

But now a gigantic horror overshadows the land. An appalling calamity shocks our inmost souls. A terrible and hitherto unparalleled sacrifice of life has been exacted, and the people and the authorities must act.

If it be true, as is reported, that the Pemberton Mills have been seamy buildings ever since they were erected; if it be true that the foundations have been so insecure within a few weeks as to necessitate expedients to prop the structure up; if it be true that, since the recent cold weather, the foundations of the building have sensibly given way; if it be true, as one of the unfortunate victims asserted in her dying moments, that she was told some days ago by one of the men engaged in the building that the mills were unsafe, as the foundations were giving way,—then we say the Superintendent and proprietors must have known these facts and knowing them they have incurred an awful, a thrice fearful responsibility. If they can rest easy in view of the wholesale sacrifice of precious life which has been made to their business exigencies, we do not envy the state of mind which brings them that ease.

Large sums of money have been sent from all parts of the country for the relief of the suffering, and no pains are spared to make their condition as comfortable as possible.

A disgraceful affair took place at "Old Harvard" on the 13th inst. The following account I have taken from one of the Boston papers:—

"This morning, at 2 o'clock, a tragical scene took place at the Chapel of Old Harvard between a young student and a private watchman, which will probably result in the death of the latter. It seems that for some time past Bibles have been taken by some person unknown, and it was judged that robbers had broken into the Chapel and stolen the sacred books. On this account a private watchman, Mr. M. Hilton has been stationed in the Chapel at night for the purpose of arresting the guilty party. This morning, at about 2 o'clock, a young man entered the room, who proved to be William H. Forbes, (son of R. B. Forbes, Esq.) a student in the College. It was dark in the room and Hilton cried out "stop." By this means a collision took place between them and it is alleged that young Forbes struck Hilton with a billy, near the forward part of his head, inflicting a dangerous wound an inch or more deep. After the blow Hilton drew a revolver and said, "surrender, or I'll kill you on the spot." Forbes then desisted from any further attack upon Hilton. The noise was heard by the students and a number rushed to the Chapel to find out the trouble at that branch of the institution. Hilton was taken to his residence and physicians called to his assistance.

This forenoon young Forbes was arrested and brought before Justice Ladd, for a hearing in the case. Mr. Hilton not being able to attend, the magistrate committed Forbes to East Cambridge Jail. The Court room was crowded with the students and officers of the College, also the father of young Forbes, who appeared much grieved at the conduct of his son. An examination will probably take place in a few days, when the public will learn the particulars more fully of this sad affair."

This singular affair seems to have originated in dislike to the Theology of Prof. Huntington. This gentleman has partially renounced his Unitarian sentiments, and has recently published a volume of sermons strongly savouring of Trinitarian heterodoxy. This has rendered him extremely obnoxious to the pious youths of Old Harvard. This they manifested in various ways. First, they petitioned to be allowed Unitarian services; then they oiled the seats, and besmeared assafoetida, and otherwise defaced the Chapel. They next stole the Bible and sent it to an Orthodox Society in the West, with respects of the Harvard Faculty. The Faculty were surprised at receiving an acknowledgment of the gift, not knowing what had become of the missing book.

Truly yours,
J. C. HURD.

Boston, Jan. 1860.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

Died at Canning, Cornwallis, on the 21st of October last, after a painful illness of Typhoid Fever, Jerusha, wife of David EATON aged 66 years. For many years Mrs. Eaton was a member of the Baptist Church, and esteemed by all who knew her as a sincere christian, a valued neighbour, and an affectionate mother. In the last painful illness, she enjoyed the sustaining presence of God, and was enabled to meet death in the assurance of a happy immortality.

Also on the 26th of December, LYDIA wife of Newton Comstock, and daughter of David EATON, of Canning, leaving a husband and two children to mourn their loss. The deceased was esteemed for her many amiable and christian traits of character, and her death is deeply lamented by a large circle of relatives and friends.

On the 26th of December, at the residence of her brother, Mr. John Rand, SARAH daughter of the late John RAND, aged 57 years. Our departed sister was a worthy member of the Baptist Church, and in her daily walk, ever adorned her profession, and her surviving friends have consolation in the assurance that she has entered upon the saint's everlasting rest.

Died at Ellsmore Village, Cornwallis, on the 27th inst., after a short but distressing illness. WILLIAM ELLS, aged 64 years. The neighbourhood and society in which our brother reposed have by this providence sustained a severe bereavement. Mr. Ells was esteemed as a worthy member of this community, where integrity, uprightness and daily consistency, secured the well merited respect of all who knew him. For many years he had a hope of salvation through faith in Christ. This hope, we believe, was his support to the end, and now affords great consolation to a surviving companion, and eight children, who mourn their loss.

Religious Intelligence.

GUYSBORO, Jan. 23rd, 1860.—Rev. A. F. Porter writes:—Dear Brother,—I am still engaged in holding forth the word of life, to large and attentive audiences. For a few evenings past the place has been too strait for the numbers assembled. This week I am holding meetings in Manchester. Bro. Bigelow assisted by Bro. St. Clair, is holding meetings at Crow harbor, and sinners are being converted. I have just learned that last week he baptized eight, and the good work is still progressing. Brother St. Clair is a stranger here, but comes in the name of Christ. He labored with me for a few weeks to good acceptance, and I trust his visit here was blessed to several. He has been laboring for some time past in Antigonish, of which I suppose you have heard. By his own request I did not mention him in my last, but as his name has since been mentioned, I will take the liberty gratefully to acknowledge the much needed assistance rendered by him. My prayer is that God may more abundantly bless his labors in connection with Bro. Bigelow.

Our Union morning prayer meetings still continue with interest.

Temperance matters.—The Sessions have refused to grant licenses to the Liquor venders in this county for the coming year. If they will also be zealous to prevent an unlawful traffic we may hope for a better state of things.

There is a flourishing Division of the Sons of Temperance in this town. Numbers are being initiated almost every session. They have purchased the Presbyterian Meeting house which they have named Chedabucto Hall.

NEWPORT.—Extract of letter from the Rev. W. Burton, Jan. 25th, 1860:—"I baptized thirteen last Sabbath, and shall administer the ordinance again this week, probably on Thursday. The meetings continue interesting. I have already baptized forty-five. Five more are received, and others will probably offer to-morrow at Conference."

UPPER AYLESFORD.—The Rev. Jas. L. Read after enumerating the departure of several, as given in our list of deaths, writes:—"And whilst God is taking some away by death. He is also manifesting his salvation in this place. A precious work of Grace is in progress. Last Sabbath I baptized eleven, and nine more are received for baptism, and more have given evidence that they are born of the Spirit."

Provincial Parliament.

Opening of the Legislature.

On Thursday last, the 26th Inst., the Hon. Hugh Bell and the Hon. M. B. Almon attended in the House of Assembly Room, as Commissioners appointed to administer the oath to the members elect.

Objections were offered by members of Government, to the oath being administered to Messrs. Blanchard, Cochran, Chipman, Esson, Alex., McDonald, McLellan and Smith, because that in consequence of their holding offices under the Government they were deemed disqualified.

The Returns of the Sheriffs were read by W. H. Keating, Esqr., Deputy Prov., Secretary.

The returns of Mr. Robertson and Mr. Coffin were also objected to by the Hon. Att'y General, on account of the Sheriffs only stated in their Returns that the persons referred to had a majority of votes, and not specifically returning them, nor mentioning the names of all the candidates.

All the members were sworn in, and took their seats.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, with his staff, attended in the Council Chamber at 4 past 2, p.m. A dense crowd of citizens, ladies and gentlemen, filled the Chamber. As usual, the House of Assembly was summoned to attend. On the members presenting themselves, they were directed to retire and choose a Speaker. On returning to the Assembly, the Hon. Attorney General arose and called attention to the fact that certain parties present were not eligible to sit or vote. He enumerated the names of those gentlemen.

The Hon. Wm. Young objected to any official information being received by the House before His Excellency's Speech had been received.

The Attorney General then proposed J. C. Wade, Esqr., for Speaker.

The Hon. W. Young proposed Stewart Campbell, Esqr. On the votes being taken, there appeared for Mr. Wade 25, for Mr. Campbell 28.

The House then proceeded in a body to the Council Chamber. Hon. Mr. Young informed His Excellency that Stewart Campbell Esqr., had been elected Speaker, which was approved by His Excellency. After the Speaker had demanded the usual privileges for himself on behalf of the House, and His Excellency consenting to the same, he proceeded to read from the Throne the following

SPEECH:

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

In meeting this Parliament for the first time, it gives me great pleasure to be able to congratulate you upon the prosperous condition of the Province.

You will be gratified to learn, that, notwithstanding the diminution of the Royalty on Coal, and although the Distilleries have not been in operation during the last nine months, the Revenue has exceeded that of any former year, fully realizing the Estimates submitted to the Legislature.

It is a matter of congratulation, that, while under existing arrangements, the operations of the General Mining Association have considerably increased, new and valuable discoveries have been made in our Mineral resources, which are stimulating Provincial enterprise, attracting foreign capital, and bid fair at no distant day to introduce vigorous and healthy competition, by which trade will be largely extended, and the Revenue increased.

A Commissioner was appointed, under the Act relating to the management of the Indian Reserves, and some progress has been made in their adjustment, the Report of which will be laid before you.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: The Public Accounts and Estimates, for the current year, will be submitted for your consideration.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The entire absence of any organized Local Force for the defense of the Province, has induced me, during the recess, to authorize the formation of Volunteer Companies throughout the country, and I am happy to inform you that my endeavours have been cordially responded to, not only by the inhabitants of this city, but in many parts of the Province.

Several Companies have already been organized, and others are in the course of formation.

Three thousand stand of Enfield rifles, of the best description, have been placed at my disposal by the Home Government, for the purpose of arming these Volunteers; and I trust that the same feeling which has been so generally evinced in the Mother Country, and also in some of the Colonies of Her Majesty's Empire, will induce you liberally to support the movement, so as to enable me to render this force effective.

I have directed that the correspondence on this subject should be laid before you; and some modification of the Militia Laws will be submitted for your consideration.

The Railways to Truro and Windsor having been finished, the expense of operating and upholding these lines has been placed at the lowest point consistent with the safety and efficiency of the road, and, as far as was practicable, with our present legislation.

By consolidating the Railway and Public Works Departments, further economy may be effected, and your attention will shortly be called to that subject.

The large amount annually required to meet the payment of interest on the Railway Debt, must for some time severely tax your resources, and imperatively demands most stringent economy in order to preserve intact the public credit.

A proposition to transfer to the Executive the Initiation of Money Votes, will be submitted for your deliberation—that system having been found indispensable in England, and already advantageously adopted in New Brunswick and other Colonies.

Your attention will be called to the propriety of extending the principles of Intercolonial Free trade to Manufactured Articles, in addition to those products now interchanged without duty between the British North American Colonies.

A careful investigation has been had into the condition and working of the Savings' Bank, the result of which will be laid before you, and your attention will be invited to some modification of the existing system.

The conflicting clauses of the Decimal Currency Act of last Session demand your early consideration.

It is also desirable that some amendments should be made in the enactments relating to Lunatics, by which the Hospital for the Insane, an Institution already so extensively useful, may be rendered still more widely beneficial.

I fervently trust that your deliberations may contribute to the peace, prosperity, and advancement of this thriving Colony, so deeply indebted to Almighty God for the numerous blessings it now enjoys.

After the Speech was read the Commons retired to their Assembly Room, and His Excellency withdrew.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, Jan. 26th, 1860.—The House was filled to its utmost capacity, the galleries, the lobby and every part around the red benches were crowded with ladies and gentlemen to witness the commencement of the present parliamentary campaign.

The Speaker thanked the House for the honor conferred on him by his election, and then read the Governor's speech.

The Attorney General again expressed his desire of calling attention to the circumstance that, according to the Provincial Statutes, certain members could not hold the position they had taken, and warned them that they must take the consequences of all unlawful actions on their part. He then proposed Mr. Henry Oldwright as First Clerk of the Assembly.

Hon. Mr. Young was surprised that Mr. Oldwright had not spoken to him of his intention of becoming a candidate for the clerkship. He said, "There seems to be some mystery about the matter."

The Hon. Provincial Secretary replied that Mr. Oldwright had expressed his willingness to become a nominee of the government.

Dr. Webster proposed A. James, Esq., as First Clerk of the Assembly. On the ballot being taken the votes stood: For James 28. For Oldwright 26. Mr. James was therefore elected and sworn in.

H. C. D. Twining was nominated by Mr. H. Munro as second Clerk.

Hon. Attorney General moved that Mr. Twining be the Clerk of Bills.

Hon. Mr. Howe thought that in applying the economy recommended in the Governor's Speech, the clerkship of bills should be abolished.

A debate ensued in which it was argued that it would be false economy to diminish the number of officers and consequently waste the time of the House, that extra help would be found necessary, especially for the important work of election Committees, and that a much larger sum would be required for contingencies than would be paid for the salary of a permanent responsible clerk. On the motion that a clerk of Bills be appointed, a division took place when there appeared for the motion.

Yeas—Killam, Pryor, Macdonald, McKinnon, Churchill, Longley, Cowie, Wade, Martell, Tobin, Shannon, Harrington, Hatfield, Solicitor General, Attorney General, Provincial Secretary, Shaw, Robichau, Bourinot, Caldwell, P. Smyth, Macfarlane—25.

Nays—Colin Campbell, Esson, Coffin, Munro, A. G. Macdonald, Moseley, MacKenzie, Ross, Heffernan, Grant, Archibald, Young, Howe, Robertson, Morrison, Chambers, Chipman, Locke, Burgess, Wier, McLennan, Webster, Blanchard, Annard—29.

The Hon. Attorney General proposed Mr. James Tobin, the former Assistant Clerk for reelection to that office. Mr. Twining was also nominated. On division, Mr. Twining was elected 36 to 18.

The following officers were then severally nominated and elected.

Serjeant-at-Arms, Mr. Joyce.
Assistant Serjeant-at-Arms, Mr. Heflor.
Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Twining.
Messenger, Mr. Fitzgerald.

The Hon. Attorney General then informed the House that a gentleman was on the floors of the house who was not legally qualified; he referred to Mr. Mosely from Lunenburg. He then moved that Mr. Mosely should deliver to the clerk a Schedule of his qualification and his title deeds and take the oath required and that in the mean time he do not assume his seat in the house.

Hon. Mr. Young said there was no objection whatever, in point of substance, to the notion; for Mr. Mosely was quite prepared to take the oath and deliver his title deeds. But he looked beyond, to the precedent that would be established, if the motion of the Attorney General was to be enforced. If Mr. Mosely was to be obliged to do as asked, a precedent would be given which would make it allowable that every member of the house be required to take a similar oath, and produce his title deeds—a state of things which would necessarily give rise to much confusion.—There had been ten assemblies since 1839, and though he had carefully looked over the Journals of the House, since that year, he had been unable to find a single instance where the law, (an absurd one in his opinion) had been enforced in respect to the oath. Pass this law now, and what would hinder every member asking for another's qualification. No public good could arise from such a course. He would ask the house if this oath was sanctioned by usage, and whether it could be put under the law?

Hon. Attorney General—When can it be put?

Hon. Mr. Young replied, in case of a vacancy. He would be glad to hear from the Attorney General by what process he could compel the hon. members to take the oath.

Hon. Attorney General thought it but a frivolous objection to assert that the oath should not be put, because it might encourage mem-