

This day at two o'clock, p. m., His Excellency the Governor General proceeded in state to the Chamber of Legislative Council, in Parliament Building. The Members of the Legislative Council being there assembled, His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of Members of the Assembly, and that house being present, Austin Cuvillier, Esquire, M. P. for the county of Huron, informed His Excellency that the choice of an Assembly had fallen upon him to be their Speaker. Speaker then demanded the customary privileges, which His Excellency having granted, was pleased to open the First Session of the First Parliament of the Province of Canada with the following speech from the Throne:—

"Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,—"

"I have deemed it right to assemble you at the early period which the circumstances of the Province, and the duties imposed upon me by the Imperial Act for the Union of the Canadas, under which this Legislature is constituted, have admitted; and it is with sincere satisfaction that I meet you to deliberate on the great and important interests committed to our charge."

"A subject of Her Majesty, an inhabitant of this Province has been forcibly detained in the neighbouring State charged with a pretended crime. No time was lost by the Executive of this Province in remonstrating against the proceeding, and provision was made for insuring to individual the means of defence, pending the further action of Her Majesty's Government. The Queen's Representative at Washington has since been instructed to demand his release. Of the result of that demand I am not yet apprised, but I have the Queen's commands to assure her faithful subjects in Canada of her Majesty's fixed determination to protect them with the whole weight of Her Power."

"Arrangements were completed during the course of last summer by which under the directions of the Treasury the rates of Postage between all parts of this Colony and the United Kingdom were greatly reduced; and a more speedy and regular conveyance of letters between different parts of this Province has since been established by arrangements made by the Deputy Post Master General under my directions. A Commission has been appointed by me to enquire into and report upon the whole Post-Office system of North America, and I confidently anticipate that the result of its labours will be the establishment of a more securing improvements in the internal communication post within the colony, equal to those which we have already obtained in the communication with the Mother Country."

"Many subjects of deep importance to the future welfare of the Province demand your early attention, upon some of which I have directed bills to be prepared, which will be submitted for your consideration."

"Amongst them, first in importance at the present juncture of affairs, is the adoption of measures for developing the resources of the Province, by well considered and extensive public works. The rapid settlement of the country—the value of every man's property within it—the advancement of his future fortunes, are deeply affected by this question."

"The improvement of the navigation from the shores of Lake Erie and Lake Huron to the ocean—the establishment of new internal communications in the inland districts, are works requiring a great outlay, but promising commensurate returns. To undertake them successfully, large funds will undoubtedly be required, and the financial condition of the Province as it stands at present would seem to forbid the attempt. But I have the satisfaction of informing you that I have received authority from Her Majesty's Government to state, that they are prepared to call upon the Imperial Parliament to afford their assistance towards these important undertakings. In the full belief that peace and tranquillity will be happily re-established in the Province, under the constitution settled by Parliament, and that nothing but a relief from its most pressing difficulties is wanting to its rapid advancement to prosperity, they propose to Parliament by affording the guarantee of the Imperial Treasury for a loan to the extent of no less than ten million and a half sterling, to aid the Province, for the double purpose of diminishing the pressure of the interest on the public debt, and of enabling it to proceed with those great public undertakings whose progress during the last few years has been arrested by the financial difficulties."

"I shall direct a measure to be submitted to you embracing a plan for this purpose, and I shall lay before you, for your information and that of the people of Canada, extracts from the Despatches which convey to me this most gratifying assurance."

"In immediate connexion with the outlay of capital upon public works is the subject of Emigration, and the disposal and settlement of public lands. There exists within this Province no means so certain of producing a healthy flow of Immigration from the Mother Country, and of ultimately establishing the Immigrant as a settler and proprietor within the Colony, as the power of affording sure employment to his labour on his first arrival. The assistance of Parliament for Public Works which may be undertaken here, will in great measure provide for this; but with a view further to aid Immigration, I am authorised to declare to you that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to assist in facilitating the passage of the Immigrant from the Port at which he is landed to the place where his labour may be made available, and that a vote of money for this purpose will be proposed to the Imperial Parliament."

"The conditions which Her Majesty's Government attach to this measure will be submitted to you, at the same time that I shall draw your attention to a scheme for the settlement and disposal of the Public Lands."

"It appears highly desirable that the principles of local self-government, which already prevail to some extent throughout that part of the Province which was formerly Upper Canada, should receive a more extended application there, and that the People should exercise a greater degree of power over their own local affairs. I have directed a measure upon this subject to be submitted to you, and I solicit your earnest attention to the establishment of such a form of local self-government for those Districts of the Province which are unprovided with it, as may ensure satisfaction to the people, whilst it preserves inviolate the prerogative of the Crown, and maintain the administration of Justice pure from party and popular excitement."

"A due provision for the education of the People is one of the first duties of the State, and in this Province especially the want of it is grievously felt. The establishment of an efficient system by which the blessings of instruction may be placed within the reach of all, is a work of difficulty—but its overwhelming importance demands that it should be undertaken. I recommend the consideration of that subject to your best attention, and shall be most anxious to afford you in your labours all the co-operation in my power. If it should be found impossible so to reconcile conflicting opinions as to obtain a measure which may meet the approbation of all, I trust that at least steps may be taken by which an advance to a more perfect system may be made, and the difficulty under which the People of this Province, now labour may be greatly diminished, subject to such improvements hereafter as time and experience may point out."

"Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,—" "The financial accounts of the Province will be immediately laid before you, and I shall direct the estimates for the public service to be submitted to you with the least possible delay. I rely upon your co-operation in the financial measures which it will be my duty to propose for taking advantage of the assistance which Her Majesty's Government propose to afford, and for carrying into effect the public improvements which are deemed most desirable. I shall earnestly endeavour that whatever you may appropriate for this latter purpose shall be economically employed and rendered effective."

"Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen,—" "In your wisdom and prudence I confide for the regulation of the different important matters which must necessarily come before you. Canada, united under a constitution which the Imperial Legislature has framed with an earnest desire for the welfare of this portion of the British Empire,

from Dr. Makellar. He (Mr. Candlish) concurred in all he had said with respect to the difficulties of the Church; and he so far concurred with him, that the introduction of a bill by the Duke of Argyll to Parliament, afforded somewhat of a prospect of deliverance. He was prepared to expect that, in the course of the debate, there would be an attack made upon his consistency. (Hear, hear.) He should not fear to meet any attack made upon that score; but he should think it a waste of time of the house to anticipate such an attack farther than to repeat that he conceived he was not only at liberty, but he was under an imperative obligation on the one hand to maintain the principle of the abolition of patronage, and, on the other hand, to maintain the principle of non-intrusion, and that on the ground that this was, as far as it went, according to the mind and will of God, and therefore deserving of the support of this house. The rev. gentleman proceeded to discuss the merits of the bill at some length, pointing out some of its provisions which he did not like, but which nevertheless, he should not oppose. He regarded the bill as giving them substantially a non-intrusion measure—nothing more, and nothing less. He concluded by reading the following resolutions:—

"1. That they will continue to maintain inviolate the great and fundamental principle, that no minister, &c., and that no legislative measure can be regarded as satisfactory to the Church, or as a measure in which the Church can acquiesce,—which does not enable her to carry that principle into full practical effect—or which interferes with her exclusive jurisdiction in all spiritual matters."

"2. That the measure proposed in the bill of the Duke of Argyll does substantially provide for the maintenance and practical application of the principle of non-intrusion, as asserted by this Church, and is substantially in accordance with one of the plans suggested by the committee of last General Assembly, and sanctioned by that Assembly; that it is, therefore, a measure which this Church may receive as consistent with that fundamental principle, and which, if passed into a law, would be received with thankfulness, as an important boon to the Church and to the country, and that the Church and country are under deep obligations to his Grace the Duke of Argyll for this new proof of that enlightened patriotism and zeal which of old have distinguished the illustrious family whose name is honourably enrolled among Scotland's martyrs and confessors."

"3. That the present difficulties of this Church are of so serious and alarming a character, that a measure fitted to put an end to the collision now unhappily subsisting between the Civil and Ecclesiastical Courts, in reference to the settlement of ministers, ought to unite in its support all who feel that they could conscientiously submit to its operation if passed into a law."

"4. That a Committee be appointed to watch over the progress of the bill of the Duke of Argyll, or of any other bill which may be introduced relative to the subject. And that while the attention of the Committee is specially directed to the clause in the 2d section of the bill, which seems, apparently from oversight, and inconsistently with the main enactment of the bill, to make it imperative on the Presbytery to inquire whether the communicants dissenting from the settlement of a presentee, are actuated by factious or malicious motives, although no allegation to that effect, nor offer of proof is made by the patron or presentee. The General Assembly direct the Committee to give an encouragement and aid, so far as in their power, to the passing of the said bill:—and generally, to use all proper efforts for obtaining the settlement of the great question now at issue, on a footing consistent with the principles repeatedly declared and asserted by this Church."

The house adjourned at half-past six.

EVENING SEDERUNT.

Mr. BUCHAN of Kelloe resumed the debate by seconding the resolutions of Mr. Candlish.

Dr. BRUNTON said he wished to discuss the matter in a spirit of conciliation, and pointed out some provisions of the bill which he said would prevent its effective working. One of these he regarded as altogether indispensable; the other as highly desirable. The bill ought to have provided, that when a congregation refuses to admit a particular minister among them, they should be called upon to give in special objections to the presentee; and it appeared to him desirable that these special objections should at the time be recorded by the Presbytery. He thought that special objections are essential to the ends of justice.

Dr. HILL considered that the probability of the bill being passed into a law was so small, that he had scarcely contemplated the possibility of its being submitted to the Assembly at all. He concluded by moving "That the bill lately introduced into the House of Peers by the Duke of Argyll, does not appear either likely to be passed into a law, or calculated, if it were, to relieve the Church from the difficulties under which she labours; and that in order to the attainment of this desirable end, the steps necessary for rescinding the Veto act be immediately taken."

Mr. LEE of Campsie, in an able speech, said he thought the Duke's bill ought to be unanimously accepted: it enabled them to do all that was necessary to bring back the church to a state of peace.

After some further discussion, Mr. Milne seconded the motion of Dr. Hill.

Ultimately, the votes were taken, when 235 voted for Mr. Candlish's resolutions, and 105 for the motion of Dr. Hill. Majority 125. The announcement of the vote was received with loud cheers.

The House then adjourned at half-past one o'clock, till eleven o'clock next forenoon.

DUKE OF ARGYLL'S BILL.—We are informed, on what we consider good authority, that the Duke of Argyll has intimated his intention of withdrawing his bill, if he has not already done so, in consequence, it is said, of the letter of Mr. Candlish, which appeared in the Witness of Saturday. Some strange manoeuvring, and amendments, had taken place previous to this last and final act of the drama, at least in so far as his Grace shall take any part in the voting. Conscious, perhaps, that the bill had no chance of passing the Lords, his Grace had agreed to insert a clause requiring specific reasons in all cases, a judgment on the reasons, and a record of that judgment. Thus transmogrified, the bill approached very near to that introduced by Lord Aberdeen last session, and which we believe the "wild folks in the Kirk" would be thrice happy to grasp at were it now in their power.—Edinburgh Observer.

ALARMING DECLINE IN WOOLLEN EXPORTS.—The quantity of cloths exported last year was 215,746 pieces; now, the export the year previous was 392,854 pieces, or 45 per cent! This is a striking proof of the extreme depression under which the Yorkshire trade has been and is still labouring.

bernales of their fathers. This of itself would be sufficient to determine us for it. We would rejoice in a united population, and out of materials now disjointed might be made a compact whole, including all the learning and piety of the land, a compact machine, nowhere existing but in Scotland. He did not, however, think that the Church would be any purer for this, but no evil could flow from it. It was a change from patronage to popular election, but it would only be felt as a power changing hands. Were he a Conservative prime minister (he did not mean this term in a party sense, but in its original meaning of being a preserver of good order), he would deem it a master-stroke of sound policy to give to the people of Scotland the right to elect their ministers. There was no analogy whatever between a democracy in the state, and a popular form of election in Church matters. Instead of lowering the Church, it would refine the population. Not a lowering of the one party, but a raising of the other. Were this to take place, socialism with all its cock-nut heresies would not be found long in the land. The likeliest thing to harmonize the rich and the poor would be an endowed Church, whose ministers were paid by the state, and elected by the people. He might be charged with a lack of general principle, in what he had said, but this he could not allow. He admired the bill of the Duke of Argyll, and if passed into a law on the strength of its provisions, the people would receive ministers of their own choice. It would not be the fault of the machine if it does not work well, but he was convinced that it would be a well-going machine for centuries to come. He agreed most cordially with the last passage of the Duke of Argyll's letter, that the well-disposed people of Scotland would join in giving a trial to his measure. It was worse than simony, the course which some patrons had taken. The truckling for money was not, in his estimation, by one-half so truckling as tampering with the principles of the Church. In accepting the Duke of Argyll's bill, he for one, and he trusted there were many others, would repudiate the charge of their taking it only as an instalment. He accepted of it as a bona fide good measure. The rev. doctor concluded by reading an extract from one of his own works, shewing that he held non-intrusion principles twenty years ago.

Dr. MAKELLAR thought they ought to regard with thankfulness the interposition of the Duke of Argyll, and they ought to look upon the bill tabled by that noble person not as an instalment, but as a full settlement of the question. He considered that the church and the people were bound honestly to give it a fair trial. The rev. doctor then read the following motion:—"Resolved, as the motion now made is calculated to increase, and not diminish, the existing embarrassment of the church, it does not appear to be for the interests of the church and people to adopt it."

Principal McFARLANE seconded the motion. The Assembly then adjourned till six o'clock.

EVENING SEDERUNT.

Mr. J. BRIDGES resumed the adjourned debate. He spoke at very great length in support of the amendment.

Dr. COOK said, all that could be said on the subject had been said already. If they overturned the Church as an established institution of the country, must they not substitute something else? and what were they prepared to substitute? If the Christian religion had been like the law of Moses, there would have been one fixed rule to guide them in all those things, but it was not so. It was true that Christianity was sufficiently powerful to carry conviction to the minds of all, but with regard to the latitude afforded, it was, he might say, equal to all the circumstances in human life. In the gospel they had definite views for doctrine in all the great truths of Christianity—there were fixed principles laid down; but there was so much lenity in circumstances of detail, that there were numerous communities and established Christian Churches, all differing from them, in all of which, he trusted, he might add, salvation would be safe equally with themselves. It was the great object of an Established Church to provide every man means of living religiously, so that no man who sought after the truth should have an opportunity of saying that he lacked these means. His friend on the opposite side had said that no man, by virtue of any civil right, had power to interfere. But he hoped his friend did not mean to say there was no distinction of property in the country. Let him suppose a case. A man in one part of the country possessed a large extent of land and wealth, whilst another man was very poor—but they both had souls to save—would there be anything wrong in the rich man saying to his poor neighbour—"I will build you a church and provide you a minister." There would in that case be no interference with the original right, because if the poor man did not avail himself of the privileges thus offered, he was freely allowed to reject them.—(Hear, hear.) If he thought best to neglect these advantages he was at liberty to do so; but if he availed himself of them, was he set aside as neglecting his spiritual privileges. It was said, to the poor the gospel is preached. (Cheers.) The establishment said we do not compel you to come here; you may avail yourselves of the advantages offered if you will—we will not coerce you. (Hear, hear, hear.) What, then, were they to think of the declamations against what were termed the evils of patronage; the assumption of the patron, &c.? The patron might nominate; after that came their jurisdiction, and if they suffered unfit persons to get into the Church, the blame rested with them, and not the patron. (Cheers.) The learned doctor then concluded by moving that the overtures be not received.

Mr. CHRISTIE of Durie, briefly addressed the house, after which some rather noisy discussion took place.

The house then divided upon Dr. Makellar's and Dr. Cook's motion, when there appeared for the first 109, for the second 119, majority for Dr. Cook's motion, 10.

The house again divided upon the motion of Dr. Cook and Mr. Cunningham. For the first, 139. For the second, 133, majority 6.

The Assembly adjourned at two o'clock till next day.

WEDNESDAY, May 26.

Dr. WELSH read the report of the Colonial Committee, which, after a lengthened discussion, was adopted.

REPORT OF THE NON-INTRUSION COMMITTEE.

The report of this committee was read by Dr. Makellar, detailing the various steps which had been taken by the committee in regard to the subject, and the introduction of the Duke of Argyll's bill into Parliament, of which the committee generally approved. The rev. Dr., after a few remarks in commendation of the bill itself and of the Duke of Argyll, concluded by saying that the Marquis of Breadalbane and the Earl of Rosebery had also shown themselves warm friends to the Church in her present difficulties.

Mr. CANDLISH read some overtures on the subject of non-intrusion, after which he referred to what had fallen

quisite degree of heat or fermentation in the stack when the hay is put up, in order to convert the juice of the herbage to a saccharine state, which is found to be both more palatable, and likewise more nutritious, for all bestial that is fed upon it.

In Scotland, on the other hand, it would almost seem as if diligence was employed to unnecessarily procrastinate the work, and subject it to the risk of unfavourable changes of the weather; and by the excessive bleaching and drying of the grass, which is so universally practised, it is deprived of the possibility of assuming the saccharine quality; and what sap is permitted to remain in it is converted into starch, which is neither so agreeable nor nourishing for horses as hay made upon the principle which I am anxious to recommend, and from whence arises, as is easily to be perceived, a greater waste of hay in Scotch than in English stables.

Having premised this much, I proceed to detail the practice which I have pursued for many a by-gone year on my farm, which being on a limited scale, I shall therefore confine my description to the narrow compass of my own operations, but which of course easily admits of being extended to a larger field as circumstances may require.

When the hay season arrives, and the weather is favourable, and when I perceive by the height of the column of mercury in the barometer, and likewise from the appearance of the skies, that there is a likelihood of its continuing so, I set a couple of mowers to work early in the morning, each attended by a boy or girl about twelve or thirteen years of age; and as soon as the men have made half a dozen cuts with the scythe, the two boys or girls take up the swathe, and shake it out as thin as possible on the ground where it grew, there to lie and wither till after breakfast. On the return of the mowers from their breakfast, a stout active woman begins to turn with a rake, in the direction of the sun, the grass which was first shaken out, the men and the boys cutting down and shaking out in the same way as in the morning. When the woman has finished turning the early cut grass, she immediately goes to the spot where she began, and shakes it all out again as thin as she can, and, when finished, she commences turning by large rakefuls where the mowers resumed their work after breakfast, and continues her task in the same manner as when she began in the morning, always turning, as already said, in the direction of the sun.

On the people returning to the field from their dinner, the two boys immediately begin to shake out that part of the second turned grass which had not been accomplished before going to dinner, and when that is finished, they commence turning what was last cut, and then shake it all out again. At this period, the two mowers and the woman proceed to rake the first cut hay into what is called in England windrow, and one of the men commences with a pitchfork to put it into cocks of about ten or twelve stones weight; and between five and six feet in height, but on no account is a foot permitted to go upon it, for it cannot be put up too light, neither is it to be roped, for if the weather is calm, a few hours after it is in the cock it will so compact itself, that it will require a very violent wind to overturn it. Thus the hay that was cut in the course of the day will be, through this mode of treatment, sufficiently dried and secured by the evening against any change of weather which may occur in the course of the night, and it will stand exposure to a storm fully as well as the hay which is so sadly mismanaged in Scotland by the improper system at present in use. So far, the process only relates to getting quit of the redundant sap in the herbage; but if the hay gets rain or any adventitious moisture, either in working or stacking, it must be carefully dried off before being put into the stack, or so brisk a fermentation will ensue, that combustion will infallibly take place.

The next part of the operation is stacking the hay, and this may take place, if the weather continues fine, on the second day after the last cock was put up. In making this kind of hay, the great and important object is to get it to ferment or heat in the stack, for the purpose of causing it to evolve its saccharine quality, as in the malting of grain, and is effected as follows:—If a round stack is intended, let a common sack be well crammed full of hay or straw, and placed erect on the foundation where the stack is to be reared, and then begin building in the usual way all around it with the first cut cocks, intermixing now and then a few of those last put up, in order to promote the fermentation; and when the stack gets as high as the top of the bag, the worker pulls it straight upwards, and so continues working round and pulling up till the stack is finished, and in this way a chimney is formed for the escape of the nascent gas.

Should a long stack be preferred, then a chimney must be brought out at the peak at each end and one in the middle by the same means, if a large mass of hay is put in the sack; and in conclusion, I recommend that these vents shall not be closed for a month, or while any perceptible fermentation is going on.

SCOTLAND.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MAY 25.—PATRONAGE.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM, in a lengthened speech, brought before the Assembly the subject of the abolition of patronage. His motion was, that the house considered patronage an evil, and the principal cause of the present difficulties in which the Church was involved; that it was injurious to the cause of religion, and ought to be abolished. The grounds on which this conclusion had been come to were familiar to every one in the house, and they held that their arguments were unanswered.—They had therefore only to repeat them in the hope that they would reach the hearts of those who were opposed to them. After again stating those grounds, Mr. Cunningham concluded by proposing his motion.

Dr. CHALMERS would not say that there was any Scriptural injunction establishing patronage, but on the other hand he desiderated to find that place in the Bible where Scripture declared against it. He believed that if the New Testament were thoroughly examined, and the history of the Church in its early stages duly investigated, with reference to the form of church government either chalked out or followed, it would be found that there was more reason to suppose than was generally imagined, that patronage was originally sanctioned by the Church. There are many points of church government which the Bible has not disposed of, but has left to be judged by circumstances. What is right in one country, may be wrong in another. There was agitation, but it was a necessary agitation. If the Duke of Argyll's Bill found a remedy for this, it would be a great blessing, and put down the charge of caprice and dishonesty with which they had been charged. One reason against patronage was of a local nature, that it caused dissent. If it was removed, thousands and tens of thousands might be again brought into the ta-