

country to the other. Lord Castlereagh exhibited himself as "*standing prostrate*" at the foot of Majesty, and as "walking forward with his back turned on himself." Sir Frederick Flood, one of the Irish members, and a great stickler for *verbatim* reports, appeared one morning as having, on the previous evening, enlightened and delighted the House with the following profound philosophy and brilliant eloquence:—"Mr. Spaker: As I was coming down to this House, to perform my duty to the country and old Ireland, I was brutally attacked, sir, by a mob, Mr. Spaker, of ragamuffins, sir. If sir, any honourable gentleman is to be assaulted, Mr. Spaker, by such a parcel of spalpeens, sir, as were after attacking me, Mr. Spaker, then I say, Mr. Spaker, that if you do not, Mr. Spaker, be after protectin' gentleman like meself, sir, we cannot be after coming to the House of Parliament at all, at all, Mr. Spaker. And, sir, may I be after axing you, sir, what, sir, would become, sir, of the business of the country, Mr. Spaker? Will you, sir, be after answerin' meself that question, Mr. Spaker? It's meself that would like an answer, sir, to the question, sir, as soon as convenient, sir, which I have asked you, Mr. Spaker."

This, as may well be supposed, proved an extinguisher to Sir Frederick Flood's *preachment* for *verbatim* reporting. He went—the day on which his oration appeared—to the editors of all the morning papers, and said he would thereafter leave his speeches to "the discretion of the reporters."

PROVINCIAL JOURNALS ADMITTED TO THE PRESS GALLERY OF THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS.

REPORTING in the British House of Commons has, during this session, received many additional facilities. It has been arranged to accommodate nearly double the number of reporters in the press gallery, which has been heretofore confined to London newspapers and press associations. This year many of the provincial journals will be represented, but as only one representative is allowed to each journal, and as it takes about five times as long to transcribe notes as to take them down, it is evident that alone it would be impossible for a provincial journal to have full reports of the debates in their paper the next morning. This is overcome by what is known as "combinations" composed of seven or eight representatives of as many journals and they form themselves into a "gang," who, in turn, appoint one of their number captain to direct the efforts of the others. He perhaps decides that each shall have three minute turns, and with watch in hand gives the signal for one man to begin and another to take his place when time is up. Then six or eight men writing three minutes each, gives each man fifteen minutes or more to

transcribe his notes, and by the time the last of the "gang" has had his turn, the first will have had his notes transcribed and be ready to go on again. The paper for transcription is the semi-transparent, and is arranged between as many black sheets as there are representatives in the combination, so that each one has a copy to send to his journal. In this way, on a speech of two hours duration, the first member of the "gang" will have completed his work before the speaker, and the last will finish a few minutes after the oration is closed.

What may be done by this kind of union was illustrated on one occasion at Birmingham, when Mr. Bright was supplied with a printed copy of his speech before he had left the platform.

PROPOSED CONGRESS OF JOURNALISTS.

From the Reporters' Magazine.

THE representatives of the press in the city of Brussels were recently invited to attend a meeting for the purpose of considering a proposal relative to the establishment, in Brussels, of a central office for the press of all nations. It was proposed to name a committee to issue a circular to the chief editors of the press, inviting them to attend a Congress to be held in September next, and to prepare a programme. The object of the Congress, as stated, was not very clearly defined, and was generally found to be impracticable. After a long discussion, in the course of which the English correspondents present explained that they had no authority to take any action whatever in the name of the papers they represented, the matter was left to the Belgian press-committee, who will probably issue invitations to the Congress to be held there at some future time, without, as far as appeared, any definite objects.

There have been many talks of a Congress of journalists, and we believe the journalists of Germany and Italy did meet and draw up for themselves codes of honor. But in the absence of a representative, and recognized association of journalists, of each nation, we fail to see how "a central office of the press of all nations" can be regarded as other than a purely chimerical idea.

Is there, however, any reason why journalists in this country should not form for themselves a representative association for the fraternal discussion of matters affecting their profession? Such an association might do much to promote the best interests of journalism in many ways. Some of the most useful reforms, and not a few of the grandest schemes of science, have been initiated in papers read before representative associations. Then why should not journalists combine and agree to spend a pleasant evening together, now and then, to discuss, in a friendly way, the history of their past, the stirring incidents of their careers, or even the crude fancies of to-day, which, after all, may perhaps be destined to become the revolutionary force of no very distant morrow.