

Great Britain, &c.

From the Swansea Cambrian, Nov. 25.

The Session of Parliament opened on Wednesday last, on which day the Right Hon. James Abercromby was re-elected Speaker of the House of Commons without opposition. Sir Robert Peel spoke very handsomely of Mr. Abercromby in the few remarks which he made, in the course of which he frankly acknowledged that if even he had proposed a second candidate he was aware that he would have been in a minority. We hope that this may be regarded as an omen of the course of events during the whole Session.

After the Speaker had been elected, the swearing in of members commenced, and continued till Saturday. The business of Parliament was opened on Monday by the following Speech from the Throne, delivered by the Queen in person.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,"

"I have thought it right to assemble you for the transaction of public business at the earliest convenient period after the dissolution of the late Parliament."

"It is with great satisfaction that I have received from all Foreign Powers the strongest assurances of their friendly disposition, and of their earnest desire to cultivate and maintain with me the relations of amity, and I rejoice in the prospect that I shall be able to promote the best interests of my subjects by securing to them the advantages of the peace."

"I lament that civil war still afflicts the Kingdom of Spain. I continue to exercise with fidelity the engagements of my Crown with the Queen of Spain, according to the stipulations of the Treaty of Quadruple Alliance."

"I have directed a Treaty of Commerce, which I have concluded with the United Republic of Peru and Bolivia, to be laid before you, and I hope soon to be able to communicate to you similar results of my negotiations with other powers."

"I recommend to your consideration the state of the Province of Lower Canada."

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,"

"The demise of the Crown renders it necessary that a new provision should be made for the Civil List. I place unreservedly at your disposal those hereditary revenues which were transferred to the public by my immediate predecessor, and I have commanded that such papers as may be necessary for the full examination of this subject shall be prepared, and laid before you. Desirous that the expenditure in this as in every other department of the Government, should be kept within due limits, I feel confident that you will gladly make adequate provision for the support of the honor and dignity of the Crown."

"The estimates for the services of next year are in course of preparation, and will be laid before you at the accustomed period. I have directed that the utmost economy should be enforced in every branch of the public expenditure."

"My Lords and Gentlemen,"

"The eternal peace and domestic tranquillity which at present happily prevail are very favorable for the consideration of such measures of reformation and amendment as may be necessary and expedient, and your attention will naturally be directed to that course of legislation which was interrupted by the necessary dissolution of the last Parliament."

"The result of the inquiries which have been made into the condition of the poor in Ireland has been already laid before Parliament, and it will be your duty to consult whether it may not be safe and wise to establish by law some well regulated means of relief for the destitute in that country."

"The Municipal Government of the cities and towns in Ireland calls for better regulation. The laws which govern the collection of the tithe composition in Ireland require revision and amendment. Convinced that the better and more effectual administration of justice is amongst the first duties of a Sovereign, I request your attention to those measures which will be submitted to you for the improvement of the law."

"You cannot but be sensible of the deep importance of these questions which I have submitted to you, and of the necessity of treating them in that spirit of impartiality and justice which affords the best hope of bringing them to a happy and useful termination. In meeting this Parliament, the first time that it has been elected under my authority, I am anxious to declare my confidence in your loyalty and wisdom. The early age at which I am called to the Sovereignty of this Kingdom, renders it a more imperative duty than, under Divine Providence, I should place my reliance upon your cordial co-operation, and upon the love and affection of my people."

Her Majesty then retired; and her return was marked throughout by the same loyal and affectionate demonstrations of respect and attachment as she received on her progress to the House.—The Duke of Sussex, also, on leaving the House, was recognized by the vast multitude assembled in the Palace-yard, and was loudly and vehemently cheered.

In the interval between the Queen's departure and the resumption of public business, the Earl of Leicester, who formerly bore so distinguished a part in liberal politics as Mr. Coke of Norfolk, was introduced, and his patent read in the presence of a great number of the Peers.

In the House of Lords, the Address in answer to the Speech was moved by the Duke of Sussex, and seconded by Lord Portman, and after a few words from the Duke of Wellington, who expressed his satisfaction in assenting to it, was unanimously carried.

In the Commons, Lord Lovelock moved the Address, which was seconded by Mr. Gibson Craig. Mr. Wakley proposed an amendment, but after a short debate, the original address was adopted—the numbers being 20 for, and 509 against the amendment.

In the House of Commons on Monday, Lord John Russell gave notice that, on Thursday next he would move that the report on the Consolidated Fund be taken into consideration.—The Right Hon. Gentleman also

gave notice, that on Thursday the 1st of December, he would bring in a Bill for the establishment of Poor Laws in Ireland, and also a Bill for the establishment of Municipal Corporations.—Mr. Grote, gave notice that he should on the 15th of January, move for leave to bring in a Bill for taking the vote of electors by Ballot. (Great cheering.) Mr. D. W. Harvey gave notice of a motion for Thursday next, for a return of all sinecures and pensions of whatever denomination, and on what fund they were chargeable. When that return had been presented to the House he should move for an enquiry as to whether those pensions ought or ought not to be continued consistent with the public interest and expenditure. He should also move on Thursday, the 8th of February, for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Act for the better representation of the People of England and Wales.

Upon several important points the mind of the country may now be at rest: the present Ministers indubitably enjoy the most complete confidence of the Crown: they can command a fair working majority in the House of Commons; and they themselves appear desirous to proceed firmly but cautiously in the career of reform.—Her Majesty, we are confident, will be inclined both from feeling and policy to retain in the services of a British Administration, one who is well known to a wide and liberal education, has implanted deeply in Her Majesty's mind a veneration and love for those principles which placed her Ancestors on the throne of these realms; and her own experience, which as it has been, will unquestionably have contributed to strengthen the conviction, on her own views, however liberal they may be, are met by corresponding views in the great majority of the people.—*Continued.*

The principle measures of Ministers during the present session are likely to be the following:—

The settlement of the Queen's Civil List.

The establishing of a system of Poor Laws for Ireland.

The reform of the Irish Municipal Corporations.

The transfer of Irish Tithes from the Catholic tenant to the Protestant landlord, and

The establishing of a system of National Education for the whole empire.

Greater or more important measures perhaps were never brought before any Parliament.

STATE OF TRADE.—It will be seen from the account of the cotton market in another column, that the demand for that great staple has been most active during the last fortnight. Trade generally is in a very satisfactory state in this part of the country.

HEALTH OF THE METROPOLIS.—The Bills of mortality for last week show a decrease of 266 in the number of burials as compared with those of the preceding. No case of cholera or of diarrhoea is recorded.

Sir Robert Peel has been re-elected Lord Rector of the Glasgow University.

William Rathbone, Esq. has been elected Mayor of Liverpool.

The affairs of Spain look a little brighter. Don Carlos has been forced to retire into Biscay. His marriage with the Princess de Beira had taken place by proxy.

It seems that the Government of the United States has sent an agent to Belgium to demand indemnity for losses sustained by Americans in consequence of the burning of the entrapot at Antwerp, when that city was besieged by Gen. Chace. The Belgian journals mention a threat on the part of the United States to lay an embargo on all Belgian vessels, if restitution were longer delayed.

The King of Hanover has at length issued his proclamation to put an end to the constitution of 1833.

We have received Paris papers of Wednesday and lament to say that the report which we yesterday mentioned, of the appearance of the cholera at Constantine, is but too true.

This dreadful plague broke out in the captured city a few days after the troops were quartered in the various stations, and a great number of wounded and sound men have fallen victims. Amongst them, the Marquis de Cambrun, and Commandant Vieux, Gen. Perceval, though not dead, was in a very dangerous state at last accounts. The bulk of the army was to leave Constantine on the 24th ult. leaving a garrison of 3000 men.

Provincial Legislature.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, FREDERICTON.

Friday, January 3.

UPPER CANADA.

Hon. Mr. Crane submitted the following

Resolutions, viz:—

Resolved, unanimously, That the thanks of this Province are due, and should be presented to Sir F. Bond Head, and the gallant Militia of Upper Canada, for their able, prompt and energetic suppression of the insurrection which lately took place in the neighbourhood of Toronto.

Resolved, unanimously, That the conduct of our fellow subjects of Upper Canada, on this memorable occasion, so fully in accordance with their former high spirit and character, affords a glorious example to the Sister Colonies, and cannot fail to quicken the zeal and animate the exertions of every loyal heart in the Colonies, in support and defence of the British Empire under British Laws and Institutions.

Resolved, unanimously, That our fellow subjects of Upper Canada may rest assured of the lively sympathy of the inhabitants of this Province in their loyalty and patriotic ardor, and of our most zealous co-operation in maintaining the Royal authority, and the inestimable advantages of our connection with the Mother Country.

Resolved, unanimously, That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to transmit these Resolutions to His Excellency Sir Francis Bond Head, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada.

Resolved, That the Legislative Council be requested to concur in these Resolutions.

He trusted the House would unanimously adopt them, (or the substance of them, as they might perhaps be improved in form), and thus show to the neighbouring Colonies, and to all the loyal subjects of Her Majesty, that the people of this Province are desirous of preserving, by all constitutional means, the invaluable privileges arising from their connection with the Mother Country.

Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.

Mr. J. R. Partelow had listened with attention to the Resolutions, as read by the Hon. mover, and did not think they could be improved. He liked the substance and the spirit of them, throughout, and trusted they would meet the unanimous approbation of the House.

Mr. Brown said, this was the first intimation that many Members had had of these Resolutions; and he would have been glad if they had been laid on the table for a day or two previous to being passed. As far as he could learn from the reading of them, they appeared to be very proper; but it struck him there was something wrong in applying them exclusively to Upper Canada. There had been rebellion in both Canada; and he thought that our fellow subjects in the Lower Province were as much entitled to the thanks of this House as those in Upper Canada. Therefore there was a doubt in his mind, whether the Resolutions should not apply to both Provinces.

Mr. J. R. Partelow thought the resolutions referring to the two Provinces should be separate and distinct, because they must be transmitted to different quarters. Those for Upper Canada must be sent to Sir Francis Bond Head, and those for Lower Canada to Lord Gosford. The resolutions introduced these resolutions to-day was, that the Mail would leave to-morrow, and it was important that they should be transmitted as early as possible, for the sake of the loyalists in Upper Canada. The rebellion in that Province had been put down; it was a mere handful of traitors that had risen, and they had been defeated by the prompt and energetic movements of the loyal Militia alone. It was therefore important to convey to this Province, as speedily as possible, for the purpose of strengthening the hands of the loyalists, and shewing the rebels that no sympathy existed towards them here.

Mr. Hayward fully concurred in the Resolutions, and hoped they would at once pass unanimously. But he was also of opinion, that something similar should be adopted, with reference to Lower Canada.

Mr. Wilson said that the resolutions for the two Provinces must be in some measure different; therefore there could be no objection to passing these as they were. There was an important distinction between the two cases; in Upper Canada the insurrection was put down by the Militia only, but in Lower Canada it was principally done by the regular military force.

Mr. Street approved of the Resolutions. The House were imperatively called on, to express the loyal feeling which pervaded all classes of Her Majesty's subjects in this Province, with regard to the loyal and gallant conduct of the Militia in Upper Canada; and he agreed with the Hon. Member who spoke last, in his definition of the distinction between the two Provinces. The rebellious disturbances commenced in Lower Canada, and nothing of the kind occurred in the Upper Province, till they had proceeded to a considerable head in Lower Canada. Revolutionary feelings had extended much further in the Lower Province than in the Upper, where the disturbance had been of a much more partial nature; the Upper Canadian rebels were a mere small party, of little or no consequence, and the loyal Militia of the country had had the sole merit of putting them down.

Hon. Mr. Johnston had understood, when the House were in Committee on His Excellency's Speech, that such resolutions as these were to be brought forward. They were accordingly proposed, as, in part, a reply to the Lieutenant Governor's Speech, with reference to the affairs of Upper Canada; and the (Hon. Mr. J.) therefore supposed, that the House would not wish at present to do more than reply to that part of the Speech, or to go into general views of the conduct of the people of the two Canadas. Therefore it would be better to confine these Resolutions to Upper Canada, as intended; and any manifestation of the feelings of the House, on the subject of the Lower Province, might be a subsequent measure.

Hon. Mr. Crane, in reply, said that the subject of Lower Canada had not escaped him; but, for the reasons already stated, and for others equally cogent, he had not thought proper to include both Provinces at present, but had deemed it best to introduce these Resolutions alone. It must be remembered, that although the insurrection in Upper Canada appeared at present to be put down yet hostile preparations were still making by the defeated rebels; and the (Hon. Mr. C.) was sorry to find, that certain citizens of the United States, calling themselves respectable persons, were preparing to lend assistance to the traitors. Therefore it was desirable, that this House should, as soon as possible, make the sentiments of this Province publicly known, as they might have some influence on the cause. Though the population of New Brunswick was not great, yet the Province was filled with so intelligent, loyal and respectable a population, that any declaration of their sentiments might have an important influence, not only on the Militia of Upper Canada, but on the really respectable portion of the people of the United States, and might prevent assistance being afforded from that country to the rebels of our Sister Colony.

The resolutions were then unanimously adopted; and the Hon. Mr. Crane appointed a Committee, to communicate them to the Legislative Council, and request their concurrence therein.

Saturday, January 6.

PARISH SCHOOLS.

In Committee of Supply, on Mr. Partelow moving the usual Resolution, for a sum not exceeding £7000, for the support of Parish Schools during the year,

Mr. Beardsley said, that he thought the Committee should grant a larger sum for this purpose. The population of the Province was increasing, new settlements were

formed from time to time, and more Schools were requisite; and therefore he would like to see such a sufficient sum appropriated for this important object, as would enable His Excellency to make grants to all new Schools, as they might from time to time be established. It was in new settlements that such assistance was most required; because the people in such settlements were always very poor, and unable to provide education for their children.

Mr. Partelow replied, that last year the maximum allowance for this service was increased to £7000, which was at present ample. He considered that His Excellency must conform himself in this respect to the law of the Province, which expressly limited a certain number of Schools for every Parish in the country. If the Hon. Member for Carleton could shew, that the number of Parishes had increased, his arguments would hold good, but otherwise, the sum named was sufficient to provide for all the Schools entitled to the bounty, and His Excellency could not give more than the law allowed.

Mr. Beardsley asked, whether this sum of £7000 was larger than was actually required for the Schools now established; because, if so, it would be very well.

Mr. Partelow replied that it was.

The Resolution was then agreed to.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

On the usual appropriation for Grammar Schools being moved by Mr. Partelow, Mr. Beardsley said, that no Grammar School was needed in the County of Carleton; the people were too poor to want such a School there; they did not want Greek and Latin for their children, but simply a plain English education; and if any persons wanted to give their children a classical education, they could send them elsewhere, and pay for it.

Mr. Partelow said that Carleton was included in the list, because it was provided for by Law; but it would be easy to strike it out, if not needed. For his part he was glad to hear that there was no Grammar School in Carleton, because there were already enough in the Province.

Mr. Brown was also glad to hear it, because he had opposed its establishment, when the bill for that purpose was discussed in the late House, believing it to be quite unnecessary. He therefore moved that "Carleton" be struck out of the Resolution.

Mr. Beardsley seconded the motion, and said that he would like to strike off the whole of them, in stead of being a benefit to the country, he considered them to be quite the contrary.

The motion was then agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Johnston thought it necessary, before proceeding with this Resolution, that the House should have the requisite returns before it, to shew what Grammar Schools were in efficient operation.

Mr. Brown said that that had been the usual mode of proceeding.

Mr. Partelow stated for the information of Hon. Members, that the money could be drawn by the Executive, without any vote of the House at all, because the appropriation was provided for by a permanent law of the Province. The mere object of voting these grants was, to include them in the ordinary supplies, so as to know what the aggregate amount of the year's appropriations would be; but where no Grammar School was in operation, no certificates would be forthcoming, and then no money would be drawn for such School. He would, however, move that *Westmorland* be struck out, as he believed the Grammar School of that County was not now in operation.

Mr. Wilson did not know that His Excellency could issue his warrant for any Grammar School grant, before the money was appropriated by the House. But with regard to Westmorland, it did not follow that because the School had been one year out of operation, that it was not in operation at all. The fact was, that although that School was not in operation last year yet it was so now, and there was a very competent Preceptor engaged in it.

Hon. Mr. Johnston would greatly prefer, before making any of these grants, that the House should ascertain that the requisitions of the law had been complied with. It appeared that His Excellency might issue his warrant for the money, without any vote of appropriation; though there was some doubt whether he could do so. He (Hon. Mr. J.) however, was quite satisfied, that His Excellency would do nothing contrary to the clear intention of the law. If it should be found, that the requisitions of the law had not been complied with, in any particular case, the warrant would not issue in such case; but it would perhaps be better to let this matter entirely stand over, till the certificates were produced, it was quite time, that what the law required should be looked after.

Mr. Wilson said, that it would be a very great injustice to refuse the grant to a School this year, because it had not been in operation last year. The trustees of the Westmorland Grammar School were not satisfied with the manner in which the School had been conducted last year, and therefore they refused to certify as usual, and consequently the money was not drawn; but now an efficient Teacher was engaged, and the School was in full operation. The Trustees must always be satisfied with the Teacher, and must certify accordingly, otherwise the money could not be drawn; therefore it was only a matter of justice to Westmorland, that the grant should now be made.

Mr. Street could not see any reason for departing from the usual practice of the House. Hitherto, the certificates had always been called for, before voting the appropriations for Grammar Schools; the law required it, and it ought to be complied with. It would be better to pass over this grant

till the certificates were produced; because the rule was as fair for one as another.

Mr. Partelow repeated his observations, respecting the permanency and imperative nature of the law; and stated that the rule relative to producing certificates, had merely been adopted by the former House, for its own convenience, though it could not effect the payment of the money, by warrants from the Executive, in cases where such certificates were satisfactory to the Executive; whether the House voted the appropriations or not.

Hon. Mr. Crane said that the information afforded by the Hon. Member for St. John was correct; the law was permanent and positive on the subject. With respect to the Grammar School in Westmorland, he (Hon. Mr. C.) knew nothing of it; but from the information that had been given to the House, he thought that the safest way would be, to make the grant. He believed the House had not always followed the rule alluded to, and that sometimes the money had been voted without having the information required by that rule. But the law required certain certificates to be laid before the Executive by the Trustees, and without them the warrants could not issue. Therefore there could be no impropriety in making the appropriation; but still he had no wish to press the matter at present.

Mr. Hanington said, that these grants were generally made for the current year, before the service was performed, therefore it would be very improper to strike off this grant, because the School was now actually re-commenced. It was certainly a matter of very little consequence, because the Law provided for the grant, upon the certificates being produced to the Executive, but equal justice ought to be done to all. He would, however, rather see the usual practice reversed, the money granted after the service was performed.

Mr. Fisher, after reading certain sections of the Law, contended that the certificates ought to be produced to the House, before the appropriations were made.

Mr. L. A. Willmot was not disposed to vote for any of them, till he was quite satisfied that the Schools were in the most efficient state; unless the most satisfactory certificates were produced, he would be against the whole of them. It would be far better to distribute £100 among a number of primary Schools, than to give it to one of those mock Grammar Schools, not in a state of actual usefulness. The grants to some of them were quite absurd.

Mr. Partelow replied, that it was so absurd, the Hon. and learned Member for York had better bring in a bill to repeal the Law; but there was nothing absurd in giving the regular grants to Schools, established by Law, and conducted under the faith of that Law, by properly qualified Schoolmasters.

Mr. L. A. Willmot, in explanation, said that his observations were meant to apply only to such Schools as were inefficient; those that might be found efficient he would vote for.

Mr. Hanington repeated his sentiments, as to paying after performance of duty.

Mr. Allen was not for making these grants at present, though it was in fact of very little importance at what time they were voted, under present circumstances. A considerable part of the former House had been of opinion, that the money could not be drawn by the Executive without a vote of the House; but a contrary opinion had been given by the Law Officers, and put into practice on one occasion; therefore it seemed of little consequence whether the House voted the grants or not; nevertheless he thought this discussion premature, and that it had better be postponed for the present.

Mr. McLeod observed, that the law required these salaries to be paid half yearly, and therefore it was necessary that the money should be granted in advance; because an annual appropriation, after the services were performed, would not answer the purpose contemplated by the Law.

Mr. Brown thought that it was quite impossible that His Excellency or any other power, could draw out the money unless first granted by the House. There was certainly a special provision in the law, for granting the money; but it was optional with the House whether they would grant it all or not. He thought it inexpedient to grant money to any school not in operation, or without the fullest evidence of being efficient. It would perhaps be better to let the whole stand over till the certificates were brought in.

Hon. Mr. Johnston said, that on looking at the act, he found that there were two sections, relative to the College and the Grammar Schools, directly contrary to each other. One of them absolutely granted to the College, a certain sum annually, to be drawn by the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of his Council; and the Crown Law Officers had given it as their opinion, that this money could be drawn without any appropriation by the House. But this rule did not apply to the Grammar Schools; a certain sum annually was to be drawn for each of them, on certificates from the Trustees of their efficiency being laid before the Executive, and the money was to be appropriated annually by the House. According to this section, he (Hon. Mr. J.) thought, that the proper course would be to make the appropriations according to the act; and then, if the certificates were produced, (and in such cases only), the money could be drawn from the Treasury by the Executive. That would be proceeding according to the law; because, on reference to the Act, it appeared that provision must be made; though he would have preferred that before doing so, the House should know whether the requisites of the law had been complied with. He was for the Resolution.

Mr. Partelow, however, withdrew the whole Resolution for the present; and the subject was therefore postponed.