TRADITIONS OF PARLIAMENT.

LIMITATIONS IMPOSED ON MINISTERS OF THE CROWN.

Turning now from the agents to the principals in this Marconi transaction, and dropping the question as to the manner in which the investigation was conducted, we find food for serious reflection. So far as proceedings in Parliament are concerned the matter is closed. The ministers accused have been exonerated from anything worse than "indiscretion." Their confessions have been made and accepted, and their friends have nothing but applause for their success in extricating themselves from a very dangerous position.

The official and professional view of the case is well presented in the following extract from the *Law Times* in which we fully concur so far as the charge of personal corruption is concerned:

"One good thing this Marconi affair has done is to dispose once and for all of the gross attacks that have been made against the personal honour of the Attorney-General. The charges of corruption and unfaithfulness to public duty have been shewn to be absolutely untrue, and the supposed evidence upon which the allegations were founded non-existent. Throughout the whole business Sir Rufus Isaacs has had the sympathy and confidence of the entire Profession, and his admirable speech on Wednesday last in the House of Commons, in which he admitted his mistake or error of judgment, was worthy of him as a man of honour and an ornament to the profession that he leads."

This is all very well as far as it goes. It would indeed have been a great misfortune if the personal honour, or professional reputation, of such responsible statesmen as the Attorney-General of England or the Chancellor of the British Exchequer could have been successfully impeached. But again the question arises as in the choice of counsel—why did these honourable gentlemen, both experienced men of the world, and both versed in business, choose to invest their hard earned savings in Marconi stock of all others? Other means of investment were open to them—why choose the stock of a company with