

change to be made for that purpose, on its being shewn to be necessary, and on the costs then incurred, being secured. (b)

*Ordered*, that *Charles F. Mayer* be, and he is hereby appointed next friend of the plaintiff *Anna G. M. Helms*, instead of the said *Wandelohr*, as prayed.

The commission to Bremen having been returned, and filed on the 15th of September, 1827; and it appearing that the depositions of the witnesses had been taken in the German language, with a translation; the defendants objected, that the case could not be heard until those depositions were more correctly translated; and the plaintiffs applied by petition, to have them translated accordingly.

10th January, 1828.—BLAND, *Chancellor*.—This matter has an origin and bearing worthy of more attention than seems to have been usually bestowed upon it. I shall therefore here, once for all, avail myself of this occasion to advert, as briefly as may be, to the laws and principles upon which the parties have a right to have depositions correctly put into English before the case is set for hearing.

An English statute passed in the year 1362 sets forth, that great mischiefs had happened because the laws were not commonly known, for that they were pleaded, shown, and judged in *French*, which was much unknown; so that the people who plead, or were impleaded in the courts had no knowledge or understanding of that which was sued for, or against them; that the laws would be known and better understood in the tongue used in the realm; so that every man might the better govern himself without offending, and the better keep, save, and defend his heritage and possessions. And thereupon enacts, that all pleas which should be pleaded in any court, should be shewn, defended, answered, debated and adjudged in the *English* tongue; and be entered and enrolled in *Latin*. (c) By an act passed by the illustrious *Long Parliament*, in the year 1650, during the short lived Commonwealth of England, it was declared, that all report books, and other books of the law, and all proceedings in the courts of justice, should be in the *English* tongue only, and not in *Latin* or *French*, or any other language; and should be written in an ordinary,

---

(b) *Witts v. Campbell*, 12 Ves. 493; *Melling v. Melling*, 4 Mad. 261.—(c) 36 Ed. 3, c. 15; *Parke's His. Co. Chan.* 43.