

doctrinally, yet they are in form and mode, dissenters from the Church of England; and altho' the Kirk of Scotland is in its own Country an Established Church, and the Romish Communion is a peculiar, ancient and distinct Church established in many countries, yet that wherever the Church of England is the Established Church of the country, they all are bona fide dissenters, inasmuch as they dissent from the doctrines or practices of that Established Church, and from thence he argued, that the principle and privilege of religious liberty, as respects the rights of solemnizing marriage, having been conceded to the before named three denominations of dissenters; viz: the Presbyterians, or Scotch Kirk, the Quakers, and the Roman Catholics: all other denominations of Protestant christians were equally entitled to the same privilege. The hon. member also contended, that in a Protestant country like this, the various Protestant dissenting sects ought to have been privileged, prior to admitting the claims of the Romish Communion; that that communion having unjustly been preferred, still stronger reasons now existed for yielding the privilege at once to all Protestants, not as a boon, but as a matter of indisputable, inalienable right. At the same time, he expressed his joy, that Roman Catholics, as well as Protestant dissenters had, at last, been admitted by the British Government, to an equal participation of civil and religious liberty. The hon. member also stated as a fact, that dissenters of this Province, not enjoying this privilege, had felt so highly grieved at being deprived of that right, that rather than go to the Established Church to get married, they had resorted to the Kirk of Scotland in this Province, and, though not belonging to that Church, had got married in it. This might produce very evil consequences; because, in fact, such a marriage was not legal, and the offspring are, in the eye of the law, illegitimate; for the act which conferred that privilege on the church in question, expressly provides, that it shall be available only where both the parties are members of its communion.—The hon. member observed that his only objection to this bill was, that it required dissenting ministers to be qualified by a special licence from the Executive, before they could solemnize marriage; and he did not like to leave it in the power of the Executive to exercise this licensing prerogative at discretion. He thought the minister's being already a licensed or approved clergyman of his own denomination should be sufficient to entitle him to solemnize the matrimonial rite. He did not object to Mr Cunard's proposition, of defining in the bill the denominations to whom the privilege should be conceded.—On consistent and proper principles, every royal citizen, every legal subject should be put on the same footing with respect to civil and religious rights and privileges; and should be restrained by the law only within such bounds, as prudence, good order and the well being of society required.

Mr Chandler commenced as we have already described, and then proceeded to advocate the bill on the principles of equality of rights and privileges, liberality, justice, general peace, and expediency. The hon. member thought it better to specify the denominations to which the bill was intended to have reference; lest, from too great looseness, it should meet with its usual fate in another quarter. He considered it better to let the licensing cause stand as it was, for the same expedient reason.

Mr Partelow rose, merely in compliance with the calls that had been made on hon. members to state their sentiments openly on this subject. He thought the matter had already been so ably handled, and the subject was so exhausted, that he should content himself with merely observing, without entering on the question of expediency, that he was favourable to the general principle of the bill. He thought, however, although the provisions of it were not guarded, that the different sects who were to enjoy the privileges contemplated by it should be defined; and he would therefore cheerfully go with the bill, if it were so altered, as to comprise only the Methodists, Baptists and Independents, who, he believed, were the only regular congregations in this Province, at the present time, who were still denied the privilege. He thought, with this amendment, there would be no danger of the bill in another quarter. At the same time, he agreed to the proposition, that if this bill should be unfortunately

lost in another branch of the Legislature, it would be a question for the consideration of the House, whether another bill, founded on the highly respectable petitions which had been presented to the Legislature, from all parts of the Province, from the Wesleyan Methodists, on this subject, should not be introduced, for the purpose of securing the privilege to that body. If such a bill were introduced, in the event of this being lost, he would be found a zealous advocate for it; not that he thought other sects were not entitled to it, but he considered those petitions to be entitled to much respect; and he was only surprised, that similar steps had not been adopted by other religious persuasions, to obtain from the Legislature a concession of their just rights.

Mr Taylor advocated the bill, but objected to the special licensing clause, and thought the denominations should be specified.

Mr Slason said, that from all the arguments he had heard, he also was of opinion that it would be as well to define the sects; and that the special license was quite objectionable, because it would give the Executive too much discretionary power.

Mr Weldon was favourable to the bill. Mr Hayward also supported the bill, with views similar to those of Messrs Taylor and Slason.

Mr End, in reply to some observations of other hon. members, speaking of the royal instructions, unwittingly observed, that whenever the royal instructions were mentioned in the House, his hair actually stood on end.—The unconscious pun caused great laughter, in which the hon. member joined, on discovering his perpetration, and explained, that he meant, his hair stood on end, 'like quills upon the fretful porcupine.'

Mr Dow commenced his few observations, by very aptly saying, what more could be said on the subject? The hon. member, however, said a little more in support of the bill.

Mr Clinch thought quite enough had indeed been said on this side of the question, but he wished to say a little on the other side. This bill had been brought in year after year, and had been quietly passed by the House, and he had hoped it would be so now. But he had been deceived in that respect. As to the remarks of the hon. member for Gloucester, respecting tyranny and oppression, he (Mr. Clinch) did not consider that the government of this country had ever been tyrannical or oppressive. He thought all such evils in this province were only imaginary. It appeared from the usual manner of setting forth this particular grievance, the denial of marriage privileges to various sects, as if the population of the country was actually at a stand; as if people no longer got married or had children.—The hon. member proceeded to make a few further remarks on what had fallen from other hon. members; and particularly as to defining which sects should enjoy this privilege. He observed, that sectarianism was rapidly increasing in the United States; that sects of all kinds were springing up there; and that therefore it appeared to be necessary, at all events, if the privilege were granted to any more, to except all sects whose tenets bordered on blasphemy. Some of the new sects in the United States certainly did approach very near to blasphemy in their doctrines; and surely they should be kept out.—He thought the special license a very necessary restriction; and said, that as any opposition to the bill from him would most likely be of no avail, he hoped that if the bill did pass, it would be with all necessary guards and restrictions.

On motion of Mr S. Humbert, the Chairman reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again. This step was taken, we believe, with a view to effect some small amendments in the bill, prior to passing it.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNALS.

Friday, January 27.

Mr PARTELOW, Chairman from the Committee to whom was referred the consideration of that part of his Excellency's Speech relating to Roads, reported, that he had taken the same into consideration, and he was directed to present the following, which he read, viz:—

That your Committee are of opinion that the sum of twelve thousand three hundred pounds should be applied towards the improvement of the roads throughout the Province, and recommended the same to be appropriated as follows.—

GREAT ROADS.
From Saint John to the Nova Scotia Line £1,000

St. John to Saint Andrews	1,000
Fredericton to St John, via Nerepis	680
Dorchester to Shediac	125
Shediac to the Bend of Peticodiac	175
Shediac to Richibucto	500
Richibucto to Chatham	900
Newcastle to Restigouche	900
Fredericton to the Canada Line	750
Fredericton to the Finger-Board	250
Bellisle to Saint John	100
For the Great Marsh in Sackville	100
ditto in Dorchester	100
ditto in Saint John	100
From Fredericton to Newcastle	700—£7,30 6

SPECIAL GRANTS.
From Saint John to the Indian House £500
From Hammond River to Hopewell 150
From Gage Town to the Nerepis 100—£750

BYE ROADS.

York County,	£625
Westmorland,	575
Kings,	500
Queens,	450
Sunbury,	218 : 15
Northumberland,	400
Gloucester:	387 : 10
Kent,	218 : 15
Charlotte	475
Saint John,	400—£4 250
	—£12,300

"All which is respectfully submitted."
(SIGNED)
J. R. Partelow, E. B. Chandler;
Jedediah Slason, Geo. Hayward;
J. W. Weldon, Thomas Wyer,
John Humbert, Thomas Gilbert,
Alex Rankin, William End."

The report being handed in at the Clerk's table, was there again read.—Ordered, That the report be accented.

JANUARY 31.
Mr Weldon moved for leave to bring in a Bill to alter the name of the Shire Town in the County of Kent from Liverpool to Richibucto.

The Lieutenant Governor directs to be laid before the House of Assembly, an account exhibited by the Attorney-General of costs and expences incurred in the arrest and prosecution of certain persons, for offences committed in the District of Madawaska, amounting to 346l. 17s. and recommends to the House to make provision for the same.

FEBRUARY 3.
Read a third time as engrossed, and passed the following Bills:—

A Bill to amend an Act, intituled 'An Act to repeal all the Laws now in force relating to the establishment, regulation, and improvement of the Great Roads of communication through the Province, and to make more effectual provision for the same.

A Bill to enable the Justices of the General Sessions of the Peace for the several Counties in this Province, and the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonality of the city of Saint John, to make Laws and Regulations for more effectually preventing certain nuisances from time to time committed within their respective jurisdictions.

A Bill to authorize and empower the Grand Inquest of the County of Charlotte, to audit and examine the accounts of said County.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

To be sold by Public Auction on Saturday, the 25th day of August next, at Hamill's Hotel, Newcastle, between the hours of 12 and 5 of the same day:
ALL the Right and Title of DAVID BETTS, Senior, to all that Tract of Land and Premises, and also to the Buildings and Improvements thereon, situate on the south side of the south west branch of the Miramichi River, in the parish of Blissfield, in the County of Northumberland, lately in the possession and occupation of his family, together with all other Real Estate of the said David Betts, in the County of Northumberland, wheresoever situate, the same having been taken by me under an Execution issued out of his Majesty's Supreme Court of this Province, against the said David Betts at the suit of John A. Street, Esq.
R. S. CLARKE, SHERIFF.
Chatham, 13th Feb 1832.

FOR SALE.

That valuable Tract of LAND, situated at Pockshaw, in the parish of Banden, County of Gloucester, at present in the occupation of the Subscriber, containing 500 Acres, including 100 Acres of fine Meadow LAND, and 50 Acres at present fit for ploughing—fronting on the Bay de Chaleur and commanding an abundant Salmon and Cod Fishery, &c. A good stream of Water runs through the Land, on which is an excellent scite for a Saw or Grist Mill, with a Dam already built.
This property is also well worthy the attention of Ship Builders, there being an abundance of Timber on the Land, which can be brought to the Yard, at a trifling expence.
The whole is offered for sale with the DWELLING HOUSE and Buildings thereon, on moderate terms, in accommodating payments. Further particulars will be made known on application to Messrs. Street & Kerr, Miramichi, or to the Subscriber, on the premises.
JOHN YOUNG.
Pockshaw 25th Nov 1831.