

to their views), that Christianity is part of the law of "England"—an assertion which Lord Sumner, one of his colleagues, had dismissed as mere rhetoric. Lord Finlay made no enemies when he was at the Bar; he will certainly lose no friends while he retains his seat on the Woolsack.

APPEALS TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

A much needed reform has recently been introduced to modify the practice on appeals to the House of Lords. Formerly an appellant had a year within which to make up his mind whether he would appeal or not. This period has now been reduced to six months. Why the period was never curtailed before is one of those problems in legal practice which it is difficult to solve. An appeal is presented to the House of Lords very much as an appeal from a colonial court is presented to the Privy Council. Everything is printed; the scale of costs is enormous. Nor does it by any means follow that because all the judges of the inferior courts have decided in favour of the respondent, that the Law Lords will follow suit. In fact, the case is so presented both in print and by word of mouth to the appeal Committee that the odds seem to be against the respondent.

UNCERTAINTY OF APPEALS.

In former days there was a Chancery Judge whose decisions were constantly reversed on appeal. Indeed it used to be said that "to go to the Court of Appeal with a judgment of Mr. Justice Blank in your favour was like going to sea on a Friday—dangerous but not necessarily fatal." The same thing might be said of the position of a respondent who is taken "to the Lords" in a certain type of commercial case although he has several judgments below in his favor.

In actions for breach of contract it is frequently necessary for the court to say whether there was any contract, and to ascertain its terms and conditions from letters passing between the parties. It is obvious that the advocate who has the first opportunity of reading the correspondence to the court has an