

Mr. Wade asked leave to introduce a Bill to amend Cap. 11. of Revised Statutes, respecting deeds made by married women. Bill read the first time.

Also, a Bill of the same nature to amend Cap. 113 Revised Statutes.

Dr. Webster asked leave to introduce a resolution requesting his Excellency the Lieut. Governor to take the necessary steps to... from Sheriff's return of the amount of fees, (certified on oath,) as received by them, respectively, during the year, to be laid upon the table of the House in the next session of the Legislature.

The Hon. Samuel Chipman, Financial Secretary, appeared at the Table, (the Hon. Hugh Bell, as Commissioner, being present,) and took the oath of allegiance, as required by Law, and his seat as Member for Cornwallis.

Mr. Marshall presented petition from inhabitants of St. Mary's, County of Guysboro', in favor of Prohibitory Liquor Law.

The Hon. Financial Secretary—Petition from David Chipman and other inhabitants of Cornwallis on the same subject.

Mr. McDonald reported from Committee on Private Bills:—Bill relating to the width of roads at Brer Island—Bill to incorporate the Liverpool Marine Railway Company. Bill, reported by Committee to consider the subject of Assessment, was read a second time and committed.

Mr. Archibald, Chairman of the Committee having the management of the Bill, explained the principle upon which the Act was founded—viz: to impose upon real and personal property a fair and equitable share of the Assessments.—Under the present system, large tracts of wilderness lands,—owned partly by resident proprietors, partly by absentees,—were not taxable. This the Committee considered to be unfair; and one of the main objects of the Bill which they had introduced was, to bring these lands within the Statute. The question was, to devise some simple and convenient machinery by which this end could be accomplished without perpetrating injustice, and indirectly infringing upon individual rights. As to lands owned by resident proprietors, the obstacle might be readily surmounted; but not so in the case when the owners of the property were non-resident,—and more especially if they happened to be absentees from the Province; and, probably, not having an agent in charge of the property to be assessed,—and which lands, if the tax were not paid, would be sold; as much at least as might be required to raise the amount of the assessment, with costs of suit, sale, and conveyance. There was a difficulty, a great difficulty,—one not so easily overcome. However, in the opinion of the Committee the clause of the Bill provided a means by which the just claims of the public, and the rights of owners, if taxable property be equally protected.

Mr. Churchill objected to the clause in toto, and suggested that it should be struck out of the Bill.

Mr. McLellan did not approve of the clause,—(i.e.) he thought the whole machinery entirely too complex, still, he considered the principle of levying assessments upon wild lands as sound, and unless some simpler mode of carrying out that principle were propounded he should vote for the clause as it stood.

Mr. Archibald was quite prepared to accept any simpler machinery likely to prove efficient, if such could be devised by any honorable gentleman. The very general sense of the House seemed to be that property of the character in question should be made liable to assessment—it was not of moment how the principle were practically applied provided that it were done equitably and well.

Mr. Chambers assented.

Mr. Morrison, looking at the whole Bill, saw a difficulty in this—the payment of taxes in different districts by the same person. According to the Law that now exists, the payment of taxes is one of the principles upon which a man claims support (if he should become chargeable) off of the district in which he paid those taxes; if you oblige him to pay in several districts it may lead to great litigation if he should become chargeable before you could find out which of the several districts should maintain him. The hon. gentleman thought all these taxes should be paid in one district, to prevent any future difficulty that might arise about his having gained a residence according to the Law that now exists.

Mr. Marshall would like to know what the hon. member for Colchester, who had charge of the bill, intended to do with reference to his (Mr. Marshall's) bill for relief of poor fishermen, in respect of assessment. If the hon. gentleman had nothing more to offer than his bill proposed, he (Mr. Marshall) should proceed with his own bill, already before the House.

Committee adjourned without coming to a division.

TUESDAY, March 13.

House opened at half past three.

Mr. Wade presented petition a bill, founded on a copy of the petition, for repeal of Municipal Incorporation Bill, in so far as it affected the township of Ayre.

Mr. McLellan presented eight petitions from inhabitants of Colchester, in favor of Prohibitory Liquor Law.

Mr. Robinson reported from committee named to signify signatures to petition in favor of Prohibitory Liquor Law,—number of signatures being over 16 000.

Mr. McLellan would like to have the names attached to petitions just presented by him added to the number.

Dr. Tupper—petition of the Rev. Mr. Buckley and others, on the same subject.

Mr. Morrison rose to move the second reading of the

Bill introduced by him for restricting the sale of ardent spirits, &c. The subject of the Bill was not simply of importance to the present but of generations of men that were to come, not in this only, but in other lands. It was one of the great questions of the day, hardly equalled by Education itself.—The hon. gentleman having explained, in detail, the precise nature of the Bill, proceeded to say that if the capital wasted in ardent spirits in Nova Scotia for the last fifty years had been put into a saving bank, at a moderate rate of interest, you would have had a sufficient sum accumulated to lay a network of railways through the length and breadth of Nova Scotia; and if the time that has been spent in procuring and consuming this liquor, had been constructing Railways, it would have almost, if not quite, built a railway to every man's garden in Nova Scotia. This, sir, may be said to be a presumptuous statement; but I believe it is worthy of the attention of every member of this House. Our prosperity has been directed into a wrong channel, and has been lost, and the only amends we can make for it now is to endeavour to guard against this error in future. Hence I believe it is necessary to pass the present bill. It may not do all that the friends of the Bill expect to accomplish by it, but I believe it is worthy of a fair trial. I believe it is within the range of possibility to guard against the use of ardent spirits among our people as a beverage. I believe the legislator has a right to step in and legislate against any custom, however ancient, or practices, however common, that spends the property, demoralizes the character, and destroys the life of our people. I am for removing the temptation as much and as far as possible from within the reach of our people. If ardent spirits are so fatal to the comforts of the human family—so prone to the destruction of human life—so fearfully adapted to the destruction of all moral principle—(and who that reflects can deny the assertion?) It is time, high time that this House should step in between appetite and reason, and, if possible, by legislative enactment, put a stop to this growing evil. If this bill is lost, all is not lost. The high sense of duty—the determination to do that duty—the unconquerable will—the courage to resist—the firm purpose—the adherence to our principles—their maintenance—their success—let not those be lost: but rallying once more around our common standard, guided by the experience of the past, and the light of reason, make one more honorable effort; and, if we fail in obtaining our object, let us prove to the world that it was not for want of a good cause, or a faithful advocacy of that cause, but from circumstances over which we, as a people, can have no adequate control.

The Hon. Attorney General though anxious and ready to assist in promoting, by every lawful means, the cause of Temperance, and to check by Legislative interferences abuses that might arise out of the unrestricted sale of ardent spirits, did not believe that the moderate and discreet use of any spirituous or vinous beverage was forbidden by the Divinity. He was the more satisfied upon this point, having on the previous Sunday had the privilege of listening to a most able and convincing discourse on Temperance, delivered in Chalmer's Church. There were those who affirmed that a Prohibitory Law was unconstitutional. He (Mr. Young) was not of that opinion. Parliament had, unquestionably, the constitutional power to pass such an Act, and the Executive had authority to enforce observance of it. The question was not of the right of the Legislature to place such a Law upon the Statute book, but of the expediency of so doing, and certainly, there was nothing obligatory upon the House, whether the subject were considered in a scriptural or moral point of view, to pass such a Law. As to the expediency of so doing he would remind the friends of this measure of one inevitable result of its operation, viz., a loss to the Revenue of the Province of at least £21000. How did honorable gentlemen propose to make good such a deficiency? Considering the present liabilities of the country and their prospective increase, this sum could not be spared, but if this Bill became Law it would be lost to the country, and the loss must be immediately made good to the Treasury from some other source of revenue. Were the supporters of the Bill prepared to raise the six and a quarter per cent duties to the nine or ten per cent; there was no alternative. It would be prudent, at least, to pause and consider well certain consequences before they resolved to sanction a measure fraught with results of such magnitude and doubtful utility. The New Brunswick Legislature had passed such a Bill, the measure had received the assent of the Crown, and was now the Law of that Province. It had been but a short time in operation, but so strongly had the current of public opinion set in against it that a Bill was now before the Local Legislature for its repeal. He should vote against the present Bill; however, if it passed the House by a large majority the probability was that it would be adopted by the Legislative Council, receive the assent of the Crown; and in that contingency, (Mr. Young,) as every good, loyal subject should, would assist in carrying out the provisions with all the influence and force his position in the Government of the country required.

Mr. Marshall intended to vote for the Bill. He did not think with the Hon. the Attorney General that it was matter of choice who should, and who should not, support the Bill. There was the heap of petitions to which were appended the signatures of many thousands of his people, the measure, moreover, was supposed to have the sanction of a majority of the people, and the duty of Government was to respect the well-understood wishes of the people. His (Mr. Marshall's) only objection to the Bill was that, considering the geographical position of the Province, its proximity to the United States, and the undoubted facilities

which our numerous harbours, small and great, offered for smuggling, it was doubtful whether the introduction of the prohibited articles from foreign ports, could be prevented. If not, the result would be that the land would be flooded with bad liquor instead of good.

Mr. Churchill supported the Bill, fortifying his opinion in its favor by the strong argument of personal experience. He believed that whether the Bill passed or not, the principle would stand, and that, at no distant period of time, to come the law of the land. He would record his vote in support of the Bill—he felt proud to be numbered among its supporters.

Mr. Tupper had always been an advocate of Temperance. He believed the cause of Temperance to be a good and righteous cause, one which every Christian man should help to promote. But as to the policy of enacting a Prohibitory Law—a coercive Law,—such as that before the House—he entertained very grave doubts. And, moreover, if the bill did pass into a Law, he was perfectly satisfied that there were insuperable obstacles to its effective operation. The whole British Navy would not suffice as a coast guard to prevent the importation of spirits into the innumerable bays and harbours and creeks which indented the whole range of our coasts. He should vote against the Bill.

PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW.

In the Assembly, on motion made by Mr. McParlane, that the Bill be referred to the next session of the Legislature, the House divided,—when there appeared for the Resolution 21; against 27.

On the main question the House divided—when there appeared for the motion 27—against 20.

For the Motion.—Ryder H. White, Tupper, Thorne, Marshall, Kalam, Webster, Archibald, Park, Bill, 10—McKeague, Bent, J. Campbell, McLellan, McLellan, Johnston, C. Campbell, Brown, Churchill, Chipman, Ian S. Stewart, Dunlop, McDonald, Wollman, Agnew, McRimmon, Wier, Martell, Williams, Fuller, G. F. P. Sec. Stewart, Robinson, McFarlane, Robichaux, A. General, S. General, Locke, 1000, A. General, Jason, S. McKeague, Reynolds.

AN APPEAL ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL.

THE National School was established in the year 1811, and has been in operation ever since that period. It has afforded ample opportunity to hundreds of the children of the Poor, both boys and girls, and there are many, now occupying honorable and useful stations in life, who have received their education at no other school but this.

The ability and efficiency of the Teachers in both departments, have been admitted by all who have ever visited the Institution, or have been present at the examinations held there. There are now in daily attendance, at the Boys' School seventy-four free scholars, and sixty paid scholars; in the Girls' school, thirty free scholars, and forty paid scholars—Total—Two hundred and four.

Children of all denominations are received into the School, and although its religious instruction is conformable to the principles and usage of the Church of England, these are not forced upon the pupil, against the wishes of their Parents or Guardians.

The Salaries of the teachers, and all other expenses, have been defrayed by means of voluntary subscriptions, aided by a small allowance from the Provincial Funds, and from the tuition fees; which last item, however, forms but a small amount, as the fees vary from five shillings, to twenty five shillings per annum, according to the ability of the parents or guardians to pay; and also from the circumstance, that the majority of the Children, are Free scholars.

The Building, which was erected by private subscription and a donation from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, has become in a very dilapidated state, and will soon be unfit for use; and unless some strenuous exertions are made, to raise the necessary funds for its thorough repair, the School will have to be closed.

To avert this unhappy occurrence, an appeal is now made by the Provisional Committee to the public at large, and the Parishioners of St. Paul's in particular, for pecuniary aid, on behalf of this useful and truly charitable Institution. An annual subscription of twenty shillings entitles the party giving it to nominate one Free scholar; and an additional Free scholar for every additional Twenty shillings subscribed. As a large sum would be required to repair the Building, the Committee intend to solicit donations and subscriptions,—and also propose to hold a FANCY FAIR, about the 1st of August next, at Hillside, the property of the President of the Society, situated on the shores of the North West Arm, and trust that the Ladies, who are ever first in works of charity and benevolence, will kindly lend their valuable aid and assistance, in forwarding the object they have in view; Thus supported the Committee feel confident that the appeal now made will not be in vain, and that an Educational Institution of so much importance raised by the gratuitous subscriptions of others, will not be allowed to fall through, from the apathy and indifference of the residents of the city, in the present day.

- HENRY PRYOR, President. BENJAMIN SALTER, Treasurer. WILLIAM P. TOWNSEND, WILLIAM METZLER, JOHN SILVER, Secretary. EDWARD J. LORDLY, MAURICE MELTZER.

Committee.

Halifax, March 8, 1856.

LANGLEY'S ANTIBILIOUS APERIENT PILLS. The great popularity acquired by these Pills during the seven years they have been offered for sale in this Province is a convincing proof of their value, as a salutary means of increasing their sale have been resorted to by puffing and artifices—no certificate published respecting them.

These Pills are confidently recommended for Bilious Complaints or morbid action of the Liver, Dyspepsia, Constipation, Headache, want of Appetite, Giddiness, and the numerous symptoms indicative of derangement of the Digestive organs. Also, as a general Family Aperient. They do not contain Calomel or any mineral preparation, and are so gentle (yet effectual) in their operation that they may be taken by persons of both sexes, at any time with perfect safety. Prepared and sold Wholesale and Retail at LANGLEY'S DRUG STORE, Hollis Street, Halifax.