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*THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE—ITS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.*

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I. INTRODUCTORY.

This body is the Supreme Court of Appeal for the British Dominions beyond the seas. "Cases come before it from all quarters of the globe, and it has to act as the final interpreter of almost every known system of law—English, Colonial, Hindu and Mohammedan—and even the still more intricate system of customary or tribal law, by which most of the native races are governed." A more multifarious jurisdiction than that of the Privy Council it would be difficult to imagine.

"When cases are appealed from the highest courts in India to the Privy Council in England, that respectable body determines the true construction to be put on the Koran and the Islamic traditions, or on passages from the Mythical Manu, in the same business—like way as it would the meaning of an Australian statute."

The following anecdote is often quoted as showing the faith in this body, which has been inspired into the distant peoples; it is told of a traveller who had penetrated into a remote part of India that he found the natives offering up a sacrifice to a far-off but all-powerful god who had just restored to the tribe the land which the government of the day had taken from it. He asked the name of the god. The reply was: "We know nothing of him but that he is a good god, and that his name is the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council."

Every intelligent citizen should know something about this great central tribunal which, while knitting together the uttermost parts of the king's dominions, it is yet strictly speaking not a court at all. Its jurisdiction arises simply out of the right of every British subject, who believes that a wrong has been done to him, to petition his sovereign personally for redress. It is proposed to