

in their congregations, to provide churches and schools for the emigrants. May God's blessing rest abundantly upon these praiseworthy efforts!—*Correspondent of the N. Y. Observer.*

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. Arabia, April 15.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, APRIL 11.

The House went into committee on the Colonial Clergy Disabilities Bill. This bill consists of a single clause, designed to indemnify the "metropolitan of any province, or the bishop of a diocese," for attending meetings for the regulation of ecclesiastical affairs.

Mr. Dunlop moved to omit the words in inverted commas, and to substitute "bishops and clergy." His object was to prevent according to the clergy of the Church of England any status not belonging to them by law.

The Solicitor General assented to the amendment.

Sir J. Pakington dissented, and considered that the amendment was calculated to deprive the Church of England of its just distinction.

Mr. Napier said that his anxiety was to preserve the colonial Church as an integral part of the united Church of England and Ireland. Now if he rightly understood this bill it would sever that connection. All the statutes with reference to this subject said that the doctrines and discipline of this Church were inviolable; but this bill proposed to get rid, not only of the provisions of the statute of Henry VIII., but of all other usages and laws, in so far as they prevented the assembly of the clergy. He wished however to know whether, by the common law, any part of the Church of England and Ireland could meet without royal licence? Certainly they could not in Ireland, although the statute of Henry VIII. did not apply to that country. Again, by this bill it was not required that the Crown should confirm any of the canons made by the colonial assemblies, although it had hitherto always been understood that the confirmation of the Crown was necessary to the validity of a canon, and although this was absolutely necessary, in order to prevent any Church authority obtaining the ascendancy over the civil power. He must object to the present bill, that they were at present in the dark as to the amount of interference with these which the present bill would sanction on the part of the colonial assemblies. According to Bishop Butler, what the colonial church wanted was not any temporal power on the part of the bishops, or any coercive power over the laity, but a power to enforce discipline according to the laws of the Church of England upon priests in holy orders.—(hear, hear). The committee divided, when the numbers were—

For Mr. Dunlop's amendment,	81
Against it,	34
Majority	—47

The amendment was therefore carried.

Mr. Dunlop then moved another amendment, to leave out the words "within such province or diocese," and insert "notwithstanding such bishops and clergy having been respectively consecrated and ordained by bishops of the said United Church."

The Solicitor General could not assent to it.

Mr. J. B. Smith moved the adjournment of the committee on the ground that they were at that moment in the dark as to what was proposed to be done.

Mr. T. Chambers said it was impossible to know exactly where they were, and he would therefore second the motion.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer protested against the incessant mixing up, in a debate on amendments, of the principle of the bill with every verbal amendment.

The discussion continued until, on the motion of Lord J. Russell, the chairman reported progress.

Five hours were spent on Monday in discussing in committee four lines of the Solicitor General's bill for removing the Disabilities of the Colonial Clergy, and at last the hon. and learned gentleman consented to take the bill home with him in his pocket, with a view of so working it as to obviate the objections of his opponents; who, persist in seeing it, one, the revival of Convocation at home, another, the abrogation of the supremacy of the Crown in the Queen's colonial dominions, and a third, a superior status to the Church of England over its rivals. No wonder honorable members became confused, particularly if they had no very anxious wish to see clearly that the simple object of the bill was to allow the internal regulations of its affairs by the Church in the colonies, on the same footing as "other denominations." This was well explained by Mr. Walpole, who made a careful statement of the question under discussion.—*Guardian.*

The rights and wrongs of Scotland have received a temperate but not too respectful discussion at the hands of a party of Scotch noblemen in the House of Lords, including a Prime Minister, a Chief Justice, and a Lord Privy Seal, all natives of that injured and oppressed part of the British Empire. Lord Eglinton's case evaporated almost entirely in his hand, and the small residuum was disposed of sensibly enough by Lord Aberdeen, whose speech however would have been none the worse had it held out some hope of a more liberal expenditure on Holyrood and a better arrangement of the multifarious business of the Lord Advocate's office. The true account of the present arrangement is that Scotch business, not being enough to occupy a Secretary of State, is better entrusted to a sanctonary whose professional and official position

render him at once more independent and more open to observation than a mere subordinate.—*Ibid.*

The Czar, it would appear, always anxious to act as "an Emperor and a gentleman" has seized the property of the English Ambassador, which he was forced to leave behind him when he quitted St. Petersburg. Russian influence is reported to have so far triumphed at Berlin that the Chevalier Bunsen has been ordered home, as being on too good terms with the Court of St. James's. Should this prove correct, as we believe it is, Austria will be placed between two fires, and will find more difficulty than ever in taking part with the western powers. But the entrance of the Russians into Servia must prevent her continuing much longer in an attitude of neutrality.—*Id.*

SEIZURE OF SIR G. SKYMON'S PROPERTY.—Sir George has written as follows:—"With reference to a subject to which public attention has been called, I beg to state that the question affecting my interests appears to be, 'not whether certain cases which I left at St. Petersburg, and which contain pictures, ornamental furniture, books, linen, and other articles of value, are to be seized and confiscated, but whether their shipment on board the Annie D'Alister, the only English vessel remaining at Cronstadt, is to be permitted. According to the last advice the question has been decided against me; but as I am bound to infer that the decision has been taken upon erroneous grounds, I still entertain the hope that it may be considered and revised."

EMANCIPATION OF THE JEWS IN TURKEY.—We are authorised to state that Lord Clarendon has intimated to one of our most distinguished co-religionists, that the privileges to be obtained for the Christians in Turkey will be extended to the Jewish subjects of the Porte.—*Jewish Chronicle.*

CONVERSIONS.—Ninety-eight converts from Popery were, on Wednesday the 5th inst., confirmed in Bermondsey by the Lord Bishop of Winchester. They were all prepared for this rite by the Rev. Dr. Armstrong, with the assistance of the agents of the Society for English Church Missions to the Roman Catholics.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—The commanders of her Majesty's ships now engaged in the arctic regions in search for Sir John Franklin, are to leave in the summer of 1855, and not to wait the winter of that year. Should England be engaged in hostilities with any other power, they are to take no part in it, it being the established practice of all civilised nations to consider vessels engaged in scientific discoveries as exempt from the operation of war.

PROGRESS OF CHOLERA IN BELFANT.—The *Banner of Ulster* says:—"This fearful scourge has been steadily progressing in town during the last few days, though the disease has not manifested that rapid virulence which characterised the former visitations of the epidemic.

Something like a mutiny has taken place on board her Majesty's ship Cumberland, at Portsmouth. The men were it appears dissatisfied at not getting a fortnight's leave before starting for the Baltic. Rear Admiral Berkeley had to convey this order to the crew yesterday week, and was listened to with every mark of respect on the part of the seamen. Every thing went right until the villainous crimps obtained admission into the ship. The disturbances did not cease with Tuesday night. On the following Thursday the crew refused to obey orders, and two of them were flogged, amidst the general hissing of the men. The officers had to draw their swords, and the marines were placed under arms. On Saturday the crew received three months' pay, and sailed for the Baltic.

Of the movements of the allied fleet in the Black Sea, little or nothing is known beyond the fact that, after leaving Beicos Bay, on the 24th of last month, they proceeded direct to Varna, where they landed a considerable body of Turkish troops to support the right wing of the Ottoman army, under the command of Mustapha Pacha, and then stood out to sea in the direction of Sebastopol. It may be conjectured, therefore, that we shall shortly hear of something decisive from that quarter. Heretofore it has been merely the duty of the fleet to confine the Russians to their ports. Now, however, that war has been formally declared, it will become the duty of the allied Admirals to seek them wherever they can find them, and, if they will not boldly and manfully come out to fight upon the sea, to try whether it be not possible to "get at them" even in their strongest places of fortified retreat. In the execution of this duty we shall probably hear before long that something has been achieved either at Sebastopol or Odessa.

In the Baltic events also appear to be approaching a crisis. The ice in the Gulf of Finland is reported to be rapidly breaking up, and in a few days the navigation between Revel and Helsingfors is expected to be open. In anticipation of this much-wished change, Sir Charles Napier, about a week since, detached a portion of his fleet, under the command of Rear-Admiral Plumridge, upon a special mission into the Gulf—so that, as a correspondent from the fleets says, we may shortly expect to hear of the hall being opened within earshot of the Czar himself. Admiral Plumridge is a discreet but dashing officer, and will cer-

tainly not miss a fair opportunity of firing the first shot in the Baltic. Subsequently to the sailing of this advanced squadron, we learn that Sir Charles Napier has moved with the whole fleet from Kiooga Bay to the Island of Gothland. This may be regarded as a significant indication that the hour is near at hand when the hostilities of the Baltic will be opened upon a large and tremendous scale. The Island of Gothland is situated in the centre of the Baltic, and may be looked upon as a sort of half-way house between the Sound and St. Petersburg. The Island of Gothland, lying higher up in the Gulf of Bothnia, and which it has been conjectured would become the rendezvous of the allied fleet, have already been abandoned by the Russians—so that Sir Charles has only to take possession of them whenever it may suit his convenience or pleasure to do so.

Whilst all this is going forward on the part of the allies, we are told that a great change of opinion is observable at St. Petersburg, and that a sentiment of alarm, bordering upon absolute panic, has begun to prevail amongst the higher classes in that capital.

Before the Cyclops left the fleet Admiral Dundas reported to have made a signal "to take, burn or destroy everything Russian."

The allied fleets reached Kavarna Bay on the 26th ult. Eight line-of-battle ships (French) are at anchor in line to the east of Varna, flanked by six steamers. Further east, are ten line-of-battle ships (English), with six steamers on their flank.

The Russians have crossed the Danube at Galatz with 30,000 men, without opposition.

All the marines from the fleets are to be landed to protect Varna.

The only intelligence of the slightest consequence from China, is comprised in the following paragraph, which we give as it reaches us, without vouching for its authenticity:—

"We have to announce by this mail the important intelligence of the apparent success of the Russian Admiral in negotiating for the opening of Japan to all nations. The Russian screw steamer *Vostok* arrived at Shanghai from Nagasaki on the 10th inst. and left again for that place on the 11th. She brought the news that the Emperor of Japan had consented to negotiate, and had sent high Ministers to treat with the Russian Admiral, and had given him a great dinner at Nagasaki. They have positively announced to him (such is the language used), that they intend to 'step up,' but require time to prepare. There can be no doubt the visit of Commodore Perry last season has greatly contributed to this desirable and important issue."

NEW BRUNSWICK.

We learn that the Provincial Treasurer has received instructions from the Government to allow drawback on Goods exported from this port to Prince Edward Island, via the Bend and Shediac, which measure will place Prince Edward Island on the same favorable footing as Nova Scotia in this respect. Forces have been prepared for the purpose, and when the Goods are re-shipped at Shediac an affidavit must be made there, as to the shipment, by the agent or the owner, as also by the master of the vessel in which they are shipped, and on this document being properly endorsed by the Customs or Excise Officers at Prince Edward Island as to the due landing of the Goods, the drawback will be paid here by the Treasurer. This measure has been allowed in anticipation of the Railway between the Bend and Shediac being in operation, and it will at once be perceived that it is of considerable importance to St. John, as it will be the means of encouraging a very important trade between this place and the Island.

We also learn that a Company has purchased the Steamer *Croft* from her former owners, and that she will be employed running from St. John to Wier and the Bend. As it is well known that she is a splendid boat, we may expect to see a very large traffic carried on between this City and the Bend. From what we know of the gentlemen who are to manage the management of this matter, we feel confident she will be kept in the most efficient working order.

An English built steamer is also on her way out to run between Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. We hear that she is under contract with the Island Government, and will carry the mail. We may, therefore, expect that she will be a fast and efficient boat. As soon as the Railway between the Bend and Shediac is complete, we presume the Northern shores of our Province will assume their busy appearance.—*St. John Courier, April 22.*

EMIGRATION.—The *Blanche*, one of the ships of the Black Ball Line, which left Liverpool on the 25th of March with a large freight and 300 passengers, arrived at the Island on Wednesday evening, after a passage of 28 days. We regret to add that during the passage there were no fewer than 35 deaths by diarrhoea and cholera. The last death occurred in days before the arrival of the ship at this port. The passengers were landed on Partridge Island, and even cases are now under the care of Dr. Hare, who reported that the patients are doing well. Fortunately there is ample accommodation on the Island and there seems to be little reasonable ground for