

appointing the Senate can scarcely fail to infuse new life. Instead of being as hitherto composed exclusively of government appointees, the new bill provides for the election of the majority of this governing body by a convocation of alumni of the institution, of a certain standing, the remainder being composed of representatives of affiliated Colleges, and of nominees of the government. Important changes too are, it is understood, to be made in the mode of conducting the examinations. The examiners are, I believe, no longer to be as heretofore, Professors in University College; and a set of ciphers is to be arranged so as to do away with the necessity heretofore existing of the candidate's signing his papers with his own name. Some of these arrangements may seem to the uninterested mere matters of detail, but to affiliated colleges they are by no means unimportant. Several of these are of deep interest to the friends of our institutions at Woodstock and have, in fact, been made as the result of a vigorous agitation and remonstrance. In view of the expense necessarily involved in any scheme for placing our denominational College on such a footing as to enable it to demand University powers, the comparative worthlessness of the degrees conferred by some at least of the denominational Institutions in Ontario, and the real advantages accruing from the rigid examinations and high standard of scholarship at the Toronto Institution, the majority of Baptists in Ontario would, it is believed, prefer to have their own college continue its affiliation and, conforming its curriculum as has already been done so far as it extends—to the excellent one of that university, prepare its students to obtain degrees and honors at the Provincial institution. The new regulations will much facilitate this. Arrangements have been made for the appointment of sub-examiners to conduct examinations at other places while the change in the constitution of the Board of examiners will remove a very serious hindrance to free and equal competition. I say this without the slightest disrespect to the high sense of honor of the Professors in University College, but every teacher and student will readily see the advantage inseparable from being examined by one's own instructor.

The main hindrances which have heretofore stood in the way of giving a fair trial to the plea of affiliation being thus removed, the experiment will no doubt, be fairly tried at Woodstock. Next year, it is believed, will see the curriculum extended so as to embrace the second year's work, with the full honor courses of the University. This is probably as far as any unclouded institution will be able to advance, and as the honor courses are very full and nothing put for show at Toronto, it represents a course of at least four to five years of hard study for our students at Woodstock, from the time of commencing the classics. The remaining two years will have for some time to come, at least, to be taken in Toronto. When the time for Endowment arrives, as we hope it will before many years, the future of the Institution will be an open question. Meantime, Baptist parents and parents not Baptists, are gladly availing themselves of the opportunity to send their children to a college where their moral and religious well-being is earnestly sought, and such positive influences for good thrown around them as can be exerted by no state institution. This is and will long continue to be the triumphant answer of Denominational Colleges to all who demand of them a "reason for their being."

For some time past a great and increasing evil has been felt to exist in the Sunday railway traffic. The roll of freight and passenger cars is almost continuous and the shriek of the whistle disturbs private meditation and public devotion in all the towns and villages along the line of the Great Western. The question of absolute cessation of traffic on the Sabbath day is a difficult one, especially on a long and international route. True humanity as well as Christianity would seem sometimes—as for instance in the case of cattle trains—to raise its voice in favour of reaching the journey's end as soon as possible. But it can scarcely be denied that making all due allowances for the necessities of the case, there must be a vast amount of unnecessary traffic and consequent wilful desecration of the Lord's day. I am glad to see that the Presbyterian Synod has taken up the matter in earnest and a most energetic and powerful protest, in which it is joined by the leading men of the principal evangelical bodies, has been forwarded to the authorities of the Great Western. The Globe backs the movement with its great influence. The effect remains to be seen.

The movement of Ministers goes on. Brantford has lost Dr. Hurd—rumour has it she is seeking a Nova Scotian to take his place—but we are glad to see that the reciprocity with our neighbours is not "all on one side." They keep drafting off a man now and then, but Montreal has not long since brought over an American, and Toronto has just now secured the Rev. Dr. Castle, of Philadelphia, who comes laden with the wellwishes of those he leaves behind him to an important field. Large hopes of future prosperity and blessing as the result of his able ministrations are entertained. Rev. A. H. Munro, of Alexander Street has also recently received an invitation, accompanied with large "inducements" to leave his present field of labour for one across the border. We are glad to learn that he has felt it his duty to remain with the people of his present charge.

I forgot to mention above, in connection with the New University Act, that the Senate is empowered to establish examinations for women, similar to those conducted by London and other great English Universities. We hope a powerful stimulus may thus be given to the desire of the young ladies of Ontario for higher and more thorough culture.

J. E. W.

Religious Intelligence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Mr. Editor—

I had the pleasure of baptizing four last Sabbath at Pubnico Head, the south branch of the Argyle Church. And others are anxious to obey the Master.

Bro. Achilles, now on a mission to Pubnico and Argyle, will go (D.V.) after next Sabbath to this part of the field. May the Lord bless him in his labors there.

I have had the pleasure of being at Argyle during the gracious work which has been going on there, of late. As it is a field where I spent part of my time formerly, I felt a deep interest in the people and the work. Yet I was not able to do much more than attend the meetings, and enjoy the work moving forward under the earnest and well directed labors of our esteemed Bro. Wallace. Whose efforts were blessed in watering and gathering a precious harvest. Forty six have been baptized and the end is not yet.

We had hoped that Bro. Wallace would have been able to have visited Pubnico Head, a very important section of the Argyle Church. But duties at home prevented his longer stay. We hope our Bro. W. will soon be relieved from pastoral duty and engaged in the work of missions, so dear to his heart, and for which Heaven has so especially qualified him.

As many of my friends wish to know why it is that I have been laid aside from active labor, I wish to state; that it is not a disease of the lungs as many have feared; but a severe attack of Laryngitis ("Clergymen's sore throat" as it is generally called.) Which rendered my voice almost powerless. I am thankful to state, that my voice is now quite restored.

Yours in the gospel.

P. R. FOSTER.

Tusket, Feb. 22nd, 1873.

PARSBORO.—Rev. Saml. Thompson writes:—"I am still preaching to the people on the Parsboro Shore to large and attentive congregations, yet I cannot record the conversion of many. May God visit us in his own good time that sinners may be brought into the Ark of safety."

MISSION IN SAN DOMINGO.

From the London Baptist Missionary Herald, we learn that "an effort is now being made to erect a place of worship, schoolroom, and mission house, in the town of Puerto Plata, Sto Domingo."

"Roman Catholicism, in its worst form, and represented by an immoral class of priests, and a dreadful species of enthusiasm called Obeah, have subjected the people to their influence. For want of better teaching, a very low state of moral degradation exists. Commercial honour and honesty are almost unknown; drunkenness and concubinage are generally prevalent; and robbery and murder not infrequent."

"The Government is so conscious of the need for better influences being abroad that, by a resolution of the Senate, passed in Sto Domingo city on the 24th May last, it was resolved to offer the agent of the Baptist Missionary Society the privilege of importing duty-free into the Republic all materials which might be used in erecting the building named. And, notwithstanding a fire in the previous year had consumed the business part of the town, the inhabitants of Puerto Plata—mostly Roman Catholics—subscribed about £90 toward the undertaking."

"A building capable of seating sixty-

five persons, purchased with a view to being used as a chapel, has been so thronged Sunday after Sunday, with anxious audiences, that, usually, not one-sixth part of the seating accommodation wanted could be provided; and, oftentimes, the hearers would reluctantly disperse in a heavy tropical shower, or from sheer exhaustion after long standing. As a result of the services, twenty members of the Romish Church have, we trust, during three months, being converted to God, and, with a few others, are waiting to form the nucleus of a church."

CHURCH AND STATE IN SPAIN.—The Madrid Correspondent of the *True Catholic* says:—"Immediately after the despatch of my last letter, the Church Endowment Bill passed the first reading in the Congress by a large majority, and a few days later in the Senate, receiving thereupon the royal assent. The few modifications proposed were accepted by the Government, and are not such as to affect the Bill in principle. That will almost necessarily lead to a redistribution or readjustment of the diocesan system. The first step, it is understood, will be the reduction of the number of dioceses from sixty to forty-nine; in other words, constituting each province a diocese. At present, there is much inequality, some bishops having no more than 70,000 souls in their diocese, and one barely 36,000, whilst other dioceses are proportionately large. Again, these dioceses like that of Toledo, which have parishes in as much as nine different provinces. In the reduction of bishoprics there ought to be the less difficulty, inasmuch as there are at all times many vacant; at the present, the vacant sees number thirteen, whilst to others no bishop has ever yet been appointed. Madrid, strange as it may seem, is in the latter case, a bishopric without a bishop; the see consequently is administered, like that of Ciudad Real, by a vicar ecclesiastical. As was to be anticipated, the Pope has protested against the action of the Spanish Government, as subversive of the Concordat; but the temper of 1873 is not the temper of 1851. The Spain of to day asserts its right to regulate its Church affairs in its own way, and without consulting the Pope. This is significant."

HANOVER.—Mr. Brucker, a Baptist missionary, thus writes from Oberkautzen:—"I went, with several brethren, to attend the funeral of our sisters in a Hanoverian Village. At the house of mourning, I preached from Isaiah xxxviii. 1. I had scarcely begun, when the pastor of the parish came to me, gnashing his teeth with rage, and asked, 'Who gave you permission to speak here? You are not an ordained servant of Jesus Christ; you are an impudent and shameless fellow.' 'I am a prophet in the name of the Lord.' 'Stop now, I tell you; stop, and leave this place, you are an impudent fellow, a great clown.' 'Go take care of your own house; we'll take care of ours.' 'You, take care of yours! I say again, stop, or you shall be arrested.' Then he went away, while I opened the text, and returned with two men. He then asked me if I would stop; and when I gave him no answer, but went quietly on, he told the men to seize me. Instead of obeying him, they took off their caps, and listened devoutly and reverently. The pastor seeing this, went away ashamed. I prayed again, and we sang, separated quietly. This scene needs no comment. The malice of the man could not be shown more clearly. It was a happy circumstance, that neither I myself, nor any one in the assembly, said a word to the angry rector. This he had counted upon; and so we went home, strengthened in faith and full of joy."

Provincial Parliament.

OUR LOCAL LEGISLATURE assembled on Thursday last. The session was opened by Sir Hastings Doyle, His Honor being attended by a numerous staff of military officers, and civil officials. The guard of honor comprised regulars and volunteers—87th Royal Irish Fusiliers, and 66th Battalion of Infantry.

The members of the House of Assembly being summoned to the Council Chamber, the Lieutenant Governor read the following:

SPEECH:

Mr. President and Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

1. I call upon you once more to resume the labors constitutionally devolving upon you, and to give your attention to several matters which will be submitted to your consideration.

2. The joint address, which you unanimously voted last Session to Her Majesty the Queen, and the Prince of Wales, on the occasion of the recovery of His Royal Highness, from his late alarming illness, were duly transmitted by me in accordance with your request, and you will see by the despatch which will be laid before you that the same were very graciously received.

3. The prevalence for some time past, of small pox, in several cities and districts of the United States, with which we are in constant communication, has subjected this and other Provinces to some risk, and, not unnaturally, caused some uneasiness, but, wherever there appeared the slightest necessity for so doing, I immediately established a Board of Health, and this, and other precautions have been successful in isolating the few cases which have occurred, and I trust that, under Providence, there is now little danger of the disease spreading to any extent through the Province.

4. The Commissioners appointed to make a further revision of the Provincial Statutes rendered necessary by the numerous changes made by Dominion legislation, have completed the work entrusted to them, and the result of their labors, to which I invite your attentive consideration, will be submitted for your approval.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:
5. I have ordered the Public Accounts for the past year, and the Estimates for the Current year to be laid before you at an early day.

6. A contract, based upon the legislation of last session, has been entered into for the remaining portion of the Asylum for the Insane. Considerable progress has been made in the work, and you will be asked to provide the requisite funds for the completion of that indispensable and humane institution.

Mr. President and Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

7. With a view of placing the financial condition of the Province on a more satisfactory footing for the future, and providing for other important services, it is desirable that an amendment should be made to "The Act for the better encouragement of Education," and I count on that important subject receiving full consideration at your hands.

8. You will be gratified to learn that the coal trade has received a great impetus during the year just closed, in consequence of the high prices which have ruled for that staple commodity in Europe, and that the revenue derived from this source has been in excess of the Estimate.—Amendments in the laws relating to that valuable branch of industry in our Province, and more particularly to the preservation of the lives of the miners, will be brought under your notice.

9. You will also be pleased to hear that the revenue derived from the sale of Crown Lands in 1872 largely exceeds that of the previous year.

10. The subject of Immigration has had my earnest attention during the recess, and with a view of attracting a useful class of immigrants to this Province I appointed an Immigrant Agent, whom I authorized to proceed to Europe for the purpose of disseminating information on the capabilities and resources of Nova Scotia. His report, and all papers connected with this important topic, will also be laid before you.

11. The general condition of the Province may, I am happy to say, be considered satisfactory. The Agriculturalist has been blessed with a harvest of, at least, an average yield. The fisherman has received a fair remuneration for his arduous toils. The value of our minerals is becoming daily more widely known and more highly appreciated. Ship building has been largely and profitably followed, and although a slight stringency in the money market may have operated against a general extension of trade, on the whole there has been a healthy activity in all branches of commerce. Whatever opportunities there may be within the sphere which the Constitution allots to you, in which the moral, physical, or commercial well being of the people of Nova Scotia can be improved or established on a sounder basis,—to such I invite you to devote your attention, and I earnestly trust that your deliberations may result in measures conducive to the general good.

In the Council Chamber on Friday the Address of that body to the Lieutenant Governor was under discussion. Educational matters received some attention. Hon. Mr. Creelman apprehended that there was some intention on the part of the government to interfere injudiciously with the present law. He was informed by members of the government that as the educational expenses were increasing rapidly, it was time that the sum granted should be fixed.

Hon. Dr. Parker thought it would be unwise to determine now what should be done in future years, each year should provide for itself.

Hon. Mr. Fraser thought it an extraordinary thing to have introduced the subject into the Speech, if it was intended to fix what should be in future granted. The House had only a right to legislate from year to year.

The Address was adopted and the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, Feb. 27th, 1873.

On the return of the members from hearing the opening Speech in the Council Chamber, the Provincial Secretary laid on the table the returned writs issued for the election of members to represent the counties of Antigonish, Halifax, Inverness, Pictou and Yarmouth. The members returned, Messrs. Taylor, McKay, Ryerson, Campbell and McDonald were then sworn in. They signed the roll, and took their seats.

Mr. M. B. Desbrisay of Lunenburg then arose and submitted the Address in reply to the opening Speech, which was seconded by Mr. Archibald of Halifax. The address is simply an echo of the Speech.

Mr. Kirk introduced a bill *pro forma* relating to Collieries and Mining.

Mr. D. Woodworth brought to the notice of the House, the fact that the report of the Committee on Mines and Minerals which was not received by the House at its

last session, had been placed among the Appendices in the journals of the House. He gave notice that he would move to have it expunged.

Mr. Blanchard moved that the further consideration of the Address be postponed till Friday.

The Provincial Secretary in some conversation which followed, stated it as his opinion that the business of the session might be brought to a close about the 1st of May.

The House then adjourned.

FRIDAY, Feb. 28th.

After the usual preliminaries the Provincial Secretary moved the further consideration of the Address.

Mr. Blanchard spoke in reference to the several topics mentioned in the Speech, and gave notice that when the clause relating to Education came up for consideration he would move the following resolution, which he laid on the table:

"Whereas this House is informed in the speech with which the session has been opened, that it is desirable to provide for other important services, and place the financial condition of the Province on a more satisfactory footing by a change in the Educational Laws:

"And whereas such a change in order to accomplish the said objects must necessarily contemplate a reduction in the provincial aid at present granted to Education:

"Therefore resolved, That the present Administrative and Legislative expenses are too great for this Province, and that reductions may be made in the same without affecting the efficiency of the public service:

"Resolved, That the country desires a continuance of its present system of education, with such modifications and development as may be suited to accomplish that end:

"Resolved, That this House desires to express its regret that the public expenditure should have rendered it necessary to amend, financially, the Educational Law."

The several clauses of the address were then moved and adopted. On the Education clause being moved, Mr. Blanchard spoke in reference to his motion, and deprecated any alteration in the way of diminishing the appropriation for that service, and moved that a sum not less than that of last year be appropriated to educational purposes.

The Provincial Secretary would not further state what the intended educational measure would be, than to say that he believed the time had arrived when a definite sum should be named for this object.

Mr. Holmes expressed his approval of the existing school law, and would disapprove of any attempt to interfere with it in its general features.

Mr. Woodworth also believed the present school law should be preserved, and not unnecessarily tampered with.

The Attorney General said any alteration the government might propose in the Education Act he believed would be for its improvement.

The house divided about half past five o'clock, when the votes stood as follows:

For the Amendment.—Messrs. Blanchard, Woodworth, Duncan Campbell, More, McKay, 11.

Against.—Prov. Sec., Att. Gen., Gayton, Ryerson, Freeman, Eisenaur, Archibald, J. Flinn, Wyld, Charles Campbell, Robertson, D. McDonald, E. P. Flynn, Jos. McDonald, Landers, Johnston, Desbrisay, White, Ferguson, Morrison—20.

The Address then passed as a whole, and the House adjourned.

SATURDAY, March 1st.

The members of the Assembly proceeded in a body to Government House with the Address to the Lieutenant Governor in reply to his speech. On their return business was resumed.

The Provincial Secretary reported the following list of Standing Committees:

On Rules and Privileges.—Hon. Attorney General, Messrs. Morrison, O. J. Campbell, Holmes and Allison.

Education.—Hon. Provincial Secretary, Messrs. Desbrisay, White, Gayton, Blanchard, Allison and Rettie.

Public Accounts.—Messrs. Johnson, Freeman, Wyld, Pineo and McKay.

Trade and Manufactures.—Messrs. Wyld, Taylor, Ryerson, Rettie and McKay.

Humane Institutions.—Messrs. Blanchard, Robertson, White, Landers, Desbrisay, D. McDonald, D. Campbell, Moore and McKay.

Mines and Minerals.—Messrs. Morrison, Freeman, Flinn, Kirk, Cameron, Vickery and Woodworth.

Navigation Securities.—Messrs. Johnson, McDonald, Eisenaur, Duquette, Vickery, Moore, and D. Campbell.

Land Damages.—Hon. Mr. Ferguson, Messrs. Duquette, Ross, Allison and McKay.

Crown Lands.—Hon. Mr. Robertson, Messrs. Ryerson, Archibald, McKay and Rettie.

Agriculture.—Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands, Messrs. Gayton, Ross, Landers, Allison, Holmes and D. Campbell.

Private and Local Bills.—Messrs. Desbrisay, Kirk, White, C. J. Campbell, Woodworth, Cameron and Pineo.

Law Amendments.—Hon. Commissioner of Mines and Works, Hon. Atty. General, Messrs. Morrison, Woodworth and Holmes.

Reporting and Printing.—Hon. Prov. Secretary, Hon. Commissioner of Mines and Works, Messrs. Taylor, Blanchard and Holmes.

Contingencies.—Hon. Prov. Secretary,