

the House of Lords, Lord Lansdowne moved an address to the King praying that His Majesty would be graciously pleased to consent to a bill being introduced limiting the prerogatives and powers of the Crown in so far as they relate to the creation of peerages and the issue of writs of summons to Lords Temporal and Spiritual to sit and vote in the House of Lords. The King's consent, in accordance with well-established Parliamentary practice, must be given at some stage of the progress in the House in which they are introduced to bills which concern the Royal prerogative, and must be formally communicated to that House by a Privy Councillor. Viscount Morely, on behalf of the Government, intimated that the Cabinet would offer their advice to the Sovereign to consent to the prayer of the address moved by the noble marquis. When it is remembered that the Cabinet are responsible to the House of Commons, and through the House of Commons to the people, for advice offered to the Sovereign, and that the Sovereign will act on that advice or dismiss the advisers, it is demonstrably clear that, in the exercise by the Crown of the Royal prerogatives on such advice, in reality the exercise of the Royal prerogatives is in accordance with the wants and wishes of the people, to whom ultimately the Cabinet are responsible. In the discussion on the Archer Shee case in the House of Commons on the 6th inst., the action of the Crown in raising a demurrer to the claim, which if eventually successful would have been a barrier to the hearing of the case and the deciding of it on the facts, was thus justified by Mr. McKenna, the First Lord of the Admiralty: "Now I come to the question of the demurrer. There are certain rights and prerogatives which we speak of as the prerogatives of the Crown. In these days the prerogatives of the Crown are not exercised for the benefit of the Crown, but for the benefit of the public. These prerogatives are in existence, and any Minister in charge of his office is a trustee for the maintenance of these prerogatives. I should not have been doing my duty if as long as Parliament leaves these powers in my hand I did not exercise them." The Attorney-General, whose intervention in debate was strictly con-