

whether political or commercial, secular or religious, individual or social. If our little work should, under the Divine blessing, contribute its quota of aid in this progressively benignant state of matters, we shall have our reward.

It is not our purpose to make large promises in this introductory address. Having declared our intent of communicating as much religious intelligence, as can be condensed within our limits, and that with our denominational preferences and principles, we will not be driven from a catholic spirit and bearing; it may be further needful to avow the determination to vindicate *this*, as the "more excellent way." Our sympathies are at the farthest possible remove from that spirit of exclusivism, which is rearing its reptile form in some quarters of the ecclesiastical world. Against all assumption, whether Popish, or semi-Popish, or *soi-disant* Protestant, that would appropriate and confine the name or idea of the Church to any visible ecclesiastical organization, and would with unblushing effrontery, deliver over the other sections of the vast army of the faithful, to "the uncovenanted mercies of God," we shall always enter our calm, argumentative and uncompromising protest. With equal decision and all the vigour we can command, shall we oppose (should the opposition be required—which God forbid,) any attempt to form or to foster, by the civil power, an ecclesiastical establishment, or in any respect to favour one branch of the Church of Christ, more than another. Our theory on this subject may be expressed in a few words: civil governments have their appropriate and highly important sphere of action, from which the several arrangements of religion are excluded. All the procedure of civil government ought to be in strict accordance with the principles and precepts of the Christian religion,—but *her* advancement requires not *its* aid. Let all *her* children in common with other subjects, be protected by the "powers that be," "ordained of God!" for this purpose, and its office regarding the interests of religion is fulfilled. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal," yet are they "mighty through God for the pulling down of strong holds."

With these remarks, we cast ourselves on the indulgence of our readers, hoping to meet them every month amid the joy and pleasure of increasing prosperity. It is fully expected from our brethren in the holy ministry, that they will afford us all the aid in their power, not only in circulating the work, but in communicating intelligence. For local intelligence, of which we would have a very full supply, we must depend on them, and we are persuaded such dependance will not be vain. Should there be a general desire amongst our readers, and corresponding support, we shall be prepared ere long to issue our numbers semi-monthly, and at length, if required, weekly. Such results, however, are quite dependant on the energies and wishes of our friends throughout the land.