

was never a time when the cause of Christ needed churches more, with faithful ministers to preach in them, and costly Cathedrals less.

We are by no means unfavorable to the erection of cathedrals, when such a work can be done without manifestly impairing the ability of the Church to do her own appropriate missionary work.

Correspondence.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

FAIRWEATHER CHRISTIANS.

QUESTIONS ON STORMY SUNDAYS.—FOR MALES.

1. Would this weather keep me at home on a Monday, from my Counting House, or office, or shop, or from any business appointment?

2. Would it keep me from any place where I had the prospect of gaining a few pounds?

3. Would it keep me from the gallery of the House of Assembly, or from a Court House, or a place of amusement, or a convivial meeting?

4. If not, what kept me at home last Sunday, and left my minister to preach to empty seats, and if he could be there, why not I?

FOR FEMALES.

1. If invited to a Ball, or other entertainment, would such weather have kept me at home?

2. If I had asked my friends Mrs. Gadabout and Mr. Whiskerandos, and the Miss Simportons to a quiet dinner at 7, and a quadrille on the carpet afterwards, ought such weather to have kept them away?

3. If I can "slip on my rubbers," and "take a run" to Doull's to inspect his new goods, and buy the latest pattern, and "not mind the weather at all," might I not have ventured to one or other of the Churches,—perhaps not so far away?

4. If so, why was I not there, in my place, to say my prayers, and listen to the instructions which, be the weather fair or foul, my worthy Parson must prepare, but which he then delivered to my cushions instead of myself?

Another Question for ALL.

Do you remember that there is another congregation from which you CANNOT stay at home? How many lost Sundays will you have to account for there?

Feb. 22.

QUEER.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

SIR,—

A lump of Quartz, containing Gold was sent the other day from California to Nova Scotia, in order that its true value might be obtained, a doubt having existed in the mind of the sender as to the price put upon it at the spot.

The specific gravity of California Gold varies from 17 to 19, that of Quartz from 2.6 to 2.8. The lump weighed 10498.75 grains Troy, and the water displaced by it 1968.75 grains. Supposing that £3 sterling per oz. was the market price for gold in California, what would be the value of the lump?

Probably some of your numerous readers would furnish a solution of the above.

I am, sir, yours, &c,

X.

Provincial Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE.

On Saturday, the Report of the Committee which had been sitting on the subject of the Railway, was, after much disputation and sordid manoeuvres on both sides, received by the House, by a majority of four! On Monday the debate on the Bill was resumed with undiminished pertinacity, and rather increased heat. It would be tedious to attempt to follow the speakers over the same dull ground, which Hon. members have trodden over and over again. It does appear a terrible waste of time and money to be thus reiterating the same arguments, the same mystifying calculations, bandying the same personal invectives to and fro, from week to week. If the two parties talk themselves hoarse, they will not affect the ultimate result.

There has been money enough expended already within 7 years in debates, and delegations, to have built some miles of the trunk road. On Monday a large variety of papers were laid on the table, by the Government, including accounts of the Penitentiary, Estimates for the year, &c., &c. Bills were passed to incorporate Trustees of St. Andrew's Church, Halifax—Free Church, Sydney—and to increase stock of Water Company. Mr. Wier presented a petition from 8000 persons in Halifax, praying that the Railway Bills may pass.—Dr. Brown moved in amendment to the Clause before the House, that no Trunk be made without the Branches. The hon. member need not fear. He may be quite sure that the branches will as naturally follow from the Trunk when built, as the branches shoot out from the stem of a tree.

The Speaker addressed the House several times with such effect, in favor of the Government scheme, so far as the trunk line is concerned, but deemed it impru-

dent to extend the liability of the Province so far, as to include Branch lines—indeed he considered it impossible to carry on all three simultaneously. He brought forward unquestionable evidence that Railways have been built even lower than Sykes' estimate. He deprecated the party spirit which was mixed up with this great question, and forcibly pictured the disgraceful attitude in which Nova Scotia would be placed, in the coming season, if the Session should close without the adoption of some scheme for the immediate construction of a Road through the Province—when New Brunswick will be found with her line—complete from Shediac to the Bend—thus tapping the St. Lawrence and robbing us of the trade of Canada, P. E. Island and the Gulf Shore.—He spoke strongly against the Company scheme, and seemed fully armed with information of the most authentic nature, to substantiate his views. Mr. Thomas Coffin denounced the plan of a Company as one for enslaving the people of the land for ever. Mr. Martin Wilkins spoke on the other side, and contrived to enliven the dull details with the flashes of good humour. He made it out, if Jackson be our man that we shall have to give no money,—only paper—only our Bond. Does the hon. member intend to "repudiate?"

The Provincial Secretary sprang to his feet and made a furious onslaught on the last speaker, and all hands on that side of the house. He denounced with such warmth and vehemence, as he seldom exhibits, the disparagement of Nova Scotia credit by her own Sons, in their assertion that without Jackson's endorsement, our Bonds would be waste paper.—He averred on the contrary (*manibus et pedibus*) that our "promise to pay," would float bravely in the great market of London, i. e. the WORLD—without the scrape of a pen from Jackson, Brassay, Peto, and "the whole bunch of them."—He asked once more, why any should wish to force the Province into a bargain that would cost £2000 per mile more than by the Government plan, and leave us for all time coming, at the mercy of a monopolising Company, instead of having the control of our own road, and the benefit of its gains, if any there be—(and that such there will be is a very plain part of Messrs. Jackson's calculations.)

Now this question, after all the talk, has not yet been satisfactorily answered.

Mr. Marshall began to speak in answer to the Pro. Sec'y. But in consequence of rude and shameful interruptions, the Speaker, on motion of Mr. Howe, cleared the galleries. We do not understand the justice of punishing the well-behaved on account of those who are not so. There was no "obstructive" coughing, (though plenty of squeezing) in the Speaker's gallery, —and yet the tenants of that sweet spot were doomed to march as quickly as the gentry opposite, who hailed the Speaker's commands with anything but euphonious sounds. This does not strike us, "as even-handed justice."

On Wednesday, the House presented a curious scene to the spectators in the Gallery. The members seemed to be marching and countermarching the most of the day—sometimes apparently in doubt to which side they should move. Resolution upon Resolution was proposed on both sides, the main object of which seemed to be to test the strength of party. The upshot was, that they resolved to do nothing! A resolution, affirming government management, as the best, was carried in Committee by the casting vote of the chairman—But lost on being brought up, by a majority of 2. Mr. Johnston's Resolution in favour of Companies, was also lost by the same majority.—Thus, as the farmers say of a stubborn horse, they will neither "gee nor haw"—and the whole matter, after a month's debate, and a cost of perhaps £2000, is at a dead lock. The sooner the necessary business of the Country is provided for, and a dissolution ordered, the better.—Then let the country decide on the question of "Railroads by Government or by Companies"? A new House may be here in eight weeks, and Railway operations may yet be commenced by the 1st of June. It is quite evident that neither of the parties is strong enough in, the House to carry through a measure of such importance, and therefore it is but a waste of time, temper and money, besides being a humiliating spectacle of disunion to surrounding Provinces, to prolong the contest.

On Thursday, a motion to rescind the vote of the previous evening, against the Government plan, was carried by the casting vote of the Speaker. Mr. Borneu voting in favour of the Government. Mr. Howe then intimated that a sufficient pause would be made to allow of the introduction by the opposition of any scheme they may have. In the evening the House was in Committee of Supply, passing the usual votes.

News Department.

MR. EVERETT'S LETTER.

To the President of the United States.

The Secretary of State has the honor to submit to the President the following report in relation to the negotiations pending between this Government and that of Great Britain on the subject of the fisheries, of reciprocal intercourse with the British American Provinces, and the navigation of the St. Lawrence, and the canals connected with it. The prospects of the negotiation at the commencement of the Session were alluded to in a general way in the President's Message. The attention of this department was given to the subject at the earliest day possible, and it has been pursued with diligence. It has been perceived with satisfaction, that the Government of Her Britannic Majesty is prepared to enter into an arrangement for the admission of the fishing vessels of the United States, to a full participation in the public fisheries on the coasts and shores of the Provinces;—with the exception at present of Newfoundland, and in the right of drying and curing the fish on shore, on condition of the admission duty free, into the market of the United States of the Colonial fish, and on the like condition of these privileges being reciprocally enjoyed by British subjects on the coasts and shores of the United States. It is also understood that the British Government is desirous, in concert with the Provinces, to come to an agreement with the United States for reciprocal free trade with the Provinces in certain natural productions, and that the free navigation of the River St. Lawrence and of the Welland Canal would be conceded as part of the arrangement. An agreement of this kind has for several years received the attention of Congress, and a bill providing for reciprocal free trade in certain articles, on one occasion passed the House of Representatives. The present negotiations have been concluded by the departments under the impression that if the details of the arrangement could be satisfactorily settled, and in such a way as to afford mutual benefit, Congress would be disposed to perform its part to carry it into effect, even if the United States, the party which furnishes by far the largest market to the other, shall think it necessary in some respects to limit, and in others to enlarge the number of articles subject to the arrangement beyond what the British Government of the Provinces would prefer. The Secretary of State has been of opinion that the main provisions alluded to promised so much benefit on both sides, that it would be felt to be expedient to enter into the arrangement for a definite time, leaving to future legislation and negotiation guided by experience, to render it still more satisfactory by future limitation or enlargement. The number and variety of the details which have presented themselves in the progress of the negotiations, and the important interests in different parts, both in the United States and the British Provinces, requiring to be carefully considered, with the necessity of a reference to London for instruction as to all questions of moment, that arose unexpectedly, have thus far prevented, and will render impossible the conclusion of a comprehensive arrangement of the kind contemplated to be submitted in season to the Senate, and to have been made the subject of legislative action during the present short session. It is believed, however, from the progress made, and the present state of the negotiations, that time is only wanted for a satisfactory agreement between the governments on all the subjects above alluded to. The only part of the proposed arrangements which may be considered of an urgent nature, is such an adjustment of the fishery question as would remove all danger of trouble on the fishing grounds during the approaching season. This is an object of great importance, and worthy the immediate attention of Congress, as belonging to a general settlement. The British Government is not willing to dispose of it separately, but the Secretary of State is of opinion, under the circumstances of the case, if Congress should pass an act admitting Provincial fish, free of duty, into the United States, on condition that the fisheries of the United States are admitted to a full participation in the provincial fisheries, the government of Great Britain would give effect to the measure by the requisite legislation on her part, in the expectation, on both sides, that the question of reciprocity, and of the use of the St. Lawrence, and the Canals connected with it, will be taken up hereafter with a favorable disposition to come to a mutually advantageous agreement on the subject. And even if such an act should fail to produce the desired result, which is not apprehended, it would relieve the United States of the responsibility of the consequences. All of which is respectfully submitted.

EDWARD EVERETT.

The message was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

MARRIAGE OF A CHINESE.—Mr. Oong Ar Show, the well known tea vender, was yesterday united in wedlock at St. Matthew's Church, South Boston. Ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Clinch, in the presence of quite a large number of persons. The bride's name was Louisa M. Hens, a young lady of German parentage.—*Boston paper.*

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.—We have been informed that intelligence was received by telegraph last evening, of the rejection by the United States Senate, on Thursday last, of the Reciprocity and Fishery treaty lately agreed upon by the American Secretary of State and Mr. Crampton, the British Minister at Washington; but that a bill on the subjects embraced in the treaty, would be reported in Congress by the Committee of Commerce.