

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, March 17, 1858.

Hon. Col. Secretary presented a Message from the Hon. Lieut. Governor, transmitting, for the information of the House of Assembly, a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and its enclosure from the Secretary of State for War, having reference to a transfer of the Barracks, in Charlotteville, to the Local Government, as well as to the arms supplied for a Volunteer Militia Force, and to the present condition and prospect of the future efficiency of such a force for the defence of the Colony; and stating that a definite expression of the views of the Legislature, regarding the Barracks has become indispensable, if they are to be required for the use of the Colony; and as the retention of the small supply of arms now in the possession of the Local Government depends upon the establishment of an efficient Volunteer Force, which the Lieutenant Governor is led to believe cannot be effected without some allowance for clothing, accoutrements, and other necessaries, he has the honor to recommend the consideration of the House of Assembly.

Hon. Col. Secretary said: I will move to-morrow that His Excellency's Message be referred to a Committee of the whole House, with the view of proposing therein, the appropriation of a small sum to put the Barracks into repair, and towards the clothing of Volunteer Militia Companies.

THE BIBLE IN THE NORMAL SCHOOL AND CENTRAL ACADEMY.

The debate on the Petition for the introduction of the Bible into the Normal School and Central Academy was not gone into until Friday last, the 19th inst. At that meeting I will expect you to give them a more lengthy notice of the proceedings of the evening, than we usually devote to parliamentary matters, we will endeavor to give you a more full and complete account of the proceedings, and as truthfully as I can be able to do so. I will be glad to be corrected in any particulars, and I will be glad to be corrected in any particulars, and I will be glad to be corrected in any particulars.

Hon. Mr. HAYLAND said that much that he intended to say had already said forward by the hon. member for Charlotteville (Mr. Palmer). It was quite evident that the first resolution would not be compulsory for any one to read the Bible, and while many of the first men and educationists of the day held that it was useless to instruct children without giving them sound moral principles, they would only be doing harm in responding to the numerous signed petitions which had come before them, — one of these, which he had taken up by accident, contained over 1300 signatures.

Hon. Mr. MOONEY thought that it will become the duty of the Legislature to cause so much disturbance about the Bible — and setting one man against the other throughout the country. He spoke of a little girl, who knew the Bible as well as any of them, — could repeat it from Genesis to Revelation. He would by selling an anecdote about two men who were reading the Bible, the subject of which was, that in the hands of Protestants it was like a sledge, — they might play any tune they pleased from it.

Hon. Mr. MOONEY supported the resolution of the Hon. Mr. MOONEY, because he thought that depriving no one of their rights, and would give petitioners that privilege for their own children which they sought.

Mr. LAIRD perfectly agreed with the resolution, which he thought carried out the attention of the Legislature, nothing more nor less; and the amendment went to introduce new matter, that the petitioners had no desire to contend for. With respect to the objection of the Col. Secretary, that most of the petitions had come from the country, he considered that, as the Normal School was for the education of the Teachers, they had the best right to see that that institution was carried on under sound principles, and that it became the Colonial Secretary to bring it forward as an argument that they should not at that account make any legislative enactment with respect to that institution.

Mr. CLARK said he belonged to a body who totally disented from the state having anything to do with religion or the religious education of the people. He would oppose legislative enactments on the subject.

Mr. POPE spoke in favor of the first resolution, and reproached any ill-feeling got up on account of the Petitions; the parties were only asking a right for themselves, and did not wish to trespass upon others.

Mr. DOUGLAS said he had presented one of the largest petitions on the subject, and he felt bound to carry out the views of so large a portion of his constituents.

Mr. YOUNG thought every man had a right to read or to be taught from the Bible, so long as he did not trespass on others. The resolution wanted nothing more, and he would go for it.

Hon. Mr. WRIGHT believed that, on such an important subject, they were bound to give most serious attention. It would not be right to say that any particular resolution should be read in the institutions referred to. He would leave it to the parents of the children themselves, to say whether they should read the Bible or not; but a large body of people had come forward to ask for the privilege of sitting in the Central Academy, and the Normal School, and he thought the House should do all in its power to grant it.

He had prepared a resolution, but, according to the rules of the House, he could not propose it until the Committee had reported.

The Chairman having put the question on the amendment, the numbers stood 11 to 11; having given his casting vote in favor of it, on the Committee rising, it was referred to the House on Saturday the 13th inst.

When the Speaker took the chair, Mr. Palmer moved the resolution offered in Committee by Hon. Mr. Hayland in amendment; and Hon. Mr. Wigham moved the following resolution in further amendment:

Whereas while this House repudiates the principle of encroachment upon the religious opinions of any denomination, it considers that the most effectual evidence of the true spirit of Christian liberality will be afforded by allowing to each class of Christians the use of the copy of the Holy Scriptures in which they believe.

And whereas the parties attending, for instruction, at the Central Academy and Normal School, belong to the Protestant and Catholic communions, and it is inexpedient that the copies of the Holy Scriptures to which they respectively adhere, should be read without note or comment to the parties belonging to each denomination respectively.

Be it therefore resolved, as the opinion of this Committee, that the Board of Education should authorize the reading in the above institutions, in such versions and by such of the pupils and students whose parents or guardians may desire it.

On the names being called over, there appeared—

For the amendment: Against it: Wigham, Palmer, T. H. Hayland, Clark, McNeill, Muirhead, Montgomery, Cooper, Heath Hayland, Longworth, Cooper, Douse, Yoo, Pope, Laird, Mooney, Manro.

And it was lost by the Speaker giving his casting vote against it.

The same division took place on the other amendment, and the Resolution was carried accordingly.

MONDAY, March 22.

Hon. Mr. Mooney, who was in custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms, for Breach of Privileges, since Saturday last, made the apology dictated by the House, and was discharged.

Hon. Mr. Wigham, as chairman of the Committee on the opening of new lines of road, presented the draft of an Address to the Lieut. Governor, which was received, and the same Committee were ordered to wait on his Excellency with the same.

The Act relating to the Central Academy was read a third time, and passed. It is merely a continuation of the old Act.

The petition of Angus McDonald, Rev. St. Dunstan's College, and the petition of divers inhabitants of Lot 67, praying the House to disallow the prayer of the Hon. E. P. Moore, in support of the first resolution, was read, and no unnecessary measure is not desired by a majority of the inhabitants of the Colony, nor essential to the encouragement of Education and Religion.

Hon. E. P. Moore supported the first resolution, and he said the honor of it could not be misunderstood, as it was unmistakable that the resolution was not to force the Bible on any who did not desire it, but to allow its daily use to such as were desirous of a good moral education could not be obtained without the morals of the children being founded directly upon its precepts. Of those for whom the Education Act was intended to be of the most benefit, — the great body of the people — the laboring and middle classes of the Island — how very few had the time, during the six days of the week, to devote to the special instruction of their children in the Bible; and how very many there were in this Island who, even if they had the time, were unable — from their own education being neglected — to impart the desired information. The Normal School was founded to properly prepare teachers for the Island generally, and instruction given to them was that they might impart it to the children wherever their services might be required.

Hon. Col. Secretary rose to speak to the question a great number of times, and he labored to make it appear that the petitioners wanted to make the Bible a religious test in the Academy. He read a resolution from the Journals of a previous year, to show that the parties voting in favor of the first resolution now, opposed the reading of the Bible [as a class book]. In substance, he stated that the Bible might be used in the Normal School now, by the children whose parents desired it, after the School, and it would be difficult, he thought, to manage it otherwise; for although there were two rooms in the building, it would be wrong for the master to leave some of the children while he attended to others. The people most interested had not petitioned. The bulk of the signatures were from the country; and he did not see that the people in the country were immediately interested.

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CHARLOTTETOWN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

On Tuesday evening last, Mr. Dunstan A. W. Kennedy delivered a most interesting and able lecture on "Life and its development," which was highly complimented by the Vice President. The lecturer commenced by considering vegetable, material and animal life, which he did in a most eloquent and satisfactory manner. The progress of the work was most beautifully treated on by him, and the lecturer concluded by denouncing the man who, instead of improving his mental faculties, which every man should do, never mind what his position is, would rather live out a miserable, morose existence, neither to the good of himself or to those around him.

On Tuesday evening next, the 30th inst., the Rev. George Butherland will lecture on "Navigation."

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

To-morrow evening, Thursday, 23d inst., (D.V.) Rev. George Butherland will deliver a lecture on "Moral, mediocrity, its Rise and Progress." The public are respectfully requested to attend. The chair will be taken at 8 o'clock precisely.

On Tuesday, the 9th of March, the Annual Meeting of the Bible and Missionary Society of the Presbyterian congregation of Princeton was held in the church, after an excellent and suitable discourse by Mr. John Mackinnon, on the subject of "The Gospel, from Genesis to Revelation." The President, having opened the meeting with prayer, made some statements respecting the operations of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and the Mission of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia to the South Sea, and read extracts from Bible and Missionary Reports. The Secretary then stated the amount of the funds which have been raised in the present year, which were then appropriated as follows:—

To the Foreign Mission, £27 12 0
To the British and Foreign Bible Society, 10 10 0
To the Domestic Mission, 5 0 0
To the Jewish Society, 5 0 0
To the Seminary of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, with whatever amounts still to be collected, £48 12 5

The meeting was then addressed by all the Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, and the Mission of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia to the South Sea, and read extracts from Bible and Missionary Reports. The Secretary then stated the amount of the funds which have been raised in the present year, which were then appropriated as follows:—

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The meeting was then addressed by all the Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, and the Mission of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia to the South Sea, and read extracts from Bible and Missionary Reports. The Secretary then stated the amount of the funds which have been raised in the present year, which were then appropriated as follows:—

To the Foreign Mission, £27 12 0
To the British and Foreign Bible Society, 10 10 0
To the Domestic Mission, 5 0

