

Florida, and reported in 27 Fla. 1. The gravamen of the action was the destruction of several houses belonging to the Land Company by fire alleged to have been occasioned by sparks emitted from one of the railway company's locomotives. Now one would imagine that a case involving the application of a well-settled principle of law, such as this, would not call for any prodigious ratiocination by the Court in determining it. But by repeatedly inserting long extracts from the evidence and arguing conclusions therefrom; analyzing, even to the minutest detail, the Judge's charge in the Court of first instance; entering upon prolix definitions of well known doctrines, and copiously interlarding transcriptions from text-books and reports to be found in every lawyers' library, the opinion of the Court is swelled to the outrageous volume of 105 octavo pages! The *American Law Review* (vol. xxix., p. 881) in speaking of this case very properly says: "Decisions of this length are an attack upon the lives of the profession."

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While discussing this obnoxious practice of padding judgments to the utter undoing of their usefulness, it might not be out of place to quote some remarks of Lord Campbell in *Burch v. Bright*, to be found in 36 L.T. 89. After, as he says, having "laboriously travelled through the decree and judgment of the Vice-Chancellor (Wood), occupying forty pages of a huge quarto volume closely printed," he proceeds as follows: "Considering my long experience as a judge and the position which (however unworthily) I have the honor to fill, perhaps I may, without impropriety, venture to say, with the most profound and sincere respect for Vice-Chancellor Page Wood, that I should have disposed of the appeal not only with less labor to myself, but more satisfactorily and more confidently, had his judgment been more condensed. My attention has been diverted from the main questions in the case by elaborate and minute disquisitions as to the bearing of contradictory evidence on subordinate points, and by following the devious paths by which the