

you notice the good road by which you approach through the jungle? The place itself has changed. This is a street, with neat houses and cottages on each side, and the walls clean. No more mud, nor lazy sluggish animals obstructing the way and endangering the safety of the passengers. The inhabitants, as you meet them, are dressed and orderly. As evening approaches, you hear the voice of prayer and praise ascending from abodes of comfort and happiness on every side.

"Let us step into one. There sits, in an attentive circle, a group of Karens, listening to one of their number as he reads the words of divine life. That book which he holds in his lap, has under God, been the means of this great change. Go up and examine it. It is a large and handsome volume, neatly printed, with four golden characters upon the back. They are the only English letters on the book. Read them. A. F. B. S. AMERICAN AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

"That is the book, Mr. President, which has dealt the 'blow upon blow,'—the revelation of God Most High, to the heathen world—the words of the Holy Spirit to man. But oh! let it be given to them in its purity. Let there be no concealment of the truth—no hiding of God's purposes and commands from the poor Karen under barbarous Greek words, to him unintelligible.

"I wish to go forth again to labor among the Karens. I hope that others will go. We depend upon you, who profess to know and believe the truth, to send us. Send us forth we beseech you—but oh!—send us not without the Bible. Accompany us with that blessed book wherever we go, and send it where we cannot go. But let us have it in its purity. Let it tell the heathen the whole truth. Then can we labor cheerfully, and hope for the salvation and sanctification of those to whom we minister."

Proselytism by the Emperor of Russia.

The *Gazette des Tribunaux* publishes a decree of the Emperor Nicholas, dated the 6th inst., prohibiting conversions to any other creed than the Greco-Russian religion. According to the provisions of that intolerant and despotic enactment, any person abjuring the Greco-Russian religion is to be placed at the disposal of the ecclesiastical authorities; his property is to be confiscated; and, if he does not re-enter the bosom of the Church by law established, within a given period he is to be confined for life in a convent. Should the proselyte have children under age, the Government undertakes to decide on their fate. Any individual who should advise another to abjure the tenets of that religion, shall forfeit all his prerogatives and civil rights, and be banished forever to Western Siberia. Persons preaching or publishing doctrines calculated to shake the faith of the true believers, incur the same penalty, when guilty of the offence for the third time. The fathers and mothers professing the Greco-Russian religion, who should cause their children to be baptised by the ministers of another Christian sect, are to be punished by two years' imprisonment, deprived of their children, who are to be confided to the care of Greco-Russian members of the family; and, if they have no relatives professing that creed, the Government will entrust them to guardians of its own choosing. The clergyman of any other persuasion who should receive the abjuration of a Greco-Russian, is to be deprived of his situation, and of all the prerogatives attached to it.—Catholic clergymen, moreover, are forbidden, in the western Provinces, to retain in their service any person belonging to the Greco-Russian religion, under the penalty of forty effective roubles (£7 8s) per servant.—*London Patriot*.

Ambiguous Preaching.

On coming out of church, I asked Mr. P., a distinguished lawyer, how he liked the sermon of Dr. B. 'I think,' said he, 'that it comes under the third head.' 'How so?' said I. 'A certain French preacher,' he replied, after a long and pompous introduction, said, 'I shall now proceed, my hearers, to divide my subject into three parts. First, I shall tell you that which I know, and you do not know. Secondly, I shall tell you about that which you know, and I do not know. And thirdly, and lastly, I shall tell you about that which neither you nor I know.'

Alas! how much preaching comes under the third head! How often, when Paul supplies the text, has Tully, Plato, Epictetus taught. If

there was more simple, plain preaching to the conscience, instead of an ostentatious display of learning, or strife about words to no profit, we should see more faithful, consistent Christians, and more done to advance the mild kingdom of peace.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE.

From our Fredericton Correspondent.

FREDERICTON, 27th Jan. 1848.

DEAR SIRS.—This has been quite a busy day in the House of Assembly. All the members who usually take the lead were present, with the exception of Mr. Partelow, and the business went on with much spirit. After routine matters had been disposed of, the Hon. Mr. Baillie brought down a message from His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, accompanied by copies of the correspondence which His Excellency had had with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of Emigration, and a copy of a despatch from Earl Grey to His Excellency the Governor General, on the same subject. The reading of these bulky documents, with the exception of the last despatch received by the Lieut. Governor from Earl Grey, and that addressed to the Governor General, having been dispensed with, a discussion arose about having the whole printed, which was cut short by Mr. Ritchie asking how they could decide whether they should be printed before they had heard them read. The Clerk was immediately ordered to go on reading, which he did most perseveringly for about a quarter of an hour, no one paying the slightest attention to what he uttered. Mr. End suddenly rose and said that the House should not kill its clerk, and moved that the Clerk be not killed that day, and that the further reading of documents, to which no one would listen, be dispensed with, which was agreed to.

Mr. Brown presented a petition from Eliphaz Codrington, of Grand Manan, praying for remuneration for losses sustained by him in building boats for the public service during the American war. This was received with shouts of laughter from all sides of the house; but Mr. Brown thought when they had heard the petition read, the laugh would be on the other side. The petition was received, read, and laid on the table.

The Hon. Mr. Hazen brought in a Bill to provide for the collection of the Revenue. The House then went into Committee of the whole in consideration of Mr. Baillie's Bill for the erection of a building in Fredericton to be called the Town Hall. Mr. Taylor opposed the Bill, and Mr. Fisher wished the County debt paid before they incurred another. Mr. Ritchie thought they had better postpone the Bill until the Seat of Government was removed to Saint John. Mr. Fisher would leave that question to be settled by Mr. Ritchie's children and his own, as he did not expect to live long enough to see that measure carried. Mr. Barberie thought he would be a short-lived individual if he did not. Mr. Hazen had bet £5, and would double it, that the seat of Government would not be in Fredericton in five years, but would not bet it would be in St. John. A running fire of this sort was continued, which settled down into a smart debate, confined principally to the members for York, Mr. Street, and Mr. End. The latter gentleman held forth on the benefits accruing to lawyers from having the Court rooms over butchers' stalls, as the effluvia therefrom taught the nose to warn the tongue when to stop, which in Fredericton was very necessary. Mr. L. A. Wilmot was down upon Mr. End in his own vein, and bore rather hard upon the upper-crust of society in this town, intimating that as the bill included a two-penny-half-penny tax on property, it contained the seeds of its own mortality within itself, and if it reached the door of the Council chamber alive, it was sure to meet a violent death when it entered. Progress was reported, and the bill will be re-committed.

Mr. Hazen brought in a Bill to provide for the collection of the public revenue, which he stated had become necessary from the repeal of the Imperial Acts imposing duties on articles imported into this Province.

Mr. Jordan presented a Petition from John Boyd, M. D., praying for remuneration for an up and down board fence so called, which had been destroyed by the Emigrants for fuel, which was treated with much good humour by the House. Mr. Baillie never knew before what the meaning of an up and down fence was; now it was plain, for the Doctor had put up the fence, and the Emigrants had pulled it down. Just so with some of his fences. He put them up longitudinally in the spring, and the Negroes in his neighbourhood pulled them down and burnt them up in the winter. So that he had up and down fences as well as the Doctor. Mr. Vail said something about people in St. John enclosing property for the purpose of holding it, which caused a hornet's nest about his ears; but it was quite clear Dr. Boyd's Petition had come to the wrong place. Still Mr. Jordan persisted, and actually divided the House on its reception.—For its being received, Mr. Jordan and Mr. R. D. Wilmot—against it, the rest of the House. Mr. Jordan then reluctantly withdrew the Petition, and his motion was allowed to be erased from the Journals of the House. Some member remarking that it was now an up and down Petition.

Mr. Reid then moved for leave to bring in a Bill to prevent the growth and increase of THISTLES.—This motion took both House and gallery by surprise, which found vent in ill-suppressed laughter in the House, and less ceremonious mirth in the gallery. I fully expected that some Scotch member would, as an offset, move for leave to bring in a Bill to suppress the Shamrock, eradicate the Rose, and destroy the Leek; but this incipient death-warrant for the emblem of Sandy's nationality was committed to the hands of the inexorable Speaker with as much levity as if it had been a light matter. It is fortunate that the Gypsies have not a footing in this Province,

otherwise this bill, if it becomes law, would produce a famine among their Jackasses. The bill may be a capital one, but it is a droll subject for Legislation.

The House went into Committee of the whole on Mr. Woodward's Bill to exempt Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes from the operation of the usury laws, and a capital debate followed, which would far exceed the limits of a single letter to detail. Mr. R. D. Wilmot opposed it at some length, and with some warmth, declaring the monied interest to be already sufficiently powerful, and closing an able speech with a motion to postpone the bill for three months. Mr. J. A. Street spoke in favor of the bill, but wished to introduce the proviso which was in the Imperial Act, of which it is a copy, regarding land. Mr. L. A. Wilmot spoke eloquently against the bill, and against our Banking system. Mr. Hazen defended the Banks in St. John; and Mr. Tibbets also made an attack on the Bank of British North America, and Mr. Street called upon him to prove his charges, and defended the Institution at some length; after an exceedingly well sustained debate, which embraced the discussion of our lumbering interest, and other matters not quite relevant to the question before the House, but of much importance to the people of this country; the House divided on the question of postponement for three months—yeas 22, nays 7, majority against the bill 15, it is consequently lost.

Mr. Tibbets presented the petition of Thomas E. Perley, praying that a bond given to the Crown in 1843 be cancelled, for reasons which he set forth.—This led to a discussion on the propriety of the House interfering with questions which belonged to a legal tribunal. Messrs. Street and Ritchie the principal speakers. Mr. Baillie intimated that there were many other bonds of a like nature, and the petition was laid on the table.

Mr. Fisher moved for leave to bring in a bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the election of members to serve in the General Assembly of this Province.

I believe there is nothing further that I need trouble you with to-day; should to-morrow be less fruitful of matter for one of my epistles, I may revert to some of the speeches made to-day, which would afford subject for amusement and instruction.

I am, yours, &c.

SYZIGIA.

FREDERICTON, 28th Jan., 1848.

DEAR SIRS.—Early this morning, the Report of the hon. Thomas Baillie, on the state of the Crown Lands in this Province, came before the House of Assembly, and was read at the Clerk's table. I listened attentively to this document, and think it ably drawn up, and almost conclusive on every point which the Surveyor General has recommended for adoption. I am clearly of opinion that the publication of this document will be productive of good, and that the manner in which the surveys are now conducted must lead to the confusion and difficulties anticipated in the Report; but as the document itself will soon be before the public, you will be able to judge for yourselves if I have over-estimated its importance.

A Bill to incorporate the Carleton Agricultural Society was read a third time and sent to the Council for concurrence.

Mr. Brown moved an Address to his Excellency, the object of which was to obtain information from the head of the Government, whether two despatches from the Colonial Secretary, prohibiting his Excellency from giving his assent to any Revenue bill imposing differential duties, were still considered binding on the head of the Government; or if that House would be at liberty to impose such duties as they saw fit, without reference to such despatches. Mr. Brown expressed great doubts if these despatches were not still binding, and was also very doubtful if the course which he had taken was not at variance with the privileges of that House, but he knew of no other method by which they could come at the fact. The information which he sought was necessary to guide the Finance Committee, and also the Committee of Ways and Means, of both of which he was a member, and he felt that something was necessary to be done to enable them to act. After these remarks, his honor the Speaker said he felt it his duty to inform the House, that the method by which the hon. member for Charlotte proposed to get his information, was without precedent in the British Parliament, in the records of this colony, or in that of any Colonial Assembly he had ever met with. It was, besides, an interference with the privileges of the House, which ought not to be sanctioned. A number of members concurred with the Speaker, most of whom thought the despatches alluded to had no force after the passing of the British Possessions Act, and some went so far as to say that they would take the responsibility of legislating without further information. The hon. Mr. Hazen expressed his willingness to obtain and communicate to the House such information as the Government could disclose, and, with this understanding, the Resolution was withdrawn, not to be again offered. Mr. Brown, however, took care to explain the objects he had in view in moving it, and hoped he would not be charged with any wish to infringe on the privileges of the House, which was answered by cries of "No, no," from both sides of the House.

The hon. Mr. Hazen brought down a Message, accompanied with documents relating to the expense incurred in surveying the Halifax and Quebec Railway Line, which were read at the Clerk's table; he also brought in a Bill to authorize the survey of a line of Railway from the city of St. John to Shediac, which was read a first time by its title.

Col. Miles presented a petition from Calvin L. Hatheway, praying for remuneration for services performed by him in assisting to settle the Boundary Line between this Province and the State of Maine, in 1836, '37, and '38. There appeared a disposition to make rather light of Mr. Hatheway's services, but the petition was finally received and referred to a select committee to report thereon. Mr. Gilbert made a speech in favor of the petition, which was,

perhaps, the reason why it was finally received, as it is so seldom that hon. member can be brought to agree to anything where money is concerned. A short discussion also took place on Mr. Harnington presenting a petition from the Gaoler of Dorchester, praying for remuneration for having supplied one William Greives with necessaries while confined at the suit of the Crown, which ended in the hon. member withdrawing the petition, and his motion to receive it was erased from the journals.

Mr. Jordan presented a petition from Dr. Boyd, praying for adequate compensation for his services to the Marine Hospital, which was read, listened to with attention, received, and laid on the table. It appeared from the petition that Dr. Boyd was appointed Surgeon to the Hospital in 1824, and that during the first 18 years the number of patients admitted, amounted to an average of 164 each year, while last year the number had increased to 459.

Hon. Mr. Baillie brought down a Message, accompanied by a despatch and other documents, having reference to the Copy-Right Act, passed last year, which were read at the Clerk's table. The same hon. member then moved that the House go into a Committee of the whole on a Bill to regulate ships arriving from Europe with Emigrant passengers within this Province. The hon. mover explained that the Bill was framed in exact conformity with the despatch received from the Colonial Secretary, and that it was of great importance that its passage by the Legislature should not be delayed, as it would be exceedingly desirable that the Bill should go home by the next packet, which would leave in about a fortnight, that there might be time for its receiving the royal assent before ship owners in Great Britain should advertise their vessels for the conveyance of passengers for North America.—The principal provisions of this bill are double head money in all cases—15s. head money on all passengers arriving between the 1st of September and the 1st of November, and 20s. head money on all arriving between the 1st November and the 1st of April. The Bill also contains provisions for imposing quarantine and additional head money, where vessels are detained for having sickness on board, and a number of other things, which were all suggested by Earl Grey's despatch; and the Bill, after a sharp discussion, passed without any amendment.

Mr. Tibbets brought in a Bill to incorporate the Woodstock Mill and Manufacturing Company, which was read a first time. A number of petitions were presented, among which I may mention that there was one from a Mr. John McDonald, an old soldier, praying for assistance in his destitute circumstances. This petition contained a sort of summary of McDonald's adventures during the whole of the peninsular war, and was characterized by Mr. End as a stirring, eventful history, extending from the beginning of the Peninsular struggle until the allied troops marched into Paris, in 1815; but the House would not sustain the petition, notwithstanding the advocacy of Col. Miles, the mover, and the support of Mr. End, who tried hard to get something for the old soldier. The petition was rejected by a very large majority. I forgot to mention that Mr. Carman brought in a Bill to continue the Act to prevent the spread of a certain disease now existing in the counties of Gloucester and Northumberland.

I believe there was nothing else transpired with which it is necessary to trouble you; the Reporter's affair did not come up, and the House adjourned at a little before 4 o'clock.

Yours, &c.

SYZIGIA.

FREDERICTON, 29th January, 1848.

DEAR SIRS.—This has been quite a lively day in the House of Assembly. Early in the morning the Bill to regulate vessels arriving from Europe with passengers, was read as engrossed (on parchment), and when his hon. the Speaker was about to put the question—"That this Bill do now pass, and be sent to the Council for concurrence," Mr. Ritchie rose and complained of the hasty manner in which the Bill had been forced through the House, remarking that one hon. member (Mr. Taylor) wished it passed to go home by last Mail, which was at the time he was making the proposition, within a half hour of its departure. He did not like such Rail Road Legislation, and it was unfair in the members of the government to hurry through such a most important measure. They had not even allowed time for the despatches, on which this bill was founded, to be printed before the bill had passed, and he said yesterday there might be some important suggestions in those despatches which were not included in that Bill. He had that morning sent to the Queen's Printer for the despatches, and found that there are suggestions, and most important suggestions, not provided for in that Bill. Mr. Ritchie read a suggestion of Lord Grey, respecting a proper supply of food for emigrants while on their passage, which, his Lordship considered, it would be desirable to introduce into any Colonial Act, on the subject of Emigration. Mr. Ritchie contended that this was one most important omission, as the health of passengers, depended in a great degree on the proper supply of food, and there was no doubt that much of the sickness of last year had been occasioned by neglect in this particular, and this had not even been considered in committee.

Mr. Hazen complained of unfairness on the part of his colleague, in opposing the Bill at that stage, when the despatches had been two or three days on the table, and the Bill four or five days under discussion; besides, he believed an intimation had gone home that such a Bill had passed the House.

Mr. Ritchie—If any such intimation has gone home from the Government, the Government have done wrong; the Bill has not passed this House, and the Government—

Mr. Hazen—The Government did no such thing.

Mr. Ritchie—If the hon. member, as a member of this House, has done it—

Mr. Hazen—It was not a member of this House either.

Mr. Ritchie—Worse and worse. It was a member out of the House then, perhaps; in the Lobby