

no more to make us indifferent to assert its sacred and unchanging claims, than the undue manner in which other great objects have been advocated, ought to make us regardless of them. Is there any thing valuable and important in the world, which has not at some period been maintained in an unbecoming and injurious manner? The clamour often raised thoughtlessly against the union of religion with politics, ought to be strenuously resisted by every man who understands the interests of his country, or has a shred of zeal for the rights and cause of religion.

Let men but be taught to believe, that for the omission or wrong performance of the duties resulting from their political relations, they shall be brought to judgment; and this will at once give an exalted character to those duties, altogether apart from the success with which they may be attended, and cause even that springing from such relations to display a moral dignity; instead of those disgraceful scenes, and that extensive destruction of sound principle, so often produced by the conflict of political parties; and which, however much they may advance the ephemeral elevation of individuals, inevitably deepen the nation's guiltiness, and accelerate the nation's doom. Such collisions are frequently dreaded by the true friends of the people, as what comes like a moral blight, especially over the towns and more numerous classes of the community, just because religion has often been practically excluded from politics, where, beyond all other scenes, its influence was required to prevent the bounds of duty from being trodden under foot amidst the overwhelming excitement of parties.

A.

LETTER FROM THE REV. DANIEL ALLAN, MISSIONARY WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

REV. SIR,

Your printed Circular of 31st October last, forwarded to me by order of the Presbytery of Hamilton, was very late in coming to hand; and this circumstance, together with the unhappily disturbed state of the country, which especially during the last five weeks, has rendered travelling a matter of more than ordinary difficulty, put it quite out of my power to reply earlier. As soon after receipt of your letter as my other engagements would permit, I set out in quest of the information required by the Presbytery; and with that view visited the following townships, viz., Malahide, Bayham, Dereham, Middleton, Houghton, Walsingham, Charlotteville, Woodhouse,

Walpole, Townsend, Windham and Norwich. The following are my answers to the queries, arranged in the same order in which the latter are put by the Presbytery.

1. The whole extent of the above townships, in addition to those of Southwold and Yarmouth, which likewise I have been requested to embrace in my report, is as nearly as I have been able to ascertain, about 1,411 square miles, and contains a population of 13,100.

2. Within the above district there are in all about 23 religious teachers, viz., 3 ministers of the Church of England whose stations are, St. Thomas, Port Burwell and Simcoe; 13 Methodist teachers, 3 only of whom may be considered as preachers, the rest being exhorters, &c., &c., 9 Baptist teachers, 2 only of whom seem worthy of being called preachers, 1 Seceder minister in Southwold connected with the United Associate Synod, 1 respectable old gentleman at Simcoe, assuming the name of Presbyterian, but whose connection I had not the means of ascertaining, and any one of a pretty numerous body of American Quakers, in the township of Norwich, who may conceive himself moved to assume the office of instructing his brethren. In short, within these bounds, exclusive of the 3 English ministers referred to, there are about 6 tolerably respectable spiritual guides, each of whom, I have understood, receive, either from the people or from the Society by which he is sent out, an annual salary varying from £20 to £40 currency.

3. In many instances the preachers receive a considerable share of their support from individuals who have no other connection with them than hearing them preach occasionally. About one fourth of the whole population of this district, have at present no connection whatever with any religious body.

4. The character of the people generally as to religious knowledge, ordinances and duties, may easily be inferred from that of the greater number of those who profess to be their teachers. These are generally speaking, a set of well-meaning perhaps, but very illiterate men, under the influence of the wildest fanaticism, incapable of enlarged or consistent views of any religious system, and whose knowledge can scarcely be said to extend beyond a few peculiarities, either in doctrine or in discipline, by which their particular party happens to be distinguished. The necessary consequence of which is, that the great bulk of their followers have but very few just or rational ideas of religion. It is a melancholy fact that the greater number of those of them who make pretensions to superior piety, are really no better than a