

Dominion Parliament.

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS FROM OPENING TO APRIL 20TH.

The fifth session of the First Parliament of the Dominion which was opened on the 11th inst., promises to be a most important one. The expectations of a short session have already disappeared in the face of the serious subjects presented for discussion in the Governor General's speech. Prominent among these are the Washington Treaty, the Pacific Railway, the extension of the Canal system, and the re-adjustment of the Representatives consequent upon the completion of the Decennial Census.

On the opening day the representatives from British Columbia took their seats on the floor of the house; thus indicating that another link had been forged in the chain which is to unite all British North America, strengthen the cords which bind us to the Mother land in the present, and form the nucleus of a great Northern Anglo-Saxon power for the future.

On the 12th the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was passed in both Houses; English precedent thus followed and an earnest thus afforded that members intended to settle down at once to the programme before them. The only approach to a discussion arose out of an incipient attack on Sir John A. Macdonald for his share in the making of the Treaty he was ably defended by his colleague Sir F. Hincks; who stated that the Canadian Government had protested against the Treaty while it was before the Committee; but that now they were in full accord with the Imperial authorities on the subject.

April 15th. The House did not sit on Thanksgiving day; the members in general attended the various churches.

April 16th. In the Upper Chamber, Senator Campbell moved an address of congratulation on the recovery of the Prince of Wales. Senator St. Just, leader of the opposition, seconded the same. The Senate then adjourned out of respect to the memory of two of its members deceased since last Session.

In the Commons, the Trade and Navigation Returns, Inland Revenue Returns and Public Accounts for 1870-1 were presented. In reply Mr. MacKenzie, Sir John A. stated that the survey of Manitoba would be completed this year. After the adoption of a motion for correspondence relating to Manitoba and to Governor Archibald's resignation; and the promise of Government to bring in Bills for trial of controverted elections in B. C., and Manitoba the House adjourned at 4.20 p.m.

April 17th. The Census returns were presented in the Commons. In reply to Mr. Holton, Sir John A. Macdonald stated that Judge Johnson would administer the government of Manitoba pending the appointment of Mr. Archibald's successor. A Special Committee was appointed to report on the manufacturing interests of Canada. Hon. Jos. Howe defended himself vigorously and successfully against attacks on his loyalty, in which he was supported by a powerful speech from the Premier.

April 18th. The papers relating to the Treaty of Washington were brought down in both Houses. In the Upper House, Hon. Mr. Mitchell intimated that the usual cruisers were being despatched for the protection of the fisheries. In the Lower a Bill was introduced to regulate Trades' Unions. Hon. Dr. Tupper said that Government intended to organize Daily meteorological reports, and Sir G. Cartier, in reply to Mr. Young, that the Fortification Scheme was not abandoned. Mr. F. Jones' motion for correspondence relating to Railway Bridge over the Mirimichi was carried, also one respecting N. W. boundary of Ontario, also Mr. MacKenzie's for a statement of Fenian claims. Sir F. Hincks gave notice of resolutions concerning banks, banking and notes. The House concurred in the Senator's congratulatory address.

April 19th. The Militia and Public Works reports were laid before the House of Commons. The Marquette (Manitoba) election matter was referred to Committee on Privileges. On motion of Hon. J. Howe a sum of \$45,000 a year was voted for Geological Survey. Sir F. Hincks' resolutions on banks and banking were adopted in Committee. In answer to Mr. Wallace, Sir G. Cartier stated that an administrator of Indian affairs would be appointed for British Columbia. The House adjourned after its second evening sederunt this session at 9.35 p.m.

Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

El Tiempo announces that the last Protestant chapel existing in Madrid has now closed its doors, and ceased to be used as a place of worship.

The Lord Chancellor has presented the Rt. Rev. T. N. Staley, D. D., formerly a Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge, and late Bishop of Honolulu, to the Vicarage of Croxall near Tamworth.

Nazereth is now the centre of a prosperous, Protestant mission, established by the Church of England. It is sending out labourers to neighbouring villages, where evangelical communities are rapidly springing up.

The Archbishop of Cologne has pronounced the major excommunication against Professors Hilgers, Knoedt, Langen and Reusch, of Bonn, in consequence of their having declined to accept the doctrine of Papal Infallibility.

The Archbishop of Paris has caused two tablets in black marble to be placed in the transept of Notre Dame, on one of which are inscribed the names of the ecclesiastical hostages, and on the other those of the gendarmes, sergents-de-ville, and laymen murdered by the Commune.

The Incumbent of Christ Church, Mayfair, having demanded a baptismal fee of two shillings, payment was refused, and the question was referred to Dr. A. J. Stephens and Mr. Arthur Charles, two well-known ecclesiastical lawyers. Both agree in stating that the charge is unlawful, even in the case of St. George's, where a local Act is said to justify it.

The Rev. Robt. H. Codrington, M. A., Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford, has been invited to succeed the murdered Dr. Patteson in the Melanesian bishopric. He took his B. A. degree in 1852, was ordained in 1855 by Bishop Wilberforce, served for some years the curacy of St. Peter's-in-the-East, Oxford. In 1859 he

went out to New Zealand as chaplain at Nelson, and has been actively engaged since that time in the work of the Melanesian Mission.

Zacatecas, Mexico, has a population of 80,000 souls, and it is said the people are fully ripe for the Gospel harvest. Cos, another city; has a Protestant Church of 171 members, worshipping in a stone church edifice, which will accommodate 400 hearers. In the City of Mexico, and in several other places, Protestant Christians are suffering great persecution; but notwithstanding all opposing influence, Protestant Christianity is progressing in Mexico, and will ere long triumph throughout that entire land.

The printing of the entire Bible in the Eskimo language is now happily completed, the concluding portions having recently passed through the press. The British and Foreign Society has thus had the privilege of providing the whole of God's Word for those successful missions which have been conducted for more than a century by the self-denying and laborious brethren of the Moravian Church on the coasts of Labrador. The poor Eskimos, once so ignorant and degraded, have been elevated and richly blessed through the knowledge of Divine truth. The translation of the Scriptures is due to the efforts of the same mission.

Another religious sect in England. Its members are called "Comprehensionists." We quote from one of their bulletins: "What is Comprehension? It is a practical cooperation in every direction to unite mankind into one church." "The principle" we are further told, "of this church is in the character of the individual as having a feeling of personality—an inclination to separation and an attraction to amiability. The creed is a belief in the beyond!" After wasting a good deal of time in the attempt to comprehend this Comprehension, we have given it up, our liveliest feeling being that it is hardly worth while to propound a religious creed in the shape of a conundrum.

The St. Alban's Abbey excavations have just been attended with an interesting archaeological discovery. In the south wall of the south choir aisle a beautiful decorated doorway has been discovered, which is supposed to have led to an exterior chapel now destroyed. Among the debris were found no fewer than 300 pieces of exquisite carving, composed chiefly of Purbeck marble and Clunch stone. These pieces are supposed to have formed a portion of a shrine, being of the decorated style of architecture. A large portion of it is richly carved, and four crowned gilt lions are plainly distinguishable in a quartrefoil. A broken marble figure has also been found. The excavation work is still going on, and great hopes are entertained that the missing part of the shrine of St. Alban will be discovered.

Who wrote the old version of the Hundredth Psalm? A correspondent of *Notes and Queries* affirms that it was William Kethe. He examined many early editions of the metrical psalm, and found the initials of Kethe to the earliest. The name of Hopkins was not assigned to it until 1611, while that of Kethe occurs frequently from 1565. We have examined several editions with the same result, either "W. Ke." or no initials being in the early ones. The internal improbability that Hopkins could have written "All people that on earth do dwell," is doubled by a comparison of this magnificent hymn with those which are undoubtedly of his composition: while, on the other hand, Kethe's are often of the best quality, though rugged. Perhaps the best is the 107th, but he also wrote the 104th, 113th, 122nd, and several more,