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CURRENT TOPICS AND CASES

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has refused the special application for leave to appeal, made by the defendant in the case of *Pelland v. Graham*, from the judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench rendered at Montreal on the 19th of May last. We have not yet seen the grounds on which the application was based, but it is probable that the principal reason alleged for asking leave to appeal was the importance of the question involved to the press of the whole country. It will be remembered that the plaintiff claimed, and was allowed, a small sum of damages for the publication of a report of a public meeting in the "Star" newspaper by the defendant, at which meeting one of the speakers made defamatory remarks concerning the plaintiff. The defence was simply, not that the statements were true, but that the report was faithful and accurate, and was published in the public interest. The question whether the publication was in the public interest was submitted to the jury, apparently by common consent of the parties. The jury answered this question by saying that the publication was in the public interest, but judgment went against the defendant on the ground that the publication