(From the Toronto Patriot.)

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 8th July.

The commission appointing Mr. Lemoine, Assistant Clerk, a Master in Chancery, was laid on the table.

THIRD READING.

The Public Works Bill was read a third time and passed.

PATENT COLLEGE.

Hon. Mr. De Blaquiere rose for the purpose of moving his address to the Governor General, on the subject of the Charter prayed for by the Bishop of Toronto for a Church of England University. He was informed that there was a desire to amend the resolutions of which he had given notice, and he should assure, as he desire was to allay irritation, rather than to increase it. Attempts had been made to impugn the motives which induced him to introduce this question, but unjustly by the acrimonious nature of the abuse which was heaped on him, he must say that the more he considered the question, the more confirmed was he of the correctness of his views, and at the necessity for pressing his motion on the house. He trusted a better feeling would be entertained henceforward to the University over which he had the honour to preside, and which he was convinced more and more day by day, was fully capable of satisfying the wants of all moderate persons. But it was made a charge against him that he had attempted to prove too much, and that his own admission, that a large proportion of the students at that University were members of the Church of England, and would leave that University if Trinity College were established, was sufficient to prove that his assertion that the University was supported by public opinion, must fall to the ground. There was a kind of specious sophistry in that mode of reasoning, but there was but little common sense. He could not conceal the insight tion he felt at the manner in which a portion of the press of the country alluded in the fancied destruction of the University.—There was certainly nothing Christian-like in such glorification. It was charged by that Press that the institution over which he presided was a Godless institution, and one that no Christian would wish to be connected with. Now, they must admit that a larger proportion of the persons connected with the University, were members of the Church of England, and that the members of the students had increased rather than otherwise, since it was changed from King's College to the University of Toronto. He would go further and defy any person to point out any period since it was first established, when the persons connected with it could be more highly lauded than at present for their high religious and moral character. They, contending for Academic honours, were devoted to religious, and conceived religious instruction to be a necessary part of education, and they received religious instruction, although there was no Professorship of Divinity in the institution. There lay the sum and substance of the whole offence, and of the consequent hostility to the University—that there was no divinity professorship established. Suppose that a charter was granted to the applicants for another College—it would be one of the greatest misfortunes that could befall such a community as we live in, by perpetuating the separation of the different sects. Much of the hostility to his Church had proceeded from that very cause—a feeling of exclusiveness. But he doubted the capability of the Church of England to establish a University in Canada, for its exclusive benefit. One thing was certain, that it would be impossible to secure a high Academic education in any country, without great and abundant means. Now, the salaries of the Professors already acting in the University amount to £6800, per annum; in addition, it is proposed to appoint six other professors, whose salaries will amount to upwards of £2810. It might be objected that the salaries were too large, but on the contrary he asserted that no greater mistake could be made than to give niggardly pay to the officers of the Institution. Where was the rival institution that could compete with that? The Lord Bishop stated in his letter to the Colonial Secretary that between £30,000 and £30,000 would be expended on the buildings. That sum had been contributed. Hopes were entertained that a Queen's letter to the Churches would bring in £20,000, but the application had been peremptorily refused, and according to his information the private contributions in England only amounted to £400. He mentioned these facts from a desire to let his gentlemen know the means which were at disposal for breaking down the noble institution over which he presided. The allusion in his Lordship's letter to the efforts made by members of the Church of England to relieve destitute emigrants in 1847, he regarded as a slander upon all the other sects in the Province, who had been equally zealous, although their assistance were pass-d over in silence. He did not mean to speak disparagingly of Queen's and Victoria Colleges, but he would ask if they had been so successful as to induce Government to follow out the same course that was pursued with regard to them. He would not deny that Queen's College was of a high order, as a Grammar School, but it could never be a University, for it had not the means. The argument was that these separate institutions ought to be established for the purpose of religious teaching, but how gentlemen would it do well to pause and reflect deeply before they believed that religious teaching was excluded from the University of Toronto, because there were no Professorships of Divinity established in it. He remembered well the most unjustifiable and premature Bill that was introduced by a member of the Government some years since to affiliate to the University all the religious sects of Canada! The result of such an attempt would most undoubtedly have been the introduction of infidelity. He begged to refer hon gentlemen to the system of Normal School education. The measure had fairly seconded the efforts of the Government, and Canada stands out as a noble attribute, in a prominent position among the nations of the earth, both in the matter of education. The Rev. Mr. Ryerson, in his address to the Governor on laying the foundation stone of the Normal School, stated the system was founded on the principles of Christianity. His Excellency, in his eloquent reply, alluded to that part of Mr. Ryerson's address as the finest point in which it was based. He (Mr. De Blaquiere) saw on the platform, around His Excellency, the Ministers of all the different sects of Christians amongst us. Could not the same gentlemen meet on the same ground for the purpose of carrying out a higher branch of secular education? Each attending to the religious instruction of the youth of his own Church in the Normal School? Could not the funds be applied to the University? The Prize which attached Mr. Lord never placed in its proper light before the public, the statute of the University Commissioners, of 18th May, 1851, which had reference to this very subject. He was gratified to see the Right Rev. Dr. De Charbonnel approved of the principles on which that statute was framed, and that that illustrious individual was desirous of affording to the youth of his communion the advantages of instruction at the University. He (Mr. De Blaquiere) objected to persons to the religious instruction of the youth of his communion at the University; although they might do no more, they drive it out. Would the admission of the Church of Rome be followed by less liberal in their views than Dr. Charbonnel? Or would Bishop Strachan permit Mr. Grassett to give religious instruction to the youth in the Normal School and prevent him from trying it to the youth in attendance on the University, who required a higher kind of teaching? He would be the last person to advocate any thing which required of a sacrifice of principles, but he did say that the greatest injury would be done to the members of his Church, if they were prevented from forming a connection with the national University for the want of that religious instruction which the Bishop had it in his power to grant. He had been taunted by the Reverend of Guelph, through the public press, with assuming that the Clergy and Laity of the Church of England viewed that University favourably. If the subject were brought before them in a full and free Synod or Convocation, he had no doubt as to the result; but, until that Convocation was held, it was most unfair to charge him with misstating the views of the members of his Church. He would ask the Honorable Mr. Goudhue what were the views of the people of Western Canada with regard to the University? Did they regard it as a nuisance, or as an institution that was not adapted to the wants and wishes of the people of the Church of England? He would go further and say, that he had been long in communication with the members of his Church in all parts of Canada, and that they generally approved of the system of University education. He would, no doubt, be met by the assertion that it was no use to go into the question, when the Bishop was merely asking for a Ch rter to authorize the holding o property, he stated distinctly that was not his Lordship's intention. When he first heard of the application for a Charter, he was anxious that it should be published, in order that the Clergy and Laity of the Church of England might have an opportunity of expressing their opinion, that these are not the times when all power can be centralized in the hands of one man; and if Hon. Gentlemen would examine the second charter, he would like them to say what there was to prevent the Bishop or his successors from arrogating to themselves the whole power? It was changed from the original charter asked for, but in name, and in view of that fact alone he went to say that it should not be granted.—In conclusion, he had but one word to say in regard to the much vaunted King's College. He had passed through many years of a long life, and he would distinctly state, that in all the public institutions that came under his knowledge, he never met one in which there was so much to find fault with, and so little to praise. It was, in its origin and progress, an insult and injury to the community. One of the legacies left to the institution over which he now presides, was a mass of between 1500 and 1600 unanswered letters, all relating to the property of that institution. From that fact alone, he would say that the Attorney General West who rooted it up for the purpose of substituting one in its stead better adapted to the wants of the community, was entitled to their thanks.

He concluded by moving the resolutions, which as subsequently amended, will be found at the conclusion of the report.

Hon Mr Houlton rose for the purpose of moving an amendment which, he believed, would meet the views of a majority of the members of his Church. Standing in the Council as a member of the Church of England, he felt that he came forward under many disadvantages, for he was aware that there was a strong feeling of hostility entertained towards her, and a predisposition to refuse what was accorded as a boon to other sects. The hon. mover took the ground that the Church of England University could not be sustained by the members of the Church, and that they did not desire it; but he would find that he was mistaken on both points. There was an unanimity would provide funds and they were becoming more and more desirous day after day, that their youth should be educated solely in a University under their own control. 125 000 persons had signed the petition to disallow the present character of Toronto University.

Hon. Mr. DeBlaquiere said that only 15,000 signatures were attached to that petition.

Hon. Mr. Houlton took the authority of printed documents for this assertion. As to the petitions for the new charter, it was not considered necessary to obtain many signatures, but no one could say that thirty-two applicants were not gentlemen whose opinions were entitled to great respect. If the Church University were not well supported, then it could be no rival to the University of Toronto; and if the students now attending that University were withdrawn from doing so through fears of sectarianism, it was just what they desired to obtain a better, was it just that they should be prevented from doing so through fears of what had never been really contemplated, or from any fear of interference of the part of members of the Church of England, but with the concurrence, to other religious communities in the country.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson regretted to find that his own Church in the Province was in a state of war with the country. He drew a wide distinction between Religion and the Church, and he regretted to find that the day had arrived when the people of Canada were called upon to fight the battles of the Church. The application to the Legislature for a Charter for a College in connection with the Church of England was a novelty, and he could not but look upon it with regret. He was entirely opposed to the principle of Endowment of Colleges by the State, and he could not support this measure for the endowment of a Theological Professorship in that Institution.

Hon. Mr. Morris said the hon. gentleman was in error.

Hon. Mr. Boulton said there could be no doubt that King's College had contributed funds for the purpose, but the bill was, he believed, afterwards disallowed in England. It was now said that these Colleges were willing to surrender their charters, and fall into the University of Toronto. That was used as an argument against the charter asked for by the Bishop, but he could state most distinctly and decidedly that one, at least, of these Colleges did not intend to surrender its charter, and if the argument were good for anything it would apply the other way. In conclusion, he urged that he desired no other privileges for his church, than he was ready to grant willingly to others, and he begged the House not to pass a series of resolutions that would prove from henceforward, that the people of his church were not entitled to the same consideration as other classes of Her Majesty's subjects, and that this appeal made by any one of them for help to that church, was sufficient to deserve the rejection of whatever he asked. He then moved the following amendment:

"We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council of Canada, in Provincial Parliament Assembled, humbly beg leave to represent to your Majesty, that the members of the Church of England in the Diocese of Toronto have taken measures for erecting a College in connection with their Church, which is intended to be supported wholly by voluntary contributions, and in which they desire that their youth may be educated in accordance with the doctrines of their religion. They have petitioned the Legislature during the present Session for an Act of Incorporation, in order that they may more conveniently manage the affairs of the Institution; and it has been represented to us, that they have applied for a Charter from Her Majesty's Royal Charter, such as has been granted to other Colleges in connection in Arts and Sciences, with powers to confer degrees in Arts and Sciences. We pray that your Majesty may be graciously pleased to favour this application, as it appears necessary to the quiet and contentment of a large body of your Majesty's faithful subjects, and will tend greatly to them what has been fondly contended, we have any objection or complaint