

possess the great function of trying impeachments, which is held by the Lords in Great Britain, from the simple fact, that there is no power invested with the right to impeach.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The Speaker takes the chair at 3 P. M., daily. If there is a quorum, the business is proceeded with; if not, the House is adjourned till the next day, at 3 P. M. Early meetings take place at the close of the Session, in order to expedite business, and bring matters to a close. The House does not usually meet on Saturday, nor does it assemble on any holiday. No one can be admitted to hear the debates, without an order from the Sergeant-at-Arms, which is generally obtained through a Member. Twenty Members constitute a quorum.

INTERRUPTION OF THE SITTINGS OF PARLIAMENT.—The proceedings of the Legislature may be interrupted or suspended either by adjournment, prorogation, or dissolution.

Adjournment, as the term itself implies, is a postponement of the sitting or proceedings of the House, from one time to another specified for the re-assemblage. When the sitting of both Houses are interrupted by royal authority, it is called prorogation. Dissolution puts an end to the representative character of the individuals who, at the time, compose the House of Commons, and Parliament cannot therefore assemble until after a new election, except in cases hereinafter mentioned. The power of adjournment is a right belonging to each House, and there are no restraints to this power.

The House of Commons can interrupt or postpone any debate, defer the consideration of any measure, or altogether adjourn its sitting, but the practice is always to adjourn to some stated time, and I think there can be no doubt that, by the previous permission of the House, the Speaker can leave the Chair for a certain number of hours; but this does not amount to an adjournment, and could not be noted as such by the Clerk. But it must be remarked that the adjournment of one House does not adjourn the other. The Crown may, pending an adjournment, summon by proclamation, either House, or both, and may direct either, or both Houses to adjourn to any particular day. But while this power exists, and although in former times it has been frequently exercised in the Imperial Legislature, it has grown into dissuetude there as well as in the provinces, enjoying the privileges of their own local Legislatures.

An individual member may for a time interrupt the progress of business by successive motions for adjournment, which may be repeated indefinitely, with this restriction: no second motion to adjourn can be made until after some intermediate proceeding shall have been had. The motion in committee that the chairman report progress, is equivalent to a motion to adjourn the debate.

Adjournment does not close the Session; nor does prorogation terminate Parliament. The former is an act which either House can perform; the latter is a power vested in the Crown, the duration of which may be subsequently shortened or extended, as the Crown pleases. All unfinished business terminates and dies with a prorogation, but during an adjournment they remain *in statu quo*, to be revised on the re-assembling of Parliament. A member who moves the adjournment of a debate, or who is in possession of the floor at the time of the adjournment, is said to be in possession of the House, with the right to re-open the debate which has been interrupted. This is not the case, however, when Committees of the whole House adjourn. Prorogation never extend beyond eighty days, but it may be repeated from time to time by proclamation, and continue to be renewed until it is intended that Parliament shall meet for the despatch of business. The Crown can summon Parliament at any time by giving fourteen day's notice. Dissolution is the simple death of Parliament, and may be brought about in two ways, either by the pleasure of the Crown, or by lapse of time for which it was called into existence. There was a time when the existence of a parliament terminated by the demise of the Crown, but a special law removed this provision of the Constitution. But there is no power