

or for Mr. Balfour, for example, to find an Irish member quite near him commenting to a brother member in no flattering terms upon the sentiments he is expressing. But these old parliamentarians get used to these things no doubt, and pay little attention to them.

"Question time" has arrived and is now nearly over. Almost every member of the Cabinet has had to satisfy the desire for knowledge on the part of some member. Nothing of very great importance has yet transpired. The noble lords of the realm are gradually filling up the gallery just in front of where I sit. I overheard one middle-aged lord greet another equally old with, "Hello, Johnny! how are you, old boy?" Another asks a titled companion, "Who is to follow Randy?" and received an answer, "Blake." The word came trippingly off his tongue, as if the name of our great Canadian scholar and jurist were as familiar to him as any of the great names of English statesmen. The Prince of Wales walks in with his son the Duke of York, and I am permitted to have a near view of the Heir to the Throne. A handsome man is the Prince, a splendid specimen of the English gentleman. The Duke of York does not look at all strong, and with his small head and fair beard barely escapes the reproach of looking insignificant. Everybody is ready and anxious to hear Lord Randolph Churchill. But he is not yet to obtain a hearing.

Quietly and without warning there rose from the Irish benches an unostentatious, demure-looking gentleman whose voice, manner and general appearance no one would associate with scenes of excitement or tumult. It was, I learned afterwards, Sir Thomas Esmonde, whip of the anti-Parnellites, and it was a simple question of his that lit the train which produced a most exciting situation. At a Liberal-Unionist dinner Viscount Wolmer had made the assertion that the Irish members were in the pay of the Gladstonian party. Sir Thomas Esmonde's question to him was, "Are you correctly reported and if so do you still retain those sentiments?" The Viscount's answer was in the affirmative though he disclaimed, he said, any intention of criticising the Irish members; his aim was against the Government. "However," he continued, "if the Irish members will