

church or place of common Prayer, and there to make an open submission and declaration of his conformity. Now, what was the punishment in case of disobedience here? The offender was to abjure the realm; that is to say, was to banish himself for life; and if he failed to do this, if he did not get out of the kingdom in the course of such time as should be appointed by the authority of the Queen, or if he returned into the kingdom without her leave,—such person so offending “was to be adjudged a felon, and was to suffer, as in case of felony, without benefit of clergy;” that is to say, suffer the sentence due to arson or murder—to be hanged by the neck till he was dead!”

All partizans do not persecute *so fatally* as did the partizan Jews and the partizan Episcopalians from Henry VIII to William and Mary, 1688; indeed the Episcopalian partizans for quite a period in the past are many per cent. less fierce in their persecuting operations. But it is nevertheless true, that all party men, whether of an old or new stamp, whether very few and weak or very numerous and strong, persecute in the ratio of the amount of their partyism and their lack of christianity. If the persecution does not take life it will take character; if it does not blacken the body by stripes it will blacken sacred principles by mischievous words; if it fails to wield physical force it will not fail to try the power of gall-filled slander and cowardly behind-your-back misrepresentation. Partizans persecute—always persecute. Now it is needless to say that the people of the Lord never persecute; therefore, in this one criterion, there is all the difference between a partizan and a christian that there is between a persecutor and one who “blesses and curses not,” “prays for enemies,” and “does good to him who treats him evilly.”

Enough on this topic for one lesson—more of it when we have more room.

D. O.

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### EPISTLE FROM BETHANY, VIRGINIA.

*Bethany, March 8th, 1855.*

DEAR BROTHER OLIPHANT:—I am sure you will be surprised to receive a letter from me. I have long wished and resolved to write to you, but so numerous and various are the cares and duties which daily press upon me, that I cannot accomplish in epistolary communication that which would afford me much pleasure.