the nineteenth century, to continue a practice which has no other apology than that it has descended to us from our ancestors—that is to say, from some people who burnt witches and heretics and tried causes by battle, who pressed to death those who refused to plead, and starved jurymen who differed in opinion into a base surrender of their honest convictions."

STATUS OF COLONIAL BAR BEFORE THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

The English Bar Council was recently asked whether a colonial barrister, not a member of the English Bar, is entitled to practise in the Privy Council in any case coming from any colony, or only in a case coming from his own colony, and to this the reply was given: "They are not aware that any such case has arisen. It is doubtful whether the colonial barrister could demand the right to be heard in an appeal not coming from his own colony, but it is improbable that he would be refused." It would appear from this somewhat delphic utterance that the English Bar Council regards the Privy Council as primarily a merely English Court, in which the English Bar has an unquestioned right of audience in all cases coming before it; but the Council is obviously under the impression that colonial barristers stand on an entirely different footing, and have only a limited and restricted right of audience. For some purposes it is probably true that the Judicial Committee may be regarded as a merely local tribunal, *e.g.* as regards appeals from the English Ecclesiastical Courts, but in regard to its appellate jurisdiction in civil cases, it cannot, we think, be properly regarded as a merely local tribunal; it is on the contrary an Imperial tribunal in the fullest sense of the term, and as regards that part of its jurisdiction the various Bars of all parts of the Empire must, one would think, stand on the same footing, and every barrister who is entitled to be heard there at all, cannot upon any sound principle as regards civil appeals, be excluded from audience in any case in which he may be retained; no matter what particular part of the globe the case may come from.

We are somewhat surprised that the English Bar Council should suggest that any narrower view of the matter is even arguable. If a colonial barrister were to be restricted to appeals from his own particular colony, on the same principle the English barrister