

From our English Files.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, May 26.

The Earl of CARLISLE moved the second reading of the Episcopal and Capular Estate Bill.

The Bishop of LONDON said the property of the Church was held in trust for the Christian people of the country, and it would be a dereliction of duty to sacrifice the Church's rights.

After some observations from the Duke of Richmond and Lord HARROWBY in favour of the course proposed by Lord Carlisle, on the understanding that the House, by adopting it, pledged itself to nothing but a full and fair inquiry into the subject.

The Duke of BUCCLEUGH opposed the Bill as the commencement of an entire alienation of Church property.

Lord STANLEY said that it seemed to be universally admitted that some legislation on the subject was necessary, and if he thought that the adoption of the proposal for referring the Bill to a Select Committee would not be a party to a course which would negative the project yet submitted to Parliament for affecting a very important object.

By sending the Bill to a Select Committee the House only declared that it declined to accede to the principal of the measure until further inquiry had been made, and if in the course of that inquiry, the Bishop of London, or any one else, could bring forward any scheme by which Ecclesiastical property could be improved to the same extent without injury to existing rights, he (Lord Stanley) would prefer that scheme to the plan proposed by the present Bill.

Perhaps the second reading might be postponed, and a Committee appointed to investigate the subject, to whom might be referred, not the bill itself, but the reports of the Commissioners upon which the Bill was founded.

Lord LANSLOWNE said that the course proposed was to give the bill a second reading, without pledging any one to any of its provisions, beyond the general declaration contained in the preamble, that it was desirable the legislature should interfere, with a view of putting the management of the Church property upon a better footing, with a due consideration for the interests of those who were occupiers of that property.

Beyond this, he conceived that nothing relating to the principle of the Bill would be affirmed. He would therefore suggest that the Bill be read a second time *pro forma*, and then referred to a Select Committee.

The Bishop of OXFORD moved an amendment in accordance with the suggestion of Lord Stanley.

After some observations from the Earl of CARLISLE and Earl GREY, in support of the original motion, the House divided, and the number were,—

For the original motion 46
For the amendment 28
Majority 18

The bill was then read a second time, and referred to a Select Committee.

The Bishop of OXFORD asked the Government how far they had carried out, and were intending to carry out, their alterations in the fundamental principles of the administration of Pentonville prison?

Earl GREY replied, to the effect that the prison was now upon a somewhat different footing than when first established. It was then merely an experimental institution to try the effect of separate confinement, in order to ascertain whether that system ought to be generally adopted. The experiment had proved highly successful, and it was now the policy of the executive that every criminal should pass through a period, more or less lengthened, of separate confinement. The alterations which had been made did not affect the principle.

After a short debate the subject dropped, and the House adjourned.

Tuesday, May 27.

On the motion of the Earl of CARLISLE, the Select Committee on the Episcopal and Capular Estates Management Bill was named.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, May 29.

Mr. W. J. FOX moved a resolution that "it is expedient to promote the education of the people in England and Wales by the establishment of free schools for secular instruction, to be supported by local rates, and managed by Committees elected by the ratepayers."

He adverted, in the outset, to the backwardness of education among the humbler classes in this country, to the advantages the State would derive from their instruction, and to their claims upon the nation, but a debt of justice to the national character.

Under existing machinery for this purpose, voluntary contributions, with occasional aid from the Exchequer, inseparable from religious and other difficulties, tended to check co-operation; and he enumerated the objections to the present system, and obstacles to its success which he considered insuperable. There was no economy in this imperfect system; we paid national education. His plan proposed not only local taxation by an educational rate, but local administration, which would improve, by means of competition, the modes of instruction, while it would preclude the evils which some anticipated as connected with the introduction of a new system. Secular and religious instruction, he insisted, must be separated, else there could be no combination—no plan whatever of general education. In urging this separation, he proposed, religious teaching failed of its effect for want of secular instruction.

Sir G. GREY assured Mr. Fox that while he must withhold his assent from the resolution, in the terms in which it was expressed, it was not from any unwillingness to extend the means of sound education among the great body of the people. He was not prepared to dispute the facts which showed that there were great deficiencies in our educational system—deficiencies inherent in the system itself, and in the means available for making it effective and universal. There had never, been not only a great increase of late years in the means of education, but an improvement in the qualifications of teachers and in the character of the instruction. Much, however, remained to be done; and he was not averse to the application of local rates to this purpose, seeing no real distinction between

money raised by local rates and contributed from the general taxation of the country; great advantages might likewise result from local management, if means were provided for the inspection of the schools, to ascertain their efficiency. If the principle were recognized in the case of baths and wash-houses, there could be no objection to the application of local rates to the still more important object of education. But there was a serious question—what was to be the character of the education, and he had the same insuperable objection to the terms of this resolution as to the principle of Mr. Fox's Bill of last year, that in the schools established by local rates—which would supersede other schools—the education should be limited to secular instruction, and that religious instruction should altogether be excluded. Mr. Fox had argued that there was an aversion in the country to the union of religious with secular education, but he (Sir George) believed that the exclusion of all religion would be repugnant to the general opinion of the country, which regarded that as the best education which was founded upon principles deduced from the Word of God.

Mr. HUME concurred with Mr. Fox, and contended that the perfect success of the Massachusetts plan, which separated religious from secular teaching, ought to induce the Government to assent to the resolution and to carry out the principle adopted with respect to baths and wash-houses, giving to every parish power to assess property for the purposes of education.

Mr. A. B. HOPE opposed the motion, as fraught with danger to the liberty of religious belief and the liberty of religious action. It was absolutely impossible, by the immutable laws of nature, to give a purely secular education. Dogmatic religion might be excluded, but some religion must be taught, or the negation of a religion, which, to a certain extent, was religion.

Colonel THOMSON and Mr. TRELAWNY supported the motion, which

Mr. W. PATTEN opposed believing that if the masses were consulted, however anxious they were for education, their conviction would be that it ought to be grounded on religion.

Mr. M. GIBSON, though he agreed that rating for schools was desirable, maintained that the schools must not be denominational, or, instead of improving matters, the measure would make them worse. The majority in religion would have the power of teaching their own creed by means of the money of the minority, which would involve the country in religious discord. Then they must be secular, not necessarily irreligious, schools, which had thoroughly succeeded in Holland and Belgium.

Mr. WIGRAM said the plan of Mr. Fox had three objects in view,—the giving free education, the levying of local rates, and that the education should be secular. He doubted the advantage of making education altogether free; it was more valued and more effectual when purchased by a small contribution.—He admitted also the policy of local rating, believing that a contribution from the consolidated fund would diffuse the burden more equally. To the third object, that of secularizing education, he was, on principle, altogether opposed; and he believed such a plan would not give satisfaction to the people of this country.

Mr. ADDERLEY said the impossibility of carrying out religious education by a rational rate was no reason why secular education, which could be thus carried out, should not be provided for the people.—This kind of education was given in our prisons and workhouses, whereby a premium was offered to crime and poverty. He supported the motion.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL, feeling deeply the importance of this subject, lamented the errors of principle as well as fact committed by Mr. Fox and his supporters, the effect of whose proposition for levying a compulsory tax for secular education would be to shut up every religious school supported by voluntary contributions. He exposed what he considered to be the fallacies upon which the whole motion rested, a motion he said, unphilosophical as it was repugnant to religious principle, and which propounded a scheme that would leave the mind in an impotent state.

Mr. CONDON said the existing plan, which had been tried for fifteen years, was brought to a dead-lock, and Sir G. Grey was now about to fall back upon a local scheme at Manchester, which had, however, been equally a failure. The vote of £125,000 was not granted for religious teaching, for which there was ample provision in this country; why then were the supporters of the motion charged with wanting to exclude religion? He wanted nothing of the kind, but he wanted to adopt the plan of Massachusetts, and he challenged comparison of the religious character of that State, tried by any test, with that of England.—The mass of the people of that State were as superior to those of Kent as the people of Naples. He believed that money could not be better employed than in giving the people a good secular education, which in rural parishes would diminish poverty and crime.

Sir R. INGLIS observed that Mr. Cobden did not wish to exclude the Bible from the schools; but Mr. Fox's plan would jealously exclude it. Knowledge by itself was an unmixed evil; unless accompanied by something better, he could not regard the extension of mere secular education as any blessing to individuals or to the nation; whereas the motion proposed that the nation should repudiate religion as an element of education.

Mr. S. HERBERT said there was no public question upon which he thought the country had come to so unanimous an agreement as that education should be not only secular, but religious. He believed that no system of education would be successful unless it was founded upon the development of religious opinions. He thought a great deal of the difficulty upon this head might be got rid of, and he hoped that the Government would be able to devise some plan for the extension of education upon this principle. Secular instruction would virtually deprive many children of the only chance of acquiring the elements of Christianity.

Mr. HEYWORTH opposed the motion, which after a reply from Mr. Fox, was negatived on a division by 139 against 41.

Friday, May 30

Mr. REYNOLDS asked if the Government intended to bring in a Bill to do away with Ministers' money in Ireland during the present Session, agreeably to an announcement made to that effect some time ago?

Lord J. RUSSELL said so much of the public time had been taken up with the discussion of the Ecclesiastical Titles Assumption Bill that it would be out of his power to bring in such a measure during the present Session. (Laughter.)

The order of the day having been read for going into Committee on the Ecclesiastical Titles Assumption Bill, the House resolved itself into Committee, Mr. Bernal in the chair.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE moved that clause 1 be postponed until the House is in possession of a copy of the brief, rescript, or letters Apostolical upon which the enactment in the said clause is founded.

This, and several other amendments were rejected, and the proceedings were adjourned.

PAPAL AGGRESSION BILL.

Monday, June 2.

The House having again gone into Committee on this Bill, several amendments were proposed and rejected, but no progress was made. We give a few extracts from some of the speeches:—

Mr. A. HOPE said he had with pleasure supported the minority which had so constantly fought against the present Bill, and though no contingency could present itself to his mind in which he would vote with the majority, yet in the present case he could not vote for the amendment. As a citizen of the kingdom, he was for religious liberty with respect to all denominations, and he could not but think that the ground which the hon. and learned member for Athlone had now taken was too circumscribed and antagonistic to the principle of religious liberty. To say that the religion of the Roman Catholics in Ireland ought to be respected because they were 6,000,000, was as much as to say that the religion of the 600,000 persons ought not to be considered so dear. He was glad to a certain extent to see the clause in the Bill respecting the Scotch Bishops, though he had witnessed with sorrow the course taken by the Scotch Episcopalian Clergy, who cared not for the condemnation of the Roman Catholics, provided they were themselves exempt from adverse legislation. Both parties had been contending separately each for its own particular interest, instead of fighting together in the great and broad cause of religious liberty,—that any set of men who believed in God in heaven were bound to worship Him according to their own conscience, and not according to the dictates of the State. It was on this ground that he had voted for religion over Government.

[Mr. ANSTEY (Romanist) having made a speech], The Earl of ARUNDEL and SURREY.—I wish to ask the hon. and learned member does he address the House as a Catholic or not. [The noble Lord resumed his seat amid cries of "Oh, oh?"]

Mr. C. ANSTEY, upon rising to answer the question, was stopped by a loud and general cry of "No, no!" He said,—If the noble and learned lord was in order in putting the question, I am in order in answering it. I should be sorry to retaliate upon the noble lord, or to commit the unpardonable insolence of putting such a question to any gentleman as the noble Lord has put to me. (Hear, hear.) But, as the noble lord expects no answer, I beg to tell him that I am to the full as good a Catholic as he. (Cheers.)

The Earl of ARUNDEL and SURREY said that was all that he wanted. He thought it a fair question to put when an hon. member got up among Catholic members and expressed sentiments contrary to Catholic feelings. If the hon. and learned member were a Catholic, and he did not now mean to doubt it, he must know how a Catholic could change his mind.

Mr. REYNOLDS said that the hon. and learned member for Youghal (Mr. Anstey) had borne false witness against his creed, and he would not allow that hon. gentleman, or any other hon. member, to do so with perfect impunity. The hon. and learned member had on this, and many other occasions, made use of the lines of a bard with whose name Ireland was honourably connected—he alluded to Moore:—

"Unprized are her sons till they learn to betray,
Undistinguished they live if they shame not their sires;
And the torch that should light them through dignity's way
Must be caught from the flame where their country expires."

Mr. G. H. MOORE wished to call the attention of the hon. member for Youghal to an extract from some lectures written by the hon. member (Mr. Anstey), and dedicated to "C. Meyler, by Divine Providence Bishop of Pella, and Vicar-Apostolic of the Western District of England," in which he spoke of an attempt "to revive the stupid clamour of other days against sincere,—or, as they term it, ultra montane Catholicism." (Cheers and laughter.) Now, as far as he (Mr. Moore) could understand the hon. member for Youghal's speech it consisted of a very gross and virulent attack on what he conceived it to be the "ultramontane" spirit of the English and Irish Catholics, and of the party supposed to preside over the Councils of the Church of Rome.—(Hear, hear.)

Mr. ANSTEY said that the hon. member had drawn attention to a book which he had had the pecuniary misfortune to publish some years ago, but, so far from its being contradictory to what he now said, it by implication laid down the very ground on which he had opposed the attempt to set up in this country a little Popedom. ("Oh, oh!") He never, as the hon. member absurdly supposed, attacked the Papal rescript on the ground of its being an ultramontane document, because he [Mr. Anstey] was of ultramontane opinions, and, so far from regarding this as ultramontane movement, he looked on it as the vilest and most contemptible piece of Gallicism the world ever saw.—[Cheers and groans.] The Church of Rome was a Papal, not an Episcopal Church. All the mischiefs of Ecclesiastical interference proceeded, not from the Pope but his councillors, who had endeavoured to set up a bastard Episcopacy. ("Oh, oh?" "Hear.") If the rescript were not annulled there would be no protection for the Catholic laity, and they would be at the mercy of Cardinal Wiseman and those Bishops from whose tyranny they had suffered so grievously before. ("Hear," and cries of "Divide.")

Tuesday, 3rd.

LORD TORRINGTON AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON.—Mr. H. Baillie then called the attention of the House to the occurrences which took place at Ceylon, under the government of Lord Torrington, and condemned the conduct of the select committee, which had done all in its power to screen Earl Grey, and while declining to make any report, had privately arranged with the noble Earl that Lord Torrington should be recalled. He then directed his attention to the merits of the case, and strongly insisted that there was no necessity for resorting to martial law, and that after it had been established it was conducted in a manner as illegal and unjust as it was cruel and merciless.—Mr. Sergeant Murphy, as *amicus curiæ*, defended the conduct of Lord Torrington, and contended that martial law was not martial law under the Mutiny Act, as supposed by Mr. Baillie, but the mere will of the commander of the forces, and that in the case before the House there was sufficient evidence of an extensive insurrection to warrant very stringent measures for its suppression. As a proof that there had been an insurrection, and that the courts-martial were justified in the convictions they had arrived at, he referred to the fact that no less than seventeen persons were convicted and sentenced to death by the Chief Justice, although on his recommendation to the governor their lives had been spared. He denied the cruelties alleged against Lord Torrington, and, giving a different version of the transactions at Ceylon, and that a verdict adverse to that

nobleman would tend to damp the energies of public servants who might have to administer important duties in times of difficulty and danger.—Mr. K. Seymour should certainly give his cordial support to the resolutions of Mr. H. Baillie.—Earl Grosvenor defended Lord Torrington, contending that the course he had pursued was justified by the necessity of the case.—Mr. Roebuck said that Ceylon was rather an outlying possession of this country than a colony. It was conquered by the sword, and by the sword must be maintained, and the way in which he should test good government in such a case would not be by the application of constitutional rules, but rather by the result, and the result in this case proved that security had been established. Good government in Ceylon would not be constitutional government, which would not be applicable to a country which could only be properly ruled by an enlightened despotism. Lord Torrington had acted with firmness and energy in suppressing a wide-spread conspiracy, and now his success was made the groundwork of the charge against him; whereas, had he been vacillating, the result might have been a lengthened warfare, with an immense sacrifice of human life. He felt it necessary to come forward as a representative to defend Lord Torrington when he saw that the Government, from motives of terror at the strength of the opposition, had abandoned him to his fate. In reference to the execution of the priest in the sacerdotal robes, the hon. and learned gentleman said it could not be helped, for if he had been deprived of his yellow robe he would only have had nature's garment beneath—he would have been literally naked. He (Mr. Roebuck) would, however, go further, and at once avow, that if he caught a priest in rebellion, and if he should be convicted of high treason, he would execute him as a priest, and in his sacerdotal robes. Under all circumstances he thought the execution of eighteen persons a most merciful proceeding; and he also insisted that the Chief Justice was extremely indiscreet in allowing it to become known that he had recommended the governor to extend mercy to the guilty parties, as a sufficient number of examples had been made.—Mr. Hume said that if the House was to be governed by the evidence before it, the result would be very different from that which his hon. and learned friend had arrived at.—Sir J. W. Hogg moved the adjournment of the debate.—Mr. Hawes asked for the indulgence of the House while replying to the charge of having falsified documents.—Mr. H. Baillie said he had only charged the Colonial Department with having done so.—Mr. Hawes said that the documents in question had never passed through the Colonial Office at all. He held the original document in his hand, and it would be seen from that document that the falsification, as he called it, was, in fact, an error of the printer.—In reply to a question from Mr. Disraeli, Lord John Russell said that the debate would be resumed on Thursday.—Sir G. Grey made some observations so warm in their nature that Mr. Baillie called him to order, and Sir G. Grey, in accordance with an intimation from the Speaker, explained.—After an animated discussion, Lord Palmerston and Mr. Herries succeeded in quieting the troubled waters, and the adjournment of the debate was agreed to.

The adjourned debate of Mr. Baillie's motion was resumed on Thursday, and notwithstanding the opposition of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli, the Government, on a division, were, to the surprise of every one, in a majority of eighty.

The Pope has confirmed the Canons of the Synod of Thurles, thus condemning the "godless Colleges."

As time goes on, every one in France is becoming more anxious for the revision of the Constitution. The people see that upon this depends the country; and, as they are not at all anxious to have another revolution, the schemes of all political factions are ruthlessly brushed aside by the powerful voice of the multitude. We have no doubt that the Constitution will be revised, and that Louis Napoleon will be re-elected President of France for four years more at least.

Everything is said to be arranged satisfactorily between Austria and the Porte respecting the detention of the Hungarian refugees.

The people of Rome are in a very excited state, and the French soldiers are constantly attacked. The French army of occupation is to be increased.

Colonial.

MELANCHOLY AND FATAL ACCIDENT.—

On the morning of the 4th instant, a young man named William Tullough met with a fatal accident when out shooting, near his own residence, in the Township of Sunnisdale, within a few miles of Barrie. It is supposed that the sufferer was in the act of loading, and that by some chance the piece was discharged, the contents lodging in his abdomen; of this, however, there is no certainty, as the deceased was unable to give any explanation further than to utter the word "accident." Death ensued in about an hour after the sad occurrence. A verdict of "accidental death" was returned. Mr. Tullough was on the point of marriage, waiting only the arrival, from Scotland, of a young woman to whom he was engaged. She has since arrived, but too late even to view the lifeless form of her betrothed.—*Barrie Magnet*.

STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION.—

We are sorry to have to state, that the steamer *Forester*, on Rice Lake, burst her boiler on Tuesday last. She left Peterboro' in the morning for Gore's Landing, and just as she passed the Bridge over the Otonabee River, and while taking on board a passenger, the boiler burst, blowing the bow and forward deck, with all about it, some hundred feet into the river. One of the firemen being at the time below, was driven out with the rush of steam, and not seen after. There was sad confusion. Two horses, fastened to the capstan on deck, were blown many yards into the river—some of them swam through a dense swamp very much scorched and otherwise injured. The accident is said to have happened from not blowing off steam when the boat stopped. It is said of the Captain that he knew nothing about boating and steam, and the Engineer is said to be a young man, from the old country last year, who says he was employed in the line at home.—*Colonist*.

The young man named Mackie who

was injured at Mr. Mickle's saw mill, Puslich, last week, died at eight o'clock on Tuesday evening last. Mortification ensued from the injuries he had received; and on Tuesday his leg was amputated by Drs. Orton and Clarke, as the last chance of life, but without avail. The operation was executed whilst the patient was under the influence of chloroform; and gave him not the slightest pain. When restored to consciousness, he expressed surprise that the operation had been so speedily and easily effected.—*Guelph Advertiser*.