by sixty; and Ireland by one hundred and five. Members are returned by counties, cities, and boroughs, and some of the universities. The chief power of the Commons has been already noticed more than once. They command all the supplies, and can thus effectually control the Sovereign. No Parliament can sit longer than seven years; but no Parliament since 1716, when that was made the law, has lasted longer than six years.

The Sovereign rules through his Ministers, the chief of whom form the Cabinet. The Cabinet is necessarily composed of,—

1. The First Lord of the Treasury, or the Premier;
2. The Lord Chancellor;
3. The Chancellor of the Exchequer;
4. The President of the Council;
5. The Home Secretary;
6. The Foreign Secretary;
7. The Colonial Secretary;
8. The Indian Secretary;
9. The War Secretary.

It may also contain :—

10. The Lord Privy Seal;
11. The First Lord of the Admiralty;
12. The President of the Board of Trade;
13. The President of the Poor Law Board;
14. The Postmaster General;
15. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster;
16. The Chief Secretary for Ireland.

When the Cabinet is defeated on any important Bill, it generally resigns. Then the usual course is for the Sovereign to send for the leader of Opposition, and to intrust him with the formation of a new Government. The Cabinet Ministers form, as it were, a Committee of the Privy Council, which is a large body of advisers, selected from the most prominent men in the kingdom.

New laws may be proposed in either House of Parliament. Proposing a law is called bringing in a Bill. Every Bill must be read and passed by a majority of votes three times in each House before it can be laid before the Sovereign for