

Christian charity. This will not be favourable to the progress of unity in the church, and must bear inauspiciously on the religious institutions of the country. But still greater evils are to be apprehended from that larger part of the community, who are wholly disconnected from every branch of the christian church, and are equally indifferent or perhaps contemptuous to all. Their children, it is probable will imbibe their sentiments, walk in their footsteps, and aggravate the irreligion of their neighbourhood. Should these gloomy presages be well founded, what hope can we entertain of the future well-being of our country? Its laws, its character, will result from its opinions and its religion; and should these be unsettled or erroneous, how can we anticipate for our descendants, the glory of forming an enlightened and virtuous nation!

It affords much consolation, however, to be assured that the divine providence which watches over the rise of nations may bring agencies into play to impress on us a national character, such as he will own and bless. An influence may be exerted, which will unite the scattered families into one spiritual commonwealth, and convert division into unity. But it rests with those who have any power in guiding the sentiments of others, to labour for this end; to repair the breaches; to cast the sweetening branch into the waters of bitterness; and to endeavour not only to make Christians, entertaining different views, to dwell in peace, but to promote their unity on a foundation of truth. In so far as this work may receive the patronage of the public, it will be our study to deserve it, by acting in conformity with those principles.

But we shall more directly labour for an object less general, the unity and extension of that branch of the church

which acknowledges the same standards of doctrine and discipline with ourselves. Unhappily, there are divisions here to be healed: and even among our own brethren we need to extend the olive branch. From many causes, to which we need not now advert, the Presbyterian body has been rent into divisions in the mother country; and these have been maintained on this continent, where the causes that gave rise to them never existed. Our attempt to promote unity shall begin here. By tracing these divisions to their origin, by explaining their causes, and demonstrating that they have now ceased; by setting forth the evil to the church of perpetuating divisions, in a new country, where we require all our strength united, to obtain for ourselves and for our children the benefit of a Christian ministry, we may hope, through the blessing of the God of peace, that we shall persuade not a few to "love, unity, and concord," and remove, in some degree, that reproach, which the enemies of christian liberty have cast upon us, on account of the licentiousness wherewith we have abused it.

Although to diffuse religious intelligence among the Presbyterian population, already settled in these Provinces will be our chief aim in this publication, we are too lately separated from our father-land to have forgotten our obligations to it, and our connections with it, by the ties of kindred and friendship; and it will form one part of our design to communicate such information, as, while it may be interesting here, may also serve to convey an accurate account of our circumstances to those whom we have left behind. To exhibit the actual circumstances of settlers; to point out the eligibility of emigration, with reference to religious, as well as temporal advantages or disad-