

Were that power possessed now he might possibly be one of the first honored with their attention. He would be quite willing that an Act should be granted, if the bishop would withdraw his power of veto from its regulations.

The speech was a manly, masterly and powerful one, and must have produced a lasting impression on the large audience present. It indicated that the distance existing between the High church and the Evangelical parties is not likely to be diminished, but they view christianity from two very different stands points, they will now more than ever maintain a position of open hostility to each other.

The discussion of this question by these two gentlemen—probably the ablest men in the church—before the committee, was full of instruction. Whilst we would not for a moment attempt to depreciate the ability of either we were never more thankful, than while listening to them, that we were not dependent on Synods, or Ecclesiastical Councils for our church polity, and government. Our faith in the constitution of Baptist churches was greatly strengthened. Whilst we may have some things occasionally which some may suppose might be improved by legislation, yet we are convinced that the church of Christ in all matters of government and discipline, needs nothing but adherence to the great law book given by the Head of the church.

The committee reported unanimously to the Council on Friday as follows:

"The Select Committee to whom was referred the Bill to remove doubts concerning the Synod of the United Church of England and Ireland in Nova Scotia, and to incorporate such Synod, have performed the duty assigned to them, and beg leave to report that they are of opinion, that so long as the present want of unanimity on the subject exists among the members of that Church it is not advisable to pass the Bill, and that the effect of doing so would be to cause discord and disunion where harmony now happily prevails."

The meaning of the report was doubtless that if the Bill were to pass it would probably cause a secession from the church. Those acting in the Synod under the Bishop would become the Episcopal Church of Nova Scotia whilst those who declined doing so would remain a part of the Church of England and would be governed by the canons and ordinances of the Church in England.

Hon. Mr. Dickey moved that the report of the committee be received. Several of the members took part in the discussion of the bill in the Council on Friday and it was adjourned to Saturday.

The vote was taken late on Saturday, when there appeared 17 in its favour and but 4 against it—all the churchmen being in the majority. The bill was therefore lost.

The Franchise Bill.

SECOND ARTICLE.

Our readers are entitled to correct information on all matters affecting their political and public duties, as well as on more private and social matters. It is at all times our desire to give them this without reference to parties or persons. Our remarks last week on the New Franchise Bill, introduced by the Hon. Attorney General, may be taken a substantial evidence of this. But on further examination of the matter, and by more careful reading of the clause of the Bill given in our last parliamentary report, we have found that our remarks did not fully shew what the real operation of the bill is likely to be. We shall therefore now endeavour to remove whatever misapprehension may have arisen from the very superficial and cursory glance we then gave to it. No apology, we believe, is needed for our doing this, but on the other hand we feel that our readers throughout the country have a right to expect no less than such correction from us.

It will be better to find out the real character of the measure now, than to wait for the developments of election day, and then for thousands, who had good reason to suppose that they were entitled to representation in parliament, to find, for the first time, that by the carelessness or design of the Assessor, they have been disfranchised—excluded from a voice in making the laws by which they are to be governed and have no means of qualifying themselves.

Whatever in the bill affects the next election—the one to come off during the approaching summer—must be considered as the main feature in the bill—indeed the only real substance of the bill. Whatever provision it makes for subsequent elections can be but a shadow which may assume any shape the next House may please to give to it, or indeed be entirely annulled and swept away by the action of that house during its existence of four years. In discussing the merits of the bill, therefore, whatever is said respecting the real estate qualification of \$150, or the real and personal estate quali-

cation of \$300, is but idle talk. The fact of New Brunswick having a system in operation like that proposed for adoption four years hence, has nothing to do with the real measure proposed to be in operation for the four years from the present time. To say that because New Brunswick has a franchise by which electors must be assessed, and pay taxes on a certain amount of property, that therefore, we should have a franchise extending to those assessed, for any amount, is not very good logic.

The substantive part of the proposed bill then is that which provides for the return of members to the next parliament. To this feature must we attend if we would know its real nature. What that is we find by the following passage in the Bill now before the Legislature. "Every such male subject (21 years of age &c.) who in the Assessment rolls last made up before the 1st day of A. D. 1863, shall have been assessed in respect of real estate of any value, or in respect of personal estate, or personal and real estate together to the value of \$200 shall be entitled to vote at such election," (viz. in the ensuing summer). By this it will be seen that no person who has not been placed on the Assessment roll for 1863, will be entitled to vote, and only those who have had their friends looking after them, and perhaps in anticipation of this measure, taking care to have their names placed on the Assessor's list, will be electors under this bill. It does not appear to signify what the amount may be for which they are assessed. The bill says "assessed in respect of real estate to any value." There may be 50 or 500 persons in some places assessed for property not worth five dollars each, but these will all have votes. They may be called on to pay a tax of a few cents, or they may not, as the case may be, but they will be entitled to vote, whilst all those who have been omitted from the Assessment, however respectable, intelligent or rich, will be disfranchised. Whether this will be better than the existing universal suffrage is at present very problematical.

In common with our contemporaries we shewed last week that the bill would produce a very large diminution in the number of voters indeed this is the object sought by its introduction but as we had then only just seen one clause of the bill, we were not prepared to say who it would principally affect. The Editor of the Witness however seems to have made some calculations on the bill passing into law, and, as we then stated, was sufficiently aware of its provisions to pronounce that six to one of those it would disfranchise would be what were deemed by him of "the wrong sort." What he means by this our readers may judge for themselves. No man will have a vote in consequence of his being the owner of a freehold except he be assessed, but if his tenants happen to be placed on the roll of the Assessors, they may all have votes. This we think is scarcely allowing property or persons to be represented, and more objectionable than universal suffrage. The Assessor's book is to be the only criterion of who are the proper persons to be entrusted with the elective franchise. Neither the payment of a tax, or the possession of property, will be the qualification for voting; for we learn from the Chronicle that "the franchise has nothing whatever to do with the payment of rates. The voter is not to be questioned about his having paid or not paid his rates, and it in no way affects his right to vote, whether he has or has not. If no rates are laid on, he is equally entitled to vote, if the apportionment list shews him in occupation of real or personal property, up to the required amount as if he had been rated and paid his taxes." This we think far more objectionable than the view taken by the Witness, where the Editor of that paper says, "There is no more available basis for representation than taxation. Those who pay taxes are supposed to have some stake in the country and they may be safely trusted to influence its policy."

In our last we asked, "Would it not be better to demand a further qualification such as the ability to read and write?" There would be great difficulty we know in accomplishing this and of applying the test, but we do think that every one who has the privilege of a voice in making the laws, should be able to read them.

It might be better in the present state of things to restrict the privilege to householders. The names of these we think, should be Registered and made public a sufficient length of time before an election, so as to prevent any question arising in the community where he resides, whether he is qualified or no, or whether any names have been improperly omitted so as to have them restored. The bill now before the Legislature does not make such provision except it be in some particulars in the dim future of four years hence. This being the cause we doubt if the provisions of the bill intended to take immediate effect are a remedy for the evils

attendant on universal suffrage, and, we therefore think it would be "better to endure the ills we have than fly to those we know not of."

The Prince of Wales' marriage.

A few days' later English dates bring us accounts of the Princess Alexandra's arrival in London, of the great procession in the metropolis on the occasion, and of the Prince of Wales' marriage ceremony at Windsor on the 10th ult. Every thing is stated to have passed off in the most successful and satisfactory manner.

Thus far this union appears to have been highly popular among all classes in England, and there appears every reason to believe that the whole history of the alliance has begun and ended so far, upon grounds quite unusual in Royal marriages. The attachment of the young couple seems, as far as we can learn, to have resulted much more from personal choice on either side, than almost ever occurs in similar cases. Such matches are almost always patched up for political ends, with little regard to the principles, the feelings, or the prospects of future happiness of the parties concerned. Who can wonder that so much splendid misery is too often the result. The character and example of a British sovereign, who is considered as it were the concentration and embodiment of law and order, as well as that of the Royal Family, is of such paramount value to the community at large, that too much importance can scarcely be attached to the purity and virtue of domestic life in the Palace. Disregard to the great requirements which ought chiefly to influence an alliance like the present, has, within the recollection of many still living, led to incalculable moral evils both of a public and private nature. We cannot too highly appreciate the cause we have for gratitude to God for the exemplary pattern which our present Sovereign and her excellent and lamented husband as well as their family, have afforded our own and every other nation, for the last quarter of a century, in the virtues which adorn and ennoble domestic life, whether in the Palace or the cottage. We most sincerely hope that the present auspicious union may largely add to and prolong so great a national blessing.

Notices, &c.

Received for the French Mission. From Mrs. J. Lockhart Dimock, Newport, 20s. The Treasurer will please debit us the above.

Letters Received.

J. M. Parker, 21st, 20s. Rev. Dr. Tupper, 19th, 20s. R. G. Freeman, 23rd, £5. H. C. Upham, 23rd, 7s. 6d. Rev. J. F. McKenne, 18th. Rev. E. N. Harris, 23rd. James McDonald, 25th, 12s. 6d. Rev. Chas. Randall, 20th, £3. W. F. Cutten, Esq., 24th. Henry Porter, 26th, 20s. Rev. Obed Parker, 24th, 20s. Richardson Harris, 23rd, £2 12s. Rev. George Armstrong, 23rd. W. J. Gate, 25th, \$5.89.—£25 sterling cost \$126.11. Seth Arnold, 5s. (omitted before.)

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, March 24th.

The house met at 11 o'clock. Mr. McFarlane presented a bill, for a bridge in Cumberland county. He also, by special leave, presented the petition of John D. Nash and others, praying an alteration of the tariff in respect to certain materials employed in the manufacture of fertilizing manures.

A call of the House was made and in committee of supply.

The Hon. Finl. Secy. moved the usual grant to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor to defray the expenses of the Civil List; which passed, and the committee adjourned.

Hon. Prov. Secy. presented a petition from Digby, on the representation of that County.

Hon. Mr. Wier presented several petitions praying for a division of the County of Halifax.

Hon. Attorney General, introduced a bill to amend the act to incorporate the Londonderry Iron Mining Company.

The House in committee on bills—took up the consideration of Mr. Longley's license law, which with some slight amendments, was passed.

Afternoon.—The House in committee of ways and means, passed the Tariff, the same as last year, with the exception of the reduction of the ad valorem duties, from 12 1/2 per cent. to 10; and a few slight modifications.

The duty on paraffine oil was reduced from 10 cents to seven cents per gallon.

Mr. Bourinot called attention to the necessity for placing the trade with France on the same footing as in Canada—especially in reference to the reduction of the duties on light wines. He hoped the government during the recess would turn their attention to the subject.

Hon. Mr. Howe recommended more largely cultivating trade with France. He had not lost sight of the advantages which the Province

would derive from following the example of Canada. He entirely coincided with Mr. Bourinot, as to the advantages which would result from the more extensive introduction of the light cheap wines of the continent.

Mr. Shannon had always been of opinion that it would be a benefit to the people of Nova Scotia to get them in the habit of using the light wines of the continent as a beverage, instead of the pernicious intoxicating liquors that were so much in use.

Mr. Tobin moved that the clause imposing a duty upon all wines and cordials manufactured in the country be abolished.

Hon. Finl. Secy. agreed to this motion, after which the committee adjourned.

Hon. Finl. Secy., Atty. Gen. and Mr. Tobin were appointed a select committee to prepare the revenue bills. The House went into committee of supply.

Dr. Tupper addressed the House on the subject of the retrenchment scheme introduced by him last session. He alluded to the embarrassed state of the finances of the country at that time, which induced him to propose that scheme rather than endeavour to augment the revenue by increased taxation. The views he then held upon the subject of reducing the public expenditure he still entertained. He thought that although last year the actual revenue had far exceeded the estimate, yet this very fact proved that no dependence could be placed upon the estimates, and next year the balance might be the other way. It was necessary therefore to be cautious in placing too much dependence upon the estimated increase of the trade of the Province. He pointed out the branches of public service in which he thought large reductions could be made. He denounced the extraordinary course pursued by His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, last year, in writing a despatch to the Colonial Secretary, and arguing on the propriety of the proposed retrenchment from an extract of his (Dr. T's.) speech in the House. Dr. Tupper defended at some length the policy pursued by him in reference to this question of retrenchment, and shewed that in attempting to reduce the salary of the Lieut. Governor and others mentioned in the civil list, he had not violated any contract or been guilty of any breach of faith with the British Government. He moved a resolution that the house resolve itself into a committee of the whole for the purpose of considering what reductions could be made in the various branches of the public service.

WEDNESDAY, March 25th.

The House met at 3 o'clock.

Mr. Coffin presented the report of the Committee to whom was referred the question of Shipmasters' certificates. It recommends that the Governments of Canada and New Brunswick be conferred with, with a view of establishing a Colonial Board of Examiners under Imperial jurisdiction.

Dr. Tupper asked what steps had been taken to secure reciprocity of trade with the various Provinces.

Hon. Mr. Howe said the papers upon the subject would be laid before the House.

The House in committee of the whole, passed several revenue bills.

Some discussion arose respecting light duties. Mr. Killam moved that new vessels be wholly exempt from that duty on the first voyage.

Mr. Coffin thought it was a great hardship, when thousands of pounds were expended in building a ship, that the moment she was ready for sea, on her first voyage you tax her £20 or £30.

Mr. Killam took the same view. The restrictions on our shipping caused a large expenditure on their rigging, &c., in New Brunswick, which should be kept in this Province; they were much more liberal there to the shipping interest than we are. Mr. K. moved:—That all new vessels be exempt from light duty on their first voyage; and all vessels leaving after April pay a duty of 6d. per ton, which passed, and the committee adjourned.

Mr. S. Campbell from the Committee on the amendment of the laws, reported favourably upon a bill to prevent imposition in the sale of coal.

Mr. Chambers presented a report from the committee to whom was referred the matter concerning the sale of hay on the streets of Halifax, proposing a bill to repeal the ordinance under which the corporation prevented persons from exposing hay for sale on the streets.

Mr. Tobin opposed the bill and expressed his opinion that the government should appropriate the lot near the new Court House for the purpose of a hay market.

Hon. Mr. Howe said that the property had been sold. He was sure there was plenty of room in the streets of Halifax for the sale of hay, without inconveniencing the busy public.

Hon. Mr. Wier thought it the duty of the city authorities to provide a hay market.

Mr. Henry was opposed to the bill; he did not think it was right that the streets of the city should be encumbered by hay and straw carts.

The bill was read a first time.

Mr. Henry introduced a bill to provide for deepening and improving Antigonish harbor.

Hon. Mr. Howe laid before the House a report of hon. Financial Secretary relative to intercolonial trade.

Hon. Mr. Howe replied to the speech of Dr. Tupper on the previous evening. He contended that none of the salaries were too large, and gave various statistics to show that the country was in a most prosperous condition. He referred to the remarkable progress the country was making in ship-building. In 1858 and 1860,

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