

ion Legislatures, the Dominion Parliament is excluded from the power of legislating on any matters coming within those classes of subjects which are assigned exclusively to the Legislatures of the Provinces. One of those classes of subjects is defined in these words, by the 14th sub-section of the 92nd clause:—"The administration of justice in the Province, including the constitution, maintenance and organization of Provincial Courts, both of civil and of criminal jurisdiction, and including procedure in civil matters in those Courts." The argument, and the sole argument, which has been offered to their Lordships to induce them to come to the conclusion that there is here a serious question to be determined is that the Act of 1874, the validity of which is challenged, contravenes that particular provision of the 92nd section which exclusively assigns to the Provincial Legislatures the power of legislating for the administration of justice in the Provinces, including the constitution, maintenance and organization of Provincial Courts of civil and criminal jurisdiction, and including procedure in civil, not in criminal, matters in those Courts. Now, if their Lordships had for the first time, and without any assistance from anything which had taken place in the colony, to apply their minds to that matter, and even if the 41st section were not in the Act, it would not be quite plain to them that the transfer of the jurisdiction to determine upon the right to seats in the Canadian Legislature—a thing which had been always done, not by Courts of Justice, but otherwise—would come within the natural import of those general words: "The administration of justice in the Province, and the constitution, maintenance and organization of Provincial Courts, and procedure in civil matters in those Courts." But one thing is clear, that those words do not point expressly, or by any necessary implication, to the particular subject of election petitions; and when we find in the same Act another clause which deals expressly with those petitions, there is not the smallest difficulty in taking the two clauses together, and in placing upon them both a consistent construction. That other clause, the 41st, expressly says that the old mode of determining this class of questions was to continue until the Parliament of Canada should otherwise provide. It was, therefore, the Parliament of

Canada which was otherwise to provide. It did otherwise provide by the Act of 1873, which Act it afterwards altered, and then passed the Act now in question. So far, it would appear to their Lordships very difficult to suggest any ground upon which the competency of the Parliament of Canada so to legislate could be called in question. But the ground which is suggested is this: that it has seemed fit to the Parliament of Canada to confer the jurisdiction necessary for the trial of election petitions upon Courts of ordinary jurisdiction in the Provinces; and it is said that although the Parliament of Canada might have provided in any other manner for these trials, and might have created any new Court for this purpose, it could not commit the exercise of such a new jurisdiction to any existing Provincial Court. After all their Lordships have heard from Mr. Benjamin, they are at a loss to follow that argument, even supposing that this were not in truth and in substance the creation of a new Court. If the subject matter is within the jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament, it is not within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Parliament, and that which is excluded by the 91st section from the jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament is not anything else than matters coming within the class of subjects assigned exclusively to the Legislatures of the Provinces. The only material class of subjects relates to the administration of justice in the Provinces, which, read with the 41st section, cannot be reasonably taken to have anything to do with election petitions. There is, therefore, nothing here to raise a doubt about the power of the Dominion Parliament to impose new duties upon the existing Provincial Courts, or to give them new powers as to matters which do not come within the classes of subjects assigned exclusively to the Legislatures of the Provinces. But, in addition to that, it appears that by the Act of 1873, which, even by those judges who are said to have disputed the competency of the Act of 1874, is admitted to have been competent to the Dominion Parliament, what appears to their Lordships to be exactly the same thing in substance, and not so very different even in form, was done. It was intended that when a Court of Appeal should be constituted for the Dominion, a judge of that Court of Appeal should be the judge in the first instance of election petitions, and three