

we enjoy of leading so many minds to the investigation and intelligent understanding of the truths necessary to Salvation; and we feel, too, that in thus watering others, we ourselves are watered."

From our English Files.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY, JULY 10. MARRIAGE BILL.

Mr. Walpole opposed the third reading of this measure, as one utterly subversive of the best interests of society, and tending to destroy the confidence and security, the happiness and peace of many families in this country.

After referring to the general prohibition of these marriages by all Christendom for fifteen Centuries, Mr. Walpole turned to the social questions involved:—

"He believed that the change in the law was advocated on three distinct grounds:—1. That all marriages ought to be free; 2. That the prohibition of marriage with a wife's sister was an undue restraint on religious liberty; 3. That by allowing these marriages, they gave the orphans of a family better protection in the person of the sister of their deceased mother than they were otherwise likely to have; and 4. That so many of these marriages had been contracted while the law was in its present state, that it could no longer be maintained, and therefore they were bound to repeal it. Now, with regard to the first of these considerations, he would ask what they meant when they talked of liberty and freedom? Did they mean that higher liberty which a man enjoyed only through the restraining influences of Christianity, or did they mean that lower kind of liberty which a man enjoyed in his natural state, when he chose to make laws for himself and to act upon them? Did they mean that rational freedom which upheld law, because it was law; or did they mean that daring, proud, and rebellious spirit which would pluck the flower of the forbidden tree, simply because it was forbidden? If they once established this lower system of liberty, he was sure they would be the first to condemn the fruits which resulted from it. The liberty for which he contended was that combination of freedom and restriction which curbed the passions and checked the desires of mankind by the restraining influences of law. And he wished to know, if they were to alter this law, how they were to stop there? Why should they continue the prohibitions which forbade a man to marry his wife's niece, or his wife's aunt, or his wife's daughter? or why the same indulgence was not to be granted to a woman that was here allowed to man? And yet he would venture to say, that if a bill were introduced, allowing a man to marry his brother's widow, they would be the first to resist it. He must contend, therefore, that the plea of liberty did not avail them at all. With regard to the second ground for change—that the orphans of a family would be more cared for by their aunt than by a stranger stepmother, he must remark that that argument cut both ways; and that on examining into the subject, where there was one man who desired the aunt of his children to watch over his children in the capacity of a stepmother, there were twenty who desired their children to be protected by their aunts in their natural capacity. But once change the law—that would no longer be so; for there was an instinctive feeling of propriety in the breast of a female which taught her that she must not remain under the roof with a single man whom she might marry. The orphan children would, therefore, be deprived of the aunts' protection; but the mischief would not be confined to the death of the wife. It would operate tenfold more severely during her lifetime. If this were changed there would be a complete change in all our social and domestic habits. The husband would be constrained to keep watch over the growth of his own brotherly feelings—the wife would advise her sister to keep at a distance from her husband, as in the best and holiest affections would be checked in their growth, would wither and decay, for if they should find an outlet, or be suspected of doing so, in unallowed desires, or in the bitter draught of jealousy. If they were to regard the interests of the children, he implored them to remember what ought to be forgotten, that the conduct of the step-mother had become proverbial, and that especially if a first marriage followed on the marriage, the children of the first marriage, instead of finding a guardian in the step-mother, find her interests wrapped up in her own. With regard to the third argument—that the law had already been too frequently violated that was untenable, he maintained that that was the reason for which they ought to change any law. And, further, he would entreat them to weigh the evidence on which the facts of its frequent violation rested. There were forty-one witnesses examined, witnesses entirely unexceptionable? Ten of these were paid agents, fifteen of them were interested witnesses, having either contracted these marriages themselves, or being related to persons who had; then there were ten Clergymen of England, only three of the opinions of the men, who affected to represent the ministers to present the opinions of the various dissenting bodies, and one (Dr. Wiseman) to represent the Roman Catholic Church. He did not think, their opinions were to latter witnesses might be held as settling the question, or even as representing the churches to which they belonged. It was further stated in the report of the commission, that since 1835, 1,568 of these marriages had been contracted. His hon. friend the member for the University of Oxford had analysed these marriages, and he found that 1,400 of these marriages had been placed among the middle classes, 106 among the upper ranks, and 50 among the lower. And yet they said this was a poor man's law, and paid for by the rich brought forward by the rich, and paid for by the rich—(cheer)—and Mr. Wortley. (Loud cries of hear, he was the bill now of the regard which the house had heard.) He trusted the justice parity of the people, that they would even at the eleventh hour reject this bill, which he would should be read a third time that day three months. Mr. Wortley replied, urging that, as it was allowed there some doubt in the interpretation of

the Levitical decrees, the safest course would be to leave the doubts to be solved by individual conscience. Mr. Duncan McNeil, and Mr. Fox Maule supported the amendment; Colonel Thompson and Mr. Aunsey, supported the bill. The latter member was approaching dangerously near to the hour of six, when a friend reminded him of the clock, and he sat down. The house divided on the question whether the word "now" should be left out, for the purpose of inserting the words "this day three months;" the division was 144 to 13; majority 10 for retaining the word "now," so the bill was read a third time. A clause exempting Scotland was thrown out on the motion to read it a second time, by 137 to 190. It was now six o'clock, and the house adjourned without passing the bill.

Thursday, July 11. Mr. Stuart Wortley moved that this bill do pass.—Mr. Goulburn, said he was not disposed to offer any further opposition to this bill. After a few words from Col. Sibthorp, objecting to the late hour at which the motion was brought on, the bill was read a third time and passed.

The other orders were then disposed of and the house adjourned.

MEMOIR OF HIS LATE ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE.

Adolphus Frederick, Duke of Cambridge, the Prince whose lamented decease has plunged the Royal Family into mourning, was the tenth child, and the seventh and youngest son, of King George III. and Queen Charlotte. He was born on the 24th of February, 1774, and had, therefore, completed his 76th year. The early boyhood of the Prince was spent chiefly at Kew, under the care of Dr. Hughes and Mr. Cookson. As early as the year 1786, being then in his thirteenth year, he was entered, with his two elder brothers, the King of Hanover, and the late Duke of Sussex, at the University of Göttingen, where the celebrated classical scholar Heyne, was his Latin Master. In 1789 he received, while abroad, an appointment as Ensign in the British army, and in 1793 he was engaged in active service with his brother, the late Duke of York, before Dunkirk, when he narrowly escaped falling into the hands of the French as a prisoner of war, and received no less than nine wounds. Having returned to England in September of the same year, he obtained, in the following year, 1794, the rank of Colonel, and in 1798, that of Lieutenant-General. In the year 1801 he was created Duke of Cambridge, Earl of Tipperary, and Baron of Calloden, and obtained a seat in the House of Lords; and in 1802, he was made a Privy Councillor.

When, in 1803, the Electorate of Hanover was menaced by French invasion, the Duke of Cambridge was sent over, with the rank of General, to take the command of the defensive army, which consisted of 8,000 Germans and 6,000 English. This force being utterly insufficient to protect the country, the Duke issued a proclamation calling upon the inhabitants to rise en masse, and promising to place himself at their head, and personally to share all the dangers and hardships of the war. The Hanoverians, however, whose spirit was too much tainted by the infection of revolutionary ideas, did not respond to this patriotic call; and his Royal Highness, foreseeing the impossibility of making a successful resistance, solicited and obtained leave to return to England. On his departure from Hanover the command of the army devolved upon Count Walmoden, who was soon after forced to capitulate, and to surrender the City of Hanover and the Electoral Palace to Marshal Mortier. After having been for several years the theatre of war, occupied alternately by the Prussians and the French, and for a short time incorporated in the kingdom of Westphalia, Hanover was at last, in 1813, in consequence of the reverses of Napoleon, delivered up to foreign invasion, and the government of it committed to the Duke of Cambridge, now raised to the rank of British Field-Marshal. At the settlement of Europe by the Congress of Vienna, Hanover was raised to the rank of a kingdom, and the Duke of Cambridge took the title of Viceroy, which he retained until the death of King William IV., when the kingdom of Hanover was separated from the British Crown, passing, by succession in the male line, to the Duke of Cumberland, as the eldest surviving son of George III.

While the Duke was filling this important position, the melancholy death of the Princess Charlotte, in 1817, rendered the marriage of the younger sons of George III, an object of anxious concern to their Royal mother, with whose full approbation the Duke of Cambridge solicited the hand of the Princess Augusta Wilhelmina Louisa, third daughter of the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, who was then in her twenty-first year. The marriage ceremony was performed at Cassel, on the 7th of May, and afterwards in London on the 1st of June, 1818. By the Duchess, who survives him, his Royal Highness leaves issue: 1. Prince George William Frederick Charles, K.G., G.C.H., and G.C.M.G., a Major-General in the army, General Commanding in the Dublin district, and Colonel of the 17th Lancers; born at Hanover on the 26th of March, 1810; 2. Princess Augusta Caroline Charlotte Elizabeth Mary Sophia Louisa; born at Hanover on the 19th of July, 1822, and married, on the 29th of June, 1843, to the Hereditary Grand Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz; and 3. Princess Mary Adelaide Wilhelmina Elizabeth, born at Hanover, the 27th of November, 1833.

During his twenty-four years' administration of the kingdom of Hanover, his late Royal Highness gained the personal respect and affection of the people of that country in a remarkable degree. His government was characterized by an enlightened system of policy, well calculated to heal the evil effects of twenty years' war and change. As early as the 13th of December, 1813, he declared in the speech with which he opened the first Assembly of the Hanoverian States, after the restoration of the Electorate to the King of Great Britain, that his intention, and that of his Royal brother the Prince Regent, was, to assimilate the Hanoverian Legislature to the British Parliament. In the same spirit from which this declaration flowed, he took great pains to consolidate the newly established constitutional Government, and to introduce a variety of useful reforms into the institutions of the country. The even and peaceful tenor of his rule suffered a short interruption from the effects produced upon neighbouring nations by the French Revolution of 1830. The seat of the mischief was the University of Göttingen, where, in the early part of 1831, the students raised the standard of rebellion, and for a time succeeded in driving the British troops from the city. The measures taken by the Royal Duke on this occasion were at once a temperate and decisive character. The University was closed for a time, the Hanoverian students being commanded to return to their respective homes, and foreign students ordered to quit the kingdom; and all the parties who had been concerned in the insurrection, were warned of the determination of the Viceroy, to put it down by the strong arm of military power. The result was that on opening the session of the Legislature on the 7th of March, 1831, his Royal Highness was enabled to congratulate

the Chambers upon the restoration of order and of peace, which suffered no further interruption during the remainder of his administration. When, six years after, on the demise of William IV., the accession of the present King of Hanover put an end to his Vice-Royalty, the Duke of Cambridge took away with him the sincere regard, and the universal good will, of the people over whose destinies he had presided for nearly a quarter of a century.

After his return to England from the Viceregal Court at Hanover, his Royal Highness took an active personal interest in military affairs at home. He had been appointed to the Colonelcy of the Coldstream Guards as early as 1865; to which in 1829 the Colonelcy of the 60th, or King's Royal Rifles, had been added. With that determination to do his duty in every position, which was so marked a trait in the Duke's character, he made monthly inspections of the corps under his command, paying more especial attention to the condition of the privates and non-commissioned officers; and with the kindness of heart which was no less natural to him, he often interposed his good offices, in cases of offence against the discipline of the army, for the mitigation of the sentence of a Court-martial, especially with a view to the reformation of the offender. The soldiers' widow and orphans had in him, as formerly in his Royal brother the Duke of York, a warm-hearted and liberal friend and patron; and at the Royal Military Asylum at Chelsea he was almost a weekly visitor. At the recent celebration of the jubilee of the Coldstream Guards, his Royal Highness, with his accustomed condensation and kindness of feeling, sat down among the non-commissioned officers and privates, and gratified them not a little by partaking with them of their humble fare.

Throughout the whole of his career, the Duke of Cambridge carefully abstained from all political partisanship. After his first return to England from Hanover in 1793, an attempt was made to draw him into the Whig confederacy of which Fox, Sheridan, and the Duchess of Devonshire pulled the wires, and in which the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Sussex played so conspicuous a part. The good sense of the young Prince however, combined with his strong filial affection, did not permit him to place himself in the false position of opposing his Royal Father, and he gave his uniform support to Mr. Pitt's Administration. At a subsequent period, he showed his good sense and good feeling by keeping aloof from all active participation in the proceedings against Queen Caroline. On the Roman Catholic Emancipation Bill of 1829, he gave no vote, though he afterwards supported the increase of the grant to Maynooth College. Neither did he take any part in the political conflict which terminated in the enactment of the Reform Bill in 1834. To the introduction of Jews into Parliament, however, he gave, on religious grounds, his uniform and decided opposition. The last occasion on which he raised his voice in the Legislature, was again in the interest of religion, during the debate on the Bishop of London's Ecclesiastical Appeals Bill, when his Royal Highness expressed his deep regret that he found himself constrained, contrary to his usual practice, and under the influence of conscientious convictions, to vote against Her Majesty's Government, and to give his support to the demand for a partial restoration of the Church, contemplated by the Bill, with a view to the maintenance of her faith.

The most prominent and the most useful feature in the public character of the Duke of Cambridge, was the readiness and constancy with which he accorded his patronage to charitable institutions, and was far from being confined to the occupancy of the chair at their anniversaries and festivals. On the contrary, his Royal Highness was himself a liberal contributor to the funds for which, on those occasions, he so effectually pleaded, with an eloquence more forcible than that of oratory, the eloquence of hearty good-will. Nor did he shrink from personal exertion, when upon some special emergency, such as the necessitous condition of any charity, or the existence of internal dissensions among the managers, the interposition of his authority appeared likely to answer a good purpose. In cases of the latter kind, especially, he not unfrequently stepped in, and by his knowledge of business, his prudent management, and firm determination to uphold the right, not a little surprised those who might have viewed him in no other light than as a pleasant and affable Chairman. Two of the Metropolitan Hospitals in particular, have at a comparatively recent date been greatly indebted to their Royal Patron's interference in their affairs, by which they were saved from the pernicious effects of faction in the management, and of professional rivalry among the officers.

The liberal and enlightened patronage which charitable institutions of all kinds received at the hands of his Royal Highness, was extended to literary and scientific institutions. King's College, London, more especially, has lost in him a warm friend and active supporter. The higher class of musical societies in the metropolis enjoyed no small share of his favour; the Duke himself being a skillful performer on the violin, and possessed of considerable taste and knowledge of the art. To professional artists of respectable character he showed much personal kindness, and in case of need gave them still more substantial proofs of his good-will.

The private life and character of his Royal Highness were distinguished by the most stainless purity, not only during his maturer years, but from his earliest youth. At the hands of his Royal Father he obtained the praise rarely earned, either in his exalted station or in the humbler ranks of society, that in no one occasion his conduct had caused a moment's uneasiness to his parents. And now at the close of an unblemished life, spent in the exercise of active benevolence, and in the practice of every social virtue, he has at last "come to his grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in its season," he will be followed to his tomb by the respectful and affectionate remembrance of a grateful community, and his name will descend to posterity, enshrined in love and reverence, among the benefactors of his kind, and the most generous and popular of Princes.

THE RAILWAYS OF THE WORLD.—One of the most surprising circumstances attending the creation of railways, is the amount of capital which, within a limited period, has been expended in their construction and equipment. According to the calculations supplied in a work before us, there were in operation at the commencement of 1849, in different parts of the globe, a total length of 18,636 miles of railway, on which a capital of £368,567,000 had been actually expended. Besides this, it is estimated that there were at the same epoch, in progress of construction, a further extent of 7,829 miles, the cost of which, when completed, would be £144,750,000. Thus, when these latter lines shall have been brought into operation, the population of Europe and the United States (for it is there only that railways have made any progress) will have completed, within the period of less than a quarter of a century, 26,465 miles of railway; that is to say, a greater length than would, entirely surround the globe, at a cost of

above five hundred millions! To accomplish this stupendous work, human industry must have appropriated, out of its annual savings, twenty millions sterling for twenty-five successive years! Of this prodigious investment, the small spot of the globe which we inhabit has had a share, which will form not the least striking fact in her history. Of the total length of railways in actual operation in all parts of the globe, twenty-seven miles in every hundred are in the United Kingdom! But the proportion of the entire amount of capital expended on the railways of the world, fifty-four pounds in every hundred, and of the capital to be expended on those in progress, sixty-eight pounds in every hundred, are appropriated to British railways!—Dublin University Magazine.

THE GREAT MEETING ON THE GORHAM CASE.

It is with feelings of sincere congratulation that we direct the attention of our readers to the report of the long-talked-of meeting on the pressing grievances of the Church, which was yesterday held at St. Martin's Hall. Whatever apprehensions may have been entertained as to the advisability of the step, as an exposition of the sense of the Church in the present emergency, there can now be no question in the minds of any who were present at the gathering, that it has proved a powerful and effective expression of deep and earnest feeling. Few, perhaps, even amongst its most sanguine supporters, had ventured to hope that any body of men gathered together with hearts stirred to the lowest depths, on a subject of vital interest, with feelings which had been pent up for many months without any opportunity of vent, could have exercised the self-restraint and Christian moderation exhibited by the meeting, or rather meetings, of yesterday. We believe it to be a fact unprecedented in the annals of this country. We hail it as a most hopeful commencement of the momentous struggle which was inaugurated, as it were, on that occasion, that so large an assembly, congregated from all parts of the country for the purpose of recording their deliberate opinion of the propositions contained in the various resolutions there submitted to them, should have refrained from all demonstrations of sympathy with the sentiments of the various speakers, which touched the most sensitive chords in their own hearts, strung to such a pitch as to vibrate to the slightest touch. In fact, it partook more of the character of a solemn synodical assembly, than of a public meeting, in the ordinary sense of the word. The early Communion and Matin Service was an appropriate commencement, and the Evening an appropriate termination of such a meeting; and we feel the utmost confidence that the righteous claim for the ancient and inalienable liberties of the Church, urged in the temper and spirit manifested, must be ultimately, and we will hope speedily, triumphant. It may be well for those who would debar the Church from all regular and authorized methods of uttering her voice to deprecate such meetings as irregular; and the natural consequence of such a course is, to endeavour to weaken their influence and to underrate their importance; but we feel assured that the deep, and earnest, and determined front exhibited by the many hundreds of clergy and laity yesterday assembled, must exercise an influence in the country which no Government will long dare to resist.

July 28, 1850. will be an epoch in the Church's history to which the memories of her faithful children will ever revert with feelings of deep and heartfelt thankfulness, whatever trials may yet await her, however severe may be the conflict through which she has to pass; and the champions of the Church's faith, while labouring in the very fire for the maintenance of her doctrines, will be cheered and comforted by the recollection of that deep and devout spirit of loyal and religious earnestness that breathed not more in the addresses of the speakers, lay and clerical, than in the dutiful and self-denying suppression of all ebullition of feeling that distinguished this meeting from all similar demonstrations. The pulse of the meeting was felt only in the prayers with which it was commenced, and in the upward movements of the hands that expressed concurrence in the various resolutions proposed, and that pulse was the demonstration of a life and energy that can accomplish all that the Church can dare.

The following documents were adopted by the meeting:—

PATRIST.—Whereas, upon an appeal by the Rev. George Cornelius Gorham against the sentence of the Dean of the Arches Court of Canterbury, it has been declared by the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council, in contradiction to the judgment of the Ecclesiastical Court, "That the doctrine held by Mr. Gorham is not contrary or repugnant to the declared doctrine of the Church of England; and further, that Mr. Gorham ought not to have been refused institution to the Vicarage of Bramford Speke;—

AND WHEREAS the Reverend G. C. Gorham, being presented to the Vicarage of Bramford Speke, and accepted of the same;—

"Efficacy of Baptism," p. 83.—"That no Spiritual Grace is conveyed in Baptism except to WORTHY RECIPIENTS; and" (that) "as Infants are by nature unworthy recipients, being born in sin and the children of wrath, they cannot receive any benefit from Baptism, except there shall have been a prevalent act of grace to make them worthy;—

herein declaring Original Sin (the remission of which is a promised effect of Baptism,) to be a bar to the due reception of Baptism;—

AND WHEREAS the said G. C. Gorham, in accepting the Church's statement that "Infants who are baptized, dying before they commit actual sin are undoubtedly saved," holds and has published—

(p. 85).—"That they must have been regenerated by an act of grace prevalent to their Baptism in order to make them worthy recipients of that sacrament."

AND MOREOVER (p. 86) that "the new nature must have been purchased by those who receive baptism rightly;" and therefore possessed persons the seal was effaced;—

(p. 113).—"That faith, and that final state, though clearly to be ascribed to God, was given to the worthy recipient BEFORE Baptism and not in Baptism;

(p. 197).—"As Faith must PRECEDE beneficial Baptism, and as Justification is invariably consequent on Faith, therefore Justification also PRECEDES beneficial Baptism, and cannot be equivalent to it;—

thereby declaring that the gifts of Regeneration, Adoption, Remission of Sin, and Justification, which the Catholic Church—and in it our own—has ever taught, and does teach to be given by God, in and by the Sacrament of Baptism, are given BEFORE Baptism, upon some prevalent act of grace, whereof Baptism, and the Church are wholly silent.

AND WHEREAS the doctrine of the Church of England is declared as follows:—