

oath of the Princess.—The subject of this statement is said to be the lady of an officer of his Majesty's Navy, now or very recently residing on the continent. What could have induced the Princess of Wales to keep secret her maternity of the child, supposing that Edwardina Kent was her daughter, not only at the period of her birth, but through the momentous career with which her life terminated, we are at a loss to conceive. But assuming the correctness of the statement, it would throw some light on the extreme fondness manifested by George the Third for that child; and might explain the allusion made by that monarch in his letter to the Princess of Wales, bearing date "Windsor Castle, 13th November, 1802," introduced by Lord Brougham on the occasion of Queen Caroline's trial. It is a matter of record that George the Third gave the lady in question permission to wear the royal arms, and to assume, by courtesy, the title of Lady Edwardina Kent.—*Shipping Gazette*.

REAL UNION BETWEEN CHURCHMEN AND DISSIDENTS.—In a large village in one of the midland counties of England, where the only places of worship are the parish church and a (Baptist) meeting-house, there was at each an evening service with a sermon every week, at the former on Wednesday, and the latter on Thursday. Each minister, and a considerable portion of each congregation, frequently joined in the worship of the other; and the good vicar, though he could not admit his Dissenting brother to his pulpit, yet often prayed for him publicly as his fellow-labourer, and in his sermons repeatedly uttered such sayings as the following:—"We, the ministers of this parish, desire above all things your salvation." He used also to send his nonconformist brother a proportion of the smaller tithes paid in kind, and to introduce him to his clerical visitors as his "colleague."—A united monthly prayer-meeting was held in the parochial school-room, in which both ministers presided together; and because one of the Dissenters object to the use of the vicar's hymn-book, he instantly, in the spirit of Paul, bought Watts and Rippon, and said to his colleague, "Now we will use no other; the bigot shan't make a quarrel." There was also a society for the relief of the sick poor, at the monthly meetings of which the vicar and other minister were joint secretaries. And there is a united Missionary Auxiliary, dividing its funds between the Church and Baptist Missionary Societies.—"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell in unity."—*The Patriot*.

THE CURRENCY.—We are firmly persuaded that the true policy to be pursued by the Bank of England, at this moment, is to raise the rate of interest to 5½ or 6 per cent, and if that will not do to raise it still higher. We know too that this is the opinion of some of the best informed merchants and bankers of the city. We hold it to be indisputable that the currency is at this moment in excess. The exchange is becoming more and more depressed; and instead of being augmented, the probability is unless some countervailing measures be adopted, that the deficient stock of bullion now in the Bank will be still more reduced, or it may be wholly exhausted. Under these circumstances the necessity for a further and very considerable contraction of the currency is obvious; and the longer that measures are delayed for its accomplishment, the more difficult will the process become. It is to no purpose for the Bank to sell securities on the one hand, if, on the other, she adds proportionally to her discounts: and this she will be compelled to do unless she either raise the rate of interest or resolve on the proscription of large classes of bills. The further contraction of the currency will speedily be found to be a measure not of choice, but of imperative necessity. The

sooner, therefore, that it is set about, it may be the more gradually effected, and with the least inconvenience to all parties.—*Courier of Friday*.

CURIOUS TITLE.—A book was printed during the time of Cromwell with the following title:—"Eggs of Charity, layed by the Chickens of the Covenant, and boiled with the Water of Devine Love. Take ye and Eat."

COLONIAL.

From the Edinburgh Scotsman.

CANADA.

An important decision has just been come to by the Legislature of Upper Canada, which deserves notice for its bearing on questions now agitated in this country. After a debate of four days in the House of Assembly, it was resolved that the Clergy Reserves should not be applied to the support of schools, but be distributed among the four prevalent sects, the Episcopalians, Catholics, Presbyterians, and Wesleyan Methodists, for religious purposes. What are called the "Clergy Reserves," consist of about one-seventh part of all the lands in the State, which were set apart as a fund for the religious instruction of the people.—Their value is small at present, but will be considerable in the course of time. According to the old vicious system of exalting one sect over the heads of the others, these lands were considered as the exclusive property of the Episcopalians. The preachers of that communion assumed the title of "the Clergy of Upper Canada,"—and collectively they formed "the Church" of the Province; the other preachers who ministered to a majority of the people, having no recognised existence. This soon began to be regarded as a grievance, which was felt more and more as the voluntaries, by their superior zeal, drew over a larger and larger proportion of the people to their standard.—"The Church" became in fact the master evil of Upper Canada. Two remedial measures offered themselves—that of dividing the funds equally among all the more numerous sects—or the American plan of devoting it to education, and leaving religion to the support of the Voluntary principle. The former has been preferred, unwisely in our opinion, but still it is an improvement on the old partial system. Thus the *Endowment in Upper Canada is to be parted among the four leading sects*. To this plan our government will be forced to give its assent, whoever the Minister; and all the combined clamours of Presbytery and Prelacy will not prevail to prevent it. Here will be the recognition of a great principle, (which has in fact been acted upon already in Australia,) and we may rest assured that its application will not ultimately be confined to the Colonies. The debate in the Canadian Legislature took place on the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th December. "Thus, (says the *Toronto Advocate*,) after about nineteen years of discussion, in which the angriest feelings have from time to time been elicited, and the most bitter religious dissensions provoked, has this troublesome question been virtually disposed of. But whether it has been disposed of as to give satisfaction to the country, and promote the ends of true religion, is by no means certain." That it will not produce entire contentment seems evident. It does not comprehend the Baptists, the most rapidly increasing sect in North America, nor the Independents, who also find a congenial soil in the New World, and no good reason can be given for refusing them a share. It is probable, too, that jealousies will arise out of the mode of dividing the funds among those who are to receive them.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The *Graham's Town Journal*, of the 10th November, tells us that Captain Sutton and Lieut. Moultrie, 75th regiment, have returned within the last few days from a shooting excursion into the interior to the northward. They have been absent about ten months and were enabled to proceed to a considerable distance. They speak in high terms of the hospitality received by them from the chief Masselikatse, and of his anxious desire to remain on friendly terms with the colony. Rumour states that Dingaan has attacked Masselikatse with so much success as to capture near 50,000 head of cattle, and from an unusual stir observed by Captain Sutton when he was quitting the country, and particularly in driving off their cattle, there is reason to believe that the report is well founded. The river we adverted to some time ago, on the banks of which the trader Schoon fell in with a party of farmers under the direction of Louis Trechard, was visited by Capt. S. and Lieut. M., who describe it as by far the finest river they have met with in South Africa; they also confirm the statements made as to the beauty and fertility of the country in general in that neighbourhood.

FURTHER DISCOVERY OF THE TEA FORESTS IN ASSAM.—We learn that Mr Bruce of Sudiya has lately made another most successful excursion into the Singpho country to the south of Sudiya, in search of tea forests. He has discovered no less than ten new localities in which the plant is growing in abundance and vigour. It turns out that the Singphos within our territories are not only aware of the existence of tea upon their lands, but cultivated the plant systematically, and are extremely fond of the beverage they prepare from the leaf. All the ten localities now discovered are in one vicinity, which lies nearly south, with a slight inclination towards the east, from Sudiya, at the village of Ningrew. All the new localities of the tea plants are scattered in almost every direction around this village, at various distances, from half a day's to a whole day's journey. Immediately to the west of Ningrew is a low range of hills, from 100 to 150 feet high, on the tops of which an inferior tea is said to grow wild; but, because of its inferiority, the Singphos pay no attention to it. The plants of this sort do not grow above ten or twelve feet high; the largest leaves are not more than an inch and a half in length, and they are much more indented than those of the other sorts. Another kind of tea also grows about in the jungles in the neighbourhood, and on the Naga hills, about a day's journey from Ningrew, to the south of the Booree Dihing, which is equally disregarded by the Singphos, and is known as the bitter tea. Thus, it appears, we have three varieties of the tea plant. That which the Singphos make use of is not at all bitter, and differs widely from the sort produced in the Hooloom country, in the Burman territories. Indeed from a trial of some of this tea, prepared in a particular manner, Mr Bruce is firmly persuaded that it will prove to be *Green*. To raise plants of this tea, the Singphos sometimes sow its seed. Mr Bruce has made another discovery, which may prove to be of scarcely less importance than the existence of the tea plant. Directly west of Ningrew, perhaps five-and-twenty miles distant, a small river called the Powcepnee, descends from a low range of hills before-mentioned, and after a short course, not exceeding twelve miles, joins the Booree Dihing on its north bank. In its bed the people wash for gold; and so rich are its sands, that it was confessed to Mr Bruce, that each man got a rupee's weight of gold every day.—*Asiatic Journal for February*.—[The locality where the tea is found is near the eastern angle of the Burampooter, about 500 miles N. East from Calcutta.]