

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, FEB. 5, 1853.

THE VETO ON THE KING'S COLLEGE BILL.

WE have noticed elsewhere the despatch from the Home Government on this subject, being laid on the table of the House. A good deal of feeling was excited, and some warm remarks were made, in consequence of this obstruction to the action of the House; and we were sorry to see some personal reflections cast upon the Bishop, for the part which he has taken in the matter. He has however done nothing more than it was his duty to do, as Visitor of the College, in which capacity he is bound to protect its interests, to the utmost of his power. The House of Assembly having thought proper to present an Address to Her Majesty, in order to secure her assent to a measure which went to repeal the grant of money voted in perpetuity more than 60 years ago to the Institution, it was most emphatically the duty of the Governors and of the Alumni, and more especially of the Visitor, to do their utmost to counteract a proceeding, which aimed a deadly thrust at the Institution under their care. Accordingly, both the Governors and the Alumni forwarded Memorials to the Colonial Secretary, praying that the public faith might be preserved inviolate, and the endowment continued.

In addition to these documents, the Visitor sent a communication by way of commentary on the Address of the House, which was very ably and completely done, in a fair, candid and manly style, deserving the thanks of every friend of the College, and of all Churchmen. If his letter is perused in a reasonable spirit, it must be regarded as an effectual refutation of the misstatements contained in the Address.

Why should he be blamed for this? or why is it that his Lordship's letter to the Secretary of the Colonies has been singled out for publication? Why have not the two Memorials alluded to, been also laid upon the table along with the despatch? The framers of those documents, and the Visitor, ought not to be separated in this matter. They have all done, we repeat, no more than their duty, in endeavouring to avert the spoliation contemplated by the Act of the last Session; and those who blame them would have done the same had their circumstances been reversed. We shall doubtless have occasion to recur to this subject again.

Since we wrote the foregoing we have seen a violent, and indecorous article in the *Sun* of Friday, directed against the Bishop. There is no argument in it to meet, and therefore we only notice it to let the Editor know that he need not trouble himself about the fitness or unfitness of that Prelate for his position, a matter upon which the opinion of the "*Sun*" will not have much weight, and which is no concern of his. His Lordship, at all events, knows how to defend the rights committed to his care. *Hinc illur lachrymæ.* That is "the head and front of his offending." Public men must expect their acts to become the subject of observation, but this should be carried on without low personalities, on public grounds, unmixed with private slander. We question whether the Roman Catholic Bishop would have been thus dealt with by the *Sun*, and if the *Church Times* had published such an article against him, we are quite sure that we would not soon have heard the last of it.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

On Saturday, Mr. Zwicker introduced a Resolution for reducing the Salaries of the Provincial Secretary and the other Government Officers, on the ground that the great public works in contemplation called for all the savings that can be made, and that it appears the duties of many of these functionaries, have been discharged by Clerks, in the absence of the Principals, thus shewing that smaller salaries would be sufficient. He also asked for a List of Magistrates duly appointed in the Co. of Lunenburg. Among various petitions presented was one for building a draw bridge over Bear River, between Annapolis and Digby. Mr. Wade's bill for making Deputy Prothonotaries Principals, was taken up, discussed and passed. Mr. Nutting's emoluments are secured at £500 per annum, during his incumbency. The Hon. J. W. Johnston being still unable to attend, the Prov. Secretary did not proceed with the Railway bills. On Monday the house met at 3 o'clock, and the rest of the afternoon was taken up in receiving Petitions. A despatch from Sir J. Packington in reference to the Bill depriving King's College of its grant, and informing the House why he had not advised Her Majesty to

assent to that Bill, was laid on the table by the Prov. Secretary. It appears that the Memorials from the Governors and Alumni of the Institution, and from the Visitor, have had their due weight with the Government.

On Tuesday the Hon. J. W. Johnston delivered a powerful speech of more than two hours in length, in support of his motion to defer the Railway bills for three months. It is considered by competent judges to have been one of the ablest and happiest efforts, which the Hon. Gentleman ever made on the floor of the Assembly. We transfer to our columns as much of this speech as our limits will allow.

On Wednesday, the Hon. Mr. Howe took the floor to reply to Mr. Johnston, and occupied it for nearly three hours, making no common efforts to show, that the course taken by the Government is the only right one, and the only one that can give us a cheap and at the same time substantial railway. The listener to these able speeches, on opposite sides, must have felt their power, in leading him at one time to think that the Jackson scheme is the only safe and practicable one for the country, and at another to feel, that the adoption of Sykes's (the Government plan) is the course to save the country from a grinding and endless monopoly and a host of evils. There is need of cool heads, (they are hot enough in the galleries,) and a calm dispassionate weighing of the pros and cons, in a matter so complicated and of such momentous import to the present and future interests of our Province.

We would have inserted a portion of Mr. Howe's reply, but have not seen a report of it in time.

On Thursday Mr. L. M. Wilkins delivered an able speech on the same subject. On Friday the debate was continued, Messrs. Johnston, Howe, M. Wilkins and Hall, addressing the House. The former gentleman took occasion to declare that he would yield to none in an ardent desire to accomplish a Railroad on a safe and prudent plan. As the division approaches, an intense interest is exhibited on all sides, and it seems hard to say what the fate of the Bills on the table may be. But we trust if they should be lost, that others will be adopted to secure the speedy commencement of the work on a plan dispassionately considered and wisely laid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On Friday, the Hon. Mr. Almon introduced the following Resolutions, in reference to the act of the Government last Session, in taking the Members' Pay from the Treasury in an illegal and unconstitutional manner:

"Whereas it has come to the knowledge of this House, that a sum of money has been paid out of the public chest, notwithstanding the dissent of this House twice recorded, viz. on the 7th and 8th April, 1852, when two Resolutions were severally submitted to this co-ordinate Branch of the Legislature for its concurrence, by message from the House of Assembly, for the payment of such sum, being as stated for the following service, viz.—" that His Honor the Administrator of the Government be authorised and respectfully requested to advance such sum as will suffice to pay every member of the House of Assembly for his attendance in General Assembly for the present session one pound per day, as also the travelling charges as heretofore; but no member shall receive pay for more than forty days attendance." And Whereas such a procedure is subversive of the privileges of this House, casting contempt on its measures, and rendering ineffectual its Legislative power for the welfare of the Province, and is moreover a direct violation of the Constitution of this Province. Be it Resolved, That this House does now record its solemn protest against the illegal act thus committed, and now under consideration. And be it further Resolved, That an humble address be presented to His Excellency, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to institute an enquiry into the matter of which this House now complains, in order that it may be discovered by what warrant or authority the Receiver General has disbursed the aforesaid money, and that His Excellency will be graciously pleased to communicate such information to this House."

The Hon. gentleman delivered an animated and powerful speech on the occasion, from which, as reported, we give the following extract, regretting that we cannot insert it in full.

"It appears to me, sir, that these resolutions must certainly carry the votes of every member of the House, except those of the four Executive Councillors. Some who hear me, may have had doubts that we were authorized to take the stand we did, in refusing the pay of members of the House of Assembly, but the question now assumes a new phase. It is not now whether the members of that House, or of this shall have pay, it is, has this high-handed, illegal act been committed by the Executive Council, whose liability to the people is a main pillar of the British Constitution. The public ministers in England are liable to be impeached for improper conduct. I cannot see why we should not have similar power in bringing for trial before the public, those who have acted as I conceive our ministers have.—With that due respect to you Mr. President, which I hope I shall never forget, I will say, that I con-

sider you were placed in a painful situation on that occasion.—Part of the duty which devolves on you, is to have especial charge of the privileges of this House. That is your care, not only while you occupy the chair of the House, but when you are elsewhere.—One of the chief reasons, as we supposed, why the head of the House had a seat at the Executive Council's Board, was, that he should take care, in situations out of the House, that our rights were not invaded. Let me say with the utmost respect, that it was in your power to prevent the awkwardness of the situation to which I have alluded. I think, sir, that it was your duty, either to resign your position as Executive Councillor, or as President of this Branch, when the question was brought before you, and you were called to give an opinion. No doubt you will not shrink from the responsibility which you then incurred; and I shall be happy if before passing on these resolutions, an opportunity will be given in committee of the House, for you to explain the line of conduct you then pursued, and the motives which governed you on that occasion.—As a member of this House, I say to you, whom I am bound to treat with high respect, that you should explain, why no one was present on that occasion, to speak in behalf of the privileges of the House so outraged—I say so, because I consider that this Branch has been degraded, its rights trampled on—that no particle of honour attaches to any seat here, if we may be told that our votes are worth nothing: that money may be paid out of the public chest in direct opposition to the dissent of the majority here. Have we come to this—that when we walk the streets the finger of scorn may be pointed at us—we may be asked what are we here for? We who have been thus placed by the Queen to guard the royal prerogatives, to take care that encroachments of the people's rights do not come from the other end of the building. Are we to be told now, that we are of no use? If so, why not dismiss us? Can there be a stronger argument in favor of an Elective Legislative Council than that afforded to day, by the Solicitor General, respecting a question of this kind, that we should wait till the public accounts come down! What, sir, is our beneficial influence, after the insult complained of? Where is the use of votes coming from the other house, if, when we dissent, payments may be made from the Treasury? Perhaps money votes will not come up, if they can do without us, it would be a farce to send them up. Is that really the situation in which Nova Scotia is placed? Will hon. gentlemen who usually sustain the government, support such unconstitutional questions. If we decline investigating this a priori, if we consent to this invasion of our privileges, we pronounce our own requiem; and this Branch will indeed become a dead letter.

On Tuesday the Resolutions proposed by Mr. Almon came up for discussion, when the Hon. member in a long and able speech, set forth the unconstitutional nature of the act of the Executive, which he called in question. The decision of the Council was against the Resolutions, 9 for and 10 against them.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—The neighbouring Province seems to be going ahead. The *Courier* states the revenue for 1852 at £138,220, being an increase over that of the preceding year of £21,331. The same paper says, rents in St. John have advanced within a year or two, 50, and even sometimes 100 per cent, and that not a house will be to be had in the Spring. What makes the difference between N. B. and N. S.? One thing is plain. They talk less than their neighbours, but do more. Their Railway Session did not last much longer than a Railway Speech with us. Their Railway contracts have been signed, sealed and delivered, and their Bills approved in London and out again, before the talking with us is half done. And to all appearance, before the last words on the subject shall die away with in our St. Stephen's, some thousands of pickaxes will be deep in the N. B. soil.

D. C. S.
RECEIPTS.

Jan, 24.	Annapolis,	£ 38 11 3
	B. Smith, Esq., Rawdon,	1 0 0
	Cornwallis (for 1852) Rev. J.	
	Ritchie 25s. R. Starr Esq 6s 3d	1 11 3
	Cornwallis,	16 4 4
	Mrs. Wm. B. Webster, Kentv.	0 2 6
26	Yarmouth,	32 5 0
	Tusket,	6 5 0
27	Sydney, C. B. St. George's,	20 0 0
	Wilmot,	13 2 6
31	Pictou,	19 0 6
	Truro,	20 0 0
	Manchester and Milford,	3 12 6
	Arichat,	5 0 0

EDWIN GILPIN, JR.

BISHOPRIC ENDOWMENT FUND

Rec'd. from Aylesford, Jan. 28th, £4 10 0
EDWIN GILPIN, JR., Sec'y.

The Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia has just issued a Circular to the Clergy, in which, amongst other matters, he earnestly calls upon them to make renewed and personal exertions to extend the circulation of the