

### TRADITIONS OF PARLIAMENT.

We received a letter from a valued correspondent who writes as follows:—

“In your editorial entitled, ‘Traditions of Parliament’ you ask, Why choose the stock of a company with which the Government of which they were members was actually in negotiation or had been or might be? As I understand such reports of the investigation into the Marconi case as I have seen, the American Marconi Company, whose shares were bought by Mr. Lloyd George and Sir Rufus Isaacs, was not a company with which the Government of which they were members was actually in negotiation or had been or might be, but a distinct and unrelated company whose shares might be expected to advance in synchrony with those of the English Marconi Company, because of the similarity of name, and the inducement to buy them was a broker’s tip. If I am right, your insinuation is unfair; if I am mistaken, I wish you would point out to me the evidence for my correction.”

It seems to us that our correspondent himself supplies the answer to his objection to our criticism. Whilst it is true that the British Government were not distinctly negotiating with the American Company in which the Attorney-General and Mr. Lloyd George had taken shares, it was nevertheless a company which would probably be indirectly affected by any action of the Government of which they are members. The better the condition of the company with which the Government was negotiating the more valuable would become the shares taken in the company which was in sympathy with it. In truth, our correspondent, without, perhaps, intending it, advances a strong argument to shew that the action of these ministers was most unfortunate; and as *The Times* said, “they made a mistake in walking into a puddle which might easily have been avoided.” We agree with the opinion expressed by that writer that a frank acknowledgment of the mistake, with the procedure known as throwing yourself on the mercy of the Court, would have made a better impression on the public.