

who had a right to be consulted. He considered that the time had gone by when there was any prospect of establishing a Provincial University. He believed that the denominational system was better calculated to meet the interests of the country at the present day than an University in Halifax. He thought that ere long, if the experiment was continued, it would cost a great deal more than £5000 to the Province. He pointed to the fact that \$1000 was given in the Estimates to Dalhousie, and asked upon what principle that was done. He was afraid it was but laying the ground for giving it further government assistance. He then continued:

There are a great many points to which I might allude, but as the ground has already been pretty well run over, I do not think it would be worth my while tasking the patience of the House much further. I stated a short time ago that I was willing to accord to the Professors of the Institution at the present time praise in regard to the motives that influenced them, and to the attainments that distinguished them. I may not be a very good judge of their classical attainments, but I take it for granted that they are men every way worthy of that institution, and perfectly competent to foster the educational interests of this country. But what is the character of that institution as well as of its students at the present time? These two questions answered will settle very effectually whether it is confined entirely to one denomination. If I am correctly informed, there is but one Professor in that institution who does not belong to the one or the other branch of the Presbyterian, and I think I am prepared to state positively that there is scarcely a student in that institution that is anything but a Presbyterian, and I do not say this in any disparaging way whatever. I believe there are hundreds of Presbyterian young men in this country in all relations of life that are an ornament to the Province; but yet all that I have stated is significant in connection with what I have again and again reiterated that the leading denominations which compose so large a proportion of the population of the Province are not taking an interest in the institution, and that although there may be the best intention to deal fairly with the other denominations, yet the circumstances in which these are placed entirely preclude them from taking part in this scheme.

I think the Provincial Secretary has ventured rather hastily to censure gentlemen who have taken a deep interest in this question. One thing is certain, that that hon. gentleman upon this question occupies a position which I think is not endorsed by the denomination to which he is particularly attached—by the Episcopalians, by the Methodists, or by the Catholics; and I believe the sentiments and ideas of those different denominations are entitled to respect in this Legislature. I deplore as much as any body the agitation of any religious question, and I cannot forget many of the disastrous consequences resulting from the excitement that arose from the discussion of a similar question twenty years ago. I know that in the advocacy of the denominational system my hon. friend brought himself into unpleasant contact with a portion of his own denomination; but that portion of the denomination to which he belongs do not in any way endorse the present action, and have little sympathy in reference to the revival of Dalhousie. I believe there is hardly an intelligent man among them that would for a moment favor the present scheme. There is another consideration which influences my mind very considerably, and that is this; many of the petitioners are men of high classical attainments belonging to the different denominations.—I find professional men entirely competent to form an opinion and who thoroughly understand the question. I was going a while ago to refer to the legislation of last year. It is perhaps unnecessary for me to do, so but yet I am inclined to say that it was of such a nature as to deceive this House. I ask the Provincial Secretary and other gentlemen who were in the Legislature of last year, if there was a single discussion on the subject that lasted five minutes, and I ask them if one man out of ten understood the scope and bearing of the law that was passed, opening the portals of Dalhousie. I am safe in saying that no other gentleman except the Prov. Secy. was consulted in reference to this matter, and I doubt very much whether other gentlemen belonged to other denomination, were consulted. I take it that the faculty in connection with Kings, with Sackville, and with Acadia, were persons to be consulted upon this question—the men who have identified themselves with the educational institutions of the country for a score of years ought to be the best judges how far it comported with the interests of their institutions to support Dalhousie; and no arrangement ought to have been thought of for a moment that would have ignored the existence of these men.

I am well aware from the sentiment that seems to prevail around these benches that there is little hope of the resolution which I introduced the other evening, and which I believe embodies the sentiments of the people, on whose behalf I speak, will pass. I think, however, that the resolution which will be moved for, the repayment of £5,000 in the Provincial treasury or with a view of dividing it between the different denominations should carry. The Provincial Secretary has talked about undertaking to buy the support of members with the money consecrated to educational purposes. Why it does seem to me that his remark tell with little weight upon my mind when I remember that but a short time since that hon. gentleman undertook to charge the support of the Normal School upon Dalhousie in connection with a scheme that claimed from his hand the most earnest advocacy. It will be also remembered that the scheme of making Dalhousie a Museum was

favoured in certain quarters. It was not then that high offence to propose to devote Dalhousie to some other purpose different to that which its original founder had in view. I think that this Legislature had a perfect right to say what shall be done with the £5000 owing to the Province. I did not forget that years ago there was a motion passed the Legislature by a very large vote to demand the payment of that money. I think I can also find a resolution proposing the same thing and that Dalhousie should not be used for a purpose so axalted as a university. It is only very recently that gentlemen have come to have such great objection to deal with Dalhousie. I believe that the honest, fair, and manly course to pursue would have been for the Presbyterian body, and I say it with all respect, if they desire higher education for their young men, to have imitated the example set by Kings, Acadia and Sackville, and have raised the funds and bring up an institution to such a position that they would not feel ashamed to place it side by side with those of the other denominations who have done so much to merit the gratitude of the people of this country. I feel that as far as I am able to understand the necessities of the country, and more especially as far as relates to the peculiar circumstances and views of my own denomination, that it will be a long time before they are attracted from an institution hallowed by so many reminiscences—an institution which is indeed the effort of toil, and self-sacrifice. I look forward to the time, not far distant, when this question will cause no little agitation in this country, and I have been very considerably influenced in bringing forward this resolution, by the hope that this Legislature will see the necessity of passing it, with a view of settling this vexed subject upon an equitable basis before it is too late.

I remarked the other night, when speaking upon another subject, that this Legislature had a right to congratulate itself that the tone of acrimonious debate which had distinguished it in former years was passing away, and I think we should congratulate ourselves that we have gone through such trying ordeals comparatively unscathed. We have only merged from a conflict of a most unpleasant character, but I feel that the one that lies before us will assume an aspect which will lead to consequences that will be much more prejudicial in regard to the feelings that will be engendered. As respects myself I shall have to change my mind very considerably before I can ever endorse the sentiments that have been expressed by the Provincial Secretary. In former days I have been proud to be associated with him in the general politics of the country, for I believe he represented fairly the feelings of the party with which I have always deemed it an honour to be connected; but it is quite possible that a question which seems to be of very small magnitude in the beginning, may assume an aspect which may tend to bring into collision those who ought to be closely drawn together.

The conclusion of the debate and the division on the question were given in a former number.

TUESDAY, April 12.

Mr. Hill brought in the report on the Provincial Penitentiary.

Hon. Sol. Gen. introduced a bill to provide an Inspector of steamboats.

Mr. Cowie introduced a bill concerning the funds for deepening Liverpool harbor.

Mr. Stewart Campbell expressed dissatisfaction that his request made on the 8th Inst for a return of all the free passes granted by the Railway commissioner had not been answered.

Hon. Prov. Sec. replied that no account had been kept of free tickets, issued by the late Commissioner, but that Mr. McDonald had commenced to keep such account at the beginning of the present year. He (Dr. T.) spoke at some length on Railway management generally.

Hon. Prov. Secretary laid on the table of the House correspondence between Judge Bliss and the Administrator of the government stating that in consequence of feeble health he, Judge Bliss, had been unable to fulfil the duties of his office and offering to retire if a retiring pension of £400 per annum were granted.

The Judge's letter shows that his present salary is £812 10
That of his successor would be 700 0

The difference thus saved would be 112 10
An addition of 287 10

would make up the proposed pension of 400 0

Looking at the matter in a public point of view alone, "he says," I cannot doubt that it will be thought highly desirable to secure at so small a cost, the better and more effective discharge of those duties, which my age and broken health will no longer enable me to perform as I could wish, and as the exigencies of the country require.

The reply given by the government was an acknowledgment of the valuable services Judge Bliss had rendered to the country and the high respect and esteem in which he was held, but that the creation of a pension would be an inconvenient precedent which the government were not prepared to recommend.

He (Pro. Sec.) then laid on the table returns of the arrears now on the dockets of the County Courts. The Prothonotaries' Returns of the October Sittings and Michaelmas Term of the Supreme Court, A. D. 1863 show that the following Cases were postponed for want of time. In Annapolis 18, Cape Breton 12, Colchester 6, Cumberland 50, Digby 12, Inverness 22, Halifax 29, Hants 9, Queen's 8, Richmond 4, Arguments at Halifax 42. Total 212 cases. He remarked on the inability of the present judges to attend to the business of the country. He then introduced a bill for the ap-

pointment of a Court of Equity with a judge to be styled, the Chief Justice of Equity, to be equal to the present Chief Justice in rank and emoluments—whilest cases of Law would be under the jurisdiction of the latter, the cases of Equity would be presided over by the former. The House then went into Committee on Bills and spent the remainder of the day on the Bill to extend the jurisdiction of Magistrates.—Amendments were made and passed, reconsidered and lost, at length a motion to empower Magistrates to record judgments above £5 was agreed to.

WEDNESDAY, April 13th.

The House in Committee on bills passed the Halifax City Stipendiary Magistrate's Bill, also the Mines and Minerals Bill. It was decided to appoint a subordinate officer to the Chief Commissioner of Mines to perform the duties of Inspector.

THURSDAY, April 14th.

Mr. Bourinot moved that the amendment of the Legislative Council to the Statute Labor Bill be not agreed to, which passed by a vote of 22 to 18.

On the third reading of the Halifax City Bills, a question relating to the separation of the Liquor business from the sale of groceries was introduced. Mr. Longley strongly advocated this measure, but it was opposed by Messrs. Tobin, Miller and others. Hon. Attorney General moved a resolution to be added to said bill, that the City Council be empowered to regulate Liquor licenses; which passed.

Mr. Killam obtained leave to return home on urgent business.

The House in Committee on bills took up the Agricultural Bill.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick being in the city, on his way to England, was received in the Assembly by the members all standing. He sat in the House for some time and listened to the debates.

FRIDAY, April 15.

The House in committee took up the Revised Statutes.

In reply to a question from Mr. Bourinot the Hon. Prov. Sec. stated that it was not the intention of the government to provide for a Geological Survey of the Province during the present year.

Dr. Slocumb exhibited several fine specimens of gold bearing quartz from the "Ovens" and expressed his opinion that the use of those diggings being undervalued was that difficulties had arisen between the proprietors and miners. He stated that the veins were from one to six inches in thickness and increased on going downward.

Mr. Annand expressed his surprise at the fineness of the specimens and thought the smallness of the veins had been the cause that so little had been done at the Ovens diggings.

Dr. Tupper moved the second reading of the bill for the appointment of a Judge in Equity but as Mr. Archibald requested that it be deferred to Saturday he consented to that arrangement and took occasion to allude to some statements, made before the last election in the opposition press concerning a measure of this nature, and denounced them as wholly untrue.

The House in Committee proceeded with the Mines and Minerals bill.

SATURDAY, April 16th.

The House met at 11 a. m. and proceeded to the consideration of the bill for an Equity Judgeship.

Mr. Archibald spoke between three and four hours in opposition to the bill. He contended that the proposed judgeship was unnecessary, that it would be injurious to the public welfare and would not facilitate the business of the courts. Another judge was needed but not a change in the courts such as that proposed by this bill. He proceeded to consider the financial condition of the country and expressed the opinion that the present prosperous state of the revenue arose from the war in the United States, and that a proclamation of peace between the contending parties would have the effect of greatly diminishing the income of this province.

The Hon. Solicitor General replied to him and defended the course pursued by the government in respect to the subject under discussion and in their financial measures.

The House adjourned about 6 o'clock and resumed at 8 in the evening. Mr. Miller spoke briefly in favour of the bill.

Hon. Financial Secretary spoke in defence of the course pursued by the government, and contrasted it with that of their predecessors, and showed that more attention had been given during the present year to the road and bridge service in all the counties of the province. He challenged the Opposition to meet them on the hustings in the face of any constituency and was confident that the people would pronounce in favor of their proceedings. He had been charged with being "dumb," but was prepared on all proper occasions to speak and sustain the acts of the administration. He believed that the opinion expressed that peace in the neighbouring republic would diminish the revenue, was not well founded. He believed that on the contrary the effect of peace would be a largely increased commerce and a revival of every branch of trade. The fisheries would probably receive an advance of fifty per cent by such a change in the position of the parties now in hostility in the United States.

Mr. Blanchard argued that the delay in the courts was not occasioned by any deficiency in the number of judges but by the want of time expended in the several counties. A proper arrangement of the courts would give all the facilities that were required. The creation of

this Court could only cause embarrassment in the cases requiring adjudication. There was such a blending of law and equity in the majority of cases that they could not be fairly separated. He compared the condition of the Supreme Court under this bill to a calf with two heads, and thought that it would be equally monstrous and inconvenient, that the bill was but a measure to place the Attorney General in a position of equality with the present Chief Justice. He fully admitted Mr. J's qualification for a judgeship but thought that no case had been made out, shewing that it was at present necessary.

Mr. McDonnell went into some explanations by way of shewing how the previous speaker had obtained the large majority at the polls, of which he had boasted, that it had been by duplicity and unfair dealing on the part of his principal agents at the election. He Mr. McD. was in favor of the measure before the house. His own experience shewed that there was great necessity for an Equity Court, and he considered that the Hon. Attorney General would be making a sacrifice by giving up his valuable practice for the sake of accepting such an office as this bill creates.

Mr. Tobin thought the house should decide the question without further delay and called for the vote to be taken.

Mr. S. Campbell wished to speak upon the subject but it was now too late to do so. It was nearly 11 o'clock and the house therefore adjourned to Monday.

MONDAY, April 18th.

The debate on the Judge in Equity Bill was resumed by Mr. Locke, who spoke in opposition to it, denouncing it as a job for the purpose of penoning the Hon. Attorney General.

Mr. Killam also expressed his dissent, conceiving it a poor piece of retrenchment to create a new judgeship at a cost of £800 per annum. Mr. Blackwood and Mr. Stewart Campbell spoke against the measure, and were replied to by the Hon. Mr. McFarlane. The debate was resumed in the afternoon. Mr. Kaulback addressed the House in favor of the Bill.

Hon. Prov. Secretary closed the debate by a most eloquent and able speech of about two hours. He shewed that the opinions of Sir Brenton Halliburton and Judge Bliss were clear and unequivocal respecting the necessity of an Equity Court. He forcibly depicted the consequences frequently following the delay occasioned to suitors who had their cases postponed from session to session and from year to year, wasting their property, till both plaintiff and defendant were often nearly ruined. He denied that any arrangement had been made by the Conservative party previous to the last election to create this office, but shewed that the leaders of the present opposition had sought for some office which might be offered, such as would be an inducement, for Mr. Johnston to retire from political life.

The House divided on the question about 4 past 6 in the evening, when there appeared—

For the Bill—John Campbell, Caldwell, Hatfield, Pryor, Kaulback, Whitman, D. Frazer, McKay, Jost, Allison, Lawrence, King, Sol. General, Bill, Tobin, Hamilton, McDonnell, Donkin, Miller, P. Smyth, Slocumb, McFarlane, Longley, Bourinot, Prov. Secretary, J. Frazer, Fin. Secretary, Shannon, Moore, Hill, Cowie, Rolichau, McKinnon, Colin Campbell, Charles Campbell,—35.

Against it—Heffernan, Blackwood, McLelan, Locke, S. Campbell, Blanchard, Robertson, Balcom, Coffin, Ross, Archibald, Parker, Killam,—13.

Religious Intelligence.

AMHERST.—We are glad to learn that there is quite a religious interest here at the present time. Three were baptized on Lord's Day 3rd inst. Several others had indicated that they were not far from the kingdom of God.

WESTPORT.—A postscript to a letter from Rev. W. Hall informs us that "The religious interest is good among us, and I have baptized a few persons this spring."

PORT MEDWAY.—Dear Editor.—Our church for months past, presented, in many of its features, the appearance of an emaciated consumptive. But the breath of Spring has revived it. The gales of the Spirit have had a bracing and invigorating effect. So much so, that the body lately pale and wan, now looks robust and hale. But to drop the language of figure, and speak of what God has wrought; the Holy Spirit, in his sovereign operations, has gone beyond our most sanguine expectations, our faith and our prayers. He has done "exceedingly abundant above what we were able to ask or think." The almost-given-up backslider has been reclaimed. The reckless sinner, whom faith, or more properly its opposite, unbelief, had considered hopeless, is now seen sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. A settlement, about a mile above Mill Village, called Charleston, has been thus far the largest sharer in this work of grace. But it is extending down the river. It has already commenced in the Village where we are now holding meetings every evening. The Sabbath before last, I baptized *five*. Last Sabbath *seven*. Many others stand ready to embrace the next opportunity of going forward. A large number of deeply convicted sinners are now asking "What shall I do to be saved?" We point them to Jesus and the cross. One after another they look and live; and yet they come.

Surely "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

J. E. GOCHER.