

APPEARANCE OF PARLIAMENT

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And though there arose, in the following century, a new and powerful tribunal, the Court of Chancery, which professed to administer the King's 'grace,' not the 'common law,' yet it is remarkable how, in a comparatively short time, that 'grace' began to follow popular custom and practice as its guide, until, by the end of the sixteenth century, it had become hardly distinguishable in character, except to experts, from the older 'common law.'

GROWTH OF PARLIAMENT

But, of course, the crowning achievement of the great thirteenth century was the achievement of its last years, the creation and establishment of Parliament, as a direct expression of the national will, through the process known as 'representation' by elected representatives. The story of this new and famous institution is very well known, at least in outline. It is, therefore, sufficient to say here that, by adding to the already existing Great Council of Peers, i.e. the great feudal tenants, lay and ecclesiastical, of the Crown, a new body, consisting of 'Knights' chosen by (or from) each shire, and of citizens and burgesses from each privileged city or borough, and a third body consisting of certain minor ecclesiastics, and 'proctors' or agents from the cathedral and diocesan clergy, King Edward I, following the hints previously given by Simon de Montfort and other reformers of his father's reign, brought together in the year 1295 the great Parliament which, despite the practical disappearance from its ranks of the minor clergy and their proctors soon after, has ever since remained the historical model and ideal of national representation, and which now, though still representative only of England, Scotland, and Ireland, claims to be, in conjunction with the Crown, the supreme legislative authority, not only in the United Kingdom, but in the British Empire.