

The Archbishop of York is dead. The deceased prelate (Dr. Thomas Muggrave) was consecrated Bishop of Hereford in 1837, and was translated in 1847.

The Report of the Select Committee of the House of Lords, appointed to consider the Church-rates question, has just been issued. The Report derives additional importance from the abolition bill having been carried by so small a majority in the House of Commons. It is not improbable that a compromise may be effected by both Houses accepting the Report. The committee has come to the conclusion that the entire abolition of the Church-rates is opposed to the general feeling of Members of the Church; that it is not universally called for by Dissenters; and would, in the case of a great number of parishes, be attended with very serious and prejudicial consequences, by restricting the existing means for the repair and maintenance of the parish church; by greatly increasing the labour and responsibility of the clergyman; and otherwise materially impeding the ministrations of the Church. They, however, think that it is expedient to make certain alterations in the law, and propose an exemption from liability to pay the rate, based on a yearly notice and a disqualification to act as churchwarden, to attend the vestry, or to occupy a seat in the church during the period. Their lordships further submit for the sanction of the legislature, that the principle of assessing the owner instead of the occupier, to the Church-rate, is well deserving the serious attention of parliament in any future legislature on the subject. Only six witnesses were examined, viz.: Canon Champneys; Mr. Erwin, a Wesleyan, and a churchwarden of Kothorthe; Mr. George Coode, a barrister; Sir E. L. Perrott, churchwarden of Plumstead; Mr. Tomlin Smith, well known as an authority on parochial law; and Mr. T. P. Bunting, a solicitor and a Wesleyan. Canon Champneys stated that £360 per annum was demanded to pay the expenses of his parish at Whitechapel, and that he could see no way of raising that sum by voluntary effort; and that, consequently, if the rates were abolished, much of the burden would fall on the parson. Mr. Erwin declared his conviction that voluntarism would never adequately supply the place of the rate. Mr. Coode has had much practice in the working of the Poor-law, and he defended the plan of rating owners of property and not occupiers, making the rate optional in the case of those who wished to be exempted, and confining attendance at vestry to owners. He thought that, in practice, few owners of property would object, for they would be shamed into paying by public opinion. Mr. Tomlin Smith's evidence is of great length, and is of much importance in relation to the history of church-rates, parish vestries, and kindred subjects. He thinks it indisputable that church-rates have existed in England, as they are now, "for just 400 years," dating from the 4th year of Edward III. He endeavoured to show that the whole of the present endowments of the Church were voluntary in the first place, and that therefore Church and Dissenting endowments stand on the same footing. He denies the right of Dissenters to claim exemption from church-rates. Mr. Bunting expressed his dread of the principles of the "Liberation Society," and his fear for his own party if the secularisation of endowments were to be carried. He was very positive on the fact of the Wesleyans in general not being averse to church-rates.

IRELAND—The Lord Lieutenant has promoted the Reverend S. Anderson, M.A., of Belfast, to the Rectory of Raymunderlony, diocese of Raphoe, vacant by the promotion of the Reverend John Brougham to Templeport. The Bishop of Kilmore has promoted the Rev. Andrew Hogg, LL.D., Rector of Cavan, to the Rectory of Castlebragan, vacant by the death of Lord Fitzgerald and Vesey.

On the 11th of April, an interesting meeting of the Irish Society was held under the presidency of the Earl of Mayo. The progress of the Society's operations during the past year seems to have been satisfactory. The agency now comprises 17 missionary clergymen; 2 lay agents; 78 Scripture readers, of whom 20 are inspectors of Irish schools; 16 mission schools, in which 600 children are under instruction; 246 Irish schools, in which 7580 pupils are being taught to read the Irish Bible. The meeting was addressed by, among others, the Rev. A. P. Hanlon, Vicar of Mountshannon, who gave a very interesting account of his advocacy of the Irish Society, during a visit which he paid, as a deputation from the society to the United States and Canada. Mr. Hanlon was invited to the General Convention of the whole American Church at Richmond, and, in the midst of a press of business, an evening was set apart for him to explain the proceedings of the Irish Society. Before he returned to Ireland he succeeded in organising auxiliaries to the society in seventy places in America; and the Rev. G. G. Gubbins, Rector of Ballingary, has just sailed for the United States, in order to follow up the work which Mr. Hanlon has so successfully commenced.

Mrs. Whately, the wife of the Archbishop of Dublin, died at Hastings, on the 25th ult. The deceased lady was a zealous patron of education amongst the poorer classes.

Mr. Benjamin Lee Guinness, of Dublin (the eminent brewer), has written to the Very Rev. the Dean of St. Patrick's, offering to pay all the expenses of restoring the ancient cathedral of St. Patrick's to a state of perfect preservation. The cost of the proposed improvements will exceed £20,000.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

UNITED STATES.—A New York letter-writer to *The Washington Constitution* says that Archbishop Hughes is to be made Cardinal

next October, and adds: "He will be the first American Cardinal. Had Bishop England of South Carolina lived he would have been a Cardinal."

We have seen a large bundle of parchments comprising nearly fifty memorials from different Wesleyan bodies in England, addressed to the General Conference now in session at Buffalo, entreating the great Northern Methodist Church of this country no longer to fellowship the practice of slaveholding in the Church.—*New York Independent*.

PRUSSIA—The Prince Regent, in his capacity of *summus episcopus* of the Established Church in Prussia, has ordained the following passage to be inserted in the Laturgy:

O God, grant thy grace and thy blessing to all Christian authorities. Bless our German Fatherland, and shield it under Thy powerful protection. Unite its princes and peoples by the bonds of peace, and promote its welfare by inspiring all of us with the spirit of concord and faithfulness.

The Prince Regent has recently laid the first stone of a monument to be erected to the memory of Melancthon at Wittenberg.

THE TORONTO UNIVERSITY QUESTION.

The following is a draft of a report submitted by the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee:

Your Committee beg leave to report, that no subject of greater importance or of more profound interest has ever been submitted to a Committee of your Honorable House.

While the more matter of the true application of the funds of the University of Toronto was the cause of the investigation, the whole subject of its present management and its past history was brought in review before your Committee.

From all the evidence adduced, and from the admissions of the advocates of the University and University College, and from the clear testimony of Professors Cook and Weir of Queen's College, and the Professors of Trinity College, Toronto, on the subject of University and Academical Education generally, it appears to your Committee, that the sum of £7,000, exclusive of fees, should be quite sufficient to support the University and University College on the most efficient basis, and that the balance might therefore be equally divided among the other Colleges of Upper Canada now in active operation, and having an annual income from voluntary contributions and other sources, of at least £2,000, provided such Colleges hold in obedience their University powers.

In case other Colleges should arise, so soon as they shall be in successful operation, and shall show to the Government that they have an annual income of £2,000, exclusive of Legislative Aid, these Colleges shall also be entitled to share in the endowment in the same way, and on the same terms as the Colleges now existing.

And your Committee recommend that the Legislature withdraw from these affiliated Colleges above described, the present annual Parliamentary grants, but supplement, if necessary, the funds of the University of Toronto, from the Provincial revenue or funds of Upper Canada College, so as to make them sufficient for the endowment of these colleges, as now proposed. Your Committee believe that the substitution of permanent endowment by statute from the University Fund, would be a great improvement upon the present system of annual grants, and would indeed remove the chief, if not all, the objections to the giving of legislative aid to such colleges, which, however, in their zeal, the opponents of the petition of the Wesleyan Methodists, seem to forget is now the law and practice of Parliament. If it were proposed to make new grants or endowments, there would be great weight in the objections; but when it is now, and ever has been, the system from year to year to vote sums of money to them, and not only these very Colleges, but to purely theological institutions, like Lennoxville and Regiopolis, it does seem extraordinary for parties who hold the doctrine of denominational state support correct in the abstract, to join with them who do not—to invoke the question of abstract voluntarism—to prevent the honest administration of law—to check the abuse of public funds—and to secure the application of the funds of the University, not according to the intention and declaration of the Legislature, which passed the Act of 1854, but to the will and pleasure of the Senate.

Your Committee have considered the subject of competing Colleges, and believe they express the opinion of the vast majority of those best able to judge when they say that the happiest results may be expected from an equitable affiliation of the several Colleges in one Provincial University under one Common Senate,—this Senate being impartially constituted, and being the sole body authorized to appoint examiners and confer degrees. And in view of the existence of the Denominational Universities, and the convictions and feeling of large portions of the people of Upper Canada, your Committee are of the opinion that only by such a confederation of Colleges, upon equal footing, is it possible to secure in this country a common standard of academical degrees, or a truly national University; and they would recommend a principle now adopted in England by the University Examiners of the first-class, now sent from the University to visit every College, Academy or even Grammar School in the Province, and examine the youths publicly. There can be no doubt that a spirit of emulation and energy will be stimulated, and every part of the Province will enjoy a share of advantages now confined very much to our larger cities.