

Hon. J. Campbell rose for the purpose of informing the house that the government did not intend to bring down the Despatches relating to the mines and minerals, owing to the absence of the members of the Executive, time not having been afforded them of examining into and investigating the merits of the same.—They therefore deemed it inconsistent with the public service that any papers on that subject should be brought down at present.

Hon. Mr. Young said the papers were printed, ready to be brought down.

Mr. Killam asked the hon. member from Inverness whether it was his intention to introduce a bill this session to enable the citizens of Halifax to assess themselves to the extent of the railway liabilities assumed by them.

Hon. Mr. Young replied that it was not likely he would take it upon himself at present. It was not his place to do so—it belonged properly to the present government. The late administration were prepared to act upon this question, as all others, and bills were prepared ready to be submitted to the house; but now all these matters devolved upon the present administration.

A long discussion followed on Railway matters, in which Messrs. Young, Howe, Annand, Wade, Killam, and Campbell were the principal speakers.

Messrs. Young, Howe, Annand, and Essoon maintained that the city of Halifax would nobly fulfil its engagement, provided the government would assure the country that they intended to carry out the railway policy of the late government: to extend the railway from the harbor of Halifax to the Minas Basin and the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Leave of absence for ten days was granted to Mr. McFarlane.

Hon. Mr. Howe presented a petition signed by eight or nine hundred of the inhabitants of Yarmouth, praying the house to release them from the burthen of the Municipal Incorporation Act. Also, a petition from the Secretary of the Canadian Land and Railway Association, on the subject of emigration and colonization.

WEDNESDAY, March 4.

Hon. Mr. Young asked leave to present a petition from—McLeod, contractor for St. Peter's Canal, praying for compensation of loss sustained in the construction of a portion of the work. Leave granted, and petition referred to a select committee.

Hon. Mr. McKinnon laid upon the table of the house a Despatch from the honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies; asking repayment of monies expended on the exploration survey of the Halifax and Quebec Railway in 1847 and 1848.

The remainder of the day was spent in conversation on the state of the Province, its finances, &c.

FRIDAY, March 6.

On motion, the House resolved itself into a committee of supply.

Hon. Mr. McKinnon moved the royal grant, the same as last year—that is, £32,000 for the ordinary roads and bridges, and the sum of £10,000 for the great roads.

Passed without opposition.

On motion of Mr. Geldert the sum of £500 was granted to aid in the completion of the new road from Bridgewater to Mills Village.

SATURDAY, March 7th.

Dr. Webster rose and asked if an appeal to the people of Nova Scotia, published in two of the morning papers, were to form the platform on which the opposition were to take their stand.

Hon. Mr. Young expressed his entire concurrence in the sentiments of the document referred to, and moved that the house go into committee of the whole, on the general state of the Province, in order to allow gentlemen to express their views on the subject.

Hon. Mr. McKeagney, Mr. Tobin, Mr. Wade, and Mr. Henry denied that any improper influence was exercised in bringing in the new Government, and deprecated the appeals to the Protestant portion of the community to join for the purpose of crushing any other class.

Hon. Mr. Wier thought the time had arrived for such an organization.

Hon. C. J. Campbell reminded the opposition of the promise they had made, that during the elections they would not raise any factious obstruction to the government.

Religious Intelligence.

The North Halifax Baptist Church have been enjoying a state of revival for some weeks past. Meetings of much interest have been held nearly every evening in the week. Their energetic and persevering Pastor, Rev. Mr. Bentley, has had some assistance from Rev. Mr. Freeman, the Pastor of the Granville St. Church, Mr. R. McLearn, and Mr. T. H. Porter, Junr. On Sunday last the ordinance of baptism was administered by Mr. Bentley at Richmond, to nine persons. Although it was a very cold day, a congregation of several hundreds assembled to witness the ordinance. The great decorum was observed by all present. We trust that this is but the beginning of a large addition to the number of those in the city who are obedient to the Saviour's command.

Mr. David G. Shaw, Licentiate from the Church at Falmouth, after labouring with the Church at Lunenburg, North West, for some time past, has accepted an invitation to remain with them for a year.

FRANCE.—There is a change passing over this country. Silently the causes are operating, but the effects are seen. Influences are working which all the power of the priesthood cannot much longer successfully check. Their hold upon the public mind is weakening. The feeling about the murderer of the archbishop does not all flow in one channel. The impression exists, and it is extending and deepening too, that his revelations, if he had been allowed to make them, would have unmasked the moral state of the clergy. Many feel that he is the victim of clerical injustice.—The Cardinal Archbishop of Tours has been appointed to the vacant see of Paris. He is spoken of as a man learned, and moderate in his views. Of the social life of French Romanists, we have the lowest idea. The influence of Rome is blighting everywhere. Gorgeous, sensuous, and worldly, it strikes the senses, but leaves the heart untouched. It always reminds us of the Saviour's description of the Pharisees—whited sepulchres. Some months ago we quoted from a work by a French priest, a description of the moral state of Society in France. We have before us another. It is from the pen of a Jesuit. He knows it well. One paragraph will do. The work is an appeal to the clergy on the sanctification of man—"The intellect is ruined as much and more than the heart; society is decayed (rongee) at the top, the middle, and the bottom; reason, eager to equal herself to faith, and to take its place, has solemnly proclaimed her own independence; men banish God to the distance of eternity, and his religion to the solitude of the temples, and then beseech us to leave them in peace. The Rev. Dr. Kirk, of Boston, is about to visit Paris, and reside there some time for the purpose of forming a Protestant church from amongst his countrymen now resident in the capital.—Freeman.

BAPTISTS IN FRANCE.—About eight years ago a number of churches separated themselves from the Established Reformed Church of France, and formed themselves into a united body under the name Union of the Evangelical Churches of France. The reason of their separation was the want in the Established Church of evangelical faith, order, and discipline. They are formed on the principles of Congregational churches, and number about twenty-four. It is within these churches principally that the movement respecting baptism is going forward. The greatest part of the pastors are quite clear on the subject, others are inquiring, while very few remain decided Pedobaptists. In some of the churches the people have entirely ceased to ask the ordinance for their children. The quiet progress in these churches of believer's baptism views induced Mr. Henriquit to publish his pamphlet in favor of infant baptism, in order to stop their further advance. This step obliged Mr. Pozzy, formerly a pastor of the Established Church, to come forward in defence of New Testament views on baptism. I have read his book with much interest and satisfaction; it is excellent, and will undoubtedly accomplish extensive good in diffusing right views on this ordinance of the church of Christ.—Id.

PRUSSIA.—The war spirit has excited an influence upon the Church. The old party spirit still rages. Hengstenberg and his coadjutors are still hostile to religious liberty, and are doing all they can to arrest the onward march of those events which appear likely to advance its triumphs.—There is a rumour that Mr. Bunsen has retired to Heidelberg, and is devoting all his great and richly furnished mind to the preparation of a new translation of the Bible, and a commentary upon it. Two volumes are expected during this year.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

RUSSIA.

The Pays announces that another collision has taken place on the frontiers of Persia between the Russians and the Turcoman tribes. In virtue of a convention signed between Russia and Persia in the year 1846, the Russians constructed the fortress of Petrowsky on the Caspian Sea, near Astrabad. The commander of the fort, in order to protect the garrison from a surprise, lately erected two exterior works communicating with the fort. These works had scarcely been finished when on the 11th of January last, the Turcomans, profiting by a dense fog, fell suddenly on the Russians, and forced them to fall back on the fortress with a slight loss. The governor, having placed the garrison under arms, sallied out with a strong force, and held in check the Turcomans, who had already begun to demolish the works; and he, at the same time, demanded assistance of the Governor of Ashoorada, which was immediately sent to him. The Russians then pursued the Turcomans, killed some, and took more prisoners, among whom was a chief of the principal tribe of Pirates in the Mazandaran, who was immediately sent to the Governor-General of Astrakhan. The Russians, by waging an implacable war against the Turcoman robbers, have rendered some service to the merchants trading in those countries.

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