

Procedural Reform

That her courts are used by the poor and justice cheap is to the glory of Texas. That trials of life and property preserve the liberties of the people is worthy of all praise.

Yet, it is to the shame of Texas that five years are necessary to secure a final judgment and that half the cases turn on issues of procedure. We have forgot that the only function of form is to secure a quick and fair trial. The result too often is the merits in the end have either decayed or been ignored. That is why appellate delay and devotion to form are open sores on democracy's face.

The committee has a real challenge. Simple clear rules can be drawn. Trials can be had on the merits, and appeals completed in six months. These things are not beyond our powers, and half measures will not do. We know that to clothe justice too strictly is to leave her barren of wisdom and public respect.

—*William Burrow, member of the Board of Editors.*