

took the new Speaker by either arm and escorted him to the chair. He briefly expressed his thanks for the honour of being elected to so responsible an office. A large crowd sat in the galleries during these proceedings in the Commons, for it was thought that the opposition might contest the Speakership and lead to an interesting struggle between the parties. The crowd was disappointed, and all interest in Wednesday's programme ceased when Speaker White took the chair. The house adjourned a few minutes later and anticipations of the morrow ruled the hour.



THE SPEAKER ESCORTED TO THE CHAIR.

The formal opening was announced to occur at 3 p.m. on Thursday, but the crowd began to gather on Parliament Hill immediately after noon. A little after one, the stairway and landing in front of the door leading to the floor from which the Senate galleries are reached was crowded with people having tickets, ladies largely predominating, waiting for the door to open. The crush was terrific. These people would have to wait there for nearly an hour, and wait in the gallery another hour before the proceedings began; but they held their ground and fought for places as eagerly as people were wont to do at an old time hanging. They were determined to get in if they were squeezed flat in the effort. An interesting feature in this crowd was an angular and strong-minded female whose voice was frequently raised in rasping protest against the undue familiarities her neighbours appeared to be taking with her toes.



THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

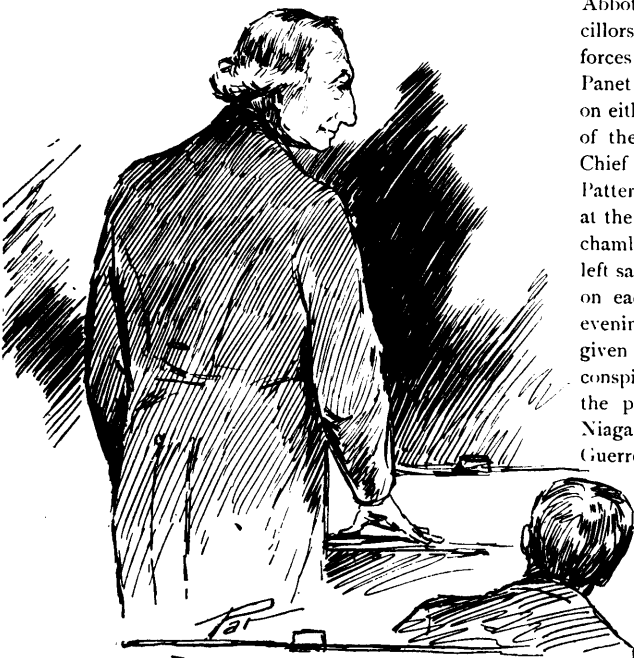
Outside the building a great crowd awaited the coming of the vice-regal party, and over on Nepean Point a detachment of the Field Battery waited to fire the salute that announced the hour of the formal opening of Parliament. At half-past two a picked detachment of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, in bearskins and scarlet tunics, paraded with their band and colours in front of the tower entrance, and were inspected by Major-General Herbert and other officers in brilliant uniforms. The bandsmen wore their new uniform, that of the Imperial Grenadier Guards, and the whole detachment presented an imposing front. A little after three the Governor-General's party, escorted by a detachment of the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards in shining

helmets, dashed up to the entrance. The guard of honour saluted, the band struck up the national anthem, the guns on Nepean Point thundered, and the scarlet breeches and white stockings of the Governor-General's coachman and footman dazzled the eyes of admiring thousands. The scene was an imposing one. There were thousands of spectators on the grounds fronting the massive building, itself the dominant feature of the landscape. The sunlight fell on flashing arms and splendid uniforms, on gaily flowered hats and bright hued dresses, mingling with more sober colours, the whole uniting to present a spectacle of unwonted brilliancy.



THE SOLITARY WESTERN LIBERAL.

With the arrival of Lord Stanley the centre of attraction was transferred to the Senate Chamber, where a courtly throng had already assembled. Those favoured ones who were admitted to the floor of the chamber had gained entry through a side door, and were all in their places when the vice-regal party were ushered in. The galleries, as already intimated, were filled with a rush about an hour before,



SIR JOHN SPEAKS.

and the occupants thereof busied themselves in taking the measure of each new arrival on the floor of the richly upholstered chamber below. The remarks made were not always flattering, nor did all of them betray that profound

reverence for parliamentary procedure which might be looked for at the Capital. The critics were not of the male sex.

"Who's that big fat one—no, not that one—the one that just sat down?" "Oh, look at that one—she must think she's handsome to rig herself like that." "Yes, that must be a Japanese woman. Look at her fan. She doesn't look like them, but that's her. I'd think she'd catch cold." These are a selected sample of the remarks wafted to the ears of the scribe of THE ILLUSTRATED as he stood next the front row and supported a stout matron who cheerfully leaned forward and planted both her elbows upon his shoulders, without so much as saying "by your leave."

The ladies on the floor were, of course, in evening dress, and if it were less becoming to some than to others the gallery critics were not slow to say to each other just what they thought about the matter. It was to not a few of them a stage show—and nothing more. Being taxpayers, they were shareholders, so to speak, in the theatre, and could therefore afford to speak their mind about the quality of the show. Let it be hoped that none of them were envious of the maids and matrons whose brilliant costumes, flashing jewels and bare arms and shoulders were so striking a feature of the splendid scene below. If the word brilliant be applied to the scene out of door, it is difficult to find an expression befitting that within the Senate



THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.

Chamber when His Excellency had taken his seat beneath the coat of arms and crimson canopy of the Vice-Regal party. Grouped on either side of the throne were men in rich uniform. Sir John Macdonald, on whose breast was the glittering gold embroidery of an Imperial Privy Councillor and the star of a Grand Commander of the Bath; Col. Sir Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski, A.D.C.; Hon. Senators Abbott, Carling and Smith in the gold lace of Privy Councillors; Major-General Herbert, commander-in-chief of the forces in Canada; Col. Powell, adjutant-general; Col. Panet and numerous other officers in bright uniforms stood on either side of the dias. On the red woosack just in front of the throne, clad in their scarlet and ermine robes, sat Chief Justice Ritchie and Justices Fournier, Gwynne and Patterson of the Supreme Court. To the right of the throne, at the upper end of the seats ranged along the sides of the chamber, sat the wives of cabinet ministers, while on the left sat Lady Stanley and suite. The front row of benches on each side was reserved for senators, who appeared in evening dress, and the balance of the space available was given up to ladies and a few gentlemen. Among the latter, conspicuous figures were those of Archbishop Duhamel, in the purple vestments of his rank; the Lord Bishop of Niagara and Archdeacon Lauder in sombre garb; Father De Guerre, the Superior of the Franciscans, in the habit of his order; Mayor Birkett, of Ottawa, in his official regalia; Judge McMahon, and a number of clergymen representing various denominations. But brilliant and imposing as was the spectacle afforded by the gentlemen, the magnificent costumes of the ladies formed the chief attraction. The richest and costliest fabrics, in various shades and tints of brilliant colour, set off with diamonds and other sparkling jewels, and flowers the rarest and most beautiful, heightened the charms of the fair women who formed that splendid company, and lent to the scene a richness almost Oriental in its splendour. From the blazing electroliers above and