

the license by which the stranger is allowed to be present, and to order him to withdraw, and if necessary to remove him as a trespasser—a lengthy and undignified proceeding, ending in no appearance before a magistrate, unless the stranger passes beyond the stage of passive resistance. In the metropolis the vestries and district boards have power under the Metropolis Management Act, 1855 (18 & 19 Vict., c. 120), s. 202, to make bye-laws for the regulation of the business and proceedings at their meetings. In many, if not in most cases, these include one in the following form: ‘Any stranger misconducting himself or in any way interfering in or with or interrupting the business of the vestry shall be requested by the chairman to withdraw, and shall, if necessary, be removed.’ But this bye-law is open to the objection already indicated, that no penalty is provided for the interference or for resistance to the order to withdraw, and inasmuch as the recent increase of interest in London municipal politics has led to a large attendance of persons not always able to realise that they are not to take part in debate by assent, dissent, or speech, the necessity of spying and ejecting strangers has led to consideration as to more effectual modes of coping with turbulent constituents. The late Home Secretary, however, was induced to sanction a bye-law imposing a penalty on such strangers, which is, we believe, in the following form: ‘Any person, not being a vestryman, who shall be guilty of disorderly conduct, or shall interfere with or interrupt the business or proceedings of the vestry, and who shall not withdraw when called upon by the chairman so to do, shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding 40s.’ And the present Home Secretary is, we understand, following on the lines of his predecessor with other cases. But it remains to be seen whether the approval of the Home Secretary will satisfy the Courts of the validity of the bye-law, and how the magistrates will construe its somewhat elaborate provisions, which appear to be conditions precedent to a summary conviction of a disorderly and recalcitrant stranger. It is to be observed that section 279 of the Act of 1855 gives authority to vestry officials and constables to arrest persons, whose name and address is not known, offending against bye-laws.—*Law Journal (London)*.