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Law As It Is

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abandoned her residence in Missouri with no intention of returning, was not a citizen of that state, so as to be subject to suit in the federal courts by a citizen of another state. Was she suable, then, as an alien? Tho she had lost her citizenship in Missouri, she had been born in the United States, and by that act acquired a citizenship therein. She had not been naturalized abroad, had never sworn allegiance to any foreign prince or potentate, nor committed any act of expatriation. She was, then, a citizen of the United States, and could not be sued as an alien. Consequently she was not suable in the federal courts of Missouri on either ground, nor in any federal court in the United States. *Hammerstein V. Lyne*, 200 Federal Reporter, 165.

LAW AS IT IS

If Homer were writing today he would stick right to the law. It is a vast and unending field, and would add much vagueness and uncertainty to any writing. It abounds in myths and mysteries. Just the other day the Supreme Court of Michigan acknowledged that it was a fish pond, or something on that order, and seemed to think that the troubled waters of a negligence case should be a public and free fishing spot for all. *Green V. Michigan Cent. R. Co.*, 133 Northwestern Report 956. And now comes the most august and corn-fed State of Nebraska and refers to it as a forest, and speak of blazed trails and beaten paths. It says that it is better to follow the beaten paths, and avoid uncertain and devious trails that have been blazed by certain radical woodsmen of the law. *Goff V. Supreme Lodge Royal Achates*, 134 Northwestern Reporter 239. Now, what shall we do with this strange something that everybody is presumed to know, but which no one is presumed to understand? Shall we take a boat to traverse its troubled waters, or shall we take an ax to hew our way thru the dim and shadowy jungles? Shall we take rifles and hunting knives, or fishing lines and nets? This point should be settled, so that future generations of lawyers will know better how to equip themselves for their journey through intangible incorporeal profession—the law.