

has the right to delegate to a Committee the power of sending for persons, records and papers, and of enforcing the attendance of necessary witnesses.

COMMITTEES.—Are, *first*, those of the whole House, which may be to consider certain Resolutions, as to the nature of which considerable latitude prevails: or the House resolves itself into Committee to consider the details of a Bill, the principle of which may be discussed at any or all of its other stages; or there may be a Committee for financial purposes, as those of "Supply," or "Ways and Means," as alluded to elsewhere. *Secondly*.—There are Select Committees chosen by ballot or otherwise, for some specific purpose. The numbers composing such Committees vary according to the nature of the case, but cannot exceed fifteen, unless by permission of the House. *Finally*.—Election Committees, chosen in accordance with the Act of Parliament regulating controverted Elections. These Committees discharge the duties of judicial tribunals. They are appointed by a general Committee, on Elections, who, after having selected a certain number from the members to constitute the Chairmen's panel, divide the remainder into panels, and report the same to the House, marked 1, 2 and 3. The Clerk, in the presence of the House, places the whole three in a hat, and draws them forth, numbering each in rotation, A, B, C. The General Committee then selects four members for the Committee for the first controverted Election referred to them, and at the same time the Chairmen's panel assembles and ballots for a Chairman for the particular Committee chosen. Then there are several Standing Committees. When the whole House is in Committee, the Speaker vacates the Chair, the Mace is placed under the table, some member is called to preside, who occupies the seat of the senior Clerk. When Select Committees are appointed, no member who has declared against the principle or substance of a Bill, Resolution, or matter to be committed, can be nominated of such Committee.

CONFERENCE.—There is a species of negotiation between the two Houses of Parliament, conducted by managers appointed by each, for the purpose of producing concurrence, in cases where mutual consent is necessary; or for the purpose of reconciling differences which may have arisen upon any matter requiring the action of both Houses. If the conference be upon the subject of a Bill depending between the two Houses, it must be demanded by that House, which, at the time of asking the Conference, is in possession of the Bill. When the Commons requests a Conference with the Senate, the reasons to be given by the Commons must be prepared and agreed to by the House, before a message is sent to the Senate asking a Conference. These are furnished to the Managers, who on meeting the Managers of the Upper House, hand in the reasons in writing. Should this proceeding fail in its object, a "free Conference" is held, which gives an opportunity for the Managers individually, and unrestrained by any set form of argument, to urge such reasons as in their judgment may best tend to influence the House to which they are addressed. A free Conference is usually held, if two Conferences have been held without accomplishing the desired object. After one free Conference has been held upon any one subject, no other but a free Conference can be held touching the same topic. While the Managers of a Conference are absent on duty, the Speaker vacates the chair.

ESTATE OF PARLIAMENT.—Parliament fully assembled, consists of the Monarch, or his Representative, the Upper House, and the Lower House. They are more frequently spoken of as the three branches of the Legislature. Neither House deliberates in the presence of the Queen's Representative, nor will either of them permit any allusion, in debate, to the opinions or sentiments entertained by him. The three branches taken together, exercise none but legislative functions, and they must all consent, or no law can be passed. But they have separate functions as well. The Monarch, or Representative, holds the whole executive authority, and while the Lower House alone can originate Money or Tax Bills, the Upper House is deprived of this power. Nor does the Upper House