

ole population, should not be made a question of party politics. Should it unfortunately be made such, we shall feel ourselves led upon to view it on a broader basis, and under a different aspect. We hesitate to affirm, that the conscientious views of a large class of the constituency, who adhere to the principle of education under the perversion of religious denominations, could be respected; and if these are found subjects, paying their quota to the general funds of the Province, their wishes could not be lightly treated by the Legislature, or made the subject of vituperative mark by a portion of the secular press. A great expense, by the outlay of thousands of pounds, they have erected and furnished suitable and commodious premises, and given existence to Educational Institutions, thereby showing most convincingly their preferences; and whilst these Institutions, with a respectable corps of competent professors, are working well, commencing to large numbers of the youth of the country at least as good and as efficient an education, as any others established on a different basis, they are justly entitled to a fair proportion of Legislative support. So far from militating against their claims, we conceive that the fact of their being placed under such responsible management as denominational oversight involves, gives them an additional claim to public patronage and influence. A character for efficient working and management is presented to the community which cannot be overlooked; and if the work be done, and well done, if education be given, and a class of persons sent out of their halls eminently qualified by high moral principle, as well as various learning, to engage in the active duties of life and prove a blessing to the country, we have yet to learn on what just grounds it can be maintained, that the mere denominational character of such Institutions is sufficient in itself, regardless of all other considerations, to disentitle them to the favorable regard and fostering care of an enlightened Legislature. It is well known that on his basis, education is conducted to a large extent in the Mother Country and in the States of the neighbouring Republic, and it remains to be seen whether the people of this Province will be a consenting party to a system of education in which the religious principle is to be legislatively discarded. We believe that they will not. We hold out no threats to the present or to any future government; yet we have a right to express our honest belief, that the system of education on a moral and religious basis is dear to multitudes of persons, who, whilst money is granted, directly or indirectly, to any one of the higher Institutions of learning, in which that basis is not recognized, will not be satisfied unless those Institutions of their conscientious preference receive their legitimate share of Provincial support, according to the work done. Why objections should be raised to this most effective class of educational schools, we do not profess to understand; nor do we believe any good and well supported reasons for such opposition can be assigned, or, in fact, any reasons which will not equally bear against morality and religion. People will think and act, despite of Legislative enactments. They will not be coerced into the adoption of measures which their consciences approve not. Were Legislative aid to be withdrawn to-morrow, denominational institutions would still exist. They are too deeply and too firmly established in the hearts of the people to be thus easily destroyed. Their supporters would not give them up. They would uphold them to the last. Yet they would no less feel it

both a hardship and an act of injustice, and to which they would never submit, to be deprived of a fair proportion of the public funds devoted to the general purposes of education to which they themselves contribute, if at the same time any other Institution, whose basis they could not conscientiously approve or recommend, were a recipient of public aid by loan or direct grant. We hope we have now explained our position with sufficient plainness to prevent all mistake or misapprehension, and so as to remove all ground of misrepresentation. Irrespective therefore of party-politics, we sincerely hope the Legislature will see fit not to interfere with Denominational Institutions, unless they are prepared to do equal and substantial justice, by recalling the loan of five thousand pounds to Dalhousie College, and charge that Institution with a yearly rent in some proportion to the Provincial funds invested in the premises. If then this should be done, the Academical and Collegiate Institutions of the country will stand upon an equal footing, and the secular and the religious bases of education will then have an equal opportunity of testing their respective claims to popular favour. We are pledged from conscientious motives to maintain the rights of denominational Academies, and we shall not shrink from the task. Whatever influence we have, we shall give to this department of education, maintaining the interests of Common Schools, and not unnecessarily interfering with those of any other class. The sentiments contained in the admirable speech of the Rev. G. Osborn which appears on our second page accord with those held by the Great Body of the Wesleyan Methodists in all parts of the world.

NOVASCOTIANS AT A DISCOUNT.

DURING the discussion which took place on Monday last in the House of Assembly on the subject of Education, the consideration of the appointment of a Provincial Superintendent came up, being in fact the first clause of the New Bill. The Hon. the Speaker, and Mr. Hall strenuously advocated the necessity of sending to England, or Scotland, or the United States, for this distinguished Officer, assuring the House that there was not one native to be found in the limits of the Province of Nova Scotia qualified to fill this situation; justifying the taunt of Mr. Harrington, that if this were the case, their Colleges and Academies had been doing very little, and that Nova Scotia must be very low indeed, and asking how this state of things could be reconciled with the question which not long since had been gravely discussed in the House, whether Novascotians were not to be found fully competent to the discharge of any, even the most responsible, offices within the range of the Province. Every native must have felt his cheek burn with honest indignation whilst listening to these remarks so derogatory to his country. The learned Speaker said he wished we had a Horace Mann or an Egerton Ryerson, forgetting that both these are natives of the countries in which they have respectively employed their talents in promoting the work of popular education. The Hon. Provincial Secretary vindicated the claims of Nova Scotians; and though according all just merits due to others, yet asserting his preference for a Superintendent of Education acquainted with Colonial life. In the name of the whole Province we also protest against this undervaluation of native talent and literary acquirement. If the Pulpit, the Bar, the Senate, the various branches of mercantile business,

and if our Colleges and Academies, are adequately supplied by natives,—and who will question the fact?—we profess that we can see no just reason why a Superintendent of common-School Education cannot be found somewhere among the natives of the Province.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS.

(Selected chiefly from the City Papers.)
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 30.

Dyke at Chebuctoek.

The hon. Provincial Secretary rose to introduce a Bill, to provide for building a dyke across the harbor of Chebuctoek.—The bill, plan, and estimate, were referred to Messrs Hall, Dimock, Henry, Marshall, and G. R. Young.

Colleges—Education.

Mr. Henry introduced a bill to withdraw the grant from King's College.

Mr. Freeman would ask the hon. and learned introducer of the bill whether it was intended to take up the bill separately from the general subject of Education?

Mr. Henry said this bill stood on its own merits. It went to place King's College on the same footing as every other College in the province.

Mr. Freeman said if this was meant to clear the obstructions that lay in the way of the introduction of a general system of education, he would press the resolutions moved by the hon. member for Cumberland last year to take away the five thousand pounds of province money devoted to the support of Dalhousie.

Mr. Fulton intended to press his resolution.

Mr. Dickie had an eye to windward—he did not forget the £5000. He would support a general measure of public utility.

Mr. Henry said that as opposition would be given to the Bill, he should move it be the order of the day for Monday next.—He could not see how the two subjects were so intimately connected—the government measure might not say a word about colleges. Mr. Henry's motion then passed.

Official Papers, &c.

Hon. Attorney General laid on the table a Despatch touching Ship wrecked Seamen and Emigrants.

Hon. Attorney General by command laid on the table a Despatch touching the Shubenacadie Canal, which was read.

Hon. Provincial Secretary introduced a Bill touching vaccination; read a first time.

Hon. Provincial Secretary laid on the table a number of papers touching the Royalty on Slack Coal.

After a short preliminary discussion the House adjourned till 12 o'clock, Thursday.

THURSDAY, Jan'y 31.

Several bills were read a third time. The act for the encouragement of Education was read a second time, and committed to a committee of the whole house.

Drawback.

Mr. Fraser presented a petition from Joseph Allison praying reimbursement of drawback on Beef and Pork imported on brig Eclipse, and subsequently reshipped on board same vessel on a voyage to California. Referred to committee on Trade and Manufactures.

Juries.

Mr. McDonald introduced a bill to provide for drawing of Grand Jurors for the district of St. Mary's. Leave was granted.

The British Navigation Act.

Hon. G. R. Young said that during the last year several questions had arisen in his practice touching the Navigation Act. The first was whether a foreigner could hold a mortgage. The second whether an American could obtain the registry of a vessel here. The third was of more importance. It was enacted by the fourth clause of the Navigation Act, that no goods or other articles could be carried from one port to another, in any British possession in Asia, Africa, and America, unless in British bottoms. It was, however, allowable by the Act, upon a joint address to be presented to Her Majesty, to obviate the difficulties presented in this clause. It was contemplated during the next year to run a Steamship from Portland, U. S., to Yarmouth, and from thence to Halifax, under the present system this could not be done. After discharging her cargo at Yarmouth, she could not proceed to Halifax.

It would be wise so to modify this law as to allow any foreign Steam-vessel to proceed from any one port in Nova Scotia to another. There were two or three other questions, but he would not go further at present, merely

remarking that he hoped to see the day when a large Ship building trade for the United States would be carried on in this Province. He moved the subject be referred to a Committee.

Petitions.

Mr. McKeagney presented a petition from John Lonsdale and others, of Sydney, C. B., against a School tax, which was referred to Committee of the whole house on the Education Bill.

Mr. McKeagney also presented a petition from Capt. Ousley of Sydney C. B., praying for a grant to an Agricultural Society in that place. The petition was received, read, and referred to a select Committee, composed of Messrs. Munro, Bent, Ryder, Attorney General, and Harrington.

Mr. Mott introduced a Bill touching the Dartmouth Burying Ground, read a first time.

Free Church Academy—Colleges.

Hon. Provincial Secretary presented a petition from the Free Church Congregation in Nova Scotia, for aid to their Academy in Halifax, and moved that it lay on the table for future action.

Hon. Mr. Johnston took the opportunity to correct a misstatement he had seen—to wit, that the Baptist Education Society had changed their minds, and did not intend to take any more government aid. It was an entire mistake.

Hon. G. R. Young said that he presumed the Free Church intended to apply only for their Academy—not a College.

Hon. J. W. Johnston.—(Laughing.) O, as to that we can easily accommodate ourselves to words, provided the aid be given.

The petition was laid on the table.

Dalhousie College—Returns.

Hon. Mr. Johnston moved that His Excellency the Lieut. Governor be requested to cause returns to be made to this House of the several Professors and Teachers engaged in the Dalhousie College—their salaries, and the established rules of tuition fees, and the branches of instruction taught by each. Also, students and pupils attending at Dalhousie College—the times of their entrance, and whether their attendance has been constant and the amount of tuition fees they have actually paid.

Hon. Provincial Secretary would attend to the application.

Read Commissioners.

Hon. Mr. Johnston also moved for a return of the names of individuals recommended by members of the House for the expenditure of Good money, who were not appointed, and the names of those who were appointed in their place.

Mr. Fulton argued against New Year's day exempting Grand Jurors, and explained how it would operate in Cumberland.

The House went into committee on the Consolidation of the Laws.

Assessment of Counties.

On the chapter giving power to Grand Jurors to assess the counties for certain purposes.

The Hon. Speaker strenuously advocated the introduction of the simpler clause, to allow the Grand Jury to empanel for any necessary public purpose, with the consent of the sessions, and argued at much length against retaining two pages of restrictions on our statute book, while the jurors were fair representatives of the mass of the people in every County.

Mr. Fulton had not viewed this proposal with favour when it had first been proposed; but after hearing the remarks of the hon. and learned Speaker, he felt that the power could safely be confided in the Grand Jury to empanel the County for certain purposes.

The Speaker's amendment passed.

Several other details were amended.

The Chapter of the Bill was reported, and the House adjourned till 12, Friday.

FRIDAY, Feb. 1st.

Summary.

The attention of the House was occupied in discussing a petition from the Fishermen of St. Mary's, praying the action of the house to relieve them from the exorbitant charges of parties holding islands and other lands, which they had to make use of in prosecuting the fisheries. Hon. Provincial Secretary introduced the return of names of Road Commissioners asked for by the Hon. Mr. Johnston; and he also introduced a Bill to enable all Her Majesty's subjects to plead in courts of law. Three hours were spent in discussing whether the common law right of a landholder to sue for trespass on unfenced lands should be abridged or not; and a motion of the learned Speaker to abridge the right was lost by a large majority.

Mr. Fulton asked leave to present a petition from Dr. Bent for remuneration for supporting a transient pauper—and the petition of Robert McNair, relating to a ferry. Both petitions were referred to the standing committees.

Hon. Provincial Secretary presented a petition of the trustees of the Royal Acadic School, praying a grant of £300 a year to establish a Normal School.

The Coasting Trade.

Hon. Attorney General by command, laid on the table some official papers, among which was a despatch from the Governor of New Brunswick, enquiring what course the government of Nova Scotia were going to pursue with reference to the regulations in the new Navigation act, on opening the coasting trade to the Americans.

Mr. Fraser said he would now report verbally from the Navigation Committee. They had decided to recommend no alteration at present.

Hon. J. W. Johnston would ask the hon. and learned Chairman if the Committee had considered the intercourse of this Province with the United States only, or the more enlarged subject of the Coasting trade of all the Colonies with all foreign countries.

Mr. Fraser said that the principal subject before the Committee was the admission of American vessels into our coasting trade; they had not taken up the general subject.

Hon. J. W. Johnston said the admission of other foreign vessels to this trade was also a subject which demanded serious attention.

Road Commissioners.

Hon. Provincial Secretary laid on the table the return asked for by the Hon. and learned member for Annapolis. The return comprehended the names of all persons who had been recommended by members as persons to expend road money, and not appointed—and those who had been appointed in their place.

English Steamers.

Mr. Mott from the Committee to whom were referred the Petition of the Hon. Sam. Cunard touching the interference of small vessels moored off the harbour within the track of the Mail Steamers, reported a recommendation that the prayer of the Petition be granted, and a law introduced to that effect. The Report was received.

The House adjourned till 12 o'clock, Saturday.

SATURDAY, Feb. 2.

Petitions.

Mr. Ernst presented a petition for a special grant in favour of the main post road from Chester Basin to Lunenburg, to avoid the hill at Gold River—also a petition for a road from Mullock's to Maitland—read and laid on the table.

Mr. McDougall presented a petition from several persons in the County of Hants, praying a reform in medicine, and recommending the use of the vegetable medicines prepared by some association in New York.

Mr. Mignowits presented the memorial of Charles B. Owen, Collector of Excise in the county of Lunenburg, for the sum of £15 11s. 11d. which had been overcharged to him by the Committee of Public Accounts last session—Referred to Committee on Trade &c. Mr. M. also presented a petition from Jonas Mack for over-expenditure on a main road from Mills Village to Bridgewater, amounting to £16 9s.

Consolidation of Laws.

The House went into Committee on the Consolidation of the Laws, when a long conversation was had on the subject of Fences. The Chapter passed—the Committee adjourned.

Academy at Port Hood.

The House resolved itself into Committee on the Bill for empowering the trustees of an Academy at Port Hood to sell the same and build a new one, which passed without amendment.

The Fog Bell, Clare Lock-up House, and Maxwellton Lock-up House Bills were passed through Committee.

Census of the Province.

The Census Bill was taken up. A long discussion ensued. The Committee adjourned.

Municipal Corporations.

Hon. Provincial Secretary asked leave to introduce a Bill to divide the County of Halifax into Townships, and investigate them with certain municipal privileges; leave was granted, and the Bill read a first time. He observed that he thought the time had come in Halifax for trying a system that might in future be extended with advantage to the whole Province.

Backville Academy.

Hon. Provincial Secretary asked leave to present a Petition from the Wesleyan Academy at Mount Allison. He stated that the petition showed the amount raised and expended within the last seven years, which amounted to £23,000. The petition was received, and laid upon the table.

A New Road.

Hon. Provincial Secretary also presented a petition from the inhabitants of Beaver Bank, and Hibbert settlement, Windsor Road, praying for a grant to enable them to

(Continued on last page.)