

THE
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ADVANTAGES OF A COLONIAL CHURCH.

There are indications in the mother country, of a growing interest in her Colonies. Colonial questions are studied by British statesmen. Colonial securities are quoted favorably in the lists of the London share market. Colonial enterprise is lauded in the London journals, and the "Times" devotes leading articles to Canada and Australia. At the same time it is still very evident, that the British mind connects with the epithet "Colonial," the idea of something inferior and secondary. It is taken for granted, that Colonists are in a rude condition, and, however improved in worldly circumstances, sadly deficient in intellectual, political, and religious advantages. Especially is this the case in reference to Colonial Churches—which are mentioned in the old country with an air of patronage and condescension, as poor dependant institutions. This may perhaps be excused in the British, because of ignorance; but it is not so excusable in those who are residents of such a Province as Canada, to depreciate its institutions, and bewail the state of its Churches, merely because they are not on the same footing with those of older and more opulent communities.

We do not dispute that disadvantages attach to a Colonial position, and the difficulties of Colonial Churches we have no wish to under-state. It is of necessity an arduous undertaking, to plant Christian institutions among a comparatively sparse population, and to obtain, in a community where wealth has scarcely begun to accumulate, sufficient means for the erection of places of worship, and the maintenance of Ministers and Evangelists. Colonial Ministers have, as a body, been called on to endure more "hardness," as soldiers of Jesus Christ, than the honored Missionaries of the Cross to foreign parts. They have been isolated from one another, and often from all educated society; they have been forced to neglect mental culture by the waste of their time and strength involved in traversing wide districts and visiting numerous stations;—and all the while compelled to exist, with their families, on miserable pittance, irregularly paid,—to see all classes of the people increase in substance, while they are doomed to hopeless poverty. In view of these things, it is no great marvel, that flesh