

as the one high and copious fountain of equity, for the whole kingdom. These changes are produced there by those who are meditating the overthrow of all that may encumber the course of justice, and who are at war with all appendages, judicial or political, which have been engrafted or sustained by prerogative or patronage—and thus their results may be in a measure authoritative with us, actuated as they are by an independent regard for the public good and enlightened by an experience more enlarged even than our own. And it is a remarkable circumstance strongly illustrative of the position of the necessity of an ~~amended~~ ^{reformed} Chancery jurisdiction, that the proposed improvement of the equity judiciary in England, has one feature, which is the retrenchment of the Court of Chancery, of that jurisdiction which belongs in this State to our Orphans' Courts. This information is derived from a work on the history of the Court of Chancery by Mr. Parkes, in which, noticing the *Orphans Courts* in the United States, he says "*The establishment of such an institution as the American [Orphan's Courts] in this country would be a great blessing.*"

It should be remembered too, if it can be supposed that the expense of the Court be an item of serious concern, that in abolishing the Court of Chancery, the Land Office must be provided with a judge in place of the Chancellor.

A summary only of the views has thus been presented, which have governed the committee in their conclusion, that the Court of Chancery, should not be abolished. The approach of the closing of the Session denies us the time requisite for more extended discussion or for exhibiting further data upon the merits of this ancient jurisdiction. In the conclusion upon this topic of the investigation a majority of the committee concur.

The Committee upon that branch of enquiry which concerns the official conduct of the Chancellor are unanimously of opinion, that no foundation exists for any charge whatsoever against his official course; and they cordially declare their persuasion of his surpassing industry, of his sincere devotion to the just discharge of his duties, and of the independence and rectitude which mark his judicial career. There is no ground for any imputation of his disregarding the decisions of the Court of Appeals. On the contrary, the evidence afforded to