

plurality, the house divides and two tellers are appointed by the Clerkman. Any Member at pleasure may Name the persons to be of a private Committee, who, their Names being read by the Clerk at the table, are ordered to meet at five a Clock in the Speakers Chamber, and Report their opinion to the house: who accordingly Meeting chuse their Clerkman. The Clerkman first causes a Clerk attending a Committee to read the bill. Then takes the bill himself and reads paragraph by paragraph, putting every Clause thereof to the Questions, filling up the blanks and Making Amendments according to the Opinion of the Majority of the Committee. When the Committee have gone through the bill, the Clerkman by Directions of the Committee makes his Report at the Foot bar of the house, and Moves to have leave to bring up the Report to the table, which being agreed to he delivers it to the Clerk, who reads all the Amendments and Clauses, the Speaker putting the Question whether they shall be read a second time, and if agreed to reads them himself: and as many of them as the house agrees to, the Question is put whether the bill so amended shall be engrossed that is to say written fair in Parchment, and read the third time some other day. The Speaker holding the bill in his hand, puts the Question whether the Bill should pass. If the Major part be for it, then it is written on the Bill, if it be in the house of Commons, by the Clerk, *fait baille à la seigneurie*; if in the house of Lords, *fait baille à la commune*. But bills for raising any Money upon the subjects, might begin in the Commons house, because from them doth arise the greater part of the Monies. A bill for the Kings General Pardon hath but one reading, because they must take it as the King will please to give it. A bill is sent down by the Lords, to the Commons by some of those who sit but have no suffrage in the house, usually by a Master of Requests, or if it be of great Importance by one or two of the Judges. A bill is sent up by the Commons to the Lords, by

a certain Number of the Members of the house. A bill sent by the one house to the other to be taken into Consideration or by them, either passeth there simply, or is sent back with Alteration or Amendment, or is simply Rejected. But the Commons will not allow the Lords to Make any Alteration in a Money bill: If a bill pass in one house and being sent to the other house they Demure upon it, then a Conference is Demanded in the painted Chamber where certain Deputed Members of each house meet, the Lords sitting covered at a table, the Commons standing bare, where the business is Debated. If they then Agree not, that business is Null. But if they Agree, it is at last brought with other bills which pass in both houses to the King for his Royal Assent. The King ordinarily Comes to the house of Lords with his Crown upon his head and Clothed with his Royal Robes, to give his Royal Assent to bills, having sent for the house of Commons to be present at the Bar. But his Majesty without his personal presence, can by Commission Granted to some of his Nobles, give his Royal assent to any bill that requires least. When an engrossed bill is read and any Clause is offered to be added thereto, they must be engrossed in parchment like the Bill, which are then called Amendments, and if agreed to are accordingly added to the Bill. When the Speaker finds diverse bills prepared to be put to the Question, he gives Notice the day before, that to Morrow he intends to put such bills to the passing or their reading, and begins the special Attendance of all the Members. The Speaker is not allowed to persuade or dissuade in passing of a bill, but only to Make a short and plain Narrative. If a bill be Reported, it cannot any more be proposed during the same session.

The Lords and Commons have also in their respective Houses powers and privileges diverse and distinct from one another. The Lords besides their part in the Legislature are