

the necessity for its adoption, and the benefits which in England have resulted from its use. This method seems the more preferable on considering that before the introduction of the regulations now in force in England, complaints were numerous of the evils arising from the want of a proper system, and that since then, the gradual amendments effected have been exposed to the keen criticism of interested parties and the vigilant oversight of some of the ablest Members of the House of Commons, so that there is little probability of any well founded objections to any portion of the new improvements having escaped observation. In this section, therefore, I purpose to state nearly all that will be offered by way of argument, and in the second part, to confine myself to a concise mention of such changes as I would venture to suggest, as advisable to make in our own practice at the present juncture.

Of the second section.

On examining the second section, it will be seen that the improvements recommended do not involve a very extensive alteration of the existing Orders of the House. There is great danger, in every undertaking, in attempting too much at once. It has, therefore, been thought that more good might be effected, at the outset, by a clear and simple delineation of the admirable system in the management of Private Business, now enforced by the House of Commons,—so as thoroughly to inform the minds of Members of its nature and purport, and give them an idea of its working,—than in any other way. This will enable them to proceed with judgment to make such changes as may seem now expedient, and to perfect their undertaking, from time to time, as circumstances may require.

Definition of a Private Bill.

I. In commencing our Enquiry, it is material to define, accurately, what measures are comprehended