

Ministers, whether there are hearers or not. To sit down, therefore, to compare the numbers of the salaried Episcopal Clergy, with that of the unprotected Presbyterians, as a mode of estimating the strength of the two Religions, displays either the most consummate folly, or the grossest want of candour. Such, however, has been the only view of the subject taken by the Episcopalians in this country.

To put the matter upon a fairer footing, exertions are now making by the Presbyterians, to ascertain the number of persons belonging to their communion, and to the Church of England, in each township, county and district, in both provinces. These enquiries are now going on, and promise to result in a most triumphant majority in favour of the former.

But, indeed, how can it be otherwise? Let any one look for a moment, to those parts of Britain from which the tide of emigration into this country, is constantly flowing, and he will be satisfied that nothing less than a miraculous conversion of the settlers, the instant they set foot on American land, can give the Episcopal Church a share of the population at all equal to the Presbyterian.

It is a fact, as notorious as the Sun at noon day, that the vast majority of the emigrants to these provinces, from the United Kingdom, come from Scotland and Ireland. Even the vessels which sail from English ports, bring, comparatively, few passengers who were born and educated in that Kingdom. This fact, I know well, from having seen the passengers landing; and a confirmation of it, if deemed necessary, can be had from masters of vessels in the trade. But even supposing that all the passengers who embark from ports in England, were natives of that country—nay, more, suppose that they were all of the established Church, (which more than one-half of them, and those the class most likely to emigrate, notoriously are not,) what would they amount to, compared with the numbers that annually emigrate from the other portions of the British dominions?—not one sixth part. The Episcopalians in Scotland, it is unnecessary to inform your readers, are in number utterly insignificant. In Ireland, they are much the same—not being so numerous as the Presbyterians. If we turn to the emigrants from the United States, it will not mend the matter: for there also the Presbyterians greatly outnumber their Episcopal brethren.

Whence, then, you will ask, arises that “tendency” towards the Church of England, of which the Doctor, in his letter to Mr. Horton, prefacing his Chart, boasts of so triumphantly as being experienced by the people of Upper Canada? I answer, by asserting that no such tendency exists; and in proof of my assertion, I will adduce some facts, out of many more known to me, and which our agent will lay before the British Government in due time. One species of tendency in that direction, it is true, I must acknowledge to exist; and that is, a desire frequently felt by Teachers and Preachers of different persuasions, to receive Holy Orders in the Church of England; in accounting for which, it is perfectly necessary to keep the salary of £200 distinctly in view. Indeed, I have no hesitation in saying, that nearly one-half of the Episcopal Clergy in Upper Canada, were educated Presbyterians, Methodists, or Roman Catholics. However much their pockets may have been enriched by the change, there is not a doubt that their moral influence and power of doing good, has not increased in an equal degree; for the people of this country are still uncharitable enough to doubt of the honesty of those conversions, which have a manifest and direct tendency to improve one’s outward circumstances.

A “tendency” in favour of £200 a year, I readily acknowledge to be pretty extensive; but as this cannot be given to every person in the province, I do not think there is any likelihood of the entire population being converted to Episcopacy. The Doctor, it is true, gravely hints that *two thousand* Clergymen of the Church of England, would be but a small number for Upper Canada; but really, how they could find employment, except as militia-men, in case of another war with the United States, I confess I do not comprehend. In the latter case, under General John Strachan, D.D., they might make an army of *two thousand* quite as efficient, as that which Spain has the felicity of possessing.

As to the obvious to every one, that the number of Clergymen is a most fallacious mode of estimating the number of people belonging to the two persuasions, I will endeavour to give the reader a few facts, from which he may be enabled to draw more accurate conclusions.

The town of Kingston, is the first in Upper Canada, whether we regard wealth or population. There is beside it a Barracks, containing always a Regiment of Infantry—a Fort, with a Garrison of Artillery-men—a Navy-yard, with the necessary Officers, Clerks, &c.—and the Commissariat Officers necessary for these Troops. Let any one, for a moment, conceive what influence all these must have in leading the fashion in a new country, (and, I am sorry to say, there is a fashion in Religion, as well as in every thing else,) and he will at once acknowledge, that Kingston presents as fair a likelihood of having a large Episcopal congregation, as any town in the province. A handsome Episcopal Church has been lately built there, towards the erection of which, the Government gave £1,500.