

Assembly in May. Now there is a happy change, and the old forms and machinery of the Presbyterian Church are coming into play, and will ere long convince all candid Episcopalians that the Presbyterian government is not that slow and impracticable thing which many of them alledge. We are daily reminded of the far-seeing wisdom of our Presbyterian forefathers. The structure of the Church of Scotland, though 300 years old, is found, when fully applied, as really adapted to the exigencies of the advanced period of society in which we live, as if it had been instituted yesterday. Such is the advantage of founding institutions upon Scriptural principles. Since the breaking up of the Assembly in May there have been five meetings of Commission, in other words, five meetings of the General Assembly, and a few individuals have the power, through the Moderator, of calling a meeting on any emergency. What form of government can be more flexible or popular than this? But in taking up the pen we did not mean to diverge into this line of observation, but merely to express the obligations of the Church to the members of Commission. These members have put themselves to no small trouble and expense to discharge their duty, and have done it well. At the recent meeting, some had come from distant parts of Ayrshire, Aberdeen, Cromarty, Ross—an indication of the profound interest which the present Church question is awakening, and the sacrifices which good men, both lay and clerical (for there was a large proportion of laymen,) are prepared to make on behalf of the Church of their fathers.

The Commission of the General Assembly have fearlessly done their duty. Their votes, which were all most important, were carried by immense majorities—such as 121 to 8, 115 to 13, 107 to 9, all indicative of the determination of the Church to stand by her great principles, and the rights of the Christian people of Scotland, in the face of all threatening and interdicts from the court of Session. The Procurator Bell, Mr. Dunlop, Mr. Shaw Stewart, and Mr. McGill Crichton, as lawyers, and attached to the civil Court, all came forward, and with regret solemnly declared, that that Court was acting most illegally and unconstitutionally, and expressed their determination to stand by the wronged and injured Church. We refer our readers to the report of the speeches. Dr. Chalmers and Mr. Candlish were in their noblest style and will not soon be forgotten.

But one of the most important proceedings of the Commission was, the strong recommendation to all the ministers and congregations of the Church to set apart a day, previous to the meeting of the General Assembly, for solemn prayer and humiliation before God, in connection with the present difficulties of the Church. This is a recommendation which will be hailed by multitudes of the most excellent of the Church of Scotland, and we doubt not will be very generally observed. No recommendation could be more appropriate. With the Divine blessing it is fitted to be eminently successful, whatever may be the immediate causes of the Church's trials. Every Christian knows that the real cause of her's, or of all affliction, is past unfaithfulness in duty; and that the sooner she returns by prayer and repentance to Him whom she has offended, the more speedily will she be delivered, and her chastisement sanctified to her greater good.—*Scottish Guardian.*

Ordination.—Mr. William Simpson, of this town, preacher of the gospel, and recently appointed by the General Assembly's Committee on Colonial Churches to the missionary station at Cowan's Mills, township of Durham, Lower Canada, was ordained on Thursday evening, the 12th inst. by the Presbytery of Stirling, in the West Church here. The congregation was large and respectable. Mr. Dempster of Denny, who had been appointed to preach and preside on the occasion, delivered an excellent and highly appropriate discourse on Psalm li. 10—14. After the ordination, Mr. Dempster proceeded to address Mr. Simpson in his new character of a minister of the Gospel of Christ, and with reference to his future labours in that character, which he did in a very affectionate and impressive manner. Mr. Dempster also addressed the congregation present, when he took occasion to point out the importance of that scheme of the National Church, under whose auspices Mr. Simpson proceeds to Canada, and which has for its general object the supplying of our expatriated Presbyterian countrymen throughout the colonies with the precious means of grace. We understand that Mr. Simpson will immediately proceed to the distant field of labour, to which he has been appointed.—*Stirling Journal.*

Upwards of £17,000 have been subscribed for the Presbyterian College in Kingston—£1878 10s. of which have been subscribed in Kingston, and it is expected that £500 more will be subscribed there.—*Quebec Mercury.*

Her Majesty has nominated the Rev. Dr. Esdaile one of the Commissioners for visiting the University of St. Andrew's. The other Commissioners are Lord Melville, Lord Cunningham, Sir David Brewster, Dr. Haldane, and the Provost of St. Andrew's.—*Perth paper.*

FESTIVITIES ON THE QUEEN'S NUPTIALS.

Our town has been kept alive this week, and the excitement is still continued, by the proceedings of the different Charitable Societies, in reference to this auspicious event. On Monday, the members of the Irish Society, after attending High Mass in St. Mary's Chapel, and hearing a sermon by the Rev. Mr. O'Brien, walked in procession, with banners flying, and preceded by the band of the 23d Regt. playing appropriate music, to Government House, to present to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, their address of congratulation, and to request him to transmit it to Her Majesty. The Society afterwards proceeded, in the same order, through the principal streets of the town, and in the evening, supped together in the Masonic Hall, having previously regaled the inmates of the Poor's Asylum, Jail and Bridewell, with a plentiful and substantial dinner.

Yesterday, the North British and Highland Societies waited on His Excellency to present, for transmission, their respective addresses on the same joyous occasion. They have also opened a subscription, for charitable purposes, in connexion with this event, which, we doubt not, will be filled up with their characteristic liberality.

To-morrow, the St. George's Society, will walk in procession from Mason Hall to St. Paul's Church, and thence to Government House, with their address of congratulation to her Majesty, and the members will dine together in the evening; and this evening a Special Meeting of the Nova Scotia Philanthropic Society, has been summoned, "to take into consideration the most appropriate mode and time, on which to celebrate the nuptials of our Gracious Queen Victoria."

An article from the London Era, which appears in our columns to day, would, if well founded, indicate a war, between the Mother Country and the United States, as the approaching result of the border difficulties, between New Brunswick and the State of Maine. On examination, however, we cannot find the statements put forth in that journal, corroborated by any corresponding note of preparation, either in the Army or Naval departments at home.

POLITICAL SUMMARY.

At a late meeting of the Royal Society, the Rev. Dr. Pyc Smyth was balloted for, and elected a member, on account of the merits of his recent work, on the relation between the Holy Scriptures, and some parts of Geological science.

An address to the Queen, deprecating the presentation of Mr. Owen, the head of the Socialists, to Her Majesty, has been signed by 15,200 highly respectable females, in the town and neighbourhood of Liverpool, and forwarded to Lord Normanby, to be laid before Her Majesty.

Another infernal machine, partaking of the character of a bomb, and in which were deposited at least forty balls, lately exploded in Paris, without injuring any person, but creating a great sensation among the inhabitants of that city.

The Glasgow National Securities Savings Bank, has received, since its commencement, in July, 1836, the sum of £256,466 11d. and repaid to depositors £127,981 16s. 3d. leaving a balance, at the credit of depositors, of £128,484 4s. 8d.

A gentleman, now in India, has offered to the University of Oxford, a prize of £200 for a treatise, in refutation of Hindooism, and in elucidation of Christianity, in a manner calculated to win the attention of Hindoos.

Sir William Hamilton, Bart. Professor of Logic in the University of Edinburgh, has lately been elected a corresponding member of the Royal Institute of France, in the room of the late Van Heusde, the distinguished scholar and philosopher.

Since the Regalia of Scotland, in the Castle of Edinburgh, were, by the liberality of the Government, opened gratuitously to the public, on the 15th of April, last year, the immense number of 28,000 persons, from all parts of the world, including princes as well as

peasants, have been gratified by receiving tickets of admission.

It is said to be in contemplation, to erect a statue to the Rev. Ralph Erskine, opposite Queen Ann Street Church, Dunfermline.

The Queen of Madagascar, punishes all who embrace Christianity in that country, with death.

The number of copies of the Scriptures, distributed last year by the New York Bible Society, was 2,995 Bibles, and 7,368 Testaments, the cost of which was \$2,473.

The University of Bonn, in Rhenish Prussia, has conferred the degree of Doctor, upon His Royal Highness Prince Albert, who began and ended his studies there.

Captain Outram, a highly meritorious officer of the East India Company's Service, late Commandant of the Bheel Corps, has a work in the press, containing an account of his adventures in Afghanistan—his hair breadth escapes, when travelling in disguise from Beloochistan to Bombay, with intelligence of the capture of Khelat.

The Committee of Council on National Education, have granted pecuniary aid to 109 schools, in different parts of England and Scotland.

The Ladies of Edinburgh have transmitted an Address to the Queen, expressing their earnest desire that the Church of Scotland may be protected in the full enjoyment of all her privileges as a Church of Christ, and their beloved pastors maintained in the full liberty of preaching the blessed gospel, of administering divine ordinances, and exercising all the ministerial offices, according to their own conscientious convictions of christian duty, and in conformity with the scriptural standards of the Church.

Sir Robert Inglis will introduce his motion on Church Extension, in the House of Commons, soon after Easter.

Sir Robert Peel has generously contributed £100 to the Church Extension Fund of the General Assembly.

The Colonial Magazine has started, with the year, under the management of Mr. Montgomery Martin, whose attention has long been directed to Colonial affairs. The larger part of the first number is occupied with a survey of the general state of the colonies, including the late troubles in Canada, and the opium trade with China.

It is rumoured that Instructions have been sent to the Governor General to make a final proposition to the American Government, on the subject of the Disputed Boundary, and that all negotiations on the same are to be conducted by that Officer.—*Times.*

ROYAL ACADIAN SCHOOL.

We are happy to find that Alexander Reid, A. M. the gentleman appointed by the Normal School Society of Glasgow, to take the superintendance of the Acadian Institution, arrived here last week, in the Acadian from Greenock. Mr. Reid has attended the University of Edinburgh for a number of years, and has made himself familiarly acquainted with the Training System, as practised in the Normal Seminary at Glasgow. From the favourable recommendations he has brought along with him, and from his own literary attainments, we are inclined to believe that he will approve himself as an able and efficient teacher of youth, and will give the fullest satisfaction, both to the Committee of the Royal Acadian School, and to those parents who may be pleased to place their children under his care.

On Friday last the ice on the Hillsborough was in motion, the Ferry-boat passed for the first time for this season on that day. The river is now nearly clear.—*P. E. Island, Royal Gazette, April 7.*

We learn that two companies of the 69th Regiment, now in this Garrison, are to proceed to Fredericton; and that more troops are expected here from Halifax.—*St. John N. B. Gazette, April 16.*

STEAMERS.—The first of Mr. Cunard's steamers, we are informed, will not leave England before the first of July.—*Jour.*

The schooner Shannon, Capt. Cann, has just performed a voyage from Yarmouth to New York and back to the former port, with a full cargo, in ten days.—*St. John, N. B. Observer.*

APPOINTMENT.—His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, Chancellor of the Province, has been pleased to appoint Henry Blackadar, Esq. a Master Extraordinary of the Court of Chancery, for the county of Pictou.—*Observer.*

For the Remainder of Halifax Head See page 349.