

ful man in the nation, and that his influence increases. Everyone has heard the story of the artist, Whistler, who, when some lady admirer told him that she considered Millais and himself the two greatest artists of the day, replied:—"I don't see why you want to drag in Millais." When one reads Miss Follett's pages, one is tempted to think that the Speaker of the House of Representatives might well say to Dr. Bushnell Hart, "I don't see why you want to drag in the President."

Miss Follett observes* in words which seem almost cynical: "Speakers now, following the example of such predecessors as Clay" (Speaker from 1811 to 1814), "seek to give their party every possible advantage from their position in the chair; yet, on occasions when nothing is to be gained by partisanship, they attempt to keep up the fiction of the Speaker as a parliamentary officer." The Speaker of the House of Commons at Ottawa, as he steps into the chair is expected to shake from him all party ties and to administer parliamentary law with absolute impartiality to friends and foes. The Speaker of the House of Representatives, as already stated, is an avowed partisan, and as Miss Follett says, "is not only allowed but expected to use his position to advance party interests."† But it would seem that matters have gone further than this. Miss Follett says:‡ "The idea which Carlyle, Reed and Crisp" (Speakers from 1885 to the time of publication of her book), "have sought to establish is that of a Speaker with a legislative policy of his own, using every possible means to impose that policy on majority as well as minority." In another place our author says:§ "The House of Commons can no longer be called the government. Professor Seeley tells us it is only the government-making power. The House of Representatives in the same way is no longer the legislative power, but it is not even the maker of the legislative power; it is but the maker of the real maker, the Speaker of the House of Representatives."

We have seen that it rests with the Speaker to constitute the all-powerful committees, and he is now himself *ex-officio* the chairman of the most important committee, the-Committee of Rules, of which he of course also appoints the other two members. "This committee," says Miss Follett,¶ "practically decides what shall be considered, how long debates shall last, and when the votes shall be taken. The calendars are too crowded for any measures to come forward not favoured by this powerful body of three persons." "The Speaker," she says,|| "has many opportunities to constitute the committees so that he may to a great extent procure or prevent what legislation he wishes; he may give a good committee to a poor chairman, or he may

* P. 72.

† P. 300.

‡ P. 273.

§ P. 247.

¶ P. 276.

|| P. 228.