

be changed. (Hear, hear.) Now, had any strong case of necessity been made out in the present case? The large towns wanted schools, and it was natural that the burgh members should not like to refuse the learned lord permission to introduce his bill. They all did so, however, hoping it would be amended. So, to all the petitions presented in favour of the bill, there was some qualification or other. The petitioners did not like the bill, but they liked the blow it dealt at the Established Church. (Cheers.)

He hoped the house would consider whether it was advisable to change a system which had worked well for one totally untried, and whether it would not be right, if the Government wished to try a new experiment, to compel them to resort to a new field for the purpose? (Hear, hear.)

**BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.**—The anniversary of this society was held on Wednesday, in Exeter-hall, under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury. The annual report stated that the amount received during the year for the general purposes of the Society was £64,678, being £5,221 more than the preceding year. The amount received for Bibles and Testaments was £59,600, making the total receipts from the ordinary sources of income £124,478. There had been also received £3,694, further contributions to the Jubilee Fund, and £7,860 to the Chinese New Testament Fund; making a grand total of £136,032. The issues for the year had been as follows:—From the depot at home, 1,018,882 copies; from depots abroad, 431,994 copies; total, 1,450,876; being an increase of 83,348 over the circulation of last year. The total issues of the Society now amounted to 29,389,507 copies. The expenditure for the year was £149,040, being an increase on the payments of £29,762. The meeting was then addressed by the Bishop of Meath, Lord Ebrington, Mr. Wylie, the Bishop of Melbourne, the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Pelham, the Rev. Norman M'Leod, the Rev. Mr. Farrer, the Rev. Mr. Harrison, the Rev. Mr. Gill, from Karatonga, and Mr. T. Farmer, and resolutions were passed approving and commending the objects and operations of the society.

**AN INTERESTING MARRIAGE.**—A singular marriage was celebrated on Wednesday in the chapel of the Hotel des Invalides at Paris, that of a Zouave, who lost both feet and hands in the siege of Sebastopol, with a young woman of some property. The couple, it seems, were engaged to be married before the Zouave left for Sebastopol; and when he came back, so slightly but so gloriously mutilated, his betrothed generously declared that she would keep her word. After the ceremony, the Cross of the Legion of Honour was presented to the hero in the name of the Emperor, and a valuable present to the bride in the name of the Empress.

☞ The Miramichi Gleaner of March 31, announces the death of Wm. Loch, Esq. of the firm of Duncan & Loch, a native of Edinburgh, aged 58 years. His upright and honorable conduct deservedly secured him the respect and esteem of the community among whom he resided.

“When it was determined to build a Church in Newcastle, in connection with the Church of Scotland, Mr. Loch was appointed one of the Committee to erect the building; and under the Act of Incorporation, has been annually

elected a Trustee, and continued as such until his death. He has now by a munificent bequest made St. James's Church perhaps the best endowed Church in the Province.”

### News of the Month

In glancing over the most prominent events of the last month, we can discover only very few occurrences of deep interest, and only some small changes in the political world. Parliament is still sitting, and Lord Palmerston at the head of the ministry. Much more attention is paid to the comforts of the troops than formerly, and the army has been considerably increased in the Crimea. The Committee on the management of the War in the East has reported to Parliament, and loud demands are making in London, and in the Provinces, for *Administrative Reform*.

The Emperor and Empress of the French have visited the British Court and nation, and were received with the highest honours and the most unbounded hospitality. Since his return to France, the life of the Emperor has been threatened by the murderous weapon of an Assassin. The deliberations of the Congress at Vienna have terminated without any definite result, and Lord John Russell has returned to Britain.

The Siege of Sebastopol has been carried on during the last month with wonderful energy, and the bombardment for a number of days has been terrific; and after all it is believed that no permanent impression will be produced until the Russians are defeated in the field, and the citadel regularly invested; and this can only be done when reinforcements arrive. Since the Vienna conference terminated there have been various conjectures about the intentions of Austria and Prussia, whilst Sweden and Denmark, from their proximity to Russia, still continue in a state of suspense. We must wait, we are afraid, for some months longer for the settlement of this most perplexing question.

The event of greatest political moment in this Colony is the General Election, on the 22nd of last month. A great change has taken place in the membership of the House, nearly one half of the persons chosen being new members. This change has not produced such an alteration in the political influence of the different parties, as it is believed that a considerable majority of the new house will sustain the present administration.

### Death of W. Young, Esq, Agent for the Church.

The announcement of the death of this excellent officer of the Church, and estimable Christian gentleman, which took place on Sunday evening last, will be received with but one feeling of deep and painful sorrow. For some time past, Mr. Young had been suffering from severe indisposition, but his demise was nevertheless unexpected by his numerous friends. The Church has lost in him a most valuable and accomplished friend and adviser, who was ever ready at her call, without stint of means and labour. His knowledge of the law and forms of our ecclesiastical system was equally accurate and extensive; and it will indeed be no easy task to find an adequate successor. In all the relations of life Mr. Young was greatly esteemed and respected.—*Edinburgh Post, April 25.*

The intelligence of Mr. Young's death will be received with much regret by many clergymen and laymen of the Church of Scotland in all parts of the world, and by not a few in this province.

As Agent for the Church, he had much to do with colonial ministers and whether his intercourse with them was carried on by letter or personally, they always found him most anxious to promote their interests and full of zeal for all the schemes of the church. All the young ministers who have recently arrived in these provinces experienced and believe his hospitality and kindness, and they will not readily forget his deep interest in their welfare, his readiness to oblige them in every way that lay in his power, and what was obvious to all who had any intercourse with him—his more than official—his deep personal interest in the spiritual welfare of the adherents of our church in the Colonies and his zeal for the extension of the Saviour's Kingdom. For upwards of 80 years if we mistake not, his services have been devoted to the church. At the lamentable schism of 1843 they were invaluable in building up the rents which had been made.

Though naturally of a mild and charitable disposition he was firmly and ardently attached to the Church of Scotland and had no sympathy with those who followed “divisive courses.” We observe that several eminent laymen are in the field as candidates for the situation, and we trust that the choice of the church will fall upon a worthy successor of Mr. Young, one qualified for the office not only by legal but by christian attainments.

The escape of the Emperor of the French from death by the hand of a cowardly assassin is a most providential deliverance, not only for France, but for this country and the world at large. On the prolongation of his Majesty's life pre-eminently depends the continuance of the present cordial and intimate relations happily subsisting between the French and British people; and on the maintenance of that auspicious alliance, in a great measure, depend the tranquillity, freedom, and prosperity of Europe. Most entirely, therefore, do we felicitate ourselves on the merciful interposition which has intervened, as with a charmed life, the Potentate in whose hands, more than any others, lie the destinies of nations.—*Glas. Constitutional.*

The Lord Advocate's Education Bill passed the second reading in the House of Commons on Friday night, by a majority of 39, the numbers being for the second reading, 210; against, 171. The amendment to postpone its second reading for six months was moved by Mr. Blackburn, in a very able speech. It is somewhat remarkable that of all the counties in Scotland, which met as usual on the 30th of April, Stirlingshire should have agreed to petition for the bill whose rejection was moved by its recently elected representative—and this, too, in presence of the honourable member himself. The other county meetings, Edinburgh, Lanark, Renfrew, Fife, &c., repudiated the bill by large majorities.—*G. Constitutional.*