

nition may be found in the history of the Blaine Educational Bill. This measure was pending in Congress during the whole of Mr. Carlisle's long administration; it passed the Senate three times but was never even voted upon by the House, because Mr. Carlisle would never recognize any member to move to take it up for consideration or to fix a day for its consideration."*

Then we are told—"another duty of the Speaker is to announce the result upon every vote taken by the House, and through this apparently most simple function he is often able to give material help to his party; when the House divides, the Speaker appoints four members to count and report the numbers; when the count is finished he may either announce the result promptly or he may linger, and give his party every opportunity of beating up a majority; that majority once obtained he may announce the vote on the instant and thus deny his opponents a like opportunity."†

But what perhaps may be said to cap the climax of the matter is that it is quite according to usage for the presiding officer of American legislative bodies to suggest points of order to be taken, by upholding which he may check-mate proceedings adverse to his personal wishes. Mr. Blaine, we are told, was anxious to be admitted into the Little Rock Railroad, and promised that he would not be a dead-head in the enterprise. When the bill renewing the land grant to the State of Arkansas for the Little Rock Railroad was brought up, Mr. Blaine being in the Chair as Speaker, an attempt was made to add an amendment to which it was well-known the Senate objected, and which would defeat the Bill. The Little Rock men were in despair and appealed to Blaine for aid. Blaine sent his page to General Logan who was opposed to the amendment, to suggest that he make the point of order that the amendment was "not germane." The point of order was at once made by General Logan and sustained by Speaker Blaine in a ruling which illustrated his incisive manner, and his determination that the bill be not impeded.‡ By a meaning word or a suggestive glance, we read, this parliamentary general, the Speaker, hints his commands to apt and ready followers. Here is another example:—Mr. Mann, "I would like to ask the gentleman a question." Speaker Reed, "The gentleman from Ohio declines to be interrupted." Mr. McKinley (Member for Ohio), "I decline to be interrupted."§

I am sure you have had enough of this. No wonder a Member of the House of Representatives said in 1881,—“When this Republic goes down, . . . it will not be through the man on horse-

* "The Speaker of the House of Representatives," p. 262.

† Ibid. p. 136.

‡ Ibid. p. 108.

§ Ibid. p. 282.