

ing only one—the Chancellor—exercises this high jurisdiction. The appeal too, from the Lord Chancellor's decrees is heard by himself; and until very lately, he alone sitting regularly in the house of which he is speaker or president, all the appeals from himself were disposed of by himself. For five years Lord Eldon sat alone in judgment on the appeals from his own decrees. That they were few in number may be easily imagined :” *British Constitution*, pp. 359, 360.

III. THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE.

One of Lord Brougham's great aims in establishing the Judicial Committee was to have in it Judges “who should be men of the largest legal and general information, accustomed to study other systems of law besides their own, and associated with lawyers who have practised or presided in Colonial courts.”

It is only recently that the latter part of his ideal has been to any extent realized, by the appointment (in 1897) of Sir Henry Strong, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, the Chief Justice of the Cape of Good Hope, and the Chief Justice of Southern Australia, to be Privy Councillors. They thus became members of “The Judicial Committee” by virtue of the Judicial Committee Amendment Act, 1895, which provided that any person being or having been Chief Justice or a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Dominion of Canada, or of a Supreme Court in any Province of Canada, or of the Australian Colonies, or of the Cape of Good Hope or Natal, who is a member of the Privy Council, shall be a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Such members are not to exceed five at any one time.

The composition of the Judicial Committee has been altered from time to time. It now consists of the Lord President, such members of the Privy Council as hold, or have held, “high judicial office,” the Lords Justices of Appeal (whose number is limited to four), and two other persons being Privy Councillors, whom the King may appoint by sign manual warrant. Besides these, there may be two paid members who have held the office of Judge in the East Indies. In addition to these, as already mentioned, the Chief Justices of Canada, Cape Colony, and South Australia, have been appointed to the Committee. It is necessary that four members should be present at the hearing of a cause.