

tended proposing to the House himself. He contended that the allegations of the petition were untrue, for they cannot be compelled to accept office unless they like, and that was one of the beauties of the Act. If, however, any honorable member pledged himself that it is not from disrespect, but ignorance, then he would give his voice for its being received.

Mr. Smith.—Without meaning disrespect to the chair, he thought that the petition ought to be received, when there was no intentional disrespect on the part of the petitioners, and although he would object on the ground of informality, he would not do so on account of the language in which the petition was couched.

Mr. Johnson contended that there was no informality in it, and that it contained more truth than poetry, for they pushed it down their throats; the language of the petition shewed that they knew what was pure. The assertion of some of the gentlemen in reference to it being optional, whether to receive office or not was not true, and he contended that there was no irregularity in it, and that it ought to be received.

Mr. Baldwin would state his reasons why the petition ought to be received.—He considered it was not so worded as to warrant its rejection. He would not ground his reasons for admitting it upon the ignorance of the parties who signed the petition, for they were some of the most respectable and intelligent yeomanry of the 4th Riding of York, and he was confident they did not want it received on the ground of ignorance. Neither did he consider that they ought to receive it in consequence of the precedent set them by the head of the government, receiving petitions couched in similar language. If they did not know the respect due to himself, this house ought to have a proper respect for itself.

Mr. Simpson adverted to the rules of the house upon petitions, the first of which was, that the member who introduces a petition is answerable for the petition which he presents.

The petition was then put to the vote of the house and carried.

Dr. Dunlop presented a petition from the Home District, praying that the house might define its powers. This petition was also objected to, because coming from a corporate body it had no seal of Office attached.

The remainder of the routine business of Monday, most of which possesses little interest, together with the speeches of last night, we shall give in our next. We regret that we could not do so to-day, from the circumstance of having too much to do, prior to publication, but our readers will read with interest our observations upon the course of the debate, and the state of parties.

#### ADDRESS OF THE HONORABLE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

To his Excellency SIR CHARLES BAGOT, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, one of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Governor General of British North

America, and Captain-General and Governor-in-chief in and over the Provinces of Canada, Nova-Scotia, New-Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c. &c. &c.

#### MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council of Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, humbly thank Your Excellency for Your Excellency's gracious Speech from the Throne.

We beg to congratulate Your Excellency upon Your arrival in this Province as Her Majesty's Representative, and to assure Your Excellency that in the fulfilment of the arduous duties of Your Excellency's high station, You will always meet our cordial support and assistance.

We are fully aware that the melancholy event which marked the close of last Session, and which is still fresh in our memory and our regrets, has imposed upon Your Excellency the responsibility of maturing and carrying into effect numerous important measures, and has caused a corresponding necessity for delay in the meeting of the Provincial Parliament.

We assure Your Excellency that we unite in acknowledging the goodness of Providence in the merciful direction, for the security and advantage of this Province and of the British Empire, of several events of great public interest which have occurred since the last Session of the Provincial Parliament.

We cordially concur with Your Excellency in feeling that the birth of a Prince, destined under God's protection to occupy the British Throne, is a source of rejoicing to all her Majesty's faithful subjects; and we shall gladly take the opportunity afforded by the present Session of Parliament to offer our hearty Congratulations to Her Majesty and Her Royal Consort upon this event so conducive to their domestic happiness, and so auspicious to the nation.

We unite with one voice in thanksgiving to ALMIGHTY GOD that He has been pleased to avert from our beloved Sovereign the danger to which She has been exposed by the treasonable attempt of an Assassin, and by the malice of the reckless and wicked; and we fervently join in the prayer that He will continue to watch over and long to preserve a life so justly dear to all classes of Her Majesty's subjects.

We thank Your Excellency for acquainting us that a Treaty between Great Britain and the United States has been signed on the part of Her Majesty, and since ratified by the Federal Senate, by which Treaty the important questions affecting the Province and the United States have been adjusted; and we assure your Excellency that from this happy settlement, we fully concur with your Excellency in foreseeing the most favorable consequences to this Province in the maintenance of peace, the restoration of confidence, and the devotion of the undivided energy of its inhabitants to the internal advancement and the development of the vast resources of the country: We feel most grateful to the Queen that these have been among Her Majesty's chief objects

in the negotiation of the Treaty; and we receive with cordial thankfulness the statement made by Your Excellency in obedience to Her Majesty's gracious command, that no wish is nearer to Her Majesty's heart than that under her rule and the protection of her Crown, all her faithful subjects in Canada may rest in undisturbed peace—may feel themselves to be one people with their fellow subjects of the British islands and may increase in wealth, prosperity and contentment, founded on the possession and rational enjoyment of a free and essentially British Constitution.

We beg to offer our acknowledgement for your Excellency's attention to the great measures of last session, and we assure your Excellency of our co-operation in making all requisite modifications in any of those measures with the view of giving effect to their provisions, in development of the principles on which they are founded, and in harmony with the spirit of the institution under which they are framed.

When the important measures for the establishment of District Councils shall come under revision, we shall give our cheerful aid in considering the amendments which will be proposed, with the view of removing all obstacles to the smooth and efficient operation of these institutions.

We acknowledge Your Excellency's endeavors to work out the objects which the Legislature contemplated in passing an act for the promotion of Education, and Your Excellency's adoption of such measures as Your Excellency deemed indispensable to the accomplishment of their intentions until the subject could be again brought under their consideration. We shall give our best assistance in the introduction of any amendments into the measure which will tend to insure its successful operation; and in the meantime we beg to express our satisfaction in noticing the impulse which has been given to Education in the higher as well as in its elementary branches, the results of which cannot fail to confer the most material benefits upon the whole Province.

We shall be ready to give our utmost attention to the re-organization of the Militia, and we fully concur in Your Excellency's opinion that the present is a favorable opportunity to alleviate unnecessary pressure upon the people, and to place this arm of the public defence upon a sounder and more satisfactory footing.

We entertain a grateful sense of Your Excellency's assurance that in perfecting these and other measures for the advancement and welfare of the Province, we may rely upon Your Excellency's cordial co-operation and support. The Province has at length recovered from a state of severe trial and danger, and a bright dawn now opens upon its prospects. We are deeply conscious that the promise of peace secured upon an honorable and advantageous basis; the establishment of tranquility and security; the restoration of financial credit and commercial confidence, with the enjoyment of free and permanent institutions, are blessings for which Canada has

reason to be grateful, and which it will be our efforts to preserve, and our pride to perpetuate.

#### REPLY.

#### HONORABLE GENTLEMEN:

I thank you for your Address and your Congratulations on my arrival in this Province; and I rely with confidence upon receiving your cordial support and assistance in my administration of its affairs.

#### MUTILATION OF THE SCRIPTURES.

To the Editor of the Morning Register.

Sir—I was in the House when Mr. Jackson delivered himself of his celebrated speech, in opposition to the government grant for educational purposes in Ireland; and although I have read in the Evening Packet what purports to be an accurate report of the aforesaid speech, I do not find the mutilation of the Scriptures included in the bill of indictments which the learned gentleman preferred against the Board. Apropos of Scriptures—mutilation, will you have the kindness to inform me whether mutilation was ever attempted, and to what extent, in the Church of which Mr. Jackson is so zealous and so distinguished an ornament? I am, Sir,

A LIBERAL PRESBYTERIAN.

Not being of the Elect, we cannot undertake to give a satisfactory answer to the latter clause of the interrogatory, to wit, the extent to which the Scriptures have been mutilated by the Protestant Episcopalians; but that every tiro in polemics is at liberty to cut and carve them as he likes is unquestionable. The rubric of the Church of England takes it for granted that the public service is to be celebrated—we are going to say, performed—every day in the week; and the lessons for the day are so appointed that the greater part—not the entire—of the Old Testament is to be read over once, and the greater part of the New Testament twice a year; but as public service is not celebrated every day, it follows that only a very small portion of either the Old or New Testament is read in Churches.

If it were right and expedient that "the whole Bible" should be publicly read without note or comment, or explanation, surely the established Church would have duly provided for the necessity.—But what is the fact? The established Church, by pointing out the particular lessons that shall be read, prohibits the general reading of the Canonical Scriptures before the congregation. Several chapters of Genesis, still more of Exodus, the first seventeen chapters of Numbers, both books of Chronicles, Solomon's Song, part of Ezra, nearly the entire Apocalypse or Revelations, are omitted, and therefore virtually prohibited. This is perfectly well known to Mr. Jackson, and yet he makes an outcry against mutilation, knowing all the while that every clergyman of his communion has solemnly sworn to follow a Rubric which interdicts certain portions of the Canonical Scriptures, and expressly commands that parts of the Apocrypha shall be read in Churches:

Do we blame the established Church