

## News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. Canada, July 22.

## HOUSE OF LORDS, July 14

The Bishop of Oxford, in a motion for returns of the details from which the census of 1851 had been prepared, exposed the unfair dealing as between the Church of England and other bodies, by the inaccurate comparisons that had been made of their relative numbers. The rev. prelate made no complaint of the Registrar-General or of the gentlemen employed in that office. The defective nature of the returns has no doubt chiefly arisen through those who furnished the numbers which were inserted, and the subject-matter of the reports—namely, the clergy of the Established Church and the ministers of the dissenting bodies:—

"With respect to the clergy, many of them refused to send in any returns, and the consequence was, that applications were obliged to be made to the churchwardens, or any other person who could assist in the matter, or take any trouble about it. For this reason the numbers given in the official documents as purporting to belong to the Church of England were oftentimes very loosely put together, and considerably less than such numbers really were. In his own diocese, for instance, where he had caused careful enquiries to be made, the number who attended one service on Sunday was found upon calculation to be about 117,421, while in the official returns of the Registrar-General they were stated only at 98,410. But the greatest misstatements in the reports occurred, not from our own numbers being lessened, but from the numbers of the Dissenters of nearly all denominations being greatly exaggerated and set forth. From reports that had been made to him it appeared that at the time when the numbers were being taken the Dissenters filled their places of worship on purpose to swell the return of their numbers; that many persons attended in these dissenting chapels in the evening who attended church in the morning and afternoon; that most, if not all, the Dissenters of the neighbouring parishes always attended the particular parish where the census was being taken, so that they were in reality counted two or three times over; that special sermons were preached in the dissenting chapels to induce larger congregations to assemble; that the same persons of one attended places of worship belonging to different dissenting denominations; that the unfavorable state of the weather during the time the census was being taken kept many people from church; that many of the chapels mentioned in the report could not hold the number of persons returned as going to them, unless such persons were very small children; that all the children were taken from the charity-school and made to count in the returns; that the Dissenters from the first entertained an opinion that the returns were to be looked upon as a struggle between the Church and the Dissenters; that our own clergy, for various reasons, were careless about the matter, and conscientiously objected to the returns being taken in the manner proposed, and so did not assist in taking them; and that many of the most important returns were, in reality, taken by persons hostile to the Church, and desirous rather to depreciate its importance than to exemplify the real amount of its influence. He would refer, as an instance of misstatement, to the return of the Registrar-General, as to the Roman Catholics of Liverpool, from which it appears that the numbers attending Catholic Chapels were 27,650, whereas it was a well known fact that all the sittings in their places of worship in this town did not amount to more than 8,000. Another instance might also be mentioned with reference to the parish of St. Giles, where the sittings for the Roman Catholics were only 460, and yet the number attending them was inserted in the census as 3,000. He had heard also of a case in which the number of persons attending divine service during the day at one of our churches was inserted at 286, whereas at one service alone the clergyman of the place knew that 550 had attended, and, upon his mentioning on the subject, the numbers were re-examined and found to amount, including both morning and afternoon services, to upwards of 800. If impartial and correct returns could be obtained, he felt convinced that it would be found that, thank God! the great body of the people of this country still belonged to and were members of, the Church of England.

The Bishop of St. David's corroborated much that had been said, from letters he had himself received:—

"In one case 2,000 dissenters had been returned as attending a chapel that would not hold 1,200. There were many cases in which the return of the dissenters exceeded the number of the population of the place they were supposed to be living in, and in other cases there was no doubt that the dissenters had been counted over and over again. It was also known that the dissenting Sunday schools had clubbed together to take it in turn to attend each other's places of worship at different times of the day. The dissenters in many places had recourse also, to the attraction of public teaching in their chapels—a kind of exhibition that was peculiarly popular with the Welsh."

Earl Grayville regretted that he should seem to put himself in opposition to the representatives of the Church of England, but he must refuse the returns asked for, first, because the census office was now shut up, and their accounts closed; and because in the cir-

culars; it found by the Secretary of State, it was stated that it was not intended all the particulars in the returns should be published. They could not, therefore, be published without a breach of good faith:—

"There appeared no doubt that the returns from the Church of England were underrated, and the rev. prelates appeared to have made out a strong case against the Dissenters, who would, no doubt, take a public opportunity of answering it. As to the Roman Catholics, he would only observe, with reference to the number of sittings they possessed, that their services were short and more frequent than ours, and therefore it was obvious that their chapels gave accommodation to more persons than Protestant churches did, where the services were longer and the attendance more rare. The expense of the returns had been complained of, but in fact they cost only £5 4s. per 1,000, whilst the previous census had cost £5 9s. A sum of £160,000 had been voted, but only £127,000 spent, so that a large balance would have to be returned to the Treasury.

The Bishop of Oxford could not press the returns after what had fallen from his noble friend. Such a promise, however, ought not to have been made, as it was temptation for unscrupulous persons to make improper returns. The present mode of obtaining such information would afford no satisfactory proof of the real state of religious feeling in the country; but, in whatever way this information was to be gained, he most earnestly hoped that it would be in some other way than by attendance on a place of worship.

## ENGLAND.

**DEPURATION OF PUBLIC MONEY.**—On Saturday a report was printed by order of the parliament, relating to the misappropriation of money entrusted to Mr. H. Swabey, the late Registrar of the Court of Admiralty. The committee state, "In conclusion we beg to report that the total amount of the deficiency in Mr. Swabey's accounts appears to be as follows—namely, in money £35,328 16s. 6d.; Exchequer Bills, £26,900; Stock, 3 per cent. Consols, £1,576 1s. 3d.; Stock, 3½ per cent. Reduced, £2,842 8s. 9d.; and the amount of dividends on such stock, from July 1843, and interest upon Exchequer Bills for varying periods, amounting to a considerable sum." It appears that Mr. Swabey's salary was £1,400 a year; he gave no security, nor was he ever called upon to render any account, except in the comparatively unimportant case of the fee-fund.

**ATTACK ON CROSTADT.**—The *Morning Chronicle* has published the following statement:—A request, it is understood, was submitted to the Cabinet Council held on Friday last, for permission to allow Vice Admiral Sir Charles Napier with the fleet under his command, to attack Crostadt. Sir James Graham, G. C. B., First Lord of the Admiralty, and the Duke of Newcastle, War Minister, attended a Privy Council held on Monday by the Queen, to consider the same application and resolution of the Cabinet Council; and altho' the result has not transpired, the despatch of brigadier general Harry D. Jones, and a company of royal sappers and miners from Chatham, leave little doubt as to the answer sent to the gallant admiral in command of the Baltic fleet. The Dauntless screw steam frigate, brought home the application from Sir Charles Napier, and is now on her way back with the answer.

**THE LATE CAPTAIN FOOTE OF THE "CONFLICT"**—The body of the late Captain Foote has been found near Meinel. It must have laid embedded for some time past in the sand, and the violence of his gale of Sunday caused it to be disinterred and washed ashore on the beach. Notwithstanding the long time it must have been exposed in the water, it was hardly at all changed. Every feature was distinctly recognizable, and the body was perfectly sound. There were gloves still on his hands, and his watch, with some papers and money, were in his pockets. The body was conveyed at once to Meinel, and on Wednesday, July 6, the marine artillery and royal marines, together with about sixty blue jackets, and every officer that could be spared, followed him to the grave.

**PASKIEWITZ DISGRACED.**—It is announced from Vienna, that Prince Paskiewitch, notwithstanding his great age, long services and many wounds, has been sent to his estates in Podolia in disgrace—such being the length of ingratitude to which the Czar's rage hurries him. Other accounts, however, say that the old marshal goes to Podolia because it is physically impossible for him to take any further part in the war.

**THE CZAR AND THE ENGLISH CABINET.**—A rumor has reached us that Count Pahlen, a Russian employe, son of Count Pahlen, whose name every one will remember in connection with the last days of the emperor Paul, has been for some days in London on a diplomatic mission. We know not with what truth this object is assigned to his visit; but of the fact of his visit there is no doubt. It is also said upon credible authority, that within the last few days this avowedly Russian agent has been introduced into a leading club in the West end, the rules of which admit of introduction of distinguished strangers, and that his introducer was a Cabinet Minister! Can this be true?—*Herald*.

We are informed that although the name of Lord Granville appears in the strangers' book at the Travellers' Club as the proposer of Count Pahlen, the name of Mr. Thomas Baring stands recorded as his seconder. *News of the World*.

**CONSUMPTION OF TEA.**—According to a published return the consumption of tea has increased since the

reduction of the duty on the last occasion. In the six months ended the 31st June, the quantity entered for home consumption was 26,932,678 lbs. imported, against 22,946,319 lbs. of last year.

JULY 21.

**MEETING OF CONVOCATION.**—Convocation met yesterday. The Bishop of London presented a report from a committee appointed to consider and report to the upper house of Convocation, with a view to address her Majesty thereon, where any, and if so, what reforms in the constitution of Convocation are expedient to enable it to treat with the full confidence of the Church of such matters as her Majesty may be pleased to submit to their deliberations. The same bishop presented another report, the subject of which was the "adaptations of the Church needful to enable her to meet the spiritual necessities of the increased population." A commission was then moved to consider the question of church-rates.

The Lower House attacked the question of church-rates, but without much effect. The paper in which Dr. Wordsworth directed the attention of the House to the subject was ordered to be laid on the table. Archdeacon Allen took a bold flight. He thought it was the duty of the State to deal with the temporalities of the Church, leaving the Church to deal with the spiritualities. But how if the temporalities depend upon the spiritualities, as in the Gorham case, where the payments proceeding from the benefice depended upon the orthodoxy of the incumbent? Archdeacon Allen on the whole question of Church and State in discussion by the terms of his proposition. The final report was read by the Dean of Norwich. It recommended a revision of the Sunday services of the Church, the formation of a new order of missionary ministers, and extension of the Episcopate. Archdeacon Allen attempted to induce a discussion on these subjects, which was greatly depreciated by the Prolocutor and other gentlemen. It was ultimately resolved to postpone the consideration of these propositions to the next session of Convocation. Various committees were appointed, and the proceedings were adjourned until August 2nd. *Ch. & St. Gaz.*

**FOUNDATION STONE OF THE FIRST "RACE CHURCH" IN LONDON.**—On Monday an interesting service was held in connexion with the laying of the foundation stone of a place of worship about to be erected in King Edward-street, Mile-end New Town, intended for the sole and exclusive use of the lower classes of the poor. After singing and prayer, an appropriate address was delivered by the Rev. W. Dobson of the Old Tabernacle. Mr. Harrington, the honorary secretary, on behalf of the committee, then requested the Rev. W. Tyler, to lay the stone, which he proceeded to do amidst the acclamations of the large assembly.

**THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH IN IRELAND.**—It is a matter for congratulation that Sergeant Sizer, who bringing forward his project for the plundered Church in Ireland, was compelled to go to a distance. Upon this he was so thoroughly beaten that complete defeat may be allowed to take the place of comment upon the system advocated by the legal lawyer, and the fact of his overthrow. We may, however, notice one circumstance connected with the advocate's preparation of his case, which is very interesting. In his book on the Irish Church, the sergeant stated that the Dean of Dromore has £1,400 a year, and no duties to perform. Dean Daulton writes thus to the learned author:—"I have been Dean of Dromore for nearly four years, and have never received one penny of income, though I have done discharge as dean, and am put to expenses in doing them. I should, therefore, feel exceedingly obliged to you if you will kindly inform me where, and whom I am to apply for the payment of this very handsome and very acceptable income?" We suspect a good many of the other statements of the Advocate's might be similarly dealt with.—*Ibid.*

**HARVEST PROSPECTS.**—It is gratifying to find the provincial journals, that the late fine week has been productive of the greatest advantage to the crops throughout the country. In very many places it is said that seldom or never has the main crop of the land—viz. wheat, barley and oats—at this year looked better, or promised a more abundant yield. A continuation of fine weather is all that wanted to render the yield extremely large. Reports of the potato crop are also most satisfactory. The late rains have retarded the hay harvest, and some places there will be a deficiency; but for the hay now set in, it is thought that the balance on the whole will be an average one.

**DEATH OF CAPTAIN BUTLER.**—The death of Butler, one of the English defenders of St. Lucia,