

He (Mr Howe,) could not, however, conceive it a matter of course that representatives, chosen from every denomination of christians, should be confined in their selections of Chaplain to one particular church. It had been the practice of the House to make its choice from the Church of England, but he did not conceive that they were bound to continue that practice. He felt it his duty to oppose it now; and he should, on some future occasion, take the opportunity to shew that a great majority of the Executive appointments were confined to members of the Church of England—that upon this body only were poured the streams of government patronage. He could now mention only one or two instances. Of the members of Council, nine belonged to the church of England, two were Presbyterians, one a Catholic, while other large bodies of christians are left without any representation at the Board at all. Nearly all the Judges were appointed from that body, and, in the choice of Sheriffs, the same rule prevailed. He had not himself a particle of sectarian bigotry, and had no dislike to the Church of England from narrow religious prejudices, but he did not think that a population, four fifths of whom were dissenters, would consent to allow all the offices in the control of their representatives, to be lavished upon persons belonging to the fifth. He would therefore move as an amendment to the resolution that had been submitted;

*Resolved*, That, representing the whole Province, peopled by various denominations of Christians, this House recognizes no religious distinctions, and is bound to extend not only equal justice, but equal courtesy to all; and therefore,

*Resolved*, That, as the practice hitherto pursued, of invariably choosing the Chaplain of this House from one particular Church, is at variance with this general principle, the Rev. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ be requested to act as Chaplain during the present Session.

Mr. Rudolf said, that in the opinion of some of the members, there was no necessity for a Chaplain. He had no desire to oppose Mr. Uniacke personally, and if the House should determine to continue the office, he would vote for Mr. Uniacke. He was of opinion, however, that the office was unnecessary, and for one would vote for its abolition.

Mr. Doyle said, that the observations of the hon. Gen. from Lunenburg, had given to the resolution a complexion, which his hon. friend from the County of Halifax did not intend it to bear. The question was not one of a personal nature, it involved a general principle. It was designed to ascertain from the house whether they felt disposed to continue the pre-eminence granted to the Church of England. Scarcely a year had passed since an unanimous resolution was carried in the house for the abolition of the oaths, which but half an hour since members were called upon to take, in defiance of the enlightened spirit of the age, and he would say, almost of their own conscience.—It was carried to the upper house, where it was crushed by the principal dignitary of that religious body, to whose intolerant spirit the oaths themselves owed their origin. The gentlemen who had to-day undergone that solemn mockery, had done so against their will; but they had no choice. He was desirous of effecting a reformation in these particulars, and rather than consent to the confirmation of the old principle, by the re-appointment of the former chaplain, he would do without any at all.

Mr. Stewart could perceive no objection to the passing of the amendment, and was of opinion that the house would be unanimous in carrying it through. The amendment, when properly understood, did not contemplate the abolition of the office of chaplain, nor did it

convey any doctrine to which the house could hesitate to give their assent. He knew of no rule, of no law, by which the house were bound to choose a chaplain, and if the resolution were passed, it did not preclude the appointment of Mr. Uniacke or any other.

Mr. Morton thought that it would be well to determine, in the first place, whether the house would have any chaplain. The way the question was now put, it had the appearance of opposition to an individual. He was therefore desirous that the amendment should be so altered as to dispose of that question.

Mr. J. Young did not think the question one of a personal nature. When he first came into the house the same chaplain that officiated in the council, said prayers in the lower branch, and the country was saved the expense of a second charge. The first chaplain that was appointed exclusively for the lower house, owed his situation, to some party feeling, which arose from a collision between the two houses.

He was inclined to vote for the amendment, and would leave the other question till afterwards. As regarded Mr. Uniacke personally, he was satisfied there could be nothing against him. His indefatigable attention to the duties of his sacred calling, his ardent and successful efforts to promote education and morality, in the district to which his labours were devoted, and his unceasing exercise of the officers of charity, rendered it impossible that the objections to him should be personal. But we are the representatives of all sects, and are to consider all equally entitled to our patronage.

Mr. W. Sargeant wished to avoid any thing having a sectarian appearance, and conceived the best way to do so would be, to adopt the resolution which he held in his hand, and to which he begged to call the attention of the House. Mr. S. then read the following resolution:

Whereas this House recognises the Christian Religion as the only true one, and also the necessity of God's blessing, in order to our labours becoming truly beneficial to the Country, *Resolved*, That the Rev. Gentlemen of this Town be requested to offer their prayers in their respective Congregations, to Almighty God, for his blessing upon the labors of this House.

Mr. Howe said, that if gentlemen all around were inclined to adopt Mr. Sargeant's suggestion, he himself was satisfied. He would not say a word to grate harshly on any man's ears, and he had left a blank in his resolution for the name of the clergyman, because he was indifferent about who should be appointed. He believed that the resolution, prepared by the hon. gent. from the County of Shelburne, was calculated to remove the ground of offence, and would also save the extra expence. He did not think the mode pointed out by the hon. member for the county of Sydney, was calculated to meet the objection. It was not the money which people complained of; for an office of that nature they were willing to allow a fair remuneration, but they were desirous of a perfect equality among all religious denominations.

Mr. Wilkins coincided in opinion with the hon. member who had just sat down, but thought it would not be expedient to pass the resolution in its present state; were the resolution to pass what would be the next? The representatives of the different denominations would each propose a candidate of his particular persuasion, and the candidates, against them the votes of every other denomination, would be beaten in detail. He would therefore propose an amendment, to the effect that, though this House recognizes no religious preference in the choice of its officers, yet as it was impossible that the feelings of each sect in the House should be gratified by having the

selection of the chaplain, and as the Reverend Mr. Uniacke had discharged his duty while in that office with fidelity and satisfaction, the House would therefore re-appoint him to the same situation."

Mr. Doyle did not like the resolution proposed by the hon. member from the town of Windsor. He did not see the incompatibility between the resolution proposed by his hon. friend from the city of Halifax, and that submitted by the hon. gentleman from the county of Shelburne. He repudiated the idea of adopting the old systems prevailing at home in our provincial institutions. He conceived the original resolution of the hon. gentleman from the county of Halifax to carry a general principle; and if it were passed, the other resolution proposed by the hon. gentleman from the county of Shelburne would then come in, in its proper place. He was unwilling to establish religious distinctions, and was of opinion, that unless the House followed the course marked out by the resolution submitted, they would fall into the same state as the Assembly of Prince Edward Island, and after rejecting seriatim, candidates of the Church of England, of the Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists and Catholics, be left without any chaplain, in a state of spiritual desolation.

Mr. Bell coincided perfectly with the sentiments of the first part of the resolution; he thought there ought to be no religious distinctions. He would not wish to see the situation of chaplain filled by a member of any other religious denomination; if the house had any chaplain, he would vote for one belonging to the established church, not that he conceived that that body had any right to be appointed, but as a matter of courtesy. The Government had incorporated the church with the state, and he was not prepared to say that the union was improper, or that the church ought to be pulled down.

The amendment of Mr. Sargeant was then withdrawn, and the question being taken on the amendment of Mr. Howe, it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Sargeant then submitted his proposition again, in the shape of an original resolution.

Mr. Stewart thought there could be no opposition to the resolution before the House.—What gentleman could be unwilling to unite in asking the benefit of prayers from any denomination? it was true that it might be the intention of the motion to dispense with a regular chaplain, but it was not so worded as necessarily to have that effect.

Mr. W. Young, as he understood the resolution, conceived it to be not merely a general proposition, but to contain an implication that the House would dispense with a chaplain, and would prefer that it should state so in express terms. He was of opinion that it was the clear sense of the House no longer to extend to a particular sect the patronage which had hitherto been bestowed upon it, and he would therefore advocate a change of system.

Mr. Fairbanks thought that on this question, there was no danger of a minority in the House. He wished the resolution to be put in plain and simple terms, and not in dark and obscure language.

Mr. J. Young conceived that the resolution did not preclude any subsequent motion, but if passed, was equivalent to a vote of the House to dispense with a chaplain.

Mr. Doyle proposed as an amendment, that the prayers of the clergy throughout the Province, instead of the Town, as mentioned in the original resolution, should be solicited, and farther, that there should be added, a clause:—"That the House would dispense with the personal attendance of a chaplain." By this amendment, he would put it in the power of