

to appear at assizes on a "foreign" circuit, he must insist upon a special fee.

THE APPOINTMENT OF A KING'S COUNSEL.

A King's Counsel is appointed by letters patent to be "one of His Majesty's Counsel learned in the law."

The appointment rests with the Lord Chancellor, to whom the barrister desiring a silk gown makes application. There is no definite time required to elapse between "call" and the application for silk, but it is generally understood that the barrister must be of at least ten years' standing before he is appointed a King's Counsel.

The first King's Counsel was Sir Francis Bacon, who was appointed by Queen Elizabeth "Queen's Counsel Extraordinary" and received a payment by way of "pledge and fee" of £40 a year, payable half yearly. Succeeding King's Counsel received a similar payment until its abolition in 1831. There was no other appointment of a King's Counsel until 1668, when Lord Chancellor Francis North was so honoured. From 1775, King's Counsel may be said to have become a regular order. Their number was very small so late as the middle of the 19th Century (20 in 1789; 30 in 1810; 28 in 1850) but at the beginning of the 20th Century there were over 250.

LORD FINLAY.

In departing from the practice of his predecessor, Lord Finlay has shown himself to be what everyone hoped and expected he would be—a strong Lord Chancellor. Appointed by a non-party Government, he has every right to assert his independence. Too often in the past has the keeper of King's Conscience been a mere party man content to do the bidding of those who gave him office. In other respects, too, has the present Lord Chancellor manifested his single mindedness. He refused office except on the terms that the Government should *not* be obliged to make him a retiring allowance of £5,000 a year. Again, as a judge, he was not afraid, in a recent case decided by the House of Lords, to differ from all his noble learned brethren, and to hold (contrary