

before the House on a future occasion. The true defence of the measure was, that it was founded on the rights of internal self-government which had been conceded to the Canadian Legislature. After some observations from Lord Desart, the production of the papers, with certain exceptions, was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FEB. 11.

INTOLERANCE IN SPAIN.

Sir R. H. Inglis drew attention to a decree which had been published in Spain, prohibiting foreigners in that country from professing any other than the Roman Catholic religion. It was due (he said) to the character of this country to prevent such a decree from being enforced. He wished to know if any information had been received, and whether the noble lord at the head of the foreign department intended to protest against the decree in the name of her Majesty?

Mr. M. Milnes wished to ask the noble lord another question incidental to the subject. Some time ago a burial ground was granted by the Spanish Government to the Protestants resident in Madrid, but it was only on the condition that no funeral ceremony should be performed over the dead buried there. He wished to know if that condition was still in force; and, if so, whether the noble lord would request our Minister at Madrid to re-open the question.

Lord J. Russell said Lord Howden was requested by the late Government to communicate verbally with the Foreign Minister of Spain, on the subject referred to by the hon. baronet the member for Oxford University. Lord Howden had done so, and the answer he received was, that they would not change the Spanish law. There would be no objection to produce Lord Howden's despatch on the subject. With regard to the question relating to the burial-ground, he would answer that on a future day.

FEB. 15.

CLERGY RESERVES IN CANADA.

Mr. F. PEEL, in moving for leave to bring in a Bill to enable the Legislature of Canada to make provision concerning the Clergy Reserves, gave a short history of these reserves, which dated from the year 1791, when the province was divided into two parts, and the Constitutional Act of that date provided that whenever the Crown should dispose of waste lands, one-seventh of their value should be reserved for the support of the Protestant clergy. These reservations continued to be made until the act of 1840; but in the interval large quantities of land had been reserved, part of which had been sold, and the fund had been appropriated, not in proportion to the number of each religious denomination, the clergy of the established churches of England and Scotland deriving the greatest advantages from the fund. Great jealousy had been thereby engendered in the colony; the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly had been at variance upon the subject, and an appeal was made to the Imperial Legislature, which passed the act of 1840. Great changes had taken place since that period; the population had more than doubled; but the object of this bill was not to alter or interfere with the present condition of things; it merely vested in the Canadian Legislature the power, if it saw fit, of altering the existing arrangement, the matter being, not of imperial but wholly and exclusively of colonial concern. He disclaimed, on the part of the government, any unfriendly spirit towards the Church of England, and an ample guarantee was provided for the security of the stipends now enjoyed by its clergy in the colony.

Sir J. PAKINGTON, although he did not intend to oppose the introduction of the bill, had heard the announcement of the intentions of the government on this subject with deep regret, considering that this was a measure to commit a grave breach of national faith, and to deprive our Protestant fellow subjects in Canada, of endowments solemnly guaranteed to them by the act of 1840, introduced by Lord J. Russell himself, which uniting the two Canadas expressly settled the question of the clergy reserves.

Mr. V. SMITH observed that the simple question was whether Canada should or not be allowed to legislate for itself upon this subject. He should stand by the great principles of self-government. Sir R. INGLIS said this was a measure, on the face of it, to enable the Legislature of Canada to deal, not with religious principles, but with property; the question was whether property attached to a particular body of men should be taken from them. The Measure struck at all Church and Corporation property. He should oppose the motion.—Lord J. RUSSELL denied that the act of 1840 was to be regarded as an irrevocable settlement. The question was, whether or not, Parliament should adopt with regard to this subject the rule that in all matters of local concern the local Legislature should be allowed to decide. Although he might not approve of the secularization of these reserves, he should not be justified in setting his opinion against the united opinion of the Parliament of Canada.—After a few remarks from Mr. Hume, leave was given to bring in the bill.

The following striking letter has been addressed by Lord John Russell to Sir Henry Bulwer, our representative in Florence, and it will find an echo in the heart of every man who loves his "neighbour" as the highest duty enjoined upon him after love and obedience for his Maker:—

Lord John Russell to Sir Henry Bulwer.

Foreign-office, Jan. 18, 1853.

Sir—According to the last accounts received from you, the Grand Duke of Tuscany still hesitates on the subject of the Medjai.

"But this is a matter on which hesitation implies capital punishment. It is the same thing in effect to condemn a man to die by fire, like Savonarola; or to put him to death by the slow torture of an unhealthy prison.

"It seems to be imagined, indeed, by some Governments on the Continent, that, if they avoid the spectacle of an execution on the scaffold, they will escape the odium to themselves, and the sympathy of their victims, which attends upon the punishment of death for offences of a political or religious character.

"But this is an error. It is now well understood, that the wasting of the body, the sinking of the spirits, the weakening of the mind, are but additions to the capital punishment which long and close confinement too often involves.

"If, therefore, as has been lately reported, one of the Medjai were to die in prison, the Grand Duke must expect that throughout Europe he will be considered as having put a human being to death for being a Protestant.

"It will be said, no doubt, that the offence of Francesco Medjai was not that of being a Protestant, but that of endeavouring to seduce others from the Roman Catholic faith; that the Tuscan Government had the most merciful intentions, and meant to have shortened the period of imprisonment allotted by law to his offence; that such offences cannot be permitted to pass unpunished.

"All this, however, will avail very little. Throughout the civilised world this example of religious persecution will excite abhorrence. Nor will it be the least of the reproaches addressed to the Government of the Grand Duke that the name of Leopold of Tuscany has been thus desecrated, and the example of a benevolent Sovereign thus departed from. The peaceful, mild, and ingenuous character of the Tuscan people makes this severity the less necessary and the more odious.

As this is a matter affecting a Tuscan subject, it may be said that Her Majesty's Government have no right to interfere. If this means that an interference by force of arms would not be justifiable, I confess at once that nothing but the most extreme case would justify such interference.

"But if it be meant that her Majesty has not the right to point out to a friendly Sovereign the arguments which have prevailed in the most civilised nations against the use of the civil sword to punish religious opinions, I entirely deny the truth of such an allegation.

"You are, therefore, instructed to speak in the most serious tone to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and to lay before him all the considerations stated in the despatch. You will do it in the most friendly tone, and take care to assure the Government to which you are accredited that none are more sincere in their wishes for the independence and happiness of Tuscany than the Queen of Great Britain. I am, &c.,

"J. RUSSELL."

This letter is in harmony with the speech of Lord John Russell delivered last night, and these will restore to a name somewhat tarnished all the lustre which it originally possessed.

ITALY.

Italian papers inform us that, at Monzo, a town of 8400 inhabitants, twenty-four miles from Milan, there had been an attempt to surmise the garrison of the castle, which, after a sanguinary contest, failed. Several officers of the garrison had been killed or wounded. There had also been a conflict at Lodi, and it is reported that there had been disturbances at Mantua and Verona, which, if true, would show that there must have been a combined plan of general insurrection, for unless these towns which have become the Austrian strongholds, could be roused into insurrection, success, even at Milan, could be only temporary. Milan has been declared in a state of siege; not more than three persons can talk together without risk of being fired upon; names of lodgers must be declared under severe penalties; heavy sticks are forbidden to be carried, and signs of recognition prohibited. The Government has also closed the railways from Milan to Como, Monzo, and Traviglio, and from Como to Chiasso there is a chain of sentinels. Several persons have been shot by court-martial, amongst whom was a priest. The Piedmontese Government had expelled foreign refugees who it was deemed had abused its hospitality. In Florence, a M. Palagi, who passed for a spy, had been assassinated in open day.

The Zurich Gazette states that in the evening of the 8th four or five soldiers were killed or wounded at Milan. The town was subjected to the most rigorous state of siege. General Benedek has just arrived, with full powers from Marshal Radetzky, Tessinos, Piedmontese, and Englishmen were among the prisoners.

The Vienna correspondent of the Times states that nothing more is known about the Milan affair, but it appears that the disturbance must have been much more serious than the public has been given to understand, as the troops are said to have been bivouacked outside of the walls. The insurrection in Milan is in connexion with an attempt which was to have been made on the Emperor at Paris. On the 5th, news reached a meeting of fugitives, at Ludano, that the Paris plan had failed. This caused general consternation, and the system of a general rising was deranged.

The Mediterranean states that, at the moment of going to press, a letter from Florence of the 10th had reached,

announcing that some rioting had taken place at Orvieto, in the Roman dominions. No details were given, but it appears that an individual was stabbed, that stones were thrown into the windows of a church, that menaces were uttered against the authorities, and several inhabitants known to profess Conservative opinions.

Sir JOHN FRANKLIN.—We have only one other communication to notice, and that is of so curious a nature that we can not pass it over. It is a letter from Tromsø, dated the 18th of September last, stating that the ships from Spitzbergen have brought home a great number of reindeer skins with cuts (slits) in their ears. To account for this peculiarity, it is conjectured that the skins were made by Franklin's party, who caught the deer to the north of Spitzbergen, and liberated them thus marked for the purpose of creating a chain of communication with parties to the south. We confess that this explanation appears to us more ingenious than probable.—*Athenæum*.

FRANCE.—The Minister of War announces that the 20,000 men to be reduced from the army will be taken from the corps stationed in Algeria and Italy.

Editorial Miscellanea.

LEGISLATIVE.—On Thursday Mr. Wier reported against any grant to Dr. Fornori. Mr. Howe laid upon the table a Provincial promissory note of 1764 for £2, which had been sent to the Governor from Philadelphia for retirement. He would move the amount in Committee of Supply. He also announced that no Railway information had been received by the Steamer. Mr. Dickey was ordered to appear at the Bar of the House to explain some discrepancies in his evidence before the Railway Committee.—*B. N. Am.*

☞ We return our thanks to the Editor of the *Church & State Gazette*, for the readiness with which he has complied with our request to exchange.

THE R. M. S. *Cambria* arrived on Thursday morning in 11½ days from Liverpool. There is no news of a striking character. In regard to France, apprehensions of troubles seem to be subsiding, in consequence of the pacific character of Napoleon's speech, and yet more, of the fact that a reduction of 30,000 men had been ordered in the army. We have made several extracts in another column, from the latest papers.

We are truly happy to learn that our universally esteemed fellow-townsman, Assist-Commissary-General Goldsmith, has received promotion; but the departure of so worthy a man from the colony will be regretted, however much we may rejoice at his advancement. The Commissary will leave here for England, when relieved by Assist-Commissary-General Milray, who was formerly on this station, and now is at Malta.—*Newfoundland Paper*.

☞ We hear that two young men, named Cooper, sons of Capt Cooper of Bay Fortune, who, with their father and other members of the family, left this Island for California, in the Fall of 1849, were recently murdered there by the Indians.—*P. E. Island Paper*.

By the following extract from the *Fredericton Reporter*, it will be seen that Nova Scotia will in all probability be relieved from the necessity of building the trunk Railway from Amherst to Halifax. If this prove true, it is not likely that Nova Scotia will be again troubled with competition as to who shall build her Railways:—*St. John Courier*.

"We learn that Mr. Jackson has had a large party engaged during the winter in exploring a railway route from the River du Loup to the vicinity of Madawaska, and that, contrary to the twisted reports, half surmise half falsehood, formerly circulated in relation to that important part of the Province, a single impediment does not exist on the whole line. This being the case, we have no doubt, as we stated a few months ago, that the natural course of events will shortly force a communication between New Brunswick and Canada; and that the people of St. John will, though without much effort on their own part, waken up some fine morning and find their city, as it should be, an Atlantic terminus."

A COLLECTION INDEED!—We take from an exchange, the following short but expressive item, to shew how "Church Societies" are helped in New York:—"On Sunday morning last, in the Church of the Ascension, (Rev. Gregory T. Bedell, rector,) the large sum of two thousand six hundred dollars was contributed for the domestic and foreign missions of the Episcopal Church.