

## The Rockwood Review.

table, and, on the Speaker returning, business is gone on with as if no interruption had occurred. When the Speaker leaves the chair, upon the House going into Committee of the Whole, the mace is removed from the table and placed under it, being returned to its old position upon his resumption of the chair. When the Speaker enters or leaves the House at its adjournment, the mace is borne before him, remains with him until the next sitting, and accompanies him upon all State occasions, "in which he shall always appear in his gown." May tell us, that "in earlier times it was not the custom to prepare a formal warrant for executing the orders of the House of Commons, but the serjeant arrested persons with the mace, without any written authority, and at the present day he takes strangers into custody who intrude themselves into the House, or otherwise misconduct themselves, in virtue of the general orders of the House and without any specific instruction," and the Speaker, accompanied by the mace, has similar powers. We learn, from May again, that "when a witness is in the custody of the serjeant-at-arms, or is brought from a prison in custody, it is the usual, but not the constant, practice for the serjeant to stand with the mace at the bar. When the mace is on the serjeant's shoulder, the Speaker has the sole management: and no member may speak or even suggest questions to the Chair." To obviate this difficulty, it is now customary to place the mace upon the table when a witness is at the bar, so that any member may propose a question to him through the Speaker. Hatsell says, that "from the earliest account of Peers being admitted into the House of Commons, the mode of receiving them seems to have been very much the same as it is at present; that is, that they were attended from the door by the serjeant and the mace, making three obeisances to the House; that

they had a chair set for them within the bar, on the left hand as they enter, in which they sat down covered; and if they had anything to deliver to the House, they stood up and spoke uncovered; the serjeant standing by them all the time with the mace; and that they withdrew making the same obeisance to the House, and the serjeant with the mace accompanying them to the door." No member is at any time allowed to pass between the Chair and the table, or between the Chair and the mace when it is taken off the table by the serjeant. It is employed, too, to enforce attendance of Committeemen, sitting on special or other committees, at times when the Speaker finds it impossible to otherwise make a House at the hour for the commencement of the day's session. The appearance of the serjeant with the mace dissolves any committee then sitting, and, to avoid this catastrophe, it is usual to send a messenger in advance to announce his advent, and so give the committee time to adjourn.

Some disagreement exists among the authorities as to the history of the mace now in use in the British House of Commons. Hatsell asserts that it was made for Charles I.; May says that, after the death of Charles I., a new mace was procured, which was taken away by Cromwell's order, 19th April, 1653, restored on the 8th of July of the same year, and continued in use until the present time; and others contend that the mace now belonging to and preserved by the College of Physicians is the veritable "bauble." It may be added that, for safe keeping, it is placed during the period of prorogation, in the Jewel Office, so that similar obscurity as to its future history is not likely to prevail.

Of the early history of the mace in Upper Canada, we have undoubted proof, in the present existence of that first so employed. It is in appearance as primitive as