

member, must be elected and take his seat as Speaker. But, in respect to this rule, the question is whether we can dispense with it. Sir, the House of Commons the other day, in the Kenealy case, thought that it was a matter of the very greatest difficulty, with a Speaker in the chair. One would have thought that, if it was a matter of but little importance, he might take his seat as sundry members have done to-day, and that the act might pass *sub silentio*. But, when Dr. Kenealy presented himself, he could not get, as we all know, in the whole House of Commons, two gentlemen to introduce him; and this shows the very high standard, and the very correct standard, that prevails in the Imperial House of Commons. The question then arose there whether the rule should operate so strongly as to prevent a man, with all Dr. Kenealy's faults, with all Dr. Kenealy's supposed delinquencies, taking his seat; whether a man could be kept out of his seat after having been elected by the people, because he really could not get two men, an introducer and a seconder, to introduce him. That point was discussed, and the debate was a very interesting one, showing the importance which the House of Commons in England attaches to the Constitution and to the maintaining of the old rule that, whenever a member was elected, he should be introduced by two members. And the necessity of the case was such that Mr. Disraeli, then at the head of the Government, moved that the resolution of 1688, which I have mentioned, should be dispensed with on that occasion, because the Speaker announced, when Mr. Kenealy presented himself to take his seat, that he (the Speaker) was obliged to carry out the rules of Parliament.

"Mr. Edward Vaughan Kenealy, who had been returned to the House for the Borough of Stoke-upon-Trent, in the room of Mr. Melly, who had accepted the office of Steward of the Chiltern Hundreds, came to the table to be sworn without being introduced by two members according to custom, whereupon Mr. Speaker said: I have to point out to the hon. member that, according to the uniform practice of this House, when a new member comes into the House for the first time, it is usual that he should be introduced by two members of the House,

and I have to ask him whether two members of this House are prepared to so introduce him according to the practice of the House."

Mr. Kenealy said:—

"I am aware, Mr. Speaker, of the practice of the House; at the same time I am not aware of any law or any rule which deprives the House of the right of administering the oath to me, as member for the Borough of Stoke-upon-Trent."

Mr. Kenealy then went on to argue the case, and Mr. Speaker said:—

"I have to call the attention of the House to a resolution of this House on the 23rd of February, 1688 with reference to this practice. It is recorded in the Journals of this House in these terms:—

"The House being informed that it was an ancient form and custom of the House, that upon new members coming into the House, they be introduced to the table between two members, making their obeisances as they go up, that they may be the better known to the House,—Resolved, that said order and custom be for the future observed."

"This resolution has been invariably acted upon by this House up to this time. I have had diligent search made in the Journals of the House and I do not find that any departure from the practice has ever been sanctioned. The House will observe that the object of the Resolution appears to be to identify the member. It is my duty in this chair to see the Resolutions of this House enforced; but, should the House think fit upon this special occasion to dispense with its former Resolution, it will give the necessary directions.

"Mr. Kenealy: Am I to understand, Mr. Speaker, that you will not hear me on this matter?"

"Mr. Speaker: While a question of this nature affecting the conduct or action of a member is under consideration, it is in accordance with the practice of the House that the hon. member should withdraw."

I, however, do not request the withdrawal of the hon. member for Gloucester, who is in the House at this moment. Mr. Kenealy withdrew and Mr. Disraeli said:—

"I hope, Sir, that in this case the ordinary rules will not be enforced. The identity of the new member cannot, I believe, be questioned. Although for myself I think the rule in question an excellent rule, and it is one which I trust will be strictly observed in the future, yet I think there are circumstances connected with the present case which render it desirable that we should not insist upon its enforcement. I beg to move that the rule be on this occasion dispensed with."

The motion was made and the question was carried, that such resolution of the House be dispensed with on this occasion. So that, if that special