

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT. THE "LIBERAL" GOVERNMENT. THE NEW COERCION BILL. THE CLOTURE.

London, Feb. 1.—In his remarks in the House of Commons to-day, Mr. Parnell said, with considerably greater heat than he had hitherto shown during the debate, that he was ready to stigmatize the Government itself as the greatest obstructionist in all matters relating to Ireland, and added that for the words he had uttered he was prepared to answer with his head or to go to the gallows, as might be most satisfactory to the Government and its supporters.

question as does the seceder of the motion, and then others speak in support of it. In the first twenty-four hours only four Irish members exhausted their right to move an adjournment. At this rate the debate might be maintained for another week if the physical strain were not too great. In view of the indefinite prospect the Government has finally mustered up courage to grapple with the obstructives, and as soon as the present stage of the bill has been disposed of a proposition will, it is said on good authority, be made for the adoption of the cloture. This radical change in Parliamentary procedure cannot, however, be adopted without great assistance. The measure is not looked upon with favor by the Conservatives, who are sure to play the game of obstruction as soon as the Land Bill is introduced. No matter what means the Government may adopt, weeks will probably elapse before Parliament can pass the Coercion bill into a law, and in the meantime the Land League will be adopting vigorous measures to extend its perfect organization over Ireland, and so to meet the bill. It is asserted on good authority that the Government has resolved to suspend the Habeas Corpus by act of state.

Home Rulers, who had left in a body when the Speaker applied the standing order this morning to stop obstruction, the disorderly scenes were renewed. The Home Rulers, who had evidently organized further obstructive measures, began the fight by setting up the claim that the Speaker had acted arbitrarily, and committed a clear breach of privilege. Mr. Parnell led his side making the principal speech, and insisting on the point with unyielding pertinacity. The Speaker informed Mr. Parnell that the matter must be put in the form of a motion, in order to be properly before the House. Upon this Mr. A. M. Sullivan, Home Rule member for Louth, moved to adjourn. Mr. Gladstone vigorously opposed both motions. He said that the House, with the sole exception of the little knot of obstructionists, was unanimous in endorsing the action of the Speaker, and as to the motion to adjourn, the public had, through the press and otherwise, stigmatized such motions during the pendency of this bill as nuisances. Up to the time of sending this despatch the wrangle is still going on, no vote having been taken.

The Speaker then directed the Sergeant-at-Arms to remove Mr. Dillon. Mr. A. M. Sullivan rose to a point of order amid the greatest confusion; during which the Sergeant-at-Arms approached Mr. Dillon, accompanied by five officers. The Sergeant said—"Mr. Dillon, you are not going to use force, I hope." The hon. member then rose, and amid cries of "shame," left the House. Mr. A. M. Sullivan then proceeded to quote the case of the member for Northampton, and said that the Speaker then declared that without a specific motion of the House he could not compel the hon. member to withdraw. He therefore contended that the course taken was one of extreme illegality. He then proceeded to justify the conduct of Mr. Dillon. Mr. Dillon had, he said, been punished by the illegal exercise of usurped authority. Mr. Gladstone then rose to address the House. Mr. Parnell moved that the Right Hon. gentleman be no longer heard, and continuing to speak, he was "named" by the Speaker for disregarding the authority of the Chair. Mr. Gladstone then moved that the hon. member be suspended during the remainder of the sitting. The majority of hon. members proceeded to divide. The Irish members, however, continued to remain in their places and maintained an angry discussion. They were in vain addressed by Mr. Power who appeared to be counselling them to withdraw. Lord Kensington—I have to report Mr. Speaker that I am unable to clear the House because the hon. gentlemen refuse to leave. The Speaker—The hon. members are continuing in a cause which is not becoming. Mr. A. M. Sullivan—We contest the legality of the proceedings. The doors were then opened, and the honorable members returned to their seats. The House then divided as follows:—For the suspension: Yeas, 405; nays, 7; majority, 398. The Speaker—Some hon. members did not move from their places, consequently their votes were not recorded, but Mr. Parnell, in consequence of this resolution, must withdraw. The Sergeant-at-Arms then touched Mr. Parnell. Mr. Parnell—I respectfully decline to withdraw except by superior force. The five officers again entered the House and Mr. Parnell withdrew in their company. Mr. Gladstone rose, and after referring to the conduct of hon. members in refusing to take part in the division was proceeding with his statement upon the motion of which he had given notice when, Mr. Finnigan moved that the Prime Minister be no longer heard. He was "named" by the speaker for disregarding the ruling of the chair and informed that his conduct was that of wilful obstruction. Mr. Gladstone then moved that the offending members be suspended from the service of the House. The motion being put from the chair, the House again divided, the Irish members remaining in their places. This fact was reported to the Speaker by Lord Kensington. The Speaker called upon the hon. members to leave, as they were disregarding the authority of the chair. The names of members were then taken by the Clerk at the table, the Irish members meanwhile sitting in perfect silence. During the division a strong body of police were in readiness to remove, if necessary, the recalcitrant members. The members in favor of suspension were 405; against, 2; majority, 403. The Speaker then said he had to report the following gentlemen as having refused to leave the House: Messrs. Barry, Biggar, Gray, W. G. Corbet, Dally, Dawson, Gill, E. Gray, H. V. Lalor, Leahy, Leamy, McCarthy, McLean, Murray, Metzger, Nelson, A. O'Connor, T. P. O'Connor, W. H. O'Sullivan, The O'Donoghues, Gorman Mahon, O'Connor Power, Redmond, Sexton, A. M. Sullivan, T. D. Sullivan and Smithwick. Another disorderly scene then ensued. The motion was put from the chair for their suspension from the House. They left the House one after another amid laughter and cheers. The House divided for the motion, 410 against 6; majority, 404. The members were then ordered to withdraw and declined to do so unless forced. Upon being spoken to by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Barry, the first on the list, refused to leave the House and was ejected by Capt. Gossett. The same process was repeated in the case of the other members. The Rev. Isaac Nelson created some laughter by holding firmly to the bench on which he was sitting. Mr. O'Sullivan said that this was not the first time he had been illegally arrested by Parliament. Mr. Molloy was subsequently "named" and was called upon to retire. It was discovered, however, that he had withdrawn. Mr. Gladstone then rose to propose his resolution on Obstruction, when Mr. O'Donnell moved that the Premier be not heard. The House proceeded to divide but it was reported that Mr. O'Shaughnessy and Mr. R. Power had refused to leave the House during the division. The division was then taken. For the motion, 311; against, 1. Majority, 310. Lord Grosvenor then reported that two honorable members had declined to withdraw. The Speaker then ordered Mr. O'Donnell to withdraw as a protest against liberty. He then withdrew in company with the Sergeant-at-Arms. The other two hon. members were then "named" and ordered to withdraw. No challenge of the ruling being made, they were removed. Mr. Gladstone then proceeded to bring forward his motion, and made a statement with regard to the course taken in putting down obstruction. Henry moved the adjournment of the debate as a protest against injustice. Sir Joseph McKenna (Home Ruler) seconded the motion. Harrington said he could not admit there was any validity in the argument founded on the absence of certain members through their own misconduct. The motion was defeated by 371 to 28. The first amendment of Northcote to be added to the original resolution was agreed to. Northcote's second amendment, that the majority to decide the question of urgency must consist of not less than 300 members, was rejected by 234 to 150. The Government subsequently adopted a slight amendment, affected by Northcote and Gladstone's resolution as amended was agreed to. Gladstone then moved the Bill for the Protection of Life and Property in Ireland was urgent. Motion carried. The House then adjourned. The only English members of the House of Commons who voted against Mr. Dillon's suspension were Mr. Cowen (Radical and Home Ruler) and Mr. Labouchere (advanced Liberal); they also voted against Mr. Parnell's suspension, but not against Mr. Finnigan's. The six members who voted against the suspension of the 28 Home Rulers, refusing to go out on a division of the House, were Messrs. Callan (Liberal), Cowen, La-

bouchere, Macdonald (Liberal), Macfarlane (Home Ruler) and Sir Joseph McKenna (Home Ruler). The Parnellites decided, after division upon the second reading of the Coercion Bill, to announce their intention of abandoning further protest against the Government's measure, as opposition is hopeless. Mr. Bryce (Liberal) will ask on Monday whether the Government will inquire into the condition of David's health, and that privilege may be granted him. It is believed that the question is in accordance with the sentiments of a large number of the members. (CONCLUDED ON EIGHTH PAGE.) A SECRET CHAMBER. THE TERRIBLE SECRET OF AN ARCHITECT'S MEASUREMENTS DISCLOSED. The London correspondent of the New York Times contributes the following medicinal romance: The owner of the place, a jovial old country gentleman, with a large family, began to find his house somewhat too small for the requirements of the countless guests with whom he required to fill it. He sent for an eminent architect, and consulted him as to the possibility of adding a room or two without injury to the appearance of the building. The architect went to work at once, inspected the house within and without, made sundry measurements, and returned to his host with the complacent air of a man who has found out something worth knowing. "I'm fortunate enough," said he, with a smile, "to have come just in time to save you from a very useless labour. Do you know that while you are talking of adding new rooms to your house you have a room in it at this moment which you have never used yet?" "What on earth do you mean?" asked the bewildered squire. "I mean," answered the professional, with scientific superiority, "that the measurements which I have just been taking leave several square yards of the house's area unaccounted for; in other words, there is somewhere within its walls a secret chamber of which you know nothing." The squire laughed the idea to scorn, but his wife, captivated by the romantic suggestion of a possible "bluebeard's chamber" in her house, at once ranged herself on the side of the architect, and insisted that the mysterious room should be searched for and found. "It exists," retorted the architect, somewhat nettled by the implied doubt of his judgment, "but I am positive that I can point out the very spot where it is to be found. Pick a hole in the wall that closes the east end of the great corridor on the third floor, and if you do not find the secret chamber lying behind I will gladly pay all the expenses of the search. The proprietor, beginning to feel interested in spite of himself, at once agreed to the proposal, and the workmen were promptly called in. A few sturdy blows sufficed to bring down the wall, already old and crumbling. Behind it, to the great exultation of the architect and the amazement of the still incredulous squire, appeared a mouldering oaken door, which was speedily driven in, revealing a dark recess, from which exhaled a strange, sickening odor. The architect, taking a lighted candle from one of the bystanders—for by this time the whole household had assembled to watch the progress of the excavation—squeezed himself through the aperture, but instantly sprang back with a cry of horror. The squire more courageous or less imprudent, entered in his turn, and this is what he saw: Hidden in the thickness of the wall lay a small oval chamber, once lighted by a narrow diamond-paned window, which had been completely bricked up from the outside. The furniture was of rich antique casts the carved oak table spread with costly dishes and silver flagons, but dust and cobwebs covered all, and the very hangings were rotting upon the mouldering walls. Rats were heard scraping and knawing behind a wainscot, and huge slimy beetles were crawling about the damp floor. The crowing horror of this living tomb lay elsewhere. On the mildewed couch beside the table a human skeleton was shrunk together in a position of hideous distortion, while another sat crouching in a corner, with its bony fingers thrust between its yellow rattling jaws, as if the wretch had knawed the flesh of his bones in the desperation of the last agony. The news of the ghastly revelation flew abroad like wildfire, stimulating the otol authorities to solve, if possible, the mystery of the horrible secret. Their zeal at length ferreted out the legend of a death bed confession made by the last hereditary owner of the place in the days of James I. In vengeance for his wife's infidelity, he had decoyed her par amour into the fatal chamber, where he buried them up alive with his own hands. As a further refinement of cruelty, he had previously spread the table with a splendid banquet, every morsel of which was poisoned, thus giving the poor wretches only the chance of starvation or suicide. What horrors that lonely chamber witnessed before the end came none but God can tell; but the distorted attitudes of the two victims sufficiently showed in what fearful agonies they must have died.

PARISH OF TRES SAINT REDEMPTEUR. At a meeting of the electors of the Parish of Tres Saint Redempteur, lately detached from the Parish of Rigaud, the following gentlemen were elected Councillors: John McCabe, J. Magloire Quessol, F. D. Tessier, Joseph Sequin, Trefle Brayeau, Joseph Laframboise, Jr., Napoleon Lalonde. The polls were kept open for two days. Notwithstanding the division that reigned in the two camps the above persons were elected with a good majority. On January 31 at a meeting of the new Councillors John McCabe, Esq., was unanimously elected Mayor of the New Municipality. Joseph Laframboise, Jr., was chosen as Secretary-Treasurer. WIT AND HUMOR. A man knows what "The Charge of the Light Brigade" is when he gets his gas bill. Augustus Darble (artist): "Don't you think it is about time I exhibited something?" Severin (critic—examining Darble's latest production): "Yes, a little talent, for instance." "The little girl who was disappinted because her name could not be found in the bible says: 'Never mind! I shall be such a good girl that if ever another Bible is written my name shall go into it.'" The most amusing man in the world is a Frenchman trying to evict his rug in English: "By gaw, you call my wife a woman three several times once more, and I will call the watch-house and blow off your brain like a candle." Science enumerates five hundred and eighty-eight species of organic forms in the air we breathe. Just think of it! Every time you draw in a breath a whole zoological garden slips down your windpipe, and no free ticket. A distinguished foreigner, visiting the country, remarked that the United States was the best country he ever saw for well dressed beggars. He referred to the young men who hang round the entrance to churches. Only paupers do so abroad. BREVETTES. Prairie-settlers in Minnesota are suffering terribly from the fuel famine. Shocks of an earthquake have been distinctly heard along the Hudson. The new Credit Foncier have opened out their offices in Quebec, and begun business. Of the 42 candidates for diplomas of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, 26 were successful. An Irishman in Quebec has just returned from a pilgrimage to the Church at Knock, Ireland. A Company is being formed in Paris for the importation of American cattle on a large scale. A fisherman of Kingston found a \$20 gold piece in a pike which he caught in the Bay of Quinte. Lumbermen are experiencing much difficulty in getting men for the shanties up the Ottawa. The colonial members of the Spanish Cortes will protest against the higher duties on sugar. It is said the Commissioner of Fisheries is preparing a report on the charges made by Professor Hind. John Clair, recovered \$5,000 from the Brooklyn City Railroad Company for the loss of a leg. The late Hon. Mr. Letellier's life was not insured, and he died leaving scarcely any provision for his family. Hon. J. A. Chapleau and Hon. Mr. Paquet, of the Quebec Government, have had an interview with Sir John Macdonald. The Chicago & Alton Railroad to day declared a half-yearly dividend of 4 per cent upon both common and preferred stock. There appears to be some probability that the boy in care of the German farmer living near London, Ont., is the veritable Charley Ross. The arrest and imprisonment of the chiefs and subordinates of the Department of Public Administration, Havana, accused of frauds, continues. The Mutual Union Telegraph Company, capital of \$50,000 to do business in Pennsylvania and adjoining States was chartered yesterday. Mr. Fairfax William Cartwright, Conservative member of Parliament for Northamptonshire, South, is dead, at the age of 55 years. The death is announced of the Rev. Mother St. Ignace, nee Marie Virginia Audette, for the last 35 years a nun of the Hotel Dieu, Quebec. There is a water famine in parts of the city of Belleville, many of the mills having run dry owing to the continued severe cold weather. The mad Doreau, of Kingston, who was shot on Simcoe Island last fall, has almost entirely recovered; the ball still remains in his body. While some plumbers were attending to repairs to the boiler in the Royal Insurance Company's building, Toronto, the other day, the boiler burst, doing \$250 damage. The men escaped. The entries at the Custom Houses of the Island of Cuba in December show an increase of \$22,000 revenue over the same month in previous year. W. W. Waddell, an employee of Messrs. J. Calder & Co., wholesale clothiers, Hamilton, died suddenly yesterday from a combination of pulmonary affections. A meeting of the Toronto Branch of the Land League was held last night. Trouble was expected with the Orange Young Britons, but nothing occurred. A farm-house about five miles from Acton, Ont., occupied by James Dunn and family, was burned to the ground yesterday morning. The inmates barely escaped with their lives. At a meeting of the Senate of Toronto University, held last night, Mr. Alfred Baker, B.A., was elected Registrar, in the room of Mr. W. G. Falconbridge, M.A., resigned. In all the Catholic Churches of New York, Thursday, were gathered persons seeking the intercession of St. Blasius, supposed to be especially powerful against the scourge of diphtheria. Chas. Britton and J. J. Woodruff, the confidence men who swindled farmer John Armstrong, of Toronto, out of a \$50 bet that he could not open a jack-knife, were sent to jail for thirty days yesterday morning. At a soiree given by Bismarck, the other night, he said a serious beginning must be made with the fulfillment of his promise to combat social democracy by a remedial measure and not by perrepressive decrees. The Earl of Kimberley, Colonial Secretary, speaking at a dinner in London last night, said that the negotiations which are now proceeding relative to the Basutos will end in a speedy settlement of disturbances in Basutoland. A man named Fairbanks was shot in a Detroit Hotel on Tuesday night. He had been playing cards with two women, and it is not known whether he committed suicide, or was shot by one of his companions. The women were arrested. The Toronto whiskey detective, who has been in Ottawa for some time past, has left without having an opportunity of making a case. The Lower Town saloon-keepers promised to make it hot for him. The annual session of the Provincial Farmers' Association was opened at Sackville, N. B., yesterday afternoon. A letter was received from Sir S. L. Tilley saying a steamboat company proposed to put on a line from Montreal in the summer and St. John in the winter. Mm. Hickey, of the firm of Hickey & Bell, Ottawa, recently broke through the ice on Lake Temecamagie, and had a narrow escape from drowning. He had his feet badly frozen in walking from the lake to the nearest farmhouse, 7 miles, and it is feared they will have to be amputated. The Inland Navigation outlook is better than last year. Charters have already been made to carry 14 cargoes of Oak timber from Canadian ports on Lake Erie to Kingston at \$87.50 per 1,000 cubic feet, and one charter at \$90 per 1,000; also from Bay City to Kingston at \$1.30 per 1,000, and it is reported that another charter has been made at \$135. The Superintendent of the Toronto Observatory has received from York Factory in the Hayes river the dates of the opening and closing of navigation for the past 52 years. The information is valuable, in view of the propositions to establish a steamship line via Hudson Bay to Europe. The average date of the opening of navigation has been May 20th, the extremes being May 7th and June 1st. The average date of closing has been November 22nd, the extremes being November 3rd and December 9th. Six months of the year are thus open on the average.