

matters within the United Kingdom in Ecclesiastical, Admiralty and Patent cases.

Owing to the great expansion of our Empire, which is mainly due to the acquisition of new territory, the laws administered by this Council are of the most diverse and complex character, and the judicial enquiry entered into by it, of the most cosmopolitan description. It is laid down by most eminent authority that all territory which is newly acquired, whether by conquest, colonization, or peaceful annexation, is acquired for the benefit of the Crown. If an uninhabited country is discovered and peopled by English subjects, they are supposed to possess themselves of it for the benefit of their sovereign, and carry with them such portions of the English common law as are necessary and applicable to their situation. In the case of possessions acquired by conquest or annexation, the sovereign, unless he has limited his prerogative by the articles of capitulation or treaty, has the inherent power to make new laws for the conquered country, but until he sees fit to do so the laws in force in the newly acquired territory at the time of the capitulation or annexation, remain in force and equally effect all persons and property. It has been the almost universal custom of our Empire to refrain from interfering with the laws and institution which have been in force in those countries which have been added to it. As an illustration of the extent of jurisdiction, Sir Frederick Pollock, when in Toronto in 1905, stated that, whilst proceeding on the tour which he was then completing, he had left Liverpool and had visited Gibraltar, Minorca, South Africa, India and Canada, all countries under the rule of the British Empire, and all, with scarcely an exception, under laws which differed. Go into the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council for a single week and watch its operations. You will see it deciding on one day a question according to the Roman Dutch law; on another a question according to the French law as it prevailed before the Revolution, modified by subsequent Canadian statutes; and on another day according to the common law of England, as modified by Australian or New Zealand legislation; and at the end of the week