

TOPIC IV.

HOW PARLIAMENT DOES BUSINESS.

1. The Speaker.

We shall now take up more fully the study of the two houses of parliament, and see how they carry on their work and how the members of each are chosen. We shall speak chiefly of the House of Commons, and mention the Senate only when the latter differs in some important respect from the Commons.

The House of Commons is like any public meeting, and must have a chairman to see that business is conducted in a proper way. The chairman is called the "speaker." He is elected by the House, when it first meets after the parliamentary elections. He is one of the supporters of the government, because the government have the majority in the House, and thus can always secure the election of one of their own friends. But as soon as he becomes speaker, he is expected to be impartial, that is, to see that all members are fairly treated in the debates, no matter whether they are supporters of the