

presented. I also thank those other kind friends who subsequently increased the contents of the purse to \$116, making in all \$185.

Excellent speeches were delivered by the Revs. Thos. H. Davis, (Wesleyan,) N. Videto, P. F. Murray, I. Wallace, Geo. Wethers, and Deacon Messenger, Mr. Thos. Hall, Music Teacher, and his class added much to the interest of the occasion, by the appropriate and well-rendered music with which they favoured us. I thank my friends for their unabated confidence and for their kindness shown me so often and so substantially;—and pray that both people and preacher may trust more unwaveringly in Christ, and serve Him faithfully to the end.

Yours truly,
GEORGE ARMSTRONG.

Bridgetown, Feb. 19th, 1864.

Allow me through the columns of the Messenger, to return my sincere thanks to those kind friends who have recently tendered me and my family, substantial tokens of their sympathy, goodwill and affection. On Tuesday evening the 1st inst., a goodly number assembled at the Parsonage house, with smiling faces, tuneful voices, and kindly words. Nor did they come empty-handed. Richly laden with the good things of this life, they prepared a sumptuous repast. And not content with supplying their own need, they were generously constrained to leave their gifts behind them, which amounted in cash to about \$35 25, and in other useful and valuable articles to about \$40, leaving their host the gainer to the amount of about \$75.25.

These expressions of kindness tend greatly to cheer the Minister in his arduous work and to cement the bonds which bind him to the community on which he labors. May God richly reward the donors seven fold into their own bosom, and bestow upon them and all the surrounding communities the riches of his grace.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
STEPHEN MARCH.

Religious Intelligence.

REVIVALS IN U. STATES.—Revivals seem to be spreading in various places throughout New England, and in almost every record which we see of them it is mentioned as one of their marked peculiarities that there is an absence of all excitement. Without any of the appliances which are often used to awake a religious interest, the people seem already prepared for it, and when directly appealed to seek a personal interest in religion, they at once respond to the appeal.

Letters have been received from one of the Professors in Williams Colleges, stating that on the day of Prayer for Colleges, a revival commenced in that institution, and that one week from that day, as many as forty persons who, the week before, were unconcerned, spoke, prayed, or signified their interest in the work. Another letter says: "The revival bids fair to be one of the deepest and most heart searching that has ever visited the college." At Mount Holyoke Seminary there has been a remarkable work of grace; Dr. Kirke and other able clergymen have been laboring there. More than eighty have indulged hope in Christ since the commencement of the year. And there are only about twenty left in the institution who are not indulging the Christian's hope. There has been an extensive awaking in Iowa College. From the reports from different parts of the country it is apparent that there is a more general religious interest in the churches than has been experienced for several years.—Boston Journal.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, March 22nd.

The House met at 11 o'clock in the morning, a bill was introduced by the Hon. Attorney General concerning the Union Mines Association at Bridgeport. After which the House resolved itself into committee of the whole on bills, and passed several chapters of the Revised Statutes. Also a bill concerning wrecks and Marine Courts of Enquiry.

In the afternoon sitting the house in Committee of Supply passed a number of items. The appropriation of \$16,000 to St. Peter's canal called forth some debate in the course of which Messrs Annand, Blanchard and others referred to the talk there had been previous to the late elections of Retrenchment in the public expenditures. They failed to find in the Estimates any fulfilment of the promises then made. The expenses attending the revenue department appeared to be increased rather than diminished from the past year. The crown land department and other branches also showed an increase.

Mr. Archibald thought it would be better to divide the sum named for St. Peter's canal between the counties of Cape Breton for road service.

The Hon. Provincial Secretary defended the administration from inconsistency. The prosperous condition of the revenues of the Province being as he conceived a full and satisfactory answer to all the inaccurate statements put forth in the opposition press during the past six months. Still a saving had been effected in the offices of the Financial Secretary and Receiver General and in other branches of the public service. He never intended that the reduction of salaries he proposed should be permanent. Every principle and profession the present government had announced had been carried out and their promises fully performed.

Mr. Archibald replied and quoted from Dr. Tupper's speech of last session, when the previous necessity did not exist, to show that he had then reiterated his determination to apply his retrenchment plan in the event of coming into power. He charged the Hon. Financial Secretary with failing to fulfil the promises made on the hustings and with collusion with late Pro. Secretary on the Catholic question.

Hon. Fin. Secretary denied having used the word Catholic or Protestant in any correspondence between himself and Mr. Howe, and challenged its production.

WEDNESDAY, March 23th.

The morning session was occupied by the Revised Statutes.

In the afternoon session, Mr. Tobin introduced a bill to incorporate the Sisters of Charity. Mr. Blanchard asked for a return of the salaries paid the Railway officials during the years 1861, 1862 and 1863.

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE RESOLUTION.

After a few other items of business of a routine character,

Mr. Longley took up the order of the day and invited the attention of the members to the question on which so large a number of petitions had been presented—the Act passed last session in reference to Dalhousie College, by which the Presbyterian body had been put into possession of that institution and received the benefit of its revenues, whilst the other bodies were precluded by having institutions of their own, from participating in them. Consultations had been held with that body alone, and no overtures had been made to the Episcopalians, Baptists, Methodists or Catholics, but, by the adroitness of certain clever men, the Act had been so framed as to give it an air of liberality and fairness whilst it was really adapted to the positions of Presbyterians alone, and they alone could take advantage of its provisions.

He read extracts from the discussion of the question in the Presbyterian Synod of 1862, shewing that seventeen of the ministers and members then present voted to wait till other religious bodies had indicated their willingness to participate in the College, before accepting the proposal to unite in its resuscitation. He acknowledged that the blame of passing the Act of last year belonged in part to himself, but he had not made himself acquainted with the provisions of the bill, and he believed that other members who allowed it to pass were, in consequence of its being so quietly passed, as ignorant of it as he was himself. He went into the history of Dalhousie from its foundation, and shewed that the large funds originally given from the Castine fund being insufficient to complete the building, two thousand pounds were granted by the Assembly and afterwards one thousand pounds, and subsequently a loan of £5000 was made to be returned after five years. The building and its revenues were made liable for the repayment of this amount. The time which the College has not been in operation, these funds have been accumulating until now they yield an annual income of £92010 per annum. Other denominations had built their own educational institutions and were now receiving aid from the Legislature, and Presbyterians were receiving \$1000 for Pictou Academy and \$1000 for their College and further reaping more largely than any other body the benefits of the Normal School expenditure, and he thought they ought to have been satisfied, but by some means they had managed to get possession of power and money far in advance of every other. He thought a sense of justice should have prevented their grasping this college. The Legislature would doubtless treat them as liberally as others if they had applied for further aid. He concluded by moving a resolution, with a preamble, shewing the unfairness of the present state of things, that the Act of 1863 be repealed, and the repayment of the loan of £5000 be demanded from the governors of Dalhousie College.

Hon. Provincial Secretary arose to reply and present the case as he conceived it stood. He had been challenged to do so by the honorable mover of the resolution. He felt much embarrassed by having to meet many of his own friends on this question whose opinion he was bound to respect. He regretted that this action had not been taken by his friend last session when the bill was before the house and country, but now he conceived that it was too late. He was not opposed to the denominational institutions of the province, but believed they had been the means of conferring vast benefits on the country. No body could employ efforts in the spread of education without conferring incalculable benefits on the whole people, and as such he considered that those who had sustained those institutions were deserving the thanks of the Legislature and the people generally. He stated that previous to the building of Dalhousie College the Earl of Dalhousie had offered to King's College, the funds placed in his hands for appropriation, provided the governors would open its terms of admission to other denominations but on their refusal to do so, this institution was begun. He Dr. T. admitted that a great wrong had been done on the first opening of the college, in rejecting a gentleman as a professor on account of his not being a Presbyterian, but he thought the governors had sought to galvanize the institution into life by bringing other bodies to co-operate in it before now, but objection had not been taken then to the movement. He referred to the occasion of the destruction of Gorham College, when an attempt had been made to amalgamate the funds of that institution with Dalhousie, but it had failed in realizing their intention to make it a Provincial University. The two bodies of Presbyterians—the Kirk and the United Presbyterians—who had now united in the proposal, had heretofore been as hostile to each other as any two other separate bodies,

but when they had agreed to an arrangement for reviving it into activity, opposition was aroused. He had no wish to hide from the public the steps taken in the accomplishment of this purpose, and in August, 1862, the Colonist contained an article stating what had been done by the Presbyterian bodies and expressing approval of their action. They had demanded of the governors that an addition should be made to the governorship, and consequently himself, Hon. Mr. Shannon and J. W. Ritchie Esq. had been named and had accepted the proposal believing that the funds might be made available for the purposes of the institution. The Bill was introduced by the late Provincial Secretary, it then caused but little excitement and it passed unanimously. He conceived that to repeal the measure now would be a breach of faith with the governors and the gentlemen who had been brought from Canada and Scotland as professors. The institution belonging to the Presbyterians at Truro, had been vacated and their arrangements broken up with the expectation of forming one of a higher order in Halifax. The Baptists might have had one or two chairs, the Methodists the same, and the Church of England the same, and an offer was actually made to a gentleman belonging to the former body, but his friends had advised him not to accept the offer. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Longley) had warned him to avoid linking his fortunes with this institution lest he should be buried under its crumbling walls but he did not apprehend that any danger existed. If he could do anything to further the cause of higher education he had no fears of such a disastrous result.

He moved as an amendment to Mr. Longley's motion that the house resolve itself into committee on the general state of education.

On Dr. Tupper resuming his seat some minutes of silence elapsed. As no one rose to speak several members called "Question."

The Hon. Attorney General arose and said he could but express his astonishment to hear from gentlemen opposite, the cry of question. He thought the subject deserved some treatment a little more in accordance with its importance. He felt much embarrassment in reference to the question introduced by his colleague. He deeply regretted the action of the legislature of the last session. He had been much surprised that the bill should have been so hastily passed upon. He had not intended to oppose the bill but wished to have asked some questions and propose some amendment before it passed, but on enquiring was surprised to find it had been carried without division, in his absence. As the Act had then passed, and action had been taken upon it, he should feel obliged to vote against the motion to repeal it. He had been too deeply concerned in the agitation which had resulted in establishing the Colleges in connection with the religious denominations of the province to be uninterested in this proposal.

As regards the character of the petitions he must say that having looked over those from places with which he was well acquainted, he found the names of the most respectable of all religious persuasions, men of every class and of every political party and he thought they deserved the serious consideration of the house. He had been aware of the proposal made to the hon. Provincial Secretary and other friends and had advised their acceptance feeling that they would be a check on any divergence from the intentions of the Legislature. He felt that difficulty surrounded the question of a Provincial University but was not prepared to repeal the Act as he did not think sufficient cause had been shewn.

Mr. Archibald said the bill had been favorably spoken of when first introduced, by the leading men of both parties in the House; and an amendment was introduced in the Legislature Council which was afterwards adopted by this house. He thought there had been plenty of opportunity for all necessary enquiry.

Mr. Tobin said he had called for the question as he thought the subject was exhausted by the two speeches made. As the law had been enacted last year he did not feel disposed to repeal it. Dalhousie College had been an unfortunate affair from the beginning and he should be glad if any thing could be done with it. He believed it was the intention of the teachers to leave religion alone. He would not fear to go into it for instruction if he were a young man seeking education, and did not believe the Professors would say anything to interfere with his religious opinions or denominational feelings.

Mr. Bill made a few remarks, after which the debate was adjourned till Tuesday (yesterday.)

THURSDAY, March 24th.

Hon. Prov. Secretary laid on the table reports on the Coal Fields of Cape Breton. Also, correspondence from Admiral Milne in reference to a Steam Fog Horn off Halifax harbour.

Mr. Churchill introduced a bill to amend chap. 64 of the Revised Statutes, On Commissioners of Streets.

The house in Committee of Ways and Means, it was proposed to reduce the excise duty on home-manufactured porter and ale one cent per gallon, which passed.

Mr. Tobin presented a petition from the Brewers of Halifax, praying that the whole excise duty be taken off home-made ale and porter.

The duty on French wines was reduced. Saltpetre and malt were added to the list of exemptions.

The amendment to the Usury Law from the Legislative Council, was considered. The Prov. Secretary moved that the amendment be agreed to. The Atty. General moved that it be not agreed to.—The Prov. Secretary's motion was lost—27 to 14.

SATURDAY, March 26th.

The House met in the morning, but, from the absence of members on committees, adjourned to meet at 3 p. m.

In the afternoon the House met and went into committee on Bills—the Customs and Streets Acts were amended.

The Hon. Prov. Secretary laid on the table despatch from Canada, respecting the survey for the Intercolonial Railway.

Several other bills were taken up and passed, among which were the Pictou Ferry, the Fruit Grower's Association and the Albion Mines Savings Bank Bills &c.—The Halifax City Bill was discussed. On the question of the ballot Mr. Tobin proposed to substitute open voting. The Committee adjourned to Monday without taking any action upon it.

MONDAY, March 29.

The House met at 11 o'clock, A. M. After some routine business and the introduction of two or three bills the House went into Committee and took up the Bill for the Registration of births, marriages and deaths.

In the afternoon the Union of the Provinces being the order of the day, was brought on for discussion.

The Hon. Provincial Secretary introduced the subject and spoke of it as one on which leading men of all shades of opinion had spoken and written. He regretted that there had ever been a separation of the Provinces under distinct governments. Although it might have been necessary at the time it was effected, yet now, by means of steamboat and railroad communication such necessity was entirely removed. He did not favor a union with Canada at present, on account of its financial condition, but conceived that it would ultimately be necessary for the protection of the whole of British North America from danger, in case of hostilities with the United States. He finished his speech by moving that Delegates, not more than five in number, be appointed to confer with delegates from New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island on the subject. The terms of union to be afterwards submitted to the approval of the Legislature of the Provinces concerned, and to the Home Government.

Mr. Archibald seconded the motion and sustained the action proposed, by a speech of some length. Several other gentlemen.—Mr. Tobin, Hon. Mr. Shannon, Hon. Attorney General, Mr. Churchill, Hon. Mr. McFarlane, Mr. James McDonald, Mr. Charles Campbell and Dr. Hamilton spoke in favor of the project.

Mr. Killam, Mr. Longley and Mr. Miller expressed their dissent from the action proposed, believing that the Provinces were not yet prepared to enter into the arrangement with any satisfactory results.

The debate continued till quite late in the evening when the question was taken and the resolution agreed to without division.

American and Foreign News.

LATEST FROM THE STATES.

[From Telegrams to morning and evening papers.]

TUESDAY, March 22.—Captain Ferguson has been arrested on the charge of being implicated in fraud at Alexandria. He has already refunded \$70,000.

The Secretary of the Interior in a recent official communication says that little disposition has been manifested by freed man to leave the land of their nativity.

WEDNESDAY, March 23.—A despatch to the New York Herald reports Gen. Lee (Confed.) daily receiving accessions and preparing for an early movement, his cavalry being reorganized and his infantry coming up from various quarters and in a few weeks his army will not be inferior to that of last year.

Admiral Farragut has asked for and obtained reinforcements to the Naval force in the Gulf. Deserters report Longstreet's army moving to join Lee.

The Wilmington Journal says that on an average the past year, only one out of 20 blockade runners have been captured. The peculiar situation of the coast, and the numerous channels rendered effectual blockade impossible.

Evening.—Philadelphia Inquirer's letter from New Orleans, says Gen. Banks took the field on the 9th inst., with forces composed of 18,000 cavalry and 24 light guns under Gen. Lee.—They will sweep across the country, and thence into Texas.

Arkansas advices report steady return of citizens to their allegiance. Gen. Albert Pike has made overtures for an Amnesty.

THURSDAY, March 24th.—An engagement took place near Fort Pillow on 16th between 600 Federals and 1000 Confederates. The latter were routed with loss of 50 killed and wounded.

The Bill in aid of European and North American Railway passed Maine Senate yesterday 17 to 8.

The Richmond Examiner of 17 says an engine had passed over the road destroyed by Sherman.

It is reported that a block of twenty buildings at Memphis used as commissary stores full in, burying 40 negroes in the ruins.

FRIDAY, (Evening) March 25.—Deserters report that Lee has ordered all waggons ready for use on April 1st.

Reported that the enemy has mounted six rifled guns in casemates of Fort Sumter, bearing on Channel.

Gen. Smith's capture of Fort Derusay was a very brilliant affair. Works were carried in