

upon three times before they are finally passed. The first reading is commonly without discussion, the second reading involves debate and perhaps amendments, while the third reading is a final adoption or rejection of the bill as amended. All bills involving taxation and the expenditure of money must originate and must receive their final form in the House of Commons.

The Commons *adjourn* from day to day, or perhaps for a whole month. Parliament is *prorogued* by the king when the business of the session is finished. After the king *dissolves* Parliament, a general election must take place before another Parliament can meet.

295. **Cabinet government.**—It has already been explained how the few trusted advisers of the kings obtained the name of *Cabinet*. It has also been pointed out that after the accession of the House of Hanover, the kings took little part in actual government. This, of course, still further increased the importance of the king's Cabinet; in fact, made it the real ruler of the kingdom.

It is quite true that George III tried to assert the same control over his ministers as was exercised by the kings of England before the eighteenth century. It is also true that he was largely successful, but he exercised his control by choosing only such ministers as would do his bidding. He did not interfere directly with Cabinet meetings, nor make any changes in the powers of Cabinet ministers.

After the Reform Bill of 1832, Cabinet government assumed its modern form. From that time it may truly be said to be a form of government directly responsible to the people. It is, at the present time, impossible that any party can carry on the government of the country unless the Cabinet contains the men in whom a majority of the electors have confidence.

The moment the Cabinet loses the confidence of the House of Commons, it is presumed to have lost the confidence of the people, and the prime minister must at once hand his resignation to the sovereign. It is the duty of the retiring prime minister to advise the sovereign as to his successor. The sovereign, of course, may either accept or reject this