

respect, their progress through Parliament is subject to all the regulations prescribed for the conduct of Private Bills, and they are not exempt from the payment of fees^(a). Part I.

The second Order, above mentioned, respecting Fees, often occasions considerable difficulty in its construction, especially as regards the one or more "double fees" authorized to be taken by it, in cases where provision is made in a Bill for the benefit of more than one distinct interest; such questions, however, are generally settled by a reference to the practice of the House in similar cases^(b). Fees.

Before the introduction into Parliament of by far the greater proportion of Private Bills, Public Notices of the intended application are required to be given. The Notice varies both in nature and extent, according to the class of the application, and the circumstances connected with it. It is unnecessary to go into any detail respecting Notices; in so far as they concern our present purpose they will come under observation in the second section, and it will suffice here to refer to the Standing Orders, where they are fully described and provided for^(c). Notices

According to the original practice of the House of Commons, but little preliminary investigation into the merits of a private application took place before Former practice in the House of Commons on Private Bills.

(a) May, 402 ; 2 Hats., 285 n. And see the Primrose Hill Bill, in 1842, which, though introduced by motion, on behalf of the Crown, was not allowed to proceed, except on condition of supplying a deficiency in the compliance with the Standing Orders,—(Commons' Journals, v. 97, p. 357.) See also Sessional Papers, House of Commons, 1843, v. 30, p. 472,—an entry of payments made on behalf of Government, through its Solicitors, for expenses of passing Private Bills. The Return itself (p. 459, &c.) is a detail of the amount of expenditure for the Law Expenses of Public Departments.

(b) Bramwell, 13.

(c) S. O. H. of C. 1845, No. 14, &c.