

him where the mind shall receive, if not new faculties, at least such expansion and increase to the old, as will leave us nothing to regret or to desire. There envy will not darken the countenance or corrode the heart of any; neither will malice and calumny detract from our worth, and mar our enjoyment.

Of his public life I will not speak. It is easy to imagine that a man of his character and situation could not but exercise much influence on the affairs of whatever community he might fall amongst. His conduct I believe has operated as largely as that of any person probably in this Province on the state of its affairs. And whatever may be said of his mode of accomplishing his intentions, none will say that these were not of the most liberal description, and designed for the general good. Of his liberality in religious matters, and his efforts to maintain those privileges which are so dear to us, there are present many witnesses, whose attendance I would thus acknowledge as no less honorable to his memory than to themselves.\* But the affairs in which he was concerned are too recent; I am too little acquainted with the state of public matters and of political parties; party feeling runs yet too high; and as might be expected in a country so new, with a population so diversified, there are too many clashing interests, too many ways of viewing the conduct of public men, to do justice to their character, or to obtain for their apologists an impartial hearing. But I am not his apologist; I have nothing to defend. If I knew his public faults, I would take the surest and the safest way to protect the sacredness of his memory, by confessing them. Different opinions will doubtless be entertained on this point; some I know will say that as a christian it would have been better had he meddled less with politics. I touch not this topic to introduce them, they are out of place, equally, on this occasion, with my own character and the nature of a worshipping assembly. He has gone however where the politics of this world and all the acerbations of party feeling affect him not. Perhaps he

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\* Many persons of different opinions both in politics and religion from Mr. Bidwell, as well as his more immediate friends and connexions, attended on his funeral and on this occasion. The Episcopal Methodists, with a disinterestedness which does them the highest credit, shut their own place of worship, and came as a body to evince their regard for the deceased, and their sense of public loss. The author, however much he regrets the cause of this display of liberality, cannot help expressing his fervent desire that such displays may become frequent and on less mournful occasions. How many reasons have professed Christians for union? There is not one solid reason for division.