

pass." After this, nothing remains except to determine its title. During the progress of a Bill, the House may divide on the following questions:—

- 1st. On the Second Reading.
- 2nd. That it be committed.
- 3rd. That the Report of the Committee be received.
- 4th. That the Bill be recommitted.
- 5th. That it be read a Third Time.
- 6th. That it do pass.
- 7th. The title of the Bill.

These are exclusive of any divisions in Committee, or on any amendments, or clauses proposed to be added to or taken from the measure, in or out of the Committee. Alterations are not usually proposed to a Bill until after its principle has been disposed of, on the second reading. Immediately after the passing of the Bill, it is taken to the Upper House, and the concurrence of the Senate is asked thereto. If a Bill be rejected, no further proceedings ensue. When the Senate agree with the Commons on the principle of a measure, but differ in matters of detail, a conference sometimes follows, between Members deputed from each House, who generally succeed in adjusting the difference; but if both Houses are inflexible, the Bill is dropped.

No Bill relating to trade, or the alteration of the Laws concerning trade, can be brought into the House, until the proposition shall have been first considered in committee of the whole House, and agreed to by the House. The same proceeding is required with reference to any new tax to be imposed upon the people of any locality.

THE BUDGET.—The Minister of Finance makes one general statement every year to the Commons, which is intended to present a comprehensive view of the financial condition of the country. It is not to be supposed that this is the only speech which the Minister of Finance is called upon to make; but this is the *speech*, shewing the past and giving his views upon the future, and in fact, it is a demand made upon the people's Representatives, to confirm his conduct in managing the Financial Department of the country. He courts enquiry, and expects to hear from the leader of the Opposition, his views upon the prospects of the material interests of the country, as laid before Parliament. Any changes which a Government propose to make in the financial position of the country, are always pointedly alluded to in this speech, and the Opposition is thus put in full possession of what the Government intend to do.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The Clerk of the Commons is certainly one of great office trust and importance. He is appointed by the Crown, and has the right of appointing his own deputy, when one is required. In England, the appointment of the other officers of the House is vested in the Clerk; but it is different in Canada. Either the Speaker or the House, at the instance of the Committees, make the appointments. It is his duty to make minutes—not of the arguments held in the House, but of the decisions at which it arrives—in other words, simply to record its votes, resolutions, addresses, orders, reports, divisions, and all other proceedings in which it may be engaged; to see that they are correctly printed, and distributed to the members; to read aloud all such documents as the House may order to be read; to perform the duty (without taking the chair) of chairman during the choice of speaker. He has two assistants, who aid him in the despatch of the business, so that no delay may be occasioned.

COMMITTEES.—In common with Courts of Law and Equity, the Houses of Parliament can punish all contempts of their authority or disobedience of their mandates. Each House is armed with power to repress any aggression committed upon their rights, or any interference with their privileges; which, however, cease when Parliament is prorogued. The Commons, as well as the Senate,