

"no national religion." The dominion of the king, according to the inscriptions, extended to the central provinces of Asia Minor and Armenia northward; to the Western provinces of Persia eastward; to the west as far as Lydia and Syria; and to the south to Babylonia and the northern part of Arabia.

"The empire appears to have been at all times a kind of confederation formed by many tributary states, whose kings were so far independent that they were only bound to furnish troops to the supreme lord in time of war, and to pay him yearly a certain tribute.—The Jewish tribes, it is now proved, held their dependent position upon the Assyrian king from a very early period; and it is curious to observe that, wherever an expedition against the Kings of Israel is mentioned in the Assyrian inscriptions, it is invariably stated to have been undertaken on the ground that they had not paid their customary tribute.

"At every step sacred history is illustrated, illuminated and explained by the speaking stones of Nineveh; and in this regard alone the Assyrian discoveries have a significance beyond any revelation that has been made in modern times. Even the architecture of the sacred people may be rendered visible to the eye by comparing it with that of the Assyrian structures; and certainly not the least instructive result of all Mr. Layard's labours is the ingenious analogy drawn by Mr. Fergusson in his *Palaces of Nineveh and Persepolis Restored*, between the Temple of Solomon and the palace of the Assyrian king.

"It is with the utmost interest that we await the issue of further excavations. We sincerely trust that next and means may not be wanting in this country in order to enable our constituted authorities to proceed at least side by side with France in the disinterment of the most glorious monuments hitherto vouchsafed to the enterprising skill and curiosity of man."

### News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. America, August 6.

#### HOUSE OF LORDS.

##### COLONIAL CHURCH REGULATION BILL.

A Bill [as amended on Report on Re-commitment] intitled—"An Act to enable the Bishops, Clergy and Laity of the United Church of England and Ireland in Her Majesty's Foreign and Colonial Possessions, to provide for the Regulation of the Affairs of the said Church in such possessions."

Whereas by reason of the Laws in force for restraining and regulating Assemblies of the Clergy of the United Church of England and Ireland, and other Laws and Usages having special Reference to the Authority and Privileges of the said Church as established in England and Ireland respectively, Doubts are entertained whether the Members of such Church in Colonial Dioceses are not disabled from assembling for the management of their Ecclesiastical Affairs: And whereas it is expedient that the Bishop of any Diocese of the United Church of England and Ireland within Her Majesty's Foreign or Colonial Possessions, together with the Clergy and Laity of the same, and that the Metropolitan of any Province now lawfully constituted or hereafter to be constituted within the same, with the Bishops, Clergy, and Laity of the same, should be permitted, under certain Restrictions, to make Regulations for the Management of their Ecclesiastical Affairs. Be it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows:—

I. No Law, Usage, Rule, or other Authority in force in the United Kingdom, or in England and Ireland, or either of them, shall be construed or shall extend to prevent the Bishop of any Diocese or the Metropolitan of any Province in any of the Foreign or Colonial Possessions of Her Majesty, and his Clergy, and the Lay Persons of such Diocese, or the Bishops, Clergy, and Laity persons of such Province respectively, being in communion with the United Church of England and Ireland, from meeting together from Time to Time to make or from making at such meeting by common Consent, or by a Majority of Voices of the said Clergy and Laity severally and respectively, with the assent, in the case of any Diocese, of the said Bishop, any such Regulations as Circumstances shall in their Judgment render necessary for the Management of the Affairs of the said United Church within such Diocese, or for the holding of Meetings for the said Purpose thereafter, for One such Diocese only, or for the Dioceses which may

constitute the Province of any such Metropolitan, now constituted or hereafter to be constituted in such Possessions: Provided always, that no such meeting shall be lawful unless in accordance with and subject to the Provisions and Restrictions hereinafter contained: (that is to say.)

II. Provided, That where any such Assembly shall be holden for any Diocese, the Bishop, or in his absence a Commissary appointed for this Purpose by the Bishop by Writing under his hand and seal, shall preside in such Assembly: and upon all Questions arising in such Assembly the votes of the Clergy and the Lay Representatives shall be separately taken, and no Act or Resolution of such Assembly shall be valid unless with the Concurrence of the Majority both of the Clergy and the Lay Representatives, or of such of them respectively as may be present and vote in such Assembly: nor shall any regulation made by such Assembly be valid under this Act without the Consent of the Bishop, whether he shall or shall not be present in the Assembly at the making thereof.

III. And provided, That no Regulation, Act, or Resolution of any such Assembly shall be binding on any Person or Persons, other than the Bishop of the Diocese and his Successors, and the Clergy and Lay Members of the United Church of England and Ireland residing within such Diocese; nor upon each Bishop, Clergy, and Lay Members, except so far as such Regulation, Act or Resolution may concern the Position, Rights, Duties, and Liabilities of any Minister or Member of the said United Church in regard of his Ministry or Membership; and it shall not be lawful, by any such Regulation, Act, or Resolution of any Assembly, to impose any temporal or pecuniary Penalty or Disability other than such as may be consequent upon Suspension from or Deprivation of an Ecclesiastical Office or Benefice, or to deprive any Person of any Civil Right to which he is by law entitled.

IV. And provided, That no Regulations of any such Assembly shall have legal Force or Validity as against the Acts or Ordinances for the Time being in force of the local Legislatures of the Foreign or Colonial Possession in which such Assembly shall be holden.

V. And provided, That no such Regulation shall alter the Standards of Faith and Doctrine, or alter or be at variance with the Book of Common Prayer or the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, or alter the Oaths, Declarations, and Subscriptions by Law required to be taken, made, and subscribed by Persons to be consecrated, ordained, collated, instituted, or licensed within the said Church.

VI. And provided, That no such Regulation which shall affect any Right of Appeal to Her Majesty in Council, or to the Archbishop of Canterbury, or the Subordination of the said Bishops, Clergy, and Laity to the See of Canterbury, shall be valid unless the Consent of the Archbishop of the said See thereto be previously or thereafter signified by him under his Hand and Seal, or unless such Regulation be confirmed by an Order of Her Majesty in Council.

VII. And provided, That where the Bishop of any Diocese in any of the Foreign or Colonial Possessions of Her Majesty shall be fit to convene any such Assembly as aforesaid, such Bishop shall, at such Time as to him may seem meet, previous to the First such Assembly in his Diocese, by such Notice as to him may seem convenient, summon thereto all the Clergy being Incumbents, or licensed by the Bishop within such Diocese, and the Lay Representatives of the Diocese elected as hereinafter provided, and for electing such Representatives shall require each Clergyman instituted or licensed to a separate Copy of Souls to summon a meeting of the Laymen, Members of the Church, of the Age of Twenty-one Years or upwards, resident within his Parish or District, at such Time (within Limits which may be prescribed by such Bishop) and at such Place within the Parish or District as to such Clergyman may seem convenient, and every such Lay Member as aforesaid shall be entitled to vote at such Election.

VIII. And provided, That the said Meeting, so soon as Five Persons at the least are assembled, shall proceed to elect a Chairman by a Majority of those present, and the Clergyman may be present, and shall be qualified to act as such Chairman; and the Chairman shall make or cause to be made a List of those who shall then be present, and add thereto the Names of any who shall subsequently attend before the Proceedings are closed, and shall claim to vote thereat; and every such Lay Member present shall before taking part in or voting at such Meeting sign the following Declaration:

"I A. B., whose Name is hereto subscribed, do de-

clare, That I am a Member of the United Church of England and Ireland, and belong to no other Religious Denomination."

To be Concluded next week.

AUGUST 2.

#### RELATIVE STATE OF ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

In reply to a question from the Marquis of Clanricarde,

The Earl of Clarendon said that a despatch had been received from Lord Stratford, dated the 17th of last month, in which it was stated that a communication had been made by the Consul-General of Russia to the Hospodar of Moldavia informing him that his relations with the Ottoman Government were to cease, and that the tribute usually transmitted to Constantinople was to be placed at the disposal of the Russian Government. It was stated also by the same authority that the communication was not for the purpose of altering the existing order of things; but that, during the occupation of the province, it was deemed necessary that the sovereign power should be temporarily suspended. He was further informed that the Turkish Government expected a similar intimation would be given to the Hospodar of Wallachia; but up to the 22nd of last month, when the last despatch from that place had been received, no such communication had been made to that Hospodar. He was further informed that it was the intention of the Sultan, in the event of such an intimation to the Hospodar of Wallachia, to order him to retire from that place and to cease his functions. He should, under such circumstances, consider it highly improper that the British Consuls should continue to exercise their authority in those places; and he therefore lost no time in communicating to Lord Stratford the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government to such a course being taken. He had further to inform their lordships that a messenger left London that evening for St. Petersburg, being the bearer of instructions to Sir Hamilton Seymour, requiring him to demand from the Russian Government those explanations to which, under the circumstances, Her Majesty's Government was entitled.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, August 2.

#### COLONIAL CHURCH BILL.

Lord J. Russell moved the postponement of the second reading of the Colonial Church Regulation Bill, in order that the house might have an opportunity of considering certain amendments to be proposed by the Solicitor-General.

Mr. Kinnaird moved that the second reading of the bill should be postponed until this day three months.

The Solicitor-General hoped that the house would afford itself an opportunity of seeing what were the amendments which the Government proposed to introduce in the bill. These amendments would be of a most extensive character, and would proceed on the double principle that the most perfect religious equality should prevail among the members of every sect in the colonies, and that the colonists should be left the uncontrolled management of all their affairs, ecclesiastical and civil.

Mr. V. Smith opposed a proposal that they should also advanced a period of the session as Monday next proceed to consider what was, as it seemed to be, an entirely new bill.

After some further discussion, the Chancellor of the Exchequer offered a defence of the object for which the bill had been framed; but added that the Government would not press the adoption of the measure at so advanced a period of the session. The motion for the postponement of the second reading of the bill until that day three months was ultimately agreed to. The remaining business on the paper was disposed of, and the House adjourned.

CARE APPOINTMENTS.—Advices by the last mail from the Cape of Good Hope have confirmed the rumours that had been prevalent of General Cathcart's return to England. Several officers are named for the Cape command; but we think that in all probability that high appointment will be bestowed upon Major-General Jackson. This distinguished officer, it will be remembered, commanded the cavalry brigade upon the occasion of the public funeral of the late Duke of Wellington.

EVANGELIZATION OF IRELAND.—The preparations for sending one hundred ministers into Ireland for the month of August, just set on foot by the Evangelical Alliance, have been completed. A goodly proportion of ministers have already proceeded to Dublin, where they held a preliminary meeting on Friday to concert measures and to have their several stations assigned to them, with a view to the commencement of their labours.

ATTEMPT TO MURDER.—The papists in Ireland have commenced their system of vengeance against the clergy of the Church of England who are seeking to evangelize the country. On Friday night an attempt was made to assassinate the Rev. William Turpin, vicar of Clara in the King's County. Mr. Turpin had just entered his study when a gun was discharged towards the desk in which he was in the habit of sitting. The charge lodged in the window shutter, and the reverend gentleman escaped unhurt. No reason whatever can be assigned for this outrage. Mr. Turpin had no dispute with any one. Indeed according to report, he was greatly beloved by all his neighbours. He is not long in the "living," and he succeeded the Mr. Gresson whose life was attempted about twelve years ago as he was driving home in a gig from a neighbour's house.