

according to the customs of the Hindu or Mohammedan law. The truth of these observations may be readily understood by perusing a list of the different territories from which appeals may be taken to this court. The number is upwards of 150, and occupies in one work on the subject over seven printed pages. If Europe is taken as an example, appeals lie from six different principalities, and the laws administered range from the ancient customs of the Isle of Man to those in force in the Island of Cyprus. Other interesting examples may be given in the Leeward Islands, composed of Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Ben Nevis, where it administers the common law introduced by Royal Proclamation in 1764, and Newfoundland, which is our oldest colony. In Asia, besides India, appeals lie from the courts of twenty-four separate principalities, differing from the Bombay High Court to the Consular Court in China and Corea.

If we should now examine the actual working of this Council, we find that the governments of the various dependencies as a general rule have the power to legislate and limit the right of the subject to carry his case to the foot of the Throne. They cannot, however, legislate with regard to the right of the Sovereign to hear those appeals. As a general rule, legislation has been passed restricting the right of appeal to cases when the matter in controversy exceeds a certain value. If the matter is not of sufficient importance to comply with the regulation in force in the particular territory in which the suit is instituted, an application may be made to the Council itself for special leave to appeal. The application is made by way of petition, which must set out the facts of the case, the portion of the judgments in the courts below which are said to be erroneous, and the reasons upon which counsel base the application. The statements contained in the petition must be characterized by the utmost frankness and good faith, and a *prima facie* case must be made out. The committee in granting the petition will be greatly influenced by the wishes of the colony as expressed by its legislation. The exercise of the prerogative will not be recommended except in cases of general importance, and will only be granted