

On the motion for going into Committee on the Assessed Taxes.

Mr. DISRAELI, in a crowded House, rose to move the resolution of which he had given notice, that in any relief to be granted by the remission of adjustment of taxation, due regard should be paid to the depressed condition of the owners and occupiers of land in the United Kingdom.

After expressing his astonishment that the amended Budget withdrew the small modicum of relief to the agriculturist which was originally proposed, he proceeded to eulogise the virtues of the agricultural classes and to intimate some of the steps which the Government might have taken for their especial relief.

Mr. LABOUCHERE called upon the House not to entertain the vague propositions shadowed by the speech of Mr. Disraeli; but to be satisfied with the relief offered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, considering that sufficient for the day is the Budget thereof.

Mr. GLADSTONE made many objections to the Government scheme; but as all the defects of that plan were retained in the one suggested by Mr. Disraeli, with the addition of many others, he had no alternative but to vote against the motion.

Mr. STAFFORD attacked the free-trade policy of Government as an odious system of class legislation. Mr. ALCOCK and Mr. S. BRIGLEY opposed the motion.

Lord J. MANNERS contended that the Ministers had given the agriculturists no valid grounds for believing their distress would be diminished, and he appealed to the House by agreeing to the present motion to recognize the principle, that practicable measures would be taken for their relief.

Sir R. PEEL also very briefly expressed his intention of giving his voice in favour of the motion. Lord J. RUSSELL complained of the delusion practised upon the country by these motions, which, when brought forward in Parliament, distinctly disclaim any intention of changing the free-trade policy of the country, but the result of the divisions upon which are paraded to the country as proof of the partiality of the House in favour of protection.

The House then divided:—For the motion, 250; against it, 263; majority, 13.

The House then went into committee, and shortly afterwards adjourned at 12 minutes past 2 o'clock.

FATHER GAVAZZI'S ORATIONS.

CLERICAL CELIBACY.

The father began by animadverting in a strain of indignant scorn upon certain emanations of the London Roman Catholic press, equally stupid as obscure, attributing mercenary motives to his denunciations of papal fraud and imposture; he bade them come and scrutinise his life, contrasting his humble abode and scanty fare with the wages of Rome's purple emissary, paid here for degrading his country by a profession of earthly comforts and pomps, the pampered embodiment of mingled servility and arrogance.

Entering on the subject of enforced celibacy, he asked for any warrant in Christ's gospel, or a clear licit enactment by any of his apostles, laying a yoke for so many centuries. There was none. He came not to question individual instances of exceptional pre-eminence in the pursuit of evangelical perfection, but to challenge the forcible and systematic extension to a whole class of what reason as well as Scripture, wherever allusion was made to total continence, clearly indicated as the rare attribute of a few.

In the scanty passages either of Christ's own teaching, or that of Paul, where was the groundwork of this gigantic super-structure. We must seek for it elsewhere. Its origin is like the gnostic and Manichean interpolations of Christianity—a compound of eastern fanaticism and pagan imagining, fermenting in the wild fancies of ascetics, stylites, and the Alexandrian school of Origen.

Enough of comparatively harmless paganism pervades the worship of Rome—processions, incense, incense, tutulary genii, and all the cumbrous paraphernalia of a ritual singularly retentive of primitive idolatries; but the moral code and ethical discipline of the Christian community is far less saturated with such reminiscences as these, of the goddess Cybele, the Corymbantes of Greece, the priesthood of India, and the vestals of Numa.

The speaker showed this vicious and inhuman system at work in the Eleusinian mysteries at Delphi and Dodona, and among the bonzes of Japan, evincing a full familiarity with the details of religion in the earliest ages of mankind.

Nor did this emanation of the arch enemy, this foul distortion of the moral principle, establish itself unchallenged and unopposed as part and parcel of early Christianity. The voice of Vigilantius, vigorous and vehement, proclaimed the innovation in the strances which have been renewed in every successive struggle of the newly elected Bishop of Ptolemais against its enforcement, and tells how the eminent Synesius refused to dishonour his wife by its recognition; whereupon he was nevertheless consecrated by Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria.

At the great of churchmen, the most august of all the assemblies of churchmen, the introduction of this heterogeneous element into the legislation of Christendom, was mischievously attempted by a few oriental fanatics, when bearing in his maimed limbs and shattered frame the traces of torture inflicted by the tyrant Maximin, Paphnutius, Bishop of Upper Thebaide, flung the balance, of his years, experience, and wisdom into the scale, and the collective sagacity of the oecumenic episcopate stamped the attempt with energetic reprobation.

The father sifted the councils of Ancreira [313.] of Neo-Casarea [315.] of Agazzium [506.] and described the renewal of efforts to enforce the objectionable system, as evidence of the constant repugnance and antagonism of the clergy to this character. The disastrous consequences of these incessant inroads on household parity became evident in the succeeding centuries, and the writings of Petrus Damianus, of such high authority among papal chroniclers, confirm what the sad details of universal turpitude, the picture

which contemporary writers draw of clerical incon- tinency, and the utter disregard of decency in the infringement of an unnatural regulation. The deposition of bishops for open concubinage became the current business of synods—as that of Amalfi in 1159; the war waged against the instincts of humanity was a fearful and formidable as well as scandalous contestation.

"The tremendous energies of secular ambition were brought to bear on the further and final enforcement of celibacy, when the clergy of Europe were transformed by Hildebrand into a confederate caste, arrayed in hostility to monarchs, magistrates, and all legislation on the part of the laity. Amid a tempest of execration from Germany, and the upheaving of northern Europe, this Italian monk carried out his anti-social and subversive crusade, at the very time exhibiting the monstrous spectacles of undue intimacy and ambiguous intercourse with another man's wife, Matilda, wedded to Godfrey of Lorraine, whom she openly discarded from bed and board, to live for years under the same roof—the Castle of Canossa—with her favourite champion, under circumstances which a jury box of Englishmen would quickly qualify. This disturber of courts and households died an outlaw and an outcast at Salerno; but his handiwork survived in the political as well as the moral world. What was the result? Seek for it in the days of Boccaccio, and in every remnant of contemporary literature! Show me a scandalous chronicle without a priest, a tale of adultery without a monk; bishops, nuns, and friars became the inevitable dramatic personæ of comic or tragic adventure, and the grave, austere, and thoughtful volume of Dante bears its awful testimony to the truth of the troubadour and the narrative of the novelist—the 15th canto of his 'Hell' fully unfolds the Gomorrah of celibacy." [Loud cheers.]

The father proceeded to stigmatise the prient works of church dignitaries, Monsignor della Casa and Guidiccione, Cardinals Bembo and Sadoletti, as the sad but suggestive evidences of deep seated immorality. The homely intelligence of Switzerland insisted on each incumbent's open concubinage as a protection to the parish; and the triumphant success of Zwinglius was mainly attributable to his vindication of honourable marriage. The hotbed system of clerical seminaries, where this unnatural restraint was cultivated, produced in Italy fearful and unutterable results. In France, the history of the court clergy and the annals of profligacy were identical; and the open debauchery of Cardinal Dubois and his contemporaries, was now succeeded by concealed criminality, driven by the scrutiny of a more censorious public to desperate deeds of murder, as in the cases of the Cure Mingrat, the Frere Lestard, and the Abbe Gothland.

The agency of the confessional in promoting unlimited depravity was pointed out forcibly and convincingly, and the extent to which female intrigues were made instrumental in forwarding the ambition of aspirants at the Roman court, was exemplified in the career of Antonelli, who found his Matilda when delegate over the city of Macerata, in the days of Gregory.

The moral sense was utterly blunted in Rome. The full development of the social evil was too painful a topic to dwell on in a mixed assembly, and he forbore to reveal the ignominy and disgrace of his native land; but he loudly arraigned the foul papal machinery of corruption in morals, as well as oppression in government, and inveighed in a strain of highly eloquent indignation against the late hypocritical and imbecile proceeding of the Pope, in causing the marble angels of Canova, in St. Peter's Church, to be plastered over with petticoats of stucco, forsooth, that the modesty of monsignori might not be too rudely shocked by the master-piece of genius, while these professed celibates of a corrupt and demoralising court were night after night prominent at princely balls, remarkable for the semine costume of native as well as foreign fashionables—whether these scandalous entertainments, meant as a mockery of the public mourning, and an insult to the national downfall, were given in the gilt saloons of old papal nepotism, by the present inheritors of pontifical plunder, or in hired palaces by General Geaume commanding the Croats of France—[thunders of applause]—where the mingled flunkeyism and frivolity of a degenerate aristocracy pass the vacant hour with cardinals equally dead to every generous emotion, and equally absorbed in an ignoble and despicable egotism. [Cheers.]—London Daily News.

Colonial.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE EXPLOSION.

The explosion of the Comet has produced more disastrous results than was generally apprehended. It is one of those terrible calamities which can never be satisfactorily accounted for upon any philosophic principles, or averted by any human sagacity or fore- thought, and adds another to the fearful list of marine disasters which are becoming so alarmingly frequent on our inland waters, though it is the first steamboat explosion which has occurred on this side of our own beautiful Ontario. The following are the names of the dead up to Wednesday evening:—Royal Davis, first engineer; James Carroll, second engineer; James Connor, waiter; Jas. Church, do; and Thos. Begans, fireman; all belonging to Kingston. The missing are John DeWire, deck-hand; C. Hennessey, carpenter; and a coloured cook. James Friel and John Maguire are still living; and, though severely scalded, will probably recover. The appalling spectacle presented at the City Hall yesterday was one which we hope to never witness again—a scene eminently calculated to impress on the mind of every beholder the uncertainty of human expectations, and the frailty of the tenure which separates life from death. Five strong men, in the full prime of life but a few hours since, lay there side by side, ghastly, mangled, blackened corpses, while distracted weeping friends could scarcely recognize the faces of their dearest relatives. What a swift-winged messenger of sorrow has this calamity been to the homes that can know the lost and loved no more! The news of this dreadful catastrophe has pierced many a noble heart with anguish, and made desolate the hearth of happy homes. May kind heaven dry their tears, and support them in this time of their affliction! Fortunately, there were no passengers on board the Comet at the time of the explosion, and what was still more fortunate, was the occurrence of the catastrophe so near the dock. Had it occurred a short distance out upon the lake, every soul of them must have perished, as the boat immediately sank. The entire centre of the boat, deck-floor, saloon, wheel-house, machinery, and smoke-pipes, were carried away, and torn into a thousand fragments. Such was the force of the explosion, that heavy timbers were twisted and broken like reeds, and the roof of the saloon carried away as if it had been a shingle. The

boat is a total wreck, and filled with water up to her guards. We are informed by the gentlemanly commander of the ill-fated steamer, that the Marine Inspectors had recently examined the boilers of the Comet, and awarded a certificate of their soundness and perfection; and also that the Engineer was one of the most competent, trust-worthy and experienced officers on the lake. A large number of the friends of the deceased arrived here by the Cataract yesterday, and will return with the remains of their friends to-day. The flags of the shipping in port are at half-mast, and a general gloom pervades the city. Every necessary aid has been extended by the city authorities, and every possible relief in the power of our citizens has been afforded the unfortunate sufferers.—Oswego Jour.

DEPARTMENT ORDER. Post-Office, Department, Toronto, 17th April, 1851.

Printed Circulars, Price Currents, Handbills, Pamphlets, Periodicals, Books, and other Printed Matter transmitted by Post in Canada.

1. Upon each Printed Circular, Price Current, or Handbill, and other Printed matter of a like description, when unconnected with any manuscript or written communication, and of no greater weight than one ounce, there shall be charged one penny; and for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce, one penny additional.

2. Upon each Periodical or Magazine, Pamphlet and Book, bound or unbound, there shall be charged a rate of one half-penny per ounce.

3. Prepayment of the foregoing rates will be optional except when the Printed matter is addressed to the United States, and in that case the charge must invariably be pre-paid.

4. On such Printed matter received into Canada by mail from the United States, the above Canada rates will always remain to be collected on delivery in this Province.

5. Publishers in Canada of Periodicals and Magazines will be allowed to interchange their Publications free of postage, provided that such interchange be confined to one single copy of each Publication.

6. Circulars and other Printed Papers must be sent unsealed; and Pamphlets, Periodicals, Magazines, Books, &c., must be put up in covers open at the ends or sides, to pass at the above rates; and if these Regulations are not strictly complied with, or if any such Printed Paper, Pamphlet, Periodical, Magazine, or Book, be found to contain any writing, other than the address, the said Printed Paper, Pamphlet, &c., is to be rated with letter postage.

7. No Book, or packet of Periodicals, Magazines, &c., can be forwarded through the Post, if exceeding the weight of forty-eight ounces.

JAMES MORRIS, Post-Master General.

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER.

Post-Office Department, Toronto, 19th April, 1851.

Book Post with England.

Under the authority of Her Majesty Government, an arrangement will take immediate effect, under which printed Books, Magazines, Reviews, or Pamphlets, whether British, Colonial, or Foreign, may be sent through the Post, between Canada and the United Kingdom, at the following rates of Postage:—

Table with 2 columns: Description of item and Rate. Includes entries for single volumes, reviews, and pamphlets with rates in pence and shillings.

The above charge must always be pre-paid, on printed Books, &c., sent to the United Kingdom under this regulation, at the time of posting in Canada; and the pre-payment must be made in money, and cannot be taken in Canada Postage Stamps.

Post-masters, as with pre-paid Letters for England, must rate the Books, &c., posted under this Regulation, in red ink, with both the sterling rate and its equivalent, in currency, charging themselves in their ordinary Letter Bills and Accounts, with the currency amounts,—thus, a Book, &c., weighing 3 lbs, will be rated— "Paid 4s. sterling—equal to 5s. currency."

The following conditions must be strictly observed: The Books, &c., must be sent in covers, open at the sides.

There must be no word or communication printed on the Book, Pamphlet, Magazine, &c., after its publication, or upon the cover thereof, nor any writing or marks upon it, or upon the cover of it, except the name and address of the person to whom sent.

There shall be no paper or thing enclosed in or with such Book, Pamphlet, &c.

The Post-master, at offices situated west of Montreal, will forward packets of Books, &c., intended for the United Kingdom, to the Montreal Post Office, and Post-masters situated east of Montreal, will forward upon the Quebec Post-office.

The above Supplementary Order to take effect on the 15th May next.

JAMES MORRIS, Post-Master General.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT BRANTFORD.

We learn by telegraph of last night from Brantford, that between 10 and 11 o'clock, a. m., of yesterday, a fire broke out in the cellar of Mr. Higginbotham's drug store—supposed to have originated from a barrel of phosphorus. The fire spread rapidly and consumed 22 buildings, among which are the offices and store-houses of Messrs, Wilkes, Bunnel, and others Forwarders. A large quantity of wheat and flour was destroyed. Loss not known. Mr. Bunnel is said to be fully insured.

The telegraph of last night from Pittsburgh says, that Mr. W. W. Duff, was found murdered near Freeport, Butler County, on Wednesday last.—He was last seen in the company of his twin brother James, and it is strongly suspected he is the murderer. He has been arrested to await an examination.

The Annual Ploughing Match between the Township of Vaughan and Scarborough, came off on Friday, in the neighbourhood of Markham Village, with great success. The prize was gained by the Scarborough Ploughmen.

RETIREMENT OF MR. LAFONTAINE.

It is understood in well-informed quarters that Mr. Lafontaine intends to retire from public life, after the close of the present Parliament. Who is to be his successor, in the leadership of the French Canadian party and the Attorney Generalship East; whether one person will hereafter unite both functions; and

what will be the effect of his retirement on the fortunes of political parties or the interests of the country, are important subjects of speculation and enquiry.—It is not improbable that Mr. Cartier will aspire to the political leadership of the French Canadians, and Mr. Drummond may aim at the Attorney Generalship; and what is more, both may be disappointed. When Mr. Lafontaine has retired there will probably be found in Lower Canada no man capable of preventing the disruption of the Canadian party. They are now held together solely by his influence. When that is withdrawn the united French party will be no more. Neither Cartier nor Papineau can unite them. The former is rather a clever lawyer; but by no means a man of brilliant or commanding talents. A portion of the French Canadians would probably consent to follow him as a leader. The remainder would for the most part join the Papineau standard. Mr. Drummond can of course never lead the French party.—They are too national to follow an Irishman. Unless some new leader arise in the ranks of the Canadian party, it would seem that the leadership must, when Lafontaine is out of the way, be divided between Papineau and Cartier. If, then, a division of the Canadian party be inevitable, what will be the effect on the general state of parties? One certain effect would be to destroy that objectionable omnipotence of the party which now exists. That we take it, would be a step in the right direction, provided the portion of the party that split off from the Lafontaine-Cartier school, embrace decidedly liberal views, as it seems reasonable to conclude they would. But at present it is impossible to see all the effects of Mr. Lafontaine's retirement: though they can hardly be otherwise than important.—Toronto Examiner.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE FIRE AT KINGSTON.

About half-past 1 o'clock, on the 22nd inst., the inhabitants of Princess-street were roused by the alarm of fire, which it was found had broken out in a stable belonging to Mr. Rourke, situated in a yard in the rear of Princess-street, formerly occupied by a person of the name of Furzer, who there kept a livery-stable, but who, in the summer of last year, was burned out. The wind blowing at the time moderately from the north-east, and the flames having caught the adjoining buildings spread with astonishing rapidity, and by the sun rose, the whole block of buildings comprised within the limits of Princess-street, Queen-street, Bagot-street, and Wellington-street, were either already in ruins or in a state of conflagration, with the exception of Mr. Mowat's stone buildings at the corner of Princess-street and Bagot-street; the stone building occupied by Mr. Abraham Foster, grocer, and Mrs. Bourne's toy shop, at the corner of Princess and Wellington-streets; and Mr. Buckley's grocery establishment at the corner of Wellington and Queen-street, together with two or three small wooden buildings in Queen-street, adjoining Mr. Buckley's, which miraculously escaped the general wreck. A large frame building, the property of Mr. Alexander Smith, corner of Queen and Bagot-streets, occupied by seven different families; insured for £250. Several houses on the west side of Princess-street narrowly escaped destruction from the burning embers that were blown on their shingled roofs from the opposite side of the street; all escaped however, but Mrs. Ferns' house and Shoe store, which were totally consumed. Mr. McCracken's dry good store, next to Mrs. Fern's house, was supposed at the time to be in extreme danger—but in consequence of its being fire-proof, it escaped without the smallest injury. The amount of property destroyed is estimated to be over £20,000.

Certain parties were arraigned recently at the Mayor's Court, St. Catharines, for having pulled down a flag bearing the stars and stripes which was hoisted at the Town Hall on the occasion of a Panorama from the States being exhibited there. The case was dismissed.

FIRE IN GALT.—A tremendous fire occurred in Galt on Monday night last. It commenced in Mr. Mitchell's store, Main-street, and before its progress could be arrested, six stores and a saddler's shop were consumed. The estimated loss is \$40,000.

RAILWAY TO THE EXTREME WEST.—The Official Gazette contains a notice of intended application to the Provincial Legislature next session, for an act to incorporate certain persons as the Lake Superior and Pacific Railroad Company.—Quebec Mercury.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES.—The Board of School Trustees for this city held their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening last, in the Central School for the first time, which building they have rented from Upper Canada College for five years.—The Board will meet hereafter at the same place, on the third Wednesday evening of each month. A resolution passed at this meeting declaring the Common Schools FREE, from and after the first of April, for the remaining nine months of the present year.

It is stated that James Morton, Esq., will be a candidate for the representation of the united counties of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington at the next general election. Mr. Morton is described as a liberal conservative, and as a man of great enterprise, who has done much to develop the resources of the Midland District, and in particular to promote the welfare of the farmers.

CANADA COMPANY.—The half-yearly report states that there has been a large increase of business in the operations of all the branches of the Company during the year, 1850, and that the system of leasing lands has been found to work admirably.—The balance in favour of the Company is sufficient to maintain the usual dividend. The receipts in Canada in the year 1850 were—Purchase money of land sold, £10,260; bills receivable, £14,718; rent, £13,177; interest, £8,984; transfer fees, £225; timber cut £341; advances repaid, &c., £1,348; total £49,053.

HOSPITAL FOR PROTESTANTS.—We are glad to learn that measures have been for some time past in progress by the Lord Bishop, (in his capacity of Rector) and others, for establishing a hospital for the Protestant poor in this Parish, towards which object a legacy from the late Miss Finlay, and a lot of ground given to the Parish by a respectable old couple are already applicable; together with a sum of money contributed by another member of the Church of England, amounting, with the legacy, to £300. Obstacles to the recovery of the legacy, and other causes, have delayed the announcement of this plan, but it will, we understand, be shortly proposed for the co-operation of all who may be disposed to support it. The Hospital will be open to all the Protestant Poor, who will be attended by the Clergy of the denominations to which they may respectively belong.—Quebec Mercury.