

"Whatever, therefore, the petitions state on this head is deplorably hypocritical, for no such fears or apprehensions were ever cherished or felt; and so perfectly destitute of any foundation are such allegations that no complaint has been made on the subject by any other denomination of Christians in the Province, several of which are unquestionably no less alive to their civil and religious rights than the Church of Scotland."

Ignorance is an object of pity; hypocrisy is an object of abhorrence; the one is an infirmity, the other a crime. That the Presbyterian petitioners had some grounds for apprehending that their religious liberty was invaded by the creation of Rectories must be pretty evident from the preceding observations. Admitting that their view of the law is inaccurate, it may be an impeachment of the legal penetration of the petitioners, but it ought not, in all charity, to be an impeachment of their moral honesty. A candid, dispassionate judge, would rather say, these Scotch have been hurried away by their characteristic impetuosity; they have not allowed themselves time for deliberate consideration of the case; jealous of their national rights they have been seized with unfounded fears that these have been infringed; or venturing to interpret the law, they have bewildered themselves in its glorious uncertainty—it is a pity they should have allowed their good and loyal name to be tarnished with an utterance of disapprobation of any act of the Colonial Government of Upper Canada so distinguished for wisdom and generosity! Charity might thus have cast the blame upon the Scotchman's head—a hard organ—and able to bear pretty heavy bumps. But no—the Venerable dignitary aims his blow at the heart, and charges a whole Synod of Christian ministers, with a sprinkling of elders among them, and all the petitioning congregations besides—with presenting petitions "*deplorably hypocritical*," and with expressing fears and apprehensions where none were cherished and felt! He has presumed to enter the secretaries of the soul—which no eye but the eye of heaven can penetrate, and on above 30 ministers and their congregations, with whom he would once have thought it an honor to be united, he attempts to fix the brand of hypocritical maneuvering! Doctor Strachan is a dignitary of the Episcopal Church; he is an aged man, and candor and wisdom should be the attributes of age; he is a Christian minister, and his judgments should be judgments of charity; he was nurtured in infancy in the bosom of the Church of Scotland and the early affections of a young heart, ingenuous and durable, should not yet be utterly obliterated within him; he once sought to be a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Canada and he owes it some respect from this consideration: he is a Scotchman, his every accent

declares it, and it ill becomes him with such a dialect on his tongue to wrong his countrymen; above all, he is a Christian, and if his name and rank have any influence in this colony, it is a prostitution of that influence to employ it in endeavoring to injure the character, and to impair the usefulness of a body of men, who whatever their imperfections may be, are laboring amidst many difficulties and privations, such as he never experienced, to promote their Master's cause.

To represent that the petitioners seek the destruction of the Rectories on "the ground of the value of the endowments" is not correct, and is not borne out by any statement contained in the resolutions of Synod, agreeably to which the petitions generally were framed. We know very well that the present value of these endowments, at least those in the country parishes, is trivial. The resolutions contain objections of a much more serious nature than this, as the reader may perceive by referring to them. With regard to the assertion of Doctor Strachan that "such complaint comes with a singularly bad grace from the Scotch Presbyterians, to whose Congregations the Provincial Government has always shewn the greatest readiness to grant glebes." We simply remark that it is untrue and refer again to volume 1st page 280 for the proof. * They received many gracious encouragements to apply; many kind and courteous invitations were lavished on them, and some minutes of Council declaring grants; but, we grasping, they turned into apples of Sodom; while the good fruit that dropped from the tree was picked up by those whom this Venerable dignitary and his fellow Councillors had gathered around it.

To display still farther the kindly spirit of our dignified censor we give the following paragraphs:

"It is necessary to remark, however painful, that the proceedings of the Clergy and Members of the Presbyterians, in connection with the Church of Scotland, are marked by the same kind of angry complaint (for they deal not in argument) which characterizes those of the Voluntaries and other enemies of Church Establishments in Great Britain; and that, but for the good sense and honorable principles of a large majority of the House of Assembly, a vote would have passed against the Rectories; and although it could never have been carried into effect, it would have tended to unsettle every title in the Province.

We need not farther remark, on the Doctor's iteration of the charges of bad temper on the part of the petitioners. If any of them have been guilty in this respect, that they had much to try

* See also the two letters in the present number addressed to Dr. Strachan.