

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER IN THE GLASGOW CHRONICLE OF
JANUARY 30, 1828.

In my present communication, I mean to direct your attention, and that of the people of Scotland generally, to a question which is now exciting an uncommon sensation in these provinces; and which will, I doubt not, occupy the attention of the British Parliament, and the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, at their next meetings—I mean the state of the Church of Scotland in Upper Canada, whose very existence has been endeavoured to be sapped in the most artful and unprincipled manner. This is a subject which I fondly hope will not be reckoned uninteresting to the Clergy and people of Scotland, otherwise, they must have degenerated to a most lamentable extent from that attachment to the admirable doctrines and discipline of our national Church, which animated the breasts of their noble-minded and most undeservedly ridiculed ancestors, to whom they are indebted for all the religious privileges they enjoy.

It may not be known to every one, that the Episcopal Clergy in Canada, are supported by a Society called the Society for propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts—a Society which receives from the British Parliament, annually, a large sum of money. From the funds of this body, each Episcopal Clergyman receives £200 per annum, independent of any thing he may get from his hearers. Besides they lay claim to the whole of the Clergy Reserves, a seventh part of the lands of the province, which by the Act 31, George III., were set apart for the maintenance of a Protestant Clergy, an epithet which they contend belongs to them exclusively. I leave it to any Scotsman to say, whether the testimonies and exertions of his Church against the errors of Popery, do not entitle her members to the appellation of Protestant, quite as much as those of the Church of England, even without alluding to the Act of Union, where the establishment of Scotland is called a “true Protestant Church.”

The Ministers of the Church of Scotland, have hitherto received *nothing*, save what their hearers are able to give them, which, in a country like this, the population of which is scattered over an immense surface, can only be a small sum.

This disparity, in the state of the Clergy of the two Churches, must be kept in mind, in order to understand clearly the weight and importance of the statements which I will lay before the reader in the remainder of this letter.

In York, the Capital of Upper Canada, there is an English Episcopal Church, in which officiates the honourable and venerable John Strachan, D. D. This Rev. Gentleman was lately in England, and was examined before the Committee of the House of Commons, which sat on the subject of emigration. He is all important in Upper Canada—is generally reputed the Vice-Roy over the Governor; and without doubt, is the leader of the Legislative Council. There is scarcely an institution in the province, civil, political, military, commercial, or ecclesiastical, in which his presence is not seen, and his power not felt. He is truly Archdeacon of all Crafts, as well as of Episcopacy. Like the frogs brought by Moses upon Egypt, his influence extends to their houses, their *bad-chambers*, their beds, their ovens, and their kneading troughs. He was born in Scotland, in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, and was educated, it is said, for the Antiburgher Kirk. At any rate, he was Session Clerk and Schoolmaster in two parishes in Fife. He came to this country, about the end of last century, and taught Schools both in Cornwall and Kingston. He still, however, remained a Presbyterian; and in 1803, when the first Scottish Church in Montreal was vacant, applied to be appointed as Minister, offering, in case his proposal should be accepted, to go home to Scotland to receive ordination. His proposal, however, was not accepted—the Rev. Mr. Somerville, from Toll-Cross, was appointed to the charge, which he kept until a few years ago, when he was forced to retire, from indisposition. Soon after this, Mr. Strachan applied for, and received Holy Orders in the Church of England, and was first stationed in the village of Cornwall. There is not a doubt that he was a good teacher; and some of his scholars now hold the first places un-