

For the Christian Messenger.

Revival in Kempt, Queen's Co.

It hath pleased the Lord to send down the Holy Spirit upon the people of my charge with great power. You will remember when I last wrote of religious affairs amongst us the Church's night was my theme; but I intimated that the day was breaking.—C. M., Nov. 4th, 1857. Soon after that one soul was brought out into the liberty of the gospel, and added to the Church. From this onward frequent indications of the Holy Spirit's strivings were seen until I was induced to commence special services about four weeks ago. They were immediately attended with the Divine blessing, and we can now truly say, in the language of the Psalmist, "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." Forty-three have already been added to the Church, and upwards of twenty more are waiting the first opportunity to unite with us, which will soon be given. The work is still steadily progressing. Every meeting some new manifestations of the Divine power are seen. So far I have had no assistance from ministering brethren except one sermon from Rev. Mr. Thorp, Free Baptist minister, which was just the thing for the time. Are there none of our brethren who can come and assist me for a few days? If the work goes through the County the meetings will have to be kept up for some weeks yet,—as yet it has been confined to the northern and central sections of my field of labour. My poor frame-sometimes feels like giving way under the labour that now devolves on me. I hope some one or more will soon come to my help. One glorious feature in this blessed work is, as far as it has extended, it has taken nearly all who have come in the way of it. The converts are of both sexes—from upwards of 50 years of age down to 12—the majority are men, and many heads of families. To God be all the glory. Pray for us, dear brethren.

The Protestant Alliance of Nova Scotia.

The above named Alliance have thought proper to trouble me with one of their Circulars, and to urge upon me the propriety of taking immediate steps to organize a Branch Alliance in my neighbourhood. I feel very much obliged to the Alliance for the honour they supposed they were conferring on me by so doing; but I can by no means dishonour my Master's cause by complying with the request. I have no fears about Catholic ascendancy, nor the injury God's Bible can receive while King Jesus reigns and the Holy Spirit works. Moreover it appears to me that there are some of the elements of popery in the professedly Protestant Alliance. You, Mr. Editor, and some others, have pointed out some of them.

I perceive by the names in the Circular that most of its members are infant sprinklers. Query. Can they satisfy us that this practice is not popery? and that, too, one of the most destructive branches of it to the faith once delivered to the saints? In my humble opinion it would be much better for those would-be Protestants to learn something more that is essentially necessary for them to know than to spend so much time in talking about making the Bible the basis of all sound Education by Legislative authority.

Besides all this, in the language of Nehemiah, when he was repairing the walls of Jerusalem, By God's help, I am doing a great work, wherefore should it cease while I leave it to meddle with things that do not belong to a minister of the New Testament.

Yours truly, A. W. BARSS. Kempt, Queen's Co., April 10th, '58.

Baptist Principles and Persecutions.

The recent defeat of the bill providing for religious liberty in Sweden, after long discussion in the Swedish Diet, and the severe sufferings to which our Baptist brethren there and in Europe generally are daily exposed, may lead us to look more narrowly into our principles, as distinguished from those of other evangelical Christians which provoke this special hostility. The votes of the burgher and peasant orders show that they saw no harm in granting liberty to the Baptists as well as to others. It was the clergy, aided by the nobility, who voted against it. What is there then, so obnoxious to the nobles and clergy of Sweden in the distinctive principles of Baptists?

Part of their opposition, doubtless, is to be set to the account of a general hostility to what they term the "sect system;" for by this opprobrious name universal liberty of conscience is now stigmatized in Europe. It is there regarded as a licence for religious anarchy; and more especially

as a means of undermining the existing Religious Establishment, which, in Sweden, is exclusively Lutheran, and dates from the time of the Reformation. But besides this general dread of innovation, unfavorable to "the standing order," (examples of which some now living remember to have witnessed in New England, prior to 1833), there is also manifest in Sweden, as throughout Europe indeed, a special dread of the Baptists in particular; and it is to this we wish to call attention.

A superficial view of Baptist principles prevails in this country, which affords no explanation of this. It is supposed that Baptists differ from other Christians simply in administering baptism to adults by immersion; and the difference is often represented by popular divines as a "difference in the mere form of a ceremony," "the shadow of a shade," "a non-essential." But if this be so, why do such men feel alarmed at the appearance of this unsubstantial shadow? Is it on the same ground that led Herod to imagine that Jesus must be John the Baptist risen from the dead? Is it that they secretly dread the resurrection of murdered truth? That with some this is the case, we cannot doubt. And such, like Herod, have cause to tremble. For never did poetry utter a truer prophecy, than in the words of Whittier;

"Truth crushed to earth shall rise again; The eternal years of God are hers; But Error, wounded, writhes in pain, And dies amid her worshippers."

But the popular view of the Baptists in this country is entirely superficial; for it does not explain the facts of which their history is full. It does not account for the horror in which they were held both by Catholics and Protestants at the Reformation, and why to this day they are not reformed by many evangelical divines in Europe (Dr. Krummacher and others are noble exceptions to the general opinion,) as fellow Christians. It does not go down to the principles of the body; nor account for the tenacity with which they hold them, for the zeal and boldness with which they spread them, nor for the terrible sufferings which they have encountered with firmness and joy for their sakes. Men do not willingly suffer for things indifferent; good men do not go to prison and to the martyr's stake for mere matters of outward form, in which nothing essential to Christianity is believed to be involved.

Baptists are distinguished from other Christians primarily, if not chiefly by one well defined position. They hold that the baptism of Christian believers, as such, is of universal obligation, and practice accordingly. To this position they can admit of no compromise. They may err, and sometimes do, as Philip did in baptizing Simon Magus at Samaria, as to the evidence, which determines a man's heart to be right in the sight of God; but without some positive evidence that such is the case, which at the time appears reliable, and which justifies them in receiving the candidate as a true believer in Christ, they do not and dare not administer baptism. If they see such evidence in a child, they readily baptize a child; and not unfrequently a whole household, parents and children, are thus baptized together, because all appear to have received like precious faith in the righteousness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Our readers will remember thirty such households are mentioned among the Karens. But in every individual case, the condition of baptism is one and the same: If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.—Baptist Family Magazine, (April).

Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, April 13th, 1858.

Disqualification of Judges of Probate Bill.—The bill to amend Chapter Two of the Revised Statutes, "Of Executive and Legislative Disabilities," was taken up.

Hon. Mr. Almon moved that the bill be amended by adding thereto the following proviso:—

"Provided that this Act shall not extend to any Judge of Probate or Prothonotary, who may now hold a seat in either Branch of the Legislature; but, so far as such members are concerned, this Act shall not go into full operation until after the dissolution of the present General Assembly."

The hon. gentleman spoke at some length in favour of his amendment.

Hon. Mr. Dickey argued at considerable length against the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Bell spoke briefly in favor of the amendment.

Hon. Messrs. Holmes and Whitman spoke against it.

The question being then taken, there appeared—

For the amendment, 8; against it, 10.

The bill then passed without amendment.

Committee adjourned and house resumed, when the Chairman reported.

Hon. Mr. McHaffey moved that the bill be deferred, when there appeared—for the motion, 5; against it, 15.

WEDNESDAY, April 14.

Hon. Mr. Dickey moved that the bill to amend chapter 2 of the Revised Statutes "Of Executive and Legislative Disabilities," be now read a third time.

A long and stormy debate ensued thereon, during part of which the house was cleared of strangers.

The bill was eventually read a third time, and sent to the House of Assembly for their concurrence.

Hon. Mr. Dickey gave notice that he would, to-morrow, move the house into committee in order to take up the general question of Railways.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, April 12, 1858.

The Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, commanded the attendance of the House in the Council Chamber, where His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor gave his assent to 13 bills.

The House resumed. The following bills were read a third time and ordered to be sent to the Council for concurrence:

A bill to provide for the erection of a Poor House at Cornwallis.

An act to amend the Jury Law.

An act to legalize the sittings of the Special Sessions at Pictou.

An act to amend the act relating to the Wesleyan bodies in Nova Scotia.

Hon. Prov. Secretary asked leave to introduce a bill to establish the boundary line between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick—read a first time.

The bill for the Registration of Voters was ordered to be printed.

Mr. McFarlane, from the committee on the petition of John W. Davidson, reported, recommending the payment of £4 5s. as his expenses as a witness on a criminal trial.

After a long discussion, the House divided: for receiving the report, 15—against it, 15; the Speaker gave his casting vote against the reception of the report.

The Prov. Secretary, by command, laid on the table a return of applications made for Crown Lands, near the line of Windsor Railroad, in 1854-55, asked for by the member for Yarmouth.

The House in Committee on Bills, considered the following:

A bill to amend the act to extend the Elective Franchise. The object is to prevent persons voting out of the County in which they reside, on property qualification in another County.—A long discussion ensued.

Mr. Killam moved an amendment, to apply the same principle to Townships, and to prevent persons voting out of the Township in which they reside, on property in another Township.

On division, there appeared for the amendment, 12—against it, 29.

Hon. Mr. Young moved that the bill be deferred 3 months. For the motion, 15—against it, 20. The bill then passed.

A bill to regulate the office of Inspector of Mines, caused a long debate.

Mr. Chambers moved an amendment to the last clause, that the salary of the Inspector of Mines be £200 a year without travelling expenses, instead of £300 a year with travelling expenses.

For the amendment, 15—against it, 23. The bill then passed.

Committee adjourned.

The House resumed, and read the bills reported from Committee.

TUESDAY, April 13.

The following bills were read a third time, and sent to the Council for concurrence:—

An Act to amend the Licence Law in the City of Halifax.

A bill to authorise the sale of the Colchester Academy.

An Act to abolish the wardens of River Fisheries, and transferring to the Sessions the duty of making regulations for the preservation of fish.

A bill to authorise a loan to purchase a lot on which to erect a water tank.

The house resolved itself into committee on bills, Mr. Ryder in the chair, and passed several.

The bill to amend the Act of Incorporation of the Union Bank caused some discussion.

The proposed change is that two directors go out of office annually, who shall be capable of re-election.

Mr. Wier moved that the bill be deferred three months, principally on the ground that no notice had been given that the proposed change would be brought forward at the meeting of the shareholders when it was adopted.

For the motion, 15—against it, 19. The bill then passed.

A number of other bills passed.

The Fire and Firewards' Bill, relating to Mr. Selden's claim on the City of Halifax, was considered. After a long debate, which will appear in the regular reports, the house divided, when there appeared—for the bill, 20—against it, 16. So the bill passed.

The Committee adjourned. The house resumed, and read the Bills reported from Committee.

Leave was given for Mr. Bent to return home on urgent private business.

Then the house adjourned until the next day at 3 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, April 14.

Mr. Moses asked leave to introduce a bill to amend the act for the municipal government of counties; read a first time.

Hon. Sol. General, from the committee on the petition of L. P. W. Desbrisay, praying for a grant for the services of the steamer Lady Le-Marchant, between Charlottetown, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, in 1856, reported, recommending a grant of £200.

The report was received and adopted.

Mr. Wade asked leave to introduce a bill relating to the width of certain roads in Digby; read a first time.

Mr. Parker asked leave to introduce a bill to amend the law relating to the commissioners of streets; read a first time.

Mr. Chambers asked leave to introduce a bill to enable the members of the county of Hants to borrow £250 for the road services of that county, in connection with the railroad; read a first time.

Mr. Wade, from the committee on private bills, reported against the bill to incorporate the trustees of St. Matthew's Church, at Pugwash,

on the ground that the present general law in the revised statutes is sufficient for the purposes required.

Hon. Atty. General asked leave to introduce the following bills:

A bill to amend the act relating to assessment for railway damages.

A bill to amend the act relating to witnesses, and the proof of written documents.

A bill to amend the new Practice act. A bill relating to the management of public buildings.

Hon. Atty. General, as chairman of the law committee, reported a bill to extend to the province certain provisions of the merchant's shipping act.

Also, a bill to provide for the registry of warrants to confess judgment, and bills of sale of personal property.

Hon. Atty. General moved a resolution to release the Inland Navigation Company from the debt of £5,000, loaned by the province, on the condition that the Canal be opened and fully completed between the Basin of Minas and Halifax within two years.

After a long debate.

Hon. Mr. Archibald moved in amendment, a resolution to enable the company to borrow a sufficient sum to complete the works, on security being given that the sum so raised be applied towards the completion of the canal, and that the £5,000 previously loaned be a second charge on the works until their completion, when the said debt to the province shall be released and discharged.

Hon. Atty. General withdrew his motion and agreed to hon. Mr. Archibald's resolution.

Mr. Killam moved an amendment that a lien be retained on the company's works for the £5,000 as a second mortgage.

A message from the Legislative Council announced that the Council had passed a bill to amend chapter 2, revised statutes, of Executive and Legislative disabilities, to which they desired the concurrence of the house.

A division was then taken on Mr. Killam's amendment. For it, 22; against it, 17. The resolution as amended then passed.

Mr. Wier, on behalf of the hon. the Speaker, asked leave to introduce a bill to provide for the extension of the new Eastern road, from Manchester to Strait of Canso.

Mr. Anand asked leave to introduce a bill to authorise the shutting up of an old road in the county of Halifax.

Hon. Atty. General, from the law committee, reported a bill to amend the law concerning patents for useful inventions.

The following bills were read a third time:

A bill to regulate the Inspector of Mines. Mr. Chambers moved an amendment to defer the bill for three months. A call of the house was had.

The following bills were read a third time:

A bill relating to polling districts in Cumberland; also, a bill to provide for a drain in the Cornwallis bridge; also, a bill to define and establish lines and boundaries of the townships in the county of Lunenburg.

Also, a bill to amend chapter 46 Revised Statutes, on the subject of County Assessments.

The house divided on Mr. Chambers' amendment to the bill to regulate the office of Inspector of Mines.

The amendment was negatived—27 to 18.

The Elective Franchise bill was taken up.

Hon. Mr. Howe moved that it be deferred for three months.

The amendment was negatived—28 to 17.

On the third reading of the bill relating to Mr. Selden's claim,

Mr. Wier moved in amendment to defer the bill for 3 months.

For the amendment

Against it

Parker, Bent,

Bailey, White,

Rhynard, Locke,

McKenzie, McLearn,

McDonald, J. Campbell,

Robertson, C. J. Campbell,

Morrison, Churchill,

Geldert, McKeagney,

Young, Caldwell,

Sol. General, Martell,

Wier, Tobin,

Chambers, Henry,

Webster, Bill,

Chipman, Moses,

Anand, Atty. General,

Esson, Finl. Secretary,

Fuller, Ryder,

Archibald, McFarlane,

Howe—19. Bourneuff,

Provl. Secretary,

McKinnon,

Shaw,

Wade,

Smyth, and

Brown—25.

The bill then passed.

A long discussion ensued in reference to the report of the commissioners on the boundary line between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and on the motion to refer the report to a committee, the motion for a committee was withdrawn.

Mr. Henry introduced a bill to provide for the extension of a new road from Antigonish to Canso.

THURSDAY, April 15.

Hon. Attorney General from the Law Committee reported several bills.

The house in committee on bills considered the bill for the settlement and support of the poor. After a long discussion Mr. Wier moved that the bill be deferred for 3 months.

For the motion 17, against it 24.

The hon. Speaker then moved that the bill be referred to a select committee.

For the motion 19, against it 18. So the motion passed.