

EDUCATION.

Our attention is directed to the all important subject of Education. But at present we abstain from entering at length into consideration, in hope that, before another week shall have passed away, the views of the Government, we suppose—as from his Excellency's Speech it appears a measure is to be submitted for the consideration and action of the "House"—will be fully disclosed. Meantime, we reiterate a formerly expressed sentiment, that, in the distribution of monies for the purposes of education, the Legislature of Nova Scotia has not overlooked the claims of the Wesleyan Methodists of this Province, as the Grant to SACKVILLE ACADEMY certifies, as well as a grant to a Wesleyan day School established in this City. Nor do we feel apprehensive, that, if grants are continued to other denominational institutions, the Wesleyans will be denied of their fair and legitimate share of Provincial support in carrying on their educational movements. We feel quite at ease on this score. But we fear lest, under the plea of expediency, or with the plausible yet fallacious pretext of putting down what is called *sectarianism*, an attempt will be made to thrust on the population at large a scheme of education on a purely secular basis, regardless of the conscientious scruples of thousands, and to withhold all Legislative aid from Schools and Academies in which the religious principle is recognized. The possibility of such a retrograde movement we cannot regard without strong emotion and painful solicitude. Such a measure, reduced to practice, will, we may safely predict, raise a storm throughout the length and breadth of the Province, which few men need choose cautiously to evoke, or to confront. There are principles here at stake, which are felt to be dearer than life, and stronger than any merely political interests. It is not the first time that Christian men have battled and made sacrifices for the supremacy of God's Word and the rights of conscience; and we are unwilling to believe that the people of Nova Scotia, when the matter is truthfully placed before them, will quiescently sanction the exclusion of the Bible and the prohibition of prayer to Almighty God from the Schools and Academies of the land, by positive Legislative enactment; or that they will justify any Legislature in granting monies for educational purposes to Schools on the condition that the Word of God shall not be read in them nor prayers offered to the Divine Majesty; and in withholding grants from certain Schools and Academies solely on the ground that the Word of God is read in them and prayers are presented to Almighty God for his blessing. The questions involved are vital—the principles deep—they impinge on interests whose importance cannot be exaggerated—interests as undying as eternity. If ever, wisdom, prudence, caution and integrity are here requisite, and in no ordinary degree. We wait the promised denouement with some anxiety.

Death of the Right Rev. Bishop Coleridge.

It is our painful duty this week to record the death of the Right Rev. Bishop Coleridge. The venerated prelate returned to his seat, Salton, Ottery, on Thursday last, for the purpose of spending, with his estimable family, the Christmas season. About three o'clock in the afternoon of Friday the Bishop was out looking at the ruins of Saint Saviour's Church, over the Otter, shortly after which, on his way home, and just as he had reached the farmhouse, his Lord (Mr. Horsford), who resides there, asked him how

he was. He replied "I feel very unwell." "Horsford" caught him, and prevented the fall. Soon after this the Bishop expired. His sudden death is supposed to be caused by the bursting of a blood vessel in the heart. In his demise the church has lost a learned and most faithful prelate, the country a wise and consistent Englishman, his tenants a good landlord, the large circle of his family and acquaintances a sincere man in the domestic and friendly relations of life, the poor a kind adviser and a benevolent benefactor.—*Western Luminary.*

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 18.
The House met on Friday at 12 o'clock but was not opened to strangers until two. It was understood a motion by the leader of the Government to abolish the franking privilege of members was being discussed, which, it appears, was finally carried. Soon after the doors were opened, the answer to the address was taken up. The first clause passed without opposition. On the second being read, the Hon. Mr. Johnston rose and spoke at some length in condemnation of the Government for having suspended the duty on Hay. Quite an animated discussion ensued. The address was finally passed by a vote of 19 to 15—the honorable member for Falmouth, Mr. Songster voting with the Opposition.

Committee on Expiring Laws.—Messrs Blackadar, Henry, McLeod.

Committee on Public Accounts.—Messrs Killam, Mignowitz, Fulton, McDonald.

FRANKING PRIVILEGE.—The subjoined Resolutions, passed the House:

Resolved, That in future the members of this house shall not have the privilege of Franking Letters during the session of the Assembly as heretofore.

Resolved, That accounts be kept with each member for postage during this session by the Deputy Post Master General.

The House adjourned.

SATURDAY, JAN. 19.
The House met at 12 o'clock.

It was ordered that no petition upon private matters be received after Saturday the 9th of February.

Committees.

The following Committees were appointed:
Agriculture.—Messrs. Hall, Howe, Robertson, Creelman, Wier, Songster, Bent, Henry, and Smith.

Education.—Messrs. Young, Johnston, Henry, Blackadar, Fulton, Creelman, and Hall.

Navigation Securities.—Messrs. Killam, McKegney, Mott, McDonald, Card, Snow, and Henry.

Post Office.—Attorney General, Johnston, Fraser, Creelman, Young, and Henry.

Fisheries.—Hon. Attorney General, Messrs. Marshall, Campbell, Martell, McKenna, McDonald, and Bourneil.

Trade and Manufactures.—Messrs. Fraser, Taylor, Mott, Young, and Killam.

Mines and Minerals.—Young, Henry, Harrington, Hall, Dickie, Creelman, and McKegney.

Pencenturaries.—Messrs. Creelman, Mignowitz, McDonald, McLeod and Fulton.

Indian Affairs.—Messrs. Henry, McLeod, Blackadar, Bold, Killam, Ernst and Thorne.

Printing.—Messrs. Mignowitz, McDougall, Fulton, Freeman, and Dimock.

Sick Emigrants.—Messrs. G. R. Young, Taylor, Marshall, Brown, and Creelman.

Publishing Debates.

Mr. Fraser said he held in his hand a petition from Mr. Alpin Grant, a publisher, complaining that he had not received any remuneration for publishing the debates, which he begged leave to present.

The petition was referred to the Committee on Reporting.

Hon. G. R. Young introduced a Bill to enable the inhabitants of Maxwelton to build a Lock up House. Read a first time.

Mr. Young also asked leave to present a Petition from the Board of Health for the County of Pictou for compensation for certain outlays. Referred to Committee on Sick Emigrants.

Mr. Creelman gave notice of moving a Resolution to sell the Horse Belt Foundry Morgan.

The House then adjourned till 3 o'clock—when they waited in a body on the Lieut. Governor with the Address.

ADDRESS:

May it please your Excellency:

We, the Representatives of Her Majesty's loyal subjects, the people of Nova Scotia, participate in the sorrow so deeply felt in other portions of the Empire at the demise of the late Queen Victoria.

We acknowledge with feelings of reverence and gratitude we owe for the mercies by which the past year has been distinguished, for the tranquillity of the Province, for the exemption from the plague by which neighbouring countries have been scourged—and for the opportunity

abundant return with which the House of Commons has been rewarded.

The loyal sentiments of the people of Nova Scotia, your Excellency has justly appreciated; and we beg to assure your Excellency that they are prepared, now as ever, to uphold the authority of their Sovereign and the integrity of the Empire.

We regret to learn that the Fisheries have been less productive than in former years, but we are gratified that the diminished supply has been, to a certain extent, met by an increased demand in Foreign Markets, which has tended to avert, in some degree, the pressure which would otherwise have been felt from a deficiency in the quantity.

In resuming our labours, your Excellency may rely upon our zealous co-operation in all measures calculated to develop the resources, and promote the prosperity of the Province.

That the supplies granted have been equal to the ordinary demands upon the Treasury, to the construction of the Telegraph, and the payment to the arrears, temporary loan, authorised by the Act of last Session, has been largely reduced and will shortly be repaid.

In the passage of an Imperial Act, by which a low and uniform rate of postage and the entire control of their internal Posts are placed within reach of the people of Nova Scotia, we recognize a renewed pledge of justice and consideration as honourable to her Majesty's Government as it will be gratefully regarded by those we represent; and your Excellency may rely upon our cheerful concurrence in any Imperial legislation on this very important subject.

To the promised measure for the improvement and extension of Our Educational Institutions we shall give our best attention, conscious how deeply the advancement of the material interest of the people is dependant on the intellectual and moral culture.

The Public accounts for the past, and the Estimates for the current year, will, when submitted, meet our best consideration.

We thank your Excellency for reminding us of the claims of those whom Providence has blessed of reason, and will be ready to give this subject the consideration its importance demands.

To the report of the Commissioners appointed to revise and consolidate the Laws, we shall bestow our best attention; in the confident hope that our joint labours may produce a work creditable to the Legislature, and calculated to diffuse, in a simple and intelligible form, a knowledge of our Provincial Statutes.

Your Excellency may be assured that any measure by which the imperfect titles to land which abound in the Island of Cape Breton, can be rendered more secure and complete, will be regarded as a boon by the Inhabitants.

We thank your Excellency for the attention bestowed by your Government on the means by which a reciprocal Trade between the British Provinces on this Continent and the United States may be secured. Whenever it shall please your Excellency to lay before us such information as will enable us to judge of the aspects which the question has assumed, we shall enter upon its consideration, with an anxious desire to extend our Commerce, and multiply friendly relations with the growing communities by whom we are surrounded.

The House then adjourned till 12 o'clock on Monday.

MONDAY, JAN. 21.

Excise Claims, &c.

Mr. Freeman presented a petition from Mr. Freeman, Collector of Excise for Liverpool, praying reimbursement of expenses of a scale and beam for weighing sugar. Referred to committee on Trade.

The Maxwellton Lock up House Bill was read a second time.

Despatches.

The Hon. Provincial Secretary laid on the table despatches confirming the departments Civil List, Crown Land, and Railway Bills.

Consolidation of Laws.

The Hon. Attorney General presented the report of the commissioners of consolidating the Laws.

Mr. Fraser moved that the house do, at once resolve itself into a committee of the whole, in consideration of the revised laws.

Mr. Creelman and Mr. McKegney spoke in favour of the house going into the subject at once.

On the question being put, the house decided to go into committee of the whole on the subject.

After some explanations by the Hon. the Speaker, the Committee adjourned.

A despatch relating to a claim for head money, by the Imperial Government was read.

The despatch, with various others, were referred to special committees.

The Speaker handed in a letter he had received from Mr. Mott, Speaker of Assembly in Canada, soliciting copies of any Records of the Province which might be supplied to the loss of the volumes burned by a fire in the destruction of the Parliament Buildings.

Referred to a special committee of Mr. Mott, Hon. Mr. Young, and Fulton.

Hon. Provincial Secretary presented a memorial from Mrs. Dickie, a benevolent lady of

New Brunswick, in favour of the claims of the insane. Referred to a special committee.

Hon. G. R. Young presented a resolution in favour of reporting the decisions in the Supreme Court. Referred to a special committee.

The Attorney General presented a Bill for perfecting a uniform rate of postage, which was read a first time.

Also, a bill to confirm titles of parties in Cape Breton—referred to a special committee.

Mr. Mott presented a petition on the subject of Water Lots in Dartmouth. Referred to Messrs Mott, Fraser, and Dickie.

The House adjourned till 11 o'clock, Tuesday.

TUESDAY, JAN. 22.

Mr. Killam asked leave to introduce a bill entitled, An Act to incorporate the Queen's Wharf Company at Yarmouth. The bill was read a first time, and referred to a select committee.

Mr. Killam also presented a Petition from the Excise Officer at Yarmouth, asking for a moiety of a fine he had recovered for a breach of the Revenue Laws. The petition was received, and referred to a Select Committee on Trade.

Also a petition from—praying for remuneration for vaccinating a large number of persons; also a petition praying for remuneration for Medical attendance bestowed upon a number of poor Indians. Referred to Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. Freeman presented a petition from Wm. Mortimer of Queen's County, relative to supporting a transient pauper.—Referred to Committee on paupers.

Mr. Freeman also presented two petitions on the subject of Roads and Bridges.

Mr. Ernst presented a petition from Benjamin Zwicker, of Chester, complaining of an I-band having been improperly granted to another applicant in preference to him by the Surveyor General. The petition was laid on the table.

Consolidation of the Laws.

The house went into committee on the bill for consolidating the Laws.

Several clauses passed. They were explanatory of the terms that should be employed for the abbreviation of the Laws.

A long conversation occurred respecting the days on which parties should be relieved from legal liabilities. Sunday, Christmas Day, and Good Friday, were included in the Law.

The Speaker proposed that Public Holidays, proclaimed by the Government, should be included.

After conversation, the Hon. Speaker withdrew his motion, and the clause passed as originally framed.

The Bill passed.

Election Law.

The Bill for consolidating the Election Laws was taken up.

The clause giving a certain number of members to Counties and Townships passed.

The clause relating to franchise passed. Mr. Henry's Resolution relative to the franchise is to be the order of the day on Tuesday next.

A large number of clauses of the Bill passed.

On the clause relating to contested elections, the Speaker moved that no petition against the return of any member admitted be received, unless sent within fourteen days after the sitting member had taken his seat. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee adjourned and Reported.

Hon. G. R. Young asked leave to introduce a bill to take a census of the Province.

Mr. Fraser moved that the bill be referred to a select committee.

After some conversation a committee composed of Messrs. Young, Fraser, Dickie, Killam, and Mignowitz, was appointed, to whom the bill was referred.

Hon. Atty. General asked leave to introduce a bill regulating the fees in the Court of Marriage and Divorce. Leave was granted and the bill read a first time.

Hon. Provincial Secretary laid upon the table of the House several acts of the Imperial Parliament, which he had got printed for the accommodation of members.

The House adjourned till 12 o'clock on Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23.

The House having set for some time with closed doors, opened at one o'clock.

Hon. Provincial Secretary presented a petition from James Black, of Gay's River, in the County of Halifax, who states that he had \$87 in the Savings Bank, and that his trunk was stolen in which was his book by some person who obtained the money from the Bank, and he now submits his case to the House.

After some conversation, it was agreed that the petition should be laid before the Government.

The Hon. Attorney General moved that the House now resolve itself into a committee of the whole on the bill for the

Consolidation of the Laws.

The Hon. the Speaker moved that the clause be taken up the criminal law.

The first clause related to treason.

The Speaker said that this law of treason was the same as the law of England.

After which a conversation ensued as to the propriety of omitting that part of the act—Compassing the life of the Queen,—which ended in the clause passing.

A message from the Legislative Council announcing the appointment of the following gentlemen as a committee of public accounts, viz:—Hon. Messrs. Brown, Morton, and Stairs.

Messrs. Fraser, Freeman, and Ryder were nominated by the house.

Mr. Fraser reported a recommendation of the Legislative Council for the junction of the libraries of both houses, to form a general library. Received and laid on the table.

All the clauses of the consolidated criminal act were then passed.

The House adjourned till 12 o'clock on Thursday.

THURSDAY, JAN. 24.

Petitions.

Mr. Freeman presented a Petition from Dr. Van Buskirk, praying remuneration for medical attendance upon a transient pauper. Received and referred to the committee on transient paupers.

Mr. Mignowitz presented a Petition from the Commissioners of the Poor for the township of Chester. Received and referred to the Committee on transient paupers.

Consolidation of the Laws.

The House went into committee upon the Consolidation of the Laws Bill.

The chapter touching the administration of Criminal Justice was taken up and passed without material amendment. The chapters touching the Government House and Provincial Building and those relating to the Provincial Penitentiary, Bible Island, Merchant Seamen, all passed without amendment.

The committee adjourned.

Hon. Provincial Secretary by command of his Excellency laid on the table a memorial addressed to His Excellency by Dr. Desbriay, who had charge of the sick emigrants landed from the Omega, praying a reconsideration of his accounts for attendance, which had been greatly reduced last session. After considerable discussion, it was decided that the petition be received and lay upon the table for the further consideration of the House.

A Defective Will.

Mr. Fraser presented a petition from Mrs. Ann Dunn and Patrick Walsh, executors of Mr. James Dunn. The will of the testator had been drawn by the late Mr. Slayter. Mr. Dunn could not write, and in affixing his Signature, Mr. Slayter wrote *Michael* instead of *James*. This mistake, under the Imperial Act, would amount to nothing; but was not provided for by the Provincial Law. The Executors, were therefore, doubtful, as to the reality of any act of their's under the will, and desired the action of the House, on their evidence of the facts. A short act might remedy the difficulty. He would move for a committee.

This was opposed by the Hon. Mr. Johnston and others, and after some discussion, Mr. Harrington moved in amendment to Mr. Fraser's motion for a committee that the petition be laid on the table.

The amendment passed by a large majority.

English Agents.

Hon. J. W. Johnston introduced a Bill to make the Agents, in Nova Scotia, of English Insurance and other Companies liable for the engagements of such Companies in this Province. He explained that this would merely place English Agents in the same position as Agents of American Companies.

Supreme Court Decisions.

Hon. G. R. Young from the Committee appointed to take into consideration the expediency of Reporting the decisions of the Supreme Court, reported a series of Resolutions recommending that the sum of \$50 be granted to carry out that object.

The report was received and laid on the Table.

Census.

Hon. G. R. Young, as Chairman of the Committee to whom the Census Bill was referred, reported certain amendments. The report was received and the Bill referred to the Committee of the whole House. The hon gentleman also laid on the Table of the House the Tables and Statistics connected with the Bill for the information of the members.

Reciprocal Trade.

Hon. J. W. Johnston would like to ask at what time any explanation of the course taken on the subject of reciprocity with the United States, would be given by members of the Government, agreeably to a paragraph in the Governor's Speech.

Hon. Provincial Secretary.—A communication will be made to the house to-morrow on the subject.

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Mr. Fraser would also like to ask when the Government scheme for Education will be brought down.

Hon. Attorney General.—On Saturday.

The House adjourned till 12 o'clock on Friday.