

such reasonings are of sufficient weight to determine political opinions.

Some such plan as that which I have proposed, would obviate any reasonable objections to retaining them, and I should be sorry, therefore, to see them alienated, as they form the only fund, from which a permanent provision can be made for the Ministers of religion. The Colony would not consent to be directly taxed for this purpose because many would thus be obliged to pay for the support of those, from whose labours they were not directly benefited. Nor can it be supposed, that the Mother Country will bind herself always to support an extensive religious establishment, in a distant Colony. These lands were set apart for the maintenance of a Protestant Clergy—no measure can be adopted to divert them from this purpose, but must be attended with important effects to Canada, and greatly influence the fortunes of a country, probably destined to contain, through succeeding generations, many millions of intelligent and enlightened freemen. Surely then, before being adopted, its consequences ought to be well weighed—and all its bearings on the future, as well as the present, attentively considered.

It is this deep conviction of the importance of the subject, in every part, that must plead my excuse for having so long trespassed on your attention.

I have the honour to subscribe myself,

Sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN RAE.

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The arguments I have brought forward, might be well illustrated, and receive a signal confirmation from what occurred in the Provinces of North America, which were, last century, under the dominion of Great Britain. It was then the policy of government to support the Church of England, and depress other denominations; the result is well known to all versed in the history of the period. Through the kindness of the Rev. Dr. Proudfit, Salem, I have the advantage of giving it in the words of the Rev. Dr. McLeod, New York:—

“I may state,” writes that gentleman, “from recollection, on the authority of the worthy Dr. Rogers, supported by the assent of Dr. Livingston, to the fact that, for some years before the revolutionary war, great excitement existed, on account of the power employed by the Episcopal Church, in this country, in the suppression of dissenters—especially the Presbyterians. The friends of the Church of England, were striving to obtain an American Episcopate—and the Presbyterians endeavoured to present such a complex establishment—an association was formed for the purpose of publishing, from time to time, against the claims of the hierarchy, as injurious to the liberties