

CIRCULAR LETTER.

LOYALTY TO CHRIST.

Loyalty to our legally constituted sovereign is a virtue fully recognized by every good citizen. In all lands and in all ages, where men have combined for mutual protection and help into tribes and nations, the loyal have been respected and honored, and the disloyal have been distrusted and despised. So strong is this principle, and so universally has it been engrafted into the human heart, that nothing has been accepted, as good and sufficient cause for disloyalty to the legal head of any people, but the most flagrant injustice and cruel oppression; nay, so abhorrent is rebellion to those who believe themselves to be well and justly governed, that he who takes up arms against the constitutional sovereign, is, by common consent, deemed to be worthy of death.

This principle, which we believe is of heavenly birth, is so important to the best temporal interests of mankind, that combinations among men, such as we have spoken of, would be utterly impossible were it wanting; and though its efficacy in effecting perfect human combinations, has to a large extent, been destroyed by sin, yet, its beneficial influence in this direction, is even now, almost everywhere seen and experienced.

Many who are not the subjects of our spiritual King, and many who have never heard of his mild and gentle reign, are justly regarded as the true and loyal subjects of their temporal rulers. In our own vast empire, thousands who love not our Lord Jesus Christ, would willingly risk their lives in the defence of the person or the throne of our Queen.

Sometimes the effect of this principle is seen in the quiet and law-abiding demeanour of the people, while at other times, expressions of loyalty are heard on every hand, and the citizen, who is not known as an enthusiastic loyalist, freely speaks of his confidence in the government of his country and his love for his sovereign. We see the truth of this exemplified in our own country to-day. Our loyalty to our noble Queen is fully aroused, and many, who have hitherto been apparently unmoved by this principle, seemed to have caught the infection, and now most unhesitatingly express their firm attachment to Victoria, as one of the noblest of women, and best of sovereigns. From every part of our land, sincere thanksgivings arise to heaven, that she has been spared to celebrate the Jubilee of her reign. We too, would render thanks, and heartily join in the anthem, "God save our gracious Queen," for Canadian Baptists are, and always have been, loyal to their temporal head, and though in times past, we have been denied some of the liberties which we now enjoy, we were always content to make humble suggestions to those in authority, and to plead in the kindest spirit for the removal of grievances.

But this letter is addressed to christians, and we want to speak of loyalty to Christ. We have said that, as British subjects, we submit to the authority of our gracious Queen, and shall we not as christians, submit in all things, to the authority of Him "who hath loved us, and given Himself for us," and whom we recognise as our spiritual head.