

barely following the words mumbled out by the Clerk. The scene was indecent and even disreputable, and more resembled footballers at a tight scrimmage at football, or hounds struggling for a fox, than a group of serious and responsible legislators making a solemn declaration of loyalty and faith. Things are now conducted, I believe, in a more orderly way ; but what can be the necessity for compelling people who have just been invested with one of the highest privileges and responsibilities to attest their respectability and stability by an oath, passes my comprehension. Bradlaugh was quite right to denounce it as an unmeaning formula, which could have no binding effect.

All that now remained was to get a locker—an absolute necessity of Parliamentary life ; to find out how and where to eat and drink, how to negotiate a pair, and how to pass, in the library or smoking-room, or on the Terrace, the weary tedium of which there is too much at St Stephen's. And then I was ready to begin serious political work. "But that's another story," as Kipling would say, and if you want to hear it, nothing is easier than to read the remainder of my volume, in order to gather the lighter impressions of one of the assiduous attendants on the debates presided over by the Speaker.