

natural ability; we admit that pleasures around us must be relinquished, if heaven would be secured, but this admission supposes a sacrifice of the world; we observe the Sabbath, but this is what worldly men would call a sacrifice of a seventh part of our time, although it is evidently one of our greatest blessings, even physically considered; we support the ordinances of the gospel, but this support necessarily implies a sacrifice of means; and last of all and noblest of all, God sacrificed his Son and his Son sacrificed himself for the souls of our guilty world; and if we would follow in his footsteps must we not make sacrifices too? If we would evangelise the world—plant schools—support teachers—and build churches, all these unquestionably require upon our part a sacrifice of money or property. So far as we make these sacrifices, we are fostering the martyr spirit. We are learning, although truly it is often on a very small scale, how to part with all that is dear to us, if necessary, for the sake of Christ and his gospel. Taking this view of the subject, does not the martyr spirit enter into every doctrine and duty of religion. Like the little leaven which leavens the whole, lump it pervades the whole. It enters every pore and animates every particle of the system.

When so much is said in these days in praise of martyrs for the cross and for the kingship of Jesus, it would be a most interesting speculation, to try to gauge or measure the sincerity of this praise by the test we have now suggested, or, in other words, by the quantity of this martyr spirit which exists amongst ourselves. What sacrifices are we making for the gospel? How can we be reckoned martyrs for the truth, even in spirit? Space does not permit us. else we could give you a number of curious facts and calculations, showing that this spirit is burning among us with the force neither of a Paul nor Luther. Out of many, however, we must select one, which comes closely home to ourselves. Considering her numbers and wealth, the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia compared with other churches, is certainly doing her duty well. Let it be remarked, we speak *comparatively*.—We would have no hesitation to put her in contrast with any church known to us, and we would not have much fear but that the contrast would come out

favorably to her. She is supporting a home mission; a foreign mission, with, we may still say, two missionaries; a theological seminary, with a staff of excellent professors; a library, though not large, to her valuable; and a synod fund; besides contributing her share to other benevolent institutions. Where is the church with equal numbers and wealth, which is doing the same work, or, to use our former phraseology, manifesting the same amount of the martyr spirit? Now, all this we cheerfully admit; and we admit it the more readily because it will tell with so much the greater effect in support of our argument. When from these data we endeavor to measure the martyr spirit among us, how much of it is to be met with. According to the statistics for the year 1852, the number of our adherents is 19,585. According to the same table, the money collected for all religious purposes—including stipend, home and foreign missions, seminary, and miscellaneous—was £4539 6s 8d.—If these statements be correct, then taking an average, each individual adhering to our church has paid about four shillings and seven pence for all the purposes and ordinances of religion during the last year; in other words, rather more than *one penny* every week for the support and propagation of the gospel. Now, this is the measure of the martyr spirit among us. On an average among our adherents, it amounts to the sacrifice of about a penny a week. Of course we speak of adherents and not of members only—of rich and poor—of parents and children; and freely do we admit that there are some particularly among the poorer classes, the subscribers of a dollar and half a dollar yearly, who exert themselves laudably. They do contribute their mite, but often is that mite laboriously won. There are others also in the higher ranks of life, who are showing a truly christian and praise-worthy liberality. But when these are doing so much and yet the average amounts only to about one penny a week, how little must some be doing! How many must be doing nothing at all!—Where is *their* benevolence? How much of the martyr spirit have they? When shall we be able to say of them, they are prepared to part with all for the sake of Jesus? It is from such average views as these that we learn how much