

quaintance with her work, and asked why they were not there present assisting in the work of this Society. Some plan ought to be adopted to draw them in, and engage them in the Church's service. He instanced his own ignorance of Church affairs until he had been elected on the Committee of this Society at the instigation of the Rector of St. George's, and the enlightenment he had since received, and the admiration he felt as he became better acquainted with the noble work in which she was engaged of evangelising the world. The young men should be placed upon their committees, and otherwise made to feel that they were an important feature in her organization,—it would be of service to them individually to be engaged in her work, and they would become more attached to her cause when they knew its great importance. He concluded his remarks by comparing the missionary exertions of the Church of England with those of other religious bodies, exhibiting the contrast in her favour, while he gave credit to them (the Wesleyans especially) for their labours in the missionary field; and in an eloquent peroration showed his estimation of the high value of the ministerial office, which to his mind, was in no way inferior in degree now, when engaged in publishing the glad tidings of salvation, to the occupation of the angels who first proclaimed "Peace on earth and good will towards men" to the shepherds on the fields of Bethlehem.

(To be concluded next week.)

LEGISLATIVE.

We are somewhat puzzled, looking at the debate or conversation on the Militia law, that took place in Committee on the 15th ult., as to the seriousness of the parties who engaged in it. Nothing would seem more unlikely than that Nova Scotia would be subjected to a Russian or Filibustering invasion, and yet we have the Hon. Joseph Howe, actually expressing his fears of such an event, and advocating the importation of a quantity of Minie Rifles, as a very suitable preparation to resist the invader. "It was" said he, "by no means improbable that we should be attacked—money was all powerful, and the Emperor of Russia could purchase the fleet of the United States—bombard our sea-port towns, and perhaps overrun the country." Some members who have never been supposed to be able to see far beyond the length of their nose, ridiculed such apprehensions; but others of the more sagacious, participated in them. It can be no harm, in view of the open preparations of the Emperor of Russia for the Spring campaign, without at all considering what his secret preparations may be, to be ready for any emergency that may happen. With such an active and energetic enemy, no part of the British dominions can be considered secure from an attack—and what a beautiful state of consternation we should be in with our garrison of one regiment of infantry, on awaking up some fine morning, to perceive two or three American steamers with Russian colors, at the back of George's Island, and a regiment or two of Russian infantry and artillery on their march from Point Pleasant to take possession of the City. One of the reports relative to the mission of Mr. Howe to Washington, is that he has been sent to ascertain the truth of some Russian Filibustering rumours, having the Province for their object, with the secret connivance of Brother Jonathan. There might not be so much difficulty as one would imagine in concentrating a Russian force in some of the sea-port towns of the U. S.—It is true as is stated, that the United States have demanded the possession of Cuba, the presence of any respectable portion of our squadron need not be expected in our waters for a long time to come. An offensive and defensive alliance of Russia with the United States, would give us a deal of trouble in this quarter. We might therefore do many a more unwise act than to be a little forearmed.

Hon. Financial Secretary by command laid on the table of the House a general statement of the amounts certified as having been paid out during the year 1854, under the respective heads, with the amounts for each service, and the persons to whom paid. These payments amount to £194,200 12s. 6d. being similar to the sum exhibited by the Receiver General's accounts presented a few days since. Also, a general abstract of the returns of Import and excise duties collected at the different ports of the Province for the year 1854, shewing the whole amount of excise duties collected to amount with the Distillery License Fund to £104,142 15s. 1d. stg. Likewise an abstract of the articles imported on which duties were collected, shewing the same amount as that just stated. By this account it will be perceived that there was collected—in 1854 from the 6½ per cent £29,965 8s. 11.

From Molasses	13,291 0 0
" Sugar	12,000 0 0
" Brandy, Geneva, Rum,	
Wine, and Distillery	
Licenses.	15,000 0 0
" Pork	340 0 0

The amount derived from the duty on the last article has increased, although it was reduced last year from 13s. to 5s. per cwt.

The next paper is a comparative statement of the increase and decrease on imported articles in the years 1853-4. The whole increase is £20,172 18 10.

That collected in 1853 was £83,862: in 1854 £104,142—which gives an increase of 25 per cent. I may mention that the increase is not confined to any one article but is equalized and distributed over almost all our imports. The greatest decrease is on flour of which 15,370 barrels were imported and \$900 collected; the duty on this article has been de-

creasing ever since the duty was taken off Canada Flour. The increase on the 6½ per cent was £11,000; on Molasses £2,503. On all the articles imported the duty collected exceeds that of 1853, except on Flour, Brandy, and Refined sugar—but the loss on the latter is made up by increase in the Crushed which pays 10s. while the former yields 14s.

He also laid on the table a comparative statement showing the increase and decrease of excise duty in the outports of the Province during the past year as compared with the year previous. The whole increase in revenue from excise duty was £20,170 of which £14,937 was collected in Halifax, and £6,153 from the outports, over and above the collections of 1853. The increase in Pictou was £604, in Yarmouth, £406, in Windsor, £480, and Liverpool £490.

He also laid on the table a comparative statement of Light Duties paid in 1853 and 1854, showing an increase of £604 in that service.

The whole amount of duties paid in the year 1854, was £168,000,—against £125,000 in the year 1853; leaving a clear increase of £43,000.

These returns were brought into the House, Feb. 17, and gave rise to a conversation, in the course of which it was stated, that the duty on tea during the past year in Nova Scotia, amounted to £7,800. This is pretty well for a population of 300,000. Tea is certainly not so mischievous a drink as ardent spirits, but that such a consumption can be any thing else than constitutionally injurious, we do not believe. It is a sure but insidious destroyer of female loveliness, almost as bad as if the fair sex were to use tobacco; and our Legislators would be doing a great service to the public health, if in passing the Maine Law, they at the same time doubled the duty on this beverage, for which we dare say the Chinese are a good deal indebted for their yellow skins, and which may have something to do with their effeminacy, and the nervous trickery and treachery of their dispositions.

On the 16th ult. the Committee on Statute Labour reported a Resolution to test the sense of the House on applying the principle of assessment to statute labour, before reporting by bill, as follows.—Resolved, That in the opinion of this House, a Bill on the subject of Highway Labour, based partly on a poll tax, partly on an assessment of property, such tax to be payable either in labour or money, will commend itself to the favourable consideration of this House. The resolution was laid on the table.

On the same day the Report of the Warden of the River Fisheries for the County of Halifax, was laid on the table. Also the Report of Commissioners of Public Buildings for the last year.

On the 17th ult. Hon. Mr. Henry asked leave to introduce a bill to enlarge the amount of deposits in the Savings Bank. Last year the deposits were increased by £25,000—the present bill contemplated a further increase of £25,000, making the whole sum £100,000. Leave was granted and the bill read a first time. He also by command of his Excellency laid on the table of the House a Petition from the Citizens of New Glasgow, numerous and respectfully signed, setting forth the starving condition of the Indians, in consequence of the high price of provisions and want of employment, and asked aid from the House. After some discussion, in which Mr. Whitman and Mr. Cowie advocated the claims of the Indians, the petition was referred to the Committee on Indian affairs.

On the 19th ult. Mr. Whitman reported specially with reference to the relief of Indians in New Glasgow—recommended £50 to be granted forthwith for the relief of 180 persons in a state of utter destitution, part of it to be applied in bringing the able-bodied men to Halifax to work on the Railway.

The House went into Committee on Bills, and took up the Municipal Corporations Bill, which was partially passed through, with some trifling amendments.

The Hon. Attorney General asked leave to introduce a Bill to encourage the operations of a Telegraph communication between Newfoundland and the Continent of North America—and moved for a Committee to enquire into the subject of telegraphic communication and report by bill. After a good deal of discussion, leave was refused by a majority of one, no doubt from many motives that actuated the House, but ostensibly on the general principle of its being past the time allowed for private petitions.

The Committee on the Mines and Minerals of Nova Scotia, reported a few days since—a majority and minority report. The former declares an opinion that the General Mining Association have no legal or equitable claim to exemption from the royalty on slack coal, between the 31st December, 1841 and the 31st December, 1853—amounting to £3,152 0 11—and the latter—"that the delays in the action of the Government and Legislature, have raised equities in favor of the Association, sufficient to exonerate them from any claim to arrears, and that the duty demanded on slack coal, whether retrospectively or in the future, should be graduated according to the relative value of round and slack coal." This looking after arrears, which one portion of a committee think so strongly that the Company are entitled to, seems to be a pitiful business, and intended more to annoy the Company and to increase prejudice against them, than from a sincere desire to establish a right. It is open to the House to take any future action to prevent the Province suffering further loss, by government delays, and equities consequent thereupon, that they may see fit—and that is all that the people looking at the matter aside from a partisan view, probably care for. The subject still occupies the attention of the House.

THE TEMPERANCE BILL.

This is a measure which has grown into consistency and shape by the spread of the Temperance movement. It achieves a triumph for the moralist, while it sets the ordinary calculations of statesmanship at defiance. If the cider question, so cunningly made a contentious element, do not rob it of its fair proportions, and cause its defeat—if it can be carried out in its integrity—it will rescue many a family from degradation and misery, and benefit the public health, but at the expense of some thousands of the public revenue. It commends itself as an excellent sanitary precaution, and with a plentiful supply of water running through our sewers, and the blessing of Divine Providence, may retard or altogether prevent the approach of cholera toward the City during the ensuing summer. These advantages may be safely predicated by its friends. It is however, a question with its opponents, whether it will at all diminish the consumption of ardent spirits—whether the legal traffic in them will only give way to illicit trade—and the introduction of more poisonous compounds augment the evils of drunkenness. We should thus be pursuing a suicidal policy, encouraging petty frauds, and a system of decentralization which would soon be perceptible in the melancholy results attendant thereon. The measure, however, must only be looked upon in the light of an experiment, and it seems to militate against its success, that all considerations connected with the liberty of the subject in thus attempting to prevent his drinking spirits, are lost sight of. In so far as the drunkard himself is concerned, the duty of the Legislature is as plain to prevent him from drinking, as it is to enact laws that will prevent murder or suicide. With reference to those who take a little for their "stomach's sake," or recognize a "creature comfort" in strong drink, and do not commit excess, the matter is not so plain. Still, there are few upon whom the habit does not grow—and in so far as it may be wise to prevent bad habits by statutory enactments, we think the Temperance people have by far the best of the argument. The suppression of the evil depends a good deal upon individual resolution, and it is curious to observe in the Temperance movement, how necessary to the restoration of the drunkard, seems the encouragement of his fellow men. We fear he depends more upon it in general, than upon the aid of that Power, without whose grace all the good resolutions he forms are but ropes of sand to bind "the strong man armed" within him, and that in consequence it may not be judged of as a perfect remedy. We trust too, that the Temperance body, if they achieve this triumph, will use it temperately, for intolerance, and bigotry and uncharitableness, are just as hateful when they are displayed in the advocacy of temperance, as in the cause of religion—and in this will in no small degree consist its enduring benefit.

In the Assembly on Saturday last, Mr. B. Smith reported bills on Militia Law. The amendments recommended by the Committee were to authorize the sale of any arms that are unserviceable, the importation of improved arms for the Militia, to such extent as the House might be disposed to provide the means, and the formation of volunteer companies in the several Regiments and Battalions.

In the House on Monday last, Mr. Wier reported from Committee in favour of granting £50 in aid of the House of Refuge, and £100 to the visiting Dispensary. The first part of the report was adopted unanimously, but several members opposed the latter, and on a division that report was not adopted. Mr. Wier gave notice to rescind, and we have no doubt the House will show their good sense by concurring in the views of the committee.—Colonist.

In answer to enquirers we are authorized to state, that the assembly of the Bishop, Clergy and representatives of the Laity of this Diocese, will be held at the same time as the general Meeting of the D. C. S. in October next; when the report of the Committee appointed to frame rules and regulations will be considered. In those Parishes which have not yet elected 2 Delegates, the Election may take place at the Easter Meeting, and whenever it is intended to propose such an Election, notice of the intention should be given at least three weeks before the day of meeting.

His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, in Council, has been pleased to appoint:

To be Collector of Colonial Duties at Pictou—David McCulloch, Esq., in the place of Thomas Dickson, deceased.

To be Registrar of the Court of Probate for Pictou—Daniel Dickson, Esq., in the place of Thos. Dickson, deceased.

The Hon. R. McHaffy, to be Custos Rotulorum, in the County of Hants, vice W. H. Shey, Esq. deceased.

James Cochran, (Son of James,) and Nathaniel Smith, (Son of Nathaniel,) to be Justices of the Peace for the County of Hants.