

the Speaker's statement on reading the Queen's speech to the House, he had provided himself with a copy of his own, which he read from the quiet security of his hat, he rather resented being told this was a breach of order. But his defence was a perfectly good one. "There's a hantle o' them read their speeches," he replied—and he might, when seeing Cabinet Ministers calmly turning over the leaves of their written discourses from the Front Bench, have repeated the well-known saying, "What in the captain's only a choleric word, in the soldier's sheer blasphemy"—and so he accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, and St. Stephen's knew him no more. Then a successor had to be appointed, and on the announcement being made, I rushed off to Aberdeen, and told the Liberal Association that it was not my intention to press my claims against those of Lord Douglas Gordon, who had been selected as candidate. To pay off an old score against the Tory wire-pullers who had run Edward Ross, the great rifle-shot, but perfectly immature politician, against him, a factious fight which cost him £600, McCombie took the field with energy, went everywhere with the candidate, occupied the chair at every meeting, spoke, canvassed, and at last shoved him in well at the top of the poll, and beating a man in every way pre-eminently qualified to be a member of Parliament, Col. Innes of Learney, now the acknowledged "grand old man" of Deeside, who from his long experience, ability, integrity and knowledge of agricultural matters would have been a useful adviser to any government. After this little enterprise, Ross, whose knowledge of