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## THE MACE AND ITS USE.

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*Speaker of the Ontario Legislature.*

WHO is He? What is It? Such are the queries which flash through the minds of thousands who look, for the first time, with curiosity rather than with awe, upon the Serjeant-at-Arms and his Mace, in the Dominion House of Commons, and the Ontario Legislative Assembly. They see a remnant of mediævalism borne by a distinguished looking personage in solemn black and irreproachable white tie, wearing a dress sword and lavender gloves, an odd cross between the Past and Present, and supposed, in some unaccountable manner, to form a link between the throne and the people, and wonder what it all means, whence the custom came, and why it is kept up. That the serjeant is a constable of a higher order than that of the ordinary tipstaff; that his mace is his rather unwieldy and not very formidable badge of office; that he appears to be on good

terms with himself and everybody else, and especially with himself; that he possesses enormous powers in going where and doing what, on the floor of the House, his fancy dictates; and that his position is a very enviable one, are the thoughts passing through the mind of every stranger in the gallery, partly wrong and partly right, but natural under the circumstances, as the impressions of sight-seers frequently are. To give a more definite idea of the mace and its uses, rather than that of its custodian and bearer, is the object of the writer, and in doing this he will make only such passing reference to the serjeant and his duties, as may be necessary to the elucidation of his subject.

The origin of the mace is an antiquarian enigma. That it was originally more than an emblem of power is undoubted. Like the sceptre, which to a certain extent it displaces, and of