

The appointment of Chief Justice Way represents the selection for Australia, and there could not have been another as entirely suitable. His Honor is the senior Chief Justice in these colonies. His experience — as a Victorian writer has aptly remarked—touches every point of Australian life. He is an acute and learned lawyer, and as such possesses an Australian reputation. It is a great point in his favor, too, that he is still comparatively a young man, whose intellectual powers are at their zenith, while physically he continues strong and active. On these grounds the appointment of the Chief Justice was generally expected. The Colonial Office has chosen wisely, and Australia is to be congratulated.

#### AN AUSTRALIAN PRIVY COUN- CILLOR.

Our London correspondent informs us by cable that his Honor Chief Justice Way has been gazetted a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, an honor which was daily expected after it became known that South Australia, Victoria, West Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand had joined in nominating him for that position. It may be mentioned as a coincidence that when in 1890 Mr. Way was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia he was absent at Albany on his journey to England to spend a well-deserved holiday, and that now the greater distinction has been conferred he is also out of the colony. This time, however, he is only on a visit to Hobart, where his Excellency the Governor is also staying. Only twice previously have Australians, while yet remaining in active work on this side of the world, received admission to the Most Honorable Privy Council, although that rank has been attained by Mr. Childers, Lord Sherbrooke, and other gentlemen who deserted colonial for Imperial politics and became members of the British Cabinet. In 1886 Mr. W. Bede Dalley, of New South Wales, was made a Privy Councillor as the most fitting recognition of his spirited action in sending the Australian contingent to the Soudan; and in 1893 Sir Alfred Stephen was raised to the same illustrious body as a reward for long and distinguished services, first as Chief Justice, and then as Lieutenant-Governor of New South Wales. Mr. Way, it may be stated, is the senior Chief Justice of Australasia, as it is now nearly 21 years since, in March, 1876, he was elevated to the bench on the death of Sir Richard Davies Hanson. He has resided in South Australia for nearly half a century, but is not yet 61 years old, so that it may reasonably be hoped that he will live long to wear the unique dignity which his talents and his loyal service have so adequately won.



# CABLE MESSAGES.

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CHIEF JUSTICE WAY.

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APPOINTED TO THE PRIVY  
COUNCIL.

LONDON, January 22.

The appointment of the Hon. S. J. Way, Chief Justice of South Australia, as a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has been gazetted.



## SLANDERING WITH IMPUNITY.

25/1/97

The time-honoured legend that every wrong has its remedy seems to be entirely falsified in the experience of at least one member of the late Honorary Medical Staff of the Adelaide Hospital. In demonstration of this we need only refer our readers to a correspondence published elsewhere. In the course of an extraordinary memorandum prepared by Dr. Ramsay Smith, purporting to be a reply to charges against him which his accusers were not allowed the opportunity of proving, that gentlemen brought serious accusations against the former medical officers of the institution. Not only was the indictment heavy, but it was gratuitous, seeing that those whose actions he so broadly condemned were not amongst the critics against whom he had to defend himself. The statement to which he deliberately committed himself was—"A careful study of the Hospital records shows an equally damning set of statistics in almost every other branch of surgical operations." Most of the men directly implicated chose to treat the assertion and its author with silent contempt, but Dr. Poulton took upon himself the task of trying to bring the "contemplative philosopher" to book. He accordingly wrote to him challenging him to give proof of his allegations. This request—surely a very reasonable one under the circumstances—called forth a reply in which, under cover of irrelevant trivialities and feeble impertinences, the writer declined to give the satisfaction demanded. A further application met with a like fate, and Dr. Poulton thereupon addressed the Board, enclosing a copy of the letters, and asking them to reverse a former decision in which they had refused to give him a record of the cases which had been under treatment by him whilst he was connected with the Hospital.

To this request, preferred by a reputable citizen, a gentleman of high standing in his profession, and a man who during many years had rendered valuable services as an honorary officer of the institution, there could have been, it might have been imagined, but one reply. Any honourable and fairminded body of men might have been expected to



say—"Your professional reputation has been impugned; imputations of gross carelessness, or incapacity have been brought against you; the evidence necessary to sustain or rebut these imputations is in our custody, and as a matter of course we will give you every facility for defending yourself." Nothing of the sort, however. The malign spirit of partiality and injustice towards all not within the charmed circle of its adherents and partisans is manifestly still rampant upon the Board. At the last meeting Dr. Poulton's communica-