

these young men. I had reasoned with them with reference to the comparative claims of Buddhism and Christianity, and plead with them to accept of salvation through Christ. They had listened with respect and interest, and had begged for tracts; and yet it appears that all the while they were fastening upon themselves chains, which, in time, no human power would be able effectually to break. Our Saviour has taught us that it is hard for such as trust in riches to be saved. It is equally true that "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle" than for the slaves of opium "to enter into the kingdom of God."

A confirmed opium-smoker suffers indescribably when unable to procure his favorite drug; and yet if he continues using it, he has before him the prospect of dying a most miserable death in consequence. When all pecuniary means for obtaining it are exhausted, not having the physical strength either to do much honest work or to undertake open robbery, he will resort to petty thieving and dark treachery to accomplish his purpose. He becomes a pest to society; his sunken cheeks, yellowish-looking eyes and emaciated form, is a most melancholy spectacle.

ASSAM.

LETTER FROM MR. BRONSON.

Nowgong, Nov. 17, 1866.—Besides Assamese, we have great facilities here at Nowgong for influencing Mikir and other hill tribes.

Day after day something occurs to show us that God is with us. One of our plain Mikir boys left this morning, to begin his work for the cold season among his countrymen. He seemed much affected by a sense of the responsibility and difficulty of standing alone among his countrymen, a Christian. He goes to talk and teach and work any way he can. I was amused by his request for two Assamese hymn-books; for he said some twenty young men asked him to bring them, so that they could learn to sing the hymns as he could. These hymns are made effectual preachers.

For the Christian Messenger.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

DEACON ROGER HARPER.

Died, on the 16th ult., deacon Roger Harper, of Suffolk Road, P. E. I., aged 60. He was a native of England. He emigrated to the Island about thirty-seven years ago. He was trained in the Church of England; but a few years before he emigrated had worshipped for the most part with a Congregational church. Some thirty years since he was baptized on the Island, and became, first a member, then a deacon of our church at St. Peter's Road. In secular life he was distinguished by industry and integrity. His religious views were strongly Calvinistic, highly doctrinal. His experiences were deep, while his practice was signally consistent. He had much to say about his conflicts with the powers of darkness, and was profoundly impressed with a sense of his own sinfulness. Yet all this only drove him to the cross, and made it the more precious to his heart. Thus, like Paul, he had low, very low views of himself, and lofty, all-absorbing views of his Saviour. His religion, amid much personal affliction, made him very happy. It was his medicine, his food, his joy, his all. His satisfactions grew as his end approached. He earnestly "desired to depart, and to be with Christ, which is far better." He has now attained to his desire. It is pleasant to think of where he now is. It is sad to think of the loss sustained by survivors, in the termination of his godly life, and his fervent prayers. May these, all these, his pastor, his fellow-members, his widow, his whole family, his friends at large, tread in his steps here, and so at last rejoice in his society hereafter. His death was publicly improved on Lord's Day; the 31st ult., from Psalm cxxvi. 5, 6; a portion which had been selected by himself as being specially descriptive of his religious history.

J. D.

IN MEMORIAM.

"The memory of the just is blessed."

MRS. MARY ANN WEBBER.—We inherit a constitution in which are imbedded the seeds of disease and suffering. These will develop themselves sooner or later and send their thorny branches through the tender nerves of our system. A few short months ago Mrs. Webber seemed to be in perfect health with the exception of a small lump which had made its appearance on her breast. She visited Halifax to consult a physician as to its nature. Before the examination was completed she had divined by the expression of the doctor's countenance that it was nothing trifling. He honestly told her its nature, it was a cancer, and its cure was beyond his skill. Perfectly calm and self-possessed she returned to her home convinced that her days were numbered and earnestly desired strength to enable her to bear her sufferings which soon became intense and unceasing, all night long, all day through. She sank rapidly so that it soon became apparent to all that there was indeed no hope. When visiting her I have selected such passages of God's word as I thought suitable in which she ever manifested an interest and a pleasure as if listening to the most melodious music. When drawing near the confines of the better land, knowing as I well did how exquisitely acute and constant were her sufferings, I enquired if she had any doubts of her acceptance? "No," she replied "none. I know in whom I have believed." "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." In this heavenly knowledge she visibly advanced.

While the outward man perished, her faith grew stronger and stronger. When I heard of her departure I felt grateful to the Great Arbitrer of life and death for having removed her from the sufferings of time and added her to the innumerable company of the redeemed, "who came out of great tribulation and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall feed them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb, which is in the midst of the throne, shall lead them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of water; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

We will briefly notice some of the traits of christian character displayed by the departed. She was constant in her attendance on the means of grace. Unlike many who allow the most trivial excuses to prevent "the assembling of themselves together" on the Lord's day, she was as regularly in her place as the minister in his desk. Often was she present when her sufferings would have justified absence. She delighted also in the prayer and conference meetings of the Church.

"As pants the heart for cooling streams
When beated with the chase,
So long my soul, O God for thee,
And thy refreshing grace."

Another trait was kindness. "This was a perpetual stream flowing from the fountain of a warm heart." "No one ever applied to her for relief in vain. She clothed the naked, fed the hungry, visited the afflicted, and though the business of Mr. Webber called him frequently from home, the door was never closed against a poor wanderer who wanted shelter for the night. While she looked well to the ways of her household she found time to help forward a good cause. Both the Sabbath School and the Band of hope owed their existence to her exertions.

She was remarkable also for her patience, which is in the sight of God of great price. Her faith was most severely tried yet there was a composure, a tranquility and a cheerfulness of disposition maintained by her to the very last. In a word the opportunity afforded me by a residence for three years in the family enables me to say that the perfections of a friend, a mother, and a wife shone brightly in her.

ROBERT R. PHILP.

Sackville, April 3rd 1867.

Provincial Parliament.

TUESDAY, April 2nd.

Hon. Prov. Sec'y. by command laid upon the table of the House correspondence relative to the Hospital for the Insane; referred to committee on Humane Institutions.

Mr. Blanchard introduced an act to amend chapter 16 Revised Statutes, relating to the partition of lands.

Mr. Archibald presented a petition for alteration in polling districts.

Mr. McLellan presented a petition from Charles Taylor and others, asking to be reimbursed for goods lost on the Railway, referred to committee on Railways.

Mr. Pryor, Chairman of Committee on Private Bills, reported that the committee had passed, with an amendment, the act to incorporate the St. Lawrence and Bay of Fundy Canal Company.

Mr. Shannon introduced two city Bills, relating to a proposed alteration in the Market House, and Bye-Laws for governing the same.

Hon. Prov. Sec'y. moved a resolution that an address be presented to Her Majesty, requesting her to limit the number of legislative councillors for the Province of Nova Scotia to eighteen, and also that the Legislative Council be requested to join in the address.

Mr. Ross thought the Council might be reduced to 13 or 14 members.

A message from the Legislative Council stated that they had passed the following Bills—to legalize the assessment roll of the County of Cape Breton—to incorporate the Wellington Gold Mining Company—to incorporate the Palmerston Gold Mining Company—to incorporate the Dominion Gold Mining Company—to incorporate the Blue Lead Gold Mining Company—to incorporate the Union Mining Company—to incorporate the Provincial Gold Mining Company—to incorporate the Eldorado Gold Mining Company, and the Bill to incorporate the Amherst Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Company.

In the discussion of the resolution respecting the Legislative Council, several of the members expressed the opinion that that branch might be dispensed with altogether.

Hon. Prov. Secretary was unwilling that a greater reduction of the Council should be made than that intimated in the resolution, which would effect a very considerable saving in the public expenditure. In the course of his remarks he referred to the resolution he had some time ago introduced for the purpose of accomplishing a Retrenchment of the expenses of government. On coming into power they had found the finances of the country in a more prosperous condition, and the Civil List so secured that the proposed policy could not be carried out, and the same necessity did not then exist.

Mr. McLellan believed that if the government could not effect retrenchment in one department they might have done so in others. The resolution on being put to the House was carried.

Mr. Kaulback introduced an act to reinvest

in the crown certain public lands situate in the Township of Chester.

A Message from the Legislative Council informed the House that they had appointed a committee to confer with a committee of the House, and report on the general state of the Province.

The Hon. Attorney General, Provincial Secretary, and Mr. Archibald, were appointed a committee to confer with the committee appointed by the Legislative Council.

The Prov. Sec'y. moved the second reading of the Bill to amend chapter 2 Revised Statutes of Executive and Legislative disabilities.

Hon. Attorney General introduced a bill to amend the act incorporating the Roman Catholic Bishop of Arichat.

The Prov. Sec'y. then moved the second reading of the disability bill, which provides that no person can hold a seat in both the local parliament at Halifax, and the general Parliament at Ottawa.

In the discussion which ensued it was asserted by Mr. McLellan and others, that a majority of the people were opposed to the Union of the Provinces under one general government. This was denied by several others who believed that a very large proportion were in favor of Confederation. A sharp passage at arms occurred between Mr. McLellan and Mr. Archibald. The latter gentleman having charged the former with seeking to prejudice the minds of his (Mr. A's) constituents whilst he was in England. Mr. Archibald challenged Mr. McLellan to meet him or any other persons to discuss this important subject.

Mr. McLellan said that he had been invited to attend meetings for discussion, and had refused to do so, but had attended a meeting for business.

The statements which have been made that petitions to the House of Commons had been signed by 40,000 persons were called in question. The reason for their not being presented to the British Houses of Parliament, it appears, was that a number of the names were in the same hand writing. As the member presenting petitions there is held responsible for the signatures being genuine no one was in a position to present them.

The Bill then passed without amendment.

WEDNESDAY, April 3rd.

Hon. Prov. Secretary, by command laid upon the table correspondence relative to the formation of a Naval Brigade, also the Report of the Superintendent of Education. He mentioned that the Report exhibits the gratifying fact that since the new law came into operation, the increase in the number of pupils attending schools has been very large. The numbers of teachers has been also largely augmented. A number of very fine School Houses have also been erected in various parts of the Province.

Mr. Chas. Campbell introduced a bill to add an electoral district in the County of Victoria.

Mr. Pryor reported the bill to incorporate the capital Stock of the Peoples' Bank.

Mr. Annand presented a petition from Arichat, against the Bill introduced by Mr. Miller, for appointing Commissioners of Streets. Some warm animadversion ensued between Mr. A. and Mr. Miller.

The House in Committee on Bills, passed the following:—A Bill to incorporate the Welsford Lodge of Free Mason—a Bill to regulate the terms of the Supreme Court in the County of Cape Breton—a Bill to authorize a loan for the erection of a Court House and Gaol at Sydney, Cape Breton—a Bill to incorporate the Grand Pre Lodge of British order of Good Templars, at Wolfville—a Bill to incorporate the St. Lawrence and Bay of Fundy Canal Company—a Bill to increase the Capital Stock of the Peoples' Bank of the City of Halifax.

Hon. Attorney General moved that the Railway Bills be the order of the day for Thursday. The House adjourned.

THURSDAY, April 4th.

Mr. Miller moved the second reading of the bill to appoint Commissioners of Streets in the town of Arichat. The petition which had been sent in against it, presented by the hon. member for Eas; Halifax, was signed by only a few persons, out of a population of about 4000, and he concluded that this fact was sufficient evidence that there was but a trifling opposition to the bill.

Mr. Annand said the petition had been forwarded to him, and he had only discharged his duty by presenting it.

The bill then passed the second reading. Hon. Atty. General introduced a bill to amend Chap. 70, of Revised Statutes, relative to the construction of Railways. The object of which was simply to prevent any legal objections being taken to the action of the Custos of the counties concerned in certain cases.

The following Bills were then passed—An act to regulate the terms of the Supreme Court in Cape Breton—An act to incorporate the Welsford Lodge of Freemasons at Windsor—An act to increase the capital stock of the Peoples' Bank of the city of Halifax—An act to incorporate the Grand Pre Lodge of Good Templars of Wolfville—An act to incorporate the St. Lawrence and Bay of Fundy Canal Company.

Mr. Hill presented a petition from a number of the inhabitants of Windsor, respecting the sewerage system in that town.

Mr. Blanchard introduced a bill to incorporate the Pictou Mining Company.

Mr. Tobin presented four petitions from inhabitants at Margaret's Bay, praying for an alteration in the law relating to the inspection of pickled fish.

Hon. Provincial Secretary then moved the order of the day, the second reading of the bills relating to the construction of the Windsor and

Annapolis Railway. These bills, one of which incorporates the Windsor and Annapolis Railway Company, and the other amending the act relating to the construction of two other sections of Railway, passed the second reading without debate.

The Hon. Prov. Secretary, by command, laid on the table a letter from Mr. O'Brien the manager of the City Railway Company. On motion it was read. It shows the operations of the company and protests against any alteration of the charter.

Mr. Miller observed that the railway was not constructed according to the terms of the charter, and had been worked in a manner to the detriment of the streets of Halifax.

Mr. Tobin regretted that two lines had been laid down in Water street, as this thoroughfare was too narrow to admit of a double track. He hoped the House would protect the rights of all parties concerned. He contended that all the streets through which the Railway passed should be paved, as without paving it was almost impossible to keep in repair the streets through which the lines run.

Mr. Pryor observed that as the subject was one of importance, he would reserve his opinion until the report of the committee was before the House. The subject was then dropped.

Mr. McKay introduced a bill to change the name of Roger's Hill, in the County of Pictou. The House then adjourned.

FRIDAY, April 5th.

Mr. C. Campbell introduced a bill to establish an additional polling place in Digby.

Hon. Mr. Shannon, from the committee on City Bills, reported in favor of exempting subordinate officers of the Army and Navy from the payment of school tax, and taxes on their personal property.

Mr. Tobin approved of the recommendation, and was willing to go so far as to exempt all officers from taxation of every description.

Mr. S. Campbell was in favor of remitting the taxes levied upon officers of the garrison.

Hon. Prov. Secretary said Nova Scotia was the only one of Her Majesty's dependencies in which taxes were levied upon officers, and he would willingly vote to exempt them.

A message from the Legislative Council, informed the House that they had passed the following Bills:—An Act to increase the capital stock of the Peoples' Bank—an Act to regulate the terms of the Supreme Court in the County of Halifax—an Act to incorporate the Welsford Lodge of Free Masons—an Act to authorize a loan for the purpose of erecting a court house and gaol at Sydney, Cape Breton.

Mr. Locke presented a petition from the Custos of Shelburne relative to schools.

Hon. Fin. Sec'y. by command laid upon the table a number of petitions relating to Mining matters, Road compensation, Crown Lands, Education, and Fisheries, which were referred to the different committees.

Hon. Fin. Sec'y. moved that no private Bills or petitions be received after to-morrow (Saturday); he also introduced a Bill to amend the Registration act.

Hon. Mr. McFarlane laid upon the table of the House the report of the Board of Agriculture together with a financial statement of the doings of the Board, and a tabular synopsis of the state of the crops in the different counties during the year 1866.

The House adjourned to Monday.

MONDAY, April 8th.

Hon. Fin. Secretary introduced a bill to permit the reweighing of sugar and tobacco after they had been stored in a bonded warehouse.

Mr. Stewart Campbell presented a petition from Guysboro for an additional Way office.

Mr. Tobin presented a petition against any alteration of the Charter of the Horse Railway Company.

Mr. Hill presented a petition from Shubenacadie and Windsor, on the same subject.

Mr. Pryor presented a petition in favor of an alteration in the Charter of the City Railroad Company.

Mr. Annand presented three petitions on the same subject.

Mr. Tobin presented a petition against the separation of the sale of groceries and liquors.

Mr. McKay presented four petitions from Pictou against the Halifax City Railway.

These petitions were referred to the Committee on City Bills.

The House in Committee on Bills took up the Bill for the extension of the Railway to Annapolis.

Mr. Killam noticed that our position was materially changed since the former legislation on this subject, and it would be necessary to see that funds were provided to meet the subsidy.—He and other speakers noticed the necessity for provision being made for other vehicles and passengers crossing on the bridge at Windsor. The bill passed.

Mr. Annand asked for returns shewing the amount of revenue and expenditure from September 1866, to March 31st 1867.

Hon. Provincial Secretary introduced a bill for incorporating the Home for the aged. The House adjourned.

LATEST FROM UNITED STATES.

New York, April 2.—Irish correspondence says there will be another Fenian rising immediately after the intensely severe weather moderates. Snow had fallen without a days intermission for fifteen days and nights.

April 2.—Advices from Mexico by way of San Luis Potosi represent that the Imperialists at Queretaro, Puebla, and the city of Mexico, are surrounded on all sides by the Liberals.