

European & Foreign News.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Lord Chancellor took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock on Thursday, May 6.

REVISION OF THE LITURGY

Lord Ebury moved for an address to the Crown for the appointment of a commission to inquire into the necessity of a revision of the Liturgy of the Church of England. He contended that the lapse of nearly 300 years had rendered such a revision necessary; it was desirable in itself, and the means by which the alteration could be effected were safe and constitutional. He pointed out the defects of the present Liturgy, the chief of which were the extreme length of the form of prayer for morning service, and the repetitions it contained. Notwithstanding the Act of Uniformity, alterations in Liturgy were, in practice, frequently made. There was not a prelate on the episcopal bench who had not broken the Act of Uniformity over and over again. It was argued that if they attempt any change in the Book of Common Prayer no one knew where they would stop; that great differences would arise, and there might be a disruption of the Church in consequence. But these dangers were not avoided by standing still. They could not be blind to the fact that a great disruption had already occurred; though a revision of the Liturgy might not heal all their differences, yet it would tend to bring back to the Church many pious and estimable Nonconformists; they should therefore make the attempt.

The Archbishop of Canterbury objected to the proposal; the attempt to introduce such changes in the Liturgy would give rise to controversies of which no man could foresee the end.

The Bishop of St. David's also opposed the motion.

Earl Grey admitted the necessity of some change, but trusted the motion would not be pressed to a division.

The Bishop of Cashel disapproved any change not originated by a properly constituted body.

The Earl of Derby hoped the motion would not be pressed to a division, opposed, as it was by nearly the whole of the episcopacy, the great majority of the house, and, he believed, the best friends of the Church throughout the country.

After a few words from Lord Abinger, the motion was withdrawn.

Their lordships then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Wednesday, May 5th.

MARRIAGE LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

On the order for the second-reading of the Marriage Law Amendment Bill, moved by Lord Bury.

Mr. Hope moved to defer the reading for six months. He wound up a very long argument by an exposition of the social evils, the jealousies, the household discords, and the immoralities, which would, in his opinion, be the certain fruits of this legislating, he said, for a few selfish persons.

Mr. Buxton, on the other hand, deduced from social considerations an argument in favour of these marriages, which, he contended, were not forbidden, and were not proved to be morally wrong.

Mr. Collier, in reply to Mr. Hope, contended that a prohibition of marriage should be plain, clear, and decided by the laws of God, by the law of nature, or by some overwhelming social evils. The sole religious argument against the marriages in question was founded upon the text in Leviticus; but this authority was less relied on than formerly, and the argument itself was abandoned when Lord Lyndhurst's act was passed. Even if the question was doubtful, it should be left to the conscience of individuals. The alleged social evils of legalising these marriages were, in his estimation, of a visionary character, while the evils of maintaining the present law were great and certain.

Mr. Baines likewise supported the bill.

Mr. Drummond said that the universal doctrine of the Church up to the time of Pope Alexander Borgia was that these marriages were contrary to the law of God, and he had no doubt that, according to the fair interpretation of the Scriptures, they were incestuous.

Sir G. Lewis said he should give his cordial vote in favour of the bill.

The Lord-Advocate said he should offer the strongest opposition to the bill.

Mr. Puller suggested that it was the duty of the Government to issue a commission to Hebrew scholars to ascertain the true construction of the text.

Mr. Milnes supported the bill on behalf of the middle and lower classes, who, he said, broke and would continue to break a law which was repugnant to their moral sense.

Mr. Akroyd also supported the bill.

Mr. Malins was constrained, he said, after full consideration, to give his support to the bill. He was satisfied that there was nothing in the theological argument; that there was no scriptural prohibition of these marriages; and, looking at the differences of opinion and at the effects of the law as it stood, he thought it expedient to pass the bill.

After a short reply from Lord Bury, the house divided, when the second reading of the bill was carried by 174 to 134.

The other business having been gone through, the house adjourned at a quarter past five o'clock.

FRANCE.

Mr. Jules Favre took the oath and his seat on Thursday in the Corps Legislatif. M. Perret, the defeated rival of M. Jules Favre at the last Paris elections, is likely to be consoled with a seat in the Senate.

The election for the Fifth Circumscription in Paris ended on Monday night, in the defeat of Government. Hicard, the opposition candidate, got 10,323 votes. Eck, the Government candidate, 8,976. This gives Hicard such a majority as secures his election.

The session of the Legislative Corps of France was closed on Saturday, amid loud shouts of "Vive l'Empereur!" The last act of this august assembly was the passage of the law for the embellishment of Paris, which received the sanction of almost the entire body of representatives.

INDIA.

The following telegram, dated Malta, was received at the East India House on Saturday:—

"Sir H. Rose's advance on Calpee has been delayed by the fear that the Kotah rebels will fall on Jhansi. Orders have been issued to General Roberts to advance to Kotah, to co-operate with Sir H. Rose. This military movement is reported since the capture of Kotah. The Rajah is on trial before a commission for not having saved Major Burton and his sons from being murdered.

"The Sikh (?) force, under Major Evans, after an obstinate battle of some hours, inflicted a severe defeat on a large body of Bheels and Mekkivoe (?) in the Sautpore Hills on April 11. Sixty men and 400 women were captured. Our loss was severe—seventy-one killed and wounded; among the latter five officers.

"The disarming of the Myhee Caunta is in progress. No new disturbances are reported in the Southern Mahratta country. The rebel Dessayees are said to have entered the Sawant Waree country with a few followers. The outbreak, it is hoped, is nearly suppressed.

"On the 15th of April Sir E. Lugard relieved Azinghur.

"It is thought that the enemy will make a stand at Calpee. The rebel Rajah of Mysporee has arrived at Oursu (Sirsar?) with some forces.

By the arrival of Calcutta mail correspondence and papers are received from Calcutta to the 10th of April, and from Hong Kong to the 20th of March.

The Times Calcutta correspondence says:—

"The Sepoys, some 3,000 excepted, have escaped, and are swarming into Rohilcund and the provinces east of Benares. Bateilly overflows with them, and with the armed ruffians who, benten everywhere, still congregate wherever there is a chance of plunder or of anarchy. Bahadoor Khan is rapidly building up a regular administration, collecting revenue, founding families, striking coin in his own name. All the discontented seek his protection, and leader after leader, the Nena being the first, submit to a man risen from the ranks. He has, I am told, a strong body of cavalry, in which he reposes great confidence, some 25,000 Sepoys, and an armed rabble which may be estimated at any number you please to fix. A week of victory would bring it up to a hundred thousand, and a day's reverse reduce it to a few desperate fanatics. The natives usually select the hot weather for active operations because they know it paralyses the Europeans. The Commander-in-Chief has evidently distributed his army with a view to an immediate campaign. Eight thousand men—6,500 of them Europeans—remain in Lucknow under Sir H. Grant. Goruckpore, Cawnpore, Benares, Allahabad, and Dinapore have been weakly garrisoned, and the remaining 8,000 Europeans and 2,500 natives proceed to the North-West—that is, to Rohilcund. The head quarters are transferred to Cawnpore, and Sir Colin Campbell is expected to command the great attack in person."

ROBBING CHILDREN OF THEIR TEETH.—A strange affair occurred at St. Etienne, in France, some days ago. A dentist went to the school of the Brethren of the Christian Doctrine, and asserting that he was authorised by the municipality to examine the teeth of the children, and to extract those which were not good, made the boys parade before him, and he drew from them not fewer than 200 teeth, most of which were good ones!

BURIED ALIVE.—A rich manufacturer, named Oppelt, died about fifteen years since at Reichsburg, in Austria, and a vault was built in the cemetery for the reception of his body by his widow and children. The widow died about a month ago, and was taken to the same tomb! but when it was opened for that purpose, the coffin of her husband was found open and empty, and the skeleton of the deceased discovered in the corner of the vault in a sitting posture. A commission was appointed by the authorities to examine into the affair, when they gave their opinion that M. Oppelt was only in a trance when buried, and that, on coming to life he had forced open the coffin.

THE COAST DEFENCES.—Lord Panmure, at a meeting the other day, said he fully concurred in the opinion that there ought to be kept on foot a sufficient force of trained men to be able to man the batteries which it is now proposed to erect. Portsmouth is now being strongly fortified by land and by sea, under the direction of Sir John Burgoyne, and in a few years it will be rendered perfectly impregnable. He hoped that Plymouth would be next in a similar state of defence, and that it would not be long before Dover, which is the key to this country in any attack from our powerful neighbour, would be also effectively fortified.

MARRIAGE EXTRAORDINARY.—Lately at Preston, near Brighton, one of the most extraordinary marriages which have ever taken place was celebrated in the parish church, it being no less than that of the Dowager Countess of Effingham to Mr. Holmes, who has filled the humble position of a Scripture reader at Brighton in connection with one of the churches at that celebrated watering-place. The bride is upwards of eighty years old, and the bridegroom about thirty! The countess is understood to have a princely income, worthy of her position as the daughter and mother of a peer of the realm.—British Standard.

Some English friends of Italian liberty are preparing to hold a bazaar in aid of the Italian National Fund. The proceeds will be placed in the hands of Joseph Mazzini.

TROOPS FOR INDIA.—It is understood to be the intention of the authorities, with the sanction of the Duke of Cambridge, to send no more reinforcements for her Majesty's regiments serving in India from this country until the end of the next month or the beginning of July, unless additional troops should be required in India before that period, by which time it is calculated that 10,000 cavalry and infantry will be ready to embark for the purpose of reinforcing the Queen's regiments now serving in Bengal, Bombay, and Madras.

We find it stated in one of our exchanges that the King of Prussia has become stark mad. He occasionally believes that he is a private soldier, who has just received his commission as ensign, but had since lost the parchment, and therefore he anxiously seeks it in all hidden corners of the palace and nooks of the garden. He dislikes to be watched by his aid-de-camp, whom he believes to be his commanding officer.

The name of Capt. Bazalgette, of the 95th Regt., is among the killed at the siege of Kotah.

General Inglis, who is in ill-health, was to leave Calcutta for England on the 23rd April.

Lieutenant C. W. Havelock, of the Ghorka Regiment, nephew of the late Major General Havelock, was killed during an attack upon the rebels in the vicinity of Jampore.

The Admiralty have advertised for tenders for steam or sailing vessels to convey from 2000 to 3000 men, women, and children from Liverpool and Cork to Quebec, Halifax (Nova Scotia), and Canterbury (New Zealand).

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