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Let me caution you, my dear Coke-upon-Littleton, against looking invariably for logical sequence in our law. There can be no doubt that the art of logic is of much help in a general way, but you will be led into many doubts and difficulties if you seek for the logical element in all conclusions at which you arrive in your reading. A student just fresh from his academic course is too apt to expect a logical exactness and a mathematical precision which our jurisprudence does not afford.

The English law is a compound law, pretty much as the English language is a compound language; and it presents many anomalies and incongruities. It lacks the coherence and harmony which are to be observed in the Civil law, but at the same time the English law presents many beauties not to be observed in any of the continental systems of jurisprudence. But logic is not one of the characteristic beauties of British law, whatever other particular charms it may boast. Do not, my dear friend, attempt to test every principle by the ordinary rules of reasoning. A conclusion may be perfectly legal and yet not be perfectly logical. In other words, what is very bad logic may be very good law. Remember this.