

of pictures illustrative of "The Rake's Progress," which ended at the gallows, introduced him as an apprentice, playing marbles on a tombstone during Divine Service. The committee of the House of Commons, appointed in 1852, to investigate the subject of Sabbath desecration, remark that Sunday labor is generally looked upon as a degradation; and it appeared in evidence, that in trade, in proportion to the disregard of the Lord's day, was the immorality of those engaged in it. One of the witnesses examined, a respectable baker, declared he would hardly train up his children to the business, because he was afraid of their morals being corrupted, through the Sabbath desecration required by the occupation, as practised in London. The journeyman bakers in London, amounting to eight or ten thousand, are seldom in church; general looseness of moral principle is the consequence; from this very circumstance they feel that they are degraded; and not less from a regard to their character than to their health, comfort, and spiritual welfare, petitioned Parliament in a body to devise means for relieving them of Sabbath work.—*North American Review.*

News Department.

From Papers by Steamer Canada, August 2.

ENGLAND.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

On Monday Mr. Vernon Smith, the President of the Board of Control, made the annual statement with reference to the revenues of the East India Company to about thirty members. The general result showed an estimated deficit of revenue for the year 1856-7 to the amount of £1,152,109, which Mr. Smith considered to be a less unfavourable state of the Indian finances than had been anticipated:—

He referred to the principal sources of the revenue, and with reference to that derived from the land, he observed that in Madras it would be necessary to make a new survey and a fresh assessment. Upon the whole, he thought there was no reason to despair of a surplus revenue from the ordinary sources; but it was the duty of the Government to seek other means of obtaining a surplus revenue—namely, by a diminution of expenditure. The first great item of charge was the army, and it was next to impossible, in his opinion to make any material diminution in that item. With regard to the civil service, he believed that it ought to be a highly-paid service; but, at the same time, he thought the salaries were upon a scale far beyond that of any other profession, and, reserving present interest, held out large prospect of reduction for the future. The present scale of pay increased in ratio, according to the time of service, far beyond what could be justified by the supposed salubrity of the climate, and an alteration in that respect should be made. He then proceeded to give a sketch of the political position in India, in the course of which he referred to the Persian occupation of Herat, which was so opposed to an existing treaty that an intimation had been already conveyed to Persia that such occupation, if it had not ceased, was a violation of the treaty. He believed that the occupation was at an end, but, at all events, the honour of the British name would require that the treaty should be observed. He earnestly defended the annexation of Oude, though he repudiated the system of annexation as a policy, for every case in which the question arises must depend, not on any general principle, but on its own individual merits; and in the case of Oude they had no other alternative. He referred to the increase of railways and the electric telegraph, which now was carried to an extent of 4,000 miles, a proof of the rapid progress which civilization was making in India. The right hon. gentleman also stated the gratifying fact that the most effectual steps had been taken to put an end to the infliction of torture in India for the purpose of collecting the revenue, and could not acquit the authorities, who should have long since put an end to it, on the ground of ignorance, for they ought to be cognizant of that which took place almost beneath their very eyes. Upon the interesting subject of education he read details respecting its progress in India, which had not been so rapid as he desired; and he then entered upon a full explanation of the course and the results of the competitive examination at home of candidates for the Indian civil service. "He last year stated the result of the first competitive examination for employment in that service. It was, no doubt, a matter of some regret that the number of candidates who presented themselves for examination this year was not so large as it had been the year before, but it was not to be apprehended this course of complaint would continue. In looking back to the ex-

aminations of last year he rather lamented the extreme severity of tests applied. He was bound in sincerity to admit that the questions put to the candidates alarmed him for his own ignorance, and he had been assured that many Cambridge students had been very much distressed by them. Except in the case of the professor of Italian, whom he reappointed, he had thought it advisable to select new examiners, and he had been so fortunate as to obtain the services of one very competent gentleman from Trinity College, Dublin.

The result of the examinations might be thus stated. The total number of candidates examined in 56, whereas last year it was 112, just double the number. The relative number of the candidates from the principal Universities in 1856 and in 1855 are as follow: From Oxford, in 1856, 10; in 1855, 19; from Cambridge, in 1856, 14; in 1855, 32; from London, in 1856, 5; in 1855, 4; from King's College, London, in 1856, 6; in 1855, 3; from other English schools, &c., in 1856 4; in 1855, 12; total English, in 1856, 36; in 1855, 70. From Edinburgh, in 1855, 1; in 1856, 3; from Aberdeen, in 1856, 2; in 1855, 5; from other Scotch colleges and schools, in 1855, 7, total Scotch, in 1856, 3; in 1855, 15. From Dublin, in 1856, 8; in 1855, 14; from Cork, in 1856, 3; in 1855, 5; from Belfast in 1856, 2; from Carlow, in 1856, 1; from other Irish colleges, in 1855, 2; total Irish, in 1855, 14; in 1856, 21. From abroad, in 1855, 3; from at home, private tuition, in 1856 2; in 1855, 3; total, in 1856, 66; in 1855, 112. One or two particulars with respect to the examinations might not be uninteresting. The plan heretofore pursued contemplated two examinations—the first, a general one; the second to take place after the lapse of two or three years, and an examination in law and the Oriental languages.—That system was established under the sanction of Lord Ashburton, Mr. Macaulay, and Mr. Lefevre. It was excellent in theory, but when it was brought to the test of practical experience, the second examination was seen to be surrounded with such difficulties that Mr. Macaulay had himself recommended that it should be relinquished. Strange as it might appear, it was not less true that it was found almost impossible to procure the means for a sound legal education in this country. The only substitute was a certificate attesting that the candidate had attended a certain number of lectures, but this was a very unsatisfactory expedient, for such certificates did not vouch for the candidate's proficiency, and were regarded merely as matters of routine. The difficulty as regarded Oriental languages was almost as great; and another obstacle arose on the question of residence, it being impossible to ascertain what became of the candidate during the interval between the first and second examination. Taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case, he determined that the better course would be to give up the second examination altogether, and send them out after they had undergone one examination only. He had provided a professor of Arabic and Sanscrit, but it was a little discouraging to find that not more than one candidate presented himself for examination in these abstruse studies. It was one of the principles on which Mr. Macaulay's minute was founded, that in conducting these examinations care should be taken not to examine a candidate in anything which, in the event of his being rejected, might be considered as lost time; and very possibly it was the knowledge of that fact which induced candidates to believe that it would not be necessary for them to 'get themselves up' in Arabic and Sanscrit. With regard to the mode of examination he had himself introduced what he deemed to be a very important alteration—a *viva voce* examination. The reason why he had done so was that he had always been of opinion that such a method of examination afforded a better test than any other of a man's qualities—his courage, his readiness, his aptitude, his self-possession. He confessed that he was not without his doubts as to whether the plan of competition would furnish any better guarantee for such qualities than the old system afforded, at all events, there was some approach to a test in a *viva voce* examination, and therefore he had adopted it. He had attended one of these examinations, and was struck with the readiness and proficiency exhibited by the candidates. Nor was his experience singular. He was happy to say that it was corroborated by the testimony of Mr. Dacent, a gentleman of great abilities and profound attainments, whose services he had been so fortunate as to secure for the examination of candidates. Mr. Dacent had at first a strong prejudice against the practice of *viva voce* examinations, but he now admits that it had worked well, and that the result was most satisfac-

tory. With respect to the general merits of the competitive system, it must be admitted that the question assumed a different aspect in India and in England. For his own part, he thought that it was a mistake to suppose that as a general rule, the civil service in this country opened a suitable field of exertion to men of high ambition and proportionate ability. In India, on the contrary, it did open such a field. There able and ambitious men were needed. The civil service was a fitting sphere for them, and in it they were sure to rise to eminence. He would not be understood, however, as concurring in the opinion which a distinguished member of that House had not hesitated to express—that patronage was an odious and a hurtful thing. He repudiated that sentiment altogether, and rather favored the doctrine of the right hon. member for Buckinghamshire—that patronage, well exercised, was one of the noblest attributes of power. What more delightful task could there be than to befriend merit and to prevent talent from pining in obscurity.

In conclusion, Mr. Smith moved a series of resolutions embodying the results stated in his speech.

After a short reply by Mr. Smith to the observations of several hon. members, the resolutions were agreed to, and ordered to be reported.

The paralysis under which Viscount Hardinge is now suffering attacked the whole of his left side, and he has, therefore, become perfectly helpless, having lost his right fore-arm. He is quite sensible, and even cheerful, under the affliction.—*U. Service Gaz.*

It is stated by the friends of Mr. Smith O'Brien, that it is his positive determination to resist all attempts to induce him to take part in the political affairs of this country, as he has made up his mind to attend henceforward solely to the duties of a resident country gentleman.

It is reported in the Court circles at Berlin that the marriage of Prince Frederic William with the Princess Royal of England is fixed for September in the next year.

The Paris correspondent of the Brussels *Independence* writes on Thursday—"To-day two workmen guilty of having uttered some remarks in a workshop injurious to the person of the Emperor, have been sentenced to five years' imprisonment and ten years' surveillance."

NEW BRUNSWICK.

From the St. John Courier.

In the House of Lords "the Earl of Harrington gave notice that, on Monday next, he would put a question to the Government relating to the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick."—(*Times*, July 25th.) It happened, however, that Monday being the day previous to the prorogation, there was no House, and the question was necessarily adjourned till the day following. Though a reply in the House of Lords was thus prevented, Lord Harrington was enabled to obtain from Lord Harrowby, on the part of the Government, the answers which had been prepared for use on this occasion, and from the *Alliance*, Manchester paper, we take the following remarks with which Lord Harrington prefaced his questions, the questions themselves, and the answers of the Home Government to them:

Lord Harrington said:—"Next let us consider the dissolution of the National Assembly of New Brunswick by the Governor, in opposition to the Council and the Parliament. I absolve Mr. A. Sutton from all blame. A governor, like a soldier, must obey orders. The blame—if blame there be—is attributable to the government, for no subordinate officer would have dared to have taken so bold and had a course, except under the sanction of the government, for reasons yet to be made known. No sovereign in this country since the Revolution has ever dissolved a parliament, in opposition to his cabinet. Now the colonies have constitutions nearly similar to the parent state, consequently there is no precedent of a similar act of unconstitutional power having been exercised in her Majesty's North American empire." Here the Earl of Harrington was interrupted by the process for proroguing parliament. After the prorogation, the Earl of Harrowby gave Lord Harrington the answers intended to be given to his questions.

Question 1. Whether in New Brunswick, in the year 1852, some 30,000 persons petitioned the Legislative Assembly in favor of a Prohibitory Liquor Law?

Reply. According to the Journals of the Assembly of 1852, there appear to have been twenty-nine petitions on this subject; but the number of the signatures is not stated.

Question 2. Whether the representative body elected in 1854 carried that measure?

Reply. The Assembly was not elected in 1854. It