

A MANUAL
OF
PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE.

IMPORTANCE OF RULES.

SECTION I.

The Importance of adhering to rules.—Mr. Onslow, the ablest among the speakers of the House of Commons, used to say, “it was a maxim he had often heard when he was a young man, from old and experienced members, that nothing tended more to throw power into the hands of administration, and those who acted with the majority of the House of Commons, than a neglect of, or departure from, the rules of proceeding: that these forms, as instituted by our ancestors, operated as a check, and controul on the actions of the majority, and that they were in many instances, a shelter and protection to the minority, against the attempts of power.” So far the maxim is certainly true, and is founded in good sense, that as it is always in the power of the majority, by their numbers, to stop any improper measures imposed on the part of their opponents, the only weapons by which the minority can defend themselves against similar attempts from those in power, are