

hand-bills, and advertisements in the country papers, denouncing as "Popish," or something of the sort, the proceedings of a body with whom he has no more to do than has the Bishop of Gloucester with the sentiments of the Baptist Board. His lordship even went the length of announcing his purpose to disturb the meeting in person. But, owing to the good sense of the assemblage, the only result of the show of opposition which was attempted was to further the object of the meeting.

Were it likely that many persons would follow the example of Lord Ducie, we should perhaps say more than we at present deem necessary on the monstrous injustice of this sort of thing. Because the Church is, in ordinary language, entitled "Established," there are certain Dissenters—though only the shallower and malignant ones—who regard it as the common property of a common Protestantism, and who consider that they have a right to settle its doctrines, to interfere with its discipline, and to meddle in its deliberations. This position we utterly repudiate. A State Church is not, from the necessity of the case, other than a spiritual organisation. It does not forego its divine character by entering into secular associations. State protection is more than sufficiently purchased by an abeyance of ecclesiastical legislation. We certainly do not desire what is understood by the separation of Church and State; but we must warn the friends of the existing alliance that their most suicidal policy at the present moment is to endorse any claims which such men as Lord Ducie—or which Parliament itself as at present constituted—may put forth to interfere with the inner concerns of the Church. There may be zealots on more sides than one; and some earnest thinkers will begin to look favourably on the notion of separation, if we are to have many more HORSMAN debates—or if the House of Commons assumes the right of re-arranging, without any reference to the Church, its whole ecclesiastical polity—or, to descend lower still in the scale of interference, if Lord Ducie and his Dissenting brethren aim at having a voice in the question whether the Church is to have its Synods or not. The present Government claims to be the party of order; and by discouraging exclusive Parliamentary legislation in Church matters, it will best preserve the *status quo*. The bands may be tightened till they snap.

To the Gloucester meeting, as we learn from the local reports, was reserved the triumph of exposing the "fustled fable" of the alleged "Popery" of the struggle to resuscitate Diocesan Synods. As was shown in considerable detail by one of the speakers, Mr. Scott, the Popery is rather the other way. A Church governed by the irresponsible autonomy of a single order—the episcopal—has a much more Popish look than one regulated by the system which it is now proposed to revise—viz., the rule of a bishop assisted by his Diocesan Council. And further—as was also fully brought out by the same speaker—if on any point the mind of the Reformers was uniform, it was on the necessity of Diocesan Synods. Another feature of the meeting worthy of remark was the practical answer which it gave to the alleged "party character" of the movement. Each school of the Church sent its clerical representatives to advocate at least this principle—that the remedy for dissensions and disputes lies emphatically in Synods. Mr. Scott and Mr. H. Seymour seem to be High Churchmen; Mr. Lytton follows the late Head Master of Rugby; and Mr. Capper appeared as the defender of Diocesan Synods on exclusively "Protestant and Evangelical" principles. The laity were excellently represented, not by youthful squires, but by sober, practical, middle-aged, or even elderly, country gentlemen. Sir John Awdrey and Sir Thomas Tancred are not persons fresh from college. When men accustomed to country business, quarter sessions, and the magistrate's room, appear as earnest, solid, and temperate advocates of a cause, it may be fairly said to have penetrated the public mind. Viewed under this aspect, the character of the assembly at Gloucester is most encouraging.

One word more. We desire to congratulate the promoters of these meetings on their steady, earnest, emphatic mode of doing business. If ever any cause can be won by downright, honest, plain, unambitious work, that of synodical action will be gained by Messrs. Collins, Pound, and their co-workers. They are neither young nor impetuous persons—gravity, sobriety, and common sense are their characteristics. Their orderly regulated habits of mind are a guarantee against fanaticism and excess. Quarter after quarter these same gentlemen present themselves at different stations of influence—they leave a neighbourhood, do their work, make friends and enlist supporters, recruit the cause, and cyclically re-appear, in three months' time, at another point of their orbit. Now it is Derby—now London—now Gloucester—and next time it will be Manchester. From this regularity and precision—this mechanical, formal, unobtrusive "agitation" (if such it is to be called)—we gather omens of success. Society gets impressed by this steady, regular, systematic sort of zeal; and it cannot be in vain that, for the first time, the Church's work is put plainly before people in this simple, matter-of-fact, and convincing manner.—*Morning Chronicle*.

NEW ZEALAND.

Sir J. Pakington moved for leave to bring in a bill to grant a representative Constitution to the Colony of New Zealand. He had been induced, he said, to undertake this difficult task, so soon after his accession to office, in consequence of the strong representations he had received from persons in this country who took a deep interest in the colony, and he had derived much assistance from the preparations left by his predecessor, from the despatches of Governor Grey, and from suggestions by the gentlemen to whom he had advised. He gave a brief outline of the history of the colony, and the circumstances which led to the suspension (which would cease in March, 1853) of the Constitution of 1846. He dwelt upon the progress and growing importance of the colony, observing that there was every reason why the colonists should now be intrusted with the privilege of self-government. Difficulties, however, presented themselves which distinguished this colony from almost every other dependency of the Crown, in its geographical peculiarities, the mode in which it had been settled in detached communities, the very high intellectual grade of the natives, and their extraordinary advance in civilization. Upon this last point Sir John read from the despatches of Sir G. Grey some remarkable extracts, and he then explained the scheme of the Constitution proposed by the present Government, pointing out, as he proceeded, wherein it differed from that designed by Earl Grey. It was his opinion that New Zealand should be considered as one colony, and that it should be divided into seven provinces, each governed by a superintendent, appointed by the Governor-in-Chief, with a salary of £500 a

year, each superintendent to have a Legislative Council of not fewer than nine members, to be entirely elective, the franchise of the electors (natives not being excluded) to be as follows:—a freehold worth £50, or a house, if in town, worth £10 a year, if in the country, £5 a year, or leasehold property, with an unexpired term of three years, worth £10 a year. The question whether members of these provincial councils should be paid was left to the Central Legislature. Sir John read a list of the subjects, amounting to 14, upon which the provincial councils would be restrained from legislating. The duration of these councils it was proposed to limit to four years. The Central Legislature would consist of the Governor-in-Chief, as head, of two Chambers. In the scheme of Lord Grey the Upper Chamber was to be a representative body; but there was no precedent in any colony for an elective Upper Chamber, and the present Government recommended that the members of the Upper Chamber of the Central Legislature should be appointed by the Crown from pleasure. The Lower Chamber was to be elective, the franchise for the constituency the same as that for the provincial councils. The number of members for the Upper Chamber of the Central Legislature was to be not less than ten nor more than 15, at the discretion of the Governor-in-Chief; that of the Lower Chamber not less than 25 nor more than 40. Five years was intended to be the duration of the Central Parliament, the acts of which would override those of the provisional legislature. It was proposed that there should be a civil list; that £12,000 a year should be retained, out of which the salaries of the superintendents should be paid, and that £7,000 a year should be reserved for native purposes. All arrangements respecting the town lands to be in the hands of the general legislature. It could not be expected, he observed, that such a measure as this could be final, and changes would be introduced into the bill whereby the local legislature should have full power, from time to time, to enact changes in the Constitution with the consent of the Crown. It was for the House to decide whether the bill came within the category of "necessary measures," he believed it did; but if the House was of a different opinion, the alternative was, it being highly inexpedient to allow the act of 1846 to revive, to suspend that Constitution for another year.—Sir R. Inglis suggested certain questions, and was of opinion that this was not quite one of the "necessary measures."—Mr. Gladstone had not the slightest hesitation in considering that the measure embodied most valuable principles, and believed it would be hailed with gratitude by the colonists.—Mr. V. Smith, Mr. Hume, Sir W. Molesworth, and other members made cursory remarks upon the measure, which Lord J. Russell trusted would not meet with any considerable opposition, being willing himself to give it every assistance.—After a few words of reply and explanation by Sir J. Pakington, leave was given to bring in the bill.

THE MINISTERIAL BUDGET.

Mr. Disraeli has added a new chapter to the history of parties, and a new glory to the British Constitution. He may almost be said to have enlarged the idea of human capability. Never was there seen to such advantage as last night that almost peculiar custom of this country, by which rival factions periodically change places; by which enterprise and dissatisfaction occasionally undergo the ordeal of office, and power in its turn is humbled in opposition. The scourge of Peel and the opponent of Wood made a speech which either of them might have been proud of, and which in its very manner, as well as its substance, showed, how thoroughly the speaker had studied his antagonist. We have long said that the only way to extinguish Protection was to put it on the Treasury bench, where it would be obliged to master the facts of the question and commit itself to a definite policy. That was the process we saw last night, and no stool of repentance, no pillory, no sheet and wax taper, no whip ever expelled the offending devil from any frail nature so thoroughly as the proud but arduous task which developed last night on the Protectionist chief. The office made the man. He had evidently resolved to "speak the truth and shame the devil," and delivered so clear and effective an eulogy of our financial policy during the last ten years that Sir Charles Wood had nothing to add when his turn came. It is true that the cheers were from the Opposition benches while Mr. Disraeli's own friends had evidently not yet learnt the part of triumphant converts which they were expected to play. That signified little in a house the rule of which is that the orator addresses his foes, not his friends, and has no choice but to turn his back on his party. All sides, however, from the most applauding opponent to the most silent supporter, must have admired the appearance, as it were, of a new Chancellor of the Exchequer among them. It is now evident that this wonderful being need neither be dropped from the clouds, nor connected with a Russell or Grey, nor trained by a whole life of office. He may be produced *ex nihilo*, or manufactured to order at six weeks' notice. No conjurer ever produced such a surprise from his hat or cornucopia. We saw with our own eyes the last rag of Protection put into a red box, and when the lid was opened, a perfect Chancellor of the Exchequer appeared, who immediately opened his mouth and made a first-rate financial statement. As to the substance of the budget it is very soon told, for it was to do nothing. Mr. Disraeli proposes to continue the Income Tax for another year, leaving everything else alone for the present. But besides that this is the best, and really the only practicable course, yet never was "nothing" better done. Mr. Disraeli gave to his nothing a substance, a spirit, and an originality, that are often missed in the most elaborate and gratuitous propositions.—*Times*.

United States.

ESCAPE OF THOMAS F. MEAGHER—HIS ARRIVAL IN THIS CITY.

Thomas Francis Meagher arrived on Thursday in New York, after a harassing and protracted voyage from the British Penal Settlement of Van Dieman's Land. His friends will be pleased to hear that he is in good health, though necessarily fatigued after the hardships he underwent, and requiring, consequently, a few days' repose.

Mr. Meagher made his escape about the first of December, and proceeded indirectly to the coast of South America, and through the interior to Chagres. From Chagres he came to this city in a sailing vessel, arriving here on Wednesday evening, though he did not come ashore until on Thursday afternoon.

Mr. M. is about 29 years of age, is very corpulent, and his exposure to a Southern sun gives him a dark, swarthy appearance. He states that when he escaped,

his fellow-prisoners, O'Brien and Mitchell, were in good health. Mrs. Meagher was unable to accompany him in his flight. He declines to make any statement as to the means by which he was enabled to effect his escape, as it would probably compromise those who assisted him.

We understand that Mr. M. is in the enjoyment of excellent health, and that the travelling through South America has tended to invigorate rather than to fatigue him. He has, we are informed, abundant means to enable him to live comfortably. His father is estimated to be worth £700,000, and there are but three children—one the distinguished exile who has just reached our shores, another who is a captain in the Pope's Guard at Rome, and a third is a barrister in the city of Dublin. The father is a member of the British Parliament, and is also Chairman of the Waterford and Limerick Railway Company.—*N. Y. Daily Times*.

MADAME GOLDSCHMIDT'S FAREWELL CONCERT.

Castle Garden presented a wonderful spectacle last evening. Seven thousand persons were as quietly seated as if they had been but seven hundred, and Jenny Lind's last Concert in America was as supremely triumphant as the magnificent genius of the artist, and the warmest wishes of her friends could have desired. Every spot whence a view of the stage could be obtained was occupied. Punctually at 8 o'clock, Mr. Elsfeld appeared upon his stand, and directed the orchestra throughout in that masterly manner with which the audience of the Philharmonic Concerts was already acquainted, and which allowed no regret—so far as the musical direction was concerned—that Mr. Bendix was no longer here. At the close of the concert, after the tumultuous applause that followed, Madame Goldschmidt sang a *Farewell to America* in the same spot upon which she sang the *Greeting*. The words, which we subjoin, are the national, simple and beautiful expressions of regretful farewell, and the music composed by Mr. Goldschmidt, is of that tranquil, pensive character which always marks northern songs of style, and give the singer the opportunity of proving the rich resources of her voice—as if every note of that wonderful organ would be heard in farewell. The song was received with quiet applause, and without enthusiasm. We are glad it was so. There was a fitness in a sober adieu. It became the woman and the artist. It was the expression of feeling, not the explosion of passion. As she sang the song she turned to face every part of the hall, and as, with clasped hands, she ended, she threw her soul into the final strain. She was recalled, after retiring, and advancing with her husband, to the front, she bowed for the last time, where she had bowed for the first, in America. Not a flower fell at her feet, but a sudden gust of enthusiasm seized the cold, cold public heart, and hats were waved, and huzzas shouted as she withdrew for the last time.

Young land of hope—fair Western Star!
Whose light I hailed from climes afar—
I leave thee now—but twine for thee
One parting wreath of melody.
O take this offering of the heart
From one who feels 'tis sad to part.

And if it be that strains of mine
Have glided from my heart to thine,
My voice was but the breeze that swept
The spirit chords that in thee slept.
The music was not all my own—
Thou gavest back the answering tone.

Farewell—when parted from thy shore,
Long absent scenes return once more!
Where'er the wanderer's home may be,
Still, still will memory turn to thee!
Bright Freedom's clime—I feel thy spell,
But I must say farewell—farewell.

Tribune.

SEARCH OF SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.

Interesting letter from Lady Franklin to the President of the United States.

LONDON, January 22nd, 1852.

SIR:—Though this is not the first occasion on which I have ventured to address the President of the United States on a subject of heartfelt interest to myself and to many, yet I should have hesitated to obtrude myself on your attention at the present time, had I not believed it to be my duty to express to you, the sincere and profound gratitude I feel for the service which has already been rendered to the Arctic cause by the United States Government. In accepting from my generous friend and benefactor, Mr. Grinnell, the two vessels which he so nobly placed at my disposal for the search, and giving the command of them to officers of the United States Navy, with all the privileges and obligations attached, you both adopted the cause for which this kind concession was made, and secured the good conduct, if not the success of the expedition. How ably that expedition was conducted; what proofs it gave of noble daring and indefatigable energy and perseverance, has been related to me by those who were eye-witnesses of its achievements, and who were proud of having such noble coadjutors. It would have been strange indeed if the hearts of British officers had not warmed towards the generous men who were joined with them like brothers for the recovery of their lost countrymen, competitors in a cause in which the risk was divided, but all the gain in the restoration to us of our friends, (if haply such had rewarded their efforts,) would have been ours. May our two great and noble countries never be engaged in a strife less generous and less friendly. It has so happened that even the unlooked-for circumstances which caused the American vessels to drift out of their course into a position of great danger have been of service to our cause, since by this extraordinary movement, the ships were carried a greater distance up that channel which it is believed my husband pursued in his passage to the N. West, than any of the other ships had then, or have since been able to attain, and thus have proved what we should otherwise have been ignorant of, that the ice which at one time seemed to form an impenetrable barrier in that direction, is not only moveable, but in all probability liable to annual disruption. That after the winter of unparalleled anxiety and suffering which followed the movement above alluded to, your brave commanders should have struggled to make their way back to the region from which they had been forcibly expelled, when the whole impracticable field of ice in Baffin's Bay lay between it and them, and should have yielded at last only to the fiercest obstacles, is a proof of indomitable courage and perseverance, of which their country may well be proud, and which we with kindred hearts look upon with approving sympathy. The two little vessels which, under such command, have thus distinguished themselves, are now again offered by Mr. Grinnell to the American Government. In so doing, I believe he has the honour of his country

at heart no less than the cause of suffering humanity. An American citizen may desire that having once embarked in a good cause, his country should generously persevere in it—that in the fierce war with the elements she should again be equal to the foremost. It would be unbecoming in me to say all that I feel on this heart-felt subject—our debt of gratitude is already a heavy one. We wait with deep anxiety, but without any presumptuous confidence the result of Congress, persuaded that in you, Sir, we have a friend no less favourably disposed to help us than was your distinguished predecessor. In the meantime believing that you may not yet have arrived at any decision, it may be permitted to me to submit to you a few considerations bearing upon the hopes we still entertain, nay, which we entertain even more than ever, that a renewed search will lead to some positive and happy termination of our anxieties. The results of the late operations of the allied squadrons, though falling short of our hopes and expectations, are neither insignificant nor devoid of great encouragement for the future. They prove in the first place that the missing ships escaped all the catastrophes which the joint-hearted and despairing had predicted of them in their outward voyage, and arrived in safety at the first wintering quarters, where were the graves of those men belonging to the Discovery ship, and buried, apparently with great care and decorum, attest that the rest of the ships' companions were not only in life, but (as other unmistakable signs combine to prove) in circumstances of security, comfort and plenty, and full of vigor.—Again, the future field of search had been narrowed, the explorations of Captain Austin's officers over the ice, carried on with a spirit and perseverance which make me proud that they are my countrymen, having shown that our ships could not have pursued a south-west course, while the discoveries of Captain Penny, conducted with equal energy and spirit, in the north-west direction, leaving no room to doubt that the clear water he there came upon was first opened to my husband's ships; and that they pursued towards Behring Straits, in a high northern latitude. Thus our future efforts have a more confined and definite aim. It may be affirmed that the lost navigators are now to be looked for, with every hope of success, in the space lying between 100° and 180° of West longitude and any parallel of latitude North of 75 deg. It would appear, therefore, that to secure the completeness of the search, it should be commenced simultaneously at both ends, and that no single expedition going up Wellington Channel should be considered to have exhausted its work till it emerged in Behring Straits, or, in other words, accomplished a Northwest passage; nor any expedition starting from Behring Straits deem its object attained till it comes out in Wellington Channel or Baffin's Bay, or, in other words, performed the Northeast passage. Our own Government, I fear, intend to limit their efforts to an eastern expedition up Wellington Channel. There remains for the search by Behring Straits only a small private expedition, set on foot by a generous individual in this country, who is devoting his private means and his personal efforts to the enterprise. Another fruit of the late expeditions is the knowledge they have given us of the power of steam to overcome obstacles before supposed to be insurmountable. So successful had been this result, that it is probable a powerful steamer might be able, in one season, to make a progress which it would take successive years to accomplish without, or which might never be accomplished at all. Scarcely less satisfactory is the experiment that has been made of long journeys by sledge and on foot over the ice in winter or spring weather. Hundreds of miles of coast have been thus examined. Lastly, we derive infinite comforts from the proofs which the late expeditions have given us, that considerable resources exist in these northern portions of the Arctic regions, which have now been approached, for the support of human life, and very satisfactory, also, is the additional experience gained in confirmation of all former evidence that the Arctic climate is in itself favorable to health, and that the loss of life attending the expeditions is, in spite of all the risks and accidents incidental to them, far less than the average of mortality in any other quarter of the globe. With these facts before us, and with no proof or even sign of any sudden calamity having overtaken them and cut short their progress, it seems not presumptuous, but within the bounds of a reasonable and modest calculation of probabilities, to conclude that the lost navigators have only not been found because they were already beyond the reach of their efforts which have been made to come upon their track, limited as their efforts have hitherto been to the duration of a single season. The discovery ships were years ahead of all their pursuers, and while the latter had advanced hardly beyond the starting post, they were struggling toward the goal. If misfortune has indeed overwhelmed them, and how should I dare refuse to believe in such a possibility?—it has been in the strenuous and ardent pursuit of their duty, and not in the early and timid abandonment of it—as they would seem to imply—who graciously suppose that our brave countrymen turned back at the end of a single winter, and perished on their way home! It was the known determination of my husband, (and is recorded by him in his last letters from the borders of the ice,) to renew his attempts year after year, and if failed in one direction to try another. Surely these brave, determined men will never be abandoned to their fate! Surely the sentiment which resounded lately in the festive hall at New York, coming as it did from the heart of that distinguished American citizen, whose name is imperishably connected with the Arctic cause, and which was fervently responded to by every Englishman and American present, will guide my country's councils and touch the hearts of all who can lend a helping hand to its fulfillment! It will be a matter of wonder indeed to future generations if so many costly efforts made year after year, should be suffered to end in nothing; neither in restoring to England her long lost sons who went out to peril their lives at her bidding nor in disclosing the fate to which in the steadfast performance of their duty they may have fallen the victims; and yet in making the after-mission of mercy and humanity, subserve the interests of science and lead to the solving of that great geographical problem which has for centuries engaged the attention of the civilized world, and was the express object of this my country's latest effort. I cannot but regard the rescue of my husband and his companions and the accomplishment of the new passage as nearly identical objects. Had the researches which have hitherto been in vain been subjected to no other restrictions than the accomplishment of the one object or the other, so long as the lives of those employed were not necessarily sacrificed, we might not perhaps have to mourn over a series of bitter disappointments. It is only by having the same objects in view as the original expedition, and pursuing it with the same steadfast perseverance, that we can hope to solve the mystery. Hitherto our efforts have scarcely advanced beyond the