

THE LEGAL NEWS.

VOL. XVIII.

JUNE 1-15, 1895.

Nos. 11 & 12.

CURRENT TOPICS, AND CASES.

The proposal to appoint colonial judges to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is a suggestion that has an attractive sound, and doubtless a good deal may be said in favor of it. But that there are drawbacks, and serious drawbacks, to such an arrangement, cannot be doubted. One of the strongest considerations in favor of maintaining the appeal to England is that there a board of highly trained jurists, wholly unaffected by colonial opinion or colonial criticism, acting solely as advisers of the Sovereign, take up the appeal and examine it from a point of view apart from all local considerations. Whatever errors the Judicial Committee may have made, we have yet to hear that any imputation has ever been cast upon the impartiality and independence of the tribunal. It must not be forgotten that appeals *ex gratia* from the Supreme Court of Canada are now considerably restricted, and are few in number, and if the direct appeals from this Province are as numerous as they are, it is because a preference is given to an appeal to the Privy Council rather than to the Supreme Court. This fact certainly does not suggest that the Committee would be greatly strengthened by the presence of a Canadian Judge. Then, again, assuming that a Canadian Judge were ap-