

definition in the Church law, which describes parishioners as pew-holders, and others accustomed to attend upon the services of the Church, is far too vague for any practical or useful purpose. In many of the new churches, there are neither pews nor pew holders,—the churches are free from all taxation, and each individual learns that the house of God is, what it ought to be, a house of prayer for all people, not merely for those whose money may exclude the poor neighbor, or whose pride may be carried even into holy places.

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, JAN. 29, 1853.

"RUMORED SECESSION TO ROME."

We saw, some weeks since, in our U. S. exchanges, a report of Bp. Ives of N. Carolina, now in Europe, having seceded to Rome. The report was immediately contradicted by the Rev. Mr. Hobart of N. York. It rests on very doubtful authority, that of the R. C. *Herald*, which does not even speak positively on the subject—but deals in such expressions as "we believe," "we understand," &c. We think it most improbable, that, if the Bishop had been, as alleged, received by Dr. Forbes into the R. C. Church, before sailing from the U. S., the fact would not have been triumphantly announced with full particulars; by every papal trumpet in the land,—especially as it is said that authority was left with Dr. F. to publish it, which he has not done. However in these days, it is not wise to be positive even against less probable things—but certainly we will wait for clearer evidence before we reckon Bp. Ives among the "departed"—particularly when we remember that it is not long since he publicly confessed to the Convention of his Diocese, that he had indeed erred and strayed in a Romeward direction, but was now convinced of these errors, and avowed himself steadfast in the faith. If unhappily it turns out that the present rumor is correct, we doubt not some derangement of the upper story, will be made to appear as the cause.

In connexion with this subject we would observe, that altho' we should be very sorry to differ from our esteemed brother of St. John, we certainly must demur to a sweeping charge in the last *Witness*, that "even old fashioned High Churchmanship, calm, conservative and dignified as it sometimes appears, contains all the seeds of Puseyism, i. e. "Romanism restrained"—and that "the Romeward movement on both sides of the Atlantic, is nothing more than a fair and logical development of High Church principles." We hope that, on reconsideration, the writer will feel, that he has here transgressed the bounds of justice, and is at variance with his own experience, in reference to those commonly called High Churchmen, both at Home and in the Colonies; who have been, and are, as strenuous opponents of Popery as himself, and who would rather lay down their lives, than follow the steps of Newman, Wilberforce, Manning, &c. in their apostacy from the pure faith of our Reformed Church.

We believe, too, that during the last 14 years, there never was a time, when fewer departures on the "Romeward road" could be found, than at the present. The whole amount of these perversions, from first to last, is small, compared with the number of the Clergy and laity of the Church of England, and considering the high standing and powerful influence of those, who first deserted their colors. And we repeat, that additions to the number of perverts are now few and far between,—becoming "small by degrees and beautifully less." While on the other hand, the conversions from the Church of Rome have been as the "doves flying to the windows"—at least a hundred for every single one, that "has gone out from us." And as to reference to High Churchmen, we trust the old "distinctions without a difference" are gradually, nay rapidly fading away. That those who have perhaps been walking on stilts, now feel themselves quite as secure, on the common ground of evangelical truth, and those who may on some points have been a peg or two too low, are, with advantage to the cause of unity, rising higher—so that both parties are approximating nearer, each year, to

that state which will demand no other name than that of real Evangelical Churchmen. There has been a most wonderful fusion of parties in the political world at home, during the last few years, so that the lines once so broadly and clearly marked, between *conservative* or *tory*, and *liberal*, are fast disappearing, and we hope will soon be lost, in a fervent and patriotic zeal for the great and common interests of the whole nation. The present Government of Great Britain is an apt illustration of this. We trust there is a similar melting down of stiff and rusty lines of separation, going on in the religious world; and that, especially in our own beloved Church, the fierce onsets of the common enemy, and the rude assaults upon the towers we all love and revere, will have the happy effect of uniting every member of our communion, and especially every watchman upon our walls, more closely and firmly than ever, for the peace and prosperity of Zion. Perhaps there is no greater barrier to harmony, political and ecclesiastical, than the keeping up of those names which have so long been the watchwords of party.

THE PROVINCIAL.

If we have not before noticed this Monthly specimen of native literary talent, it is not because we have been uninterested in its prosperity or ineonsistent to its merits. We have before us the Nos. for December and January, the only two which have come editorially under our notice. Without entering particularly into an examination of their contents, we would add our testimony in their favour, to that of the contemporary Press. The general character of the articles which, according to the design of the conductors, are original, is highly creditable, the Editorial management discerning and judicious, and the Printer's part excellently done. In this latter item, the work forms a striking contrast to the first attempt of the kind in Nova Scotia, namely, the Nova Scotia Magazine, published in 1788, by John Howe (father of the Prov. Secretary,) and edited by the father of the writer of these lines. A comparison of the two will shew, that, if we have been slow in some kinds of improvement, in typographical execution there has been a marvellous advance. Nor was the Editor of that day, favoured with the aid of such numerous and ready writers, as now contribute to the "Provincial." Single-handed, he had to do his work; but the struggle could not be maintained beyond a second volume—after the publication of which, the Editor was called to assume the charge of the Infant Seminary at Windsor, and could no longer continue the other undertaking. We trust the present periodical, so auspiciously begun, will have a much longer life, and meet with all needful support, literary and pecuniary. The numbers for the first year of its existence are now bound and for sale, and form a very neat and attractive volume.

In the December No. we have an intimation that "Colonial Portraits" might be expected. Accordingly in that for January we have "Samuel Cunard," not crowned indeed with a literary garland, but, more appropriately, for the honor of his country, and the real advantage of the world, coupled with "Ocean Steam Navigation," a subject with which his name, and we hope that of Nova Scotia, through him, will be identified for generations to come.

Most properly, therefore, does the writer begin his "portraits" with our enterprising countryman, altho' indeed his pen sketches, and judiciously so, the *work* of the man, rather than the man himself. After giving a list of the Cunard Steamers built and building, (by the way they commenced running in 1840, and not in 1839) he says, "Within the next summer nearly 15,000 tons burden will have been added to the Cunard fleet, and their traffic will more than half belt the globe; and altogether, the amount of shipping which will soon be in active operation, under the auspices of this Company, will be more than 40,000 tons, a tonnage, if we mistake not, exceeding that of the whole Navy of the U. States."

Of the honorable gentleman himself, he justly observes, "Few, if any Mercantile men, stand, at this moment, in so high a position as Mr. Cunard. He has given his name to the noblest Company of Merchants that has adorned commerce since the palmiest days of Venice; and he has at the same time the proud consciousness, that he owes that position entirely to his own sagacity, enterprise and honor. * * * It would be well for this community did it possess a few more such as Samuel Cunard. With strong political leanings he has ever made politics secondary to his interest

—an interest, which has always been identified with colonial and general progress. He has never wasted an atom of his powers in mere squabbles of faction, but has lived and acted the pattern of an English merchant,—sedulous yet dignified in his devotion to business, subjecting every thing in all fairness and honor, to the accomplishment of one object. May his example be a model, and his success an encouragement, to the young about to enter on a kindred path."

LEGISLATIVE.

It is quite impossible, with the small space at our disposal, to do more than give an outline of the proceedings of the Legislature from day to day.

On Saturday the Hon. Mr. Howe, by command of His Excellency, laid on the table a variety of papers connected with Railway proceedings. For one portion, indeed he could find no room on the table, and was obliged to spread it on the floor of the House, namely, the voluminous survey by Messrs. Sykes & Co. of the proposed line from Halifax to Victoria Beach. Mr. Howe entered into a full explanation of the part taken by the Government since the last Session, in reference to the Railway, including an account of his late visit to England, and his negotiations with Messrs. Sykes and others. The upshot of the whole matter is, that the Legislature have now ample information before them to enable them to decide whether they will accept the proposals of Mr. Jackson, or those of Sykes & Co.—whether they will have three lines, or one trunk line only, to the N. B. frontier.—The difference in the offers of the two Contractors is about £2,000 a mile—no trifle, where a distance of 320 miles is in question. The survey on the western line is very satisfactory as regards the nature of the ground—no formidable difficulties occurring on the whole route. We observe the termination of the survey at Windsor is at the *College Field*. Monday was consumed in reading these papers. On Tuesday another budget on the same subject was brought in by the Provincial Secretary—also sundry Post Office Returns. The Bill for Municipal incorporations was largely discussed, especially the clause making it imperative on the Counties to adopt the Bill. The Speaker, Messrs. Wade, S. Campbell, &c. against it. Mr. Johnston, Howe, and both Wilkins for it.

The Speaker's amendment, which was to the effect, that it should not be made compulsory on any county, was again discussed on Wednesday and Thursday.

Mr. Johnston and Mr. Howe were for once on the same side, i. e. against the amendment. The former said—"I occupy a very peculiar position,—there is the hon. member for Colchester, a veteran liberal, who with his party has professed to confer upon the people of Nova Scotia Responsible Government, and here am I, an old worn out tory—(great laughter,) striving to confer upon the hon. gentlemen's constituents the privileges of self-government, he steadily resisting all my efforts. My view, sir, extends beyond the mere local effects of this bill; I am looking to the changes for the better, which I sincerely believe always result from the application of Representative Institutions under equitable restrictions—but I have been obliged to teach these great liberals a good many lessons on constitutional government, which I hope may not be lost upon them."

Mr. Howe also observed,—“I certainly find myself in a very novel position—backing up the hon. and learned member for Annapolis against my own supporters; yet, although the hon. and learned member could scarcely avoid harping upon his old theme, I cannot but support him in this measure. Hon. gentlemen would leave it optional with the counties to adopt or reject it; I would ask what has been done towards assessment for support of schools, though we have regularly inserted a clause in our educational bill for the last four years, permitting any county or district to assess itself? With the exception of the districts of Upper Musquodobit and North Sydney, and perhaps one or two others, no action has been taken upon it. But this bill might be adopted by Hants and rejected by Kings—adopted by Annapolis and rejected by Digby—the country being chequered in a diverse and most absurd manner, and as there are eighteen counties so it might be eighteen years before the whole were included."

On Thursday the Provincial Secretary introduced a Bill providing for the extension of deposits in the Saving Banks to the extent of £100,000 over and above the amount at present authorised. The money to be used by the Province for public works. Also a Bill to allow a further and gradual issue of Provincial paper to the extent of £100,000. Also a Bill to provide for the construction of Railroads.

The Hon. J. W. Johnston was absent from the session.