perhaps be resorted to when no other means can be found of solving an ambiguity, but not in cases where no real ambiguity exists except what the punctuation itself creates." *Weatherly v. Mister*, 39 Md. 620.

"The want of proper punctuation is, if objectionable at all, no more allowable in vitiating the contract or destroying its effects than bad grammar, the rule against which is a maxim of the law." *White v. Smith*, 33 Penn. St. 186.

From the writings of the authorities cited, and from the foregoing extracts from decisions, it will be gathered that there is no hope for any litigants who may base their cases solely upon the erroneous punctuation of the acts passed by Congress.—*American Bookmaker*.

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### FRENCH AND ENGLISH LEGAL PROCEDURE CONTRASTED.

The first thing that strikes one in comparing foreign with English lawyers is the marked difference between our barristers and French *avocats*, and English solicitors and French *avoués*. In common conversation they are respectively treated as identical, whereas they are by no means so in fact. In England a solicitor demands payment, issues and serves process, delivers statements of claim and defence, instructs the barrister to appear in Court, and, dispensing with the latter immediately after the trial, concludes the work by entering up judgment and enforcing it, either through the sheriff's officer or by bankruptcy measures. An English barrister, with rare exceptions, only moves when the solicitor sets him in motion. On the other hand, in France or Belgium the *avocat* is sometimes consulted first, leaving him to select the *avoué*, the latter's services being limited substantially to