

gret to perceive that a feeling and disposition appears to exist against the re-election of that gentleman. This disposition might perhaps be accounted for, if charges of partiality, want of diligence or ability could be preferred against Mr. Twining; but honorable gentlemen on both sides concur in awarding him every praise for the manner in which this duty has been performed. I hold that the clerk's table is not a political arena; and in the appointment of their own peculiar officers, the views of the minority should be, to a certain extent, respected. Having always acted with openness and candor since I have had the honor of a seat in this House, I do not hesitate now to avow my intention of voting for Mr. Twining's appointment to the office of Chief Clerk; but in doing so, I wish it to be distinctly understood that I find no fault with any hon. gentleman for the independent exercise of his individual opinion.

The ballot was then taken, when there appeared for Mr. James, 26—for Mr. Twining, 18; majority, 8.

BILL PRO FORMA.

Mr. Esson said—I beg leave now, Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Parliamentary usage, to introduce a bill to regulate the Currency—Leave was granted, and the bill read a first time.

ASSISTANT CLERK

Mr. H. C. D. Twining was proposed Assistant Clerk.

Mr. Wier proposed Mr. James Tobin.

Mr. Tobin was elected 26 to 18.

THE ADDRESS.

Mr McDonald (Pictou), after reading the answer, said—It will be perceived, Mr Speaker, that the speech and answer are both of the non-committal style—raising no points of issue upon which debate may be expected to arise; and that the latter contains nothing more than an assurance on the part of this House, that the subjects alluded to by his Excellency will receive the most careful consideration.

It may not be improper, however, to allude to one or two of the most prominent features of those documents. The first subject introduced in both is that of the war now pending between the mother country and her allies with Russia. This province has already by the private contributions of its inhabitants, and the action of its Legislature, given proof to the home government of the deep interest felt here in this important struggle, and I can conceive nothing more appropriate than that it should again through a new legislature, now in the commencement of its first session, hold out to the parent country its warm assurance that the struggle in which she is engaged is regarded by this people with the deepest solicitude. It should be interesting from many considerations. Her sons have shed their blood, and their bones are now mouldering on the hills of the Crimea; but even if this were not the case, I can scarcely conceive it possible that any person within these walls is so deficient in feelings of loyalty and attachment to the mother country, as to view the contest in which she is engaged without deep interest and warm approval.

Contrasted with many of the wars in which the Mother Country has been previously engaged it is totally dissimilar both in intention and consequence.

In the wars with Napoleon she contended against a system that most persons in this age

admit would have resulted in the elevation of many of the oppressed and ignorant nations of Europe, if it had been permitted to be fully tried out. The course of his armies was not always marked by rapine and plunder, but in their train generally followed the establishment of institutions designed to promote the growth of knowledge and science. In America again we find her in the hands of an obstinate and misguided ministry trampling upon the right of her subject till goaded on beyond all endurance they rose in rebellion and the American republic bounded into existence and has already taken its place among the first nations of the earth.

But the present war was commenced to retard the progress of no principle of civilization to oppress and overawe no Colonial possession;—to carry out the political system of no misguided Minister. It had and has for its object the extension of Civilization; it is designed to uphold the principles of Freedom against the encroachment of arbitrary despotism and it originated with and is carried on by the people of two of the most civilized nations of the Earth.

This struggle will also be found important hereafter with consequences, from the change that must take place in Turkey and other eastern countries. Already there has been a door opened for the introduction of Christianity and we shall find the gleam of the crescent fading before the glories of the cross; and the Koran with its degrading superstitions giving way before the Bible with its elevating, humanizing and christianizing doctrines.

Among other topics it must be interesting to observe that the subject of education is prominently noticed. This question it has been admitted on all hands has been too long neglected. It would be perhaps out of place for me to animadvert on the causes of this neglect. Those in the management of our public affairs may from many insuperable causes have been hitherto unable to devote to it that attention which its importance merits; but it is certainly an imperative duty on the part of this house now to devote our best energies to the consideration of it when brought before us.

I am also happy to see that the subject of our Mines and Minerals, so long a vexed question, is brought under our notice by his Excellency. In the multiplicity of other public questions pressing on the attention of previous legislatures, this has also been in a measure neglected. It has never yet been taken up in the spirit which its importance demands, being from time to time made the subject of reports of committees, and there allowed to rest. This Province, sir, in respect of this matter, occupies a strange and anomalous position. Like Tartarus of old, plunged in water to his neck, and yet not permitted to drink a drop, we find the soil under our feet teeming with mineral wealth, without our being allowed to appropriate to our own use one penny's worth, except in some localities of trifling extent. To such a degree have our natural rights been taken away, that not a ton of freestone or limestone can be sold by the proprietor of the soil where they may be found, without infringing upon the supposed rights of the General Mining Association; and so closely has the definition of minerals been drawn, that I believe a cart load of sand cannot be removed from the soil for the