

Church and State ideas are by no means extinct in Canada. Voluntaryism may yet require to fight strenuously for the maintenance of those principles which the King and Head of the Church has announced in the New Testament. Past success may induce heedlessness, but there are signs of the times arising from the coalescence of differing denominations, calculated to awaken serious thoughts as to the future. We observe also a movement of the Provincial Synod of the United Church of England and Ireland in Canada, which ought to be closely watched. At a recent meeting of that Body it was agreed to petition the Legislature for power to enforce the attendance of witnesses before the Diocesan and Metropolitan Courts. In answer to a question if it was intended to compel the attendance of members of other denominations, it was answered, "certainly." The extension of such power to any ecclesiastical corporation, appears to us an invasion of Civil and Religious Liberty, and must be strenuously resisted. Past history has too many sad chapters recording the tyrannies of Church Courts when clothed with the civil power, to admit of the lovers of freedom tamely submitting, in a new country like this, to any step subversive of their rights.

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An official document of the highest importance has emanated from President Lincoln to the people of the United States. As a war measure he has issued a proclamation which provides—that, on the first day of January next, all persons held as slaves within any State, whose people shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be thenceforward and forever free—that, all civil and military officers of the government shall maintain the freedom of such persons—that, on the same day the Executive will designate by proclamation the names of States or parts of States in rebellion, on whose slaves the boon of freedom is conferred—that, the President will advise the next Congress to tender to all States not in rebellion pecuniary aid to abolish slavery—that efforts to colonize persons of African descent be continued—and that all military and naval officers observe, obey and enforce the acts of the last Congress respecting slaves. This action cannot fail to exercise an important influence on the aspect of affairs in the present awful struggle. Amid the sickening details of the bloody strife, we hail with joy every star of hope, fearful lest it be quenched by clouds of anarchy. It is our prayer that the star of Liberty may shine with renewed beauty and splendour, when the storm that now rages has passed away for ever, leaving the political, social, and religious atmosphere purified of many a fetid exhalation, generated by the God-dishonouring and man-crushing system of slavery.

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SCRIPTURAL TREATMENT OF OFFENCES.—MATT. xviii., 15-17.

*(Continued from page 78.)*

Sometimes we have heard objections brought to excuse a neglect of this rule. A few sentences will suffice to state and answer the chief of these.

1. We have heard it said—Oh but the brother who has offended me is so irritable that I am afraid to meet him. Now we admit that this fact may render it necessary to give special heed to some of the directions given above—such as those which refer to the spirit in which this painful duty is to be performed, but