

Struggling through with Supply

By HENRY W. LUCY

THERE has been, more especially from the Irish camp, much loud talk of deathless opposition to Supply. Soon after the House met Mr. Arthur Balfour, reviewing the situation, came to the conclusion that the Prorogation might well be brought about at a date not later than September 7. Mr. Tim Healy laughed aloud, and talked confidently of sitting up to Christmas. Whatever English and Scotch members might do, the Irish would be true to their duty, and would discuss at length votes on account of their distressful country.

This pledge has been fairly kept through the week. Whenever Irish votes have been touched (and sometimes when they have not) the Irish members have come to the front and talked at large. But as compared with procedure under the leadership of Mr. Parnell the performance has been rather pitiful. Mr. Remond, satisfied with promise of a Bill re-enacting the 13th Clause of the Land Act of 1891, has retired from the scene, followed by his few but faithful supporters. The other party, torn by internecine strife, make no attempt to take common action against the common enemy. Mr. Justin M'Carthy, the titular leader, rarely speaks. Mr. Tim Healy does all one man may do. But even for one so gifted by nature it is hard to keep the Parliamentary pot boiling through a whole sitting. Sometimes, as on Tuesday, Mr. John Dillon follows his friend and colleague, and Dr. Tanner is always ready to oblige. But it is all very different from what it used to be before Committee Room No. 15 was heard of in Irish parliamentary politics.

On Tuesday night the Irish votes almost slipped through without discussion. They stood next in order after the Scotch votes, and with Mr. Weir, Mr. Caldwell, and Dr. Clark to the fore it was reasonably thought Scotland might stand in the way till after the dinner hour. Perhaps it might if Mr. James W. Lowther had not been in the Chair. He has filled it for less than a fortnight, and has already imbued members of the class cited with wholesome awe of his authority. Mr. Weir certainly intended to make a night of it when the Scotch votes came on. When he is a prominent figure in debate there is for him abundant choice of seats. The Scotch votes coming on, he secured the favourite coign of vantage on the Front Bench below the Gangway, fought for before and since Mr. Roebuck used to try and jockey Mr. Dillwyn out of its possession.

Standing here with the whole of the bench on which he might strew his papers, Mr. Weir commenced in his most solemn voice, taking his eye-glasses off with more than usual terribleness of deliberation. He had not gone far before Mr. Lowther was down on him with interruption on a point of order. He struggled on with this unwonted drag on the wheels of his fancy, and sat down without having said more than a tithe of remarks which, in the retirement of Upper Froggall Lodge, Hampstead, had occurred to him on the subject of the doings and omissions of the Secretary for Scotland.

But there was another vote, and he would on that make up for lost opportunity. This was on account of the Fishery Board. Mr. Weir threw out a net of prodigious dimensions, designed to sweep all Scottish seas. Again the Chairman interposed with warning to keep in closer touch with the subject. That was quite a new restriction for the member for Ross and Cromarty. Embarrassed by the injunction, he floundered on, receiving a second warning. A third time the Chairman rose and significantly remarked that if Mr. Weir's observations were not marked by closer relevancy to the vote he would be obliged to enforce his authority and order him to resume his seat. To avoid that indignity Mr. Weir took the initiative and sorrowfully sat down, feeling like

Him who left half told
The story of Cambuscan bold.

Mr. Caldwell next rushed in and met a similar fate. Mr. Caldwell has not the charm of Mr. Weir's quaint manner. He is "a Paisley body," reels off his sentences with as much apparent ease, and at somewhat similar length, as thread may be unwound from a local bobbin. Him also Mr. Lowther brought to book, ruling out of order not only his thirdly and fourthly, but his seventhly and eighthly. Mr. Caldwell, breathless with astonishment, resumed his seat, having been on his feet only a quarter of an hour, and having by that time reached the final page of notes of a discourse which in more auspicious circumstances might have given the Committee full two hours' serene enjoyment.

Thus it came to pass that at seven o'clock all the Scotch votes in Class 2 of the Civil Service Estimates were disposed of, and the Irish votes were entered upon. Mr. Healy was not in his place, and looking along the benches below the Gangway, decimated

by Mr. Weir's eloquence, finally swamped by Mr. Caldwell's interrupted cogitations, it did not seem that an Irish member was present. Mr. Healy was, however, too old a soldier to be taken so completely at a disadvantage. He had left on guard two new members of his party, whose appearance was unfamiliar to the House. When the Chairman put the vote for the expenses of the Lord-Lieutenant these two—Major Jameson and Mr. James Daly—rose together, and stood shoulder to shoulder, evidently resolved to keep the bridge till reinforcements came up. Major Jameson, being the burlier in person, prevailed over the generous emulation of his friend, and began a speech with which he was carefully primed. As it slowly advanced it became clear that the speech had nothing to do with the vote put from the Chair, being, in truth, based on consideration of the second vote, on account of the office of the Chief Secretary. Major Jameson was called to order by the inexorable Chairman, and before he quite realised the position the vote for the Lord-Lieutenant was again put from the Chair and declared to be carried. Now came Major Jameson's opportunity, and he slowly uttered some ponderous sentences, prolonged till Mr. Healy, hurriedly sent for, appeared on the scene, and other Irish members coming in, discussion was kept going till early morn.

In this way the week has sped, Committee of Supply being taken day by day with design, steadily adhered to and skilfully directed, of bringing the Prorogation to pass on Saturday in next week.

lieutenant saw some of the roughest and heaviest work in the trenches. Sir Evelyn Wood, in his recently published "The Crimea in 1854 and 1855," speaks with great admiration of the pluck and determination which Captain Wolseley—he got his company in 1854—showed during the campaign. He was twice wounded, once so severely that he lost the sight of one eye. Returning to England at the end of the campaign, Captain Wolseley did not remain long at home. The 90th was ordered to China. On their way thither, the transport vessel ran on to a coral reef in the Indian Ocean, and became a total wreck. The passengers were fortunately all saved and landed at Singapore, while the regiment was ordered to India, where the Mutiny had just broken out. The story of Captain Wolseley and another young officer, Lieutenant Roberts (now General Lord Roberts), storming the mess-house at Lucknow is too well known to need repetition. Wolseley's reputation for dash was now made; and for his services during the Mutiny, although only twenty-seven years old, and after only eight years' service, he received his brevet of Lieutenant-Colonel. Hardly was the Mutiny settled than Lieutenant-Colonel Wolseley was ordered to China as Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General on Sir Hope Grant's Staff, and in that capacity was present at the taking of the Taku Forts. In 1862 he sailed for Canada, and there, though hostilities were averted in the Trent affair, and he himself saw no active service, he took the opportunity of visiting General Lee at his headquarters at New York, the war between the North and South being then in progress.

In 1865, when the Fenian scare arose, Colonel Wolseley was placed at the head of a brigade for the first time. It was not until the Red River expedition was organised in 1870, however, that he first found himself in chief command of a force in the field. The object of the expedition was accomplished without any fighting, but the experience was undoubtedly of great value to so young a commander. For his services in Canada Colonel Wolseley was made a C.B. and a K.C.M.G. on his return home. The young Colonel was soon to command another expedition, and this time there was to be no peaceful settlement. In 1873 the trouble in Ashanti arose. Sir Garnet Wolseley went out to the Gold Coast at the head of an expedition, Ashanti was invaded, the decisive action of Amoafu was fought. Coomassie was seized, and the expedition returned, having successfully accomplished its object. Sir Garnet was promoted to the rank of Major-General, and was made K.C.B. and G.C.M.G. The thanks of both Houses of Parliament were voted to him and his reputation as an able General in command was firmly established. Sir Garnet was next employed in an administrative capacity. After going on a special mission to South Africa, he was appointed Commissioner of Cyprus. From there he was recalled to assume the command in South Africa, where the war with the Zulus was in progress, after the unfortunate reverse at Isandula. He arrived at Capetown on June 23, 1879, and on August 28 Cetewayo, the Zulu chief, was taken prisoner, and the trouble practically ended. Sir Garnet, on his return, was made a G.C.B. In 1880 he was appointed Quartermaster-General of the Army, and in 1882 Adjutant-General of the Forces. Soon after the latter appointment he was selected to command the expedition against Arabi Pasha, who had risen. The most noteworthy feature of this campaign, which is of too recent date to need much description, was Sir Garnet Wolseley's daring night march across the desert and the capture of Tel-el-Keber at dawn. Arabi Pasha was taken prisoner, the Khedive's power established, and the expedition brought to a successful termination. After this fresh proof of his ability Sir Garnet returned home, and was created Baron Wolseley of Cairo, was promoted to be a General,

and also received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament. In less than three years he was again in Egypt at the head of an expedition which had for its object the relief of General Gordon at Khartoum. The ascent of the Nile was conducted brilliantly, and though, unfortunately, the expedition arrived too late to save the gallant Gordon, the blame did not in any way rest with him, but rather with the Government, which decided so tardily to despatch the expedition. Lord Wolseley's conduct of this expedition did more to display his brilliant genius as a commander than all his previous successes, in spite of the fact that its object was not accomplished. For his services in this expedition he was advanced to the rank of Viscount, with continuance in the female line. Since October 1, 1890, Lord Wolseley has been General Commanding the Forces in Ireland, in which command he is now to be succeeded by Lord Roberts.

The new Commander-in-Chief will be responsible for the general distribution of the forces, for their mobilisation, and for their inspection, but his duties will not clash with those of the Adjutant-General, the Quartermaster-General, the Inspector-General of Fortifications, and the Inspector-General of Ordnance. These four will, with the Commander, form a board, but each will be responsible for his own department.



MR. ROBERT BANNATYNE FINLAY, Q.C., M.P., THE NEW SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Drawn from Life by T. Blake Wirgman

The Coming Commander-in-Chief

It has everywhere been felt that no better selection could have been made than that of Lord Wolseley to follow the Duke of Cambridge on the latter's retirement from the command-in-chief of the army in November. Lord Wolseley has spent forty years in the army, and the record of his war services is almost identical with that of the military expeditions of this country during that period. He has been an earnest student of military science, as is proved by his well-known "Soldier's Pocket Book," which he brought out some years ago.

Garnet Joseph Wolseley was born at Golden Bridge House, county Dublin, on June 4, 1833, his father being Major G. J. Wolseley, of the King's Own Borderers. Joining the 80th Regiment as an ensign in 1852 young Wolseley soon saw active service, for in the same year his regiment took part in the Burmese war. In this, his first campaign, he was badly wounded. In 1853 he was gazetted to the 90th Regiment. That regiment was not sent out to the Crimea at the beginning of the war with Russia, but it was despatched there in time to take part in the siege of Sebastopol. Here the young