

than in any other part of this Province, owing to the many surrounding hills, some of which are covered with perpetual snow. The mean temperature of Dunedin is 57° which is in excess of the mean of London—of the whole Province it is about 55°. They say the climate much resembles that of England; with but half the cold of the English winter, while the Summer is much longer. The thermometer seldom indicates more than 80° or less than 45°.

The back country is very mountainous, and on some of their heights the cold is intense the whole year, but in the fertile valleys it is very warm, so you see one may find here any climate he wishes. They talk about winters here, but from what I can learn I should judge they have no winters. It is very little colder while it is much finer weather in winter than in Summer. The forests and fields are always green, and vegetation never ceases. They do not plant and sow in winter, but they can raise certain vegetables every month in the year.

FARMING
pays well here, if a man has help within himself, especially sheep farming. Many have come here comparatively poor and in a few years have made fortunes, but the chances are not so good now, as the best runs are leased; still an industrious, sober man can do well. An Agent for the farming districts came on board our ship before we landed, and hired several of our passengers at good wages, and wanted a number more. Notwithstanding, a number of people go about with their hands in their pockets complaining of nothing to do. One of these is a man I know well, who about a month ago was employed by a carriage maker for 15s. per day. That night his employer had occasion to go to his boarding house, and found him considerably in liquor. The next day he was told that he was not wanted, he is still not wanted, and poor fellow, I fear he never will be in these parts.

THE SOIL
so far as I am able to judge from its appearance and the growth of vegetation it contains at present, must be good. The valleys are very rich, and the hills are well adapted to grazing. The sides of the hills about Dunedin are covered with white clover, and other grasses, and all the cattle, sheep, and horses I have seen look well. Those who ought to know, tell me that from 35 to 40 bushels of wheat per acre is the average yield of Otago, but from 50 to 60 bushels are often obtained. Other cereals and vegetables in proportion—I can only say, I believe this statement to be true.

EDUCATION
is by no means neglected here, there are good schools and school houses, and the system of Education is conducted on liberal principles. There are infant free schools, and schools of higher grades, and high schools that are not free.

RELIGION.
The majority of the inhabitants of Otago are Scotch, and they are professedly a religious people; I am not prepared to speak of their piety but I have met with a goodly number whom I consider among the excellent of the earth. The outward forms of religion are well sustained here. Their churches are full. The majority are Presbyterians. The Baptist church in the city numbers about 200 communicants. They are open communion in the fullest sense, any one can come whether immersed, or sprinkled, or neither,—they invite all the Lord's people. They hold that they are not responsible for the piety of those with whom they sit at the Lord's table. There is a Baptist church at Christ Church, two at Nelson, two at Auckland, one at Taranaki, without a Pastor. I have been advised to go there; but have not yet decided. There are a number of Baptists at Wanganui, and I still have some idea of moving thither, though the war is raging there. There are several Baptists at Oamaru, at Greymouth, Invercargill, Wellington, Timaru, and several other places. There is great need of Ministerial labor in these places, also in the gold districts, in many of which the gospel is never preached. I feel sure that God has directed me to this country, and that I will soon find the field in which he will have me labor. More anon.

From yours very truly,

A. F. PORTER.

Dunedin, Jan. 14th, 1869.

For the Christian Messenger.

IN MEMORIAM.

MRS. HANNAH SPINNEY,

Wife of Mr. Ingleson Spinney, of Greenwood Square, Aylesford, and daughter of the late Deacon Zebina Roach, professed faith in Christ while in youth, and united with the Baptist Church.

Sister S. was a careful and affectionate wife and mother. She was remarkably kind and attentive to persons in sickness, or other affliction. On funeral occasions she was ever ready to afford valuable assistance. Only about five weeks before her own burial she prepared the shroud for a relative.

Her Pastor, on learning that she was seriously ill, visited her, and found her calm, and submissive to the Divine will. She expressed, however, an ardent desire to be enabled to give a suitable dying charge to her family, which consisted of a husband, and 8 children, of whom 5 were members of the same Church with her. She said she could talk to them, and had done so; but she wanted to speak with a deep and feeling sense of eternal things. On a subsequent visit the Pastor learned with pleasure, that this desire and request had been granted. Again on the day of her departure she called her relatives to her bedside, and, with suitable admonitions, kissed them, and took an affectionate leave of all present, including an aged and pious mother.

Before her departure sister Spinney chose her

under-bearers, and composedly gave proper directions with reference to her funeral.

On the 27th day of April, 1869, in the confident assurance of everlasting life, through faith in her beloved Redeemer, she quietly passed to the spirit world, at the age of 52 years.

Her funeral was attended by a large number of relatives, connections, and sympathizing friends, who were addressed from the cheering language of Paul, 1 Thes. iv. 16. "And the dead in Christ shall rise first."—Com. by Rev. C. Tupper.

Religious Intelligence.

NORTH SYDNEY, C. B., May 5th, 1869.—Dear Brother,—Since my last, the gracious work has been progressing much as before. Nine have been baptized and two restored, but these figures do not at all indicate its extent. We have received much valuable aid from Bro. Boggs, and the simple Gospel has been proclaimed with great plainness and faithfulness. In the midst of it came sad tidings of the danger, and then of the death of a beloved parent. The position and feelings of the disciple whose history is briefly delineated in Luke ix. 59, 60, was realized as never before.

Meetings are now being held in the new meeting-house across the Arm, with encouraging prospects and results. Father Richardson also, has made us a short, but timely and profitable visit, and "the people have a mind to work."

At times we are led to hope that the shower has only begun to descend. What we need, is, that all "the tithes" be brought in. May the curse of Meroz, Judg. v. 23, fall upon none of us.

Two of our young brethren have at recent Missionary Concerts expressed a willingness to give themselves to service in the Foreign field. I know of no reason why they should not regard Acts xx. 21, as applicable to them.

We entreat continued prayer.

Yours very truly,

T. H. PORTER.

PORT WILLIAMS, ANNAPOLIS COUNTY, May 4th, Rev. P. F. Murray writes: "I may just say the Lord is reviving his work in this place. Bro. Parker has baptized twenty-one, and others are looking forward to the ordinance. May the Lord continue his blessed work until all shall yield and own him their Saviour."

A LIBERAL DONATION.—Our Missionary Board was greatly delighted and encouraged, at its meeting on Monday evening last, by the cheering intelligence from Bro. Z. G. Gabel, that a friend to the cause of God, whose name he was not at liberty to give, had placed in his hands the sum of \$400; \$100 of which was to be applied to Foreign Missions; and the remaining \$300, to Domestic Missions, and its kindred objects, as embraced in the Union Society. As Bro. Gabel paid the money into the hands of the Treasurer, who was present to receive it, the Board could but feel that they were under special obligations to the liberal donor, as well as to the God of missions, for this unexpected enlargement of their means for doing good. May a rich blessing attend this noble act of christian benevolence, and may others be stimulated by this praiseworthy example to go and do likewise. "It is more blessed to give than to receive."—Ch. Visitor.

Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Council has had, during the past week, an overwhelming of Petitions against Separate Schools, similar to that in the Assembly.

The reception and reading of despatches, correspondence, and reports have occupied a large portion of the time of the Council. On Wednesday last Hon. Mr. Pineo asked the government for particulars of the expenditure of \$50,000 asked for last session, for Secret Service.

The Hon. Treasurer replied that no money had been expended which would not be accounted for in the usual way. The government had treated the vote of \$50,000 simply as a vote of credit. Hon. Mr. Pineo said if the accounts of the expenditure appeared in the public accounts it would be satisfactory.

Hon. Dr. Parker referred to the despatches received from the Imperial Government, and wished to know when a statement of the policy the government intends to pursue in reference to Confederation would be placed before the Council.

Hon. Treasurer replied that the government were not prepared just at present to announce their policy. He must consult with his colleagues, and at an early date would give the information sought.

Hon. Mr. Creelman called attention to the position taken by the government in matters relating to education, and submitted in writing a question: in what section of our educational Acts could the enactment be found authorizing the appointment of a Board of *visa voce* Examiners of Teachers for license.

The Hon. Treasurer promised an answer at a future day.

Adjourned till Friday.

On Friday, after the reception of Petitions, mostly against Separate Schools, the question of

Immigration was brought forward by the reception of despatches.

The attention of the Council was called by Hon. Mr. Creelman to the fact of an Immigration Agent holding office whilst no duties existed for such officer.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, May 4th, 1869.

PETITIONS against Separate Schools were presented by various members: by Mr. Townsend from Beaver Harbor; by Mr. Landers, from Annapolis Co.; by Mr. H. McDonald, from Strait of Canso; by Mr. Desbrisay, from Richmond and Inverness; by Mr. Northup, from Newport, and one from Clam Harbor, Musquodoboit, &c., and one from Jeddore; by Mr. Dickie, from West Cornwallis; by Mr. Freeman from Liverpool; by Mr. Morrison from London-derry.

Dr. Murray introduced a bill to restore certain lands in the County of Pictou taken for railway purposes.

Hon. Prov. Secretary laid on the table information asked by Mr. Purdy and by Mr. Pineo.

Also, by command, a despatch from the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, in reply to a Minute of Council on the subject of Confederation.

Also a despatch from Earl Granville, dated 13th January, in answer to resolutions passed by the House on the subject of Confederation.

Also, a despatch from the Secretary of State at Ottawa, enclosing correspondence in connection with recent negotiations between some of the representatives of Nova Scotia and the Dominion Government as to an increased subsidy.

Also, certain despatches relating to Immigration; and one relating to salutes to Lieutenant Governors. Some local and private bills were read and referred to Committees. Hon. Prov. Secretary laid on the table the report of the Chief Commissioner of Mines.

Mr. Kidston introduced a bill for the better encouragement of Education.

He remarked that he did not expect the bill to be entertained by the committee on Education, but that in view of resolution introduced by the Hon. Mr. Troop, and of the notice given by the government of their intention to bring before the House certain amendments in the Education Act, he supposed the bill might be of some service to the Committee to whom those subjects would be referred, as it embodied the views of a large number of the inhabitants of Victoria County, at least.

Some discussion arose on the subject of school books and the copy-rights of the publisher, after which the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, May 5th.

The House met at 3 o'clock.

Hon. Attorney General introduced a bill providing for a poll-tax to be collected in certain sections of Pictou County for the support of education.

The Speaker asked why it was not made applicable to the whole province.

The Hon. Attorney General replied that it was likely a bill of the kind would be introduced.

Hon. Attorney General introduced a bill to amend the law respecting Licenses to sell intoxicating liquors.

Petitions against Separate Schools were presented by Mr. Freeman from Liverpool; by Mr. Campbell from Margaree; by Mr. Dickie from Kings Co.; by Mr. Chambers from Lower Stewiacke; by Hon. Mr. Ferguson from Grand River, and two from Sydney, C. B.; by Mr. Morrison from Springside; and by Mr. Ross from Baddeck.

Hon. Prov. Secretary introduced a bill to amend the law relating to education. He stated that he did this on his own responsibility as a member of the House and not as a government measure. It was read and ordered to be printed.

Several local and private bills were then introduced. Some discussion arose respecting correspondence, which had been laid on the table, between the Council of Public Instruction and Messrs Mackinlay respecting School books.

Mr. Kidston asked for information concerning the number of Agricultural Societies existing in Cape Breton.

Vote by Ballot.—Mr. Morrison in compliance with notice previously given, laid on the table the following resolution:—

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this House that in all future elections of members to serve in the General Assembly votes should be given by ballot.

Hon. Attorney General laid on the table of the House his answers to the questions asked on a former occasion by Mr. Purdy.

The questions asked the Government by Mr. Purdy were:—

1st.—That the Government be requested to lay upon the table of the House a return showing in detail, the fees taken by the Atty. General for enforcing the revenue laws, or for any other services rendered to the Government of the Dominion.

2nd.—A return of sums received from claimants of Crown lands, or from persons having disputes under adjudication by the Committee of the Executive Council.

3rd.—A return of sums received from persons claiming gold areas, license to search, or grants of mining land from the commissioner of mines, and for drawing leases, &c. for mining.

4th.—A return of sums received from persons asking acts of incorporation from the legislature, or having claims of any kind under adjudication by its standing committees.

The answers of the Attorney General to the foregoing questions were as follows:—

1st.—The hon. member is not in a position to require any explanations from the Attorney General on the subject to which the first enquiry refers.

2nd.—The Attorney General has occasionally given advice to persons respecting their rights to Crown Lands, and received the ordinary fees for the same. The Attorney General has not, in any case that he is aware of, accepted fees that could in any manner influence him in the decision of the rights of parties claiming Crown land.

3rd.—The Attorney General has received the usual fees for drawing leases of coal areas. The Attorney General has, in a few instances, charged for advice given to persons respecting their legal rights to mining areas.

4th.—When employed to mature private acts of incorporation, the Attorney General charges for his services and labor, as any other professional man would do.

(Signed)

MARTIN I. WILKINS.

THURSDAY, May 6th.

Petitions against Separate Schools were presented by Mr. Purdy from Wallace, and two from New Annan by Mr. Pineo from Wallace; by Mr. Morrison from Colchester; by Mr. Ross, from Bouladerie; and by Mr. Balcorn from Eastern Halifax.

A large number of petitions were presented for aid to roads, to Indians, &c., &c., &c.

The bill to provide a scale of fees for the Provincial Secretary's office, was taken up in committee. Several of the fees were, on motion, either struck out or considerably reduced.

Several acts of Incorporation were passed without amendment and the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, May 7th.

Petitions against Separate Schools were presented by Mr. Eisenhour from Whycomagh, and one from Bridgewater; by Mr. Pineo from Guysboro; by Mr. Freeman from Milton; Dr. Murray from River John, one from Pictou and one from Albion Mines; by Mr. Balcorn from Dartmouth; by Mr. Chambers from Old Bars; by Hon. Mr. Ferguson from Middle River C. B.

Hon. Prov. Secretary laid on the table a report from Mr. Scribner on a survey of a line of railway from Annapolis to Yarmouth.

On motion to have the same printed the Hon. Prov. Secretary mentioned the items of expenditure and doubted the wisdom of the further expense of printing.

The Hon. Speaker referred to the sums spent in this work as thrown away and thought it unnecessary.

Hon. Pro. Sec. said he could not understand the remark about the money having been thrown away. The road, if built, would cause three millions of money to be expended in the country. The expenditure might appear at first sight to be unauthorized, but when members came to consider all the facts the conduct of the government would be fully justified. A resolution had been passed in 1867 for the location of a road from Annapolis to Digby, and as there was a necessity for carrying the road further, at some future day, and as some members of the Dominion Parliament were desirous of bringing the matter up, by requesting a subsidy, the government felt themselves called upon to make the survey.

The Speaker said that the Provincial Secretary was safe in attacking him, because, being in the chair, he could not join in the debate with the freedom of other members. His position, however, would not prevent him from expressing an opinion upon an improper expenditure of this kind, made at a time when there was hardly a bridge in the country fit to travel over.

Mr. Ryerson defended the expenditure for a survey to Yarmouth, and told the Speaker that the opposition came with bad grace from him.

During a portion of the time Mr. Ryerson was speaking, the Speaker left the chair but afterwards resumed it again. The report was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Jas. McDonald introduced a bill relative to partition of lands. Also a bill to amend chap. 82, Revised Statutes "of Bills of Exchange and Promissory notes." Also a bill relative to the sale of lands by trustees.

The bills for the better encouragement of Education were read a second time, and referred to the committee on Education.

The House adjourned to Monday.

MONDAY, May 10th.

A number of bills were read a second time and sent to Committee.

Petitions against Separate Schools were presented by Hon. Attorney General, Hon. Provincial Secretary, Hon. Mr. Robertson, Messrs. Northup, Copeland and Desbrisay.

Mr. Dickie brought in a bill to enable the Baptist Congregation at Billtown to remodel their meeting house.

Mr. Ryerson introduced a bill to authorize a loan for building a New Poor House at Yarmouth.

Hon. Attorney General introduced several bills respecting assessment.

Mr. Dickie gave notice of two resolutions relating to Education he intended to move on Thursday.

The House in Committee passed a number of bills and adjourned.

Dominion and Foreign News.

OTTAWA, May 4th.—The Bill making dominion day a legal holiday was read a second time.

The bill respecting department of finance was discussed. Mr. Rose said Mr. Langton gets \$1,000 additional salary as Secretary of Treasury Board.

Several of Sir John A. Macdonald's criminal bills were read a third time and passed.

Sir John A. Macdonald said a correspondence was now going on between the Dominion and Imperial Governments respecting the release of Father McMahon, who is now in prison in Ontario for his connection with the Fenian raid.

In the Senate, in answer to Mr. McCully, Government refused to state what amount they would give for carrying mails from Halifax to Yarmouth. Several offers were before them.

On Monday an interesting discussion arose on Mr. Savary's motion for a return of licenses to American fishermen, in which Savary, Fortin, Robitaille, S. Campbell, Anglin and Archibald took part. The Premier said more efficient measures for enforcing payment of licenses would be taken this year; there would be four ships of the British navy and two Canadian vessels in