

The Law Association of Hastings advocates a change in the rule fixing the time for filing statement of defence after service of statement of claim, on the ground that eight days is universally found too short a period, also urging that there is no reason why there should be three weeks for reply, and only eight days for defence; with a suggestion that the three months allowed after the service of the writ for filing statement of claim might be shortened if time is of importance in the matter of pleadings. There is, we think, good reason why there should be at least three weeks given for reply, as during that period applications to amend must be made, and considerable time is also necessary for examinations or discovery, etc. As to the defence, eight days has been the rule within the memory of the oldest practitioner. In places where suitors can readily be seen by their solicitors the present time limited is generally sufficient; but if not, an order for further time is obtained almost as a matter of course. Where, as is often the case, parties live at a distance, and amongst the farming community, where people generally do not go to the post more than once a week, eight days is sometimes rather short; but it must be remembered that the ten days for appearance is not to be forgotten when considering the time given for putting in the defence. We do not know what virtue there is in the three months' rule as to the life of a writ except possibly to give plenty of time for negotiations for settlement, but even for this one would think that two months would be ample.

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We are glad to learn that Chancellor Boyd is recovering from the very serious illness which has prostrated him for some time, and he hopes soon to be at work again.