

satisfy the general feeling in the appointment of a chairman, and then give him a committee which reflects the Speaker's, not the chairman's, views, and with which, therefore, the chairman cannot act. In 1871 Blaine (the Speaker) "appointed Butler chairman of a committee on Ku-Klux outrages, much against his will, as the committee was so constituted that it would wish to bring in entirely different measures on reconstruction from those favoured by Butler."

When we have grasped the fact that the Speaker of the House of Representatives is at liberty so to use his prerogatives as to the committees as best to suit his own views, we are prepared for anything. No one, of course, can address the House without catching the Speaker's eye; that is, the Speaker has the power of recognition, and you will be quite prepared to hear that "the practice has gradually grown up of the Speaker using this ordinary parliamentary duty for political purposes, and recognizing only such persons as he pleases. Again and again when a man rises, the Speaker asks, 'For what purpose?'"* The records of Congress almost parallel the story of a lieutenant-governor of a Western State, who, when presiding over the Senate, turned to the doorkeeper and said, "Go out and find Senator Gunson; he is somewhere about the Capitol, and tell him that he has been recognized and has the floor." One is not surprised to read that Mr. J. G. Blaine, when Speaker from 1869 to 1875, was eminently successful in turning his ordinary parliamentary duties to party or to personal use. "Members complained that it was difficult to get the floor while Blaine was in the chair unless the measures to be introduced had his favour, and that he sometimes demanded that legislative matter should be amended before he would allow it to be offered."† The practice as to the Speaker's power of recognition," says Miss Follett,‡ "makes possible the neutralizing of members whom the Speaker dislikes. They may be put on committees which have no business to transact; and cases are not wanting where members have sat through two years of service without being permitted to catch the Speaker's eye. Such misuse of power permits the Speaker practically to take away the representation of a district." "At the adjournment of Congress in 1887," Dr. Bushnell Hart tells us—"a member from Nebraska, who had a bill for a public building in his district, and who could not obtain the Speaker's recognition, walked for two hours up and down in front of the desk, entreating, cajoling and ejaculating, and in the end tore his bill into fragments and deposited them as a protest at the Speaker's feet."§ An interesting example of the extent to which Mr. Carlisle, Speaker from 1883 to 1889, carried the power of recog-

* "The Speaker of the House of Representatives," p. 250.

† Ibid. p. 261. ‡ Ibid. p. 269.

§ "Practical Essays on American Government," p. 14.

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† Ibid.
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