

Hon. Mr. McNab.—I can see no force in the argument against its lying on the table.

Hon. Receiver General.—I agree in the sentiments expressed by the last speaker. I beg, however, to say, that the motion to defer the bill came up at the proper time, and as the friends of the bill pointed it to go to a second reading, it was right for the hon. member from Lunenburg to make that motion. I shall make no remark in reply to the observations which the hon. member from Sydney (hon. Mr. Archibald) addressed to the hon. member for Cornwallis (hon. Mr. Morton.) The bill to which the latter hon. gentleman proposed amendments was intended to introduce a new principle into the management of affairs of Presbyterian churches. That is a very different matter from altering what may perhaps be an established rule in the Church of England. A change so important should not be made without very grave consideration. I think the bill should be allowed to remain on the table. This will change no one's mind, and the course which every one feels it his duty to take will be more firmly established by the delay.

Hon. Mr. Rudolf then consented to withdraw his motion for the present.

Hon. Mr. Morton.—If the bill is thrown out the difficulty is still unsettled. The law in the revised statutes did not settle it. I have always been in favor of the principle that a congregation should have the privilege of managing their own secular affairs. If you were to refer this bill to a select committee you would ascertain who has now the right to the chair, the minister or a person appointed by the congregation.

Further consideration of the bill was then postponed.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
SATURDAY, April 11.

THE CONVENTION.

Hon. Attorney General.—I like, Mr. Speaker, with much pleasure, to state that which must be exceedingly gratifying to the feelings of Colonists. Complaints have frequently been made, to the effect that these feelings were not sufficiently consulted by those who conducted imperial affairs. Such misunderstandings have, I believe, arisen from inadvertence or want of information; in all instances the wish being to respect the rights of Colonists, and to keep their interests as free and unfettered as attention to general arrangements would admit of. The present is a very significant instance of that description. The despatch which I hold in my hand not only discloses that the Convention between England and France, against which Newfoundland has appealed, had been abandoned, but, in terms most unqualified, intimates that the Territorial and Maritime interests of the Colonies are not to be interfered with by the Imperial authorities, except by the consent of the Colonies and freely, and proves the intention of paying all due regard to the Colonial position of honor Majesty. That the address which passed on this subject, some days ago, has not yet been transmitted, is cause of pleasure; and I will gladly, on another occasion, move resolutions in reference to the Convention and the despatch now laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. Howe.—The announcement just made, Mr. Speaker, is of a very gratifying nature. I am glad that the rights of Colonists and the privileges of Colonial Legislatures are duly regarded by the British Government. We all felt, some years ago, when what we considered our territorial rights, were interfered with—and, the other day, we naturally sympathized with the delegation which called our attention to an interference with the right of another Colony;—I would have been pleased, if the members of government were then in their place, that the questions should have been taken in a broader sense and somewhat different manner than it was then considered. It is not clear to me, sir, that the entering on Imperial treaties, and then throwing the onus of disagreement on a small Colonial Legislature, is the wisest course to pursue; it might be preferable that the Colonial opinion should be first invited, when any interference with such interests was thought desirable. However, the submission of the question, before arriving at any final conclusion, may be sufficient. I again express gratification, that the present question has been disposed of in a way so calculated to please our fellow subjects of Newfoundland, so satisfactory to all, and which proves that the Colonial voice is not overborne when it is raised in deference to great European questions in which Colonists are immediately interested.

Hon. Mr. Speaker.—While I look on this document with feelings of gratification, I recollect, with deep regret that the voice raised here, some years ago, by a few persons, asking that our own rights be more carefully attended to, met with so deaf an ear; and that more energy was not used then to prevent the completion of a treaty interfering with the interests of Nova Scotia. The despatch shows that hereafter the British government will respect and duly recognize the rights of colonists. I agree in part with the member for Windsor, as to the propriety of consulting colonists before entering on treaties,—but I do not see how that would be easily practicable, as treaties must be made with England herself. Perhaps in future, any colony interested in such negotiations, will be consulted while the matter is pending. The document sets at rest at once the question of interference; I am convinced that, after this, no colonial right will be given away, that no colonial interest will be interfered with, without asking the assent of the colonial legislature concerned. Nothing so wounded my feelings since I came to the legislature, as giving away the

territorial rights of Nova Scotia without commensurate remuneration.

Mr. John.—The course taken by me, Mr. Speaker, on the Newfoundland Convention, was suggested by the resolution arrived at by the merchants of Halifax, in reference to that subject. I feel gratified now that there is no necessity of transmitting the address agreed to by both houses of the legislature; and the steps taken by the home government on the question, must be productive of pleasure to the people of this province and of Newfoundland. The law officers of the crown were not present in the house, when the delegates arrived, and the papers were laid over in consequence, the action which I took was brought fairly before the house, and a motion to—and I am prepared for any course which the house think well of adopting in reference to the address. I have discharged the duty which became incumbent on me, to the best of my ability, for the interests of this country and Newfoundland. Concerning the reciprocity treaty to which allusion has been made, I see no analogy between the two cases. In that an equivalent was given; in this there is no equivalent; for the concurrent rights conceded were in fact no equivalent at all. There is no analogy between the cases, the concessions then made were for the interests of this country—and I believe we had the best of the bargain; our fishery is of more value to us than it was previously, and our merchandise goes to the United States free of duty.

Hon. Encl. Secy.—The reciprocity treaty, I consider, was one of the shadows sometimes put forth to conceal the substance. The reciprocity sought was, that the U. States should trade with us, and we with them, on equal terms. Why were the fisheries thrown in, without obtaining the registration of vessels? I like the reciprocity treaty, but I see no good reason why we should buy it at so great a cost.

News Department.

CANADA.

Last evening, without so much as a show of opposition, the Inspector General's bill to increase the subsidy to our Canadian line of ocean steamships to £50,000 a year, was carried. The bill was read a second time; a step which, in a case of this kind, goes to the bottom of the whole matter. Nor is this unanimity a matter of surprise. The amount of good which the country has received from its ocean steamers is very great. Not only have importers, and exporters of goods been benefited by these vessels; the interests of the whole Province have been advanced by them. They have

advanced with regard to Canadian affairs which has hitherto obtained in England, is of length beginning to disappear, we are chiefly indebted for the change to two great enterprises. The construction of our national line of railway was an undertaking so vast, that it necessarily excited attention in England; and second only to it in importance is the connection by steam of Montreal and Liverpool. A few years back, the great body of the English people cared as little for this country as they do for that of the Hottentots. But the immense resources of Canada are now becoming appreciated on the other side of the Atlantic. Thousands are amazed at the fact that all our towns and villages of importance, are connected by railway with each other; and it will require very few more passages as those of the Canadian steamers of the last summer, to make them also aware we are enterprising on sea as well as on land. I have indeed been safely said that no portion of the provincial revenue is more judiciously expended than which is granted as a bonus in aid of Atlantic steamers. Every one, as the vote last night showed, is agreed on this subject. We believe that an increase of the amount of aid will meet with general approbation among people. The increased assistance will be valued by twice the former service. During the season these boats were crowded with passengers and freight; and many have had reason to regret their inability to avail themselves of the route. While, however, the rapid increase of the country warrants the belief that a line of steamers making use of the short route to Europe would be successful, it would be absurd to expect any Company to undertake such a risk, without a positive certainty upon. No one unacquainted with the extending ships can form any estimate of the outlay which their operations require. The voyage of a Canadian steamer, without doubt eat up the profits of many successful voyages. A better proof of the merit of the present line is afforded than the recent attempt on the part of Mr. Cunard to place it hors de combat. It is the interest of the monopolist of Imp. to attempt to run down in its infancy any rival who may be a successful rival of the Province in the maritime service.

Let us have a good line of our own, independent of Mr. Cunard or anybody else; and if opposition to it be found profitable, so much the better.

It is now evident, however, that Mr. Cunard had no serious intention of starting an opposition line. It would never be the interest of Mr. Cunard to place first-class vessels upon the St. Lawrence, or to make that river the favorite route to the ocean.—His Canadian line in any case would have been but a second fiddle to his United States line. But even if good steamers were placed upon it, the country generally would reap but little benefit from them. The credit attending them would, of course be bestowed upon Mr. Cunard. The reputation of the Province would be seriously injured by successful outside opposition to a national undertaking. A Canadian line of steamers is of use to the Province as a proof of its enterprise; but the fact that Mr. Cunard dispatched a number of boats from Montreal or Quebec would do us nationally, very little good.—The company which Mr. Hugh Allan represents, is however, justly regarded as a Provincial one, and the Province gains from its well earned success. We have no objections, we repeat, to Mr. Cunard's running as many steamers as he can put on; but we desire, independent of extraneous assistance, a first-class weekly Canadian line. The public money cannot be employed more advantageously than in the support of such an undertaking. The admirable management of the fortnightly line, affords proof of the manner in which a weekly one will be conducted.—*Toronto Leader, March 31.*

NEW BRUNSWICK.

MEETING OF COLORED CITIZENS.—On Wednesday evening last, a numerous meeting of the Colored Citizens took place in their School House, in Queen-street, for the purpose of considering the propriety of forming an Association for the Settlement of such men of color as desired to emigrate on lands of this Province. Mr. A. Page, was called to the chair, and opened the business of the meeting. A Mr. Morris, of Canada, addressed the meeting, and explained the advantages that had been attained by persons of color who had emigrated to Canada, and stated that he wished information as to what inducements that class of people would receive in this Province. In speaking of the fugitives who had escaped from the iron grasp of slavery in the United States, he extolled the British flag, as the only free gentleman was honored by Mr. Weston, and Mr. Henry Watson, both of whom spoke in the most glowing terms of British Rule, and expressed their determination to support with their lives and fortunes the flag of old England. Several persons in the audience afforded the information sought relative to the settlement of African emigrants in this Province. The speakers delivered themselves in language that would not disgrace any public meeting, and was highly creditable to them as a body of men. The meeting was orderly conducted, if we except a little attempt to disturb from a few ignorant people, and who were very properly taught better, and desired to withdraw. We trust that their desires will be cordially met by the legislature, and that the down-trodden sons of Africa may in this Christian land be treated as fellow men, and worthy citizens.—*St. John N.B. Chronicle, April 24.*

Mr. Frank Wills, late Architect of the cathedral at Fredericton, has been appointed to fill the same office on the new Church of England cathedral to be erected during the ensuing summer at Montreal. Mr Wills received the appointment on the recommendation of the Bishop of Fredericton.—*Carleton Recorder.*

A melancholy accident occurred at Cascumpoc, P. E. Island, on the night of Saturday the 4th ult. A poor man by the name of Cannon, and his wife, had left home for the purpose of visiting some relatives about a mile distant. The four younger children were in bed, and the house was in charge of the two oldest, a girl of 12 years and a boy of ten. These two becoming weary had retired to rest, but were shortly awakened by the flames around their bed. The girl managed to open the window, and endeavoured to get her brother out, but became badly burnt and was unable to do so, and he with the other four perished in the flames. The girl escaped without a particle of clothing to a neighbor's house. On the return of the parents, it was with the greatest difficulty that the mother was prevented from rushing into the flames in search of her children. The remains of the children were afterwards found burnt to cinders.

SACRED MUSIC.

ON hand, from recent Arrivals, a Supply of the "AMERICAN VOCALIST and ZEUNER'S ANCIENT LYRE." Also, "Boston Academy." WM. GOSSIP.