

Chamber, a fair room in the Abbey of Westminster. At the upmost end there is a chair set on one frame, a foot from the floor, for the Mr. Prolocutor, Dr. Twisse. Before it on the ground stands two chairs for the two Mr. Assessors (or vice-chairmen), Dr. Burgess and Mr. Whyte. Before these two chairs, through the length of the room, stands a table, at which sits the two scribes. The house is all well hung, and has a good fire, which is some dainties at London. Foranent the table, upon the prolocutor's right hand, there are three or four ranks of forms. On the lowest we five (that is, Scottish commissioners) do sit. Upon the other, at our backs, the members of Parliament deputed to the assembly. On the forms foranent us, on the prolocutor's left hand, and all round about to our seats, are four or five stages of forms, whereupon their divines sits as they please; albeit commonly they keep the same place.....We meet every day of the week but Saturday. We sit commonly from nine to one or two afternoon. The prolocutor, at the beginning and end, has a short prayer. Ordinarily, there will be present above threescore of their divines. These are divided in three committees; in one whereof every man is a member. No man is excluded who pleases to come to any of the three. Every committee takes a portion, and in their afternoon meeting prepares matters for the assembly, sets down their mind in distinct propositions, backs their propositions with texts of scripture. After the prayer Mr. Byfield, the scribe, reads the proposition and scriptures, whereupon the assembly debates in a most grave and orderly way. No man is called up to speak; but who stands up of his own accord, he speaks so long as he will without interruption. If two or three stand up at once, then the divines confusedly calls on his name whom they desire to hear first; on whom the loudest and maniest voices calls he speaks. No man speaks to any but to the prolocutor. They harangue long and very learnedly. They study the questions well beforehand, and prepare their speeches; but withall the men are exceeding prompt and well spoken. I do marvel at the very accurate and extemporal replies that many of them usually do make." Baillie goes on to explain their method of voting, and notes that "they follow the way of their parliament," which is the way of the House of Commons to our own day.

On the 14th of September three of the Scottish commis-