

PREFACE.

Two motives have induced me to publish this work. When the original notes of the cases were in manuscript, a resort to them was often found useful in bringing to the recollection of the Judges—and not infrequently to the Bar—rulings and points of practice which have not been mentioned in any of the ordinary Law Reports. As years went on and the manuscript increased to large proportions it became a question whether the synopsis, covering as it does *every* appeal heard in the Council Chamber for sixteen years, should not be put in print.

The second incentive to publication arose from the consideration of the important changes made during the period which this Book covers, not only in the constitution of the Judicial Committee itself, but also in the additions made to the Empire; the expansion of administrative powers in the older, or the introduction of applicable laws into the newer Colonies, and still newer Possessions and Protectorates. The area of judicial authority and precedent keeps on growing more perfect, and yet increases year by year, a more than abundantly fruitful epoch of development having marked the time now under review.

Lord Brougham, whose Act of 1833 for the establishment of the Judicial Committee, with the object of carrying on more effectively and with modern light of experience the work of the ancient Court of Delegates, whose existence dated from Henry VIII.'s reign (25 Hen. VIII. cap. xix.), thus spoke (*History of the British Constitution*) of the Tribunal he had improvised: "It has been admitted even by those who first objected,